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Columbia Chronicle (10/06/1997)

Columbia College Chicago

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The Chronicle

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

Vol. XXXI, No. 2

October 6, 1997

City lags on elevator checks

Going up? Not the number of city inspections of Columbia's elevators

By Rui Kaneya
Assistant News Editor

Cristy Locke had no reason to question her safety. The 21-year-old film student was riding the elevator in the 624 S. Michigan building on her way to a history class when the car stalled in between the fourth and fifth floors. Seconds later, it fell two floors before coming to a halt.

Locke frantically reached for an emergency bell but help never came. "I was alone and terrified," recalled Locke with a grimace. "I waited, but nobody seemed to be responding."

After about five minutes of eerie silence, the elevator started to function again as if nothing happened, and Locke escaped unscathed.

This incident from last spring mirrors the condition of many Chicago elevators. City officials said there is little the city can do to ensure all elevators are working perfectly.

"[The city's] elevator bureau hires 13 inspectors, and they are responsible for inspecting about 22,000 elevators," said Kathleen Walsh, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Buildings. "They inspect carnival equipment, movable walks, escalators and dumbwaiters. So they definitely have quite a challenge."

With limited resources, the building department is lagging far short on twice-a-year elevator inspections required by the city ordinance.

Columbia's elevators have been subject to only sporadic city inspections in the last five years, *The Chronicle* has learned.

According to the Department of Buildings' records, the elevators in Columbia's three main buildings have been inspected as little as four times since 1992.

The 600 S. Michigan building has the most dismal inspection record. In nearly four years, only one inspection—on Sept. 12,

1996—was conducted. Since 1992, there have been only four inspections.

The 624 S. Michigan building had five inspections in the last five years. The 623 S. Wabash building had six.

The elevators in all three buildings still bear the certificate of inspections issued in September 1996.

Provost Bert Gall did not dispute the minimal number of city inspections, but claimed the school has other measures to maintain elevator safety.

"We have weekly maintenance on the elevators by outside contractors who are always attentive to the safety systems," he



Despite heavy use of Columbia's elevators, the city has conducted a minimal number of inspections over the last five years.

said. "But, can I guarantee you that things won't break five minutes from now? No, I can't."

Since 1992, six violations were found at Columbia during the city inspections. The violations found were corrected by Columbia's outside contractors.

One stoppage report was filed on Oct. 30, 1995, when an elevator

stalled for 30 minutes with two passengers. Building owners are only required to report when an elevator stalls for more than 15 minutes with a passenger.

"If you figure out how many elevators there are and how many thousands of hours of usage a

See Elevator, page 2

Administration gears up for 1999 evaluation

By Leon Tripplett
Assignment Editor

When Columbia saw them in 1989, the college was still growing. It had not received national academic status in some circles, the departments were still defining themselves and technology was flirted with, but no real efforts were made to harness the growing phenomenon. Tenure was still just a distant ideal circling in the minds of faculty members.

With the expectation of the North Central Association's reaccreditation in 1999, Columbia once again will have to perform the ceremonial, decennial reality check to members of the NCA. The association is responsible for setting the standards of all colleges and universities in the Midwest region.

An approval from the NCA lends legitimacy to the college and makes the school more attractive to potential students. If a school loses its accreditation from the century-old body it faces numerous hurdles.

* All Title IV funds—federal monies and loans given to students including, the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Work Study Loan and other

monies would be frozen. Last year, over \$28 million dollars were awarded to Columbia students, according to the Financial Aid Department.

* A school's image could deteriorate significantly. Most parents of graduating high school students look to see if the school is accredited and for how long, as a measure of the school's respectability.

* Professors would be harder to attract and keep, possibly leaving the school limping with a skeletal staff. Several schools that have lost accreditation have undergone a similar fate.

In 1997—two years before NCA returns—Columbia College has grown exponentially.

"We are one of the fastest growing colleges in America, a talented staff and a talented student body," said the school's provost Bert Gall. "Eight out of 10 universities would trade balance sheets with us."

NCA will be looking at Columbia College from a holistic approach. Columbia must be prepared to answer a series of questions from internal operations to departmental curriculum

See Reaccredit, page 6

Faculty plays bigger role in Columbia's registration

By Mema Ayi
Editor-in-chief

Columbia's registration process got a little easier this semester—for the registrar's office.

Gone is the process of arena registration, where students registered for classes with a representative from each department. Now, students register for all of their classes with one faculty member in the department of their major.

Registrar Marvin Cohen said a lot of faculty members are more comfortable with the new system because they can do it right in their offices.

With the old system, the registrar's office had to enter all schedules, which cuts work that the registrar's office actually had to do.

A transcript coordinator, Derrick Streater, said that the new system has had a significant effect on add/drop because students were advised on which classes to take by faculty members in their majors.

"Now we don't have to send people to different departments to

answer questions or for more advising," Streater said.

Jim Mitchem, full-time faculty member in the Radio department, said this process puts the faculty in a much more comfortable atmosphere to advise students about classes.

Streater also said that this process gives faculty from each department a chance to be part of registration.

For students, the time it takes to register hasn't been cut down on the time they spend registering because it depends on how busy a particular department is.

Desean Poke, a sophomore work aide during registration, said that the main problem with registration at anytime is that people don't read.

"I hear a lot of people say it was more convenient the other way," Poke added.

A fiction writing major, Tim Bass, suggested that phone registration would be an easier process.

"It was tough—I don't want to do it again," Bass said. "Why can't we just do it over the phone?"

'Eight out of 10 universities would trade balance sheets with us.'

--Bert Gall, provost

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Elevator continued from page 1

year, that's a negligible percentage," Gall said.

Gall estimated that some of Columbia's elevators are almost 40 years old. All elevators were upscaled before Columbia owned the buildings, but all will be modernized next summer, he said. "We expect to put about \$3.5 million into updating the elevators."

Gall added that the life cycle for elevator equipment in the system viewed in the industry is about 40 years, and the renovations "are about on target."

Until the renovation, Columbia's elevators will be inspected by the outside contractors periodically. "There's a certain comfort level from the fact that they are here all the time," said Gall. "They are more likely to find problems than the city."

Gall said the school officials are not concerned with the missed inspections by the city, and that the school won't press the city to make sure Columbia's elevators get timely inspections.

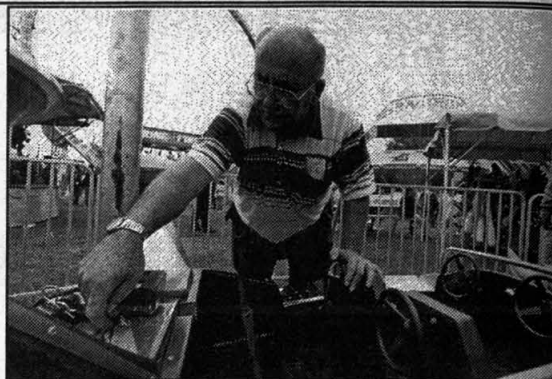
"There's a variety of checks and balances that are operating, and that's more than just whether the inspector shows up in your lobby for an hour or not," he said. "In some ways, I think that the city is unfairly criticized here for what they are doing. I think they are using the limited resources as effectively as they can."

No injuries in Columbia's elevators have been reported to the city since 1992. However, in an unreported incident in 1994, a high school student attending a college preparatory class in the Wabash building fell four floors after attempting to climb out of an elevator he was trapped in. He escaped with only minor injuries.

In all Chicago buildings, there have been 11 deaths in elevators since 1992. This year's incidents included the death of a 5-year-old girl caught between an elevator's accordion gate and hoistway door when the car moved in response to a call for the elevator.

The city claims that no city action could have prevented the fatalities, including three this year.

The city may hire three or four more inspectors to keep up with the growing number of buildings in Chicago, said Walsh. But the plan is not expected to be carried out immediately. "It probably won't happen at least until early next year,"



One of 13 city inspectors checks on carnival equipment. The city is responsible for inspecting about 22,000 elevators a year.

she said.

About a year ago, the city proposed the idea of "self-inspections" by the building owners, thereby eliminating the need for elevator inspections by the city. Building owners turned down the idea.

"Our problem with the self-inspection was that we just didn't think that was the doable thing," said Paul Colgan, public affairs director of Building Owners and Managers Association of Chicago, which represents about 90 percent of office spaces in downtown Chicago. "What you were doing was asking the maintenance contractor to self-inspect themselves. We just didn't think that worked. The fact that the city inspectors are involved is the critical step on this thing."

After building owners turned down the self-inspection plan, they agreed on a new requirement to install a \$1,500 device in every elevator. The device will prevent elevator doors from opening unless the cab is about nine inches or less from the nearest floor.

Building owners, including Columbia College, were given a year, until Jan. 15, to comply.

The city is considering another change in the building code so that some buildings would be inspected twice a year, while others would be inspected once a year.

"The bottom line is those elevators that are at the highest risk and highest priority get inspected first," said Walsh. "We are working with our elevator bureau to determine which would be considered highest risk, and which would be considered the least highest. And we'll prioritize based on that."

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Youth's voice gets a new home

By Sheryl Tirol
Staff Writer

Chicago's youth are getting a voice right here at Columbia thanks to a new publication written for, by and about Chicago youth. Located on the second floor of the Wabash building, New Expression, a paper run by high school students, promises to attack teen issues with a new vengeance.

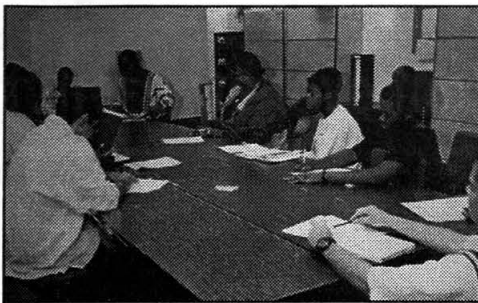
"We want to train urban teens in writing, photography and illustration. This is a publication about teens around Chicago for and by teens," said editorial advisor Billy Montgomery, who is also a part-time teacher in the journalism department. The brainchild of Columbia College's journalism department, the Community Media Workshop and Youth Communication, it promises to push the limits of newspaper journalism by attacking a wide range of issues that run the gamut from school policies to sexuality.

Regardless of how sticky or controversial these issues may be, the staff of 13 editors and the team of staff writers from all across the city intend to stick to their guns. And they are in good company. The magazine is published by Youth Communication an organization founded by a Catholic nun, Ann Christine Heintz in 1976. Heintz created the company as she was concerned with how high school journalism education was being taught. She felt that censorship by both administration and students was getting in the way of high school newspapers all over the country.

With that in mind, there is hope that New Expressions will go where other teens publications have not; right down to the nitty-gritty of some tough issues including politics and education.. The wide range of issues that the students intend to tackle will also give students the flexibility of working on different beats. According to Montgomery, while students are assigned certain sections, they are still able to write on any topic they choose.

The paper is primarily student run. The staff writers meet monthly while the editors meet weekly to discuss each section's topics. The goal of each section is to tackle difficult issues and to promote teen empowerment. Also on the cards are pieces on spiritual and ethnic issues, as well as stories about teens facing life-altering situations. Chicago's top 100 teens—young people who are outstanding academically or who are heavily involved in community service—is another feature that is eagerly anticipated.

Bill Brooks, Executive Director of Youth Communication believes New Expression will provide an



High school students gather to express their voice in New Expression's office in the Wabash building

independent media voice for youth and encourage issues that affect their lives.

As part of the education process, Youth Communication also hosts workshops for high school students. This past summer, an eight-week long workshop was taught by Columbia journalism professor, Howard Schlossberg. The workshop's mission is to allow students a variety of opportunities to explore various aspects of the media in radio, television and print.

Brooks said he hopes that Columbia's links with the journalism community and the exciting environment will make this an experience the teens will be able to draw from for the rest of their lives.

New Expressions is distributed free to all Chicago public high schools and most parochial high schools. The October issue is already available at the New Expression office in room 207 at 624 S Wabash.

New study finds student evaluations influenced by teacher's enthusiasm

By Colleen De Baise
College Press Service

ITHACA, N.Y.—"In what year did the first Continental Congress meet? Anyone? Anyone?"

If the dry homeroom teacher in "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" had added a bit more pep to his voice and maybe thrown in a few hand gestures, he might have won Teacher of the Year.

At least that's what suggested by a new study by Cornell University researchers, which found a little enthusiasm in a professor's voice goes a long way in influencing students.

In fact, students' evaluations of their instructors, which often play an enormous role in determining whether a professor gets tenure and pay hikes, may be based more on style than substance, warn the researchers.

As part of the study, a Cornell professor taught the same course twice with one exception—he used a more enthusiastic tone of voice the second semester, and students' ratings soared on every measure that second semester.

The second-semester students gave much higher ratings not only on the professor's knowledge of the topics and their own ability to learn, but even on factors such as the fairness of grading policies, text quality, professor organization and course goals.

And although the 249 students in the second-semester course said they learned more than the 229 students the previous semester believed they had learned, the two groups performed no differently on exams and other assessment measures.

"The study suggests that factors totally unrelated to actual teaching effectiveness, such as the variation in a professor's voice, can exert a sizeable influence on student ratings of that same professor's knowledge, organization, grading fairness, etc.," said Wendy Williams, associate professor of human development at Cornell.

The co-author of the study, Stephen J. Ceci, was the professor evaluated by the students in a course on developmental psychology, which he has taught for almost 20 years.

He and Williams came up with the idea for a study after he took a teaching skills workshop following the fall semester. During the spring semester, he taught the course again using one teaching skill he learned in the workshop: an "enthusiastic" teaching style accomplished by changing the tone of his voice and using more hand gestures.

The results surprised even the researchers. "The effect of the presentation style also colored students' reaction to factors unrelated to the teaching, such as the quality of the textbook and teaching aids used," Williams said. Yet, the textbook and teaching aids were the same both semesters.

The problem with all this, the researchers said, is that the study calls into question the accuracy of students' evaluations.

"With some coaching, teaching in a more enthusiastic style is a fairly easy change to effect," she said. "Yet the improvement in ratings due to this simple change can make the difference between being awarded tenure and not being awarded tenure and other important career milestones."

The professors' study has been published in the September issue of *Change*, a journal for administrators in higher education.

P-FAC still pushes for union

By Dan Bischoff
Copy Editor

Columbia's part-time faculty association's (P-FAC) push for part-time faculty members to sign authorization cards voting for unionizing with the Illinois Education Association (IEA) on Sept. 27, was very successful, said John Stevenson, P-FAC's spokesperson.

"We talked with almost everyone. I'm estimating that 100 to 150 authorization cards were signed," said Stevenson. "If a part-time teacher signs an authorization card, that does not mean they are a member of the IEA. They're simply casting a vote to unionize."

There has been no reaction from the college administration over P-FAC's announcement that it is planning to join a union, nor has there been any response from the administration over last week's *Chronicle* story on the issue.

When asked if P-FAC would have to abide by IEA's rules once they join, Stevenson responded: "P-FAC would be an affiliate of the IEA. P-FAC runs their own ship. We sink or swim by our own efforts. The IEA

would provide P-FAC with legal resources and previous knowledge of dealing with similar situations."

The part-time instructors do not have much job security over the courses they teach. There is no contract between the instructor and the college until after the drop/add revision of the registration process is over.

"Last winter I had a course dropped," said Stevenson. "And it had the regulatory 15 students enrolled. I did not find out the course was canceled until the last minute. I had already done work to prepare myself and the students for the class. I got no compensation for my efforts."

The college administration announced on Sept. 27, that they plan to set up health insurance plans for part-time instructors. However, the insurance plans were completely separate from the college. Individual insurance companies came to the Saturday's meeting to plug their own health plans, and no rates were quoted.

"I think P-FAC joining the IEA will go through," said Stevenson. "The college has a long way to go to improve their current situation with part-time instructors."

Columbia tests to help incoming students choose classes

By Chuck Jordan
Opinion Editor

Columbia began its second year of testing incoming students. When the program was instituted last fall, the testing was done for research and analysis. The school wanted to see where students needed were in order to help them choose classes. Also, they tracked the test scores to see how they correlated with retention and academic performance in the first two semesters.

The testing will not affect open admission; in fact, it is prompted by the school's admission policy. Administration, faculty and students have been aware of the unique problems that open admission creates. Any graduate of an accredited high school can enroll regardless of his or her past classroom performance. However, many students come from different academic backgrounds.

The college testing included incoming

freshmen and transfers that had fewer than 14 hours. Since Columbia doesn't require tests that measure proficiency such as the ACT or SAT, the school administered the COMPASS test, which assesses knowledge in math, writing and reading.

According to the dean of students, Caroline Latta, the test would allow the school to give incoming students better advice in terms of what courses would help them to be successful at Columbia College.

Students received advice with counselors in a one-on-one session.

The testing was optional but administration strongly encouraged students to take them. Students who took part in the testing are eligible for early registration. Latta described the test setting as pleasant. She commended Paula Epstein and Laurie Levy who administered the testing.

"One hundred twenty students to date have taken the test," said Latta. "That's

over 90% of the incoming class."

"Based on the scores, the advisors could say, 'Your math score looks as if you need to do x,'" said Latta.

Columbia has hired Steven Moggee, a reading specialist, who will be responsible for teaching reading classes and assisting faculty in major disciplines to improve reading in classes.

Students who scored in the lowest level were encouraged by their advisor to enroll in sylvan's 15-week program. The Sylvan tutorial is in its second semester at Columbia and according to Latta, is still at the pilot stage. This semester over 100 students have signed up of the sylvan experience.

Students who test low in writing were advised to take intro to college writing that would give them the help they need.

Administration is aware that many could see the program as threatening to an institution like Columbia. Latta maintains a lot of thought was put into making the

testing comfortable and non-threatening to the students.

"Columbia is committed to hands-on classes and addressing weakness," said Latta. "[Low scores on test] aren't meant to be a barrier."

Latta acknowledges Moggee will have a challenge. "For many students, reading is not a habit," said Latta. She cites that reading is required in every discipline.

Administration hopes that testing will not only help advisement but also retention. It views the program as being another retention device much like freshmen seminar. Students would be given guidance based on their needs.

Last year's test found that math proficiency was the biggest single predictor of success at Columbia.

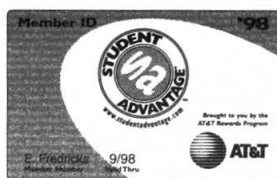
A learning community, which link two classes together have also been added this semester.

"The basic linkage is you see the same students," said Latta.



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CTA makes biggest cuts in its history

Will the CTA cutbacks affect Columbia students who travel by bus or train?
Copy Editor Dan Bischoff takes a closer look at the dilemma

By Daniel T. Bischoff
Copy Editor

The Chicago Transit Authority is about to launch the largest service cuts in its history. Over 15 bus routes will be eliminated, 90 bus routes will be cut back, and three rail lines will be reduced. The repercussions are being felt all across Chicago and right here at Columbia where a sizeable population of students rely on the El and the bus to get to school.

These cuts are already forcing people to seek alternate means of transportation, as recent published reports show. In a letter to the Chicago Sun-Times, Deborah Elmore of Edgewater wrote: "I am exhilarated to announce my freedom from the tyranny of the CTA/RTA syndicate. I bought a car recently; in the midst of all the rhetoric and nonsensical changes in our public transportation system."

Others such as Li Wright voiced his concerns in the Reader. "I have made a pledge to buy a motor scooter next spring. I'm 50 years old and I see a lot of people, young and old, riding motor scooters," said Wright, of Chicago, in his letter. "The Chicago highways and streets are overcrowded. We need public transportation. We need efficient, quick-running public transportation."

How the major cuts will improve local transportation is still a matter up for debate.

The Reader recently revealed that the CTA had lost more than 25 percent of its riders since the mid-1980s, and that the quality of service has continually gone down. The CTA tried to address this problem in 1996 when former city aviation commissioner, David Mosena, (who announced his resignation just after the service cuts were approved), teamed up with CTA chairman, Valerie Jarrett, to form a team that many thought would solve all the problems plaguing the CTA.

But the CTA's problems were far from simple. For starters, it had to deal with a \$20 million deficit left over from the fiscal year of 1996.

"We have been pulling rabbits out of hats," said Mosena in an interview with the Reader. "But we have run out of rabbits."

But the magic does not stop there it seems. The CTA will now make bus and El routes disappear. Come Oct. 6, Chicagoans will bear the brunt of the CTA's wand waving. The cuts will eliminate 15 bus routes, and stop owl service on a number of El lines (1:00 to 4:00 or 5:00 a.m. on weekdays, 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. on weekends). About 90 bus routes will also be cut. Among El lines to be cut -- including the Green Line El and the Douglas branch of the Blue Line El -- are those that reach the South and West sides, including poorer communities. Those living on the west side of town could be hardest hits on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays when the Douglas Blue Line will be completely eliminated. The El cuts will begin this coming spring, on March 1, 1998.

These changes are not sitting well with Columbia students who are already grouching about the CTA's unreliability.

"I ride the Red Line [Howard/Dan Ryan] almost everyday to get to school and work," said Sean Cauglin, 22, a senior majoring in film. "I'm sick and tired of trains not showing up on time. And I really hate it when I'm waiting for a train, and three trains pass in the direction I don't want to go."

Where are Chicago's higher-ups in the midst of all these public transit cutbacks?

As far as Mayor Richard Daley is concerned, the public needs to be realistic about the changes.

Daley told the Reader that he had introduced a bill in Springfield that would, if passed, raise state subsidy for student and senior fares. Daley also proposed a state gas tax to help fund the CTA, while at the same time forcing car owners to go to a transit system that doesn't work. And this proposal would result in over-crowding already over-crowded buses and trains.

"Many people rely on the CTA," Daley said in a press conference. "Service cuts affect how people go to work, visit their families, or travel to places of worship. We need



More woes for CTA riders beginning Oct. 6

to keep this in mind when we consider the future of the system. But we have to be realistic."

Some wonder what Daley means by "realistic". It is not realistic to sever the only transportation option some people have, leaving them stranded. Nor is it realistic to take away the jobs of the CTA workers who will lose out in these budget cuts.

As confidence in the CTA begins to wane, critics continue to paint a bleak picture. If the CTA does not look at its problems with real thought and consideration it is doomed to slide into failure, they say. And no one can afford the possible failure of the CTA.

Decreased federal funding at only \$4.84 billion allocated to mass transit for the entire country continues to add to the CTA's woes.

Jarrett and Mosena said that because of the decreased funding, increasing CTA fares would be the only alternative to the service cuts. However, they did not choose this alternative, because they didn't want to sacrifice the better half of the majority for the minority (it's estimated three to six percent) of the riders on the affected lines.

But somebody had to get hurt after all: some more than others. As reported in the Reader, a survey conducted by a nonprofit Metro Chicago Information Center showed that nearly half of all blacks and 42.5 percent of Latinos had taken public transit within a given week, compared to 36.5 percent of whites.

Also included in the CTA budget cuts are the elimination of all conductors aboard all El train lines. This means that the engineer will end up doing double-duty by having to work the doors and drive the train. A lot of people find this cut rather disturbing especially where safety is concerned.

"I think it is a real bad idea to get rid of the conductor," said Chris Dankowski, majoring in Film/Video.

"An El train with no conductor just doesn't seem safe. And some El stops are long enough to have a bend. How will the driver be able to see if everyone is on or off the train?"

Other proposed changes include the move toward the use of fare cards. Fare collectors will be a thing of the past as machines take over. Starting in a couple of months, there will be no CTA person to receive money or answer questions at El stops. Already ticket collectors have been given jobs with new glamorized Customer Service Representatives titles.

CTA El riders will have to own a fare-card or have the exact fare to board the El, otherwise riders will be stranded.

"I'm just sick and tired of it all," said Darnell Jenkins, a junior studying management. "I take CTA just about everywhere. It is evident that things have gotten worse recently. The new fare-cards are okay, but the trains and buses just don't run on-time anymore. It's a huge loss to everyone."

DISCONTINUED ROUTES

(Effective Oct. 6, 1997)

These weekday bus routes will be

eliminated:

- No. 16 Lake
- No. 31 31st
- No. 41 Elston/Clybourn
- No. 42 Halsted/Archer
- No. 99 Stevenson Express
- No. 104 Pullman/Altgeld
- No. 110 Marquette
- No. 131 Washington
- No. 164 Narragansett Express

These weekend bus routes will be

eliminated:

- No. 7 Harrison
- No. 24 Wentworth
- No. 39 Pershing
- No. 49A South Western
- No. 86 Narragansett
- No. 96 Lunt
- No. 59 59th/61st

COMING NEXT SPRING

(Effective March 1, 1998)

Rail Line Service Cuts

Purple Line: Weekdays 1 to 5 a.m.

Saturday 2 to 6 a.m., Sunday/holidays 2 to 7 a.m.

Green Line: Weekdays 1 to 4 a.m. Saturday 2 to 6 a.m., Sunday/holidays 2 to 7 a.m.

Blue Line (Douglas): Weekdays 1 to 4 a.m., Saturday/Sunday/holidays-- Eliminated

SOME BUS LINES SHORTENED/EXTENDED

(Effective Oct. 6, 1997)

8A South Halsted, extend to 127th (Saturday,

Sunday, weekdays 9am to 2pm)

9 Ashland, eliminate north of North Avenue (owl service)

11 Lincoln, eliminate south of North Avenue (weekdays)

24 Wentworth, eliminate south of 79th

51 51st extend to Lake Park

96 Lunt eliminate of Pratt/Kedzie

151 Sheridan, eliminate north of Lawrence (owl service)

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What kind of impact will the CTA changes have on your life? Have you just plain given up on the

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Remember to address your letter to Opinion
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Reaccredit Continued from page 1

standards.

For example the college must determine if students are really learning. Administrators must ask if they are providing their consumers with sufficient services and how the college is keeping up with technology. Those are among the laundry list of questions that will goad Ann Foley, director of Institutional Research, for the next several semesters. Foley was chosen early this year by the college's president, John Duff, to make sure Columbia is ready when the NCA comes knocking on the door.

"The main question that we have to ask ourselves is 'Are we accomplishing what we said we were going to accomplish according to our mission statement?'" said Foley.

Columbia's mission statement will serve as the measuring stick this week when the college's in-house committee meets. The Self Study Committee, which Foley heads, will be composed of senior faculty and administrative members throughout the college community.

The committee will conduct its own evaluation of how the college is faring academically, as well as its internal operating facilities. The committee has, as its first task, the job of measuring the efficacy of all academic departments.

"We're going to ask ourselves what exactly are our

educational goals and are our students meeting them," Foley added.

Last year, the academic departments underwent a number of tests that will assess where students are and, the more crucial question, are students meeting the goals outlined by each department.

Most students last semester remembered some of the tests that they were made to take, which came, to many of them, as a complete surprise.

Said one student in the liberal education department, "The test was very trivial." Adding that "If they want to test my skills as a liberal arts student, they should include more English related questions," referring to a test that was composed of a number of mathematical and scientific questions.

Other students welcomed the tests, commenting that it was a good diversion from lectures and other classwork activities. "I think its good," said junior Bernard Williams. "It assess where we are at this point in our academic careers and if we're retaining what we learned."

But Foley added that the tests had nothing to do with what NCA is asking of the college. "They are not concerned with how students are doing on an individual level but how the students are performing as a group. The tests were for our own purposes."

Still, the tests provided insight on what the committee must do to re-tool its thinking, and will make for a

good basis once the Self Study Committee presents its seminars this week to the academic departments.

Meanwhile, the journey of renewing Columbia's current accreditation status will wind itself from the administrative arm of the school to students services. At the last accreditation renewal, the NCA said the college's support services were lacking. Gall, welcomed the criticism and the college established several councils to address the needs of students.

"They felt we didn't have an adequate internal governance structure," Gall remembered. "We added a myriad of committees."

Once the Self Study Committee has made their recommendations, the NCA in 1999, will have free reign of the school for the better part of three days. They will scrutinize the school carefully to see if Columbia is following its own guidelines. Gall maintains that Columbia will have no need to do any window dressing, and is confident that Columbia will retain its accreditation.

"It's really their show. They will explore things that they deem are issues and concerns or even challenges from the report that our internal committee make," Gall added.

Foley confirms that there should be no need to worry about the fate of Columbia.

"I think to talk about doubts of us getting reaccredited is too remote to think about. Its highly unlikely."

Barbie goes to college

By College Press Service

America's favorite plastic sweetheart is a college girl now.

Under a special licensing agreement, Barbie is on sale at college bookstores on 19 major campuses, including Clemson, Duke, Wisconsin, Arkansas, Georgia and Virginia.

While the huge breasts and small waist are the same, the Mattel doll's teeny outfit is now a cheerleader uniform customized with the school's colors.

And how are sales going? "They were going great while we had them," said Pete Gorski, front-end supervisor of the Clemson University bookstore, which is awaiting another shipment after going through the first three batches of dolls. "We get several phone calls a day for them. We've sold through over a thousand already."

Students, faculty and staff are clamoring for the dolls, which are packaged in their traditional cotton-candy pink box. The older crowd is buying the doll in bulk quantities, he

said, to give to their children or grandchildren.

When she's in stock at Clemson, Barbie sells for \$14.99, which is \$5 off the suggested retail price. All the colleges who sell the doll get to keep a certain percentage of the wholesale price.

Of course, the doll, dubbed University Barbie, has drawn some criticism because she doesn't exactly look like a typical college co-ed on her way to psychology class or a bio-physics lab.

"She's got pom-poms," Gorski said. "Her knees bend forward and backward so she can do more gymnastics-based stuff."

Instead of a backpack, she carries an oversized hairbrush. Not that anyone was expecting University Barbie to carry a slide rule, but the doll has been criticized by many for looking, well, not quite as intellectual as her real-life female counterparts.

"I suppose I could see people getting peeved at that," Gorski said. "But it's a toy. This is not necessarily a symbol of what college students should be."

Feel the
love...
Read
Mema's
'Love Loft'
page 14



Columbia ROCCS the Vote!

Representatives of Columbia College Students

Representatives of Columbia College (ROCCS) seek to provide a forum for unifying the diverse backgrounds and talents of the student body of Columbia College Chicago, to promote official channels in which student's thoughts and opinions can be expressed, to promote students rights and responsibilities, to promote full understanding, communications and cooperation between students, faculty, and administration, to present the student perspective of campus life, to improve student physical, social, and cultural welfare, and to provide an effective and responsive organization for ALL students enrolled in Columbia

Clip this out and drop in a ballot box the week of October 6, on the first floor of any Columbia College building. Thank you for your support.

☐ YES! I vote in favor of representation by ROCCS

Name: _____

Year: _____

Comments (optional) _____

This Ad is sponsored by the Task Force to create ROCCS



Welcome Back Jam '97

Welcome Back

P.16

Sponsored by:
Student Life & Development

October 17, 1997
7 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Chicago Hilton & Towers
Boulevard Room

Editorial

A little ridiculous

Editorial Board
Iowa State Daily

The Stanford Daily fired a long-time columnist simply because he refused to axe a reference to new Stanford student and First Daughter Chelsea Clinton.

Jesse Oxford, a senior and long-time staff member of the student paper apparently wrote a piece that criticized the university's highly publicized policy of not covering Clinton differently than any other student.

What's the deal? Isn't that what a columnist's job is? Isn't he supposed to question and address public policy as well as influence public opinion?

What's all the hub-bub about? Is it because he questioned the way the campus was being affected by the presence of the First Family?

Maybe it was because he actually had the audacity to write about a campus event.

The man didn't call Chelsea something outside of her name or question her chastity.

He simply asked that the White House afford the Stanford campus the same privilege it asks for privacy. Was that too much to ask? Probably not.

It looks like the people at the Stanford Daily may be a little bit mixed up when it comes to their columnists' First Amendment rights.

It appears there is a little bit of a discrepancy in what the columnist thought he could write and what the paper thought he should write.

Simply mentioning the president's daughter in a column isn't grounds for firing. Is it?

Guest Column

Affirmative action: From bad to worse

By Todd Shockley

Ohio State University Lantern

I never wanted to assert an opinion on the tired topic of affirmative action because I don't feel threatened by it except perhaps in principle.

Thus, I intend to show a deep, logical sense of ethics is at the heart of this debate. However, I feel obliged to demonstrate my point in a somewhat absurd way. So don't read on if you're squeamish.

Since those in favor of affirmative action want to fight discrimination with discrimination, why don't we refer to whites as "honkys" and conversely refer to blacks as "super-special African-Americans." I call this "linguistic affirmative action."

A year ago, a majority of the editors on a local newspaper admitted affirmative action is reverse discrimination. However, they reasoned, honkys would have to "deal with it" for the better good. In other words, it's time the honky folk experienced a little discrimination (even though they had nothing to do with past discrimination). Fix racism with racism.

Valueless answer for a valueless problem. Fight bad with bad. How quaint.

And...how caring. The idea, it seems, is to harm those who biologically had nothing to do with the mistakes of past generations.

There are more active approaches, however. A more efficient means to right 400 years of racism would be to round up a bunch of honkys and shoot them.

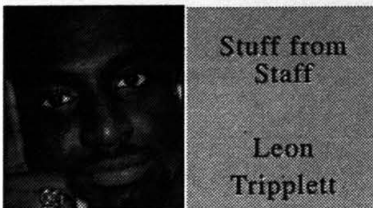
This would free up those good jobs and other opportunities for super-special African-Americans. Now that's really sensitive. Since most people would not go for this (though they would if they were logically consistent), I have a moderated solution.

Why not base affirmative action on income? After all, is it not the goal of affirmative action to help the disadvantaged? Or is it simply a matter of "let's get even with those spoiled honkys"? Those in favor of the current policy would be comforted by the fact that super-special African-Americans would still get a large portion of the benefits of an affirmative action program based strictly on income. Super-special African-Americans would still be the focus of affirmative action because they are represented disproportionately in the lower classes.

I must warn you, though, that some honkys would reap the benefits of income-based affirmative action. Many people would no doubt find this appalling because "them honkys already have so much." Keep in mind, though, that poor white honkys were born into their conditions. That is, these honkys had no control over their predicament -- just like African-Americans in the same position.

As a matter of fact, a regular honky denied access to anything because of current affirmative action policies (because of the honky's inherent color or wealth) had nothing to do with "years of racism" and "white affirmative action" either.

We also would not have to worry about reverse discrimination under my proposal. In fact, we could still discriminate against the rich.



"RECOLLECTIONS: DEARBORN 11"
HIGH SCHOOL INSTITUTE; CLASS
OF 1997

Not until I tugged back on my mental notes and saw the images that the camera had suspended in time, did I really begin to understand the grip the "Dearborn 11," had on me. As I started to translate my thoughts onto paper, I found myself rambling back to the beginning—July 14, 1997. What I began to write bore little resemblance to the simplicity of their journey—it would, for me and them too, become a passage.

It was like rummaging through an attic seeking some particular article—some memory etched in time and being ambushed by the commandos of nostalgia—a time when, not too long ago, I was in high school.

"The leaves of memory," Longfellow wrote, "seemed to make a mournful rustling in the dark."

As a journalist you develop a sixth sense, you morph into a cynic. You were once an optimist, as most novice journalists are, believing that you could change things, shift public opinion, expose malfeasance and shed light on all that is good in society. Once in a while you get presented that opportunity; albeit rare.

That rare opportunity presented itself to me the summer of 1997 in Columbia College's Residence Center. I was asked by the director to take on the position of being a Community Assistant for a group of high school students from Dearborn, Michigan, develop a few programs to keep them occupied and all would be well; didn't sound like rocket science to me.

Admittedly my priorities were elsewhere, among them, concentrating on establishing my professional career in the news business and developing a stream of contacts. My tenuous attitude toward the position was evident in the very beginning.

All that changed when a group of rangy youngsters, hormones pumping, adrenaline at dizzying speeds, entered the halls of 731 South Plymouth Court. On first inspection, they were going to be a nuisance an unnecessary diversion from my career goals. That's the problem with novice journalists: flying with first inspections, not digging deep enough. They weren't a rag-tag group of indolent gadflies causing mischief at every opportune time. They were poets and thinkers, artists and computer geniuses.

They were, upon deeper inspection, something bigger than that—they were tomorrow's leaders. If the statement sounds clichéd and overused, I'll concede it is. The stereotypes surrounding Generation

X is daunting to say the least. They junked all the baggage attached to our generation.

One month in the "city that works," prepared them for a lifetime of achievements. Taken from a suburban enclave in the Michigan and literally thrown into the third largest city in America—they showed how they could make it, with few exceptions. They came to Columbia with no idea of what college life was really all about—or a big city. Put up in loft-styled dorms they had to, in many ways, fend for themselves: cook their own food, wash their own clothes, learn how to budget money, take college-level classes and keep up. They also got a flavor of what Chicago was all about under Robert Jenkins' tutelage of Chicago history. "They," quickly became "we."

I learned the meaning of Community Assistance. I abandoned the news business for most of that month to get to know them better, to trust them the same way they trusted me, to provide insight from a college student's perspective. Whatever notion the "Dearborn 11" had about not going to college it was quickly dispelled after a couple of weeks. At every opportunity they grabbed Columbia and Chicago by the scruff of its neck. We walked down the Magnificent Mile and stood open-mouthed in awe at the enormity of the Sears Tower—going up to the head of its tall frame. We rambled through Borders Books and Music as though it was ours for the taking.

They gave me a window into their family background, their prudent high school teacher, whom they all showed a religious appreciation for, Russ Gibb. I reciprocated and gave them a view into what it was like growing up a foster child, determined to succeed. We shared many nights in 209 playing "Spades," getting sleepy but having too much fun to hug the pillows. I'm convinced that being a Community Assistant has nothing really to do with the mechanics of the job—duty rounds, putting up bulletin boards and guiding people out into the streets in the wake of a fire alarm.

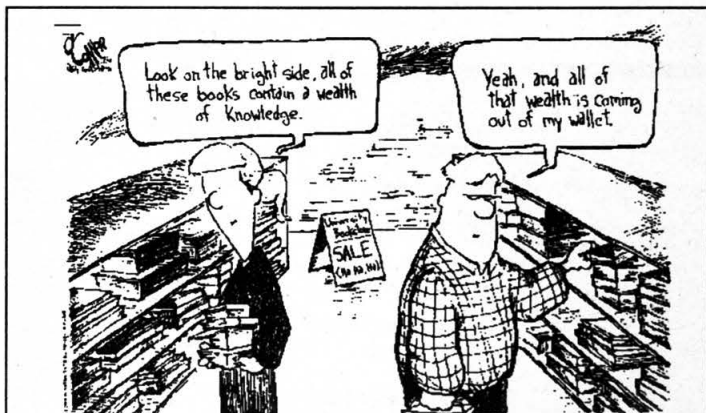
Although these items are necessary to sustain order in a college atmosphere—it is meaningless if the residents don't even know your name, or see you only when it's necessary. When they lumbered into Chicago by train, car and plane—separate, they left the same way—this time together. After one month at Columbia and in the dorms they won't be the same when they nestle back in Dearborn, Michigan. They can't be, too much has happened in the city, whose slogan lived up to its meaning, "the city that works."

I won't be the same either. They came into my life and made me hopeful once again of the ideals of "community," of higher education, and we had a helluva good time in the process.

Carla J. Gilbert Samantha Spencer, Lindsay Nickel, Thom Ingram, Vahan M. Callan, Jaime Sutherland, John Douglas, Ben Mazza, Tony Estes, Evan Sears, and Geoff Fell. Remember their names You'll hear great things from them in the near future.

◆Leon Tripplett is a Junior Print Journalism major

Editorial Cartoon of the week



Letter to the Editor

Tenure: A Step in the Wrong Direction

Giving tenure to teachers at Columbia College could be a very bad idea.

One of the reasons I chose to attend Columbia College was that it had a staff of working instructors, i.e.,

the people I was going to be taught by were at least semi-professionals in their respective fields. Who better to learn from than someone who does it for a living? If teachers are granted tenure, I fear there could be a general decline in the quality of their classes. These instructors could con-

ceivably lose touch, so to speak, with their fields. Ultimately, students would be stuck with professors who are either "past their prime" or no longer have any up-to-date, relevant information regarding that subject. That's a large part of the reason many of us students are paying \$4000+ a semes-

ter.

Columbia College is fairly unique in not following in the steps of most other schools. I hope, for the students' sake, it stays that way. It is unfortunate that this situation is probably too foregone to reverse.

Bruno VanderVelde
via the Columbia forum



Robert Stevenson

Quit buggin' me!

Attention Building Services. . . the Wabash Building needs to be closed and sealed so a giant bug bomb can get rid of the school's latest visitors.

Late Thursday and all day Friday, Columbia was invaded by millions of six-legged flying creatures. Now while the administration fully supports the open admission policy, I have a problem with the latest influx of buggy pupils.

As early as last Thursday, the pests had made it to the area around Congress Parkway and Dearborn. By Friday, you could not escape the annoying pests.

Every time I turned around, there was another one buzzing around my head, taunting me. Of course I did not stand for that and killed a few of them. Services have not been planned yet.

After a walk through the building, I found that the bugs were limited to the second floor of the Wabash building.

But this may only be the beginning. Across the south loop area, sightings have been numerous.

When The Chronicle ordered grub Friday, Jim Sulski, faculty advisor and credit card bearer, told me of the poor guy on the other end of the phone and how he was constantly swatting at the bugs.

"He sounded like Homer Simpson," Sulski said.

It seems that the office of our Editor-in-Chief is a favorite hangout for many in the flying hoard. At one point she came screaming out of her Fortress of Solitude because a dozen or so had taken up residence under assorted papers which were strewn across her desk.

When one of our staff members started to swat at the flying ants with a baseball bat, the critters seemed to just move around even faster, escaping the fury of the Louisville Slugger.

At about 7:30 p.m., I decided to take a look around the building to see if other floors had been encroached upon by the bugs. I headed downstairs first to the security desk. I was told there were no complaints about bugs, but that the exterminator would be told about it.

Apparently he visits the school every Monday.

I then took an elevator to the tenth floor to see if there were any invaders setting up shop. They had not arrived there.

Then to the eighth floor, The Chronicle's old stomping grounds. Again, no sign of the bugs.

A jog down the stairs to the seventh floor... still no bugs. I begin to wonder if there was some sort of conspiracy against the press and the bugs. Is their PR drone unhappy with coverage?

Final stop fifth floor. Not one flying pest in sight.

In disgust I headed back to the office on the second floor, or the hive, I think either term could be used. I sit down to write this and try very hard to ignore them. Buzzing around. Annoying me.

A few hours later...

It seems that the bugs did not enjoy the surroundings here at The Chronicle and Columbia. They have vacated the area. Maybe it's just a rest. Maybe they all go to sleep at 9 p.m., like all the other good little bugs.

Hopefully they won't wake up.

I hope that this does not offend anyone. Bugs are great and all, but when they are annoying me, well, they should be killed!

A few moments pass...

A few stragglers are buzzing around the room.

Then a break!

An update from the magnificent mile, our News Editor, James Boozer, informs me that Crate & Barrel has been over run by these pesky little flying ants. James suggests the store should be renamed Crate & Bugs.

If this continues, the entire city and surrounding area could be overrun with flying ants.

The ensuing team coverage by the Night Team and JetCopters will be stupendous!

Live shots from Ace Hardware... the empty shelves of bug spray in the back ground as some chump describes the scene for the Newschannel.

I don't know what is more annoying, the bugs or the "team coverage."

Editorials are the opinions of the Chronicle's editorial board. Columns are the opinions of the authors. Views expressed in the opinion pages aren't necessarily the opinions of The Chronicle, Columbia's journalism department or Columbia College.

The Chronicle welcomes letters to the editor. Wednesday is the deadline for submissions. Please include full name, year and major. Letters can be faxed to 312/427-3920, e-mailed to Chron96@interaccess.com, mailed to 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60605 or posted on the Chronicle's interactive forum located at <http://www.5.interaccess.com/chronicle>

DI'S DEATH UNCOVERS HIDDEN AGENDAS

By Lynne Snyder
Special to the Chronicle

At the risk of recycling the tragedy of Princess Diana's death, I offer another perspective to the story. Her untimely demise triggered some quick thinking opportunists to plug their agenda as seen through the following samplings of press releases.

Many of these agendas seemed appropriate enough.

Showbiz photographer Paul Smith defended his job as a celebrity photographer for the British news media. He stated "Not all celebrity photographers are paparazzi—we too mourn Diana's death." (Los Angeles, Entertainment Wire)

Smith went on to say he always found Diana to be cooperative of posing for photos at official events. People like Smith deserve a chance to defend and separate themselves from the rest of the beleaguered media that's been found to display less than ethical behavior.

A release titled "FTD Adds Operators to Handle Calls for Flower Orders in Memory of Princess Diana" (Chicago, PR Newswire) was also somewhat newsworthy, the objective of any serious press release. Apparently, FTD added customer service representatives in order to process the international orders for the funeral in London.

On the other hand, there were several releases that took me by surprise. From the PR Newswire in Chicago came "American Physicians Mourn Death of Princess Diana". In one fell swoop, the AMA managed to express their sadness and remind readers of their link to Princess Diana's campaign for a

worldwide ban on anti-personnel land mines. AMA has not been getting the best publicity anyway with some of their recent endeavors (case in point being the Sunbeam-AMA contract from which AMA is now attempting to withdraw). This release doesn't come close to improving their public image.

Robert R. Butterworth, Ph.D. sent two press releases through the Entertainment Wire. The first, "Psychologist calls [for] Self Examination of Tabloid Voyeurism". This was a feeble attempt to get the word out on his services that include providing assistance to radio, TV and print media to help understanding of psychological issues. People have always had a curiosity and fascination with bizarre and sleazy things that weird or famous people do and this sells smutty tabloids which, in turn, makes loads of money.

So, where's the hot psychological issue?

His second release, "Diana's Death—the Trauma That Her Children Will Experience", encourages grief stricken individuals to seek "...the help of experienced professionals to sort it all out..."

While I'm sure doctors like Butterworth offer worthy services, his approach comes off as exploitive and slightly offensive.

Perhaps if you visit the good doctor you can get a discount if you're a voyeur and grief stricken.

I've saved the most absurd for last. Reverend Billy Graham thinks "...the tragedy should remind us again of how fragile life is, and how we should each be ready to enter eternity and meet God at any moment." (Minneapolis, PR Newswire)

I pondered this profound thought for 30 seconds or so, and realized my mother was right all along: You never know what's going to happen, so be sure to wear clean underwear. Thank you, Reverend Graham, you've helped me to see the light.



Other points of view

We're "fit to print"

Editorial Board
Iowa State Daily

The New York Times published a story Sept. 22 about tiny Ames, Iowa. It wasn't about Veishea or Catt Hall. It was about the legal battle between the Iowa State Daily Publication Board and the Ames Daily Tribune.

Last spring, the Daily was found to be a "governmental body" and subject to the Iowa Open Records and Open Meetings law. The Tribune sued the Daily for not opening up all the documents the Tribune requested.

The Tribune claimed they wanted access to the Daily's records because the Daily was unfairly competing in advertising and distribution in Ames.

Although the Daily lost the suit, the judge said the Daily acted in "good faith" with the law, and thus, was not liable to pay the Tribune's legal fees, which amounted to nearly \$135,000. The Tribune has appealed the judge's decision.

Citing unfair distribution, the Tribune's editor, Michael Gartner, filed a lawsuit against the university this summer. ISU created a review of the alleged unfair competition, but the Tribune refused the review format, thus, postponing the review.

Again, the Tribune has asked for the Daily to supply records, but the Daily argues that it has changed its status from an arm of a public university.

However, The New York Times didn't quite get their story right.

Factual errors in the Times' story included naming the wrong adviser for the Daily, both this year and last year, and giving the wrong monetary amount for student fees. The Times article stated that the Daily receives \$100,000 each year from student fees, when in reality we received \$75,000 from students.

But putting these errors aside, let's get down to the brunt of the article, which is the lawsuit between the Daily and the Ames Daily Tribune.

We think former Daily faculty adviser Thomas Beell summed it up eloquently by calling Gartner

and Gary Gerlach, publisher of the Tribune, "corporate thugs."

These two men, part owners of the Tribune, have suggested that the Iowa State Daily restrict their news coverage and advertising to campus and the Campustown area.

Now let's think about this for a second.

What population of students live, shop and work off campus?

ISU students make up almost half of the Ames community. Limiting the student ad reps at the Daily to only seek advertising from the campus area is ridiculous.

If the majority of our readers live or shop off campus, then we should be able to run news and advertisements in the student paper about where the students go and spend their money.

Speaking of readership, the "corporate thugs" of the Tribune have reduced the Daily's circulation. The Daily used to be circulated all over Ames, but now it can only be distributed on campus and the immediate surroundings.

By now many of you may be asking why this is going on.

Why would Gartner, a former editor of The Des Moines Register, former president of NBC News, Pulitzer Prize winner and a lawyer buy and become editor of a small 8,000 circulation, black-and-white newspaper?

It could be because he truly wanted the Ames community to have a quality newspaper.

It could be that he is a really big Cyclone fan and wanted to be a part of the action.

But we don't think so. The true answer is quite simple: he wanted to get mo' money, mo' money and mo' money.

The minute they get a little competition from the campus newspaper they go to the courts with their tails between their legs like some corporate dogs.

In the Times article Gartner states: "I love the kids at the Daily. I teach over there, I give them an enormous amount of my time and I want to see them succeed. I just don't want them to stab me in my back when I put out my paper and sell my ads."

Well Mr. Gartner, show us the love, because we haven't seen it yet.

You decide who's stabbing who in the back.

Do you want to be a guest columnist?

We know you want to,
so stop what you are doing and give
us a call at (312) 344-7343.

Be sure to ask for Chuck Jordan, Opinion Page editor.



**MAKIN'
TEA
WITH
SAM
WALTERS**

REGISTER THIS

After suffering through registration as a freshman I vowed never to do so again and quickly declared an erroneous major—midwifery I believe—in order to qualify for early registration.

Registration last year cut deep psychic wounds into my soul: the endless, forced marches down infinite corridors, the damp air and rank smell of the registration rooms/holding pens, packed in like cattle, three or four hundred of us to a car with just an overflowing, putrescent pot to piss in and one granite-like crust of bread, which we would pass around and rake with our teeth in the hope that some small crumbs might fleck off and form a meager mush on trembling tongues. Oh, wait, that's Dr. Zhivago. Sorry.

Anyway, registration was similarly inhumane and horrible so you can understand my thoughts of suicide when I realized that through my expert incompetence I'd managed to miss the early registration deadline. I had a little help though. I never received any mail regarding early registration from Columbia, and a certain unnamed, accursed professor offered to register me personally in his office, only to inform me when I arrived on the appointed date that registration had ended the previous day. "Oh well", he chipped glibly. Indeed.

And so a recent late September morning found me crying into my coffee and thumbing dejectedly through a Columbia course catalogue in a vain effort to find a few courses that hadn't filled up yet. "Children's Book Illustration", I proposed miserably, "maybe that's still open." "What, do you want to go back to jail?", my friend Rodney snapped from across the table. "Well, I don't think there's any actual children involved." "Close enough," he warned, "children warp visibly in your presence; you might melt one with one of your stories." "Hmn..." "At least you're not registering last", he consoled me, then quickly corrected himself, "wait, you register on the 19th! You are going last! A Ha, a Ha, a Ha, Ha, Ha, Ha—moron. As you probably know the order of registration is determined quasi-alphabetically according to your last name. For the 19th of September, the last

day of continuing students registration, the registration order reads: R, S, T, U, V, X, Y, Z...w. W!! I have this deeply rooted, paranoid belief that God is trying to get me. Or rather—and perhaps less self-aggrandizing—he's already got me, and now he's toying with me for his sadistic amusement. I'm sure I'm not the only one he visits with this "special attention," but I'm probably one of his favorites because the rise he gets out of me is almost certainly visible from heaven. Incidences like this schedule thing go a long way toward cementing my delusions(?) and hastening what's surely, in the end anyway, my inevitable committal to a mental institution.

Before registering I had to clear up a fine I'd incurred for failing to vaccinate myself against all manner of alarming viruses and bacteria—which, incidentally, are still flowing unimpeded from one of my nasty, spurting orifices into your bloodstream—so I headed first for the Cashier's window. "Sorry, but you'll have to go to the Bursar's office to get that bill", the cashier informed after an eons long wait in line. This roundaboutness surprised me. I figured if a nine-month delinquent student showed up to pay his bill, collection would be swift and merciless, bars snapping over the windows, an evil looking man stepping out suddenly from the shadows. "Hello Samuel, I'm Mr. Castrater, the ba—er, bills collector. I believe you have something for us?"

Fools, they don't know I'm a cunuch.

Finally, after waiting another generation at the Bursar's, I began registration in earnest... and finished up just a short couple of weeks later, emerging dirty and unshaven from the Wabash building,, a few minutes late for the start of my first "Menswear" class. Most of the stress and confusion of registration resulted from the towering sheaf of prettily colored papers it was insisted we carry from station to station:

"May I see your pink sheet please?"

"Uhm (much fumbling)...here it is."

"No honey, that's more of a blushing red. I need your pink sheet; it goes with your aqua transcript-part of this year's pastels motif."

"Oh..."

"On second thought I don't think pink's your color."

"No?"

"No. Definitely not. It's your eyes, they clash."

"So should I..."

"God what a hideous color! How do you wear anything?"

"I'm sorry."

"Tell you what, try something in muave, then get back to me."

A few hours of that and I felt like cramming all those eye-catching documents where I oughtn't and parading about the registration hall like a majestic peacock. But I refrained.

Face Value

When Does the 21st century Begin?



Alisa Taras
Film
Sophomore

"It begins at the year 2000."



Wendy Faucher
Music
Sophomore

"It's starting now with technology, people, fashion, with people more open with issues and styles of music."



Christina Finley
Film
Transfer

"When people stop being self centered."



Kevin Eipperson
Film
Junior

"2013. Because everything is messed up so it's behind."

If you have a question you think we should ask students in our photo poll, just give us a call at (312)344-7343 and ask for Chuck Jordan, Opinion page editor

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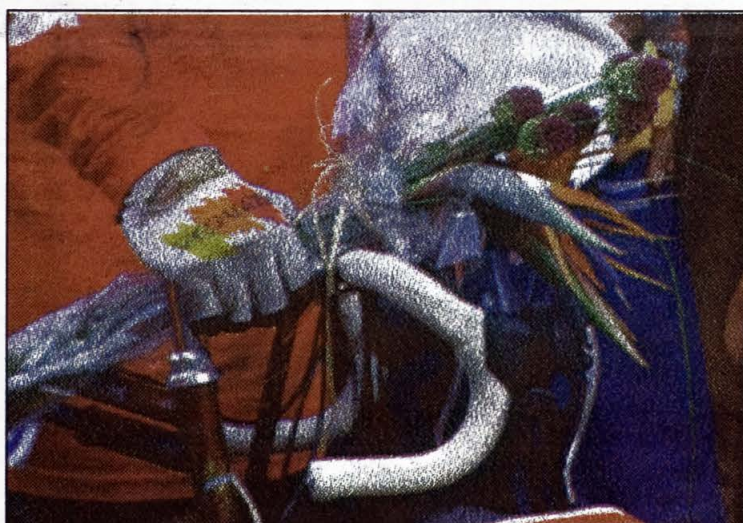
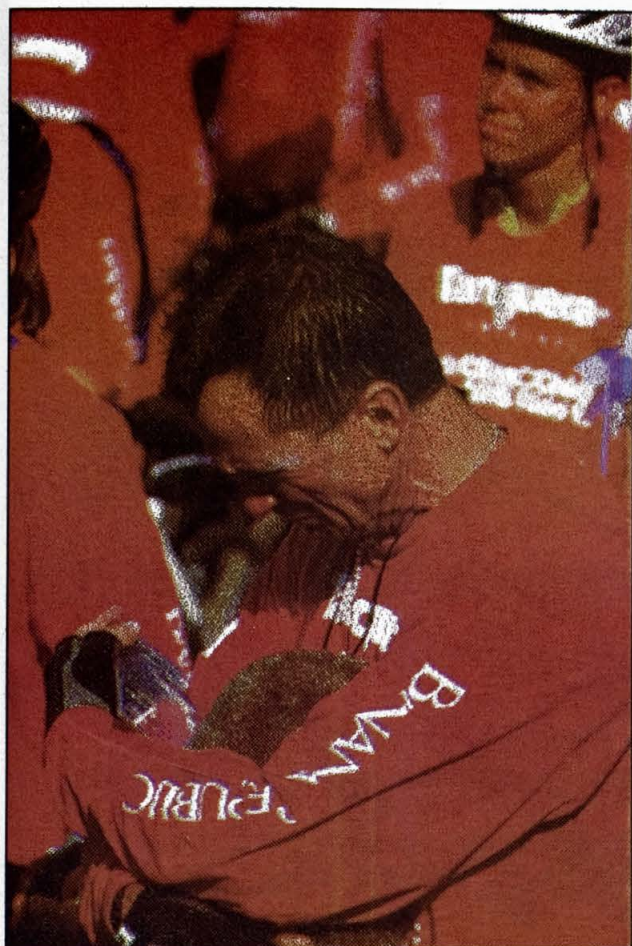
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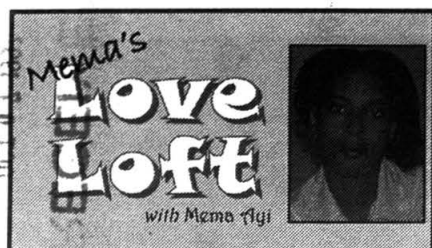
Zuniga Gallery 2855 S. Archer Ave.
(773) 376-8948

"Sports: Moments in time" is now being shown thru
December 5th

Ehlers Caudill Gallery 750 N. Orleans
(312) 642.8611

Harry Callahan "Women in Thought"

Harold Washington Library 400 S. State
"100 Years of CTA"



I once had a co-worker accuse me of having a school-girl crush on her boyfriend. I did have a crush on her boyfriend, but at the time I didn't see it that way. I denied it. I said "No, I never had a crush on Bobby," which was a bald-faced lie. I did, in fact, have a major crush on Bobby and was hoping to develop a relationship with him (or relations) as soon as he left her.

I lied to the girlfriend for two reasons: 1) she was tougher than me and would have left scars; and 2) because I didn't like the way she phrased the sentence "I know you used to have a little school-girl crush on my Bobby."

A school-girl crush? What was she, nuts? It wasn't a school-girl crush, it was meant to be. I knew it. He knew it.

As soon as he was through playing games, he would come running into my open arms and we would live happily ever after, laughing about the days when he was into "ghetto girls" like her.

I remember school-girl crushes—I had one every school year through 12th grade. I also remember not "hooking-up" with any of those guys.

Often, in those days, I found myself wondering why I had these feelings. Why there was always one special guy that I was willing to give my heart to? I assumed that would all end once I reached adulthood.

Oh, but that would have made my life too easy. As an adult, I've had many a crush. And I've been "crushed" by most of them.

And I know I'm not the only one. Many of you go through the same thing,

I'm sure.

How is it that we just decide for someone else that they're the one? How do we convince ourselves that even though they're married, "involved," or just plain not interested, this one person is all we need to make our lives complete?

I have gone so far as to plan weddings (yes, weddings) and name unborn children. And I refuse to let myself believe that it won't happen.

So, should I give up on these "school-girl crushes"? I don't think so. It's not all that unhealthy. It's nice sometimes, when my real love life isn't going so well, to have someone to fantasize about, to have something to wish for, a reason to comb my hair.

Admittedly, planning weddings and naming unborn children isn't the best way to deal with strong feelings toward someone who is unavailable or uninterested. But, that's where my fantasies go. Maybe yours go another way.

When I think back to my crush on Bobby, and all the others, I have to laugh at myself. They were not guys I'd want to be with now. These are guys who had one thing I wanted at the time. Most of these guys, I must admit, were pretty good looking and I wanted to be the mother of their beautiful children. Often these crushes developed through friendships that I misinterpreted.

Let me tell you that the best way to embarrass yourself is to verbally let that person know how you feel. But sometimes it helps the situation. You can save a friendship, clear-up any misunderstood gestures of affection and sometimes, actually develop a romantic relationship. Believe me, it can happen. I haven't been crushed by all my crushes, just most of them. But I haven't given up yet. I know I'll have crushes as long as I can deal with rejection. And, maybe someday it'll work out for me—maybe. And maybe frogs will fly out of my butt and dance a jig around the room.

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ANNEX

'Kiss' this one goodbye

By Jerry LaBuy
Copy Editor

When asked what was unique about the suspenseful thriller "Kiss the Girls", its young and untested Director Gary Fleder ("Things To Do in Denver When You're Dead") replied, "I did not want this film to have a sense of gloom and doom." He achieves that with this film, but by doing so he fails to deliver a film with much, if any, suspense. What is delivered is a very boring (but not gloomy!) film that had me checking my watch every ten minutes or so.

The plot starts to unravel in Washington D.C. where Morgan Freeman plays Alex Cross, a police psychologist. He returns from a police stand-off one night

to find out that his niece has been kidnapped while attending college in North Carolina. Feeling that he must do something, he travels to the college and finds the campus police doing very little to find her. It seems she is one of eight girls that have been kidnapped recently and the police have only one clue: a note from the killer who calls himself Casanova. Only two bodies have been found and Cross

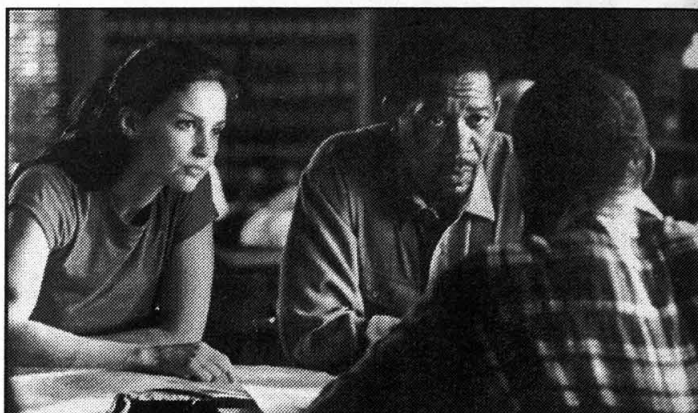
eventually determines that Casanova isn't killing these girls, he is *collecting* them. (This is the only original idea in this film and it is revealed too early in the film.) Soon another girl, Kate McTiernan, played by Ashley Judd ("Heat, Ruby in Paradise"), is kidnapped and escapes Casanova's lair. Cross eventually teams up with her and they attempt to find the killer.

The failures of this film aren't entirely Fleder's fault. The main problems seem to be in the generic script by David Klass, which is based on the best-selling (?) novel

by James Patterson. It fails to develop the lead, or any other, characters past their surface emotions and wants. Even the horribly misplaced beginning dialogue, when the killer tells his story of why he does these terrible crimes, seems to make him less interesting. It hurts the audience's response to the character because the mystery of why he

does what he does is lost. He has become less interesting and scary by telling us his reasons.

The film does look less morbid than it's similarly-themed predecessors "Seven" and "The Silence of the Lambs." The problem is that Fleder and cinematographer Aaron Schneider fail to create any particular use of lighting to set the mood within the various settings--forests, "dungeon-



Ashley Judd (left) and Morgan Freeman are on the trail of a killer who "collects" his victims in "Kiss the Girls," which opened last week nationwide.

like" lairs and other areas. They're all rather bland and awkwardly lit. This is especially true for the killer's lair which is so full of candles that it looks like an Italian restaurant. This dramatically hurts the tension within the many different locales, and inevitably the film itself.

One scene that does work and creates the one mildly suspenseful moment is the abduction of Kate McTiernan. To create tension in the scene Fleder uses not moody lighting or music, but extremely unnerving and very uncomfortable camera angles. This technique was very well done, yet it happens only this one time and that is twenty minutes into the movie. For the last

hour and forty minutes the only real suspense was whether Fleder was going to use this technique again. Unfortunately, he doesn't. He has made one other critically acclaimed feature and some award-winning cable episodic work, but he has taken a definite step back with this uninspired, dull film.

The main problems with this film aren't exactly the fault of its young director Fleder, but he may suffer the most if this film fails. He worked so hard to avoid the "gloom and doom" on-screen, yet this film may bring his career some "gloom and doom" of its own off-screen.

KISS THE GIRLS (R)

★ ★ 1/2

Starring: Morgan Freeman
Ashley Judd



We learn too much too soon in this 'thriller,' leaving room for little in the suspense department.

WHO'S HOT...

GEORGE CLOONEY

Stars in the both the top film and the top T.V. show. "The Peacemaker" on the big screen and "E.R." on the small one.

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BABYFACE

Crosses over from music producer to movie producer...and with success. His "Soul Food" is a surprise hit with critics and at the box office.

Liquid Kitty is the cat's meow

By Eileen La Valle
Copy Editor

If the outside of Liquid Kitty was any indication of the ambience inside, I would have taken it as your typical bar. It, however, is not your run of the mill bar.

Approaching the 6'6" studly bouncer, I knew I was in for a special treat. However, I won't spend too much time on the bouncer, because he wasn't willing to spend too much time on me.

Immediately, I noticed a Chronicle staffer annihilated at the bar. Annihilation is easy at Liquid Kitty, due to the tasty selection of over-poured drinks. The eccentric decor is one of the things that remained in my blurred mind, which spun like the lava lamps from the ceiling. From round

aquarium fish bowls hanging on the ceiling to plush red couches surrounded by funky spiraled carpeting and walls, this bar has a unique atmosphere.

The juke box has a decent selection of songs on compact disc that range from retro disco to hip-hop. Even the bathrooms make a great place to throw-up in, according to my friend.

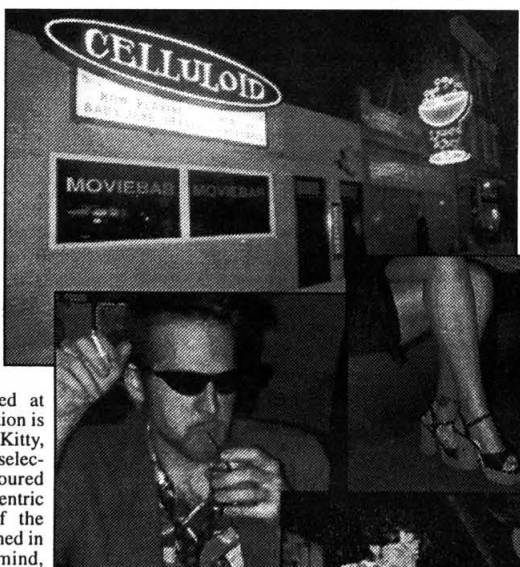
For a slightly more mellow scene, you can kick it upstairs in a lounge area complete with two pool tables and couches. Or there is the adjoining movie

bar Celluloid, which shows cult flicks and independent films. Celluloid is the perfect make-out place as Mema Ayi discovered, creating her own little love loft. There is a bar in the theater and cocktail tables facing the large screen. All movies are FREE,

except on Fri. and Sat., when there is a \$7 cover for both Liquid Kitty and Celluloid. Beware!

Fridays and Saturdays tend to have a more suburbanite yuppie clientele than the rest of the week. For a place that doesn't use too much of a big marketing ploy Liquid Kitty did more than 1,200 covers, when they opened two months ago. They're definitely cool places to check out.

Liquid Kitty and Celluloid are located at 1805 & 1807 W. Division.



Blair Fredrick/Chronicle

In Current Release

AT THEATERS

Wes Craven's Wishmaster

Full of convoluted mythology that only gets in the way of an already thin plot. Laced with overdone special effects and insulting violence, this movie fails miserably on all accounts. Horror fans looking for an October scarefest are better off renting a classic.

L.A. Confidential

Not tearing up the box office, but the best movie out right now. Cop drama has it all, and makes you think.

ON VIDEO

Liar, Liar

This is a role made for Jim Carrey. Very funny at first, but gets old as the movie goes on. What Carrey movie doesn't? Nonetheless, good for many laughs.

Volcano vs. Dante's Peak

It's the battle of volcano films. Box office smash 'Peak' against the dormant 'Volcano.' Tommy Lee Jones couldn't stop the latter from being critically lambasted, while 'Peak' managed a half-way decent story to go along with its outstanding effects.

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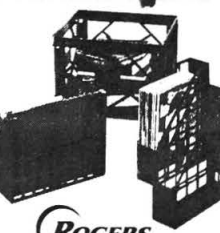
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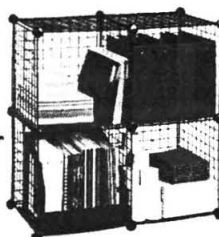
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Virtu: Homage to Physics Artisans at Fermilab

An exhibition of scientific objects from various experiments at Fermilab in Batavia, IL.

Columbia College Art Gallery, 11th St. Campus, 72 E. 11th St.

September 29-November 20

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Family and Friends

A group exhibit that captures the faces and images of the people we best know in our lives.

Columbia College Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Photography,

600 S. Michigan Ave.

September 6-November 1

FREE. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday, noon-5 p.m.

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The Anti-Archival Show

Art that comments on, incorporates, investigates or flaunts the issues of preservation, decay and the cultural values which cause us to attempt to fend off the demise of objects.

Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts, 218 S. Wabash Ave., 7th floor.

September 19-October 31

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The Journey, Life Gets in the Way of Art

Screening of an award-winning cross-cultural comedy/drama featuring Columbia grad Betsy (Hinkle) Zajko.

Cineplex Odeon, 600 N. Michigan Ave.

October 11 at 5 p.m., October 12 at 3:15 p.m.

Philobolus Dance Theatre

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October 11, 8 p.m.

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Caribbean Connections

Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago

Preview performance

Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.

October 11, 2-3 p.m.

FREE

The Oktoberfest of Comedy

Presented by Chicago Comedy Works

Bop Shop - Inside Cleopatra's Lounge, 1146 S. Wabash

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Jailhouse Rock (1957)

Directed by Richard Thorpe

October 14, 6 p.m.

None Shall Escape (1944)

Directed by Andre de Troth

October 9 at 7:30 p.m., October 10 at 6 p.m.

Ramrod (1947)

Directed by Andre de Troth

October 10 at 7:45 p.m., October 11 at 2 p.m.

Pitfall (1948)

Directed by Andre de Troth

October 11 at 4 p.m., October 12 at 2 p.m.

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Tuesdays at 9 p.m.

\$8

(773) 275-3625

Othello

By William Shakespeare, Directed by Jean Adamak

Footsteps Theatre Co., 5230 N. Clark St.

September 5-October 26

Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

\$14 adults, \$10 students/seniors

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Babes With Blades

An all-female stage combat showcase.

Footsteps Theatre Co., 5230 N. Clark St.

October 6-December 22

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Fridays, Saturdays at 8 p.m.

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The Compleat Works of Wilm Shkspr (Abridged)

A three-man comic romp through all 37 of Shakespeare's plays.

The Theatre Building, 1225 W. Belmont

October 6-December 9

773-327-5252

UI bookstore reaches out to 21st Century

By Chuck Jordan

Opinion Editor

For the first time, Planet Hollywood, Lettuce Entertain You and MTV have come together with Shakespeare, the Internet and the theory of relativity.

These are all elements of a dramatic retail departure from the traditional experience of purchasing college textbooks was introduced in August at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana by Follett College Stores, which operators over 500 College stores in Columbia's bookstore.

Called Folle2tt [energy squared], this \$4 million, 20,000-square foot, three-story structure will offer curriculum-centered merchandising "worlds," a two-story video "cyberwall," an in-store cafe, internet computer stations, publishing services, music, software — and books.

Most dramatic of all is that Follett will use this enhanced retail environment as a "working laboratory" to continually test and/or introduce new training techniques, products and services that can be selectively taken to its 550 stores nationwide. In addition, the Folle2tt [energy squared] model, in its entirety, will be available to the college and university market.

"The student population is always among the first to notice, seek out and be influenced by what's new — from fashion to entertainment — but particularly in retailing," said Jim Baumann, president of Follett College Stores, and the driving force behind the new concept.

"With the significant changes our society has undergone in how we get our own information, and even the way we learn from life's experiences, we felt that it was time to address the college book store environment to ensure that it continues to play a vital role in a student's overall educational experience."

Follett [energy squared] pulls together elements from the student union, library, computer center, and dining hall, and combines them with the multimedia, multi-stimuli experiences of daily life to produce an intriguing destination for students to shop, eat, socialize, and secure a wide range of products and services.

The experience begins with the overall design of the store, one of the largest Follett locations. The ultra-modern exterior design beckons customers with a two-story glass and exposed entrance marked with bands of neon.

Similarly, the interior design and floor plan is designed to draw the visitor into and through the various store components through a mix of signage and merchandising.

"With the visual experience so excitingly different, it's easy to overlook the fact that Folle2tt [energy squared] actually offers a more sophisticated and comprehensive focus on academics than any other college store design to date," notes Baumann.

In fact, Follett expects the new concept store to double gross sales within the first year.

Inside the store, the curriculum-centered merchandising strategy is to group all items related to an academic discipline in one location, which helps students find all that they may need in one place.

This also allows for providing a more expanded product inventory.

The central focal point and social gathering place is a 20' by 30' "cyberwall" that shows a variety of entertainment, sports and educational broadcasting.

Additionally, at the base of the video wall, tow 2' by 4' rectangular electronic message boards provide an information exchange center for students to list notices such as "for sale" and "ride needed."

Internet stations are strategically located throughout the store to provide students easy access to information for research and recreation. Free, unlimited Internet access is offered at all terminals.

Students can also test and purchase computer hardware and software in the computer sales area.

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Call to all Columbia College Students: The Hokin Student Advisory Board

is now accepting and reviewing applications for the 97-98 school year. Comprised of a student representative from each academic department, the Hokin Advisory Board oversees the budget, policies, and procedures of the Hokin Center.

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Hokin Center Office 623 S. Wabash Building,
1st floor, or call 663-1600 x7696.**

Family and Friends

Exhibit captures faces, images of those we love the most

By Alexandra Milinkovich
Correspondent

Walking through The Museum of Contemporary Photography is like taking an incredible journey through a land of visual emotions. "Family and Friends," featuring color and black and white photography, focuses on the ever-changing, yet eternal structure -- the human relationship between family, friends, and life.

The exhibition which runs through Nov 1 features pieces by professional photographers such as Jeffrey Wolin, Nan Goldin, Judith Black, Nicholas Nixon, Donna Ferrato, Robert Rasnick and many others.

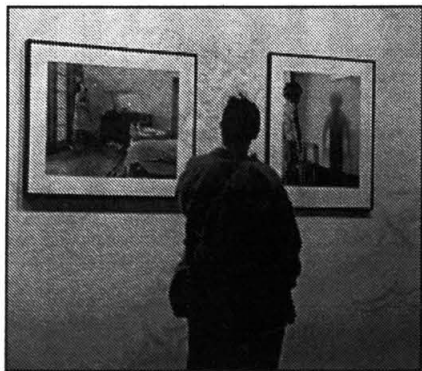
One of the most fascinating collections is by Nancy Burson. Her hauntingly beautiful collection called "Portraits" marks the way to the second floor.

Initially, Burson worked with digitally altered or computer generated faces. Since 1991 she has been working with what she calls, "special faces" or faces that have been changed by time, disease or chance.

Burson's amazing work invites the viewer to look deeply. There is much more to consider than the misshaped or enlarged skulls and sunken faces. As Michael Sand, author of an essay on "Portraits," questions, "...Is it that in the traces of cancer, genetic deformity, and disfigurement, we can read the story of our own vulnerability, our own potential for abnormality?"

This is exactly how Burson and her

work affect people. When you look at one of her photographs you have a sense that the person with the special face is loved. If not loved by anyone else in the world, you realize that he or she is loved and will always be loved by the photographer herself.



Students were riveted by the digitally altered and computer generated photographs.

Photo by Stacy Weber/Chronicle

collectively. It is for this reason that this collection is so powerful.

Jeffrey Wolin's photographs entitled Grandpa and Baby Brother, evoke a sunny smile from most viewers. It is hard not to grin while looking at Grandpa from the nose up, sticking his head out of a pool or watching baby brother standing on his head, claiming that he just wet his pants.

Nan Goldin's photographs make one feel as if he or she were intruding on the intimate, vulnerable times of a woman's life. There is a self-portrait of Goldin with a black eye, and another entitled, "Self Portrait in Bed with Siobhan."

Judith Black shows us a picture entitled "Dylan, Jumped on the Street." Dylan

peers up with a bitter, compelling look in his eyes, one of them also black.

Nicholas Nixon gives us a sense of history and aging in his series "The Brown Sisters." Nixon documents the lives of the four sisters throughout different stages of life, from young adulthood to middle age. The positions of the sisters are the same, even though the scenery is different, giving the viewer a clear perception of how women have changed.

Donna Ferrato seems to have used a similar idea when creating her series "Fanny." Ferrato documents the life of this young woman from birth to young adulthood.

One of the most stunning displays of creativity in the museum is the collection by Robert Rasnick, entitled "RRR" and "RMR." The two extremely large pho-

tographs occupy one wall as you climb the first flight of stairs. The portraits look as if each man is in a prison, however, the prison bars are made of rolls of film. The display leaves a more striking impression than if the portraits had stood alone.

"Family and Friends" gives viewers the opportunity to remember, to feel and to re-evaluate the relationships that bind us all to humanity.

"Family and Friends" will be on display until Nov. 1. at The Museum of Contemporary Photography 600 S Michigan. The museum will be open Mondays thru Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays through 8 p.m. and Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call 312 6635554



"My parents on their 50th wedding anniversary."

Photo by Nan Goldin, courtesy of the artist and Matthew Marks Gallery, New York

Columbia grad finds crazy success

By Dawn Hendricks
Correspondent

and Michelle S. DuFour
Features Editor

Ten years ago it seemed so easy; A communications degree from the University of Iowa, a few kids, and a suburban home complete with a white-picket fence and a dog running through the yard.

NOT! Somewhere on the drive home from her dormitory at the University of Iowa and her families' home in Country Club Hills — an affluent South Chicago suburb — Lisa E. Finkle took a detour and landed at Columbia College.

At first Lisa didn't even consider a degree in broadcasting. Now, seven years and countless hours of free labor later, she is Lisa E., producer of the number one rated afternoon "Crazy Show," on 107.5 WGCI, weekdays from 2 until 6 p.m.

After one year at the University of Iowa in 1985, Lisa's grades began to fall, so she returned home and attended South Suburban College for another year. The influence of a friend then persuaded Finkle to enroll at Columbia and pursue her childhood acting dreams.

Finkle concentrated on a major in theater, but then realized that acting was not for her.

"It was like a real life soap opera," Finkle said. "The people were too dramatic."

Finkle then changed her concentration to radio and television and finally felt comfortable.

Harold Lee Rush, a radio show producer, was Finkle's

first radio instructor. Finkle remembers being greatly influenced by his daily reality checks of life in the radio business. She decided that radio was the perfect outlet to use her communication and interpersonal skills.

"Mr. Rush told it like it was and didn't give the Cinderella version of things," Finkle said. "He gave the ups and downs and stressed that the hard work pays off."

A few years into her major, Finkle took Broadcast Speech Techniques I and II with Mary Berger. Finkle will always remember Berger for teaching her to speak standard English for the radio. Berger also helped Finkle learn to accept people regardless of culture and ethnicity.

"She made me learn to think before I speak which is really important in live radio," Finkle said.

Another one of Finkle's teachers was Roz Varon who taught her the ins and outs of a radio control board.

While at Columbia, a fellow classmate told Finkle about an internship at WGCI, a local contemporary radio station. The station's AM side was all talk at the time. Because of Finkle's knowledge of the control board, she got the job.

Finkle observed and learned everything she could about radio. She learned how to conduct remotes, and as a result, became the assistant engineer for the J.J. Jackson sports show.

Finkle worked the overnight shift on the AM side with Sybil Wilkes. During this time she filled in on the FM side as an engineer for Doug Banks and also

engineered the overnight hours by playing music along with the syndicated Larry King Show. This went on for two months. The station's AM side closed and Finkle was let go because of downsizing.

Diligence and perseverance were two key factors in Finkle's advancement in radio. After she was fired as a paid intern, Finkle kept in contact with the people she met at WGCI. Her hard work at the station paid off and Finkle proved herself as reliable and dependable.

A year and a half ago, Finkle began to work with Howard McGee as the executive producer of the "Crazy Show." She works hand in hand with McGee in the creative direction of the show. Finkle handles contest winners, pulls music and commercials for play and creates trivia questions and topics for the on-air contests. Finkle also pulls newsworthy material and always has a celebrity guest on the show.

Although radio keeps her very busy, Finkle still wants a house in the suburbs with a dog. Finkle also envisions herself as a successful deejay and producer of her own show in the future.

Finkle's parents and family would prefer if she chose a more conventional job that offers more stability than radio, but she wouldn't dream of stopping now. She hosts parties, attends sporting events and gala celebrity functions all in the name of work. She feels that has ample time for her family and her radio career.

Finkle admits that there are struggles that she comes across in her work everyday. She won't settle for just satisfaction. Finkle and McGee create every show as if it was the last.

"If you really want to do something, you have to work at it," Finkle said. "Staying unique and having fun are key elements for success in radio."



Lisa Finkle and Charles Barkley
Photo by Dawn Hendricks

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THE HILARIOUS HIT OF THE 1997 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Come to the new Columbia Chronicle Office, 623 South Wabash room 205, between Monday, October 6 and Friday, October 10 to receive a pass (admit two) to an advance showing of the comedy, "The House of Yes", at the Sony Theatres-Evanston, 1716 Central, next Tuesday, October 14, 7:30 pm.

A limited number of passes are available on a first-come, first served basis. No purchase necessary and employees of participating partners are ineligible.

"The House of Yes" opens in Chicago on Friday, October 17!

Sara on Sports

by Sara Willingham
Sports Columnist

While sitting on an ever-so-monotonous Metra train ride to the far Northwest suburbs, I became engaged in a Bears-bashing conversation with a bunch of strangers (I have a knack for doing that).

Of course, I heard the usual male approach to every Chicago Bears-related dilemma: "Wannstedt should do this..." Or, "McCaskey should do that..." You know how guys can be, pathetic, know-it-all wannabes who insist that they could do a better job than every coach, owner, and player-personnel director in the NFL. Some refer to them as arm chair quarterbacks. They're like Wall Street Journal subscribers who over-analyze the government, and naturally, have all the answers.

And then pure brilliance swept over me. It was similar to what Jerky Reinsdorf (no, that was not a typo) experienced moments before he decided to give Bev' the boot. It was sheer logic. Ultimate common sense. If fans seem to know so damn much about athletes and athletic organizations (like the general public knows about politics), then why don't we elect professional players and coaches in and out of office like we do for governmental officials?

I can see it now... "Vote for Mirer, he's your man!" "Wanny for Coach...five more years!" The same smoke that's blown up your you-know-what every four years in November. Heck, if we pay their salaries, then we ought to have some say...don't you think? Our forefathers surely agreed with the concept. I think it's called democracy.

Just envision this...the polls would be flooded with voters just aching to slip their ballots into the box. Every last regular "Joe" would know where and when to vote and how to punch a ballot and who to vote for. It would be like a politician's wet-dream: absolute participation from the public. I bet there would be a better turn-out for a Major League Soccer head coach elections than for the stinkin' Presidency of the United States. An election for team owners would surely result in polling-riots.

It would be madness, but it would solve some major problems. Actually, come to think of it, it might cause MORE tension. The country would split into numerous parties, and constantly be at each other's throats. Instead of the Democrats and Republicans, we'd have the Ditkas and the Wannstedts. The Ericks and the Ricks. The only universal party would be the McCaskey-ousters.

Also, statistically speaking, since there are more women walking this earth than men, it would be a definite that dirty-ole' Marv Albert would be history as far as NBC and MSG were concerned. Hell, he'd probably be castrated by now. C'mon, Marv shouldn't get his job back, no matter how much money he generated for the networks. The thought of him standing there, aroused in silky lingerie minus the toupee, is far too nauseating. I'd rather listen to Pee Wee Herman (another famous perv) broadcast the play-by-play for the Knicks. For the first time, I feel kinda sorry for New Yorkers and their sickening NBA team.

Well, I could ramble on forever about this amazingly-intelligent ideology for eliminating a large segment of the armchair quarterback population, but you know how valuable space is to picky editors. So I'll leave you with my first out-spoken Bears prediction. By the time you read this, we'll already know if I'm as smart as I seem to be. I say Chicago's gonna pick-up their first "W" against the Saints by three. I'll go 17 - 14, Bears (possibly in OT).

See you next week....



Why no sports at Columbia?

We want a cool mascot like other schools

By Michael Johnson
Correspondent

During my three years at Columbia, I have always felt like something was missing from my college experience. I could never place my finger on it until just a couple of weeks ago. I was at a friend's house for a party and I met this guy, Steve. He told me that he went to Prairie State College in Chicago Heights.

Prairie State is a two-year commuter junior college. Last year, they started a sports program. They have baseball, soccer, volleyball, and softball. I started thinking about why Columbia couldn't have a sports program. We wouldn't have to be a Division I powerhouse like Notre Dame, but we could offer our students a chance to participate in collegiate sports at the lower levels.

I have thought about this idea before, but I thought that sports at Columbia wouldn't work because it was mainly a commuter school. But through talking to a couple of people who go to other junior colleges in the Chicago area, I found that a majority of them offer some sports.

When I say that they offer sports, I don't mean that they offer classes in sports for college credit. They have real teams with real uniforms. Schools like College of Dupage, South Suburban, and Moraine Valley, all have sports programs.

But in order for these programs to work, you need money. I know these things don't pay for themselves. But we could start the programs on a club level. That way the school isn't paying for it, the students who participate are paying to play.

If the programs start to become more and more popular, the school could find a way to start funding these programs. We all read in last week's Chronicle about the expansion of Columbia and all the new facilities. Why not add another dimension to our college? Sports!

Now I'm not talking about going out and starting a football program. We don't have a place to play and we don't have the money. But what about a basketball team? Think about it, what do you really need for a basketball team? You need a gym, a couple of basketballs, some uniforms, and twelve guys who want to play. I know that there are at least 12 guys and 12 girls at Columbia who are interested in playing basketball.

So there you go, we have the first men's and women's basketball teams at Columbia College. I know some people think I have forgotten about one hidden cost...a coach. But at the club level you have player coaches. No extra money needed there.

OK, another example, volleyball. We still need a gym to play and practice, a couple of volleyballs, some uniforms, and twelve people to play on the team. What about a soccer program? We need a field, some balls, and the players.

All of these programs are low cost programs to run and I know the interest is there. We can start small and see what happens.

If there is student interest we can always branch out into other sports like softball and baseball. Not only would the installment of a sports program at Columbia make the current students happy, but we would attract new students who wouldn't have considered Columbia before.

I want to hear from you! Do you think that installing a sports program at Columbia is a good or bad idea?

Either way I want to know what you think or if you have an idea for the Columbia mascot let me know. Please keep them realistic. I don't want any sexual or otherwise disgusting mascots. So, e-mail your ideas and comments to me at:

mjohnson005@sprintmail.com.

I will print some of your ideas and comments in next week's Chronicle. What about the Columbia College Fighting Commuters?

Sox look into the crystal ball

Is a winning team on the south side an illusion?

By David Rawske
Correspondent

I'm sure those of you few-and-far-in-between White Sox fans out there look as this title and laugh.

Why wouldn't you?

Let's be honest, the White Sox have not given us anything to write home about in quite some time. Sure, the 1994 campaign was exciting and had promise to it, but I think it's time we got over the strike that ended out race to the pennant and concentrate on getting one now. It seems as though everybody in Chicago thinks that the lingering problem with this franchise is the ownership and management. Sure, Bevington and Reinsdorf are no Ted Turner and Bobby Cox (Atlanta Braves), but then again, who ever could be with the pitching talent they possess.

The truth of the matter is that the real problem exists within the players. How can anybody be as critical to Reinsdorf when he, in fact, has managed to keep The Chicago Bulls, five-time NBA champions, and one of the greatest teams ever, together in this new era of "free-agency." Nobody can ever accuse him of being cheap after going out and signing Albert Belle to a 5-year, \$55 million contract. Not to mention picking up ex-Cub Jamie Navarro for nothing but chump-change. If this isn't trying to buy a championship team, what is? And how can he be blamed for the infamous deal he struck with the San Francisco Giants a cou-

ple months back when he sent starting pitchers Wilson Alvarez and Danny Darwin, with closer Roberto Hernandez, to the Giants for six, young up-and-coming prospects.

Those of us who actually know anything about baseball would realize that he would have lost Alvarez and Hernandez to

slumping again.

So maybe the "Baseball Gods" decided, once again, to keep their distance from Comiskey Park. Fear not patient ones, soon the "Baseball Gods" will shine upon them. Granted, Albert Belle wasn't worth more than a dime this year. His time will come.

When opponents have to pitch against Thomas, Belle and a rejuvenated and rehabilitated Robin Ventura, the White Sox will be a team to reckon with.

Let's not forget about the most important element of baseball—pitching.

With the likes of Doug Drabek and James Baldwin, the White Sox also have some young studs who have proven this year that with a little bit of maturity, the Sox can maintain a youthful and enthusiastic staff. It should not go unnoticed that when the Sox decided to make, what was considered at the time, the most ridiculous trade in baseball, they had the third high-

est payroll in baseball, with sub-.500 winning percentage.

The bottom line is that changes needed to be made. So, if need be, continue to drown yourself in your sorrows about another disappointing season. But keep one thing in mind, there will be an emergence. And when this happens, we'll see what everybody has to say then. Believe it or not, there is a method to Reinsdorf's madness.



Bulls prepare for season: Questions linger

By Robert Stevenson
Managing Editor

The quest for a sixth NBA championship is underway for The Bulls.

It will be the last journey for Coach Phil Jackson and super athlete Michael Jordan.

Jordan reiterated to the press on Friday that he will quit when Jackson does.

The team held their first

training camp last week with a few questions still up in the air.

At press time, Dennis Rodman had still not signed with

the team, but sources say he is expected to do so this week. Also, Scottie Pippen's physical went on as scheduled Friday, but team doctors were tight lipped on his condition.

The first exhibition game of the 97-98 season will be a home game for the Bulls. The Oct. 10 game will be played at the United Center against the Seattle SuperSonics.

Fans expect the team to go all the way again

this year and showed their support last week when tickets went on sale for this upcoming season.

