

5-5-1997

Columbia Chronicle (05/05/1997)

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (05/5/1997)" (May 5, 1997). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/382

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THE CHRONICLE

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

VOL. XXX, No. 25

May 5, 1997

Tuition on the rise again

Admin. calls increase 'inevitable'

Chronicle Special Report

By Roumiana Bankova and Claudia Rivera
Staff Writers

With the beginning of a new school year at Columbia College comes an increase in tuition by 5.8 percent, or \$418 for students effective the 1997-1998 academic year.

According to Michael DeSalle, the vice-president of finances at Columbia, the tuition increase is inevitable and necessary for the school to keep up with the general inflation in the national economy. The increase in tuition is due to and includes the following, according to DeSalle.

General Inflation is up in the economy by 3.3 percent. The cost for office inventory including computers, pens and paper will become increasingly expensive compared to last year. All faculty and staff will receive a pay increase by about four to five percent. Also, additional quality improvements to the educational process is costly.

For example, seven to eight new faculty members will be hired in a need for the academic departments that are currently understaffed. In addition, efforts the college is making in the areas of stu-

dent assessment and testing will also need funding. Finally, a rapid increase in integrating technology within both the academic and administrative areas of the college is costly and needs to be covered.

The new computer lab on the second floor of the 600 S. Michigan building was costly and it is just one of the sources where the money will go, according to DeSalle.

According to John Duff, president of Columbia, the school's budget is approaching the \$4 million mark. "The largest single budget cost is always personal cost—teachers, administration staff and maintenance staff," said Duff. "Then it's utilities for the telephones, fax machines and heat. Next is the equipment, technology and cost of supplies."

Last year the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission conducted a survey revealing the average annual cost of tuition and fees at private institutions to be \$12,143. In comparison, the private institution's tuition grew at a slightly lower rate and nearly doubled the rise in inflation.

In 1996, the University of Chicago had the most expensive tuition of any private school in Illinois at \$19,875. Also according to the report, Columbia College had the largest percentage increase in tuition and fees since 1985 at 243 percent. At first this figure seems overwhelming, however, Columbia still remains the least expensive private insti-

tution in Illinois. Tuition cost for a full-time student will be \$4,249 per semester beginning the Fall 1997 and part-time students will pay \$291 per credit hour.

Other private schools in the Chicago area have also increased tuition cost for students beginning next fall. According to Mike Perez of the undergraduate office at DePaul University, the cost for an undergraduate, full-time student will be \$281 per credit hour and \$306 to \$531 per credit hour for graduate students. Currently the cost is \$266 and \$290 to \$490 respectively.

Roosevelt University will also increase the cost of tuition, from \$341 per credit hour for full-time undergraduate students to \$361 and from \$398 per credit hour for graduate students to \$432.

"We try to keep our tuition as low as possible," Duff said. "Five-point-eight percent, I think, will be certainly within the range of nearly any other institution

in the area. We still have by far the lowest tuition of any independent college in Chicago or in Illinois. Other arts and communications schools

in the country are running twice as much as what Columbia's tuition is and we've tried to keep it as low as we possibly can," said Duff.

Public institutions, due to historic dependence on tax support, have been discouraged from behaving in an entrepreneurial way. However, private institu-

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1995-1996

Full-Time Students—Per Semester	\$3,835.00
Enrolled 12-16 Credit Hours	
Each Additional Credit Hour Over 16	\$ 195.00
Part-Time Students	
Enrolled 1-11 Credit Hours	
Per Credit Hour Per Semester	\$ 262.00
Summer Session	
All Credit Hours Each	\$ 208.00
Registration Fee Per Semester*	
All Students	\$ 25.00
Student Activity Fee Per Semester*	
Full-Time Students	\$ 20.00
Part-Time Students	\$ 10.00

1997-1998

Full-Time Students—Per Semester	\$4,249.00
Enrolled 12-16 Credit Hours	
Each Additional Credit Hour Over 16	\$ 216.00
Part-Time Students	
Enrolled 1-11 Credit Hours	
Per Credit Hour Per Semester	\$ 291.00
Summer Session	
All Credit Hours Each	\$ 230.00
Registration Fee Per Semester*	\$ 30.00
All Students	
Student Activity Fee Per Semester*	
Full-Time Students	\$ 20.00
Part-Time Students	\$ 10.00

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Marin's resignation spurs debate over local TV news

Anchor has no regrets, co-worker says

By Jason Kravarik
Media Writer

The resignation last week by Channel 5 news anchor Carol Marin, a fixture in local news for 19 years, has sent a shock through the Chicago journalism market. And some of those working professionals with strong opinions on the subject are right here at Columbia.

Last Thursday, Marin resigned after a week-long, highly publicized battle with station management over the hiring of talk show host Jerry Springer as a news commentator.

Marin told NBC's "Today" that she had been in constant debate with station management since February. Springer responded by calling the resistance of Marin and her co-anchor Ron Magers egotistical.

But Steve Corman, Columbia's director of broadcast journalism and a friend of Marin, calls her anything but egotistical. "I admire her incredible principles and outstanding ethics," he said.

Corman has worked with Marin closely over the past 14 years. He produced his first regular Chicago newscast at WMAQ with Marin at the helm. He continued to develop a friendship with Marin as a writer and producer at the NBC owned station. Corman, who still works at WMAQ, won his first Emmy award for an expanded newscast he produced with Marin as anchor.

"I understand what she's doing," Corman said. "She has the highest values. I feel so fortunate to have been able to work with someone like her on a day to day basis."

Corman was at the WMAQ newsroom May 1 when Marin delivered her farewell speech at the end of the 10 p.m. newscast.

"It was a very, very bizarre scene [in the newsroom]," he said. "People were between happiness [for what Carol stood for],

and wanting to cry."

Ed Planer, Columbia's journalism department chair, who also has a long resume at NBC including news director at Channel 5 from 1972 to 1976, said Marin's resignation was an act of principal.

"Springer was the last battering ram in the demolition of that news operation," Planer said. "It's inconceivable how they came up with the idea, and how NBC News (in New York) put approval on it."

Planer looks at the hiring of Springer as a "dreadful" testament to the state of local news.

"The same night [Marin resigned], Mark Giangreco was on another station playing hairdresser," he said, referring to a sweeps stunt the Channel 7 sports anchor does where he assumes other people's jobs.

Adding more fuel to the fire that is gutting the reputation of

local news, Planer pointed out that on the night Marin resigned, there was no story done by Ch. 5 on the British election. He said the station's newscasts are lacking substance, and the Springer issue is just another example.

"Springer falls in line with Steve McMichael and Dennis Rodman as Channel 5's way to cheapen up the news," Planer said. "Has Springer ever been to a City Council meeting? Is he knowledgeable on [Chicago's] political affairs? When you look at commentary you think of Jacobson and O'Connor—this is a joke."

Nevertheless, Marin's decision to publicly oppose her boss' decision was not without criticism. The Sun-Times editorialized that Marin and Magers were overstepping their bounds and bordering on elitist. Corman, who spoke with Marin the night she announced her resignation publicly, said she was confident in her decision.

"I don't think she has one second of regret," Corman said.

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Marin to be applauded for taking stand On Media, page 3

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

Student reaction mixed about upcoming tuition increase

By Michelle Pocock
Staff Writer

It has happened again. Yes, the powers that be have raised the tuition for the 1997-98 school year.

Of course, students who fund their own education are concerned, although Columbia still claims to be the cheapest private education available in Illinois. Some students accept the fact that tuition increases are inevitable and unavoidable.

Mark Hudson, a senior in fiction writing, is among the weary of yet another hike in the tuition. Although he will be graduating soon, Hudson has supported his education through a minimum wage job.

"I've really enjoyed studying here, and I've learned a lot, but one of the reasons I

can't wait to graduate is to have money in my pocket again," said Hudson. "I wouldn't mind coming here for my master's, but the main issue is money."

Other students accepted the increases, but said that the school is taking too much too often. Julie, a senior television major, has been around for many tuition hikes.

"I've been going to school here off and on since 1990," she said. "Increase is inevitable, but it seems to me that, is happening more than necessary."

Students who have attended different schools in the past find no real problem with Columbia's tuition.

"[Tuition increases] don't effect me," said Joe Farina, who is getting his second bachelor's degree, this time in radio. "I went to DePaul and they always raise the tuition, so it is almost expected."

Ryan Cavanaugh, a senior film major also transferred from another institution.

"It is a modest increase compared to what I am used to at Rockford College, so I am not opposed to it," said Cavanaugh. "But if it is for John Duff to buy a new car, then I am chafed."

Still other students were not even aware of the increase and were apathetic when they found out.

"Increase? Hell, I didn't even know there was an increase," said Ben Steinmann, a senior photography major. "Well now I know; and I don't care."

All in all, the general consensus was that tuition increases will happen, and there is nothing students can do if achieving a quality education.

Tuition increases: who benefits?

By Dan Bischoff
Correspondent

"Show me the money!" Wait...hold on, maybe that should be "Take my money"? Once again, the higher-ups at Columbia College are raising tuition. But good look around campus for recent improvements only results in an empty search for many. To this day, there are still no student e-mail accounts, the registration process is out of the ice-age (but getting better) and using the elevators provide a scarier experience than most horror films. So what gives?

"I don't see where the money is going," said Liz Stone, a junior. "I can't see any reason why tuition is being raised." But the undergraduate tuition for the 1997-1998 academic year at Columbia College will be \$4,249 for full-time students.

However, this is a sign of the times. Few colleges and universities are able to maintain a competitive hold in the higher education market without raising tuition every few years.

"Just look at the art department, there have been drastic improvements," said Executive Vice-President and Provost Bert Gall. "Five years ago, they did not have the computers that they

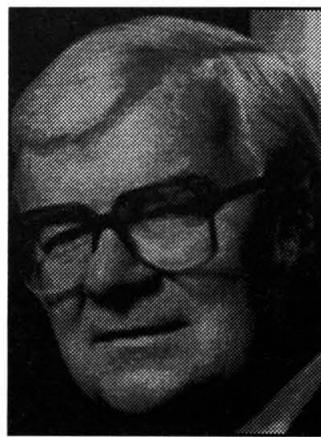
do now. "Keeping up with technology is expensive. We struggle mightily to hold costs down and keep them proportional to federal financial aid. The increase in tuition goes to everything. More faculty, computers and renovation...costs will always go up."

While it might be easier to complain about the increase in tuition for the 1997-1998 academic year, it is just as easy to support the decision.

"If they're trying to improve the college, then it is a positive move," said Jamal Brown, a freshman studying communications.

According to a letter Columbia President John B. Duff mailed out to all the students, Columbia's tuition is the lowest among Illinois independent colleges and universities. This is good news to those with light wallets, but education after high school everywhere is reaching a point of being unbearably expensive.

"I think it is unfortunate, but it is a reflection of what's going on in the economy," said Cadence Wynter, an instructor of African-American History II and Latin American & Caribbean History I. "It's coming down to students going to college only if they can afford it, so there is a lot of talent being wasted."



President John B. Duff

On a national level, at least for private colleges and universities, the cost of tuition is reaching the point of being ridiculous. DePaul University's tuition is around \$17,000 for an academic year. More prestigious schools such as Harvard or Yale are upwards of \$20,000 a year, not including housing expenses. If education has a price, which it clearly does, then it has become almost unaffordable, leaving very capable students to attend schools that are below their level.

"I don't like high tuition, who does?" said Sean Caughlin, a senior majoring in film. "It's too

bad that tuition keeps going up. We're paying enough as it is. I guess schools have to do it."

One almost has to ask: Why have a college degree, and be \$45,000 in debt? Today, questions like those are not to be taken lightly. Whereas 30 years ago a college diploma may have guaranteed a well-paying job, today that is just not so. Still, for a person to be competitive in today's job market, a college degree is paramount. But, if attaining a college degree is to the point of being unaffordable, then there exists a serious problem.

"I don't understand why Columbia charges more if a student takes over 16 hours," said Adriana Mercado, a junior majoring in journalism. "That concept seems backward. Also, why is Columbia charging so much for summer courses?"

Discouragement and frustration are evident when it comes to the topic of college tuition. After all, money is a touchy subject. In spite of that, students have little, if any at all, control over how much tuition will cost them. The best students can do is carefully select what college they want to attend.

Tuition

Continued from page 1

tions are far less regulated, yet receive a significant amount of public support, particularly in the form of student scholarships and also MAP grants. According to Maxine Evans, Associate Director of the Financial Aid Office, Columbia receives more than \$6 million each academic year.

"We worked very hard with legislature and the federal government to get support in funding," said Duff. "This year has

seen a considerable increase in funding from the federal government and there is going to be an increase next year from the state and the Illinois Student Assistance Program. The minimum award will go up by a minimum of \$120. Also, the amount of money available for the students in the form of scholarships will be up and in many ways we'll be able to offset the cost for rising tuition," said Duff.

Corrections and Clairfication

In the April 28th issue, Columbia was misspelled by mistake and the ending to Ann Gabor's story was missing.

The Chronicle regrets the errors

Coming next week

Special reports on Pell
Grants

A report on computer
cheating

The Chronicle

We have Columbia covered

Part-time faculty unhappy with pay, benefits at Columbia: survey

By Claudia Rivera
Staff Writer

Part-time faculty at Columbia College are not happy with their current pay and a lack of benefits.

The Part-time Faculty at Columbia organization, or P-FAC, issued a petition focusing on these matters as well as job security and dignity. The survey was conducted last fall semester and approximately 900, or 26 percent, of Columbia's part-time instructors took part, representing 16 departments.

"The P-FAC believes that low pay and inadequate support is unfair to faculty and has a negative impact on education at Columbia," said Christopher Thale, a spokesperson for P-FAC and a part-time history instructor in the Liberal Education Department.

According to a survey conducted by an outside part-time teacher organization, a majority of surveyed instructors say their "economic situation" affects their ability to teach. Among the reasons cited by the 55 percent worried about teaching effectiveness are poor morale (due to inadequate pay and benefits) and lack of time and energy that results when instructors hold several jobs.

"Many instructors are proud that they do a good job in spite of all the obstacles," said Thale. "I think some of Columbia teachers just get depressed by the pay."

According to Thale, 92 percent of part-time instructors at Columbia agree that pay is a problem and over two-thirds call it a "serious" problem. "Some survey respondents described

the pay as ridiculous. Instructors tell us they're resentful and angry at being exploited," said Thale.

Job insecurity is cited as a serious problem by over three-quarters of respondents and half call it a "serious problem." This problem arises due to part-timers not receiving contracts until after classes have begun, according to Thale. But according to Academic Dean Caroline Latta, who also began at Columbia as a part-time instructor, this issue cannot be changed due to each class requiring a minimum student enrollment.

"In the last three years, the salary for part-time faculty went up by two percent a year and this was the last year for that," said Latta. "Beginning Fall 1997, the rate of pay per credit hour for a course will be increased from \$31.37 to \$32.94, an increase of five percent per credit hour."

One of the biggest concerns for part-time faculty was having access to insurance benefits, which has now been resolved. Recently, news of the opportunity to purchase health care coverage beginning for the fall semester was sent to all part-time faculty at Columbia. Some of the features included are: single and family coverage, choice of plans, choice of deductible amounts and a twelve month rate guarantee. Insurance representatives will be in attendance at the Fall Part-time Faculty Institute on Sept. 27, 1997.

"I am pleased with the recent pay increase and the recent access to insurance coverage," said Chris Doucette, part-time instructor of Math for Survival in the Science Institute. "I feel

the greatest concern is the need for representation of the part-time faculty voice, which can lead to solutions to problems that exist now."

According to Latta, there is a difference in pay that exists between full- and part-time faculty at Columbia due to expectations for full-time faculty being greater and including professional development, college and community service and participation in departmental curriculum.

"For the first time this year, we gave student evaluation forms that have traditionally been used to evaluate full-time faculty for the entire part-time faculty because we hire them for their teacher expertise and their knowledge of subject matter and they should be able to measure up as much as a full-time faculty member would be in the classroom," Latta said. "I think the college needs to find active ways that we can support the part-time faculty."

One possibility toward this end is workshops focusing on areas such as technology—skills each faculty member should contribute to the class.

Also, a faculty exhibition focusing on the work of part-timers, including art, books and film, is on Dean Latta's agenda for any interested part-time faculty. It will give students an opportunity to actually see what faculty members are doing and note their abilities. It was to be done during fall semester registration, but because the Hokin Gallery was booked up, it will not happen until later in the year, Latta said.

How's Your Steak?



With
John Henry Biederman

My assorted nut magnet

"Hi, what can I get you?" Sheila asked the man from behind the coffee counter.

"You know," he said, rather confidentially, darting his eyes around, clutching his overstuffed cloth bag. "All the teenagers are going to Mars."

"John, you wanna help this man?"

I helped the man. He ordered coffee, sat at the counter and told me all about the teenagers going to Mars. Literally going to Mars. Not metaphorically, as in "it's hard to relate to kids today." Actually making the trip to the red planet.

I wiped the counter, wrapped bagels. Now and then said, "Uh-huh." Laughed when it seemed appropriate. I was working the coffeehouse. I had little choice.

He would be back. Hell, I stopped working at the coffeehouse years ago but I still run into the guy. And he still tells me about his...discoveries. His run-ins with dinosaurs, Howdy Doody, Superman. Interesting guy. And he really took a liking to me.

It took working at a coffeehouse for my inner magnet to kick in, but now there's no way of turning it off. I deal with more nuts than a packer at Planters.

There was the woman who came into that same coffeehouse seeking to rally people into stopping bus traffic. She had good reasons, of course. Because the Feds had murdered Jimi Hendrix. And Joni Mitchell. And Kennedy, of course. In fact, most liberal people who had died young were murdered by the Feds, according to this lady who, incidentally, had just gotten out of prison for having sex with a federal judge in his chambers. Or at least that's what she told me.

After spending a moment bothering every other patron, she sat down with me at my table and elaborated further on her theories.

And then there was the guy who called himself "The Hunter." He washed windows for a living and, although I'm sure he had some interesting viewpoints, I could rarely decipher what exactly he was talking about. He brought me incense, handfuls of change and lousy Polaroid's of dolphins from the aquarium when I was a poetry host. He read "poetry" too—although that usually entailed holding up a National Geographic magazine and talking about the pictures within.

I don't know why this happens to me. But, although I tend to encounter more of these people than most, my experiences probably hint at a society not doing enough to help some of these folks.

Now, I keep running into this fellow who's a one-man militia, of sorts. He has no followers, thank God. He has no guns—he just writes up all sorts of anti-government and conspiracy essays, photocopies them at copy shops and tries to sell them. He showed me the calling card of an FBI agent who came to his abode. He believes McCarthy was a good guy who was slandered by liberals. Has all sorts of bizarre rewritings of WWII history.

Now I'm not the only one who goes to coffeehouses alone now and then to get a little work done. But I know of nobody else who seems to attract these...original thinkers to quite this extent. This magnet of mine functions in other areas of my life, too. But I won't get into my dating life right now.

Of course, it's partially my fault. I enjoy dealing with out-of-the-ordinary folks. Many of my friends would be called weirdoes by others, but they have a better control over their oddball natures than those who earn my title of "nutcake." And, to me, nutcakes are more interesting than those who are hopelessly hung-up on being "normal." But, as I'm a little bizarre myself, I look at nutcake dealings as educational. Not just the life experience, but the arm-chair psychiatrist aspect—just what causes a person to hop that mental border?

Then there's the H.P. Lovecraft angle. In Lovecraft's stories, people who knew the most about the universe's secrets were the "raving lunatics." And the real world seems to follow at least a milder version of that theory.

Many of our greatest minds approached the sanity border. Look at Dali or Einstein and tell me that, had they not been dubbed genius, they wouldn't be looked at as frightening weirdoes. So, when people cross the border from eccentric to nutcake, do they still bear some shining gems of wisdom?

Just some fuel for idle banter the next time you're waiting for a Columbia elevator. But I wouldn't worry too much—I really don't think all the teenagers are going to Mars.

E-mail John at kdolphin@xsite.net

Marin takes high road by refusing addition of Springer



On
Media

Jason Kravarik

We are constantly hearing about how television news, mainly local stations, are operating near the bottom of a downward slope. This is the slope that ends with a drop into a cage filled with the likes of Jenny Jones and Jerry Springer, and lined with an old edition of the "Enquirer" to catch the crap they spew out daily.

Channel 5 has one foot dangling in that cage, and Jerry Springer is tugging on it.

Sometime after the era of Walter Kronkite and, locally, Bill Kurtis and Walter Jacobson, television journalism changed from what the public should know and needs to know, to what the public wants to know. So, as a quick fix for what he thought the public wanted (i.e. to get higher ratings and more ad dollars), Channel 5 general manager Lyle Banks decided to hire Springer for the May sweeps.

And the unfortunate thing is, he will get what he wanted out of this, too: his ratings will go up, at least for the time being.

Does it matter that he lost one of the best journalists in the city? No. Does it matter that he may lose Ron Magers, the top anchor in the city? No.

If retaining respectful, credible journalists was not as

important as giving Springer a month-long tryout as a commentator, then the Channel 5 news organization—or make that the Channel 5 general manager—has some thinking to do about the great responsibility he has in informing hundreds of thousands of people on a daily basis.

Sure, some have argued that it's not Marin's or any anchor's place to send such an ultimatum. But she is the one that millions of people have come to trust. No one knows Lyle Banks. No one knows the person who writes the anchor introduction for Jerry Springer's segment. They know Ron and Carol. And if Carol is introducing Jerry Springer, then she looks bad.

What is most inconceivable about this is how Channel 5 got to this point. When WBBM-Channel 2 lost its credibility in the early '90's, it was because they adopted a news theme—flash and trash—that never really caught on. Channel 5 has a great reputation in Chicago. They had quite possibly the best anchor team in the country, and they did solid reporting—their Bernardin coverage, for example. They even had good ratings. As recently as November they were bragging about being first in some key demographics.

Then they self-destructed with some questionable management decisions—hiring Springer being the latest. Lyle Banks seems like the easy culprit for this chaos at the NBC Tower, and he is partly responsible. But who is the "credible" news executive at NBC News headquarters in New York that approved Springer's hiring?

If Banks and other NBC execs think Springer can parade large-breasted women around on a stage in the afternoon, and discuss world peace at night, what's next?

That is what Marin was taking a stand against. She should be commended first for her outstanding ethics and, second, for the guts to maintain them.

Marin

Continued from page 1

second of regret," Corman said. "Her mood was great relief. She was feeling strong." As for the future of Magers, it has been reported that he will only appear with Springer in exchange for an early release from his contract, which has three years left.



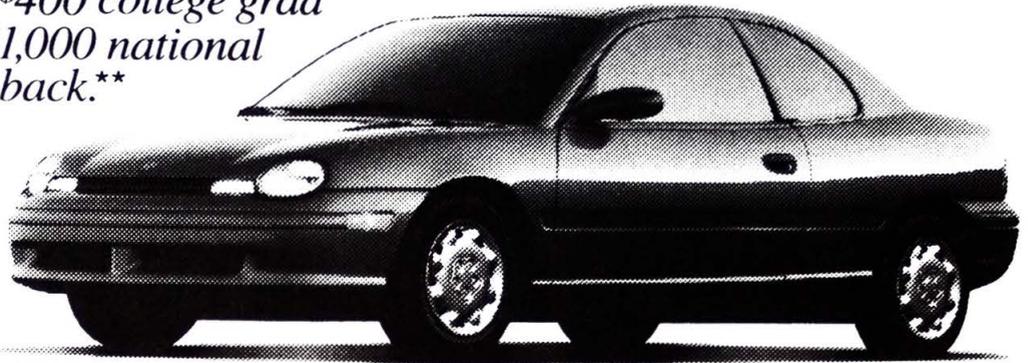
Carol Marin

Stay on top of the big news in the broadcast world, read Jason Kravarik's "On Media" in the *Chronicle*.

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Final Exam Question #2

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- b) d
- c) d
- d) 1 800 CALL ATT
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College News from around the nation

By College Press Service

Book Thief Swipes String Of Criminal Justice Texts

MINNEAPOLIS—Apparently, crime is a favorite subject of a book thief at the University of Minnesota.

University of Minnesota campus police say they're trying to nab the person who has stolen copies of books from the sociology department's mailboxes during the past three years.

The stolen books all have been about the same subject—criminal justice and deviance, said Gwendolyn Gmeinder, an associate administrator in the UM's department of sociology.

"Professors are expecting these books," she told The Minnesota Daily, the school's student newspaper. "They've ordered them, and they've paid for them, and they're not getting them."

Gmeinder estimates the loss at about \$300. She said she is not sure what kind of person would steal books about the criminal justice system. It does make one wonder, she told The Daily.

Two Brown U. Students Fall From Window

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Two Brown University students fell out of a window while one was giving the other a birthday hug.

According to Associated Press

reports, the student celebrating her 22nd birthday died from the injuries. The other student was critically injured.

The two students were sitting on a dresser and leaned back when the single pane of glass behind them broke and they fell to the driveway below, according to Captain John Ryan of the Providence Police Department.

Senior Timory Hyde was pronounced dead on arrival to an area hospital. Elliot Winard, also a senior, was critically injured in the fall.

The fall occurred shortly after midnight April 19 at an apartment where students were attending a campus party.

According to Ryan, building inspectors who examined the apartment the next day said that the area around the window was structurally sound and that the glass had simply given way under pressure.

"There is no investigation to conduct," Ryan told the Brown Daily Herald, the student newspaper. "This was just a very, very tragic accident."

Hyde, a music major, volunteered working at a camp for children with muscular dystrophy during her summer months and was a member of the Brown University Chorus, said the Herald.

Hyde's father was quoted by AP as saying it was horrible but perfect, Colltoo, because his daughter died from a hug.

"Fargo" Prompts UA Students To Dial For Accents

TUCSON, Ariz.—A group of inebriated University of Arizona students, after watching the film "Fargo," couldn't believe people from the upper Midwest actually spoke as they did in the film.

So the students decided to find out for themselves by randomly calling someone in Duluth, Minn. Problem was, it was 4 a.m.

The students called a woman, Sheila Krikelas, begging her to say "Don'tcha know?" But after the sixth call, Krikelas' patience was worn thin. She captured the students' number on a caller I.D. unit and contacted the Duluth police.

After a detective explained to the young researchers that their calls should be limited to daytime hours, the students called Krikelas the following day and apologized.

University of Arizona senior Ryan Morse told a reporter from the Duluth News Tribune that they had called information looking for numbers of 24-hour businesses.

Apparently, the students asked for the number to Circle K, a 24-hour convenience store common in the Southwest but not in Minnesota. The operator gave a number for Krikelas' Circle K Kids and Circle K

Greenhouses.

Obviously, neither business was open at 4 a.m.

"They said, You know I got this bet going with my friends', and I said, Do you know what time it is? and hung up," Krikelas told the Duluth Tribune.

"The bet was they wanted to hear a youse guys' or don'tcha know," Krikelas explained. "I didn't give it to them."

Morse said he thought their research into Midwest dialects wasn't going to lead nowhere. But you betcha everything turned out hokey dokey in the end.

"We were stumped," Morse explained. "We thought we were off [base] until we talked to the assistant police guy."

Apparently, a Duluth officer who spoke to Morse and his buddies satisfied the young men's quest for the Minnesota dialect.

'Freaknik' Draws A Smaller Crowd This Year

ATLANTA—Fewer arrests and fewer complaints marked this year's Freaknik festival, an annual street party, which draws thousands of black students from across the country.

Atlanta Police Chief Beverly Harward reported there were 17 percent fewer telephone complaints about the citywide party.

Still, Atlanta police said there were 511 arrests, and 232 people were jailed. Last year, 683 people were jailed.

Police seized 29 weapons during the three-day event, more than twice as many as the 14 confiscated last year.

Cars jammed Atlanta streets throughout the weekend, as students crowded city streets and roadways.

Police issued the most tickets for traffic violations, followed by public indecency or "taking off their clothes," as officers described it.

In previous years, Freaknik was marred by looting and violence, which did not occur this year.

Last year's event attracted an estimated 80,000 students. No official estimate was made of this year's crowd, but authorities believe it was smaller than in 1996.

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NEWS Briefs

By Elizabeth Mead, Correspondent

Employment up across the state

The number of people at work increased in eight of Illinois' 10 metro areas over the year, according to the Illinois Department of Employment Security. Services, finance, insurance, real estate and construction sectors producing best, according to March statistics. Unemployment rates decreased from March 1996 in eight of the 10 metro areas.

Blair named new Prime Minister of England

After 18 years in power, England's Conservative Party was defeated by the Labor Party in what was described as the best victory by the Labor party in over fifty years. Tony Blair will lead the British Parliament succeeding John Major who served as prime minister for several years. Blair is the youngest person ever to hold the position of prime minister.

Famine crisis hits North Korea

A famine faces North Korea, raising fears that the cannibalism may soon occur. Many families are hiding dead relatives in their homes until the bodies begin to decay in an attempt to keep hungry peasants from digging up the graves and eating the corpses. One Chinese woman was quoted as saying, "The situation is very bad. There is only corn to eat and very little of that." The northern part of the country has been hit hard by famine due to several floods that have ruined crops for the past two seasons. The United Nations World Food Program estimated North Korea needs 1.3 million tons of food to meet its basic needs for 1997.

Grammar school students involved in sexual activities

Nine fourth-graders in Washington, D.C., were found engaging in sexual activity in an unsupervised classroom on April 7. The principal is now suspended without pay for the remainder of the school year. The teacher in charge is expected to receive a similar sentence. It is questionable whether either will be asked back to the district next year.

Cliff Notes removed from college bookstores

Several colleges and universities across the country are removing Cliff's Notes from school bookstores. Cliff's Notes, Inc. fought back by taking full-page ads out of student-run newspapers. The ads claimed that authorities were undermining students moral standards by censoring the study aids.

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APPROPRIATE
PERSONNEL

Film students heed call to fame

By Michelle Pocock
Staff Writer

Several Columbia film students recently got a chance to "show their stuff" in a national commercial market.

Reebok, the athletic shoe company, was trying to change its image. Using the slogan, "Anything is Possible," the company wanted to gain more ground in the urban market. So the executives decided to give urban students a chance.

Producer Leo Burnett made a call to Ron Pitts, a film teacher at Columbia, who solicited 10 students with the proposal.

The students had 24 hours to come up with an idea and shoot the footage. The groups took their footage to the editing suites of Red Car Productions and, with the help of Leo Burnett's Mike Rafayko, pieced their projects together. Each student received \$300 for their work.

Keith Banks, Louis H. McGruder and Kershon Ball, who work together under the name of Pyramid Enterprise, were among the students chosen. The other students included Michelle Lloyd, Moabi Mogorosi, Phillip McDade, Dee Glaspie and Thomas Bell.

Banks and McGruder worked together on a project that concentrated on women in sports. The setting for the commercial was originally intended to be outside but, because of bad weather, the students moved the shoot into the Roosevelt University gymnasium. All of the actors were picked at Roosevelt and the entire shoot was done in three hours.

"We wanted to make a strong statement about women, and how competitive they are," said Banks. Nevertheless, the students had to teach their actress how to dribble before the shoot.

This group was not the only one to encounter problems with its project. Ball's group, which included Ritch Barnes and Clodis Ingram, focused on realism and wanted "something that hit home." Using a heated conversation between two students living in the residence hall, the group thought it had a great project. Once they viewed the tape though, the students decided the footage was too dark. Strapped because of work responsibilities, Ball left Barnes and Ingram took their cam-city with a voice-over of the students talking.

Besides dealing with the technical difficulties of the project, the students had to deal with doubts inside themselves. Banks wanted to jump at this great opportunity but he also had to weigh the negative aspects.

"It was [hard] dealing with my own uncertainties about what we were being asked to do. It was on such short notice, and we knew that we were good, as far as talent, but we weren't sure what was going to be done with our work," Barnes said. "We wanted to protect ourselves, but at the same time do a

good job for Leo Burnett, Red Car, and Reebok."

All the students felt concerned about the fate of their efforts. They knew this job could provide many opportunities but they also wanted the credit they deserved. After a long discussion of the positive and negative consequences of this commitment, the students decided to take the plunge.

Although the projects no longer belong to the students, there are no regrets. The students all felt that the experience was a positive one and that much was learned about how things are done outside of a college environment.

"We've learned a great deal about ourselves, how we work and about how people will respond and react to you when you are involved in something," said Barnes. "It's been a definite learning experience."

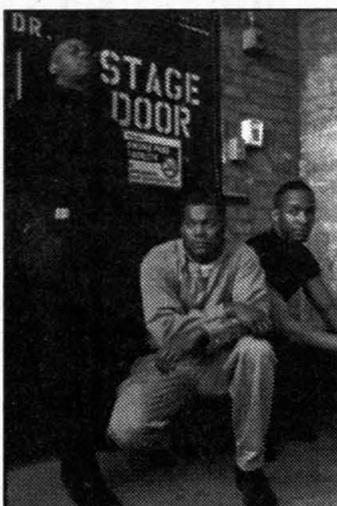
The students were also surprised at the professionalism of all the people they worked with. They felt that both Rafayko and Red Car Productions looked past the fact that they were students and treated them like equals. Rafayko also plans to submit the commercials to various festivals to showcase the students' work.

The biggest benefit for the students was the opportunity to get their foot in the door. Through this experience, the students made many connections and developed the confidence they need to work with professionals. Everyone involved with the project also wanted to thank individuals that helped them throughout this project and their education.

Among those mentioned were Bob Blinn, and those who helped with the commercial, Mike Rafayko, Red Car Productions, Leo Burnett and Reebok.

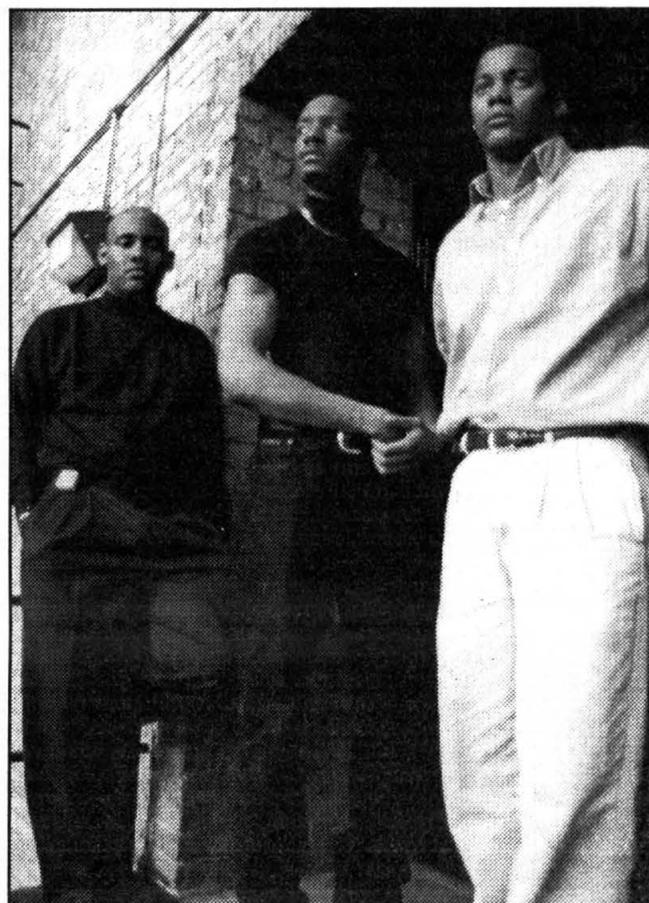
Ball had two very special "thank you's." "I am humble and thankful for all of these opportunities," he said. "I can't thank God or my mother enough."

Banks, McGruder and Ball all have very high aspirations for the future, including production companies, music videos and feature films. They are quick to volunteer inspiration and advice to all students. And with the help of this recent opportunity, anything is possible.

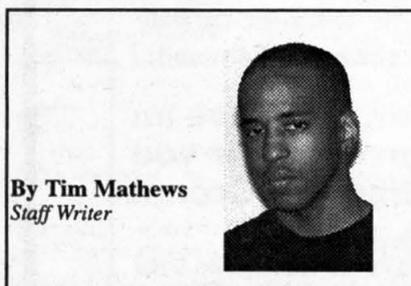


Keith Banks, Louis H. McGruder and Kershon Ball were grateful for the opportunity to work with high-profile companies like Red Car Productions, Leo Burnett Advertising and Reebok while filming a commercial for the popular shoe company.

Photos by Blair Fredrick



Power Of Our Rhythm



By Tim Mathews
Staff Writer

Congratulations are in order to my girl CJ, better known as Cynthia Johnson, National Director of Promotions for Sony Columbia, Urban Music Division. Over the weekend she got married to her long-time beau Brian, who previously worked for PGD with their Perspective label. Cynthia's a beautiful person outside as well as inside and deserves much happiness. Sorry I couldn't make the wedding but if it was anything like the listening parties you put together, I know it was phat and all that!!!

How many of you brothers/sisters really love music? Sounds like a dumb question, doesn't it? It isn't, especially if you made your presence at the House Of Blues, located at 321 South Dearborn, this past Thursday night. Musical creativity was at it's best when Erykah Badu stepped onto the stage. Before she mesmerized the crowd, her opening act showed why he'll be headlining a few shows himself in the near future.

The doors opened at 7:30pm, but a massive crowd was forming at 7pm. After

all, this show had sold out in less than two days of the date they went on sale. You could feel the glow of anticipation that surrounded the room of 1,300.

At 9pm, Eric Benet burst onto the stage and had a "Spiritual Thing" going on with the crowd. His bass guitarist, wearing a top hat that looked like Dr. Suess, did a freestyle with his instrument that had everyone jumping for joy. Eric's up-tempo but suave style of music was the perfect remedy for anyone that needed to have fun and dance the night away. Benet treated us to his hits "Let's Stay Together", "I'll Be There", an old school cut called "If You Want Me To Stay", and my favorite, "Femininity". The young man has longevity written all over him because he sounds great not only on tape, but when doing a live performance as well!! The high-powered show lasted one hour.

It's now 10:30pm and the crowd is far from restless. Drinks are flying everywhere and people are getting high off each others intensity. People were happy to be apart of this moment in time and so was I. Within seconds, the curtains opened and to the far left stood three naturally beautiful backup singers dressed in black with one sister having a cornroll hairstyle, another one an afro, and the other one small braids.

At the back of the stage there was a drummer and a guitarist. Facing the crowd from the far left angle was the keyboardist. The lights were somewhat dimmed. Erykah, I mean Ms. Badu (I'm going to call her that until she says otherwise), stepped out on stage to show people why some call her the reigning queen of R/B

(Sorry Mary, Toni, and Whitney). The mood was very mello and incents were being lit all over the place. Close to her left stood a 3ft. Ankh, which is an Egyptian symbol representing the key of life.

Close to her right was a big candle on top of a small round table. She displayed silver all over her fingers, her neck, and her arms. She came out fully dressed with an orange towel wrapped around her hair. Ms. Badu had a long green dress and a green jacket on with sandals. You could hardly see them because the dress was long as if fit for a wedding day.

Her purse was a burgundy/light brown type of color and it appeared knitted. What struck me most about the whole getup was her eyes, they were mesmerizing! Conversation of any kind was stopped when she lit her candle and letters/gifts were thrown on stage as she approached the mic. The crowd was screaming and literally begging her to start singing. Her demeanor was so cool, she kicked off her sandals and instead of the usual "How Y'all feeling tonight" she went right into the performance.

Each song she sung brought something new out of me. "Rimshot" made me snap my fingers, "On and On" made me smile about my hectic schedule, "Show no love" re my Black women, "Appletree" reminded me of how special I am and why people would want to be around me, and "Next Lifetime" reminded me of three women in the venue. She made me cry and laugh at the same time.

All the time her eyes were brightly shining through me as if she knew every-

one's pain and troubles. "Other Side of the Game" was giving props to those brothers that really have had their backs to the wall but continue to live.

Then there was the "Certainly" song and the remix. The show was only two hours but she was able to fit in some old school cuts herself like "You Don't Have To Cry", "Searchin'", "Jamaican Funk", and "All Night Long". After each song she thanked the audience so sincerely that it made me want to pick my "Afro" and shout "Whoa, Whoa"! She's human, so occasionally she needed a sip of waterto help maintain the freshness in the voice. She had enough time left to kick a freestyle on stage that even had rap artist Tracey Lee in awe. Being the mother of this planet that she is, she broke down messages that each of her songs tried to educate the masses with.

Ms. Badu expressed her feelings and no left there without feeling rejuvenated. She also did this new cut called "Call Tyrone". It's about a woman telling her man kick it with your boys since they see and her from you more than I do. It starts out "I'm Tired of your @\$%".

What shall stick in my head more than anything is the fact that I felt her singing, and that's only happened one other time(Patti Labelle). She's that special artist that graces the entire music scene once every decade. With a #3 LP on Billboards Top 200 and a #5 single on the Hot 100, she has the ability to make you think, dream, get angry, smile, and love not only her but life itself.

In helping others C.H.I.P.S. is 'out for blood'

First event for the support group proves successful despite the low turnout

By Chuck Jordan
Copy Editor

C.H.I.P.S., one of Columbia's newest organizations hosted a blood drive at Columbia last Friday.

The need for blood is something that everyone is aware of; however, not as many people are aware that some city hospitals often run short of blood and need to import it from hundreds of miles away.

C.H.I.P.S. is a student, faculty and staff support group whose goal is to provide a comfortable atmosphere for those suffering from chronic illness and pain.

The blood drive was special to the organization because it was the first event they had sponsored and the beneficiaries were people outside of the college.

Pattie MacKenzie, C.H.I.P.S. faculty sponsor, said that she was excited about the group's first event.

The program was administered by United Blood Services, a nonprofit organization that supplies blood and blood components to hospitals across the country.

Mackenzie said that she felt that the event would do more than save lives.

"By helping others we help ourselves," said Mackenzie.

C.H.I.P.S. President Kristen Cone said that she felt the blood drive was an important step for the group because they have talked about hosting events but this was the first time that a plan became a reality.

MacKenzie contends that a blood drive for a small support group like C.H.I.P.S. is a major accomplishment.

A schedule of times to give blood was made and 12 people signed up. Walk-ins were welcome and several donated.

Freshmen photography major Jillian Rodriguez saw the fliers for the drive and decided to go.

"I was leaving class early and I saw the signs. I had the time so I decided to give blood," said Rodriguez.

Each donor gave a pint of blood. United Blood Services' goal was to get 60 pints of blood. Even though the group received only 22 pints, the blood drive was considered a success by members.

The number of donors would have been higher but



eligibility requirements eliminated several potential donors. Only two C.H.I.P.S. members were eligible to give blood.

"It would be great if this could be a yearly thing," said Mackenzie.

C.H.I.P.S.' member Tyra Carter came up with the idea to host a blood drive when she saw a story on the news about the low blood supply level in the Chicago area. Blood had to be flown in from as far away as

North Dakota for patients in desperate need of blood.

After blood is donated, it is tested and then goes into service in less than 36 hours. According to United Blood Services blood is used most often for patients suffering from hemophilia, leukemia and cancer. Several patients may be able to use blood donated by one person because it is often separated into various components for use.

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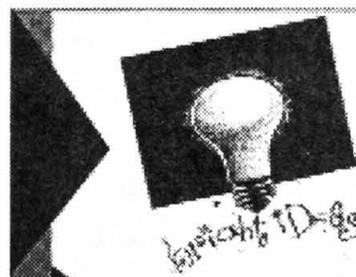
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For My Fellow "Waitrons"/15%

Sam Walters

All right everybody listen' up... it's 15%! 15%!! Do you hear me?! 15%!!! Not ten, not twelve, not twelve and three quarters but fifteen, fifteen!!! I mean, what's so hard about that?! It's remedial math! If 15% of \$10 is \$1.50, and 10% of \$10 is \$1, then I don't care how much you wish it, but a dollar on a \$10 check is never 15%!! And you'd best be exacting in your math too; any change you leave might become embedded in your skull as you leave the restaurant. 15% 15% shout it loud hallelujah! I'm thinking about getting it tattooed on my forehead so's you don't forget! You wouldn't stiff a waiter with 15% tattooed on his forehead would' ya? Shucks no! He might kill you! Remember, you don't get to change the ingredients in your food, but your waiter can alter them at his discretion. Maybe it's lacking some essential spice, like Draino! Ha ha ha, just a little joke that's all! "Don't take the brown the acid, don't take the brown aci"- oh too late! It's in your soup!! That one's for all you baby-boomers still living in the sixties; fine by me, just visit the nineties when you tip. Here's one for the senior citizens too; cut it with the senility crap! You're not fooling anyone! You can drool, fart, and dodder all you want, but I'm not buying it! Don't try feigning death either; I know you're just being cheap. Besides, you'll end up kicking in some cash when I push the EMT aside to personally man those heart paddles! Look out! "Clear!-bzzt-Clear!-bzzt-Clear!-bzzt-Clear!-bzzt-A-ha-ha-HA-HA!!!" Stiff me will 'ya?! I'll see you catch fire before you get out of this ambulance! And warn all your foreign friends who "don't know" our customs. They can do what they want- not wear any pants, marry their daughters, sleep with goats!! I don't care!?! Just make sure they tip right or they might get deported... 'til they're dead! That's right Cesoir, MORTE! I'm the garcon of death baby! Tip me well, you might get a mint; screw me and you die!!! Why chance it? Safety's just 15% away! Friendship's just 15% and up! 15% and Up, UP, and Up!! 15, 20, 25, 30%!

Towering stacks of shimmering loose change heaped staggeringly toward the heavens! Prairies of colorful currency stretching infinitely to the horizon!! Tip upon tip! \$Fin\$ after \$fin\$!! Aprons overflowing with heaps of hoarded gratuities. Waiters swimming in vast oceans of liquid cash that empty into basins, that spill into rivers, that dwindle into rivulets, and culminate finally in the thirsty reservoirs of my pockets!!! I'm gonna be rich!! **!\$!RICH!\$!** I'll glue all my change together and make a throne! I'll build a palace out of singles!! I'll push my checks up like a mountain and sit upon them like a **GOD**, issuing decrees that no man shall ever after tip less than

15%!!15%!!!

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SPICEY MARKETING

Lynn Snyder

When Madonna made her debut back in the early eighties, she didn't make an immediate impression on me. But, slowly I started to recognize her catchy tunes (never hummed them, though) and even admit to donning some of her fashions (went through a phase of wearing a bandana with a cute bow on the side of it until my sister told me I looked like Madonna).

From the very beginning Madonna marketed herself in very deliberate ways. Young girls strived to be "material girls" and young guys wanted to go out with them—the more scantily clad, the better.

There's a new group from the UK that made its U.S. debut in January. Their style is a combination of pop and hiphop. "Wannabe" is their first single and it made a splash in January by making the number two song in Billboard's Top Ten. They are none other than the "Spice Girls."

In addition to their album, "Spice," there are videos, an official Spice Girls Magazine Club and the official Spice Girls book entitled, "Girl Power!" Expected next year is a Spice Girls movie, two T.V. shows and a multi-million Pepsi deal. Whew...are they really that good?

All of these marketing gimmicks stimulated my curiosity. So, I surfed the Internet and located one of their many Web sites. Most of them were innane, as expected, filled with nothing but ...well, filled with nothing that could even qualify as any semblance of information.

However, I did come across one site that caught my attention. It's called "Slap a Spice Girl." An interactive Web site, the goal is to click your mouse every time a Spice Girl pops out of a man-hole cover. You score points if

the disembodied hand onscreen lands upside a Spice head. At the bottom of the site reads the obligatory paragraph stating violence to women is not condoned.

Now, *this* is intelligent entertainment. Where have I been? You mean for all this time, while I've been studying diligently, looking for an internship and showing up for work everyday, I could have been beating up a Spice Girl? Man, have I been missing out.

I guess I've also missed pondering those deep, contemplative lyrics of theirs: "I'm choosy, not a floozy/I get hit and then run with it."

The older I get, the more worried I become about the impressions young people receive from popular groups like this. On the one hand, I understand the necessity of music marketing. Images must be shaped in order to sell. However, groups like the Spice Girls and many others in the music culture are marketing themselves cheaply and unintelligently.

The Spice Girls have a reputation for flirting shamelessly with their male fans. I'm all for flirting and even a bit of suggestiveness every now and then. But, grabbing butts, stroking hair and yelling to them, "Shake it out. Ssssexy," is tasteless and degrading. This is no way for any self-respecting woman to act. Negative messages are being sent to their prepubescent female fans through this raunchy behavior.

The Spice Girls call themselves feminists, but because they think that's become a dirty word they've renamed the concept "Girl Power." I don't know much about their "Girl Power" beliefs, but they're probably discussed in their book. Maybe I'll pick up a copy...or, maybe I'll just save my money.

Reading between the lines at Columbia's Bookstore

Felicia Dechter

Psst, hey you, want to know a secret? There's a hidden treasure at Columbia College. Anyone can find it and as a matter of fact, you've more than likely stumbled upon it more than once, only you just haven't realized it. It's a place where minutes can melt into hours, where you can lose yourself and be swept up in your dreams, while you enter the endless world of your imagination.

Where is this place you ask? How do you find it?

It's easy enough. It's the Columbia College bookstore.

Wait just a minute! Are we talking about the same bookstore here? The over-priced, long-lined, service with a frown, Columbia College bookstore?

The very one. Take a minute from your hectic schedule and have another look. Allow yourself the time to browse through the aisles and truly appreciate what your bookstore has to offer.

There's a world of information for whatever your dreams are. Music lovers can find CD's and books on the opera or symphonies. Love the blues? There's plenty of information, especially with Chicago being the home of the blues. Want to know who Eleanor Rigby was? Yep, you can find that out there too. Everything from the Chicago Doo Wop scene to Wagner can be found, if you're looking.

Are your interests more visual? Seek out the photography section, where you can check out books ranging from Norman Rockwell to The Digital Darkroom, with plenty in-between. Or how about film? If you love Marilyn Monroe or Hamlet, you've got to see what's there. Don't worry, others are available if you don't happen to fancy those two!

Need a birthday card for mom? It's there. Or are you mom? The 'Columbia Moms sweatshirts are nice and thick (and quite good looking). You can also find stuff for the kids. Frisbee anyone? Buy it there, then head over to the park for some fun! You can find it all at the Columbia bookstore.

And if employee Michael Bennett is helping you find it, consider it your lucky day. Always with a quick smile and willingness to aid you in your search, he will send you on your way ready to deal with the folks at the cash register, who are slow and usually not quite as eager to help. Michael helps maintain some sort of nasty-nice balance, with his pleasantness counter acting occasional unpleasantness you may experience there. If only all the employees there could be more like Mike!

So come dream for a while in your very own backyard. Check out the bookstore again, and realize there can be more than meets the eye. Take the time to read that book, to yourself, or to your child. You can truly enter a world of magic.

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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.

Back to basics

Editors,

I have just read the April 14th issue of The Chronicle and I am utterly appalled at the lack of skill, knowledge and maturity within the pages. Journalism, whether print, radio or television, is designed to inform the public. To paraphrase Webster's Dictionary, Journalism is concerned with the direct representation of facts or events without attempt at interpretation. You can also find this piece of information back in your Journalism 101 class.

The biggest example of the lack of knowledge within your news collective at The Chronicle is the Opinion page. The letters written by the public, your readers, are not written in hopes that some kid playing Editor will give them a flash of their weak attempts at wit or insight. Pick up the Chicago Tribune, Sun Times or any other city's major newspaper and you will rarely, if ever, find comments written by the Editor in answer to a reader's letter. If there is an Editor's note, it serves to correct or clarify. It is not used as a biased slam against the person writing the letter. The letters serve as the Public's Opinion. This is why a newspaper has an Opinions page and an Editorials page. Again, Journalism 101 is a required course.

Even more appalling are the inadequacies of the basic writing and proofreading skills needed in crafting a newspaper. There are numerous grammatical and typographical errors. I'll give you all a hint on one: top left corner of page eleven. Speaking of page eleven, I read that "The Chronicle is always looking for stories to cover at Columbia." (I only quote the first sentence since the rest reads like a tabloid ad.) If The Chronicle is truly looking for stories, why then do you solicit your readers for news?

A newspaper's essential job is to find the story and report the facts. College level newspapers are not the exception when it comes to true journalism. Every newspaper has the privilege of reporting news responsibly to the public. It is the public that gave us Freedom of the Press. Your faculty advisor is either asleep or out of town at press time, therefore giving him a viable excuse for his lack of guidance. Mr. Sulski, if you are around to read this letter, you should realize that The Chronicle needs advice, guidance and a beginning working knowledge of what Journalism is about. Your job is to educate these students. The Chronicle of Columbia College is not a summer camp newspaper. There is no justifiable reasoning to support irresponsible, biased and sloppy publishing. Especially at a higher academic level.

Admittedly, signing off anonymously is cowardly, however, I am a continuing student at Columbia (with a pretty good sense of humor, though you can't really tell from this letter) who would like to finish my degree quietly and who knows that discretion can be the better part of valor and not just a word in the Editors' Disclaimer.

Thank you for your time and best wishes.

Anonymous

Oh Nameless One: There is no Journalism 101 class at Columbia and that is certainly the problem. Maybe you can teach it! You can use this letter as the introduction to your textbook! We are deeply indebted to you for delineating all these restrictions we should have on our Freedom of the Press, but we've never read "Public Press." Please, send us a copy! And by the way, Faculty Advisor Jim

Sulski is not sleeping, nor is he on vacation—but he is brain dead, and we haven't had the heart to pull the plug. He's still the same old barrel of monkeys at parties, though. Oh, and while you may feel your letter doesn't show off your sense of humor, it sure stimulated ours—we still can't stop laughing at it!—Eds.

Write this!

If you've ever had English Composition here at CCC, then you probably hate the Writing Assessment pop essay we're required to complete. Maybe you'll get a kick out of the essay I wrote in answer to the Assessment Team's scenario. You know, the one where we pretend we care about learning a second language or not...

I sit here stunned when faced with this question: Should we students be required to learn a second language to earn a bachelor's degree? This question displays the sickening degree of ignorance with which this college operates. Students at this college should be required to master the English language before being faced with a second nameless language.

The majority of students at this college have rudimentary English skills at best. This observation is exemplified by the Writing Assessment given to both English Composition 1 and 2 students. The Assessment involves writing a spontaneous essay on a topic that does not change as students progress from English Comp. 1 to E.C. 2. The only change is that E.C. 2 students, after completing their essays, must correct the grammar of 10 special sentences provided by the Assessment Team; this is, we can suppose, to prove whether or not we students completed junior high school.

Of course, the English Composition program of this college is admittedly shameful. Week after week, when class is not canceled, we sit and stare as our "teacher" tries to work out the bugs of the Norton Textra Connect computer application the English Department has forced upon us. Is our teacher simply ill-prepared, or does every computer—I mean English Composition—class have this problem? As a result, we are now 5 weeks from the end of the semester, yet we have only completed 2 essays. We have not, due to computer problems, had any peer review of these essays (which we've been led to believe is the very foundation of essay revision at this college). When I confronted the Chair of the English Department I was directed to a substitute chair who was thoroughly disinterested with my concerns.

Perhaps with a low-tech English Composition program (paper and pen?), and with competent instructors, and with a concerned Chair, we students could master the English language on our ways toward earning our degrees.

Now, explain to me again why we need to learn French (or Spanish, or Polish...) when we are not yet learning English.

Stay tuned for the next installment of MARC ROMAN BRAVO vs ENGLISH COMP. 2-COMPUTER ASSISTED INSTRUCTION...

Weedmeat@aol.com
Via on-line forum

PS: Whoa, Nelly!

"Weedmeat": We'd really, really love to know where that nickname comes from. Cheap thrills are rare around here. But anyway, we have some problems with

your suggestions. I mean, how can a concerned chair help matters at all? We have a concerned refrigerator up here, but he doesn't seem to help out with the newspaper at all.—Eds.

Another compliment—how suspicious!

Just thought I'd let you guys know that you have a cool looking Web page. We [St. Xavier University students] only have one issue left for this semester. I'm graduating in four weeks so we've appointed a new managing editor for the Xavierite next year. Keep up the great work and good luck at the 1998 ICPA awards!

Kevin Plienis,
managing editor of the Xavierite
Via online forum

Mr. Plienis: Are you sure you were on the right Web page? Or did you find the secret link to Bob Chiarito's "Spank Clearinghouse" page! Chiarito's page is best viewed after taking a few BELTS of liquor! It shows how WELL REARED Bob is! But his page is fabulous—no ifs, ands or buts! Okay, no ifs or ands, but plenty of butts!—Eds.

A blast from a Chronicle past...

Do not insult me with your dry and tasteless humor. You do not realize whom you toy with.

Ilitheia
via on-line forum

To our readers: Ah, the memories that brings back! Wanna read it again in slow motion?—"I a-m a dan-ger-ous in-di-vid-ual!" Wow, you can really see the subliminal message that way!—Eds.

...And it's equally scary reply...

In Reply to post by Ilitheia:

Well I will say that you vampires breaking the Masquerade do certainly make it easy for us Hunters.

Pockets
Via online forum

"Pockets": Is that a wooden stake in your "Pockets" or are you just glad to see us! You wouldn't happen to be Buffy the Vampire Slayer, would you? If you are, you're welcome to come up, grant us an interview and take whatever you want from our Prize Closet! Just don't go into Copy Editor Jerzy La Buy's "Prize Closet"! We shudder to think of what goes on in there!—Eds.

...And still more of this B r a m Stokeresque nonsense

Hey Kids!

Get your heads out of the comic books and Anne Rice novels! You kooky kids, and your crazy vampires! Let me tell ya somethin' your parents missed: Vampires, wolfpeople and the Swamp Thing are pretend! They are not real! Now turn out your blacklight and get some sleep, you zany kids!

Goodnight,
Jerred
Via online forum

Jerred: Now you've done it. You've made News Editor James Boozer cry! Just don't tell him that there's no Santa Claus, okay?—Eds.

Just when you thought it was safe to go back to reading the letters...

Message to "Angel" from last week's Shoots and Letters page:

My shit does stink. And as for the rest of her letter: I'm merely saying what other women can't (or won't) say publicly. Sure, this crappy little newspaper hates me and so do a lot of other people—and yet the Chronicle still chooses to print my opinions. Why? Could it be that some staff members secretly agree with me? Hmm...

Even with all this backlash from my fellow students (most of whom won't sign their real names to their oh-so-clever work), I will continue to believe that most men ARE jerks. Contrary to what "Angel" says, there aren't more men trying to do the right thing these days. If there were, countries wouldn't be at war, people wouldn't be losing their jobs, children would be a top priority, and Smith Barney would go bankrupt. If you don't know what that last part means, then you need to get your head out of your ass.

Still Waiting for a Mr. Respectful With Balls,
Carrie L. Nelson

PS: Whoever Paul Benedetto is, I'd like to meet him.

Carrie: And so, we meet again. Quit scaring our readers! We're sure Mr. Benedetto is actually a nice man and there's a plausible explanation for his lack of judgment in asking for your phone number. What do you think this is, a dating service? We would love to see a Shoots and Letters-spawned marriage, but, before the fact, we are absolving ourselves of any responsibility for the likely fate of poor Mr. Benedetto.—Eds.

This Is This



Bob Chiarito

The end is at hand

We should be ashamed of ourselves.

Although we've seen it coming for a long time, last week Chicago lost more than a great columnist and a great television anchor. Indeed, thanks to ratings and newspaper sales, American journalism has now crossed a line that it can never go back to, and that's bad for all of us.

While it's obvious I'm speaking of the death of legend Mike Royko and the departure of longtime WMAQ-TV anchor Carol Marin, what really hurts is the route journalism has traveled over the past few years.

Last week I covered the Newspaper Association of America's annual convention for Presstime magazine, sitting in on sessions with newspaper publishers from all over the country. I heard countless strategies on how newspapers plan to make more money, from printing classified sections for niche audiences to creating interactive Internet Web sites, but not much on improving content. It seems that although journalism has always been a business, the conflict between public service and private profit has compromised the integrity and credibility of a great institution.

Over the years, newspapers have changed drastically. In response to the emergence and later, dominance of television, newspapers first turned to running color pictures. Eventually that wasn't enough, so they began running sound-bite length stories and now, news morons could use, like telling women to make sure to keep their purses in front of them when walking downtown.

Many would argue that newspapers had to change to survive, and that the public loves soft and sensational news. Just look at the ratings of television talk shows and the statistics which show that youth readership of newspapers has drastically decreased. In order to survive and make a healthy profit, fools would argue, newspapers should give the public what it wants, even if it's not real news.

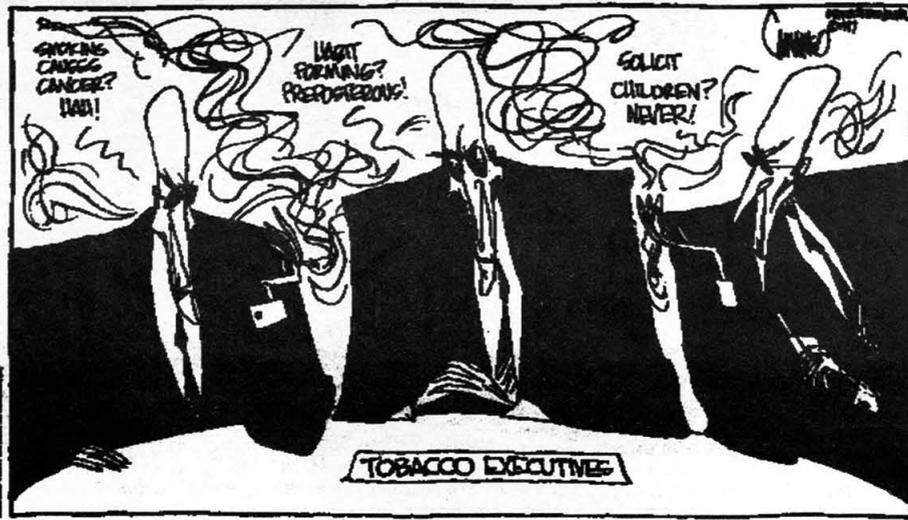
Well, while public taste has shifted, Royko and Marin refused to change. Royko continued to tell it like it was, no matter how politically incorrect. He was the last of a great breed; a hard-drinking, cigarette-smoking man's man that could write as well about elite government officials as he could about ward bosses or typical South Side barflies.

For 19 years at WMAQ, Marin brought the news to viewers with great professionalism. In an era where many female anchors are as dumb as they are beautiful, Marin continued to stand alone, proving she was better than all the big-haired bimbos and slick newsmen that came and went during her tenure.

During her last newscast, May 1, Marin delivered the news at Channel 5 just as she did everyday, with great class. After showing no sign anything was wrong during the newscast, Marin thanked the staff of Channel 5 and the many viewers that tuned in every night during the sign-off. She would have been justified if she slammed General Manager Lyle Banks for bringing the station into the tabloid realm by hiring slime-ball Jerry Springer, but that's not her style. Royko, on the other hand, wouldn't have minced words.

While there is hope Marin will be hired by a respectable news organization, as long as newspapers are concerned with making money and not offending any groups, any future Royko's may be stymied.

That's what's wrong with journalism today, as well as what's wrong with America.



CAUTION: LYING ABOUT CIGARETTES CAN BE ADDICTIVE.

Columbia: Where you always spend more money

Tuition is, once again, going to rise at Columbia College Chicago for next year and the results are typical. As our package of stories on this topic, on pages one to three in this issue, indicate, students are angry, administration pleads necessity and the fact is bantered around, once again, that Columbia is still the cheapest private institution of higher education in the State of Illinois.

The increase over last year's tuition is 5.8 percent while general inflation of the nation's overall economy is up only 3.3 percent. Nonetheless, a lot of the reasons we have been given for the increase, by administrators such as Michael DeSalle, vice president of finances at Columbia, appear valid. Teachers—especially part-timers—deserve raises, the college needs to beef things up on the technological front and recently enacted programs aimed at making open admissions work better are long overdue.

As administration has been telling us, rising tuition is part of life and we find it hard to argue, point per point, against the raising of tuition. But skyrocketing college tuition is something that may require serious attention in the future—not just by Columbia, but by our educational infrastructure and the nation at large.

Fact of life or not, one word is still appropriate for the continually growing rates of tuition nationwide: lamentable. Yes, President Clinton is doing some things to make education closer to everyone's grasp, but for many people, the sorry fact remains that you have to pay money in order to make money—a gruesome fact stabbing at the very heart of the so-called "American Dream." Perhaps the very structure of education—the bureaucracy, the establishment, the theories and the methods—need thorough scrutiny. Somehow, something as important as a nation's educational system shouldn't be alienating some people while income gaps continue to widen, and we have little problems filling prisons or military budgets.

As things stands, maybe increasing tuition is a fact of life. But that's no reason to think that can't be changed—without some serious changes, the future looks awfully bleak.

Part-time faculty issues deserve some full-time efforts to rectify

It should come as no surprise to anyone who's been taking classes at Columbia that the teaching situation here could use some improvement. Sure, the majority of teachers at Columbia are competent and respected in their fields. Most of the people who graduate here go away with the necessary tools to compete in today's world, provided they give legitimate efforts on their own parts. But...

Yes, there is a very large "but" to this equation. Columbia, as a modern, cutting-edge school, thrives largely on the employment of instructors in a part-time capacity.

This has its advantages. Often, full-time, professional members of the academic community lose touch, so to speak, with the real world after tenure—and part-time teachers, working at the same time in the fields they are instructing about, provide a definitive edge, in many cases, to students just years, or months, away from entering the same fields.

Staff Writer Claudia Rivera's page-three story on the Part-time Faculty at Columbia organization (P-FAC) delineates a few of the problems that part-timers face—problems that deter many of them from teaching in the future. And we didn't need all the facts of Rivera's story to realize the general trend—most of us have seen instructors come and go during our stints at the College and many of us have fallen prey to the teacher that just doesn't have his or her heart in the classroom.

Academic Dean Caroline Latta related some welcome new developments in Rivera's story—pay increases for part-timers and the option of buying insurance benefits through the college. We believe this to be a step in the right direction.

But we hope it doesn't stop there. Part-time, in-the-field instructors bring something worthwhile to Columbia, but we need to work on improving things even more. And we encourage administration here to seriously explore the issues P-FAC raises.

Stuff from Staff



Erin Bonillo

Freedom of the Net

Every time a new form of media is introduced—our society has the unfortunate history of panicking and calling the censor police. The Internet has proved to be no different, with a full blown case in front of The Supreme Court as we speak.

An overturned decision would make it a felony to knowingly transmit indecent material over the Internet. The implications mean that whatever is communicated across the Internet would be reduced to a level judged appropriate for children. This repudiates our own constitution and insults the visions of Jefferson, Madison and Brandeis.

It is the very essence of censorship.

While America anxiously awaits the Supreme Court ruling on the constitutionality of the Communication Decency Act of 1996—cyberspace chats on. While I'm hardly a web junkie, I can't help but notice that those folks so riled up over constraining and controlling the Internet, have missed a colossal point...thought control is not in anyone's interest. It deprives us of our basic liberties.

Perhaps if those censor-seeking advocates could set down their ideological baggage for a few seconds, and spend some time cruising the Internet, they would understand that the very thing they are trying to control is not a body that can be ordered through physical coercion. Cyberspace is made up of relationships of thought that is everywhere and nowhere at the same time.

It is the most participatory form of mass speech and ideas yet developed, and legislating it would threaten our liberty of acting as our own filters, choosing what to hear, say and think. Handing those vitalizing gifts over to the government, takes away the sovereignty of the people and contradicts democracy. In an attempt to protect our children from information or images, we are essentially saying that we cannot make decisions for ourselves as adults, and would rather let the government dictate what we hear, say and are told to believe.

Mostly due to ignorance, many people are genuinely worried that their computers will begin projecting crude or obscene images and ideas at their children. They don't understand that on-line communications requires that the user seek out materials. They don't understand that users must have a modem, subscribe to a service provider using a credit card, type a password, and then actively search and locate the information they want.

Other scare tactics the censor-mongers used include obscenity and child pornography. Indecency is not obscenity; existing obscenity law already applies to the Internet. The alarms that the Net is flooded with child pornography are exaggerated and false. Tough child pornography laws already cover online communications and all media.

Once we allow government to own speech and arrest our thoughts, ideas and the human spirit will wilt from lack of purpose. I hope that The Supreme Court will realize that the lack of a centralized censoring authority means that decisions about what speech is valuable and what is worthless are left in the hands of individual speakers and listeners. The Communications Decency Act threatens our most cherished and powerful possession—our voice.

E-mail your opinion!
CHRON96@INTERACCESS.COM

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Platform, Time Arts Community issues first taste of interactive art world

By Erin Bonillo
Staff Writer

Interactive should be the key word from this generation. Everything new seems to have that "interactive" element wound in somewhere. It is no longer good enough to see it or hear it—we now want to feel it and be it.

The interactive medium has reached and become intertwined with not only media, video and Internet technology, but also art forms. In art, they call this interactive facet, "time-based art" and it's becoming a symbol of our times as much as it is dependent on time.

It allows audiences to not only view art in a static form such as painting or sculpture, but to go inside and look around. Artists can now reach viewers in a whole new realm, making their response a vital aspect of the work.

"Integrating static art form with interactive environments is what it is all about. It opens the door for a whole new arena of art," explained an anonymous student.

The growing popularity of this body-oriented work has spurred on a new Columbia student organization called Time Arts Community. Collaborating closely with the Fine Arts Community, the new organization hosted a evening of performances and installations, titled PLATFORM, in the Wabash building on April 23rd.

It was a mind-opening experience for the intrigued

viewers as they witnessed over thirteen separate events occurring throughout the Wabash building.

One installation consisted of a room with a curtain and a baby crib inside. Once you stepped inside you were enveloped with real voices of a father and a young girl conversing. It was student Ann Marie McGlade's interpretation of her early childhood, titled "Daddy's Girl." The voices were actual tapes from her and her father when she was young.

Stepping into that scene allowed the audience to not only see the images, but to feel them as they became part of the scene. Other events were taking place outdoors. Such as Adam Miko's Igloo on the corner of 11th street. Inside, there was a variety of different flavor of Kool-Aid for participants to choose from.

Each flavor represented something different from life, allowing the participants to develop their own perspectives.

Intrigued? Then you would have really enjoyed Phil Berkman's "Unnatural Manifesto," where animals became poets through the help of participants. Description hardly skims the surface of the actual event though.

The difficulty in describing those installations is the best argument for their value. Some things cannot be condensed to mere words. Interactive works step beyond words and images to the world of emotion and senses. That alone qualifies their uniqueness and importance in this time when we have a need to not just see, but to be.

"Integrating static art form with interactive environments is what it is all about."

— student describing PLATFORM

Pop Culture Sound Reasoning: 'Blur' blends style or diverse disk

By Keith Harrison
College Press Service

Blur
"Blur"
Virgin
2.5 stars

Nobody wants to be themselves anymore. U2 and David Bowie want to be techno wizards, but techno wizard Moby wants to rock like the Smashing Pumpkins. And Billy Corgan, court-side spectator of NBA games, just wants to be a jock.

Perhaps it should surprise no one, then, that the fellows in Blur that other Brit pop band now want to try their hand at American indie rock. All sorts of indie rock, by the way, from guitar skronk to low-fi simplicity to Beck-inspired grooving. Add to that the bands refusal to completely forsake its Brit Invasion influences, and you've got a wildly diverse disc that is, unfortunately, also mad-deningly uneven.

Blur gets the indie rock thing right a few times, particularly on the loose-limbed, skittering Song 2. A pair of dark numbers, the lurching Death of a Party and the claustrophobic, throbbing "I'm Just a Killer For Your Love, are entrancing. And the band nicely nicks the old Ian Hunter/Mott the Hoople sound on the rousing sing-along chorus of On Your Own."

Too much of the rest falls short, however. The

Sonic Youth ripoff "Chinese Bombs" simply grates, while the intoxicating, topsy-turvy rhythms of "Country Sad Ballad Man" are ruined by some atrocious falsetto singing. And a song titled "Beetlebum" might be a jab at the boys in Oasis, but that band's Fab Four knock-offs are rarely as cloying as this track.



*I don't like it when I have to spend more money...
check out page 11*

Classifieds

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GWM, handsome, 30-ish, 5'10", 160 lbs., dark blond, hazel eyes, HIV- and very muscular. I'm a charming, sexy, caring romantic Leo looking for an attractive, intelligent, warm, compassionate man. I am a non-smoker/non-drug user who seeks same. I enjoy quiet time at home, which includes romantic dinners and thought-provoking conversation. Please write me if you want someone strong to keep you warm on those cold winter nights. code # A1028.

To respond to a Personal ad, write to the code number in care of The Chronicle, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60605.

Daughters dig Columbia

By Edwina G. Orange
Staff Writer

Columbia's "Take Our Daughters To Work Day" was an excellent opportunity for girls to experience work and college life.

The afternoon started with a heavy conversation about Beanie Babies and spring break. In the midst of the discussion, a meal made for kings and queens was placed before them for their delight. Fancy pastries, fruit and all the apple juice they could drink brought smiles to their little faces.

After lunch, children gathered in small groups with tour guides for a three-hour tour around the college campus. A combination of visual presentations and hands on activities were offered.

The children visited the computer lab, where they were able to work on the computers and explore the Internet. Other places on the agenda included Fashion Columbia, WCRX Radio, the Drawing Studio, Career Fair, the CCEN Talk Show studios and the hard-working life of mom and dad.

Auderan Been, an art teacher and mother of two boys, said "Everything has been great. We had a wonderful time."

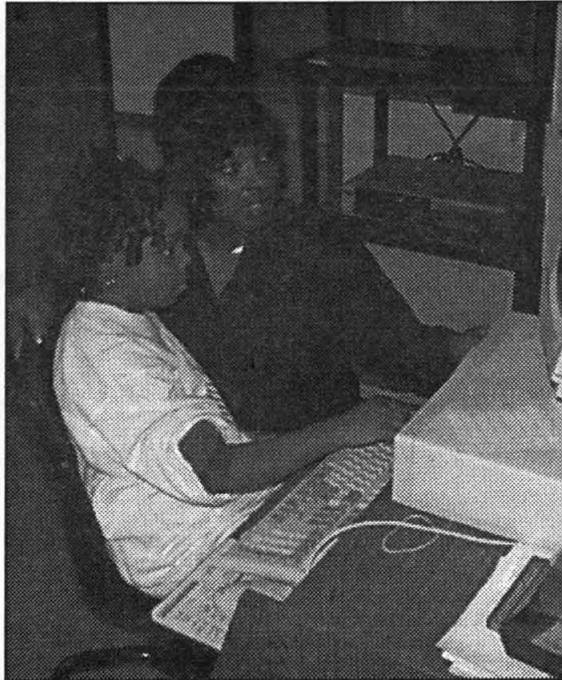
The children and parents were dressed in matching T-shirts and everyone shared in the laughter that filled the hallways. Children were allowed to fill out the pen pal list so that after the day was over, the fun could still continue outside of Columbia.

The hallways were also filled with students and student workers who brought their children to experience the final semester days of school.

Jamald Johnson, a math and science teacher's aid, brought his daughter Rayon who was celebrating her sixth birthday. Rayon, full of smiles, had camera in one hand and chalk in the other as she shared her family tree on the chalk board in the science and math tutoring lab.

"She's been talking about this day all week. And I'm very happy to see my daughter happy and learning something outside the classroom," said Johnson.

"Take Out Daughters to Work Day," held this year on April 24, is a national event that was estab-



A girl works with her mother in participation with "Take Our Daughters to Work Day" at Columbia.
Photo by Brian Markiewicz

lished to give girls an opportunity to observe women professionals on duty, assist professionals with daily tasks and interview employees to give information about different careers.

Jan Chronister, of Duluth News Tribune, Duluth, Minn., said in a previous interview "When boys are not around, girls are free to voice concerns and discuss topics they might otherwise keep to themselves. The day gives girls a chance to see how real women deal with these concerns and exposes them to positive female role models!"

The tour ended at Studio A in the 600 S. Michigan Ave. Building, but the experience and time shared between families will last a life-time.

Dorm Life far from dorment in the summer

By Rochelle Jones
Correspondent

Many people may not know this but The Jazz Festival and The Taste of Chicago will be part of Columbia College Residence Center Dorm life, helping students to chase the "summer school" blues away. The Residence Center will allow students to attend these functions together and other events over the summer as a group.

"We want to take advantage of Out-door activities," said Residence Hall Director Daniel Betts.

There are still the same rules in the summer but less people allows for more freedom and flexibility in the activities being held. Betts will be focusing on more social activities in the summer because the classes are so long and time consuming.

"The main goal is to have them bond as a community," said Kristine Fourroux, assistant director for residence life.

There are educational and summer programs for each floor. The summer residency lasts 10-14 weeks with about 56 Columbia College students, and for film students classes run a full 14 weeks. Four floors of the dorms are rented out to a conference group called American Youth Hostel. The group brings in International students who are traveling for the summer. They will stay for short periods of time, some only a couple of days.

Symon Ogeto will also be living in the residence center this summer. Currently a resident, he only plans to stay for a couple of weeks until he leaves for home.

"International students like me will stay instead of finding a new place," said Ogeto. "You don't have the burden to start looking for an apartment over the summer when you can stay in the Residence Center where you are guaranteed to be safe."

The cost of all this fun in the sun is about \$150 per week and so far, 20-30 students have applied. This will run much cheaper than some of the hotels and apartments in Chicago. The spaces are available on a first-come, first-serve basis with out-of-state students getting first priority.

Betts wants the numbers to increase in the future and probably won't be renting out the residence center to the international group next year. "Out-reach and marketing will be more intense. We want numbers to increase," said Betts.

The focus this summer, because there will be less traffic, will be on fall projects like the parent and student newsletters. The fall opening week is very important for the center and they spend a lot time preparing for the new academic year. The office hours will be shortened, but the residence center guarantees students fun and exciting activities and recommends you give summer housing a try.

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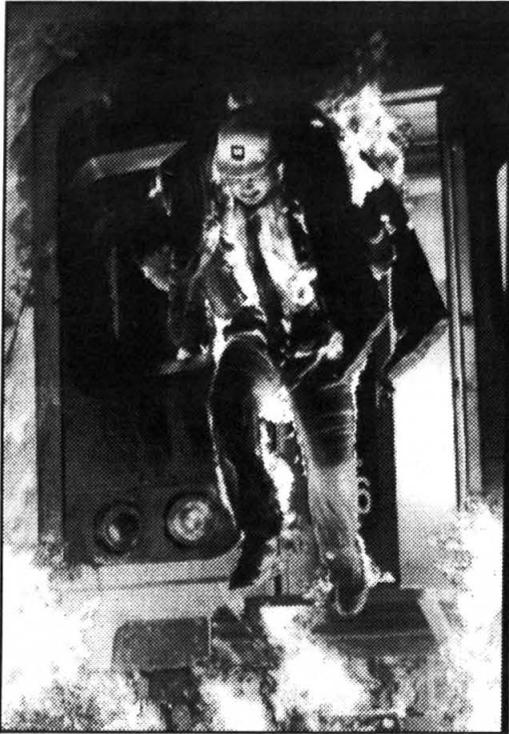
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Volcano flows onto blockbuster scene

By Sandy Campbell
Correspondent

The release of *Volcano* April 25 signals three things. First, it is a part of the long line of recent disaster movies won't stop. Second, it is the final installment of the dueling volcano movies ("Dante's Peak" opened in February). Third, a few years ago this movie would have been in the summer lineup, but studios are expanding their summer movies into the spring and fall movie seasons.

Usually Memorial Day is considered a part of the official opening day of the summer movie bonanza. However, the releases of big-budget movies such as "Volcano," "Anaconda," "Breakdown" and "The Fifth Element" are released a few weeks early. There are probably so many more offerings this summer with "Titanic," "Air Force One," "Speed 2," "The Lost World," "Con-Air" and "Men



An MTA worker attempts to rescue the driver of a burning subway train in "Volcano."
Photo by Lorey Sebastian

In Black," among others, that the studios feel they have to put the weaker entries in spring or fall, an off time for moviegoers. An example of this has already been seen with "Aliens 4" which will be released in September instead of this summer.

It is interesting to note that movies like "Volcano" and "The Fifth Element" cost \$90 million to make and are considered teasers for the summer season.

Last summer was different. Memorial day opened and there was one big summer movie every week or two that opened with a bang. "Mission Impossible" ..BOOM!.. "The Rock" ..BOOM!.. "Twister" ..BOOM!.. with "Independence Day" being the big climax and "The Nutty Professor" somehow tucked in between them all. After "Independence Day," summer fell flat and August was dry, ending with the weak "Island of Dr. Moreau." With the way studio execs are flashing their movies, this summer is promising to be a bit different.

"Volcano" is one of the \$90 million nibblers set to whet the audience's appetite for summer blockbusters. But if "Volcano" is the example of what the summer is going to be like, then the average moviegoer has seen it all before.

Regardless of the disaster, the main character is divorced with a bratty teenage daughter caught between childhood and adulthood whom he must save at the end (ala "True Lies"). There is cute dog that heroically leaps through the disaster (as in "Dantes Peak" and "Independence Day").

After Rodney King and O.J. Simpson are named in the movie, we see certain stereotypes in "Volcano." The racist LAPD cop and the young South Central black dude who feels the racist cops are always giving him a hard time. We endured Irish cops and "Amos and Andy" for so many years, why not endure more Hollywood stereotypes?

One fault "Volcano" clearly has is that there is not enough of Tommy Lee Jones. As in "Batman Forever," his gruff crankiness manages to get lost. I guess the lava in "Volcano" could pass for the real thing, but it resembles molten tomato and cheese on pizza. Maybe the movie should have been titled "Pizza" instead.

The movie was half-baked in mediocrity all the way through but picked up at a certain point.

In one of the better scenes, an L.A. subway car was trapped in the tunnel as lava approached. The head of the



Tommy Lee Jones ("Batman Forever") and Anne Heche ("As the World Turns") star in Director Mick Jackson's latest movie, *Volcano*.
Photo by Lorey Sebastian

subway (who was warned early on to shut down that part of the tunnel) led a team of rescuers down to the tunnel only to find the passengers unconscious in the cars. He orders his crew to rescue the people, regardless of the incoming lava. The subway head remembers the driver and frantically searches for him. The problem is that, by the time he finds the driver, he is trapped between lava and dry ground where the rest of the crew members and passengers are on safe ground. He jumps into the lava with the conductor on his shoulders and throws him to the dry tunnel ground. In essence, he becomes the hapless conductor's personal Jesus. (This is the same guy who, at the beginning of the movie, seemed to be an uncaring, sexist arrogant pig.)

Now another viewer may consider this scene well-cooked in movies. Personally, I like this type of scene, but I don't think that the personal Jesus always has to die.

On the film's poorer side, how can a film crew with so many college graduates (some probably of Harvard and Yale stock) not notice something wrong with the following scene? Tommy Lee Jones and Anne Heche become dangled over the molten lava while hanging onto a fire truck ladder. "Duhs" all around. I know people who failed grade ten twice who would have noticed what is wrong in a heartbeat—metal is a serious heat conductor. Jones and Heche would have let go and fallen into the lava. (I can't stir Kraft Dinner with a spoon without wearing an oven mitt.) Plus, the ladder would have probably bent and curdled.

The Samples may not be washing dishes, but are they washed up?

By Eileen La Valle
Staff Writer

The Samples should change their name to the Examples, because they're an example of another good band gone sour. The show at the Vic Theater on Thursday, April 24, just plain sucked, and I heard the show the night before was even less impressive.

I was actually enthused about obtaining two free tickets to go see them. The Samples had put on a jammin' performance at the Fox Theater in Boulder, where they originated, on a regular basis. But somewhere along the way they lost the spark they had before. This might be the reason a handful of people stood in front of the Vic, for a substantial amount of time, unable to give away their extra tickets.

One of the things I really use to dig about the Samples is the fact that they wouldn't "sell out." They prided themselves on the fact that they were a self-made independent band, doing their own promotions, advertising and using their own personal money for their budget. This was done in hopes of not "selling out" like most bands to a major record label or to MTV. But low and behold the Samples signed first with W.A.R. and now with MCA.

Signing with a big label is not the problem with the Samples. In fact, it probably was a smart move. After all, most bands dream of signing with a major label - the bigger the label, the more publicity and money. It is the hypocrisy of it all where the problem lies. Since 1989, these guys have been running around hugging trees vowing that signing with a big label to "sell out" isn't necessary. Sean Kelly, who plays guitar and does vocals for the band said, "A band doesn't have to validate itself by signing to a big label and I feel insulted by the misconception that artists have to be on one of these labels to be considered a success."

Kelly's statement is true, but if he feels so strongly



Andy Sheldon, Sean Kelly, Al Laughlin and Jeep MacNichol of the Samples performed April 24 at the Vic.
Photo by Ralf Strathman

about it, why in the hell was he the one to push the band toward a big label?

Over the past few years their music has taken a turn for the worse, in a downward spiral. In my opinion, the "Blue Album" and "No Room" were much better albums, compositionally, then the two newest ones, "Autopilot" and "Outpost." The two years between "Autopilot" and "Outpost" marks the longest break between Sample albums in years. During that time Sean Kelly, Andy Sheldon (bass) and Jeep MacNichol (drums) all pursued solo albums. Maybe this is a factor in the change of their music style.

The Samples were one of the headliners on the very first nationwide H.O.R.D.E. Tour. Ironically, bands that opened up for them have gained more national exposure than The Samples. Hootie and the Blowfish, Dave Matthews Band and Toad the Wet Sprocket are just a few. Kelly said, "All these great bands launched off us." Too bad their success launched while The Samples' still awaits take-off.

I don't want to sound like too much of a Samples basher, so I must admit there is one cool thing still left about the band. The band makes an effort to create a genuine rapport with their fans. Kelly personally answers all the fan mail on a weekly basis. The band is infamous among road managers for inviting half the crowd members to party in their big tour bus after shows. They have even been known to invite fans onto stage to do guitar solos. So at least these guys have kept their Boulder "down-to-Earth" attitude.

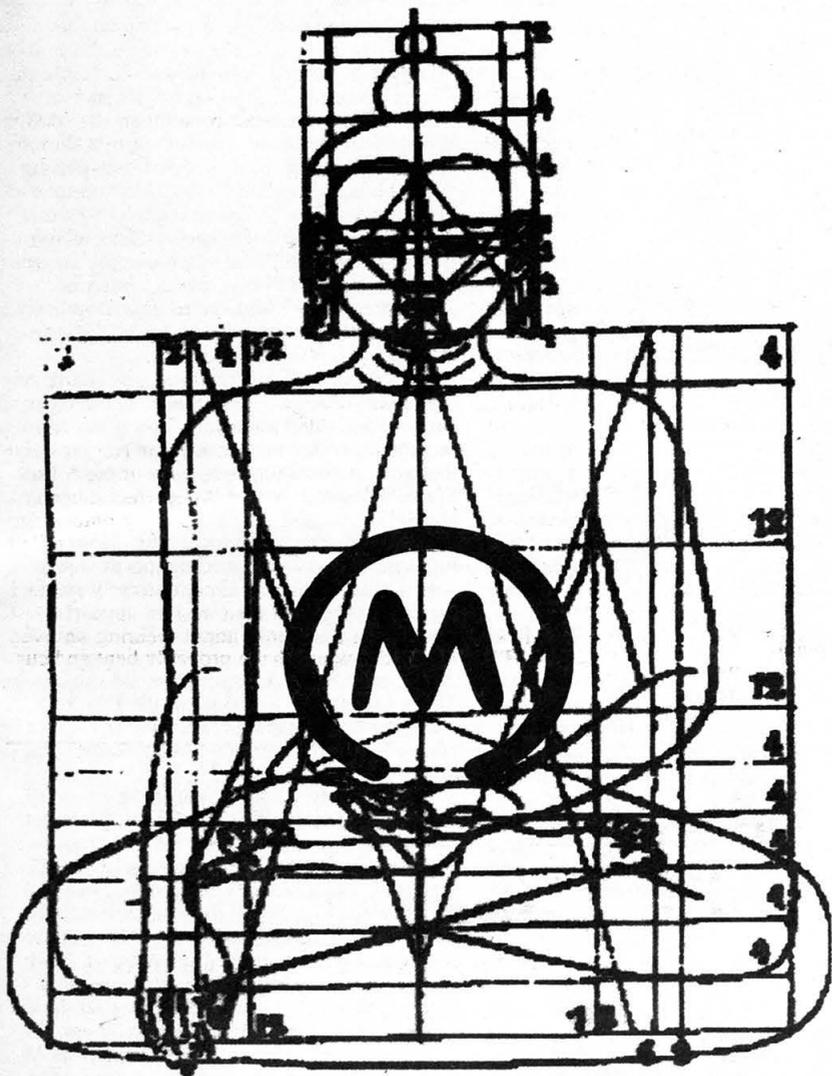
Sheldon said he's glad the band has taken the slow but sure route. "That was the only way for us to have a career at this. If we'd had a big hit on our first record, we'd definitely all be washing dishes right now." That one positive way to look at success, just tell yourself at least you're not washing dishes.

In addition to the lousy show the Samples put on at the Vic, there were other numerous things that annoyed me. Upon entering the Vic, I got thoroughly searched by a very unfriendly woman, who made me empty the 20 or so items that were in my jacket and pants pockets. Then after making my way past the teenie boppers (I was surrounded by them at the all-ages show), I went to buy a beer. I am a beer snob so I will only drink good beer, but I discovered that the Vic doesn't even have beer on tap other than Miller and Miller Lite, which doesn't count as even remotely decent. But the night would not have been complete if Sean Kelly hadn't thrown his wet, sweaty towel into the crowd.

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INSIDE... THE CHICAGO

PART VI IN A The Cotton Club



By John Henry Biederman
Editor-in-Chief

Located at 1710 S. Michigan Ave., The Cotton Club is one of Chicago's premiere jazz and blues clubs. Since starting its weekly poetry reading, this venue has become one of the leaders in the currently blossoming African-American scene. Alongside Wicker Park's Lit X and the Gold Coast's (yes, the Gold Coast's) P.O.E.T.S., The Cotton Club rides upon, and has elaborated upon, a tradition begun at the now-defunct Spices (the inspiration for the hit movie "love jones").

Beginning in December 1996, this is one of the scene's newer readings and it took a while to catch on. But now, while poetry is performed on Cab Calloway Room stage, against the backdrop of the moon-shaped Cotton Club sign, it's not out-of-the-ordinary for the crowd to snake all the way back into the rear Grey Room (which, on most nights, is for dancing).

On Tuesdays nights at 8 p.m.—Phat Tuesdays—the Calloway room, equipped with triangular red and green lights and lined with framed photographs of legends like Louis Armstrong and Billie Holiday, transforms into a unique poetry showcase with everything from deep philosophy to music and raucous comedy.

Malik Yusef, with the help of co-host Mario X, runs the show. The night begins with the announcement of birthdays and other matters of importance to the community. The word "community," in this case, goes beyond black, beyond the inner-city, encompassing anyone that cares about the unfortunate scenario of our modern streets.

The crowd is mostly black, but Yusef and X are encouraging—and seeing—a greater diversity as time goes on. But the good time here sees no color lines and, in the words of Mario X, "We, as artists have to do something about the great racial divide."

Yusef has three rules for the proceedings: 1) Respect the microphone. 2) Read two poems or for five minutes, whichever comes first and 3) Every time someone is introduced to the crowd, clap "with 2 hands."

Malik Yusef, while undeniably a street-wisened wordsmith, brings a playful boyish charm to the proceedings. Yusef prompts the crowd to sing a few bars of a relevant song for each performer. Sometimes his choice plays on the performer's name. Sometimes, it's the performer's style or characteristics. Sometimes the chosen tune doesn't seem to have any relevance.

But that's not the point. Most of the time people sing along with him—and when they don't, Yusef sings the chosen song anyway.

Yusef has been writing poetry for four years. He began reading at Spices and soon began making the rounds of the Green Mill, Weeds and other readings of the time. Writer Alice Walker inspired him to start writing when he heard her say, in a television interview (according to his paraphrasing) that "Writers are people that are builders of spirits and events that have taken place, that are taking place or will take place sometime."

After Spices closed, Yusef became a little down on the Scene and took his act to comedy clubs.

"A comedian I worked with saw Malik at All Jokes Aside," said Yusef's manager, Vince Bass, "and told me, 'You gotta have this guy open for me for some of my gigs.' I thought, 'A poet? Opening for a comic?' But Malik knocked 'em dead at the comedy clubs."

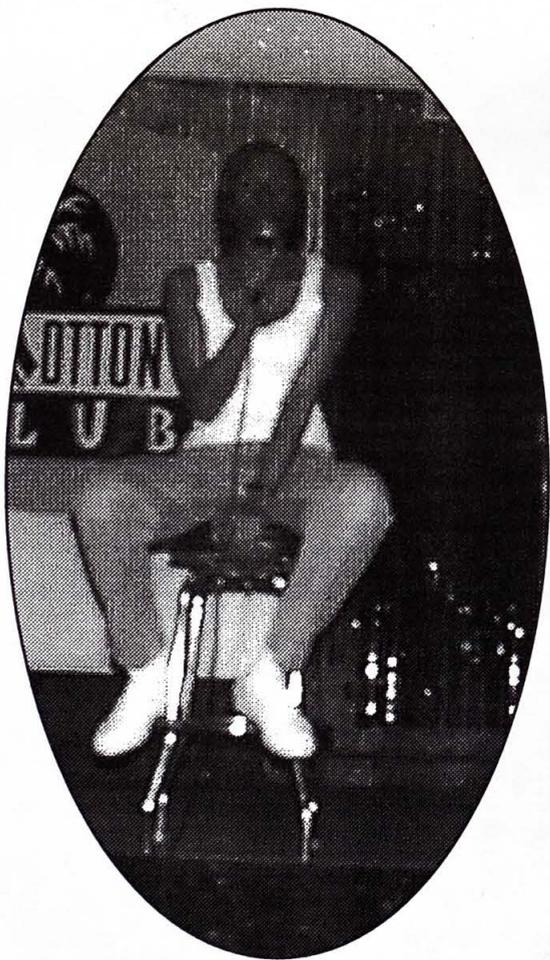
Malik works with local Hip Hop performers and will be reading on an album with Common Sense. He is currently working on an album of his own and appeared—albeit briefly—in the movie "love jones." He also hosts Full Moon Poetry, every full moon, at different locations around the city. These events get turn outs in the hundreds, snagging "people that aren't normally up for poetry" with a set program of performers, as opposed to an open-mic.

But his poetry hosting is not the extent of his life's work. "That's my fun stuff," Yusef said. "Daytime's what's my real lifeblood is. I work with youth of all ages, all over the country." Yusef works with children from all walks of life—in South Side neighborhoods, the Cambodian Institute, the Vietnamese institute, "whatever—I don't care. I work with youth, period. That's my focus, that's where it starts at. I don't like to see all these sortics killing themselves, killing others."

The current inner city environment is of particular interest to Yusef, as described in his poem "Children of a Lesser God":

*...It makes it seem like everybody on the pulpit is only straight bullshit but really really they ain't.
Our kids in the projects try to see the goodness of God but really really they can't
'cause in spray paint's the name of their loved ones on the nearest street-wall-sized urinals.*

Then again, as Yusef knows well, poetry itself can help children a lot, too. According to Yusef, when he appeared on WGN Morning News to read poetry as part of their National Poetry Month programming "a friend of mine's son looked at me on the news and told his dad, 'I wanna be a poet.'"

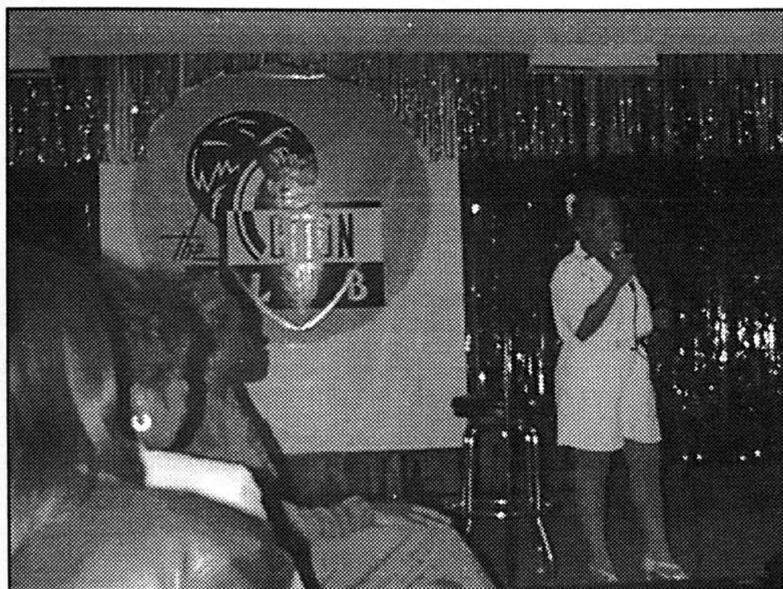


Photos by John Henry Biederman

Clockwise, from upper left: The Cotton Club from Michigan Avenue; Donna Gordon recites her verse for the packed crowd; Malik Yusef keeps the club pumped for poetry; A view of the Cab Calloway stage from the Grey Room; and Erica Mingo expresses some thoughts on relationships through poetry.

POETRY SCENE

CONTINUING SERIES



A scene guide—clip and save!

Sunday

The Green Mill, 4801 N. Broadway
7-10 p.m.: Open-mic followed by the
Uptown Poetry Slam.
Hosted by slam inventor, Marc Smith.
Where it all began.
(Featured in the March 10 Chronicle)

Pontiac Produce and Cafe, 1531 N.
Damen Ave.
8-10 p.m. "Word Salad."
Hosted by Vernon Clay.

Monday

P.O.E.T.S., 5 W. Division St.
8:30-11 p.m. A poetry party surrounded
by mirrors.
Hosted by Maria McCray.
(Featured in the April 14 Chronicle)

Weeds, 1555 N. Dayton St.
10 p.m.-1 a.m. Underground poetry at its
best.
Hosted by Gregorio Gomez.
(Featured in the March 24 Chronicle)

Tuesday

Café Aloha, 2156 W. Montrose
8-11 p.m. Featured poets and an open-
mic.
Hosted by David Rubin.

The Cotton Club, 1710 S. Michigan
Ave.
8-10 p.m. Verse meets the legendary
Cotton Club.
Hosted by Malik Yusef and Mario "X."
(To be featured in the May 19 chronicle)

Estelle's, 2013 W. North Ave.
11 p.m.-1 a.m. (or later): "The
Shappinging." Wicker Park poetic madness
with or without The Shappinging Band.
Hosted by Shappy.
(Featured in the March 17 Chronicle)

Fitzgerald's, 6615 Roosevelt Road,
Berwyn
8-10 p.m. Musicians and poets.
Hosted by Scott Momenthy.

The Guild Complex, Chopin Theater,
1543 W. Division St.
7:30-10 p.m. Usually a featured per-
former followed by an open-mic.
Hosts vary.

Wednesday

The Guild Complex, Chopin Theater,
1543 W. Division St.
7:30-10 p.m. Usually a featured per-
former followed by an open-mic.
Hosts vary.
(To be featured in the May 12 Chronicle)

Hungry Brain Bar, 2319 W. Belmont
Ave.
10 p.m.-midnight. New venue.
Hosted by Léonard de Montbrum.

No Exit, 7001 N. Glenwood Ave.
9-10:30 p.m. "In One Ear." Coffeehouse
poetry in an atmosphere reminiscent of the
late '60s/early '70s.
Hosted by Michael O'Toole.
(Featured in the April 21 Chronicle)

Friday

North Avenue Beach
Dusk—June through August only.
Round-robin poetry on the grass, under
the stars.
Hosted by Cathleen Schandelmeier.

Saturday

Another Level at Lit X, 1570 1/2 N.
Damen Ave.
7-11 p.m. (Or thereabouts). Cozy, book-
store basement poetic comraderie.
Hosted by Tina Howell.
(To be featured in the May 5 Chronicle)

Monthly Events

Lounge Ax, 2438 N. Lincoln Ave.
9-2 p.m. Usually a Wednesday. Variety
showcase, followed by bands. Heavy on
performance poetry.
Hosted by Thax Douglas.
(To be featured in the May 26 Chronicle)

Poop Studios, 1947 W. North Ave.
8-11 p.m. Wednesday or Thursday later
in the month. Poetry, prose and music on
an assigned theme (call ahead 773-769-
1092).
Hosted by Greg Gillam.

* Guild Complex events are usually on
Tuesday and Wednesday, and usually
begin at 7:30 p.m.—but not always. Also
sponsors events at different locations. Call
ahead for schedule at 773-278-2210.

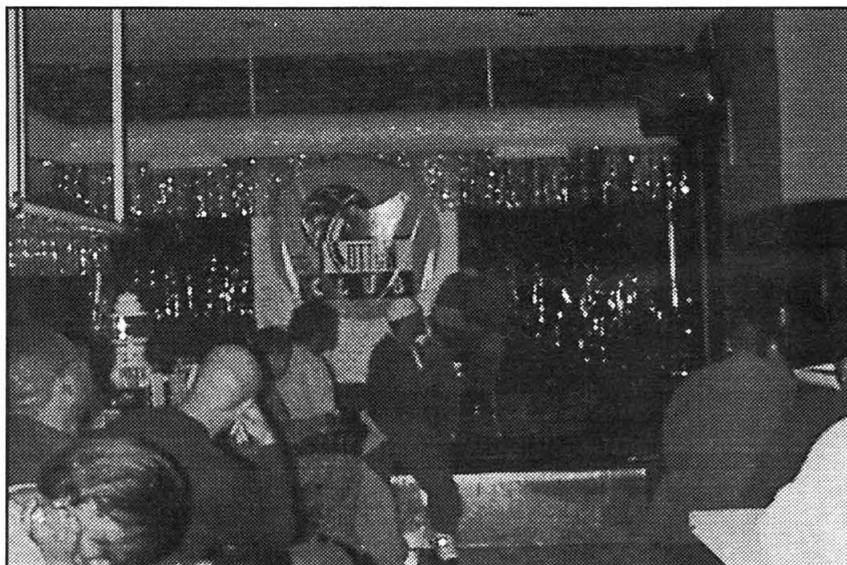
About this series

Today's look at Weeds is Part III in a continuing series of poetry open-mic reviews the Chronicle is running indefinitely this semester—excerpted from a book tentatively scheduled for release this summer and tentatively titled, "The Chicago Poetry Scene: A Comprehensive Guide."

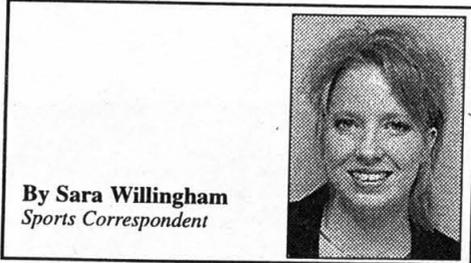
The book, by editor-in-chief John Henry Biederman, seeks to define The Scene, from the invention of the slam onward, to an extent never seen before. As The Scene is an ever-changing, largely unchronicled monster, the rare write-ups it has received have suffered from inaccuracies and misrepresentations—but this book strives to be different, written from a Scene insider's point of view.

Although the excerpts to be printed herein form but a small part of that work, enough will be included within these pages to allow one interested in the Scene to get started. For those interested in the book itself—keep up on this series as publication is now being negotiated between publishers and even an agent or two.

Currently, Biederman is working on a chapter for "Underground Chicago," to be published by Manic D Press out of San Francisco, on the poetry scene. He also appeared on the WGN morning news on April 23 as an expert on the scene.



* * * Sara on sports * * *



By Sara Willingham
Sports Correspondent

Joey Meyer had to go. It's that simple. A record as bad as three and 23 absolutely must result in a firing or a resignation...AS FAR AS BASKETBALL IS CONCERNED. If you look at the other side of the coin, however, Joey Meyer can be proud that he did not put basketball atop his list of priorities. Rather, Joey Meyer cared about the overall well-being of his players on (or off) the court.

Somewhere amidst the barrage of stories that followed the ousting of Meyer was a statement made by one of his players who said something to the effect of "Meyer is like a father" to them.

Well, being a Bobby Knight-backer, I sure can relate to this! You see, the kids that play for schools like Indiana University and DePaul want to play hoops, and they want to be good. That's understandable. But when they come out, they have multiple options. They can join the NBA, or they can get a job in relation to their degrees. Coaches like Knight and Meyer foresee that injuries can ruin careers, or players might not perform as well in the NBA, and players need something to fall back on. This ought to be number one on the lists of coaches...AS FAR AS LIFE IS CONCERNED!

I had to giggle when I read a column written by a terribly mislead, loser of a columnist (Mariotti...you know who you are). He wrote, "The only thing wrong with the decision [to force Meyer out] is that it wasn't made years ago, when it became obvious Meyer was allowing the program to drown in his own negativity and weak leadership."

Obviously, this columnist lacks reputable leadership and reeks of negativity himself! To hear that Joey Meyer was a

father-figure to his players erases the fact that he left at the absolute bottom of the game. At the absolute bottom of DePaul's history.

I do not deny that someone had to go, some changes had to be made. But I would urge Joey Meyer to be proud of his reign, to be proud of his valuable principles. And I would urge Jay Mariotti to get a clue.

KNOCK KNOCK...

Who's there?

ORANGE...

Orange who?

ORANGE YOU GLAD WE TRADED HORACE "I'M-A-WUSS" GRANT A LONG TIME AGO?!

And on a final note, what's this BS I hear about Michael Jordan being a ball-hog after he stepped-up, scored 55 points, and won game 2 for the Bulls?

If the Bulls would have blown Washington out of the water, and MJ would've set a few records, then I would have to agree that he should NOT have abandoned Tex's Triangle to score a phenomenal 20-in-the-fourth to give the Bulls the victory.

But as it was, the Bulls only won by five points, so Michael's 55 was a necessity. I find it rather reassuring to know that Jordan still has the ability to carry a team on his shoulders if needed. And even though Chicago's bench is hot, when they're not helping, and the other starters are not helping, then by all means let Michael drive to the bucket-over-and-over until the job is done!

After all, it's not how you play the game, right? It's whether you win or lose! (Well, at least that's Mariotti's mentality.)

Paul on pucks

By Paul Zabratanski
Staff Writer

The United Center crowd was alive with an electrifying feeling as urgency set in after the Hawks Game 5 loss at Colorado. The deafening noise of Hawks fans during the Game 6 National Anthem in the first-round playoff series against the Avalanche was enough to send a chill run down your spine.

Unfortunately, the Hawks lost the game and were eliminated from the playoff contention by a 6-3 loss Saturday night, ending their mediocre season.

The Hawks exploded to a 3-0 start in the first period only to have that lead erased by a Colorado rally in which the Avalanche scored six unanswered goals.

Keith Carney got the Hawks on the board early with a goal just 2:46 into the game. Carney picked the puck up off of a Hawks face off win, skated to the right circle and went top-shelf on goalie Patrick Roy.

The Hawks notched their second goal of the game when veteran Denis Savard skated behind the net and centered the pass to defenseman Gary Suter, who was set up in the slot. Suter buried the shot at 10:18 of the first period for his first postseason goal.

Tony Amonte extended the Hawks lead when Roy misplayed the puck during a Colorado power play. Roy was caught out of position as Amonte scored shorthanded at 17:28 of the first period, gaining his fourth goal of the series.

That would be the end of that fairy tale as Colorado's captain, Joe Sakic, scored the first of two goals toward the end of the first period.

Colorado put up two more goals in the second period, tying the game at three. Sakic and Valery Kamensky were credited with the two goals.

Kamensky also scored the go-ahead goal in the third period. The Avalanche never looked back as top-goal scorer Adam Deadmarsh and red-hot Claude Lemieux added insurance goals at 9:25 and 17:00, respectively, to cap off the scoring.

* * * * *
Check out our weekly sports section featuring Sara on Sports
* * * * *

Face Value

By Brian Markiewicz

How will the tuition increase affect you?



Peter Wagner
Senior
Broadcast
journalism

It won't. I'm done with this —.



Nelson Perez
Freshman
Music

All it means is that I'll be paying more for the same stuff and not seeing increases for the things we really need.



Sam Walters
Freshman
Fiction

I'll probably have to start whoring now.



Christopher Simmonds
Senior
Music

I'll spend more of the state's money.



Nikida Mitchell
Senior
Fiction Writing

It will affect me a lot because I am barely handling the fees for this semester. It might affect me so that I won't be here next semester.



Fathom
Sophomore
Multimedia

It will definitely affect me because it's hard enough to support yourself and afford school. The increase means you have to work more and not have as much time to put toward school.