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Columbia Chronicle (11/30/1998)

Columbia College Chicago

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COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 10

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

NOVEMBER 30, 1998

INSIDE

Daily Planner

What's going on
around Columbia



Vitality

Get to know C.O.R.E.



Sports

Green Bay's finest
gets creamed.



'South Loop Review' arrives hot off the presses Columbia publication brings together the best of creative non-fiction

By Marnie Schipper
Staff Writer

Columbia is rich with cultural diversity; this wealth was apparent on Nov. 18, when the English department celebrated the release of the second edition of the "South Loop Review."

The "South Loop Review" is the department's annual collection of creative nonfiction originally produced in Columbia's literature, English, professional writing, and creative nonfiction classes.

This year's release party was held at Hothouse, located at 31 E. Balbo, where students and faculty gathered to hear readings from the published authors. The lone microphone and stool in the dark club filled with plush velvet booths and lively art set the stage.

One by one the authors read works that illustrated the diversity of Columbia's student body and allowed the audience a glimpse into their private worlds.

The essays differed in subject and experience but were all examples of that individual's unique place in the world. Subjects ranged from Judith Schulz's reflection on her abortion, Che Smith's letter to the father who abandoned him, and Brenda Alvarez's struggle with her Puerto Rican ethnicity to Anne Leahy's travels in Guatemala, Shira Coffee's adoration of cigars, and Sandra McCloud's blind date. There were also remarks on Arab-American stereotyping by Dalai Ali and Dani Linn and Elizabeth Raymer's touching takes on family relations.

Renee Hansen, one of the faculty editors and advisers, said that the 18 essays published were chosen from about 100 entries submitted. "Works were judged on a good

sense of voice...good writing, writing style, and the ability to tell a story well," she said. Hansen also said that she and the student editors "wanted to reflect the Columbia persona."

Rose Blouin, another faculty adviser, feels that the "South Loop Review" is "a good affirmation of the strong writing that Columbia generates."

Blouin encourages all students to submit their nonfiction work for the 1999 edition. The entry form can be picked up in the English department in the 33 E. Congress building on the third floor. Art and photography that captures the essence of the South Loop is needed for the cover. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 1999. The first two issues of the "South Loop Review" are available at Columbia's bookstore.

Government fights for the right to police the Internet American Civil Liberties Union blocks passage of bill, deems it unconstitutional

By Kimberly A. Brehm
Staff Writer

Just two days prior to the law taking effect, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) succeeded in obtaining a temporary injunction against the Child Online Protection Act, which sets new Internet guidelines.

The injunction, issued by a federal judge in Philadelphia, prohibits the government from enforcing the new Internet guidelines until a hearing on Dec. 7 when the ACLU will argue the law's constitutionality.

The Child Online Protection Act, written and sponsored by Sen. Dan Coats (R-Ind.) and Sen. Michael Oxley (R-Ohio), is designed to protect minors from sexually explicit material on the Internet by prohibiting such material from Web sites children can reach.

However, according to William Spain, ACLU's Public Information Director of Illinois, "The Child Online Protection Act is a censorship law, not a child protection law. It denies the spirit, theory and practice of the First Amendment which guarantees freedom of the press and freedom of speech," he said "This is the worst type of government censorship; it attempts to control what citizens can see and read."

According to Spain, the law will give the government a right to censor all Internet users, even adults. "It's almost like the Congress coming to your house and locking up all the books they feel children shouldn't see and making you, an adult, ask for the key," said Spain.

He believes that the government is attempting to make the Internet safe for a six-year-old by trying to cease a wide range of protected expression. This, he said, is why the ACLU believes the law is unconstitutional.

Sen. Coats, however, disagrees. His spokesman, Tim Goeglein, said: "When Congress passed this legislation overwhelmingly, and when the President signed it into law, our objective was to pass a bill that would pass Constitutional muster. I believe we accomplished that goal."

Another spokesman for Sen. Coats, Matt Smith, said the Senator had written a similar bill, called the Communications Decency Act, in 1996. According to Smith, that bill was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court because a particular portion of the bill was deemed "too broad." Smith said Sen. Coats rewrote the original bill by narrowing the language to match the Supreme Court's own definition of material and content deemed harmful to minors. The Child Online Protection Act applies the same standards of decency found in bookstores, convenience stores, etc. to the Internet.

After this change, Smith said, the act was passed overwhelmingly in Congress. "We hope that the Clinton Justice Department will vigorously defend this statute and have every confidence the Supreme Court will uphold it," said Smith.

Spain said that while the ACLU agrees minors shouldn't view sexually explicit material, they believe any censoring should be done by parents, not the government.

Bill Vallos, Network Administrator for Orbitel Communications, agrees with Spain's position. As an Internet Service Provider (ISP), Vallos sees the need to regulate children's access to sexually explicit material but doesn't believe it should be done by the federal government. Vallos said, "There is software available today, such as Content Advisor in Windows 95 and 98, that allows parents to block access to any web site that they determine is unsuitable for their children."

According to Vallos, software such as this doesn't deny adults legal access to such web sites but it makes the Internet much safer for children.

Vallos does see a need for laws protecting minors on the Internet but believes the government is wrong to censor-free expression. Instead, Vallos said, "We should have a law that makes Internet Service Providers use blocks such as the Content Advisor. Most companies currently don't. This wouldn't prohibit any adult's legal access but would make the Internet safer for children."

Another ISP company, Access Chicago Internet Services, agrees with Vallos. Technical Manager Matt Benoit said, "The Child Online Protection Act appears unconstitutional. Parents should censor what their children read and view, not the government. Software such as Net Nanny and

CyberDog, can block access to any web site that parents don't want their children to visit. There is no need for additional laws to protect minors."

Some law professors also have reservations about the Child Online Protection Act. George Turbow, professor at John Marshall Law School, said, "The law, as written, is not sufficiently narrow and adults will now be censored. The solution is screening mechanisms, placed by parents, which would regulate minors."

Turbow believes that the Child Online Protection Act violates First Amendment rights and reminds the government that it can't punish adults while trying to control

See Censorship page 3

Special Section inside



Since March of this year, photographer Rob Hart has chronicled the life and times of the Little Brother/Friends of the Elderly organization and those who benefit from the hospitality it provides. His work appears in a special pull-out section inside.

TOY Drive

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November

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CAMPUS NEWS

Israeli journalist Nachman Shai comes to Columbia

By Christopher La Pelusa
Assisting Campus/Viewpoints Editor

Nachman Shai, a distinguished visitor from Israel will be visiting Columbia on Nov. 30. Shai is the director of the Second, Television and Radio Authority and has held various governmental positions throughout his career.

He holds a B.A. in History and Political Science which he attained from the Hebrew University. Shai also has an MA with honors from the Communications Institute at the Hebrew University. Mr. Shai has accomplished advanced studies in communications at the World Press Institute, Business Administration at the Hebrew University and Politics and Public Policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Between 1968 and 1979, Shai held a position as a reporter and editor for Kol Yisrael (Israel Radio) covering Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and Military Affairs. Shai later moved on to become a senior reporter and editor for Israel Television covering military and Knesset Affairs. The governmental positions that he has held include: Press Secretary of the Israel Delegation to the United

Nations, Press Advisor at Israel's Embassy in Washington, and Communication Advisor to the Minister of Defense.

Shai held the position of Commander and Chief Editor of Galei Tzahal from 1985 to 1989. From 1989 to 1991, he served as Israel Defense Forces Spokesman, accumulating the rank of Brigadier General. Finally, in 1991, Shai retired from political and military work and settled down with working as Director General of the Second Television and Radio Authority and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Israel Television News Company.

The topics for his lectures are listed below:

- Media Under Siege - Israel and the Media
- Managing Information in emergency situations - The Israeli Experience
- The First Four Years - the Israeli Model of Commercial Television
- The Role of the Media in the Peace Process
- Israel Update - The First Fifty Years

Librarians warn students to look for accuracy, authority on web

By Will Lee
Western Illinois University

MACOMB, Ill.- This being the Information Age, college professors are urging students to use the Internet with as much fervor as they would a library.

But many instructors say they've also come to realize their insistence is a double-edged sword that in many cases has created classrooms full of lazy researchers who don't use the Web wisely - perhaps, in many cases, because they don't know how.

"It's just easier to look up things on your computer in your room than to go to the library and look up the books and microfilm," said Leslie Gray, sophomore journalism major at Western Illinois University who uses the Internet to do almost all of her research these days.

Such exclusive use of the Web sends shivers down the spines of many university and library administrators.

"Faculty have complained to me that students go off to the Web to do a search in Alta-Vista and pick the first 10 things that come up on the list and then submit those as support for a paper without any authority to them," said Esther Grassian, electronics services coordinator for the undergraduate library system of the University of California at Los Angeles. "It's all so exciting, and there's so

many possibilities out there, but we do have to be careful because (the Internet) is unfilled in many cases and unregulated."

That's the trouble with the Web; it's a hodge-podge of fact and fiction, said Sheila Nollen, a librarian at WIU.

"(Students) often do not evaluate carefully what they're getting," she said. "They're not making the differentiation between what's garbage, what looks good but has no authority to it and what's good material."

To show students how easy it is to fall for bogus information posted on the Web, Grassian set up a fictitious site containing a "research paper" titled "Feline Reaction to Bearded Men."

"It's got footnotes, a bibliography, photos and everything," she said. "When you first glance at it, you think 'Oh, gee, here's an article I can use.' But when (students) look more closely at it, we point out that it's really a bogus site, and they start to understand that they can't accept everything out there."

Jim Kapoun, a reference and instruction librarian at Southwest State University, teaches students to use five criteria for evaluating Web pages:

1. Accuracy. Students should find out who wrote the Web page and a contact address or phone number for that person. They should also ask whether the author was qualified to write the document.

2. Authority. Students should carefully note the Web page's URL domain - .edu (education source), .gov (government source), (organization source).org, .net (network source) or .com (commercial source) - and whether the site's publisher lists his or her qualifications.

3. Objectivity. Students should determine whether the Web page is a mask for advertising; which could provide biased information. Kapoun also suggests that they view any Web page as they would an infomercial on television. "Ask yourself why this was written and for whom," he said.

4. Currency. Make a note of when the page was produced and last up-dated. Also note whether links on the site are updated or dead.

5. Coverage. Students should determine whether the information presented is cited correctly and whether it can be viewed only with special software, fees or a recommended browser. Such recommendations also may indicate a biased Web page or one set up as a money-making scheme.

If the Web page meets Kapoun's criteria, he said, "you may have a higher quality Web page that could be of value to your research."

College Press Exchange, 1998

Censorship continued from page 1

minors.

According to Spain, this opinion is the base of the ACLU's argument. Spain said, "It is never up to the government to decide what we should see and read. As United States citizens, we have a right to decide for ourselves."

Spain assured that the ACLU will challenge the Child Online Protection Act to the Supreme Court, just as it did to the similar act in

1996. Spain vowed, "As long as the government continues writing these types of laws, we will continue to fight them. Meanwhile, we are always grateful for our Bill of Rights which protects against anyone infringing upon our constitutional rights."

CORRECTION & CLARIFICATION

In last week's issue, Rick Kaplan, president of CNN was referred to as "Rich" Kaplan by mistake. We deeply regret any confusion this may have caused.

The Fiction Writing Department will present their "Story Week Festival of Writers" program during this week (Nov. 30-Dec. 4) and not in April 1999 as reported in the Nov. 16 issue of *The Chronicle*.

The following people are scheduled to appear during the program:

Betty Shiflett
Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Residence Center

Editors Panel
Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Hokin Hall

Yan Geling, Don Gennaro De Grazia and Joe Meno
Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
Ferguson Theater

Bharati Mukherjee
Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Getz Theater

April Sinclair
Friday at 6:00 p.m.
Ferguson Theater

Henry Louis Gates Jr.
Saturday at 11:30 a.m.
Newberry Library, East Hall, 60 W. Walton St., Chicago

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Lenders offer lower student loan payments until Jan. 31

By James M. O'Neill
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Former college students seeking to cut their student loan payments can take advantage of several special deals from both the federal government and other lenders, who are shaving interest rates for a limited time.

The deals involve replacing the old loans with a new one at lower rates - a procedure usually referred to as debt consolidation.

The Clinton administration kicked off the federal loan discounts in July, and the reauthorized higher education bill that passed Congress last month extended the special rates by three months until Jan. 31.

Several other players in the loan market also are offering consolidation rates that meet, or in some cases beat, the federal government's discount.

But loan experts caution borrowers to check with their current lenders before consolidating, since extending consolidation payments over a longer period than the original loan could increase total interest payments over the long haul. Those who consolidate also forfeit borrower discounts already built in to existing loans.

The federal program works like this. Any former student who is paying back federally guaranteed student loans can apply to consolidate their loans and save about \$50 per \$1,000 borrowed during the life of the new loan, according to the Department of Education. For example, a borrower who consolidates \$19,000 of loans would save about \$950 during the standard 10-year student loan. Parents who hold federal PLUS loans also can apply. These loans are taken by the parents instead of the students.

The savings come because the government is offering 7.46 percent interest on consolidated loans. In February, that will change to an undiscounted rate calculation stipu-

lated in the Higher Education Act, capped at 8.25 percent. The consolidation loan rates are usually variable, but those who apply before Jan. 31 can lock in the 7.46 percent rate for the life of their loan.

The Clinton administration pushed for the lower consolidation rates so graduates with existing loans could enjoy the lower interest rates now being offered to students taking out new loans.

Two other large players in the student loan market also have loan consolidation discounts that end Jan. 31.

USA Group, the Indianapolis, Ind., company that is the nation's largest guarantor and administrator of student loans, and Sallie Mae, which owns or manages student loans for 5.3 million borrowers, both offer consolidation rates that would beat the federal rates - if the borrowers agree to certain conditions.

Starting with the 8.25 percent rate cap set in the higher education bill for all consolidation loans, both institutions will shave .25 percent if borrowers allow monthly loan payments to be electronically deducted from their checking or savings accounts.

In addition, borrowers who make 48 monthly payments on time can get a full percentage point shaved off the rate, reducing it to 7 percent. But loan experts caution that such deals aren't for everyone.

"It all depends on whether you're a good record-keeper or a sloppy one," says John Dean, special counsel for the Consumer Bankers Association in Washington. "If you're disorganized and don't think you'll make every payment on time, think twice about relying on that particular borrower benefit."

Sallie Mae estimates that someone who meets both conditions and consolidates \$20,000 would pay \$36,001 over the course of a 20-year loan, a savings of \$2,550 over the federal consolidation rate of 7.46 percent.

Not every player in the student loan industry is offer-

ing special consolidation deals. PNC Bank, the biggest private student lender in Pennsylvania, has no such deal. The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency, the second-largest guarantor of student loans in the country, has no special offer in place.

Some in the student loan industry caution those who might jump at a consolidation opportunity, saying they should first consider whether they really need to consolidate.

"For a lot of borrowers, it's really not in their best interest to consolidate," says Mark Brenner with the Education Finance Council, which represents student loan secondary markets. Many student loan lenders offer borrower incentives that reduce existing loan rates - similar to those USA Group and Sallie Mae are offering to those consolidating. By abandoning the terms of the original loans in order to consolidate, borrowers in some cases might be giving up a collection of benefits that, in the long run, would provide lower cost.

In addition, borrowers should remember that even if a consolidation rate appears to be lower than their existing rate, the total cost for the consolidation loan could be higher than the original loan if the new plan extends over many more years than the original. The longer the loan, the more interest is collected by the lender.

For information on the federal consolidation program, call 1-800-557-7392, or check the Department of Education's Web site at www.ed.gov/DirectLoan/consolid2.html

For information on the Sallie Mae program, call 1-800-524-9100. For the USA Group program, call 1-800-448-3533.

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Tight dorm space offers lesson on sharing that many fail

By Jonathan Goldstein
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. - The sandals were the last straw. For days, tension had been building between SanTresa Asmond and Sara Rodriguez, freshman roommates at Winthrop University's Wofford Hall in Rock Hill. Asmond liked to stay out late, and she often turned on the light to get ready for bed after Rodriguez had gone to sleep. Also, Asmond's mother called at 6 a.m. some mornings - waking both roommates and irritating Rodriguez.

So when Asmond borrowed a pair of leather sandals from Rodriguez without asking, a week's worth of pent-up anger exploded.

"I went off on her," Rodriguez says. "I was like: 'I can't believe you'd come into my personal space and put on something of mine.'"

Two days later, Asmond moved into another room. "Our living styles were too different," she says.

Now the two hardly speak, their relationship a casualty of freshman-year.

Such dorm-room dramas constantly play out at colleges across the country, school leaders say. And while most first-time roommates make it through the year without coming to blows, many find their patience seriously tested.

The week before Thanksgiving is especially hard on roommate relations, housing officials say. That's when the stress of spending months away from home often comes to a head, aggravated by looming exams and term papers.

"This is a very stressful time for new students in particular," said William Zeller, housing director at the University of Michigan, who consults with the University of South Carolina and other schools. "It's been a very long stretch for them, and they've had to make some significant adjustments in their lives. We see roommate problems really kind of reach a peak."

The advice school leaders offer is blithely at wit's end: Hang on. You'll soon spend a few blissful days at home, and that might lead to a more realistic perspective on roommate problems.

Still, sometimes it is as bad as it seems.

Officials at Charlotte-area schools have a ready stockpile of housing horror stories: Students falsely telling police a roommate was selling drugs. Roommates stealing

from each other. Roommates dividing the room with a masking-tape line.

Why can't they all just get along? Housing officials cite several reasons:

Many students have never shared a room before college. Two people making do for the first time in one small room sometimes lose their tempers, and short tempers make for a long year. Some students don't know how to compromise. At home, parents often play the role of arbiter and make all of the important household decisions.

Not everyone is compatible. A student who likes to stay up late watching TV may never live comfortably with someone who wants the room dark and quiet by 10 p.m.

Disagreements don't have to become fights, though. Consider Winthrop roommates Candace Johnson and Rachel Wilhelm.

A potential problem sprouted early this year, when Johnson started getting up at 5 a.m. for cheerleading practice twice a week. Wilhelm cringed at the early morning ruckus.

But the two talked it out, and they soon reached an accommodation. The alarm still beeps before dawn, but Johnson keeps the light off and gets ready for practice in the bathroom.

The two have since become inseparable.

"A lot of people walk on eggshells to get along with their roommate," Wilhelm said. "We don't have to."

Area colleges don't keep exact statistics on how many freshmen switch rooms because they're unhappy with roommates, but officials generally estimate the number at less than 5 percent.

The schools do what they can to smooth student relationships. Nearly every residence hall has a staff of specially trained upperclassmen and at least one professional to help roommates work out their problems.

Scott Carter, who runs UNC Charlotte's Moore Hall, says his staff regularly helps students negotiate rocky roommate waters. Upperclassmen help roommates come up with an agreement including rules for when the room has to be quiet, when the lights have to be out and when guests are allowed.

Most area schools use similar strategies. They also try to match compatible freshmen.

Davidson College leaves little to chance, said Kurt Holmes, director of residence life. He and his staff spend

weeks poring over housing applications, considering whether students like the room warm or cold, whether they smoke, when and where they study.

Davidson students also take the Myers-Briggs personality test to help determine who would make the best roommates.

Apparently, it all pays off. Of the 450-or-so students who move onto Davidson's campus each year, usually only about a dozen change rooms. "If we can make it a good experience, it just makes it that much easier for them," Holmes said.

Davidson does not take requests for room changes lightly. Before they can give up on each other, roommates must undergo mediation and try to live together for about six weeks.

After all, Davidson officials figure, college is about preparing a student for life - and what's better preparation than learning to get along with others?

Other area colleges tend to spend less time pairing up students, although most ask about smoking, study habits and cleanliness. Those schools also let students move a little more freely.

Housing officials at many colleges agree that students can learn a lot by working through differences. But some also say it's important to end a rotten relationship before it starts to hurt a student's grades and social life.

And clearly, some relationships are beyond saving.

UNC's Carter remembers an unusually fierce feud at a school in Indiana, Pa., where he worked two years ago. It's his example of how small disagreements can lead to big emotions.

One roommate had forgotten to pass along a phone message to the other. The second roommate retaliated, and both women soon slipped into combat mode. Eventually, one shredded the other's wardrobe with a pair of scissors.

The moral, according to Carter: Address your problems before they get out of hand. And leave your scissors in the desk.

"If anything bothers you as a roommate, say something. Talk it out."

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ATTENTION ALL COLUMBIA FACULTY & STAFF

In order to make an informed decision about the feasibility of a Child Care Center at Columbia College Chicago, we are presently conducting a child care needs analysis survey. The surveys are available in various department offices. Please take a moment, fill out the survey and promptly return it before Dec. 10, 1998, c/o Randie Von Samek, Office of the VP/Dean of Graduate School, 600 S. Michigan Avenue Rm. #506.

Your participation and input are of crucial importance!

SPRING 99 EARLY REGISTRATION

for continuing students (only) begins November 30, 1998 and ends December 11, 1998. Early Registration packets will be mailed out to all students within the first two weeks of November.

To all students:

If you have changed your address or if you are not sure that the address on file is correct, you should go to the records office and inquire or correct the address on file. This will ensure that the Early Registration letters get mailed to the correct address.

To qualify for **EARLY REGISTRATION**, you must be a continuing student (currently enrolled)

New Students do not qualify for Early Registration.

The **VOID DATE** for Students who have Early Registered and have not signed their contracts in the Bursar's office is December 18, 1998.

If the student does not sign the bursar contract by this deadline his/her classes will be dropped.

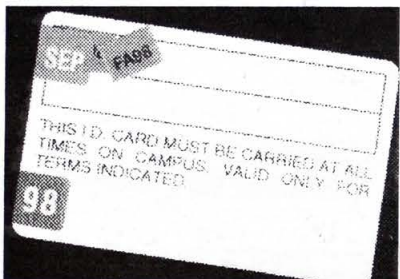
VIEWPOINTS

Editorial

What For?

Have you ever felt like everyone is against you? Did you ever wonder what it would feel like to be a fugitive on the run? If these thoughts have ever passed through your mind, make it reality and try get around Columbia without a Fall '98 sticker.

What is the reason for the stickers? If a student has an I.D., they're obviously a student, not someone trying to pull a fast one. Not having a Fall '98 sticker on the back of your I.D. gives you pretty much no power to do anything around the school. Try borrowing a book from the library or even reading a textbook while in the library. Don't even think about using the computer labs, the people in the computer lab have a zero tolerance policy and won't listen to anything you say. Speaking of computers, why do we have to



buy print cards for ten dollars in order to print up even a page of paper? Where does the ten dollars go? Does it go toward upgrades, better facilities, or in someone's pocket?

The print card came into play about two years ago...why? Was there a drastic increase in the price of paper or a severe paper shortage?

While Columbia is a unique school to say the least, there are some things that I would like to see that are commonplace in most schools.

"If Columbia wants to keep students here, they should really help out the students a bit more. Why should we continue to pay tuition and the ever-growing class fees and not ask any questions?"

Why do we not have a meal plan? The occupants of the Residence Center are always scouring the city, in order to feed themselves besides the usual, Ramen noodles and water dinner for two. With the closing of the Printer's Row Market on State St. in May, there is no full-scale grocery store close by besides White Hen, where nine dollars will fetch you a frozen pizza. I wonder if fasting is an option?

I believe if Columbia wants to keep students here, they should really help out the students a bit more. Why should we continue to pay tuition and the ever-growing class fees and not ask any questions? Columbia is a fine school with great instructors but I think there could be more incentives for students.

And let's not forget about the U-Pass.... Oh forget it, this column isn't that long.

We invite you to write a guest column for The Columbia Chronicle. Columns should be no less than 600 words in length and must contain your full name and contact info. If you're interested or have any questions, call 312-344-7343 and ask for Billy. You can also e-mail him at MrBilly78@aol.com.

Letters to the Editor



State of the U-Pass : The Battle Continues

Dear Columbia College Chronicle,

Shame on you. A major student issue involving all our welfare comes up, the U-Pass, and you allow your paper to become a bully pulpit for the administration. In the past several months, the only articles I've seen in The Chronicle regarding the U-Pass have been slanted towards the administration and their refusal to reconsider the U-Pass. I am personally involved in the Student Organizations Council (SOC), and we've been struggling to negotiate with the deans on how to compromise with the CTA on the U-Pass problem. And I think your paper has lost perspective on the issue.

But I would first like to address an editorial I saw in your last issue regarding a junior in the dorms who doesn't think the U-Pass benefits him. Even if you're living in the dorms and you can walk to class, how do you get to the airport for traveling on Holidays? The CTA. And how do you travel to job interviews, classes outside of campus or even go shopping? The CTA. Even when I lived in the dorms, I still relied on the CTA for many of my traveling needs, so everyone stands to benefit from the U-Pass.

It's easy for the administration to not agree to the U-Pass when all our esteemed top brass have cars at their disposal. I've heard the reasons for administrative opposition to the U-Pass all too many times: Not all full-time students will use it, too much money up front, too much hassle making new ID's.

But why hasn't the administration simply tried to renegotiate with the CTA rather than dump the program altogether? How would the Mid-East peace talks have managed if the Israeli's and Palestinians did think the way this U-Pass matter is being handled. As a student at Columbia, I'm not just upset by the school's avoiding the U-Pass, I'm also infuriated by the pompous tone of many in The Chronicle and administration in dealing with student concerns. Instead of being listened to, we're being patronized and chastised.

I get the impression The Chronicle staff is more concerned with updating the sports section than seriously addressing student concerns (funny, since we have no college sports on campus). Or are you merely trying to suck up to the administration for your fiasco with the "Administration Payroll" cover story from last month? It's ironic how the school can still

afford to pay the president almost half a million dollars a year in salary and benefits, yet walk away from a down payment of \$80,000 for a program designed to save students hundreds of dollars a year.

I've personally seen the CTA change their rates and card incentives at the drop of a hat, so I refuse to believe the CTA can't renegotiate with Columbia or a collective bargaining group of Chicago schools. But then again, that would require the kind of serious work and research I haven't seen the administration or Chronicle doing lately. In conclusion, though, The Chronicle isn't completely incompetent. The SOC and many other student groups rely on your paper as a source of research, and sometimes for a good reason. But can't you see that a program like the U-Pass wouldn't even still be discussed right now if there wasn't a tremendous momentum of student support for it? Your paper's own survey has shown 96% of student participants are in favor of the U-Pass.

David M. Blumenthal
Junior

Editor's Note: Since the very first issue of the current school year, The Chronicle has presented the U-Pass and its benefits from the perspectives of both the students and the administration. From editorials to the hotline and survey to cartoons, the U-Pass issue has always held prominent position in our paper.

But while we can report the news and give our say, we can't force students to be interested. The U-Pass survey, read by thousands of students, generated barely over two hundred responses. The hotline's response was just as lukewarm. When we report the rejection of the U-Pass, we do so objectively, presenting the facts before our opinions. We have never sided with the administration on this issue, as most of us here at The Chronicle are heavily in favor of the U-Pass. (For proof, check out September 28th's editorial and survey, as well as editorial cartoons from that issue as well as the November 16th edition). In addition, we have always called out for opinionated students to submit guest columns, and we print every letter we receive on the pass (for or against).

We have always presented a forum for students to voice their opinion and become more involved with this newspaper. But when people don't take advantage, what are we to do?

-- Billy O'Keefe

If you have something to say about the U-Pass, go ahead and say it. All students are invited to write guest columns and letters for any issue of The Chronicle. E-mail MrBilly78@aol.com for more details.

I have nothing to say

Readers of ye olde Chronicle, I declare this to be my most pointless, useless column of all-time, never to be matched in sheer uselessness until the next holiday (or next week, whichever comes first). If this article was a porcupine, it would probably be dead.

You might be saying to yourself, "Hey stupid, say something useful!" And that's fine. But while I cannot punish you for calling me stupid, that doesn't mean I have to obey.

Now you may be saying, "You turkey! Why are you doing this to me!?" Or perhaps you've quit reading altogether

Billy O'Keefe

(which, really, is not a bad idea this week). In any case, you're scared, confused, perhaps angry, simply dying to find any sort of meaning in this, the worst column you have ever read.

So why am I not being all I can be? To put it eloquently, I don't wanna. I'm tired, I'm cranky, I'm seeing things, and I'm in no position to fake an argument, let alone actually present one.

As I write this, Thanksgiving is in two days. With the shortened week, we have to wrap this newspaper up and send it to the press by early Wednesday evening; normally, we'd have until late Saturday morning. In case you're mindblowingly poor at math, that cuts our allotted time in half. And while more than one of the five assigned news stories may eventually be handed in (they were all due yesterday, after all), right now it doesn't look too good. Throw in a broken computer, an annoying commute and a little thing called school, and...

Alright. I'll shut up now. I've always considered myself very lucky and I hate complaining. I have a place to live, a family to support me, a sister to make sure I can dress myself, good friends, a great girlfriend and a cheerfully senile dog. My room is still full of video games and Pez, my closet always has a box of sugary cereal in it, and "The Simpsons" is on three — count 'em, three — glorious times a day.

So maybe that's the problem. I would not dare complain that college is hard or even laborious; everybody knows that comes with the territory. College students won't catch a break as long as they're students, because that's how the world works. Rather, I'd like to pass along to you a request of sorts, to slow down and (pardon my cliché) smell the proverbial roses.

In school, grades are the thing, sure. My dog could tell you that, and she flunked out of obedience school after one day. But too often (and it's not solely our fault), we let these little grades take over our heads, and we tend to lose sight and lose track of what's equally important. We sometimes let our interests and relationships deteriorate simply because in the limited time we have each day, school rules.

Again, we have to be careful not to complain. Unless you're a prince, motivation and hard work are crucial components for a successful future. And any college (except Florida State, of course) is a haven for opportunity of all stripes. Still, there are questions that we won't see on any exam. For example, what good are all the A's in the world if you cannot apply the knowledge you received? That big fat college degree and all those internships are pretty spectacular, but will it take you anywhere if you have no place to go? And what good is that well-paying career if

See O'Keefe, following page

O'Keefe

Continued from page 6

you have no one or nothing to spend all that dough on?

In a similar vein, I am against putting out this issue on such short notice, sacrificing the precious little time I have to spend with people who are in town for the holiday. It certainly wouldn't kill anyone, our own selves not least among them, if we skipped a week. Our career chances would live on, our reputations would not wilt and our ner-

vous systems might actually repair themselves, if for only a week.

On top of all that, this column sucks. It's my worst piece of work ever, elementary school included. It's a rushed, disorganized stream of conscious that no doubt will spew a leak if I don't wrap it up soon. In any case, there's too many paragraphs.

But while I would usually not settle for publishing something I'd classify as crap, this week it doesn't bother me. It's just a newspaper, and it's just a column. Life is more than important than simply grades, money and recognition, and it's our job to learn and remember that. It may not be much, but for this week anyway, it's all I've got.

Studying isn't always the way to get ahead

By Michelle Blair

Cornell University
The Cornell Daily Sun

Do you get an average of three hours of sleep on weeknights? Do you often find yourself studying at social events? Do you feel that most of your friends and associates have a much livelier social lives than you do? Can you remember the last time you went to a party or major social event?

If you answered yes to any of the previous questions and you may be suffering from a syndrome known as over-studying. (If you are not a student and one of these characteristics applies to you, you are in serious need of some fun.)

That's right. There are way too many people here who are overly concerned with their grade-point averages. Before they even attempt to learn what they are studying, they calculate exactly what score they need to get on a prelim exam so they can end up with an 'A' in the class.

These are the people who may graduate without learning one concrete thing since they devoted all of their time to worrying about their grades. And sometimes all of these worrywarts have to ask themselves one practical question: Whom am I trying to impress?

If they are thinking of applying to some kind of graduate program, maybe their anxiety is justified, but for the others, you have to wonder what their problem is.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating low GPAs and poor study habits. It's just that when students start regularly neglecting important necessities like sleep, or when

they start depending on beverages to get them through their classes every day, there's a serious need for priority assessment. Most students can't survive long periods of time pretending they're not human.

The self-sacrificing student is just one example of the grade-obsessed; worse yet are those who base their self-worth on their grades.

This type of person ranks his health as less important than his parents' approval.

Constant stress and desperation, all for the sake of getting an 'A', forces certain members of this group to make such serious and final decisions as suicide.

I'll never forget asking my high-school history teacher for a pass so that I could attend an information session about Cornell University. As soon as she heard my request, she said, "You want to go to the school with the highest suicide rating?" I was shocked. Why mention such a thing in such a way?

Before then, I had never realized that there was a suicide rate ranking for American colleges.

Sadly, there are many students who define themselves by their GPAs. If you know someone who seems like they take their grades too seriously, try to make them understand GPAs are never more important than their existence.

If you are an "over-study," please talk to a family member or close friend who you know would love to hear from you. If you've given something your all, console yourself with the realization that your best is good enough.

It may be a nice plus for an employer to be able to read that you've been on the dean's list eight semesters in a

row, but in the end, that won't be the pivotal factor that gets you the job. Book knowledge is book knowledge, so for those who think GPAs automatically make up 75 percent of a person's eligibility for a job, please try to remember the important distinction between book knowledge and practical knowledge.

Your GPA won't help you after you walk into the interviewer's office. There are many organizations and on-campus jobs that help students exercise at least one or two of the skills they'll need to be successful.

It's a good idea to check out those options because senior who has never participated in a single extra-curricular activity may not fare well when job hunting. One job interviewer told me that most students she sees don't participate in enough things to even fill out the small section set aside for them on the job application. That, she said, is not impressive.

The bottom line is this: Sleep. Enjoy social events to the fullest - which means leaving your books at home. Make a commitment to do at least one thing each week that doesn't involve schoolwork. If you're really concerned about getting that job, involve yourself in at least one extra-curricular activity. (Your social life will improve by leaps and bounds.)

If this seems like too many changes to make at once, implement one at a time. The key is to enjoy something - anything. After all, isn't some degree of happiness required for a truly beneficial college experience?

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Youthful rebellion not what it used to be

By Alex Ross

Tulane University
The Tulane Hullabaloo

A sorority girl hefting a backpack adorned with Phish and Bob Dylan patches walked across campus the other day. Her outfit consisted of a GAP shirt, Tommy Hilfiger black high-heeled shoes, an Abercrombie and Fitch hat, and black tights.

I shook my head.

An interesting paradox has emerged in 1990s youth culture: rebellion via conformity. Corporate America has directed our natural tendencies to rebel into consumerism, and we've let it. Thus, teenagers and 20-somethings are straying way from activism and the useful rebellion in which their parents engaged during the 1960s.

What is consumer rebellion anyway?

To understand it, you have to look at the activists of the '60s, who fought for world change via peaceful protests. They set out to conquer the world and to radically alter the greatest government on Earth. Their success may not have been absolute, but the resonance still is felt today.

No doubt that was useful rebellion.

The 1990's version of rebellion isn't as useful to the world. It's good for corporations that feed teenagers spoonfuls of rebellion, but not to the dirt, sky, or water.

The rebellion of the 90's is useless to you and me - and pretty much to anyone else.

The sorority girl wore the concept of consumer rebellion on her chest. Her Phish and Bob Dylan badges were a not-so-successful effort to symbolize her dedication to non-mainstream society and its ideals. She doesn't fight for unjust authority. She doesn't fight for equality. She doesn't fight for anything, really - except, perhaps, her image.

And she's not the only one. Young people routinely buy baggy jeans, Grateful Dead T-shirts, hemp necklaces and anything else considered outside the norm. They wrongfully believe those things will set them apart from everyone else.

Ironically, they're not rebelling against anything, but they are indeed conforming. After all, goods often thought to be outside the mainstream are everywhere. Rap music thrives in upper class, white, suburban neighborhoods. Grateful Dead T-shirts are absolutely everywhere - even Asian rice farmers are wearing them. Virgin Megastores

carry every Phish CD. Even corporate lawyers sport Bob Dylan bumper stickers on the backs of their cars. Hemp is no longer underground. It's an industry.

Marketing tells people that these goods are outside the mainstream - a ploy designed to make young people feel they're exercising their freedom of choice and expression when they buy them - and we fall for it. One contemporary song makes fun of us: "They buy a bottle of rebellion ... buy a bottle of nonconformity," it says.

Thomas Jefferson once said "a little rebellion now and then is a good thing." But is today's consumer rebellion what he envisioned? Perhaps he saw us fighting one of the most corrupt presidents in history. Or the censorship that abounds in middle schools and high schools these days. Or a justice system that allows criminals to walk free. Or loggers who will ensure that rain forests are gone in our lifetimes. Or the corner of Haight-Ashbury in San Francisco, center of the "Summer of Love," and the symbol of the 1960s counter-cultural rebellion - a corner that now has a Ben and Jerry's ice cream shop and a GAP.

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New World Order: If Jesse 'the Body' Ventura Were President

By Dave Moniz

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Early in the year 2001 - soon after all those computers have quit on us - don't be surprised to see a change of scenery in Washington.

In a society that suddenly values large, deep-voiced men over fragile machines, Jesse "The Body" Ventura will ride a wave of populist sentiment into the White House. Nauseous with memories of Newt, Bill and two-party politics, the voting public will place the major parties in a four-year sleeper hold.

The Ventura Cabinet will reflect the width and breadth of the former professional wrestler's experiences in the "Squared Circle" and, less importantly, his brief tenure as governor of Minnesota.

Wasting no time, "The Body's" braintrust unveils an ambitious agenda to restore the country to its rightful place as keeper of the United Nations' Championship Belt.

Let's look at what's in store in this new world order: Between playful head butts with fellow Cabinet members, Defense Secretary Sergeant Slaughter announces that the United States would no longer conduct diplomatic relations with countries that support "pencil neck" terrorists.

The United States is committed to "fighting fire with fire," Slaughter says, emphasizing that all U.S. soldiers will henceforth be equipped with "foreign objects" to be pulled from their camouflage trousers to gouge unsuspecting foes.

In addition to secret new weapons, the former Parris

Island native also announces changes to military basic training. In a sweeping reform, Slaughter decrees that U.S. troops would no longer practice "hand to hand combat." Instead, drill sergeants would instruct recruits in the art of the flying drop kick and figure-four leglock.

Finally, night-vision goggles will be replaced by black leather masks and bayonets by metal chairs.

Meanwhile, Treasury Secretary Lillian Ellison - a k a The Fabulous Moolah - lobbies for a bill in Congress creating "tag team" mutual funds. Under the new rules, tag team mutual fund owners are not required to obey any tax laws if Uncle Sam has his head turned.

In a separate move, Moolah instructs Treasury officials to print new \$2 bills emblazoned with the likeness of Hulk Hogan. Because of Hogan's aversion to steroid use, the bills will be 20 percent smaller than their predecessors.

Not to be outdone, Secretary of the Interior Ric "Nature Boy" Flair announces a surprise initiative to protect the nation's most threatened natural preserves. Instead of paying thousands of park rangers to sit on their duffs, Flair reveals the United States will save millions by constructing giant metal barriers - much like the "steel cages" used on the professional wrestling circuit - to ring the country's endangered national parks.

Flair also proposes placing all Hooters restaurants on the National Register of Historic Places.

Elsewhere, Ventura's top advisors moved quickly to add muscle to the nation's flabby economic solar plexus.

Commerce Secretary Dusty "The American Dream" Rhodes lifts the spirits of America's captains of industry in a speech titled, "The Bidness of America is Bidness."

Rhodes promises to open foreign markets by "ramming into the turnbuckle all slimy, protectionist, dirtbag" heads of state. Rhodes also sets aside \$10 billion in economic aid to construct Waffle House restaurants in all Third World countries.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State "The Undefeated Goldberg" outlines the nation's new strategy in a major foreign policy address. Goldberg vows to cut off foreign aid to any country that bans steroids or doesn't play football.

Ventura's first week on the job is not without controversy.

His Cabinet members strongly deny rumors that the group's animated staff meetings were "staged." Responding to a hard-hitting question from network TV reporter Sam Donaldson, Secretary of Cable TV (a new position in the Ventura administration) Vince McMahon places the veteran journalist in a "submission hold" until Donaldson takes back what he said.

The move was reminiscent of the fate of the late television actor Andy Kaufman, who had his back broken by a professional wrestler he had accused of faking violent moves in the ring. Ventura, showing a command of history, was unrepentant in his comments about the dispute between Donaldson and McMahon. "Those who forget history," Ventura says, mixing a metaphor, "are pencil necks."

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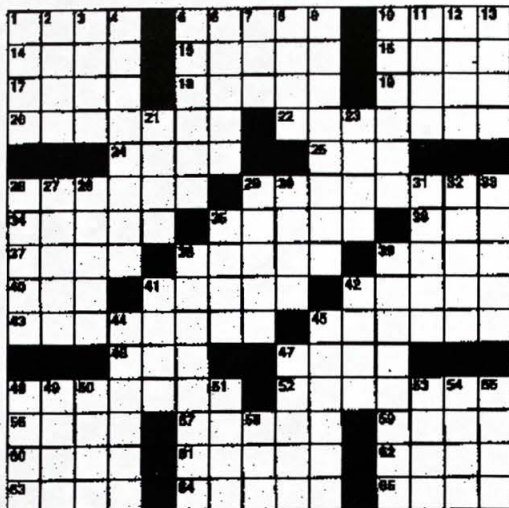
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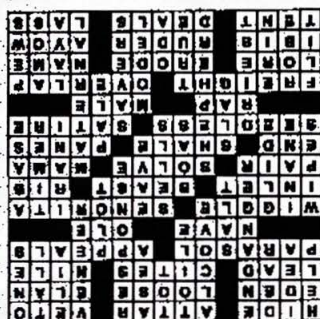
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62 Confess
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64 Bargains
65 Girl

DOWN

- 1 Aid
2 Notion
3 Costly
4 Put in peril
5 Small room
6 Sheer cloth
7 Small child
8 Sailing
9 Reply
10 Thin surface layer



- 11 Charles Lamb
12 Lanky
13 Singlas
21 Pepper's mate
23 Scheme
26 Cleans
27 Silly
28 Move smoothly
29 Vends
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32 Kitchen gadget
33 Lower in rank
35 Large snakes
38 Flock tender
39 Motherly
41 Smelting refuse
42 Wan
44 Most arid
45 Bank depositors
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50 Inland
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- Students may choose to attend individual workshops or an entire day's events.
- Workshop topics include:
 - Interviewing Skills
 - Job/Company Research
 - Portfolio Presentation
 - Myers-Briggs Type Indicator*

*Space is limited. Assessment must be completed by December 4. Call for details.

- All workshops will take place on the 3rd floor, 623 S. Wabash building.
- Students must *RSVP* for all workshops at the *Career Planning and Placement Office, 623 S. Wabash building, Suite 300* or by calling (312) 344-7280. Please indicate which workshops you will be attending.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, December 11

10:00-11:00 am: Interviewing Skills
 11:00 am-Noon: Portfolio Presentation
 -OR-
 Job/Company Research
 Noon-12:30 pm: Lunch**
 12:30-2:30 pm: Myers-Briggs Workshop

Wednesday, December 16

10:00 am-Noon: Myers-Briggs Workshop
 Noon-12:30 pm: Lunch**
 12:30-1:30 pm: Interviewing Skills
 1:30-2:30 pm: Portfolio Presentation
 -OR-
 Job/Company Research

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Celebrity athletes make Rosemont appearance

Kerry Wood thanks fans for season-long support

By Rob Steva
Sports Editor

The Chicago Cubs fans had their first opportunity to congratulate newly-crowned National League Rookie of the Year Kerry Wood at the 16th annual Chicago Sun-Times Sports and Toy Collectible Convention in Rosemont, IL.

The three-day extravaganza featured a weekend full of autographing celebrities. Saturday's lineup opened with Robin Yount, Rollie Fingers, Bob Lilly, Richard Dent and Hank Aaron, who drew the most autograph seekers.

A much larger crowd on Sunday saw Walt Frazier, Dave DeBusschere, Brad Park, Jim Rice and Stan Musial, along with hometown favorites Luis Aparicio, Carlton Fisk, and Kerry Wood.

"We knew Sunday was going to be the big day. It was Kerry Wood's first show appearance and right now he is probably the hottest player in the hobby," said Sports News Production's George Johnson.

Johnson has been promoting the Sun-Times Convention for over eight years and feels that the Chicago market is the best in the country. "The team loyalty and having Michael Jordan make Chicago the premiere city for this hobby."

Fans were able to purchase a VIP membership package for \$59. The package included admission to each for the three days, early entry to the show, one free autograph, a complimentary Bamm Beano Beanie Bear- Sosa or McGwire, trading cards from Fleer, Upper Deck, Collector's Edge and Pacific.

Finally, fans who purchased the VIP pack received unlimited autographs from Don Maynard, Ken Morrow, Bill Lee, Dock Ellis, Jay Johnstone, and Ron Jackson.

Over the years Johnson's shows have featured an eclectic variety of athletes including anyone from Joe DiMaggio to Dennis Rodman to Emmitt Smith. "We have a strong clientele and customers return year after year, mostly because we have some of the biggest names in professional sports," said Johnson.

Two of those big names who really enjoyed mingling with the fans were Stan Musial and Rollie Fingers. "It's always fun to meet and greet fans. As an old-timer I remember going to hospitals to see fans and sign autographs. I

think it's important to pay back the fans," said Musial.

Most of the celebrities try to make at least three to five appearances a year. Fingers said, "It's good to see such a large turnout for events like these. I think it's a good indication that fans have forgiven baseball."

Sports News Production presents over 50 smaller shows per year in conjunction with the much larger Sun-Times convention. "Ninety percent of the dealers at the Sun-Times show return for every show we do, which should indicate that Chicago is a very strong market," said Johnson.

One of those returning dealers, Alan "Mr. Mint" Rosen said, "This is one of the best and well-attended shows in the country. There is always a constant flow

of people and quality merchandise out there."

Some of Rosen's purchases at the convention included a collection of 1951 and 1953 Bowman cards, containing several Mickey Mantle and Willie Mays rookies. He also bought a 1931 New York Yankees autographed baseball.

Among the hottest collectibles included

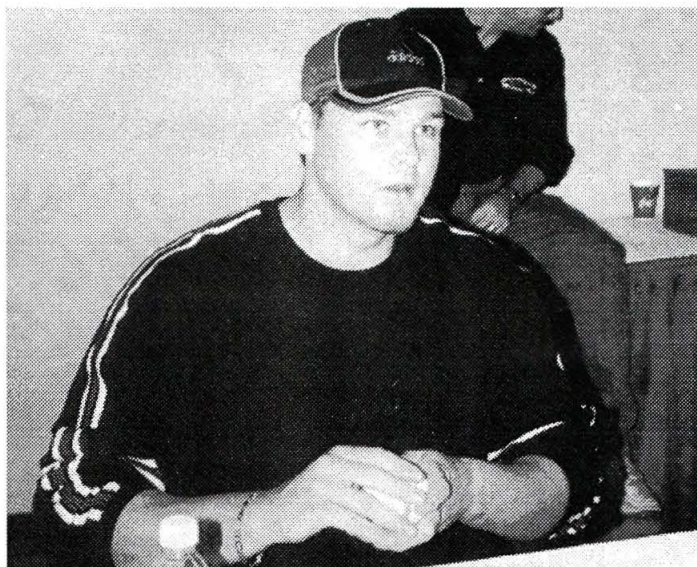
those from Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire, Roger Maris, Terrell Davis cards, and anything with Kerry Wood's name on it. "Babe Ruth cards and Roger Maris cards are moving well."

Our business as a whole has prospered from the Sosa-McGwire episode," said Levi Bleem of 707 Sportscards. Despite the large number of Beanie Baby dealers the interest level has tapered off.

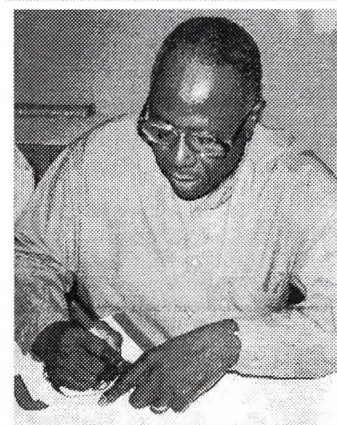
"Beanies just aren't as hot as they were a year or so ago. There are just too many and the market is becoming saturated," said Johnson.

Much like the baseball strike in 1994-95, the basketball lockout has had a major impact on the hobby. According to Johnson, "People just aren't interested in basketball merchandise, which is why baseball stuff is still going so strong."

The next Sun-Times Convention is slated for April. With more than 30 celebrities scheduled to appear, Johnson said it will be the biggest show he has ever done. Confirmed guests include Jerry Rice and Terrell Davis. For upcoming Sports News Production shows call (630)551-1975.



Kerry Wood signed over 1,000 autographs for baseball fans at the Chicago Sun-Times Convention on Nov. 22.



Home run king, Hank Aaron (left) and Chicago legend, Carlton "Pudge" Fisk were two of the celebrity athletes on hand at the Rosemont Convention Center.

SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

The Big K -- Chicago's newest icon

After tying the record for most strikeouts in a single game, helping the Cubs reach the playoffs for the first time since 1989, and winning the National League Rookie of the Year, what else was left for Kerry Wood to do? He capped off an unbelievable 1998 season for Cubs fans by making his first sports collectible convention appearance.

The 21-year-old was more than generous, taking pictures, shaking hands

and even personalizing autographs for more than 1,000 people who purchased tickets. After recently capturing ROY honors, collectors have put Wood in a league of his own.

The demand for his cards and memorabilia far exceeded that of any other athlete in the hobby. Wood was very appreciative of his fan support and hopes that next year he can have as good a season, helping the Cubs return to the playoffs.

Gelsomino

Continued from back page

ball has always had a stable audience that multiplies at its peak, the NCAA tournament. Locally, college basketball has taken a back seat to the Bulls. However that all could be changing. DePaul had a tremendous recruiting class that could bring life back to local college basketball. The possible resurgence of DePaul is sure to turn heads.

I have no bias against women's sports; they work extremely hard to be the best they can be. I just don't see the consistency in the women's pro game. Women's college basketball is much more exciting and is sure to be much more entertaining.

Former Stevenson High School stand outs Tauja

Catchings and Katie Coleman will give the University of Illinois an added punch this year. Maybe the most exciting women's basketball team out there is Pat Summit's University of Tennessee squad. They run and gun, play defense, and score a lot of points.

Perhaps the biggest problem facing the ABL and WNBA is their inability to sell themselves. The NBA can sell their product almost without effort. Women's basketball doesn't have that luxury since most of the players are kept quiet and on the back of most sports pages.

When the Condors debuted a couple of weeks back, their main public relations stunt was having the Bulls'

Ron Harper throw the first jump ball. Jenny McCarthy was at the game only because her sister is on the team. Many feel as if Joanne McCarthy is on the team only because her sister sells tickets.

The bottom line is men's basketball just provides so much more value and entertainment and that is what sports are all about. There are more viable options for NBA fans, especially with the start of college and high school games. I wish the best of luck to the ABL, more than the annoying WNBA. But from what I see, it can't compare to the excitement and tradition the NBA presents.

SPORTS

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

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NFL stars shine at Wicker Park

Favre, Bettis, Randle, Engram make 10-year-old's dream come true

By Rob Steva
Sports Editor

The role of a professional football player goes far beyond making tackles, completing passes or kicking extra points. Included in their high-profile lives is accepting the duty of being a role model. Four NFL superstars and a special guest recently made one ten-year-old's dream come true at Chicago's Wicker Park.

Devin Morris, a fifth grader from Pritzker School, was randomly selected from over 49,000 entries as the grand prize winner of the "Fox Kids NFL Flag Ziggin' & Zaggin' Sweepstakes." He and 19 of his friends participated in a flag football scrimmage game with three-time NFL MVP

and Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre, all-pro running back Jerome Bettis of the Pittsburgh Steelers, all-pro defensive end John Randle of the Minnesota Vikings and hometown favorite, Bears wide receiver Bobby Engram. Cammi Granato from the USA Olympic Gold Medal Women's Hockey team was also in the action.

The players chose up sides with the kids and each took a turn at the quarterback, wide receiver, and cornerback positions. The Blue Blasters team, comprised of Engram, Randle and Granato trailed early as the Silver Stars led by Favre and Bettis took an early 21-12 halftime lead. Fittingly, Morris was on the receiving end of a Favre touchdown pass. "It's like a dream come true," Brett Favre is my favorite player," said Morris.

The Blue Blaster's staged a dramatic second-half comeback and won the game

32-29.

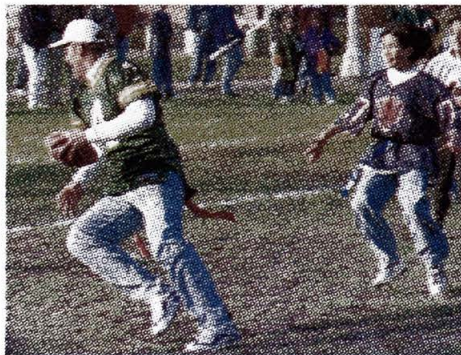
The victors were rewarded by throwing whipped cream pies into the faces of the losers, Favre and Bettis. After leaving Notre Dame University and breaking into the NFL, Bettis has always encouraged children to be active in sports. "It's a great opportunity to be able travel to different schools across the country and encourage children to be active. I always tell kids that everything in life starts with a solid education," he said.

Bettis has become one of the NFL's leaders both on and off the field and is involved with several charitable events. "Part of being an athlete is being a role model and I am proud to help encourage children," he said.

With the cooperative efforts of community groups and school districts nationwide, the NFL expects to attract more than three million children as participants in its

"Opportunites like these give us the chance to show that we are no different than anyone else. Being an athlete gives me the chance to make dreams come true for children."

-Brett Favre



Dodging defenders, Brett Favre heads to the endzone.

"Play Football" program this year. One of the coordinators of the game, Brian McCarthy of the NFL, said, "Both the NFL and Nike have united to form NFL Flag which is a youth flag football program designed to introduce youngsters to the game of football. Having these players here is a dream come true for these children."

NFL flag is entering its third season and with leagues in 20 NFL markets, it will have full national presence sometime next year. Even Chicago Bears owner Michael McCaskey took in the action, perhaps scouting some of the young talent. "It's great to see the NFL getting involved in America's youth. It's great for the kids and the NFL," said McCaskey.

In the past, a variety of NFL stars, including Emmitt Smith, John Elway,



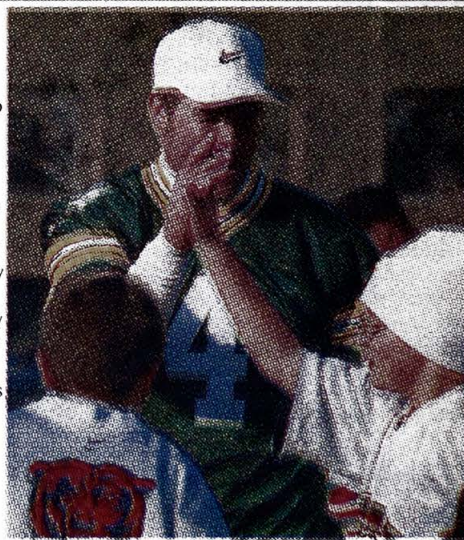
Above: Every Bears fan's dream, Brett Favre with a pie in the face.

Below: Brett Favre gives Devin Morris a high-five after their first touchdown.

Photos by Rob Hart/ Chronicle

Curris Martin and Deion Sanders, have participated in the event. For most of the players including Favre, opportunities to play with pro athletes were few and far between when they were growing up. "I came from a rather small town. Of course, I always dreamed of playing football with guys like Roger Staubach and Terry Bradshaw as a child, but it never happened," said Favre. "So many times society puts athletes on a pedestal," said Favre.

Footage from the game was filmed and will be broadcast during the Fox Super Bowl Sunday pre-game show on Jan. 31.



WNBA & ABL: Thanks, but no thanks

By John Gelsomino
Sports Correspondent

With the NBA at a stalemate, some people believe that this will help out the new ABL franchise in Chicago, the Chicago Condors. The new women's team hopes to take fans that would be following the NBA right now to one of their pro basketball leagues. The idea is nice in theory, but I am afraid it's just not practical.

Women's basketball is nowhere near the level of excitement, nor does it have the following that the NBA

or men's college leagues do. The skill level also fails to compare to that of the men's leagues. I am a firm believer that basketball is not just about dunking and one on one penetration. A game is only a success when it is complete, when it entails all aspects-good shooting, strong defense, and smart passing.

These elements are just not present in women's basketball. After watching both the ABL and the over-hyped WNBA, it's safe to say that both lack fluid play offensively and defensively. Sports are entertainment and women's basketball just isn't entertaining.

This isn't some ridiculous observation; facts support my stance. Even with outstanding advertising and promotion, women's ratings fall very short of the men's game. The reason is, women's games are not as exciting. When fans pay good money to see an NBA game, they are paying to see something that the women's game can't provide. It simply can't compare to the athletic ability of the NBA. There just isn't enough good women players to supply a professional league.

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