

10-20-1997

## Columbia Chronicle (10/20/1997)

Columbia College Chicago

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# The Chronicle

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

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October 20, 1997

## Task force pushes for student representation

By Tanisha Allen  
Staff Writer

During the second week of the semester, ballot boxes bombarded the first floor of all buildings at Columbia, all centered on one message: "Vote yes to make your voice heard; officially!!"

The driving force of the campaign is the Representative of Columbia College Students task force, or ROCCS. All summer, the task force has been working actively to find a way for the students to have a honest representation on the various decision-making processes that affect Columbia.

"[The ROCCS has] been given the leeway and permission to put a student government structure in place that they will call ROCCS," said Art Burton, a faculty advisor for the ROCCS.

ROCCS' first task was simple, though crucial: find out if Columbia students were interested in getting their voice heard by the college administration. It conducted an informal poll two weeks ago to get a response from the students.

The poll showed that the over-

riding number of the students polled want representation. Some students wondered why an idea for student government had taken such a long time. Some said the school seems to be disorganized and obviously in need of leaders.

"In a commuter school such as this, it is difficult for students to make decisions and get what they want," said one balloter. "If this organization is serious about bringing on a student government, then I insist for the full support and accommodation of [President John] Duff and the school in making ROCCS succeed and help students become aware of their new powers."

The task force has just presented a "constitution" to the administration. If approved by the administration and legal advisors, the task force will present the constitution to the entire student body for feedback.

"I just want students to know that this is really for everybody," said Lara Palles, a founding task force member of ROCCS. "They [students] deserve their voice to be heard, and it will be heard. It

can only help."

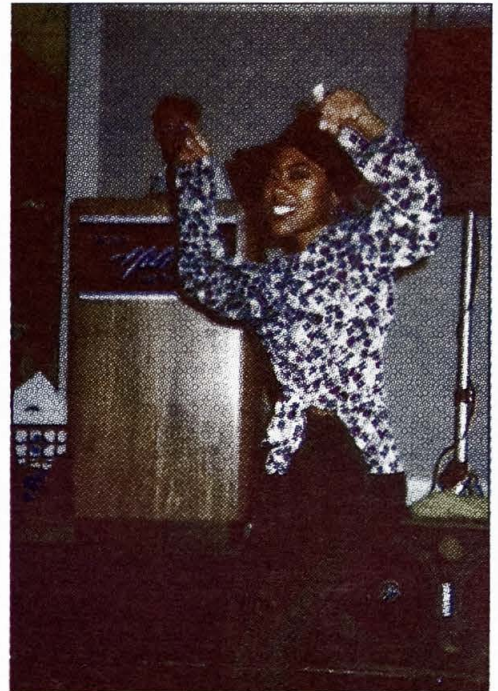
According to the constitution proposed, the student representatives will be chosen from each academic department, and from these leaders, the executive council members will be picked.

The administration supports ROCCS whole-heartedly, according to Jean Lee, dean of students. "They [ROCCS] feel there ought to be an entity in which students can have a direct say in what happens with the school, and we support it," she said.

ROCCS will also have the financial backing of the administration. "They [administration] did make a commitment to the task force to help with any expenditures they might have," Burton said. "They will have a budget."

ROCCS is expected to be approved as early as next spring, when the campus elections are held.

Among other student associations, ROCCS will be present at the "Welcome Back Student Organization Day" on Oct. 23.



Robert Stevenson/Chronicle  
Michikea Brathwaite, sophomore, was among hundreds who attended annual 'Welcome Back Jam' at the Chicago Hilton and Towers Oct. 17.

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## Columbia Baha'is establish spiritual group

By Kat Zeman  
Staff Writer

In the midst of recent media frenzy over the "Promise Keepers," a new breed of spiritual culture is developing at the Columbia Residence Center.

A group of Columbia students has established an independent worship group of the "Baha'i" faith.

The group meets every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. in the residence center, rotating every week between rooms 505 and 614.

"We're not trying to convert anybody" said Tokmachi, explaining that the faith honors everyone's beliefs as their own. The meetings are open to anyone that is interested in finding out more about the faith.

Columbia Baha'is gathered last week for the first time to discuss the problem of racism.

"We discussed the oneness of humanity," said Samah Tokmachi, 19, Columbia student and a member of the Baha'i group. "Believing that all humanity is one is the solution to racism."

This week's discussion focused on the relationship between men and women—a timely discussion after the

"Promise Keepers" movement that attracted more followers than the "Million Man March" in Washington, D.C.

"I'm not too familiar with the views of the 'Promise Keepers,' but we

**'The world peace is unattainable until the equality of the sexes is achieved'**

**--Samah Tokmachi, Baha'i member**

believe that men and women are equal," said Tokmachi. "The world peace is unattainable until the equality of the sexes is achieved."

The Baha'i faith originally began as a sect of Islam but has long moved away from the teachings of Islam. It is now considered a separate religion with teachings based on those of Bahauallah.

Bahauallah ("the glory of God") was once a Persian man named Husayn Ali, and those who follow his teachings are known as the Baha'is.

The Baha'i faith started its rise in the mid-1800s. It has followed a basic principle that all religions of the world sprang from one source, and that there is a basic unity in religious truth.

Among other teachings, the absolute equality among men, women and races is crucial to Baha'is.

The Baha'i faith and modern beliefs alike originated in Iran, but they became outlawed. Prosecution of the Baha'is became harsh especially after the Islamic revolution in 1979, mostly due to Baha'is treatment of the Quran (Islamic "word of God") along with the Christian and Hebrew bibles as symbolic allegories.

The belief in angels and evil spirits is discarded by the Baha'is, and heaven and hell is treated symbolically as well. However, the Baha'i faith recognizes Moses, Zoroaster, Jesus, Muhammad, Krishna, and Buddha as prophets of God, each carrying a special message.

The Chicago suburb of Wilmette accommodates the "mother temple of the west" of the Baha'is. The building is nine-sided (nine being the largest unit number) to represent world-wide unity and is covered with a dome.

## Arabic class offers cultural exploration

By Alexandra Milinkovich  
Correspondent

The multifaceted, multilingual Baheji Khleif wants to give Columbia students the exquisite gift of language in return for the enriching experience Columbia has offered him.

Imagine being transported to a distant land, exploring a rich culture and learning a fascinating ancient language. Khleif invites all Columbia students to do just that—without paying a cent or leaving the classroom.

Khleif has volunteered to teach the Arabic language after several requests were made by students in his classes. Many students wish to learn the language so that they may study the Koran in its original language.

"I became interested in offering this special course in Arabic because of cultural curiosity," Khleif said. "Arabic is very rich in its ability to express nuances of meaning and relationships. Its grammar is very logical."

Arabic is a very visible and important language in the global, social and economic

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## THE CHRONICLE

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# Columbia's Latino celebration: delayed but not forgotten

By Amy Pugh  
Staff Writer

With October in full swing, many students at Columbia are wondering how the college intends to celebrate Latino History Month (Oct. 1-31). Has anyone seen a poster? Heard an announcement? Read an article? Surely, Columbia College has not forgotten its Latino students. After all, Latinos make up 11 percent of the undergraduate and 12 percent of the graduate student body. Relax. Madeline Roman-Vargas, assistant dean of Student Life, has no intention to let Columbia's Latino students be forgotten.

But with Columbia's academic calendar, that would not be possible. "Because we start school so late, there would be no time for promotions, and we couldn't get the classrooms," said Roman-Vargas. "I didn't want to do something for this month just to say we did it—I want quality."

Roman-Vargas and members of LUNA (Latinos Unidos Now in the Arts), one of Columbia's two Latino groups on campus, are working on a project to celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Along with Mario Castillo, a faculty member from the art department, the plan is to build an altar and display students' artwork. The Dia de los Muertos exhibit is scheduled for Oct. 30 in the Hokin Annex.

LUNA is an organization that "promotes Latino artwork within the student body," said Roman-Vargas. The members meet every Thursday at 2 p.m. in room 304 of the 623 S. Wabash building.

In addition to LUNA, Columbia supports AHORA! (Now!), which is a group more centered around Latino culture and networking with Latino professionals. The members get together every Monday at 1 p.m. in the Wabash building.

Roman-Vargas said these groups are just getting off the ground, and this school year looks very exciting for Columbia's Latino students.

Seniors Ann Napoles and Katherine Olmeda



are satisfied with the Latino students' representation on campus. "They have the Day of the Dead exhibit—that's pretty good," said Napoles. "Most students are aware of what that is."

Sophomore Sayuri Matute agrees. The groups are "a good opportunity for Latinos to meet professionals in their field." But she added that she is from Ecuador and would like to see more diversity in the Latin cultures that are represented.

Hector Garcia feels the same way. "Not that I don't appreciate the things they do for Mexico, but there is no reason why other countries aren't equally represented."

Garcia, a Mexican-American and four-year member of LUNA, adds, "I would like to see more Latinos on staff. Any ethnic group should have a constant they can rely on. It's difficult to form a bond with [part time] faculty when they're always leaving. The inconsistency brings you down."

Garcia doesn't want to sound jaded, and he adds, "I'm not going to abandon the club—I'm still a member. No one [incoming Latino students] wants to be alone, and the club can fill that void."

On the horizon, there are plans for a Latino art exhibit in late April and early May. This coincides with Chicago's Latino Film Festival and usually takes place in the Hokin Gallery.

### Khleif

continued from page 1

scene of the world today, Khleif said. Arabic is spoken in mainly in the Middle East. It is also spoken in other parts of the world, such as Indonesia, parts of France and the United States.

"I use Arabic in Chicago every time I park my car because a large number of the parking lots are run by immigrants from Arabic-speaking countries."

Khleif, who holds a doctorate in sociology, has incorporated his life's travels and knowledge into his teaching. Besides Arabic, he speaks Hebrew and Dutch. Now he is learning Spanish.

Khleif, a Palestinian-American born in Nazareth, Israel, originally came to the United States to study. He earned a doctorate in sociology from the University of Colorado and a master's in Dramatic Arts from

Harvard University.

Khleif moved to Chicago in support of his wife after she received a career advancement and began teaching at Elmhurst College before he came to Columbia.

Khleif said he was amazed at the creativity, diversity and excitement that he has found at Columbia.

"It was a unique experience to start teaching at Columbia because it is an urban campus," he said. "Usually, in a traditional campus, the students are shielded from the world behind gates and fences, but at Columbia College, the 'real world' rubs shoulders with students everyday. Both the homeless and the corporations are just outside the door."

The thrill of teaching at Columbia stems from Khleif's faith in the artistic abilities of students. "I feel that artists have great intuition for social issues

and what is happening in society," he said. "Usually, they capture this in their creativity and put their finger on the pulse of what's happening. That's what makes Columbia College exciting—because of the large and varied artistic composition of the students."

The course will include the fundamentals of the Arabic language as well as an introduction of the history and fascinating culture, including Arabic music and literary works like "The Arabian Knights."

Khleif hopes that students will attend the class for the "love of labor" since the class is not offered for college credit. Students can learn a rich language and gain a broadening vision through this experience, he said.

The course in Arabic will begin Oct. 28, in the 624 S. Michigan building, room 904 on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.

Feel the love...

Read Mema's  
'Love Loft'  
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# The state of the parking

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All day	\$11.50
Early Bird	\$10.50
Evenings	\$5.50

### Harrison/Dearborn -Allright Parking

24 hrs.	
Morn. Special	\$6.00 plus city tax
After 10:00 a.m.	\$7.50 plus city tax

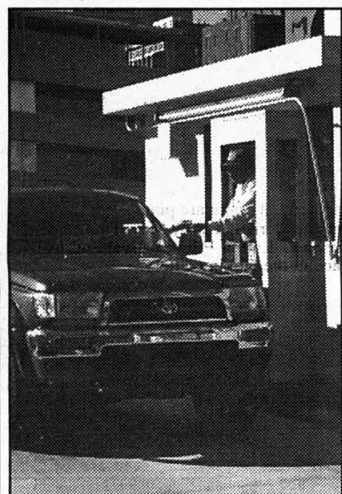
### Harrison/State

Early bird	\$5.50
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### Plymouth/Polk (next to the dorm)

Indoor, 24 hrs.	
Early bird	\$5.50
All day	\$5.70
After 12 noon	\$5.00
All day up to 12 hrs.	\$5.70
Overnight	\$10.00
After 12 noon special	\$5.00
Student Discount:	
Student w/ stamp	\$5.00
Night time after 4 p.m.	\$4.00

### Harrison/Wabash outdoor



Vincent Johnson/Chronicle

Morn. Special-in by 8:00 a.m.	\$5.70 plus city tax
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Weekends:	
Student Discount- after 6 p.m.	\$6.70
Regular rates:	
2 or less hours	\$5.00
2-5 hrs.	\$5.70
5-8 hrs.	\$7.00
8-12 hrs.	\$7.50
(OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT)	

### State/8th St.

Outdoor	
Mon.-Fri., in before 9:00 a.m.-	\$5.50

### Harrison/Wabash

Student rate:	
All day	\$7.00

### Harrison/State

Early bird	\$7.00
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### Wabash/Congress

#### -Loop Auto

1 hr.	\$4.50
1-2 hrs.	\$5.00
2-4 hrs.	\$5.50
4-6 hrs.	\$7.00
6-10 hrs.	\$7.50
10-12 hrs.	\$8.00

### Congress/Michigan

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Mon.-Sat.	\$6.00 plus city tax
enter 5 a.m.-11 a.m.	
Exit by 7 p.m.	

### Federal/Harrison

Indoor	
All day	\$5.70

### State/Polk

Outdoor	
All day	\$5.70

### 8th St./Wabash

Indoor	
1 hr.	\$6.00
2-3 hrs.	\$8.00
3-12 hrs.	\$15.00
12-24 hrs.	\$20.00
Early bird, in by 8 a.m.	
out by 5 p.m.	\$7.50

### 8th St./Wabash

Outdoor	
All day	\$5.50
Fri. & Sat. In after 9 a.m.	\$8.00

### 8th St./Michigan (Essex Inn Hotel)

Indoor	
24 hrs.	
Less than 1 hr.	\$5.50
1-2 hrs.	\$8.00
2-3 hrs.	\$9.50
3-4 hrs.	\$11.00
4-10 hrs.	\$12.50
10-24 hrs.	\$14.00

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Outdoor	
All day until 6 p.m.	\$5.50 plus city tax

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2-3 hrs.	\$13.00
3-4 hrs.	\$14.00
4-5 hrs.	\$15.00
5-6 hrs.	\$16.00
6-24 hrs.	\$19.00
Plus city tax	\$1.50

### Wabash/Balbo

Indoor	
1 hr.	\$5.00
1 1/2 hrs.	\$5.70
1 1/2-12 hrs.	\$7.50
12-24 hrs.	\$5.70
In by 9 a.m.	
out by 10 p.m.	\$5.70
Student discount:	
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--Compiled by Sheryl Tirol



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# When dating turns ugly: violence on campus

By Colleen De Baise  
College Press Service

Tamara Williams, a University of Michigan senior, tried to escape him.

As he lunged at her with a knife, she ran terrified from her campus apartment. He caught up with her on the patio and stabbed her at least 10 times, as horrified neighbors watched helplessly.

"Look what you made me do!" he screamed at Williams, neighbors later told police. "I've had enough of you! You drove me to this...we're going to burn in hell together."

"He" was Kevin Nelson, Williams' boyfriend who shared her apartment. Even as police officers arrived, he refused to stop furiously stabbing her. Police fatally shot Nelson, not a Michigan student; Williams, 20, later died in surgery.

The murder, which happened this September shortly after the start of classes at Michigan, shocked many who thought college campuses were safe havens from domestic violence. But while most students enjoy healthy dating relationships, a number of them—some studies suggest as many as one in four students—experience some type of relationship violence.

The abuse is best defined as "when one person tries to control another through multiple tactics," said Holly Rosen, director of the Michigan State University Safe House, the nation's only on-campus shelter for abused students. In many cases, the abuse is physical, such as pushing, shoving, hitting, slapping and biting.

"A lot of times people think of only black eyes," she said. But often, the abuse is sexual or emotional, too. Some victims tell Rosen they are made to do sexual things against their will; others say they have been called names and put down enough times they feel worthless.

Abusers are "people trying to manipulate someone else, or dominate someone else," said Steve Mueller, directing of counseling at University of Dayton. "In a college environment, people aren't reporting it as much [but] it's something that's happening in residence halls. It does happen."

In his 20 years of counseling students, Mueller says he's seen more emotional abuse than physical violence in college relationships, but battering is on the rise.

Mueller describes a typical case of relationship violence.

"Let's pick that sophomore young lady that has been in a relationship for 6 to 10 months. It's very important for that person to remain in the relationship," he said. "They're leaning on each other to the point where the

male manipulates or is verbally abusive, and the woman allows this because she doesn't want to lose the relationship."

In some cases, the abuser threatens suicide if the relationship ends. "They feel they have to manipulate the person into staying," Mueller said.

Often, the victim excuses the abuse as something brought on by academic stress that will end when exams are over. Other victims tell themselves, "I must not be a good partner in this relationship," according to Mueller.

"Sometimes it takes a scenario where they do get hit or screamed at—or it's a public argument, where one person says, I've got to get out of this," he said.

That's when many students seek out the college's counseling services. "A counselor can help you gain some practical ideas on how to get out of the relation-

## Abuse victims often put up with recurrent violence that escalates to the point where their lives are in danger.

ship," he said. "In cases of violent behavior, a counselor can help you get out of the situation and find a support system or options to help you be more safe."

Many universities run rape crisis centers, but few offer services for abused students. The Michigan State Safe Place, which opened its doors in 1994, is the only on-campus shelter for battered victims.

The MSU Safe Place operates as a 12-bed facility in an undisclosed location. Unlike a traditional shelter, Safe Place works to meet the needs of students, who often flee from abusers without their textbooks or even the thesis they are working on.

The shelter is equipped with computers, so "people can work on papers and research," Rosen said. "If they feel confident going to class, we've had volunteers walk people to class."

The goal of Safe Place is to provide immediate shelter for abuse victims. On average, five to eight people stay at the shelter. "We never tell women what to do," said Rosen. "We provide them with the resources, counseling and support."

Part of the counseling is to help victims find out why they put up with a controlling partner. In some cases, the

victim is a freshman involved in her first sexual relationship, who has a confused notion of what love is, Rosen said.

"That certainly can confuse the matter and make it more difficult to get out," she said.

Victims who are freshman most often are living away from home for the first time. "They want to be a success at living on their own. They're afraid to tell anyone. There's this big fear—they don't want the family to know," she said. "We try to encourage them to get support from the family if they can."

Abuse victims often put up with recurrent violence, such as slapping or hitting, that escalates to the point where their lives are in danger. In Williams' case, there were warning signs: two years earlier, Nelson had been convicted of domestic assault against her.

At the time, Williams wrote a letter to the judge, pleading for a harsher punishment. She wrote: "He has hit me many times before and once he even hit my infant daughter in his attempt to strike me. My main concern is that every time Kevin Nelson has been in trouble, he has only received a tap on the wrist."

Williams' 2-year-old daughter, Kiara, who is not Nelson's child, was asleep when her mother was attacked and stabbed to death. She now has been placed in the temporary custody of Williams' mother, Yvonne, according to university officials.

Students with children often seek shelter at the MSU Safe Place, Rosen said. Victims getting away from an abuser often "crash on a friend's couch for a few days, but it's harder to do that with kids," she said. "A lot of people are reassured that it's here."

Although recent cases have shed more light on relationship violence, Rosen said this is not a new problem on college campuses.

"I think it's always been there," she said. "What's different is we're talking about it and trying to get more resources for the victims."

Another mission of the MSU Safe House is to raise public awareness of relationship violence. Student volunteers distribute pamphlets to residence halls, sororities and fraternities, and a video advertising the shelter is shown at halftime at football games.

While MSU is still the only university to offer an on-campus shelter for abused students, "10 years from now, I bet a lot of them will," Rosen said.

At Michigan, a fund has been started to pay for the future college expenses of Williams' daughter, Kiara. The university announced that Williams, who had an interest in teaching, would be awarded her degree posthumously during commencement exercises this May.

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# Study: legalization of marijuana not factor in increased usage

By Colleen De Baise  
College Press Service

BERKELEY, Calif.—At coffee shops in the Netherlands, there's more than latte on the menu.  
For the past 20 years, Dutch laws have allowed the sale of marijuana at coffee shops, which often maintain inventories of up to 500 grams.  
That's radically different than the U.S. drug policy, which continues to forbid the sale or possession of marijuana.

A new study indicates that widespread availability of the drug at places such as coffee shops is linked to a steep rise in its use, especially among young adults. At the same time, the study suggests that getting rid of criminal penalties for smoking marijuana doesn't prompt more people to light up.

The study, appearing in the Oct. 3 issue of *Science*, compares the Netherlands, which relaxed enforcement of marijuana laws in 1976, with the U.S. and other nations.

"For years we've heard arguments for and against drug legalization," said Robert MacCoun, a professor at the University of California at Berkeley. "There are lots of claims about the effects of the liberal Dutch cannabis policy, but the two sides disagree completely on what actually happened there."

He and co-author Peter Reuter, a University of Maryland professor, found that Dutch rates of marijuana use are even with the United States, despite radically different drug policies.

But that masks two important trends in the Netherlands, the authors say. Marijuana use remained well below U.S. levels for years after marijuana laws eased up, but rose sharply when the drug became

broadly available at coffee shops in the '80s.

According to Dutch law, marijuana or cannabis is illegal. But in 1976 the Dutch adopted a policy of non-enforcement for possession or sale of up to 30 grams of cannabis, which is more than most marijuana users consume in an entire month.

The Dutch also allowed sales at coffee shops, which can stock as much as 500 grams. During the early years, the shops were scarce and kept a low-profile—indicating, the authors say, that the initial "depenalization era" had little effect on levels of use.

But in the 1980s, coffee shops grew in number—by at least tenfold in Amsterdam, for instance—and became more accessible.

"You now find them in the central business districts, right next to bakeries and department stores," said MacCoun. "They do sell coffee, but if you ask, they'll show you a menu with samples of hash and different strains of marijuana."

Customers most often are young adults, including tourists, and prices are similar to the United States. The overall effect, said Reuter, "was to make cannabis readily available at minimal legal risk to interested Dutch adults."

During this time, the report found that marijuana use increased "consistently and sharply." Among 18 year olds, those who admitted having used the drug climbed from 15 percent in 1984 to 44 percent in 1996.

While use in the United States and other nations has climbed sharply in the last four years, the jump in Dutch sales from 1984 to 1992 occurred in an era of flat or declining use elsewhere. This, said Reuter, seems to implicate the coffee shops as culprits in the increase.

"It is striking that the expansion of the coffee shops was followed by a growth in use," he said.

The authors caution, however, that the upward trend may reverse itself. The Dutch recently reduced the possession limit from 30 grams to 5 grams and began aggressively enforcing rules against promotion, closing the most problematic coffee shops.

Though the steep increase in use among the Dutch raises troubling questions about legalization, other aspects of the Dutch experience look promising.

"During the depenalization era, the Dutch stopped punishing low-level marijuana transactions without any detectable

increase in use, much like the experience in states that decriminalized marijuana possession during the 1970s," MacCoun said. "So depenalizing drugs and allowing legal commercial sales should be considered two very different interventions."

The Dutch adopted their tolerant policy in part to separate the soft and hard drug markets, theorizing that this might weaken the so-called "gateway" link—the concept that marijuana users are more likely than non-users to move on to hard drugs.

This study suggests the Dutch may have had some success in this regard. The probability of trying cocaine among marijuana users is 22 percent in Amsterdam, but 33 percent in the United States.

## Supreme Court Rejects Prayer At Graduation Case

By College Press Service

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court has refused to hear a challenge to Indiana University's tradition of including prayers at graduation ceremonies.

Indiana law professor James Tanford and student Joseph Urbanski had appealed to the high court, arguing that prayers violate the constitutional separation of church and state.

The two had sued the university in 1995 but a federal judge and an appeals court upheld the university's practice of having a clergy member offer non-denominational prayers.

"The university's practice...has prevailed for 155 years and is widespread throughout the nation. Rather than being in violation of the [Constitution]

it is simply a tolerable acknowledgment of beliefs widely held among the people of this country," the appeals court ruled.

A 1992 Supreme Court decision banned clergy members from offering prayers at public grade schools or high schools. But in the Indiana case, the appeals court made a distinction between college graduates and younger, more impressionable students.

Tanford, who is Catholic, had argued that non-denominational prayers trivialize religion; Urbanski is an atheist.

The Supreme Court announced its docket for its upcoming session on Oct. 6. The Court rarely gives a reason for its denials and rejected the petition without comment.

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I can't believe it—there's a hottie in one of my classes!

Wait a minute...maybe I shouldn't get too excited. Just because after all these years at Columbia, I finally found an attractive, intelligent and straight (I think) guy in one of my classes doesn't mean that I'll get him. It doesn't mean that he'll ever notice me, let alone ask me out.

Uh-oh. Could this be another crush? I hope not. He's cute and all, but I don't even know him yet. I just know his first name—not quite enough to develop another wedding fantasy.

These wedding fantasies are fun, pretty unfulfilling in the end, but at the time they seem well worth the brain power it takes to plan a wedding.

I touched on this last week, but let me further explain the wedding fantasy see a guy I like (the flavor of the week, if you will), put him in a tux and stick him in front of the altar.

Just to make things easier, why don't we just say that this week's flavor is Grant Hill. I've been to this wedding so many times in my head, I'm thinking of sending out invitations.

Come with me now, let's go to my wedding so you can see what a sick, sick woman I am.

It's the second Saturday of June 1999. A hot, sunny afternoon, not too humid. Chicago is actually having summer in June and everyone is really excited, especially my mom because this is the one she hand-picked (she really did tell me a few years ago that she wanted Grant Hill to be her son-in-law).

All of our friends are families are there, smiling. The wedding is supposed to start at 1 o'clock, but it's a black thing so nobody gets there until about a quarter of two. The pastor didn't even show up until 1:30. Not that I was

anywhere near ready at one. I was staring at Grant out of my old bedroom window thinking about how lucky I am to have found this wonderful, tall, employed black man who treats me like the queen that I am.

As I'm sitting there in my underwear, hoping no one looks up at my window, when my mom, grandma, sisters and two of my aunts come through the door fussing at me for not being ready yet. I try to argue that they only got dressed 10 minutes ago and that I had to wait in line behind them for the shower on my wedding day. I'm telling them that I had to do my hair and make-up in dimly lit bedroom because they were all hogging the bathroom mirrors, but they don't hear me. My mom starts pulling the gown that she made for me over my head, then zips it up. They all look at me and tears begin to well up in their eyes. I look in the full length mirror that hangs on the back of the closet door. It really is a beautiful gown. Mom finished it two days. It's white (shut up!) satin, sleeveless, it's low-cut. Normally, I'd be concerned, but Mom built some sort of a boob-lift into it. I don't ask any questions about how she did that, I'm just happy that I don't have to look like a 12-year-old boy today.

As I slip into my shoes, not a big heel—I don't need high heels in that dress—my bridesmaids come knocking at the door. They look ridiculous. These are my closest friends and my sisters, and I picked out the ugliest bridesmaids dresses I could find for them. They'll never be able to wear those dresses again—for what occasion do you wear a gold lame minidress?

I try not to laugh at them, mostly because they're telling me how beautiful I look. I feel bad. I only made them wear those ugly dresses because I didn't want any attention drawn away from me on my wedding day.

My mom is trying not to cry, but she only makes things worse when she does that, so my Aunt Dot starts moving everyone downstairs so we can get this thing started before my mother's mascara starts running.

My dad's in the kitchen waiting for us, he smiles and kisses my forehead. He says something cheesy and I just turn my head to roll my eyes, but I look out the kitchen window and see Grant chatting with one of the groomsmen. Grant looks nervous—but happy.

My grandma is doing her last minute fix-ups, making sure I look perfect by touching my hair and gown until they're just the way she wants them. My sister hands her my tiara (yes, there is a tiara. My daddy always told me I

was a princess. If you don't like it, you don't have to come to my weddings anymore!) and I bend my knees and tilt my head so she can secure it onto my head.

They all kiss me and head for the backdoor. Dad's still there, he's saying something, but I'm looking out of the window again and I see the groomsmen walking back towards the house to lead the bridesmaids down the aisle.

My Aunt Dot/wedding coordinator (she designates herself coordinator at every family wedding) yells "We're starting! Are you ready?"

I scream back, "I'm ready! Let's do this before he has a chance to change his mind!" I hear laughter coming from the backyard—maybe I said that too loud.

But before I even have a chance to be embarrassed, Luther Vandross is singing "Love Won't Let Me Wait" (not in person). The bridesmaids and groomsmen are making their way down the aisle and onto their respective sides of the altar.

Dad and I are descend the back stairs behind my best friend and the best man and make our way to the gate, arm-in-arm. Now I'm nervous.

What if this guy is really a jerk? What if once the season starts, I never see him again? What if I hate Detroit? Wait a minute...I already hate Detroit! What am I doing? Am I nuts?? This guy is a big-time NBA star who everybody loves, I'm a small-time reporter with a bad attitude, it'll never work! I have to call this off. He's too tall for me anyway. What made me think that I could go through with this?

I'm thinking all of this as Dad and I enter the yard, but I happen to look up at Grant. He smiles and I know that everything will be all right because he's tall, black, employed and he loves me.

This is how the fantasy works. I can plug in any guy, but everything else stays the same and it's wonderful every time. Many times tears of joy well up in my eyes and fall shamelessly (I always cry at weddings—even made-up ones).

And yes, this was just another excuse for me to use Grant Hill's name in my column again, but I haven't done it in a while, so cut me some slack!

If I got letters, you wouldn't have to read about the crazy things that go on in my head.

Oh, a quick message to the hottie: Relax, I haven't planned a wedding for us—yet. I'll have to know your last name before you're invited to play the groom in my fantasy.

## Columbia grad features the "Peanuts" gang all grown up

Sheryl Tirol  
Staff Writer

The Peanuts gang is all grown up—and they're not happy.

"You're a Sick Man, Charlie Brown," a short play in three acts, written and directed by John Biederman, former editor-in-chief of The Chronicle.

Biederman and the gang, collectively known as the Kinky Dophins performed at the Bop Shop, 1146 S. Wabash Ave., Oct. 11.

The cast included Biederman as Charlie Brown, unlucky in love and desperate to hook-up with "the black-haired girl," Columbia student Michelle Rice as Lucy, now an actress who is waiting tables to make ends meet; "Shaggy" as Linus, still sucking his thumb and toting that security blanket, but now a therapist; and "Shaggy" as the narrator.

This performance was a rendition of the famous comic strip "Peanuts" gang, with a "masterpiece theatre" theme as its backdrop.

Biederman has always had a love for the Peanuts gang, but was inspired to write this piece after a summer fling gone all wrong.

"I had written this piece a year ago when I was dumped from a summer fling. Immediately I thought of Charlie Brown! I wanted the girl to see it but she was out of town," he said.

The Bop Shop drew in a large crowd that evening and everyone that attended enjoyed the performance. "Shaggy," who played the masterpiece theater-like narrator said he tried to add a touch of color to his character.

"If only they knew how much hard work and pain went into this production....they would be bored," joked Shaggy.

This was the first time the piece was performed at the Bop Shop, although it was done previously at another club.

"It was crazy because the first time we did it I couldn't find a girl to play Lucy at such short notice, that a guy played the part," Biederman said.

Biederman, who is a performance poet said the Chicago Comedy Works is planning a regional tour, featuring several comedy acts.

Biederman also said he'd like to make "You're a Sick Man Charlie Brown," into a full length play soon.

The Chronicle welcomes your comments.  
Send them to us!

The Chronicle  
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## Editorials

### ROCCS a good addition to Columbia

Columbia students will make their first attempt at student representation. As reported by Tanisha Allen on page 1, the creation of a task force whose goal is to set up a student representative body, ROCCS, could prove to be an excellent addition to Columbia.

The plan can be beneficial to both the school and students. Students will have a forum to express their ideas and the administration should get a better understanding of what students want.

To date, ROCCS has done a good job of explaining what they are. Through flyers and an interview in the Chronicle, most students have at least heard the name ROCCS.

A key element to make student representation successful is information. During its first year in operation the burden on the organization will be to inform students of the importance of its role.

College is supposed to teach students about the real world. Perhaps representation may encourage students to be more civic-minded.

However, the question of whether a student representative body will work at a commuter school like Columbia still stands. Hopefully administration and the organization will stay patient during the critical first year.

*The Chronicle* hopes for the ROCCS' success.



### Stuff From Staff

by Rob England

### The Bursar's Office -- sophisticated thieves

When I was a child, my grandfather taught me many important lessons that have helped me throughout my life. How to change the oil in my car, how to cheer for any football team playing against Notre Dame and how to treat a woman (I'm still learning about this one). Of all his teachings, the one lesson I use more than any other living in the big city is how to spot pickpockets.

The main thing he warned me about were the simple distractions that were everyday occurrences in life, and how they could be dangerous. Lurking in the shadows could be one or more people looking to rob you blind. Sometimes they worked in teams, one catching your attention, the other grabbing your wallet. But the sneakier thieves waited for a distracting event to take place naturally, then lunged for the goods.

There is such a group of sneaky thieves right under our noses here at Columbia. No they are not a group of students hiding behind corners waiting for just the right moment, instead they are Columbia employees, better known as the Bursar's Office.

Known in the past for their Tom Cruise-like "show me the money" phone calls harassing students that are behind in tuition payments, the bursars have sophisticated their ways of late. They have progressed from overly ambitious collectors of funds, to subtle thieves, stealing hard earned money from those who need it most—the students.

An example of this is their policy towards in-house scholarships. In-house scholarships are those given to students from within the school, be it from Columbia as a whole, or from an individual department. They are awarded to students based on their academic achievements and sometimes some masterful butt kissing.

But the Bursar's Office views in-house scholarships as a form of financial aid. Granted, scholarships do aid a student's finances, but they are awarded for different reasons. Financial aid is awarded on financial need, something that is not supposed to be considered when awarding scholarships.

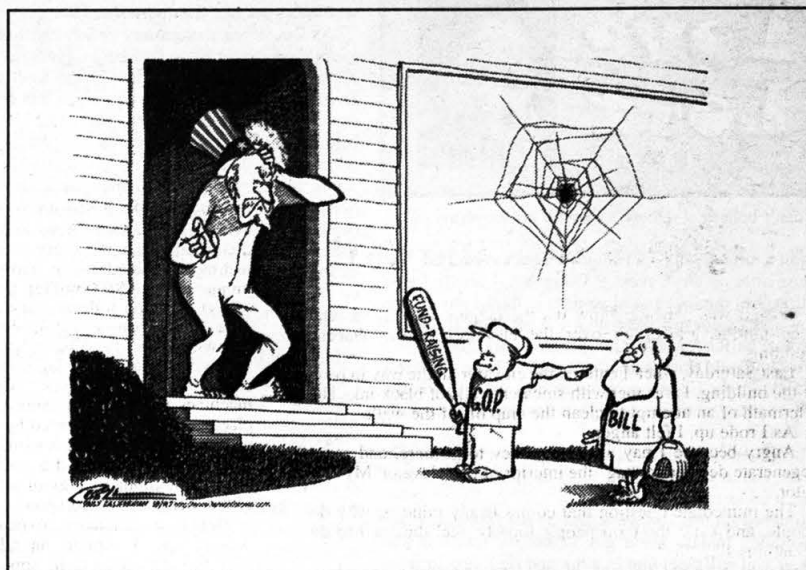
The reason this is a problem involves the Bursar's generous five percent discount for those students who pay their tuition in one lump sum by a certain date. Students who receive financial aid are not eligible for this discount, probably because the school feels they are helping these students out already. And since scholarship are seen to be the same as financial aid, scholarship students miss out as well. So what amounts to over a \$200 discount for the normal 12 to 16 credit schedule is lost per semester over a technicality. The amount increases for students with 17 or more credits.

The journalism department, for example, awarded approximately 20 Fischetti scholarships for outstanding journalism students this fall, each ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 for the year. Thanks to the Bursar's Office, these scholarships are actually worth only \$100 to \$1,600.

The possible amount of money the bursars could be amassing are astounding. If Columbia's twenty-or-so departments each give out the same number of scholarships as the J-department, that comes to 400 in-house scholarships. At \$200 or more per scholarship lost in the absence of the five percent discount, the total sum the bursar's office could rake in is over \$80,000 each semester, all of which comes directly from the students' pockets.

So when the student is celebrating the good news of a scholarship, the bursar is sneaking up and taking a significant chunk of that money. It happened so fast it probably wasn't even noticed. Quick and sneaky, say hello to the new and improved staff of the Bursar's Office.

## Editorial Cartoon of the week



## Letters to the editor

### Sack Sara

Dear Chronicle People,

I have but one question for this paper, but to lead up to this question I would state something first. I have been going to Columbia for the past 2 1/2 years and never have I felt any dislike towards any part or parts of the Chronicle. But now there is one section that absolutely drives me crazy. So this leads to my question. Where the hell did you dig up SARA ON SPORTS? For the past couple of weeks her column has just made me say WHAT? I mean her views are about the same as somebody on acid. Now I am not saying I could do a better column than Sara, but hell if she stopped and thought for 5 minutes before she decided to write on a subject, she would know how or what to say and what not to say. To make this no more longer than it need be, I'll say Sara needs help on her sports views. But hey what the hell do I know, I spend an insane amount of money to go here.

Thank You,

*A mentally disturbed individual and I hope the Bears go 0-16. It would be the best thing for this town.*

### Reward part time faculty

Editor of the Columbia Chronicle:

I fully support the push for P-FAC to unionize and join the Illinois Education Association. Columbia's administration takes complete advantage of these people and their services. These instructors take time out of their schedules to teach us the secrets of their careers and they are not even compensated. They are unable to get health insurance and are paid very low wages per hour. One of the "perks" of the job is that they get to take a 3 credit hour course for free. That is great, but a free class does not put food on the table or pay for the doctor's fees. If a class is canceled without a decent amount of notice, these instructors waste their time and receive no compensation whatsoever.

Unfortunately, if things do not get better and P-FAC is not successful in unionizing, we may lose some of these part time teachers as well as the reason many students come to Columbia College—the knowledge of professionals who are willing to share it. Please take care of our part timers, they are an essential link in our future.

J. Chambers

Junior

Journalism/ Public Relations

## What the hell's wrong with sweetshops?

By Wilfred Brandt

Correspondent

Am I the only sane one left here? I know that it's the health conscious nineties and I know that it's all, like, cool to be healthy and stuff, but every time I turn on the news the feds are cracking down on another sweetshop. Why's everybody afraid of a little sugar now and then, it never killed anybody... well, aside from Mama Cass, but except for "California Dreaming" the Mamas and the Papas kinda sucked. But that's beside the point. Can someone please explain to me why it's illegal to be running a sweetshop?

I remember when I was a little boy, my mother used to take me to the sweetshop when I was good for candy. I liked to be good and I liked to get candy. I would stare for hours at the brightly wrapped candies sitting inside the glass case before I picked out my treat. I never saw any kids working behind the counter. Some people get mad when they find out that kids work in sweetshops, but I woulda loved to work in the one I used to visit. A nice sweetshop job would beat the hell out of my old paper route. Apparently the little tykes that work in these places don't get paid too great neither. At least these kids get to work together and have some free candy. My paper route didn't pay diddy shit, and all I got for free was a handful of ink after every-day's deliveries. But, you never heard me bitchin'.

Plus, I don't see why everyone thinks sweetshops are run down and dirty. I don't think I've ever been in one that didn't have snotty employees and play classical music. Tom Brokaw thinks most of them have poor working conditions. He seemed shocked and saddened when he found out that

Kathy Lee was running one. I hate it when Tom Brokaw gets shocked and saddened.

I for one was glad to hear that Kathy Lee was running a sweetshop. I mean, she's gotta be making money somehow and to be honest, nobody I know likes that show she's on with Regis. I thought to myself, "Maybe if this sweets thing takes off, she'll quit that annoying show. Maybe she could even open a sweetshop on her Sunset Cruise boat and sail off to sea, never to be heard from again." But nope, once the news hit that she was running a sweetshop, she shut it down faster than you can say "raspberry strudel." And on top of that, she made a big public announcement that she was gonna campaign against all these other sweetshops. What's the matter Kathy, can't handle a little competition?

Furthermore, people get an even bigger bee in their bonnet when they find out someone has a sweetshop overseas. Now I spent a month as a foreign exchange student in Costa Rica, and lemme tell you, I was hard pressed to find a Snickers bar, let alone a decent pastry shop. Who says third world countries don't have a right to their fair share of sweets? Why should we be the only grossly overweight nation in the world?

About a week ago, I was walking up along the Miracle Mile to see a film at Water Tower. In front of the big Nike store I passed by a big group of protestors who were upset about the sneaker company owning a sweetshop. This was when I'd finally had enough. I'm not a big advocate of eating and jogging, but why can't a big multinational indulge its sweet tooth every now and then? I walked right past the picketers, into the Nike store and ordered myself up a raspberry swirl strudel. Boy. Sinning never tasted so good.





**Robert Stevenson**

## Taggers tick me off!

First it was the bugs, now it's the taggers. The idiots who keep putting graffiti all over the elevators in the Wabash Building.

Last Saturday, when I entered the elevator all the way in back of the building, I was met with smeared walls of black ink. The aftermath of an attempt to clean the crap off of the walls.

As I rode up, I felt anger.

Angry because I pay a lot of money to go here, and some degenerate decided to "tag" the interior of this elevator. My elevator.

The immediate question that comes to my mind is, why do people, and I use the term people loosely, feel the need to do something like this?

This is a liberal arts school. Anyone can easily get into a drawing class, or find a pad of paper to sketch on.

Is "tagging" like a dog marking his territory?

I don't think so. Dogs mark their territory because of a biological need to do so. Morons tag Columbia elevators because they are just that, morons.

You have to wonder why anyone would feel the absolute need to take a marker and scribble things all over the elevators that no one can comprehend.

To me, and many, many others, it looks like a three-year-old trying to color something. Wait, I take that back. A three-year-old would not write all over the walls, plus I'd know what a three-year-old was trying to draw or write.

How would you feel if someone entered your house and decided to write uncomprehensible things all over your walls. I bet you wouldn't be a happy camper.

Now I feel really awkward, I'm feeling loyalty to the school. My god, I'm upset over something that was done to my school. I have never felt like this here, about this place.

Maybe after three years this place is growing on me. A sense of loyalty to Columbia!

I need a therapist.

After going to the Welcome Back Jam last Friday for *The Chronicle*, I was surprised at how diverse a place this is. People of all backgrounds were there. Enjoying themselves. Peacefully. This seemed to me a big contrast between the morons who were tagging the elevator and the group assembled to "jam" at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

I guess this is one of the beauties of an open admissions college, people from both ends of the spectrum in one confined space.

How can the school control these morons, the taggers?

I guess an electrically charged elevator wouldn't work because electricity doesn't discriminate between normal Columbia students (there's a joke somewhere in that phrase) and the moron taggers.

I guess what we can do is keep an eye out for people who do this kind of thing. When you do see it, report it. At least the security can try to do something about it, I'm not sure what, but they can fill out some paper work.

I know what could remedy the situation! Elevator operators! Go back to the old days. When a person in a uniform with white gloves would press the buttons and "drive" the elevators all day. This would mean no one would have "alone time" in an elevator. Thus, no morons could tag the cars.

Or Columbia could put security cameras in each of the elevators. An ever present, non-intrusive eye into what's actually happening in the elevators. A camera in each car, with monitors at the security desk so the guards could see what's going on.

I suppose that's too expensive for the school to do, that sounds like an administrative response, but it would be nice to be able to ride in clean, scary elevators.

I suppose the tagger won't even read this, but, if they do, they should write me and tell me why they destroy property?

E-mail me with any ideas you may have on how to remedy this tagging at [Chron96@interaccess.com](mailto:Chron96@interaccess.com).

**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](mailto: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>**

## COOL JOE CAMEL'S SMOKING GUN

By Lynne Snyder  
Correspondent

The Federal Trade Commission has recently taken steps to ban the Joe Camel cartoon figures that the R.J. Reynolds tobacco company created in 1974. After some preliminary research, the FTC has determined the company illegally targets minors through the Camel campaign.

Part of their research shows results from studies released in 1991 that found Joe Camel to be as recognizable to preschoolers as Mickey Mouse and that Camels are 10 times more popular among teen-agers than adults. In addition, illegal sales to minors reached \$500 million that year.

FTC's action follows a settlement between the tobacco companies and Congress—a settlement that will protect the tobacco companies from costly lawsuits seeking damages from those suffering smoke-related illnesses. Cigarette vending machines will soon be banned from those public places which are frequented by minors. Merchants who sell tobacco products to minors are being punished more severely and a crackdown on outdoor advertising in the vicinity of schools are just some of the measures agreed upon.

Being a staunch advocate of the First Amendment, I support an advertiser's right to advertise its products in appealing and creative ways without censorship. I value my right as a consumer to pick and choose which products and services I enjoy. Making my own decisions is one of many freedoms as a free thinker of society. I don't want or need anyone, whether it's a grass roots advocacy group or governmental entity, in the business of censorship. Making decisions based on my individual set of values is what helps me to remain a free thinker.

So, to hell with the FTC and its unproven theories about Joe Camel's "Smooth Character" campaign which they claim to have contributed to the increased smoking of teenagers. It's just a cartoon character. It's just clever advertising. They won't find a smoking gun in that campaign.

Or, will they?

Kirk Davidson of Marketing News discussed marketing ethics in general in his September 1 column and said, "The other problem is that the marketplace is basically amoral. It does not consider ethical issues."

I never really considered ethics in the media until the advent of Beavis and Butt-head. I've never found them funny or even the least bit entertaining, but rather imbecilic, unintelligent and poor excuses of fictional characters who set bad examples for the younger generation. However, I don't believe in censoring or banning them from television. I simply don't watch them and would, as a parent, make every effort to conceal them from my children.

Media is ubiquitous these days. Because they play such a large role in our lives today and exert so much influence on all generations, especially the younger one, they need to step up to the plate and demonstrate ethics and social responsibility.

Advertisers, movie makers, television producers, journalists, marketers and other media should have the right to produce and sell what they think society wants and demands, but they also need to consider the moral issues surrounding the approaches taken to fulfill those wants and demands.

Call me sanctimonious and moralistic, but I believe our society has a responsibility to protect the young people from those things that can harm or destroy their physical or mental well-being.

Tobacco companies have made billions of dollars because so many consumers bought their product. I'm not suggesting cigarettes to be banned from the marketplace, or that they should cease all advertising. But I do believe that Congress is on the right track with the recent settlement and I do support the FTC's effort in banning Joe Camel.

FOR THE RECORD...

Speaking of ethics, Seagram Americas has begun to add six-second messages to the beginning of all its television ads urging people to drink responsibly. Until recently, broadcast networks haven't accepted liquor ads, but Seagrams hopes these "responsible drinking" spots will make them more appealing to TV stations.

## Other points of views

### Black women are society's unsung heroes

By Boyce Watkins  
Kentucky Kernel

I'm confused. The Million Woman March, to be held Oct. 25 in Philadelphia, is destined to be one of the most important events in our nation's history. However, its significance has been trivialized by much of the American population, even by black men.

There is no lower position on the socio-economic totem pole than that of being both black and female. Racism and sexism individually are enough to drive anyone crazy. Having them both attack you at all times can be devastating.

However, it appears that the immense psychological pressure that black women face from the time they are born clearly results in their being the most spiritually, mentally and emotionally powerful group of people our nation has ever seen.

Most black families stay together because of the strength of a black woman in the household. Her spirit tends to guide, warm and strengthen the family, similar to some sort of electrical power source that continues to burn, even on the coldest nights.

I have always been amazed by the strength of black women. Everything I am or will become is owed to the black women in my life, particularly my mother and grandmother.

My father left my mother the day he found out she was pregnant. She was only 17, and we lived together in the projects. Even during those times, when it was nothing to flick a roach off my sandwich and keep on eating, or when the lights, gas and water were never working at the same time, she still provided a home of love and care that any, middle-class, two-parent, two-and-a-half child family would envy.

In spite of an unbeknownst iron deficiency which made her weak, she worked two full-time jobs and went to college. When she found out about the deficiency some 10 years later, the doctor said: "I don't even see how you were able to walk around!"

She taught me perseverance, courage and the value of hard work.

Most importantly, she taught me that being black means you have to be twice as good at everything you do.

I am sure that nearly every black person in America can think of some black woman who has had a significant impact on their life. That is why I am puzzled by the lack of attention that black men and others are paying to the Million Woman March.

The fact is that women's issues should be important to all of us, primarily because there is usually an important woman in our circle of influence. Every victim of rape, breast cancer or sexual harassment is usually someone's mother, sister or daughter.

Also, for African-Americans, issues such as unity, education and economic improvement affect us all. Why are we not willing to listen when the speaker is not a man? Don't you understand that during times of struggle, black women have always been among the bravest soldiers of all?

During a month-long campus protest held when a black student was attacked a year ago, Doris Wilkerson, Nikki Finney, and Kelly Ellis were the only black faculty who were not afraid to stand up and face the administration.

They knew the administration's response (or lack thereof) to the attack was inappropriate and were not afraid to say so.

To be quite honest, I saw only cowardice and convenient excuses from the other black faculty with whom I discussed the issue.

When we were picketing the attack on a cold, windy, rainy day, only four people, all black women, showed up to stand with me; everyone else thought it was too cold.

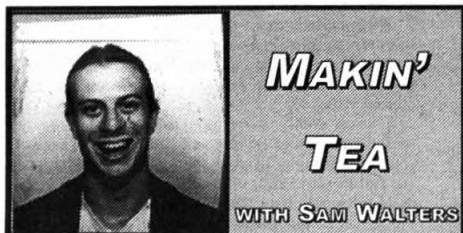
The black community's need to always have male leaders, whether in the church or elsewhere, has led us to overlook and underutilize the strength and spiritual power that black women collectively possess.

I would imagine that a Martha Luther King or a Louise Farrakhan could have been as great as the male leaders we cherish so much. The problem is that our closed-mindedness may keep them from ever getting the chance.

So, when I watch the march, I will see my mother, my grandmother and the women who stood with me in the rain.

These are my heroes, and it's about time we recognized them as such.

**Next week, Senior Writer Leon Tripplett goes to the City of Brotherly Love to cover the Million Woman March.**



## A VERY SPECIAL GUEST

I know I've said some unfortunate things, some paranoid, irresponsibly speculative and possibly even slanderous things about today's guest in the past. But those things belie what a genuinely talented, awe inspiring entity he/she/it really is. Ladies and gentlemen, we have a very special guest with us today—indeed, he's the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please put your hands together and give a warm welcome to the Big Cheese, the Mac Daddy, the Daddy Mac... **God!**

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...**

God, I am just the biggest fan of your work. I mean Genesis, the Ten Commandments, Revelations—that is some stuff!

**WELL THANK YOU SAM.**  
I've got all your books.

**OH REALLY? THE**

**KORAN? THE TORAH?**  
Um no, I must have some of your other, newer ones.

**PERHAPS THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS—THEY'RE NEWLY PUBLISHED.**

No, no, the ones I'm thinking of had big type and lots of pictures.

**BUDDHISM FOR THE**

**COMPLETE KLUTZ!**

You wrote that?!

**GHOST WROTE IT!**

Nope that's not it.

**WELL, CLEARLY YOU'VE READ THE BIBLE.**

Yes.....clearly.

**HMM...**

And incidentally I've got some Bibles with me today and I was wondering, if it wouldn't be too much trouble, if you could just autograph a few of them... I've got cousins you see.

**RIIGGGHT... (scribbling) SAY, YOU WOULDN'T BE LOOKING TO TRY AND HAWK THESE WOULD YOU SAM?**

Ha, ha, ha, all seeing, all knowing! It's true what they say about you. Which brings us neatly to today's first topic: God, do you know the future?

**I'M OMNIPOTENT; THAT'S PRETTY ALL-INCLUSIVE.**

So you must know in advance what sins we're going to commit, and whether or not we're going to go to Heaven or Hell.

**WELL HONESTLY, I HADN'T**

**REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT MUCH.**

**BUT THAT SOUNDS RIGHT...**

**SOUNDS RIG-GOD!** We're talking about predestination here! We're talking about Judgement as a heinous cosmic sham! An evil, cruel, pointless scheme in which you Sir are seriously implicated!

**NOT NECESSARILY.**

Oh?!

**NO. YOU SEE SAM, JUST BECAUSE I COULD KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, DOESN'T MEAN I'M PAYING ATTENTION.**

Uh...

**I'M A BUSY MAN! I JUST OPENED A Denny's.**

You what?

**A Denny's. I FIGURED CREATION WAS SUCH A SUCCESS I'D TRY MY HAND AT RESTAURANTING. ANYWAY, AS A RESULT MY TIME HAS BEEN SEVERELY CUT INTO.**

A Denny's...

**YES, I JUST BOUGHT A FRANCHISE. AFTER A FEW AEONS, EVEN CREATION GETS DULL. YOU NEED NEW CHALLENGES TO STAY SHARP, TO KEEP YOU MOTIVATED.**

So, because you haven't been...paying attention...to what's been going on in the universe, the worst you can be accused of is gross managerial incompetence.

**UHHUHI CAN'T RECALL, I HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF, ETC.**

—and not direct complicity in this terrible scandal, this sadistic farce that is the rigged game of life?

**YES, THAT'S CORRECT, BUT AWFULLY LONG WINDED. YOU NEED TO WORK ON YOUR SEN-**

**TENCES.**

O.K., bu-

**AND THIS LONG DIATRIBE, IT'S GOOD BUT ABRUPT. SMOOTH OUT YOUR TRANSITIONS.**

Uh-

**AND DON'T USE WORDS LIKE "DIATRIBE!"**

Yeah, yeah, sure! But back to my original point...what was my original point...dammit, I've completely lost my train of thought!

**"SADISTIC FARCE", "RIGGED GAME OF LIFE..."**

Ooh, right! Uh, don't you think you've got your priorities a little screwed up, splitting your time between the cosmos...and a burger joint? I mean, with all due respect...

**NO, I DON'T. I'M GOD, I SET THE PRIORITIES. YOU PEOPLE ARE JUST SELF-IMPORTANT.**

Oh.

**QUITE FRANKLY, THERE'S A COUPLE PEBBLES ON A ROCK OFF PLUTO THAT ARE OF MORE CONCERN TO ME.**

Wow..... well that's all we've got space for today. I want to thank God for stopping by and chatting with us.

**THANKS FOR HAVING ME SAM, IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.**

Just one more question before you go—a little personal uncertainty I hope you won't mind settling for me. God...are you trying to get me?

**HA, HA, HA, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE SAM, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.**

## John Denver, I hate to see you go

By Alan Bjerga  
Minnesota Daily

Almost heaven, West Virginia Blue ridge mountains, Shenandoah River...

The new guy thought he was seeing a mountain haze through his round wire-framed glasses, but it was only the Pearly Gates. A kind-looking man wearing tie-dyed raiment — a man of flowing hair and beard — approached him.

"Welcome home," he said.

"What happened? I remember a steep descent."

"Your plane went down. You're with us now."

The man extended his hand. "You might remember me. I'm Jerry."

The man looked familiar. Jerry. Garcia! But...

And that's when he remembered. The plane crash. He wasn't sure why it happened, or even why he was flying. But he knew he wasn't in Aspen anymore, and already he felt so lonesome he could cry.

Jerry gently took his companion's hand. "I'll give you a tour," he said as he they walked upon the clouds. "We have plenty of musicians here, and we divide them into support groups. You're with Buddy Holly, Patsy Cline, Jim Croce and the rest of the plane crash group. It's one of the larger ones."

"So there really is a rock 'n' roll heaven?" asked the new arrival, gingerly acclimating himself to his new surroundings.

"There has to be. We're too loud for everyone else. And almost everyone wants to take guitar lessons from Jimi, so we keep them together."

They continued walking. "Who's the guy sulking by that harp?"

"Oh, Kurt? Man, he doesn't talk to anybody but Del Shannon," Jerry said. "He's been here since 1994."

"And the guy in black — is that Jim Morrison?"

"Yeah — poor Jim. He's hardly had any rest since he came here. Kids always summon his spirit on ouija boards."

"That's tough."

"That's the afterlife — he'll be the Lizard King forever. But most folks are happy. All the black leather Jim wants, plenty of peanut-butter-and-banana sandwiches for Elvis, ham sandwiches for Mama Cass that go down easy..."

"So things are a lot like Earth."

"To a point — we have to be ourselves, you know. The only difference is no drugs or alcohol. The Big Bandleader says we have to be clean — washed in the blood of the lamb," she says. It's some far-out stuff."

Lambs. The new arrival wondered if his new home would be a pastoral place, full of the clean air he prized and fought for as an environmental activist. Looking ahead, he saw a grand palace, surrounded by the most

beautiful landscape he'd seen since his last gaze at the starwood of Aspen.

"Is that the Big Bandleader over there?" he asked.

"Yeah — and she looks nothing like George Burns."

And so heaven's newest resident kept walking with Jerry, full of poems, prayers and promises, hearing a gentle swish with each stride. He looked down. He grew alarmed.

"Hey Jerry — why am I wearing bell bottoms? And what's with these glasses? I got rid of these in 1983."

"I n rock 'n' roll heav-en you're always at y o u r p e a k," Jerry said. "Y o u peaked in the mid-70s."



"I know," the new guy muttered, thinking of the days before the comedians lampooned him, before the self-parodying Grape Nuts commercials — before the drunk driving arrests.

Jerry kept walking. "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "Thank God I'm a Country Boy," — great songs. People needed that. Lots of songs out there are awfully cynical. You were different."

"But the songs went out of style," the arrival replied. "People thought I was saccharine. Too cheerful. And the culture passed me by. It really got me down, especially near the end."

Jerry paused. "I'm sorry you feel that way," he said. "But you should know that the songs had an effect. A lot of kids got into the back-to-nature thing back then. They moved to the Rockies, got into the environment. There were even some city kids who le ft towns to start farms where they could raise their families. And they all had your albums. You were important in those times. People will remember that."

"And that's why I have to wear bell bottoms?"

"That's the memory, man. That's what they'll want to see when they get up here. Remember — once a celebrity, always a celebrity. Here, try on this vest," Jerry said as he handed over a vintage — and appropriate — polyester blend.

It fit perfectly. "Where will I be staying up here?" the new guy asked.

"Well, some people get bigger places than others. Elvis, John Lennon and I have the most visitors. We're putting you between a couple guys from the Temptations and Staff Sergeant Barry Sadler, who sang 'The Ballad

of the Green Berets.' You might want to I earn the words." Jerry began to sing. "Silver wings, upon their chests..."

The new arrival's head dropped in disappointment. "So that's my legacy?" he asked softly. "Stuck between two soul singers and a fascist?"

"Sorry," Jerry replied. "It's the best we can do until enough Gen-X stars die for us to expand. It would have been different if you had died 20 years ago, but hey — you lived too long, so you're a little low on legend status. Look, you'll be fine. Just don't take off your glasses. It could be worse. You should see what we're preparing for Rod Stewart."

The disorientation, the unreality of it all was overwhelming. "I — I just don't think I'm ready for this."

"You can't prepare for rock 'n' roll heaven," Jerry said. "But you'll get into it. You'll still perform, and people will want to see you. You'll make great friends. Oh, by the way — Jim Henson is really excited you're here. You should see him as soon as you can."

Ah yes, thought the new arrival — the Christmas specials with the Muppets. His legacy was becoming clear to him, and it was all right.

But he couldn't quite forget those who would carry on after him. "And how is everyone dealing with things on Earth?" he asked. "How are people reacting to my death?"

"Not much changes down there," Jerry said. "People didn't get too worked up when you died, and that's understandable — they're a little too busy to hit that one last Rocky Mountain high. But you already have a few messages," Jerry pulled out a scroll. "Here's one from some kid in Minneapolis. He says he loved the Christmas specials. Says his mom used to sing 'Take Me Home, Country Roads' to him at night when she came in from the field. Says his parents got sick of the city back in the '70s, and that's why he's a farm kid. Says your songs were part of that, and they were always in the background when he was growing up. And he just wants to say thanks."

A messenger interrupted Jerry to give him a package. "Here — we got you a guitar," Jerry said. "Time for your debut."

And warmth overtook the newest resident of rock 'n' roll heaven. He felt sunshine on his shoulders. He took the instrument and began to play:

I hear her voice in the morning hour she calls me, The radio reminds me of my home far away, Driving down the road I get the feeling That I should have been home yesterday, Yesterday.

Take me home, country roads...

— John Denver, 1943-1997





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## Rolling Stones Come to Chicago: A Dream Come True

Photos for the Chronicle by Felicia Dechter



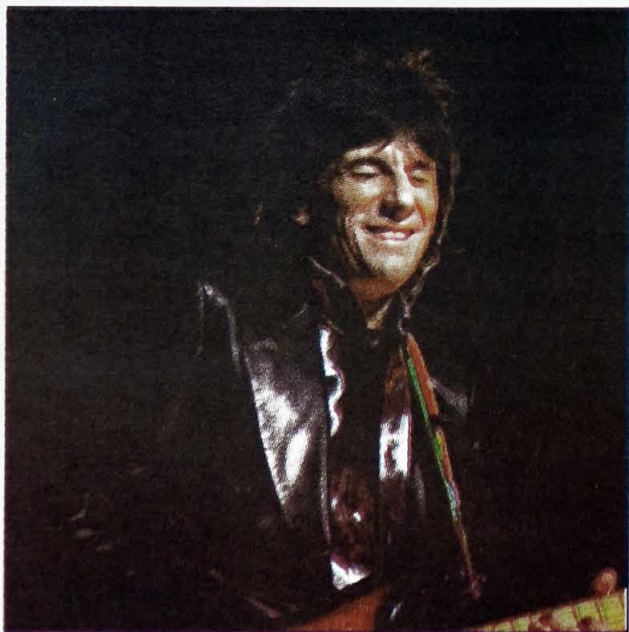
The song may say "you can't always get what you want", but this fall, I did.

From a 5-foot riser directly in front of the stage at Soldier Field, I was to fulfill a dream of photographing the Rolling Stones.

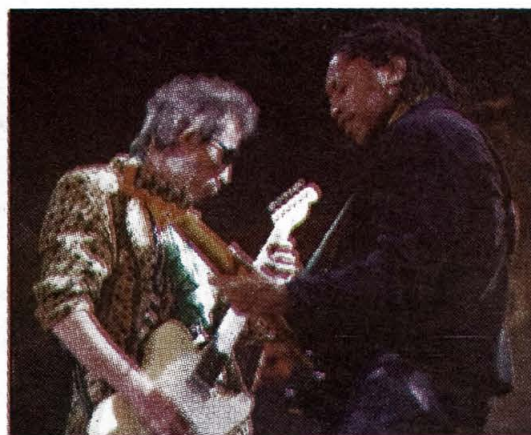
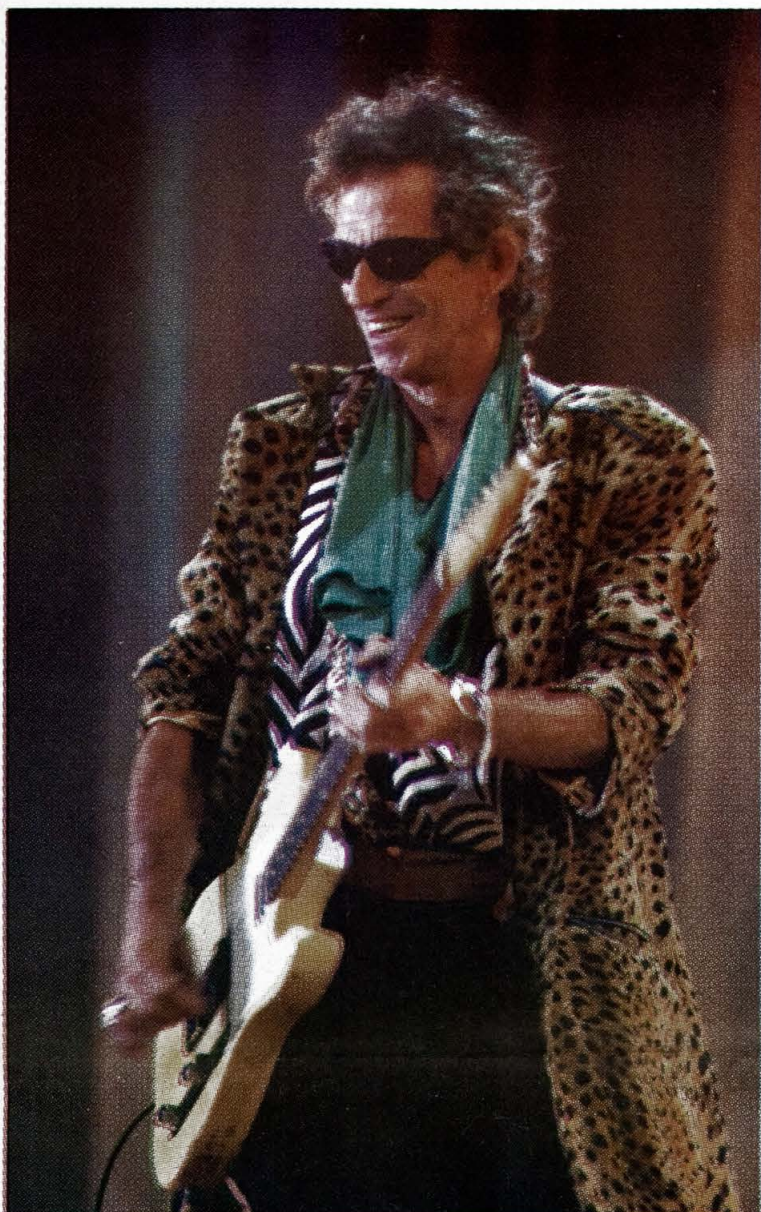
I never imagined when I started at Columbia two years ago as an older, back-to-school student, that this could and would happen to me.

The Rolling Stones taught me "lose your dreams and you will lose your mind." I am so glad I was listening.

--Felicia Dechter







### **Gallery Showings**

**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  
"The Golden Age of Film"**

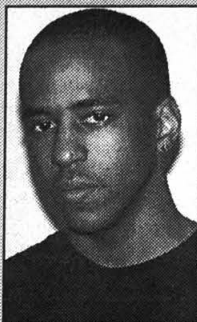
### **National College Media Convention**

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# Power of our Rhythm

By T.L.  
Matthews



Who's got the hot joints? If you don't know, now you know, big baby!!

**Top 5 Singles:**  
You Make Me Wanna, Usher  
Up Jump The Boogie, Magoo &  
Timbaland  
Gotham City (remix), R. Kelly  
Stranger In Moscow, Michael Jackson  
4 Season Of Loneliness, Boyz II Men

**Top 5 Albums:**  
When Disaster Strikes, Busta Rhymes  
One Day It'll All Make Sense, Common  
Soul Food, Soundtrack  
Ghetto D, Master P (Ugh!!)  
No Way Out, Puff Daddy

If you're into good crooning music and have nowhere to be on Oct. 28th, then have no fear, the **House Of Blues in Chicago** is hear, to save you all!! **K-Ci and Jo-Jo**, formerly of the multi-platinum group Jodeci, will be performing that night and if you know anything about these guys, then you know it's going to be a party to the break of

dawn. You only have to be 18 to get in the doors at 7:30 p.m. and showtime's at 9 p.m. Before the dynamic duo take the stage, Chicago's own **Danny Boy** will give the ladies the intro they want to hear. Hey maybe they'll do "Toss It Up" on stage and I can do Tupac's Verse and....forget it!

Has anybody seen that hip-hop calendar of events floating around Chi-Town this month?

I just want to know if **Mercedes** (right off the corner of Jackson & Halsted) is still the place to be on Sunday nights, the **Elbo room** (3100 North Clark St.) the next night, the **Garage** (700 North Green) the night after that, and the **Buddha Lounge** on Wednesday nights. Have I just plugged some party spots? Ooops, I guess I have.

If you haven't got you're **Puffy** and the **Family** concert tickets by now, you can basically hang that idea up. With a lineup that reads like a who's who on the urban music charts (Jay-Z, Foxy Brown, Usher, Christian, Mase, Lil Kim, The Lox, Faith, 112, Black Rob, and The Firm) this November 22nd guarantees to be all about the Benjamins for real. Yeah, yeah, yeah!

Is it me or does it almost feel like the late 80's all over again. I mean, all these old. I mean, mature rappers making the comeback into the business is love and everything but there seems to be just one small thing missing from there arsenal of flava - originality. **THEY'RE ALL BITING THE STYLES OF TODAY'S ARTIST!**

Yo everybody, let's all try to participate in Thursday's **Student Organization Day**. It's very important that we as a majority (they use the word minority) show support for our brothers/sisters that are trying to be trendsetters within the school and set up future networking opportunities. Then the next day we can all go to the **Cubby Bear** and check out the **Lost Boys** and get high off some music!! Peace out and Much Love.



K-Ci and Jo-Jo.

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OR attend our meeting(s) on  
Wednesday, October 22, 5:30 pm in  
the Wabash Building, 10th Floor in  
studio 1019. Time ARTs  
Community meets immediately  
following ART Community!



# Corina Dawn shoots for new world order

By Christopher Johnson  
Correspondent

When you think of places where good alternative bands come from, Seattle, New York and even Chicago come to mind. Now Corina Dawn, a young band from Quincy, Illinois, plans on jumping into the independent scene with their self-released debut CD, "Novus Ordo Seclorum."

"Novus Ordo Seclorum," meaning "New World Order" in Latin, is set for finished press and release within the next coming weeks. The CD is Corina Dawn's first full length album, which they co-produced with Quincy engineer Allan Lawless, and is their second outing in the recording studio. The first was to record a seven song demo tape titled "Fear of Dreams," which was a former name of the band.

"We helped with the recording and mixing of the album, did all the art work and paid for the complete production of it out of our own pockets," said Lucas Dooley, Corina Dawn's drummer and a Columbia College recording student, while going over the bands involvement with the record. "The total cost came out to about \$2700."

Corina Dawn consists of a typical five member formula; lead singer Barret Carper, lead and rhythm guitarists Eric Snowden and Charlie Ward, bass guitarist John

Hogemann and Dooley on the drums.

Other than Dooley, the rest of the band is now broken up between Iowa and Bloomington-Normal, Illinois. This distance makes it difficult for the members to practice and tour. "We keep in touch through e-mail and by sending tapes of new music ideas by mail," said Dooley.

The music on the new album takes many different musical paths through its entire thirteen track collection. A number of influences, ranging from the Dave Matthews Band, to Pearl Jam to the Red Hot Chili Peppers can be heard in the songs. Included too are general styles such as jazz, blues, funk, samba and alternative rock. Dooley explains, though, that most of their influence comes from musical experience in high school band and jazz band.

Their lyrics, like their music, cover many subjects. Some of the subjects covered in the new album deal with things like social cliques in high school (as in the opening track "Clique") to the melting of a snowman by his newly acquired heart grown from love and acceptance in the song "Snowman."

"The lyrics come down from bad experiences, good experiences, hope, depression and the need to be funky and different," said Carper, who writes most of lyrics for the band, while explaining his philosophy for lyric writing. "The songs have deep interpersonal meanings."

After listening to their new album, it's apparent that



Members of the Quincy, Illinois-based band Corina Dawn have released their first full length album, which has their fans screaming. Band members include Columbia student Lucas Dooley, Barret Carper, John Hogemann, Eric Snowden and Charlie Ward.

Corina Dawn does have some clear influence, but they manage to take them and make it into their own sound.

The band hopes to sell the new CD's at independent record stores in the Quincy, Bloomington-Normal and Chicago areas for around \$10 dollars a disc. Someday they hope to have the CD selling at larger chain record stores like Musicland. If you have trouble finding "Novus Ordo Seclorum," anyone of the members of the band will have a copy to sell you.

To contact Corina dawn, send letters to:  
Lucas Dooley  
731 S. Plymouth Ct. Apt. 210  
Chicago, IL  
60605  
or visit their web site at  
[http://www.geocities.com/~corina\\_dawn](http://www.geocities.com/~corina_dawn).



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## A whirl-wind review of the 33rd Annual Chicago International Film Festival

By Sandy Campbell  
Film Correspondent

Brace yourselves folks, the 33rd International Film Festival has come around the corner and I have covered a few of the films in the first week that may or may not be playing in an art-house (and in some cases a big cineplex) near you once the festival is over.

*Private Confessions* is an Ingmar Bergman scripted film headed up by three time director Liv Ullmann. The film takes place over five conversations encompassing roughly a ten year span; once again the main characters are based on Bergman's real life parents. Max Von Sydow plays Uncle Jacob, a priest, who listens to Anna's confession regarding an affair she's had with a man named Thomas who is much younger than Anna, and is a priest in training.

The film is two and a half-hours long and was cut in length from a version made for Swedish television. To be honest it could have been cut shorter since there are many unnecessary traveling shots that make the third conversation a chore to get through, although the other conversations are paced well. *Private Conversations* is one of those films needed to be seen more than once to ensure one has read the revelations and the subtleties right the first time.

However, most people may not want watch it again unless they are really enthralled with the film- the tedious third conversation would seem...well...tedious without a fast forward button.

The Spanish film *Secrets of The Heart* deals with secrets and the search for the truth. It concerns a young boy named Javi who grows up in a family where everything has to be a secret or a white lie. He is so enthralled and mystified by the concept of a secret that at first he worships it, but there is something inquisitive and truth-seeking about this kid. Everybody in the film has at least one secret for Javi to uncover. Religion, sex, and death are all mysteries for Javi to uncover. By the end of the movie no secret or white lie can get passed Javi. He has changed and matured, no longer mystified by the concept of the secret.

One problem with the film though is that there is a recurring scene that doesn't quite fit with the rest of the movie's theme. It refers to Javi's courage in crossing a bridge that one has to hop from stone to stone to cross; he only loses his fear of falling into the water when there is a reason important enough to cross it. Maybe the scene was trying to be symbolic in some sense, but it distracts from the themes of finding the truth. *Secrets of the Heart* is not long as *Private Confessions*, but has more meaty secrets to uncover.

*Kiss or Kill* from established Australian film maker Bill Bennet (*Spider and Rose*, *Two If Sea*) could become a cult-classic when it is released in theaters later this year. A film also dealing with secrets, its plot is one seen many times before- a young man and woman on the run from the cops for a bunch of serial murders (*Bonnie and Clyde*, *Natural Born Killers*). I have been told since the screening that the question of "are these kids the real killers?" has been done before.

But *Kiss or Kill* puts a fresh spin on the genre and not only with the right-brained inspired visuals and editing, which I suspect some critics might give four stars to the movie for alone.

One thing I like about the movie is that it wasn't like *Natural Born Killers*, claiming this is what the young generation is about. There was something un-commercial and garbage free about Bill Bennet's creative visuals that was omnipresent in the much-hyped but not hip *NBK*. The violence was not glorified or threatening as it was in *NBK*; I walked out of the Stone film.

The story is fun and entertaining with bits of humor and tension sprinkled along the way. The supporting cast that the two young kids bump into are meant to be intriguing and succeed in that field.

*The Wings of The Dove*, based on the Henry James novel, will probably be a big box-

office money-maker too. One has seen *The Wings of The Dove* a billion times- a surprisingly tried and true formula that works as well box-office wise as block-busters like *Batman meets the Bowery Boys Part Five* do during the summer season.

This type of movie is usually British made or is made to look like it is British made and involves a love triangle and a trip to some exotic European locale. It usually stars one of the following actresses: Vanessa Redgrave, Helena Bonham Carter, Miriam Margulies, or Emma Thompson.

In this case Helena Bonham Carter stars and the exotic locale is Vienna. She gives a notably polished well-acted performance of depth. It also superbly refreshing to see young up-and-comers Allison Elliott (*The Spitfire Grill*) and Linus Roache (*Priest*), filling out the triangle-ironically Elliott's *Spitfire Grill* was, I think, produced and sponsored by the Catholic church while Roache's *Priest* was heavily protested by the Catholic church. In the film, Bonham Carter conspires with the middle-class Roache -who cannot marry her due to British social standards- in a scheme to marry a dying American millionaire (Elliott) so Roache can eventually inherit the fortune and enter her aristocratic social class.

After I saw the movie, I found out that the Carter and Roach characters are portrayed as villains in the book since their actions are villainous. Unfortunately, the James novel is going further back in history than the average movie schlub like myself is knowledgeable on, and most of us will assume that James portrayed both characters sympathetically.

Richard Kwietniowski's *Love and Death In Long Island* (adapted from Gilbert Adair's short novel) is the movie most likely to replace *The Bird Cage* as the gay-themed comedy easily mass-marketed for heterosexuals like myself. John Hurt (*The Elephant Man*, *Contact*), plays a well known British author named Giles D'earth who lives a life of isolation and doesn't keep up with popular culture.

He has never been to a movie theater, rented a video, or even watched TV, much less faxed a document when we first meet him. He means to go to an E.M. Forrester movie adaptation and accidentally attends *Hot-Pants College II* where he gets a crush on a teen-idol played by real life teen idol Jason Priestly. His crush turns into an obsession that leads to him buying a VCR for watching Priestly's movies on, to him buying "teen-scream magazines", and eventually even to him re-locating, for awhile anyway, to the hunk's hometown in Long Island, N.Y.- for which my home province of Nova Scotia, Canada was substituted.

The audiences responded well to the homosexual sub-text and in the end seemed to empathize with the protagonist. Is this because John Hurt's loving wife of many years has just died at the beginning of the film? Or is it because the pro-homosexuality theme comes about gradually and isn't forced down the audiences throat as some sort of liberal message?

Note: I was disappointed to see actor Harvey Atkin as a waiter in a greasy-dive with just a few lines (Atkin is best known in the States for his recurring role on *Cagney and Lacey* and in Canada for occasional TV appearances and the short-lived eighties TV series *Pet-Peeve*). What a waste of talent.

One of the best films at the festival was the Alan Rickman directed *The Winter Guest* which I saw at a private screening and reviewed in last week's edition.

In closing, one of the disappointing things of this years festival is that last year I lucked out and met a film maker or actor every time I saw a film and this year I only got to see *Kiss or Kill*'s Bill Bennet in passing, much less shake his hand or ask him a question.

*Private Confessions* B *Secrets of The Heart* B+ *Kiss or Kill* A- *Wings of The Dove* B *Love and Death In Long Island* A- *The Winter Guest* A-

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# From 'Schindler's List' to 'Soul Food'

## Columbia's Film Department's on a roll

By Eva Boyer  
Staff Reporter

Columbia's Film and Video Department must have the Midas touch. This semester marked an unprecedented enrollment, leaving classes filled to the max and students still begging for a chance to get in.

"Something phenomenal is going on here," said Michael Rabiger, Acting Chair for the Film and Video Department. "Columbia has a wonderful international reputation. People come from far and near to take courses here."

This rise in popularity certainly comes as no big surprise.

Rabiger readily admits, "There aren't many places that teach professional level film making, not the way we do."

What's obvious is that the Film & Video Department has a knack for turning out successful film makers.

Take Columbia alumni, George Tillman, Jr. and Bob Teitel, who have the second highest grossing film, *Soul Food*, in the country this week. More alumni include Mark Pavia, director of Stephen King's new thriller, *Night Flier*. Adrian Fulle, writer/director of *Three Days*, who recently showed his new film at the Chicago International Film Festival.

And Janusz Kaminski who was out of Columbia only five years when Steven Spielberg saw his work and asked him to film *Schindler's List*. Let's not forget Kaminski's work won him the Oscar for Best Cinematography. It's no wonder why the Film & Video Department is overflowing with students.

But the sudden rise in enrollment has created a set of obstacles for Rabiger and his two Assistant Chairs, Ric Coken, Undergraduate Program and Doreen Bartoni, Graduate Program to overcome.

There are 400 more students enrolled this year compared to last year, and 19 extra courses have been added to satisfy the extra load. They are maxed out on teachers,

space and equipment. Like it or not the teacher shortage is a dilemma they are stuck with for right now.

It's "terribly difficult to find teachers with the expertise and the willingness to commit to working within specific time slots for classes," explains Rabiger.

However he does offer possible solutions. Paying instructors a higher salary and offering benefits to part-time instructors would be a step in the right direction.

But despite the obstacles, Rabiger and his colleagues have managed to come up with some pretty creative solutions for improving their department.

"Because of the department's size, we are moving toward making the production crafter areas resemble film studio departments," said Rabiger in the first issue of his department's newsletter, *Film & Video News*. Each area of interest, Animation, Cinematography, Directing, Documentary, Editing, Audio and Screenwriting, will have its own specialized teaching center, along with its own area head, faculty and equipment. The centers will be designed to promote a creative energy "aimed at turning out young filmmakers at a professional level of excellence."

"Students come with a dream and we try to create an atmosphere," said Rabiger. "We teach them to use these tools that will help make their dreams come true."

Rabiger is well on his way to making the "centers concept" reality. The Directing, Documentary and Audio centers are up and running successfully. The 7th floor of the 600 S. Michigan Ave. building will be renovated during the semester break in order to house two centers: Animation and Editing. The centers are set to be complete for spring semester.

"It should be ready to go," says Rabiger. "The plans went in today (10/9/97) to the architect. We are going to

expand the space to triple the size the Animation center is right now. The other half of the 7th floor will be the Editing center."

The centers are a way for students to discover their strengths.

"People often don't know what they want to specialize in," said Rabiger. He encourages students to discover

"Something phenomenal is going on here. Columbia has a wonderful international reputation. People come from far and near to take courses here."

— Michael Rabiger, Acting Chair,  
Film/Video Department.

what they want to do. Try it and find out. "Stay in school, decide what you are best at. Use your teachers and get all the experience you can," said Rabiger. "If you want to do well, decide what you

want and go gangbusters for it."

He encourages students to take advantage of "Columbia's wonderful internship program", and believes specialization is key in finding success in the film making business.

But even with all the good news and positive changes, somehow rumors still fly.

"There has been a lot of misinformation about the Film Department in the last eight months, a lot of negative rumors and misleading information circulating," explains Rabiger and sets the record straight.

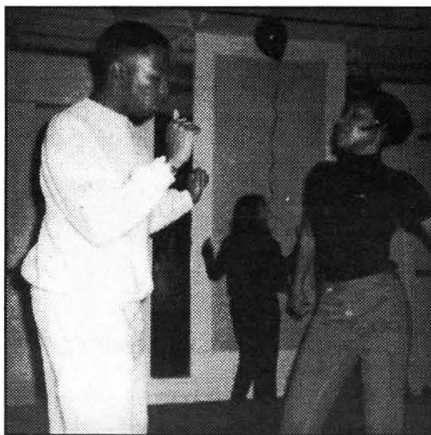
"I think it's in pretty good shape. The evolution we are going through is very promising. The future is bright and so is future employment."

## Welcome Back Jam '97

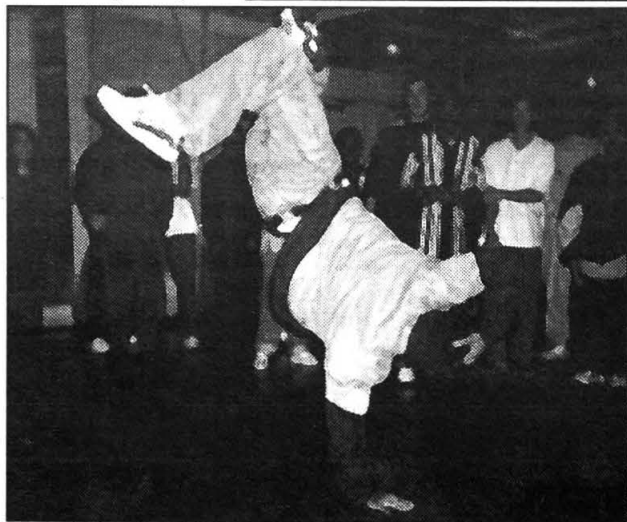
Last Friday's Welcome Back Jam '97 was attended by approximately 500 Columbia Students. The event was held in the Boulevard Room at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. The jam was sponsored by Student Life and Development. Several student organizations were on hand.

Right: Kevin Sledge and Tasha Clopton dance the night away at last Friday's Welcome Back Jam.

Below: Alumni, Anacron, takes a hands on approach to dancing at the jam.



Robert Stevenson/Chronicle



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# It's Halloween 'Summer' style

By Jason Kravarik  
Assistant Features Editor

Just when you thought new horror movies had milked comparisons to "Scream" dry, yet another film is released that all but calls itself a sequel to last year's box office smash. "Last time you screamed, this time you won't have the chance to," say the ads for "I Know What You Did Last Summer" which bills itself as being "from the creators of 'Scream.'"

"Summer" is definitely the choice for anyone looking for a Halloween scare at the theater. But is this film as good as the movie is aspires to be like? Actually, "Summer" tries so hard to be like "Scream" that it digs its own grave, so to speak.

"I Know What You Did Last Summer" stars a "Party of Five" cast member—Jennifer Love Hewitt. She plays the smart one in a group of four teens enjoying their last day of summer break. They're out cel-

ebrating when things turn deadly and their car accidentally hits a man. Even though it was an accident, one of the teens in the car was drinking so they fear repercussions from the police. After some heated debate, the drunk one persuades everyone to dump the body into a nearby harbor and never speak of it again. Their secret appeared to be kept, until someone surfaced to haunt them for their crime.

While "Summer" is packed with plenty of scares—like things jumping out from

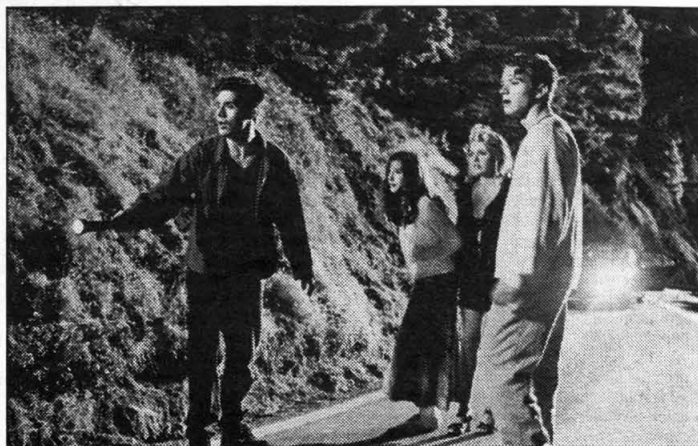
the end of the screen when you're guard is down—its the sort of thing that's been done before. While there's enough suspense in the film to make it good for this time of year, it lacks the intelligence of its predecessor "Scream." Gone is the whodunit factor. Hewitt's character attempts to solve the mystery of the shadowy figure that is killing them one by one. In fact, finding his identity is the focus of the movie's plot, but it is so unclearly explained that it does-

## I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER

\*\* 1/2

Starring:  
Jennifer Love  
Hewitt  
(seen here)

Good if you're looking for a Halloween scare, but lacks the intelligence of its sister, "Scream."



A group of teens investigate after accidentally running over a man in the newly released "I Know What You Did Last Summer." Unfortunately for them, its someone who really holds a grudge.

n't have any impact. Once we learn the laim story behind the killer, the rest of the movie seems insignificant.

If all you're looking for is gratuitous murders and trendy suspense, "Summer"

delivers, which is the reason for a generous \*\* 1/2 rating. But in a movie that copies "Scream" right down to the personality traits of the main characters, it's too bad they didn't copy its cleverness.

## Dead Hendrix, Elvis part of fright at Great America

If you can get by the steep prices, "Fright Fest" at Six Flags Great America is one of the best Halloween events in the area. The Halloween theme is everywhere—from the blood-red pools to the sinister music that echo's throughout the park.

This year "Fright Fest" boasts two haunted houses, the veteran "Mausoleum of Terror" and the new "Sadie's No-Chance Hotel." They make every effort to scare you, as well. Without giving away too many surprises, last year when guests thought they made it to the end alive, they found themselves chased out of the "Mausoleum of Terror" by chain-saw wielding monsters with hockey masks. Perhaps they were trying to slash their way into your pocketbook, because these haunted houses aren't included in the \$33 admission fee.

Other highlights include appearances by the corpses of Elvis and Jimi Hendrix in the "Dead Legends Show" and the "B.O.O. Line," a clever trip through the backlots of some classic horror movies. New this year is "Snakes Alive!" which is both educational and

creepy as vipers are alive and loose on stage. There are special events for kids including animal shows, storytellers and pumpkin carvers.

The park itself will get you into the Halloween spirit. The decorating is so extravagant that they had to close the park for over a week to transform it into a ghoulish mess: seven tons of pumpkins, 1,700 corn shocks, 300 bales of hay, 200 pounds of blood-red dye, and 200 monsters, corpses and skeletons. Not to mention the hundreds of rubber snakes, bats, rats, skulls and body parts.

All this accompanies the rides, of course, which are all made up for Halloween. Here's a tip: if you're planning on going in the evening, call ahead. The park has already had to turn people away due to overcrowding.

Admission is \$33 for adults and \$28 for children. The park is at I-94 and Grand Avenue in Gurnee. This weekend is its last. Hours are: Friday 5 to 11 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



## Chicago area turns haunted

Here's a sampling of Chicago-area haunted houses:

### NORTHERN SUBURBS

#### Dark Harvest Nightmare Asylum

In Wauconda on Illinois 176, 10 miles west of I-94  
Open daily from 7:30 p.m. till "there is no one left to horrify."  
Admission: \$8.00  
Information: Designed by a special effects artist, it's an 11-room haunted asylum from the 1930's.

### WESTERN SUBURBS

#### Hades Haunted House

In Villa Park, 1033 N. Villa Ave, north of North Avenue  
October 24th - November 1st  
7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
Admission: \$16.00  
Information: Two houses over 60,000 square feet. Admission included both.

### SOUTHERN SUBURBS

#### Frightmare

In Burbank, 77th and Harlem  
Open now until November 1st  
M-Th 6-10 p.m.; Fri. 6-11 p.m.; Sat. 1-11 p.m.; Sun. 1-10 p.m.  
Admission: \$5.00  
Information: A quarter-million dollars worth of fright here.

### NORTH SIDE

#### 8th Annual Neighborhood Boys & Girls Club Haunted House

2501 W. Irving Park Road  
October 24th - 31st  
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Admission: \$5.00  
Information: Conducted by volunteer, all proceeds benefit various programs for the N.B.G.C.

### Haunted Forest

6200 W. Devon  
October 29th - November 2nd  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Admission: \$5.00  
Information: Put on by the Cook County Forest Preserve

### SOUTH SIDE

#### Haunted Forest

87th and Western, Dan Ryan Woods  
October 29th - November 2nd  
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Admission: \$5.00  
Information: New this year, an expansion of the above project on Devon

## Decades-old horror flicks still terrifying

By Jason Kravarik  
Assistant Features Editor

It's this time of year when people look for horror films to launch themselves into a virtual world of death they would otherwise never desire. So here's a list of can't-miss horror flicks for this Halloween.

### HALLOWEEN

One of the best, if not the best. It's about a young boy who murders his sister on Halloween night, and 15 years later escapes from a mental institution. Now a grown man, he returns to the sleepy Illinois town to revisit his crime—and then some. Director John Carpenter propelled his career with this film, and it also launched Jamie Lee Curtis into stardom. Curtis' character, along with the other teen

victims, are well defined in the film making their plight all the more horrific. Carpenter emphasized suspense over gore in the film—one of the highest grossing independent films ever. For real fans of the film, a special anniversary edition has been released for sale this year.

### HALLOWEEN II

Not as good as the first, but still a respectable sequel. It picks up the same night the original ended. The killer is after the only girl that survived his rampage in the original. He finds her, and soon-to-be victims, in the hospital. There's still suspense in this one, but the characters are more dopey. The sequel answers a lot of questions left over from the original, so it's worth it to get both.

### THE SHINING

For those not into "slasher" films, "The Shining" is a pretty good horror flick. Jack Nicholson plays the caretaker who lives secluded with his family in a mountain hotel. As the winter progresses, the seclusion gets to Nicholson, who goes mad. While the movie lags at times, the true terror here is watching Nicholson unravel in a murderous rampage.

### AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN LONDON

With the eventual release of "An American Werewolf in Paris" you might want to check out the original London version. Two American men are on a trip to England when they're attacked by a wolf. One is killed, the other injured. Of course that means the survivor is turned into a

werewolf. This film is more about the struggle of the men with their hairy new problem than about devouring humans. The make-up is outstanding for its time—which is why Michael Jackson called on its director, John Landis, to make his "Thriller" video.

### THE THING

This 1982 remake of the classic is a perfect mix of horror and science fiction. Starring Kurt Russell, a group at a research center in Antarctica finds a unique being that kills them by taking over their bodies. Unfortunately, they don't know who's been taken over until it's too late. The suspense is deciding who is not themselves, but is actually The Thing. It makes for some intense interaction between the characters. It's violent, but smart.

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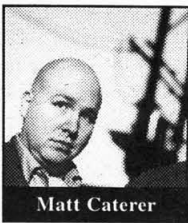


# Popes smokin' at the Hokin

**Doug Arnold**  
Correspondent

Originality be damned. The Smoking Popes, who played at Columbia's Hokin After Hours party on October 16, are little more than the sum of their influenced, and it's a good thing. They play power pop at punk speed, with melodies that recall the Rat Pack as much as they do the Ramones, creating nearly perfect ear candy that wouldn't work if it wasn't almost completely derivative.

Born of Chicago's suburban basement and bowling alley punk scene, The Popes were always a shiny diamond in an overly populated, punk rough. Many were the nights a few years ago when you could sit through three awful, screaming teenage bands waiting for the Popes to play sweet songs about girls. They may have left the scabby, smelly political punks scratching their heads, but they pleased the kids who came to hear a song or two. Now that they're on their third album *Destination Failure*, their second with Capitol records, it's obvious that they've only gotten better.



Matt Caterer



Josh Caterer

bearing an eerie resemblance to pre-Uncle Fester Billy Corgan. They've added acoustic guitars to several tracks, which may even further alienate the punks, and an extra live guitarist so Josh can croon like Sinatra and seduce the mic stand. Overall though, the songs remain the same.



Mike Felumlee

The set opener, "They Lied," from *Destination Failure*, starts out with Josh on acoustic guitar and Eli playing a string or two on electric before the rest of the band storms in halfway through. The dynamic worked well, but was a rarity in a set that took pleasure in predictability. Several more new songs followed, including "You Spoke to Me," about Life-affirming music heroes and the awesome "Paul" which will be a hit for the band if there is any justice in the world.

Josh's lyrics teeter on cliché, and would be a joke if he didn't sound like he really meant what he was saying. In "Paul," the entire chorus consists of, "She'll say I love you, Paul." In "I know you Love Me," he sings, you guessed it, "Oh, I know you love me." It's simple, but Caterer has the heart and loungey vocal talent to pull it off.

The Smoking Popes beat a dead horse back to life. It's not easy to keep a played out genre fresh-sounding, but they handle it with grace.

They may be headlining college lounges right now, but in ten years when Sugar Ray and Everclear are long gone (and Prodigy is considered The Flock of Seagulls of the nineties) the sweet, sincere pop of the Popes will still garner a smile.



Eli Caterer

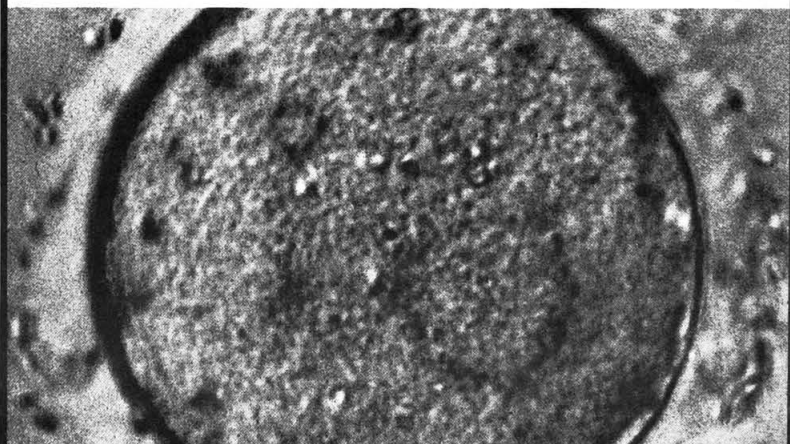
L-R: Josh Caterer, Mike Felumlee, Eli Caterer, Matt Caterer



## THE PRISONER.



## HER CELL.



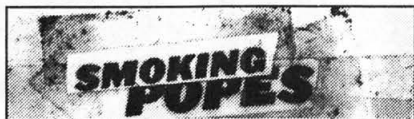
## G A T T A C A

AT THEATRES OCTOBER 24

## Popes New CD: punk without the grunge

**By Ericka Sanchez**  
Correspondent

The sophomore effort from the Chicago band Smoking Popes, entitled "Destination Failure" is anything but that. This quartet is comprised of brothers Matt, Eli and Josh Caterer along with friend Mike Felumlee who are not grungy band mates screaming at the top of their lungs or becoming so monotonous you want to fall asleep. Lead singer Josh has a voice reminiscent of Morrissey without the accent. The band portrays an air of The Smiths with more punk and bang.



Listening to the album you get a feel for the pain, the heartache and the aggravation that comes with the territory of being in and then falling out of love. It's not a sappy album or gender specific, but it can be listened to many times over and sung to. The album is able to maintain a punk edge without losing its voice and message.

I recommend first buying the album and then listening to it in your car, on the way to school or work, after you've broken up with or are in the process of breaking up with your significant other. Some of the best tracks are "I Know You Love Me," "They Lied," "Pretty Pathetic" and "Starstruck One." All the songs on the album are pretty easy to memorize and you'll find yourself humming when you don't even realize it.

The CD itself is available in stores now. Remember, this album is not "Seattle Grunge," it's punk-rock pop with an attitude about love and life. Enjoy the CD and do not despair about love because in the end you will find someone.



# Columbia grad 'journeys' into success

By Michelle S. DuFour  
Features Editor

Laughing and screaming at the top of her lungs, she drove 80 miles an hour with the car roof down. She couldn't wait to tell everyone the great news. And then it started raining, or more like pouring, but for actress Betsy Zajko, the rain never felt so refreshing.

Zajko, a Columbia graduate, was on her way home

from lunch with producer/director Harish Saluja, where she found out that she got a part in "The Journey," subtitled "Life Gets in the Way of Art," which made its local premiere at the Chicago International Film Festival on Oct. 11 and 12.

"I really did want this part because I believed in it," Zajko said.

Zajko, who graduated in 1991 as Betsy Hinkle, played Audrey in "The Journey." The story depicts events in the busy lives of Laura, an American professor, and her Indian physician husband, whose father comes from India to America for the first time to stay with them and their daughter. Audrey is Laura's free-spirited American friend who lives life passionately, not letting life get in the way of art.

"This is such a beautiful film," Zajko said. "It reminds us to slow down, live mindfully and take the time to create beauty no matter how busy we think we are. Rather than sex and violence, it has glimpses of humanity, philosophy and poetry within the conflicts of life...the kind of picture not made in Hollywood."

Zajko, who studied acting, movement and voice at Columbia, has really learned not to let her own life get in the way of art. She graduated from Glenbrook South High School and then went to the University of Kansas where she studied accounting.

"I had no clue what I wanted to do," Zajko said. "My [high school] guidance counselor said I was good in math and should go into accounting, and since I was very susceptible to other opinions, that's what I did."

She realized, though, that accounting was not for her. As a senior in high school Zajko tried out for her first play, "The Man That Came to Dinner," and got cast. And as a child, Zajko loved to perform, imitating people and putting on her own plays.

So during her junior year at the University of Kansas,

the actress inside Zajko came out.

"This [accounting] was not for me," Zajko said. "I needed to try to act, so I faced my fear and dove in head first."

Zajko took acting and voice classes at Columbia and found them extremely helpful.

"My experience at Columbia is invaluable to my success as a professional actor," Zajko said. "The teachers really gave an honest perspective of being an actor."

After a year and a half at Columbia, Zajko traveled with an exchange program. She had an interview at an Alabama television station. The news director liked her presence, and two months later he called Zajko and offered her a job as a reporter and anchor.

"I figured I might as well try it. I stayed two years, learned to write and perform on camera," Zajko said. "After two

years, though, I got a job offer from Kent State University." And so Zajko and her husband moved there in 1990.

With the move, Zajko became really serious about acting and concentrated on print and video, commercials, advertisements and industrial projects.

"With the broadcast experience behind me, I was taken seriously—I got my foot in the door," Zajko said.

Along with her acting projects, Zajko works part time for National Public Radio's WKSU-FM in Kent as a Saturday morning announcer, producer and fill-in host.

While it is a dream of hers to go to Los Angeles, or New York, larger markets with more opportunities, that hasn't been possible yet.

"I'm ready to go to a larger market now," Zajko said. "But it's a matter of creating an opportunity."

While Zajko has had more work offers than she can accept lately, there have been times when it wasn't like that.

"The work of an actor is not just acting, it's the process of getting work," Zajko said. "Anyone

going into acting needs to realize that is part of what actor does."

Zajko's role in "The Journey" is her first work in an independent film. Other movie credits include "The Assassination File," starring Sherlyn Fenn, which just completed its second run on the Starz! and Encore movie channels, and "Money for Nothing," starring John Cusack.

Gary Sinise and Olympia Dukakis are two actors Zajko admires because they have very layered creative lives.

"I hope to be like that one day," Zajko said. "I hope to give back and inspire people."

## Big Time

A look at Columbia grads who have made it big



## 'The Journey' of love, life and art

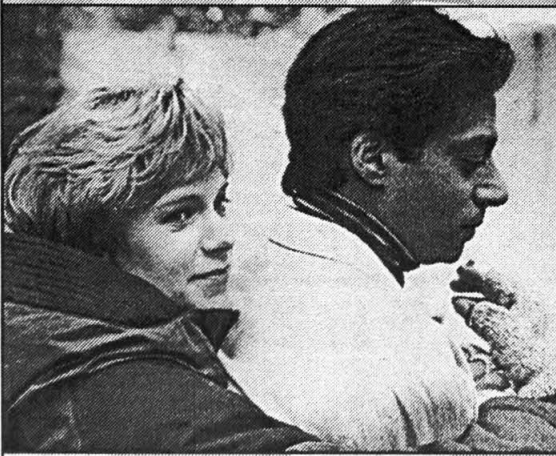
Producer, director Harish Saluja proves successful in first film

By Michelle S. DuFour  
Features Editor

A beautiful, different kind of movie came to the Chicago International Film Festival last weekend.

"The Journey," subtitled "Life Gets in the Way of Art," produced and directed by Harish Saluja, tells the story of a retired school headmaster from India (Roshan Seth of "Ghandi") who comes to America to visit his family.

Kishan Singh, the retired headmaster, visits America for the first time and is in a different world. The cultural differences really come through, especially the fast-paced lifestyle led by many Americans.



Carrie Preston and Anthony Zaki.

Singh is happy to see his son Raj (Anthony Zaki), a physician, Raj's wife Laura (Carrie Preston), and their daughter (Nora Bates). The fast-paced lifestyles though, begin to bother Singh. His son is always on call and Laura is very busy working as a professor. Singh does not see why Laura cannot stay home and take care of their daughter all the time.

While at the same time Laura,

extremely anal, grows tired very quickly of the mess Singh leaves behind and the way he expects to be waited on by her.

Saluja's semi-autobiographical story does not need sex and violence to get his message across. His first film works well at showing the Singh's traditional mannerisms

clash with Laura's ideals. Cross-cultural dissonance is an ever-present theme. But Saluja also has a message behind that.

Laura and Raj obviously have problems in the movie that they need to work through. Raj is not happy. He feels empty, like something is seriously missing from his life, and Laura, who used to write poetry, allows life to get in the way of art. While the movie clearly shows the challenges of accepting new cultures, the relationship between Laura and Raj could have been further developed.

Laura complains to her friend Audrey (Betsy Zajko) an artist, about how it feels like her privacy has been invaded by Singh. Audrey, on the other hand, sees the poetic, artistic side of Singh. She finds him fascinating and takes him around town to see the sights. She encourages Laura to get some inspiration from him so she can write again.

A series of episodes eventually help Laura look behind the little things that bother her about Singh, to see him as a man who lives life passionately.

With a few small exceptions, Saluja's first movie tells a wonderful story with messages that say be thankful for life and make art a part of everyday. Saluja shows that he has successfully made the journey into film making.



Roshan Seth and Betsy Zajko.





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Come to the new Columbia College Chronicle office, 623 South Wabash room 205, between Monday, October 20 and Tuesday October 21 to receive a pass (admit two) to an advance showing of "A life less ordinary", at Cineplex Odeon Theaters, 600 North Michigan Avenue, next Tuesday, October 21, 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.

## "A life less ordinary"



## Sara on Sports

By Sara Willingham  
Sports Columnist



By George, I think I've got it! I've figured it out...cracked the code...solved the puzzle!

I've struck gold, dammit!

I have finally discovered why Chicago's professional sports teams, or at least the majority of them, are failing so miserably. It's gotta be Daley's doings. You see, I hereby propose the theory that government officials here in Chicago have conspired to bring numerous forms of free outside publicity to the town of Chicago by means of consistent failure, and constantly reaching all-time lows in the history of Windy City athletics.

In other words: I think that this new trend of our teams being off to the worst start in "x" amount of years is simply attracting broadcasters from other cities and markets to boom about Chicago, which, inadvertently, brings publicity into town. I mean, hey, if we can't get attention by breaking record-highs, then why not go for record-lows? Do you get it? City officials have put a spotlight on Chicago...and hopefully the money will follow (naturally, this is their ultimate motivation behind their scheme).

Now, some of you are thinking, "OK, Sara, aren't you taking this a little far? That's a crazy proposal. You're on drugs, Mayor Daley et al wouldn't want to see anything but successful, prosperous teams, and therefore, happy fans and residents."

I say you're wrong. Don't put anything past politicians. We're talking about the type of people who would be capable of killing-off a President, and denying the public their rights to certain information (known as the UFO and JFK conspiracies). Down-right dishonest sons-of-you-know-whats who would definitely stoop so low as to ruin the lives of dedicated life-long fans for a simple boost in national attention.

Think of it this way... how can it be possible that one of the three major cities in our country, the one with an extremely high interest in sports, the one where cash flows pretty well, can be the city that owns three teams that have either tied—or broken—their all-time most pathetic records in history? Pardon my English, but THAT AIN'T RIGHT!!!!

For cryin' out loud, The Cubs, the Hawks and the Bears absolutely must make enough money in a single season to go out and get some stinkin' talent.

Let's take a look at the facts:

\* Da Hawks! The Blackhawks are currently 0 and 6 for the season. They are one teenie-weenie game away from tying their worst start ever which was seven straight losses in 1947!!! (that's gross)

\* Da Bears! The once-upon-a-time "Monsters of the Midway" stand at 0 and 7. It was 28 years ago when the Bears started the season with seven straight losses, and finished at 1 and 13... it was 1969!!! (that's gross and humiliating)

\* Da Cubs! Think way back to the spring months when the Cubbies couldn't find a win after 14 games. Well, not only have they come close to, or even tied their all-time worst record, they set a brand-spankin-new record at 0 and 14. They just nudged past the 1944 and 1981 squads who suffered with 13 lost games!!! (that's gross, humiliating and on the verge of pathetically entertaining)

So you tell me. Do ya see the correlation, the trend? Does it not make sense to you that such a large and passionate market of five professional teams would have three embarrassingly bad teams, one that was disappointingly unsuccessful (Da Sox), and one slight ray of golden sunshine (Da Bulls) that is expected to fade immediately after the upcoming season? It's gotta be a conspiracy. That's truly the only logical explanation left on the bargaining table. I don't buy the excuses anymore. It's not the poor player/personnel directors, it's not the useless, lazy managers and GM's, it's not the short-armed/deep-pocketed owners... IT'S THE GOVERNMENT! It's as clear as the fact that Phil won't be back next year. There's no use arguing about it, there's no other reasonable theory... as far as I'm concerned.

Whew! I feel a lot better now. It's no surprise to hear of the constant frustration of local sports fans, as there's nothing to really be proud of (aside from our NBA representatives, of course). If you have any idea as to the recent surge in sports-failures in Chicago, share it with me at [CHRON96@INTERACCESS.COM](mailto:CHRON96@INTERACCESS.COM). Although I'm dead-set on the concept of a governmental-conspiracy, I'm open to debate.

Check in next week, I can't wait to share my thoughts on the Bears/Packers game... the recent American and National League playoff series... and le Bulls en Francais, primarily, the absence of Dennis and Scottie.

See ya' then.

## An open letter to Bears owner Mike McCaskey

By Michael Johnson  
Correspondent

Dear Mr. McCaskey,

I'm not going to bore you by hammering you about the call Coach Dave Wannstedt made towards the end of the Packer game. Let's forget that your team is off to their worst start since the late sixties. Or the fact that Wannstedt's combined record is 32-39. I'm writing you to show you that the Bears can turn things around. All you have to do is follow my plan. First, this process is going to take two years to be complete. Next season the Bears are going to have to eat up a lot of salary-cap money because we are getting rid of some big money guys on the Bears. But the Bears can turn things around if we keep the right guys and get rid of the wrong ones. First we'll talk about the positives on your club, then who to run out of town.

Despite being 0-7, there are some guys on this football team that are playing extremely well. Raymont Harris, this is a guy that should get a nice multi-million dollar contract at the end of this season. He has shown that when he stays healthy, he can carry the ball 25 times and give you 100 yards rushing a game easily. He's a work horse.

He's third in the NFC in rushing yards, second in scoring and 7th in the NFL in rushing. He's the type of guy you want on your team. He makes other guys around him play better.

Curtis Conway. If we have learned anything this season, it's that we need Conway. Without him there to stretch the defense, the Bears passing game suffered. When he was first drafted, sixth overall, I couldn't believe that the Bears passed up on Willie Roaf. But after posting back-to-back 1,000 yard receiving seasons, I am a believer in Curtis Conway.

The offensive line. When they are healthy, they are one of the better lines in the NFL. We have learned this season because of injuries, the Bears don't have any depth at the line. The Packer game showed that this line, when healthy, can dominate a game. Raymont Harris averaged over 4.5 yards a carry, and Erik Kramer had time to throw the ball. Keep this unit together.

On the defensive side of the ball, let's talk about who we should keep. On the defensive line keep Jim Flanigan, Carl Simpson, John Thierry and Carl Reeves. These are the guys that have proved they deserve to be playing. Flanigan makes plays and gives 110% on every down. Carl Simpson gives your line the inside run stopper that you need against the running teams of the NFL. I have always been a skeptic of Thierry, but he is forming into a nice football player. I think he should be moved to outside linebacker, there he can use his speed to get around offensive tackles. He could be another Derrick Thomas. Carl Reeves, he's a guy that deserves to play. I watched him during the Packer game and he just loves what he's doing. This guy was ticked off when he had to come out of the game. You need these types of guys on your team.

Barry Minter. This guy was a gift from Jimmy Johnson to Wannstedt. The Bears traded John Roper to the Cowboys and Johnson threw Minter in the mix as a gift to his former defensive coordinator. Last season after Bryan Cox was injured, Minter shined in the middle. He is an every-down linebacker. He plays well against the run and is

quick enough to cover a tight-end or a running back out of the backfield.

Walt Harris and Tom Carter. I know they haven't played the best football this season. But both of these guys have the potential to be a pretty good tandem on the corners. Walt Harris has played well against some good receivers. Green Bay, Dallas and New England stayed away from Harris for the most part. Carter has had some costly interference penalties called against him. If he can stay out of trouble, he is a good one-on-one cover guy. The biggest thing these guys have on their side is youth. Tom Carter is 25 and Walt Harris is 23.

Marty Carter. This guy deserves to make the Pro-Bowl. He has been the Bears leading tackler the past two seasons and it looks like he will be again this season. Carter is great against the run and decent against the pass. He does his job extremely well. Keep this guy.

Now that we have sugar coated the good things, let's talk about the bad. Who are we going to run out of town first? Gee, I wonder who it could be? How about Dave Wannstedt? The poster boy

for it's always somebody else's fault. The fans have been more than patient with Coach Dave. His time is up! If the Bears were going to move forward, fire Wannstedt! Enough said, I'm not going to get into why, you already know why. I know it's unusual for the top dog to admit he was wrong, but in this case you have no choice.

Alonzo Spellman. This guy is 3 million dollars of wasted cap

space on the Bears roster. I know at the time of his signing there were no other defensive ends available, but, if you have watched his play over the past two seasons, he has only shined in sparks. A sack here, a tackle there, he might be a physical specimen, but I will take a 300 hundred pound fat guy who will work his ass off over Spellman any day of the week. Bye-bye Alonzo.

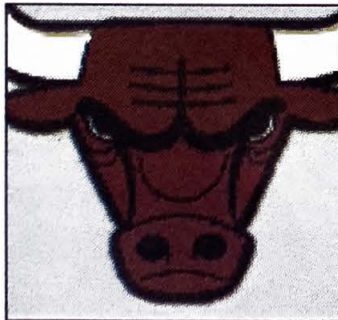
Rick Mirer. I didn't know the Bears are supposed to baby-sit players and rebuild their confidence. This guy is a grown man! We don't need any shattered egos on this football team. I also didn't know the Bears offense was like rocket science. I'm hearing Mirer needs time to learn the system. He's been in the NFL for five seasons, enough said. We sacrificed a first-round pick for this guy. Accept the fact you made a terrible mistake in trading for Mirer and get rid of him.

Rashaan Salaam. I don't care if a guy rushes for 250 yards a game, if he fumbles twice a game, he's out of here. Salaam's injury has shown that Raymont is the future of the Bears offense.

Bryan Cox. I like his style of play. But you can't cost your team 45 yards in penalties and stay on a team. That type of thing happens to often with Mr. Cox. He has also lost a step. Guys are running by him, he's missing tackles, and he wasn't that fast to begin with. Sorry Bryan, we need your cap space to get some good guys in Bears camp. I know there are more guys that should be handed their walking papers, but these four guys have enough cap-space to attract some pretty good free agents.

Please Mr. McCaskey, I know that I have talked about some pretty big changes on your football team. But I think if you take things seriously and make the necessary changes, the Bears can become a playoff contender once again. Let's make 1999 the year of the new Monsters of the Midway!

Thank you for your time,  
Michael Johnson



The Chronicle Sports page has Chicago's winning team and the losing teams covered.

