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Columbia College Chicago

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DEC 14, 1998

COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

COLUMBIA
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VOLUME 32, NUMBER 12

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

DECEMBER 14, 1998

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Toys for Tots makes a difference.



Vitality

Mark Eitzel: One of the year's best.



Special Section

Christmas in the City.



A College of Strangers

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

By Leon Tripplett
Focus Editor

The Wabash campus on any given day is usually sprawling with Columbia students, some to take a quick puff before going back to class, some make a mad dash to Warehouse liquors for "forty ounces of freedom," some to take a quick "nature walk," and others just because Wabash is the hub of activity. What remains clear from the Chronicle's month-long investigation is that Columbia has no other facility for its rising student population. It remains, largely, the meeting place for some 9,000 students.

THE MEETING PLACE

Before the pink light of dawn can reach the Wabash campus, a small body of college students are wide-eyed with coffee and cigarettes at the ready, perched on a black marble ledge waiting for their early-bird classes to start.

In two hours time, this narrow strip of real estate will be teeming with media arts students, most of them representing virtually every major at the school. Others, however, bear no relation to the college. Some of them used to belong before the bursars delivered the news that they had holes in their pockets, and thus, could not afford to attend.

By late afternoon, you wouldn't have to look far and wide to see a full concert of sorts in bloom. There's Kingdom Rock, a former student, shaking hands and dangling his deadlocks in the cold November air. There's members of the Columbia Urban Music Association (CUMA) sprinkled about, talking passionately about the next big meeting for their next big conference. With 150 members it's the school's largest organization.

"Wabash is the only real meeting place for students to know what's going on," said Rock, who's often heard yelling at students to get to class. "Just look around you."

If you just look around, you'll run into the film students toting bulky lighting equipment and looking for student actors to premiere in the next short film. After all, some film majors say, the "best place to find student actors" is just outside the ten-story building.

In fact, it's probably the only place to go if a student wanted interaction with other students, says Associate Provost Mark Kelly, who has voiced, albeit quietly, his concern for a lack of student resources at the college.

"The growth of the college and the ability to acquire more buildings are all positive aspects of how the college has proceeded," Kelly admits. "But that now becomes negative because we lack that central meeting place that communicates what we're about."

Neighboring Roosevelt University has the Herman Crown Center, a major organ for student and faculty interaction with sleeping areas for exhausted students.

Take the elevators to the fourth floor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in the Chicago Circle Center and you're at the Chatterbox. There, the brochure says, "you can hang out with friends, watch videos or TV, borrow a board game, or listen to music." And, if students don't fancy the Chatterbox, there's the Off Center Mall with general store items, and the Pier Room, which is considered by a number of students as the "the place to be."

Loyola University suggests the Wolf and Kettle coffee shop at its Water Tower Campus. The downtown campus has scattered sites outfitted with pool tables, board games and student conference rooms.

Back at Columbia, however, there's only a few short feet of marble window ledge outside the 623 South Wabash building — the only real meeting place for struggling artists to converge.

Save for the Hokin Annex and Hokin Center, which administrators and students alike agree is not sufficient to support 9,000 students, there is no recreational center—no pool tables, no TV lounge set up to watch the college's interview show, "CCEN" (the Columbia College Electronic Newsletter), or "600 South," the college's news show. No overhead speakers to hear the little-known radio station WCRX, no tables in place so that students can while away the time between classes and play a quick hand of spades; and no booths to read about the nationally, award-winning magazine, *ECHO*, or engage in the prose of *Hair Trigger*, the school's stellar poetry review.

Columbia remains, for all of its sheer community feeling, a college of strangers.

"Wabash is the only place I can really get a chance to meet people," said sound major Key Lyner sitting in the almost-empty Hokin Annex. "Look at how dead it is in here."

TRAVAILS OF A VERTICAL CAMPUS

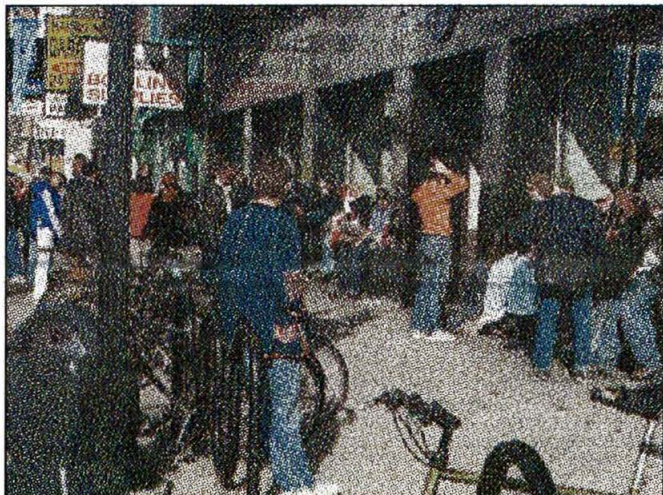
By the late 1970s the college had begun to put its flag in the desolate South Loop area; scattered buildings throughout the city was no longer the way to go if the small media arts school wanted to foster a sense of community.

"We knew we had to somehow establish ourselves in a contained area so that we're not so disparately located," said Columbia's Provost, Bert Gall.

When more room was needed to grow, the college gobbled up buildings in the South Loop area to house its rising population, now fast approaching 10,000.

From Gall's fifth-floor office overlooking a sweeping view of Lake Michigan, the school's Provost has been on a capital improvement campaign initiated several years ago. The goal is to buy and continue to buy, perhaps stretching Columbia's influence horizontally throughout the South Loop.

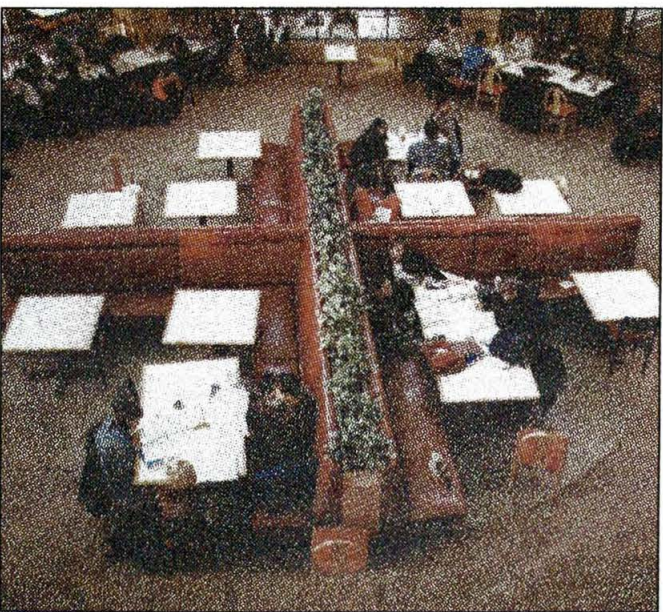
Columbia



With nowhere else to go, students gather outside the Wabash building to pass time between classes.

Donnie Seals Jr./Chronicle

University of Illinois-Chicago



At UIC, students have several places indoors to choose from, including this lounge area in one of UIC's Residence Centers.

Rob Hart/Chronicle

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Columbia College Chicago.Journalism Department reached new
heights with the guidance of Ed PlanerBy Kimberly A. Brehm
Staff Writer

After three years of exceptional service, Columbia must bid a fond farewell to Edward Planer, chairman of the Journalism Department.

Planer came to Columbia after answering an ad placed in the Chicago Tribune. Although officially retired, Planer's wife encouraged him to pursue the chairman position. After seeing the school's uniqueness and diversity, Planer accepted Columbia's offer.

Planer had many goals when he first began at Columbia in August 1996. He wanted to make the Journalism Department stronger by updating the broadcast program in terms of curriculum and equipment. Planer said, "There was no doubt we needed computer-assisted reporting and Internet connections. Columbia needed to join the 20th century, let alone the 21st century." Planer also wanted to concentrate on changing the curriculum by hiring strong full-time and part-time faculty.

Planer believes the department is stronger now than it was three years ago. He said he knows the faculty and equipment have improved much in the time he has served here. Planer said, though, there was one unrelaxed personal goal.

Planer had wanted a satellite uplink for the broadcast program. "We should have a downlink and an uplink, but I don't know if Columbia will ever be willing to spend the money," he said. Planer also said there are technical reasons why a satellite can't be installed on Columbia's rooftop. However,

Planer said, "I expect it to be solved within the next few years."

Planer said he enjoyed his experience at Columbia.

"Columbia is an urban school with a diverse group of students and faculty. It's a very interesting place and I can see why faculty stay here. It's a good school with a lot of nice people. If I were younger and healthier, I would stay," he said.

Planer left Columbia on Dec. 3, retiring after more than 40 years of involvement in the journalism field. He began as a copy boy in New York in the 1950s for the International News Service. Soon after, he joined the Army and reported for the Stars & Stripes, the Army's newspaper. By 1953, Planer was a reporter for the Wire Service, and in 1955 he began his career in broadcast journalism with NBC in New Orleans.

It was during this time at NBC that Planer experienced the most emotional and lasting news stories. The vivid sounds and pictures will stay with him forever. The civil rights movement in the South, from 1956 to 1966. "It was a different time in our country's history — a scary time. The civil rights movement colored my whole life. The hatred in people of the South that spewed forth was unbelievable. The prejudice that came out of people's mouths and came out publicly was beyond belief and it really shook me up. It lives with me forever," Planer said.

Planer was in Little Rock, Ark., when schools became integrated. He said mobs were running in the streets and he and his photographer were attacked. In Mississippi,

Planer said he was threatened when filming public fights over integration. But the worst he witnessed, Planer said, was the aftermath of a lynching in Mississippi. "I was there when they pulled a young boy's body out of a river with his mother watching. All of the horror of segregation came home to me very dramatically."

Planer was so successful at reporting the civil rights movement in New Orleans that in 1966 he was promoted to news director. This field led Planer to Chicago where, he became news director at Channel 5 in 1972. Planer said it was here at NBC that he achieved what he was most proud of professionally.

"I put together the best news team east that ever existed. I had Jane Pauley, Greg Gumbel, Pat O'Brien, Martha Tishner, Jim Cummings and Carol Simpson in front of the camera. Producing, I had Pat Dean, Marty Ryan, and Marcia Sutow. It was the best staff, both then and now," said Planer. He is also proud of always integrating women and African-Americans into his staffs. He hired both the first female news anchor and the first African-American weatherman in Chicago.

After many years of directing Chicago's news at Channel 5, Planer was asked to oversee an experimental cable operation in Evanston for local viewers. This show, Planer said, was eventually cancelled for budgetary reasons and in 1976 moved to New York to produce the "Today" show. From there, Planer moved to London to become the vice president of news in Europe in 1986. He stayed there three years until, eventually, he wrote a novel and retired from the news.

Toys for Tots program makes caring as easy
as child's playBy Maria Ferrari
Staff Writer

Are you looking for a local charity to give to during this Christmas season? Although time and money may be the main reasons for not

giving, some charities have made it easier for you to donate to your communities. Among the many annual contributors to the Chicago area, the U.S. Marine Corps' "Toys for Tots" program collects toys and coats to distribute to needy boys and girls. This program, which runs from October through December, involves the surrounding communities by holding various events. Among the many events held are the Motorcycle Parade and the Rosemont Convention Center party.

Sunday, Dec. 6 marked the 21st annual "Toys for Tots" Motorcycle Parade. The parade began at 85th and Western at the Dan Ryan Woods in Chicago. This event drew over an estimated 15,000 motorcyclists carrying toys and coats for those in need. Most of the streets were lined with cars, and many from the surrounding communities came to support the motorcyclists. The riders arrived at the woods as early as 7 a.m. to begin tailgating before the parade, but the actual line began to form at 9 a.m. Many riders also took this opportunity to dress for the Christmas season wearing Santa and elf costumes.

As the riders arrived at the woods, various people from the Salvation Army and the Chicago Roman Catholic Archdiocese greeted them on the street. They then collected the toys or coats donated. The Marine Corps also stationed trucks along the parade route and collected the toys or coats from the crowd.

About 10:15 a.m., it started raining, but the parade still went on. Fifteen minutes later, balloons were released and the riders were on their way. The motorcyclists followed the designated path and concluded their journey at the 4th Marine Corps Center at Foster Ave. and Troy. The parade took about two hours to complete.

The original "Toys for Tots" parade occurred Dec. 13, 1978 with six people. The following year, 50 people

joined the event. Now, every first Sunday in December, thousands in the United States show their support by bringing children's toys to this event. The parade, which is the largest in the United States, attracts riders from everywhere from Georgia to Canada. The organizers and volunteers serve one purpose: To inform, arrange and direct the parade on its route to the Marine Corps Reserve Center.

Among the many who came to show their support was Shelley Monahan from NBC-5, Irene Mojica from WGCI-FM, and Alderman Thomas Murphy (18th). In the beginning of the parade, Chris Cowns of NBC-5 presented a check to the Salvation Army and Toys for Tots to help with their goal. Last year, the Marines collected 10 million toys from throughout the United States, giving more than four million toys to needy children. This year, the Marines aimed to surpass these amounts.

The toys and coats that were collected will be distributed Dec. 24. All those who are in need of a coat or toy can pick up a free voucher from the Salvation Army to receive these donations. Realizing there are more than 10,000 homeless students in the Chicago Public Schools alone, the U.S. Marine Corps and the Salvation Army are asking for your help. The next event is at the Rosemont Convention center on Dec. 13. Admission is the donation of a coat or toy.



One of the 20,000 cyclists carries a needy teddy bear in the Toys for Tots Parade on Dec. 6.

Tamara Bell/Chronicle

School loses court battle against
student newspaperBy Christine Tatum
College Press Exchange

The University of Maryland lost a critical court battle against the student newspaper, which has spent the last two years fighting for the right to review parking citations in an attempt to determine whether athletes have gotten preferential treatment on paying delinquent fines.

The state's Court of Appeals ruled unanimously on Dec. 8 that the university could not withhold the information based on claims that it was protecting privacy rights as outlined by the state's Public Information Act and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, commonly known as the Buckley Amendment or FERPA. School officials had tried to conceal the tickets as personnel or educational records - information the amendments prohibit an institution from releasing without an employee or student's permission.

A student sports writer at The Diamondback stirred up the controversy after the National Athletic Association suspended Duane Simpkins, a member of the Maryland men's basketball team, for accepting a loan from a former summer league coach to pay for the \$8,242 he had racked up in campus parking tickets. The sports writer wanted to know if other members of the men's team and head coach Gary Williams also had failed to pay off citations.

Because university policy requires students to pay outstanding fees and fines before registering for classes the following semester, the reporter also wanted to know whether athletes with balances due were permitted to continue their studies.

"The same courtesy would not have been extended to any of us," said senior Danielle Newman, The Diamondback's former editor-in-chief. "And while the university may not have done anything wrong or be hiding anything at all, we think it is the public's right to know whether preferential treatment has been given."

The Court of Appeals decided the newspaper's request was reasonable, upholding a lower court's ruling that parking tickets are not personnel or educational records.

"The legislative history of the Family Education Ry Act indicates that the statute was not intended to preclude the release of any record simply because the record contained the name of the student," the appellate court's ruling states.

The university has not decided whether to appeal the decision, a school spokesman said.

Given the victory, The Diamondback already is making plans to pursue student judicial board records as well, Newman said. Whether student reporters will be successful is not clear.

College Press Exchange, 1998

A College of Strangers

Continued from page 1

"We're always in the market to buy," said Gall early this year. In the past five years, the school has purchased seven facilities located in or near the edge of downtown.

Its horizontal move, spreading the campus in one central area, won't be easy if the end result is to foster community — the college is a vertical campus constructed block by block; those blocks are often disconnected by alleys and busy downtown streets, which some administrators suggest creates a college of virtual strangers.

"Because we don't have these central locations — some would call it a student union others would just call it common facilities — and because the college has become more complex and student enrollment has grown, it's going to be very hard for people to get to know each other," said Kelly, who has been preaching this sentiment for some time.

Kelly is also lending weight to what students said earlier in the year, when the college decided to hire Loebke, Schlossman and Hackl, a private architectural Chicago-based firm. Their goal was simple: to make suggestions on how the school could improve its visibility. The college launched a forum, "Voice of the Users," to gauge what needed to be done to heighten Columbia's visibility, and express the concerns of the students and faculty.

The forum, not surprisingly, produced spirited debate from students and faculty alike, all offering up some of the same suggestions for the school to heed. The top item on the list shocked few: "Provide common space for Columbia with a particular emphasis on space for students." The second item, equally important, bore the same language of the first: "Create facilities that encourage students to interact with each other."

"When there was no Hokin Center (the student gallery located in the Wabash campus) we decided to put the Hokin up," said Gall.

"I don't know exactly what the report will say, but there is no question that we have a need for an appropriate centralized opportunity for student services," Gall said.

solely as an umbrella organization. Its main purpose is to disburse funds to the 28 student organizations present at the school.

But scattered student organizations and the lack of a student union weakens the voice of students on campus. "They're toothless by themselves and cannot effectively get things done at the college," said Madeline Roman-Vargas, assistant dean for Student Life and Development.

One case and point was the recent thumbs down by the administration regarding the Chicago Transit Authority's U-Pass program. The U-Pass would have cost students only 50 cents a day compared to \$3 a day, the cost of a two-way fare.

"Some of the students are angry. They want to do something, but there's no student government for them to look to and collaborate on ideas," says Roman-Vargas.

"No one consulted the students when tuition was raised, but if there is no real, meaningful student representation then who are the administrators going to talk to."

"I think that the student organizations have some resentment toward the administration," said Vargas. "But I try to tell them not be so reactionary you have to be proactive."

That's exactly what 38 students did last month. Nestled along the coastline of Lake Michigan on 4,100 acres, 21 club representatives huddled in a coach bus and met at Illinois Beach Resort to come up with strategies to bring back home to the college.

Most of the students admitted they didn't know each other, but they were prepared to spend the week-end breaking the communications barrier.

"Most of these folks, I've never in my life seen," said Carlecia Taylor, who represented the Columbia College Association of Black Journalists (CCABJ). "But I'm certain most of us will have some kind of relationship when it's over."

By the end of the retreat, virtually all of the organizations agreed to stay in touch and form some alliance

among each other.

"We have to build them up first, get them to that level of understanding, and then we can attempt to change things," said Roman-Vargas.

Between darts to the campfire and freestyle poetry and music sessions, the representatives underwent intensive seminars on team building and effective leading. The goal of many of these sessions was to get the students active and pumped up, to hopefully return them to their respective organizations revived.

"I think this is what many of them needed," said Kim Jones, the lead speaker on the retreat. "The first step is getting them to know each other and feel comfortable with each other. There are internal problems with some of these organizations as well as problems with the administration."

"We definitely have to come up with something that will bridge all of the organizations," said Clayton Jarvis who represented the marketing club.

But if a student union is to be formed among the 28 clubs at the school the need for space will most assuredly crop. "The Student Organizations Council (SOC), has to meet on the third floor in the Wabash building in a tiny room," said Lee Gurstein, co-chair of the Student Affairs Committee.

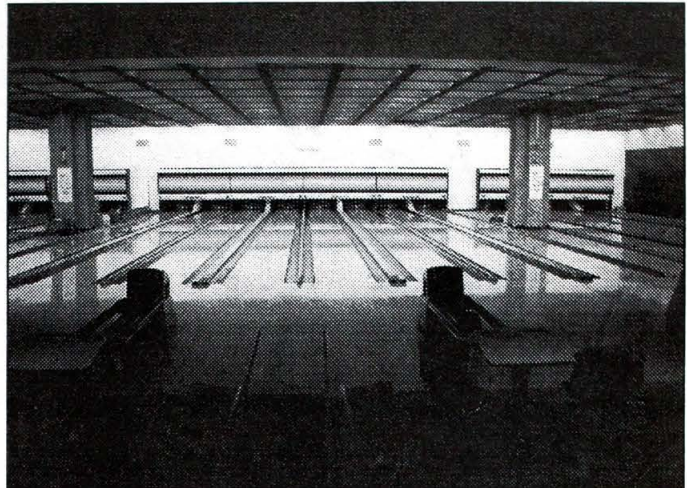
His committee has been investigating the lack of adequate student facilities for the past year. By early next year the committee will put in the lap of the College Council a proposal for a student arena of some kind. In effect, he's picking up where Mark Kelly left off.

And for Kelly, 15 years ago, establishing the Hokin Center was not an easy triumph. Gerstein feels it'll be easier this time around.

"It hasn't been an uphill battle, we're just trying to get it done," Gerstein said.

"This is just an issue that cannot be ignored for too long."

Carrico Sanders contributed to this report.



Even though the bowling alley is open all day, very few students use the lanes.

Rob Hart/Chronicle



UIC's bookstore is designed to be more user-friendly for students.

Rob Hart/Chronicle

THE RETREAT

Most higher education institutions have some form of an independent student government — not Columbia. There used to be the Representatives of Columbia College Students (R.O.C.C.S.) But the short-lived student union was virtually ignored by the student population and a dedicated few were left to toil.

There is the Student Organizations Council, but it acts

Summary of the themes established in eight "Voice of the Users" forums among 122 faculty, staff and students.

1. Provide common space for Columbia with a particular emphasis on spaces for students

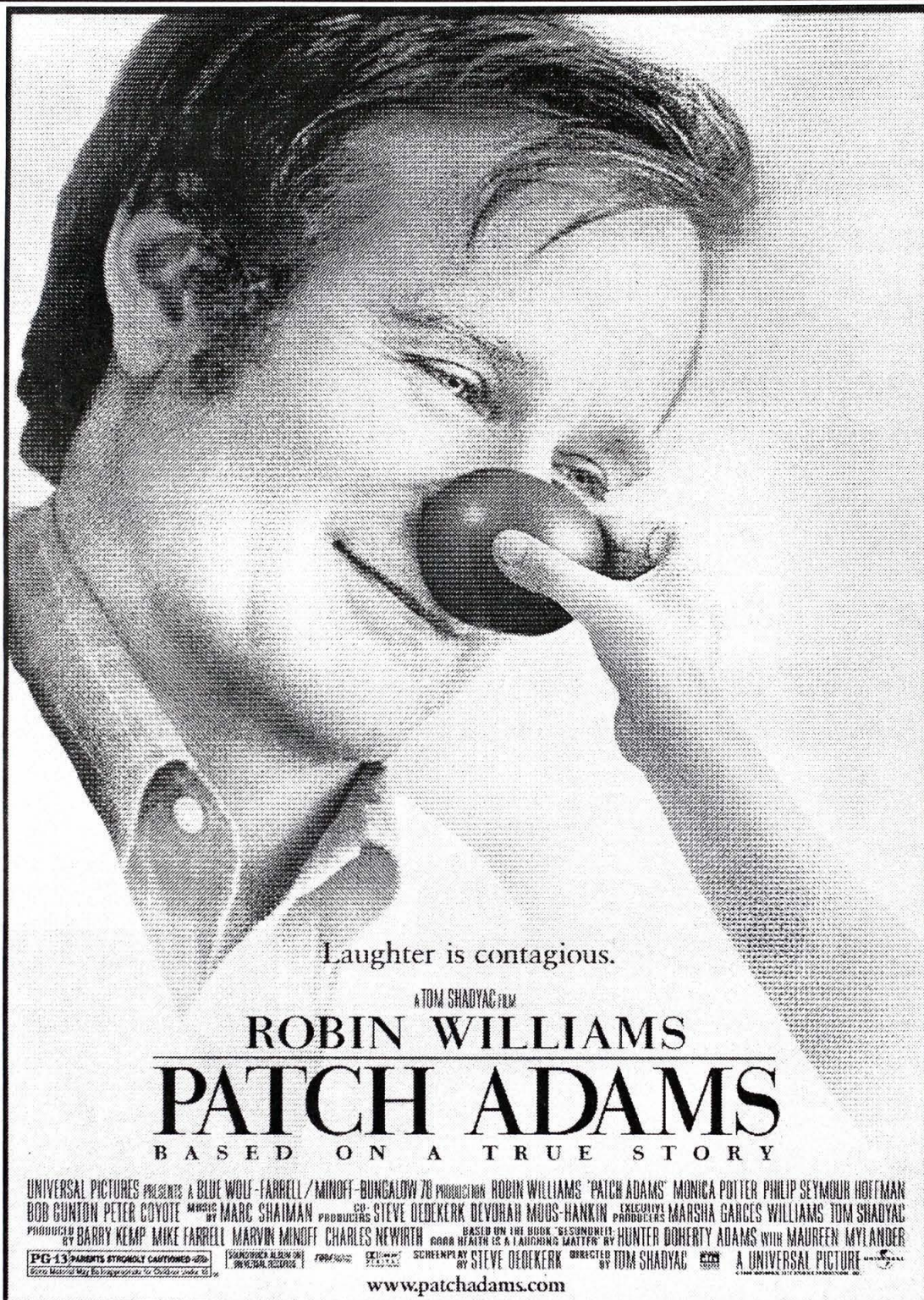
- Provide more common space so students can interact with each other
- Create facilities that encourage students to interact with each other
- Establish a student union
- Provide spaces for students to work on projects outside of class
- Create performance spaces with student access
- Provide a large theater to accommodate large events and to interact with the larger Chicago community
- Provide a recreation center which includes a workout room
- Provide soundproof rooms where students can practice and develop their projects
- Create specialized spaces where students from all majors can meet to see and participate in arts and communications programming



UIC freshman Leo Sofalbi relaxes before a math exam by swimming a few laps.

Rob Hart/Chronicle

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PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED - SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13

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PATCH ADAMS opens nationwide on Friday, December 25.

NOTICE TO ALL 1999-2000 FINANCIAL AID APPLICANTS

Columbia Students who applied for financial aid for the 98-99 academic year are eligible to file a shorter version of the

FREE APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL AID.

The Shorter version is better known as the **RENEWAL APPLICATION**.

The Financial Aid office will mail the **99-2000 RENEWAL APPLICATIONS** to continuing students beginning in January. Included in this mailing will be instructions and important information concerning deadlines.

Carefully read all instructions before you complete your renewal application, an error may cause it to be returned to you before processing.

If you are a continuing students, and do not receive your renewal application by February, or if you are a current student and have not applied for financial aid during 1998-99, it is your responsibility to **pick up** a regular 1999-2000 Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Please keep in mind that all **1999-2000 Financial Aid Applications** and **Renewal Applications** are to be returned to the Financial Aid office for processing.

Also note that this mailing and all other Financial Aid mailings will be addressed to your current address on file in the Records Office. If you need to change your address, please do so in the Records Office.

We wish you a Happy Holiday Season and Continued Academic Success



John Olino

Director Of Financial Aid

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VIEWPOINTS

Editorial

Happy Holidays... right?

It's that time of year once again, the precious little amount of time when people of all stripes celebrate together and love each other, and appreciate life just a little more than usual.

Christmas break, and it's about time.

We only have so much time until we revert back to being a nation of drunken football fans Jan. 1, so we must take advantage of this time and cherish it. A little less time in the malls, and a little more time at home with family, friends, loved ones and pets.

It's kind of a crummy irony: just when we'd like to have some time to spend with those close to us, we are busier than ever. Cramming, shopping, working ridiculously late hours so others can shop. It's enough to drive one mad, and it often does. So nuts to it.

Put on your PJs, whip out a credit card and shop over the phone or on-line.

Cut out from work on a Tuesday morning and find the perfect gift. And while you're at it, put your foot down and tell your boss you absolutely can't work all those hours; you have priorities too, after all. No doubt, people are not the most selfless creatures on the planet.

But sometimes, and often at this time of year, we're wrapped up in buying the perfect gift, spending x amounts of money on so-and-so, and various other holiday "activities." Hanging up the

Christmas lights may not be the top source of nervous breakdowns, but you would never know it.

So what if some of the lights flash and some don't, and what's the big deal if you spent three dollars less on someone than they did on you. If people really care about those sort of things, then nuts to them. And if you're one of those people, then nuts to you too."

to them. And if you're one of those people, then nuts to you too. The holidays often become too much about details and all the particulars, and there's no reason for it. So kick back, put your feet up and embrace the holiday rather than endure it. Smile, spread some cheer, and for crying out loud, drive safely or don't drive at all. Happy Holidays from *The Columbia Chronicle*.



Billy O'Keefe/Chronicle

Letters to the Editor



Breaking our own rules

Just minutes ago, I was on my way up the stairs in the 600 S. Michigan building to go to the Academic Computing Lab on the second floor...when who should I see but Columbia President John Duff. That would be no big deal to me on any other day of the week, but he was walking out of the stairwell with a cigar hanging out of his mouth! I couldn't help but realize that on the door he walked out of, there was a sign from the Provost stating Columbia's No Smoking rule. Shouldn't the president of the college live up to the same rules and regulations that students, faculty, and staff must live up to?

Just a thought. Maybe he should have finished that awful-smelling thing in his office!

William Stevenson
Posted via Chronicle Forum

The Prez

I'm writing this letter in an attempt to expose the plethora of errors in the Dec. 7 editorial about President Clinton. Yes, criminals are not tried directly by public-opinion polls. However, they are tried by the public. What I mean is, laws are created by Congress, and Congress is elected by and subservient to the people.

So if, to use your rather outlandish example, at some point in time a majority of the public had espoused the opinion that a person should not be held accountable for robbing a gas station (or committing any other crime) because he was "really high on crack," then that opinion would (or at least should) be drafted into a bill and passed into law.

And for those of you who think that something so ridiculous and contradictory to what most of us now perceive to be basic human rights (in this example, the right to not be robbed) would never happen, I would remind you of a little thing called slavery that we had in this country for a couple hundred years. My point is, congressmen and women don't "go against" the opinion of the majority of their constituents (slavery was indeed supported by a majority of the inhabitants of slave states), and contrary to what you stated, they never should.

What do you think a democracy is? What was the point of the American Revolution? With regard to your statement that "many important decisions have been made when government (especially the Supreme Court) has gone against public opinion," I would argue that such a feat is basically impossible, seeing as how the Supreme Court (and any other court) is bound by existing laws, which as I've said a couple times before, don't exist if they were not supported by a majority of the people in this country.

Lastly, in response to your question, Bill Clinton is the

Commander in Chief and the military has a policy of discharging officers guilty of committing adultery, then doesn't it stand to reason that Bill Clinton should be removed from his position?"

He is subject to the same laws as the rest of us average citizens, and if Ken Starr wants to try to prosecute Mr. Clinton for perjury in a criminal court of law, nobody's going to stop him. But we're talking about impeachment here, and at the core of that issue is: did the president commit perjury, and if he did, does that (or those) particular perjuries statement(s) amount to an impeachable offense?

First of all, it is not by any stretch of the imagination accepted as fact that the president has perjured himself (misled, yes; lied, maybe; perjured himself, almost certainly not). Secondly, even if it is decided that he did commit perjury, a phalanx of law professors and constitutional experts and historians that have appeared before the House Judiciary Committee in the past few weeks have said that perjury about sex should not be an impeachable offense.

The president should be censured, and if necessary tried in criminal court after his administration ends, but he should NOT be impeached.

Brian Allinson
Sophomore
Television Major

The President's Club

As a Columbia alumnus, and heretofore a closet reader of *The Chronicle*, I am somewhat ashamed of the fact that I cannot wean myself from its routine shortsightedness. Case in point, Kelly M. Woyan's article "President's Club, Something For Nothing," printed in the Dec. 7 edition.

Ms. Woyan's article was not one at all. It was a foolishly cynical diatribe that skews the truth and misses the point. Columbia's President's Club is nothing more than a group of like-minded alumni and friends of the college, who believe in this school, its mission, and students like Ms. Woyan. These professionals raise thousands of dollars annually for scholarships.

My advice to Ms. Woyan is that to succeed in journalism, she must quickly learn two rules. First, no rational person expects a journalist to be devoid of opinion. However, one hopes that a reporter can at least learn how to be more subliminal in their value added writing. Second, please come to terms with the fact that nothing exists in a vacuum. Columbia College does not operate on tuition dollars alone. *The Chronicle* does not get published without advertisers. And Columbia journalism students do not find jobs without leads from their instructors.

Rather than using ink to debunk programs that work, why not use it to speak of the growth of Columbia, to

See Letters
page 8

Students are people too

By Steve Stanis
Staff Writer

Like many students, I was attracted to Columbia's city campus, liberal arts courses, and staff of working professionals. This was one year ago: at the time, I was unhappily attending Western Illinois University, so I decided to transfer.

It sounds simple enough - fill out the application, write the essay, and have your transcripts sent to the school. I found out I was accepted in no time - two or three weeks after my application was sent in-but I never heard anything about my transfer credits. I had requested my transcripts from WIU, Joliet Junior College, (where I had taken a summer course), and my CLEP scores. So I called, nothing. I waited, nothing. Then, the week before I was to start school, I received a letter telling me which credits transfer. This was great, except it contained only my WIU credits, and said nothing about JJC or CLEP.

Not only that, but a class I took at WIU that is offered at Columbia did not transfer. During registration, I talked with my adviser, who told me that to appeal credits you need to write a letter. I did this several times and still heard nothing. I also hadn't heard anything about my other credits.

The semester passed by and I registered again, my other credits still not present on my transcript. The people in Records didn't know how to help me, and other people were telling me to write letters, which never got responded to. During this past semester, when I spoke with my adviser about my upcoming semester, I found out my CLEP credit had magically appeared on my transcript. Thanks for telling me!

I called Records again to hear about my other credits and they connected me directly with the evaluator. An appointment was set up and everything was easy. The evaluator informed me that my JJC request was never responded to. Again, thanks for telling me. Let me clarify, through the entire bureaucratic part of my transferring, this was the nicest part. The evaluator was very helpful; it was just getting to that part that was horrible. I went in ready for a hassle but was very happy to have a pleasant conversation with the evaluator.

Finally, a year later, my other credits for JJC will begin to be processed. My other credits that I had sent several letters out appealing their denial were not accepted because of some unknown reason given by the Dean of Students. Yet again, thanks for telling me this.

Why not accept a course that you teach in your school? Can many of these courses be that different? An unnamed friend of mine also had a problem with her transfer process. It seems literature courses from the University of Arizona are not up to par to fill Columbia's general education requirements. My literature course from WIU did fill the general education requirement. Things like this I don't comprehend. WIU is now for law enforcement and corn, not literature, but it is accepted at Columbia while University of Arizona is not.

I understand that keeping records and the mix of admissions with evaluating transcripts is a lot of work, but every transfer student I've spoken with has expressed one problem or another. The department needs to have better customer service. They are dealing with a major part of students' futures and must learn how to take care of them. If they were a business, they would probably be closed down.

The solution is simple - train the people and respond to the students. Students' letters should not go unanswered. If

See Stanis,
page 7

The Reel Test

In the game of life education, does the classroom stand a chance?

By Billy O'Keefe

There must have been at least ten people packed into the movie theater this past weekend to see the new film "American History X." For those of you that see math and run the other way, that means the film pulled in about 45 bucks that afternoon (it was a matinee, after all). And when you figure that there were two pimply-faced kids popping corn behind the counter at six dollars an hour, you can see what's happening here: "American History X" isn't bringing in the big money.

That's too bad. Because while "The Rugrats Movie" may be the touchstone of modern cinema, "American History X" is one of the most challenging, complex and intriguing movies this year. The violence is almost completely bloodless but still brutal, and the dialogue and chemistry between the movie's many vital characters is plain but still powerful. The film will be two of the longest hours you ever spend in a movie theater, but the ending still comes too soon, and it hurts.

And that's it. "American History X" is only obvious lesson, remarkably enough, is that no matter how big a slice of life it cuts and prepares, it's all still just a movie. The film never preaches. Dangerous ideas float freely, and even the most morally-saturated scenes are taken with baby steps, so as never to come off as righteous.

Thus, the trust is placed in the audience's hands in the form of a very smart movie with an extremely fragile ending. Will the film promote racial harmony, or will it give some otherwise good kids a few very bad ideas? Perhaps you'll come away with a new respect for the human spirit, while someone else might wish to distance him or herself from that very element.

No heroes, no villains, no plain right or wrong. Bottom line? In order to become one with each other, it's every man for himself. And what an interesting philosophy that is.

Just like we invented the VCR but cannot program it some thirteen-odd years later, prejudice, like most things we fear (guns, anyone?) is a manmade disaster that

we gave birth to but cannot control. In the true spirit of Americana, we play now and pay later, ignoring the bad news until it either disappears or haunts us in some fashion.

We know it's the wrong thing to do, so why do we keep doing it? Just about anybody from Klannies to hippies will tell you what is basically fact: Race relations in America are in dirt-poor shape, and no one seems to have even the slightest clue as to how we can turn this ship around and sail the other way. Every move seems to be another step backward, and it doesn't help that Dr. Morons everywhere grace us with their "predictions" (read: Sensationalized guesses employed to sell yet another terrible book) of everything from violent revolt to sprawling race wars.

So welcome to your education. Because where else is it going to come from? As much as we detest the media and play down the impact of entertainment, many of us pick up some of life's most interesting lessons from these very sources. As we continue to belittle authority in popular culture, the entertainers become the professors, instructors and philosophers. After all, we have to learn from someone, no matter how much we would like to be entertained round the clock.

I was a good kid in elementary school. I sucked at sports, so I had no choice but to be a good student, and thus a good listener (no angel, but I did my best). And guess what? I learned probably eight or nine times that Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin. And I still don't care. (I even read somewhere that this isn't even true, but I digress.)

Not once, however, did we cover Vietnam, even as we explored the Revolutionary War back and forth ad nauseam (we WON that one, you see). The many atrocities of World War II — we weren't exactly on our best behavior the entire time — were molded down to one villain (Hitler). And the horrors of that war were a shock to many of us who saw "Saving Private Ryan" this past summer. AIDS? Not likely. We were too busy learning how babies were made, as if we didn't

already know.

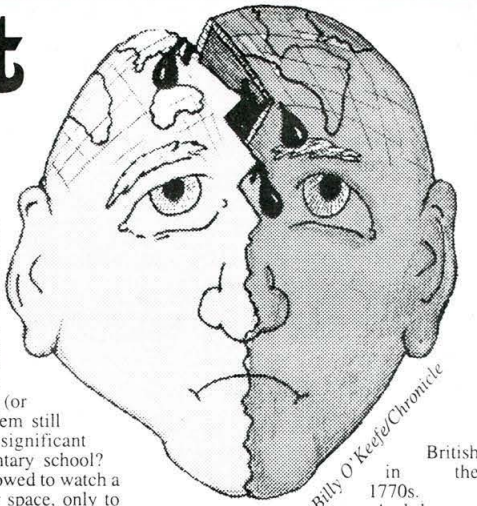
Likewise, we never truly explored modern racism. Sure we learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and Harriet Tubman, at least on their birthdays. But not once did we explore the violent tragedies attributed to racism or hate, and how (or better yet, why) the problem still exists today. The most significant memory I have of elementary school? Second grade. We were allowed to watch a real live rocket set sail for space, only to see it explode. It was the only time the teacher couldn't control what we had witnessed and learned, and no lesson before or after was nearly as memorable as those thirty seconds.

In the age of Nintendo, everyone was either a good guy or a bad guy; the complexities of our character suffocated in the middle. It was all Oreos cookie and no creamy middle, and a few terms and a test later, it was over. No wonder American history seems so boring to so many of us.

It would be a stretch to say that anything covered in "American History X" should be shocking to most of us.

But many of us forget just how brutal race relations are today. In a sense, that's a good thing; if we don't see race as a problem, then it isn't a problem — to us, anyway. But a lot of people simply choose to ignore the matter altogether. And when someone then takes the issue into their own hands via violence or any form of extreme action, there's plenty of shock and anger but not much of a solution, because no one's ready to prepare one.

And maybe that's why we keep tripping over our own feet. Because while it's always nice to embrace good news, we cannot ignore the bad news and hope it goes away. Unfortunately, this is what we're trained to do very early in school. Rather than give our perception of America and its history a black eye, our educators sidestep the mud and remind us repeatedly how we mauled the



British
in the
1770s.

And then we go out and treat today's problems the same way, putting them on the shelf and hoping the consequences never catch up to us. Still, they always do. So while some fear that America worships pop culture too much, there are advantages to this practice. Nothing compares to the real thing, but the tremendous power these little reels hold packs a punch no timeline or multiple-choice test can touch with a ten-foot No. 2 pencil. As this movie shows, that can be a blessing and a curse. But doesn't every good lesson leave the door open for creative thought? If we don't think for ourselves just a little, what exactly are we learning?

The Rugrats aren't going anywhere, so check them out next week. For now, pluck ten bucks from your pocket, grab a date or a friend and see "American History X." At the very least, rent it in a few months. It may not be the best movie you'll ever see, and you may not even like it one bit. But that's not the issue. We can't whisk truths away simply by ignoring them, and the story this movie conveys is taking place in a neighborhood near you right now. So we might as well acknowledge it. Because then, and only then, will the tide turn, and the Dr. Morons of the world will need dental records if they want to see their name in print ever again.

Assignment Columbia

The Question of the Week

Last week's question:

Would you prefer that Columbia give students the option of registering over the phone or on the Internet, or do you prefer that Columbia stick with its face-to-face method of registering students?

What you said:

I'm an administrative staff person. Is my opinion worth two cents? It seems to me that early registration, which takes place in the department selected by the students to be their major, would be a welcome way to meet face to face with an advisor, by appointment, to design an appropriate schedule. Unfortunately, new and transfer students, and those who didn't take advantage of early reg, still need to walk the line at registration time. Yes, registration by telephone would be more convenient, but it's not necessarily in the student's best interest to design her/his own curriculum. With phone reg, students would probably grab up all the "sexy" courses (ie, Film Tech I or The Philosophy of Love) and ignore those good old basics, like English Comp and Algebra. Advisors try to broaden horizons. It was my experience with phone registration at University of North Texas that I sat on hold for a long time waiting for "the next available operator." It was the two weeks afterwards of waiting for the hard copy confirmation by mail that created stress, and I still ended up needing to go to some kind of course revision pit arena line-up because of some computer glitch that put 50 people in a 25 person

class. Believe me, the administration revisits the registration issue regularly and would be extremely grateful for some brilliant idea on making it a faster, less painful experience. You got any?

Susan Babyk, Assistant to the Provost & Executive Vice President

First off, thank you for a good article which brings up a good subject. I am a film/video student who has been attending Columbia for a few years now. The obvious question is who would NOT want to be able to register by phone?! When I tell others of Columbia, the registration system is one of the biggest NEGATIVES! Besides all the good points brought up in the article as to why the current system is a bummer, what about people who commute far to get downtown? The hassle of having to travel downtown to stand in a stairwell for a long time and then find out that the class you want is full or that you have to hike building to building just to complete the registration process should be an embarrassment to the school. I simply cannot believe they stated that there is little demand for an automated system. I think we all know the reason for that statement though. Keep up the good articles!

G. Zukowski
Student

This Week's Question:

A couple of articles in this week's issue of *The Chronicle* have addressed the concern that faculty and staff workers at Columbia do not listen to or strive to inform the students they serve. What is your opinion, and what has your experience been? Does the service here need improvement, or are students expecting too much? What, if anything, can be done to improve service to students at Columbia?

Stanis

continued from page 6

something is not going right, whether it is Columbia's fault or the other schools', the student should be kept informed. Department workers and advisers should know what steps students should take to make the transfer process simple and easy. Don't force students to write letters when all they have to do is make an appointment to get everything done.

Minus the administrative problems I've had with Columbia, I've been happy with my overall educational experience. It seems, though, that the educational experience gets caught in administrative red tape and causes unneeded stress.

Isn't this what the faculty is for?

By Maria Ferrari
Staff Writer

As every student found out or will find out, early registration is in progress. Now, I am not one to complain about the administration, but I was quite upset when I tried to register last week.

Many of you know if you have a problem with your school financial account you cannot register early due to a restriction that your counselor cannot override. You may also know that if you are paying off your tuition in payments you must have 75% paid off before you register. I do not have a problem with either of these factors.

Here is where my problem lies. I paid my third installment three weeks ago, thinking 75% was paid off, with the hope that I could register early. I soon found out I had not met the 75% requirement when I tried to register early because \$150 was still

outstanding from my third installment.

Luckily, a counselor in the Bursar's office waived the restriction and gave me until the next day to pay the \$150. Because of this I could register early and get all of my classes. Although, I was lucky the Bursar was still open during my registration and that my counselor could see me later. Also, I was fortunate the counselor at the Bursar decided to give me another day to pay the \$150. In the same situation I fear others may not be so fortunate, especially if their appointment was after the Bursar was closed.

When I paid my third payment, why couldn't the cashier tell me then I was short? Instead I was caught off guard not having the money, when they led me to believe I paid up to my fourth payment. The cashier should have told me, "If you plan to pre-register you need to pay \$150 so you meet the 75% requirement." I would have then cleared my restriction before I tried to pre-register three weeks later.

What I learned when I burned down my Christmas tree

By Tim Delaney
Staff Writer

Every year at this time people reminisce about their favorite holiday moment. They talk about the best present they ever received, be it a Barbie doll or a Tonka truck or even a new best friend - a puppy. Some tell stories about doing a particular service or spending time with long-lost relatives that made for a special holiday. Others speak of the time of year itself: walking on the newly fallen snow, making snow angels, or ice skating.

Yet for yours truly, this time of year involves the retelling of what is today a classic family tale of childhood naughtiness. I mean, haven't we all at one time or another burned down our Christmas tree? 'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the house, three creatures were stirring, wielding flaming candles each. My sister had left them (the candles), right next to the stove, neglecting to remind us to "just say no."

Okay, that's the extent of my poetic talent. Basically, I was four years old, my co-conspirators three and five. My two eldest brothers were in charge of watching us as my parents and other siblings went for some last-minute Christmas shopping. Kevin just watched some television in the family room while Steve was upstairs studying.

As mentioned, my sister had left some candles behind, choosing flashlights instead for caroling because it was windy. Well, the temptation was too great for me and my brothers, Mark and Mike. Thanks in part to a box of matches also left on the counter, we were able to light the candles. We wandered around our house in the dark, staying away from the family room with only the glow of the candles as our guide. We were playing some kind of detective game, if I remember correctly, looking around the different rooms for clues or something.

Suddenly, Kevin came out of the family room, presumably for a snack or a refill on his drink, and stumbled upon our game. He quickly reprimanded us, telling us that we were all in big trouble. He yelled at us for over

ten minutes not to play with fire.

He took the burning candles from our hands, blew them out and put them on the top of the refrigerator. He also put the matches in his pocket. Once our parents arrived home, we knew that we were in big trouble.

Dad was sure to give us "the belt." After his verbal tongue-lashing, Kevin returned to his television show, leaving us to think about what we had done, as well as the fear of impending pain from our father. Well, call me rebellious or even stupid, but I wanted to finish the game. I didn't care about the cost. So I talked my brothers into retrieving the candles (using our dining room chairs to climb) while I devised a way to light them. The answer was right in front of me in our kitchen - the gas stove! I had seen my mom use it numerous times by turning on those knob things. I thought I was so clever.

With the help of our stove, we were at it again. Only this time we decided to go on the other side of the house, away from my brother, where we had our Christmas tree positioned that year. The game continued until I passed the tree and noticed something - the first present of the season! Forgetting the game, I just wanted to know who it was for.

So, I leaned over to read the tag. As my body curved toward the tree, I went to use the candlelight to read by, when suddenly my hand touched a branch. Oops! In a matter of seconds, the tree was engulfed in flames. My two playmates ran to my side, quickly extinguishing their candles and panicking. As the flames grew larger and larger, somehow I convinced them not to tell on me! I told them that I would take care of it and to go into the family room and pretend nothing was wrong.

They did it! I watched them run into the family room, sliding head first like Pete Rose right in front of the television and laying there with their chins in their palms as if they had been there all evening. Their faces were aglow, illuminated by the T.V. As opposed to my face, which was aglow by the flames three feet away.

By the time I turned around, this fire was out of con-

trol. I mean, we're talking curtains, wallpaper and furniture all ablaze. There I am, three feet tall, using all of my breath to blow out this raging inferno! That was my plan to control the situation - I'll just blow it out, like candles on a birthday cake.

Now, remember that I was only four years old at the time so when my insane solution to this problem didn't work, I did what I thought to be the most rational thing I could do. I ran into the family room and joined my brothers in watching what was on T.V. I figured the whole fire mess would just go away.

It didn't. Smoke billowed into the room and caught my brother's attention. As he ran toward the fire, I ran to hide under the dining room table with my blanket. Okay, it's not exactly the right thing to do, but I was really scared. Remember, I only thought that I was clever, I didn't say that I was. It took them about 10 minutes to find me. Kevin got Steve from upstairs and they attempted to put the fire out to no avail.

Neighbors came to the rescue by calling the fire department and getting us all out. Incidentally, the only reason the neighbor spotted the fire was because he thought it was some type of unique Christmas lighting display, which I guess it was. Damage to the house was minimal, only the room that contained the Christmas tree was ruined and there was a little smoke damage elsewhere, but thankfully nothing else. The three of us weren't really punished.

I like to think that it was a combination of no one being injured and because it was Christmas season that saved our backsides. Maybe Santa had something to do with it also; either way I wasn't complaining.

So, that's my story again. I am sure I will tell it again and again for years to come. That's the beauty of coming from a large family, they never let you forget. It's a strange tradition to tell the truth, but I don't mind it too much. After all, in a way telling the story is just another way of spreading holiday cheer. And isn't that what this time of year is all about?

Letters continued from page 6

the inventiveness of its students and to the high rapport that it enjoys because of opinion leaders and President's Club members who promote its interests daily.

Ms. Woyan, Columbia's success is your success. Lobbing cheap shots may satisfy a proverbial anger at the system, but in the real world, they go nowhere. In life, only those who produce solutions are ever asked to join the club.

Michael Wojcik
Class of '96

The U-Pass, naturally

I would like to point out a glaring flaw in Columbia's

argument against joining the U-Pass program. As I understand it, a concise survey is planned to determine if at least 60 percent of the students at Columbia want the U-Pass. But, since when does a decision the school makes concerning the spending of funds have to benefit 60 percent of the students? Columbia should join the U-Pass program because it would benefit a large number of people - even if it falls short of 60 percent. The Residence Center doesn't benefit 60 percent of the student body, neither does the new dance center. In fact, there is not a single department that contains 60 percent of Columbia's students. And yet all of our money contributes to these things whether we use them or not. So I ask this question: Doesn't it stand to reason that if the U-Pass is put to a vote, then all the school's spending decisions should be voted on? Especially in light of the fact that a large part

of our money seems to be going toward investing in Columbia's future (through capital improvement and purchasing buildings) rather than benefitting the current students, it seems to me that Columbia would definitely not want this to happen.

Mark Dascoli
Film/Video Major

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.

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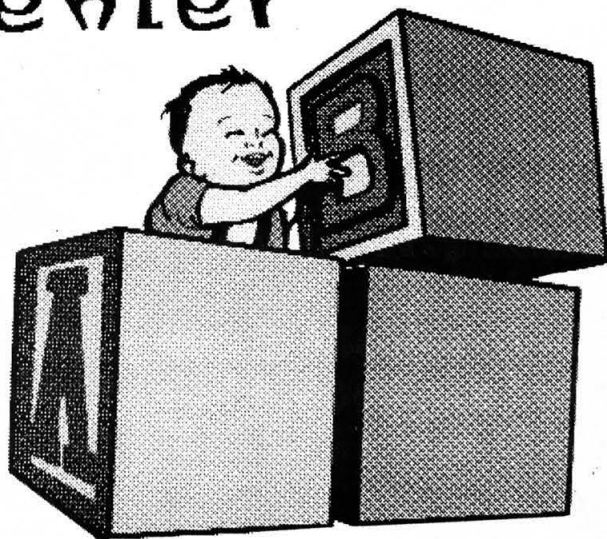
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The survey will be inserted in the January 11th issue of the *Columbia Chronicle*. Please fill it out and promptly return before **January 18, 1999**, c/o Randie Von Samek, 600 South Michigan, Room 506.

Your participation and input are very important and we appreciate your cooperation!



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"YOU'VE GOT MAIL" Opens in theatres throughout Chicagoland on Friday, December 18TH!

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services



Aries (March 21-April 19). Your mood should be good all week, but your energy level is really intense on Monday and Tuesday. The moon in Scorpio empowers you, but in a rather irritating way. It generally feels like you have to do something because of the competition, or because somebody else is pushing you to increase your performance. This can be a stimulating sensation, and energizing, if you don't let yourself get rattled. This week, you may feel like making a run for it, to avoid the situation all together. That Sagittarius sun brings out your independent streak and wanderlust.

If you can wrap up business Monday and Tuesday, your best days for traveling are actually Wednesday through Friday.



Taurus (April 20-May 20). Looks like you could have some pretty interesting conversations with your mate on Monday and Tuesday. Those are both good days for making decisions, or at least as good as you're going to get this week. From Wednesday through Friday, you'll be shopping. That's almost a given, since the sun and moon are both in Sagittarius, the sign of your jointly held finances. Those are the days you'll also be figuring out how to borrow more money, if you decide you need it. That's why

it's important to do the planning ahead of time. Travel looks good for you this weekend. With the moon in Capricorn, it's a perfect time to follow through with your family traditions. With Venus in Capricorn, too, they will go beautifully.



Gemini (May 21-June 21). Monday and Tuesday could be kind of tough. Looks like you want to play with a very interesting person, someone who is not only attractive, but also intelligent, charming, inventive, creative and downright good looking. But there's work to be done. More work is coming in every minute. From Wednesday through Friday, the chances of getting into some sort of partnership situation increase dramatically. It could be a date, a conversation or even something along the lines of an argument you and this other person exchanging ideas, exciting each other with

your brilliant insights, all that sort of thing. It should be a lot of fun. Over the weekend, go shopping. You'll be in a very practical frame of mind then.



Cancer (June 22-July 22). Save as much time as you can Monday and Tuesday for love. You'll be in the mood for it then, and so will the person you'd most like to spend that time with. If you don't have a person in your life right now whom you'd like to be in love with, guess what? Monday and Tuesday are your best days this week for finding him or her. You get to play the first couple days of this week, but Wednesday through Friday, it's nothing but work, work, work. There's no time for romance, so don't even schedule a date until Saturday or Sunday. Those are good days for forming partnerships, by the way, if you've gotten to that phase by then. If you haven't, maybe you will. Looks like the urge to merge is going to be pretty strong.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Stick close to home on Monday and Tuesday. Looks like you'll have plenty to keep you busy there. You've got projects you're involved with, of course, but romance is also demanding a lot of attention right now, and quite a lot of work, too. You sure don't want to do it later in the week. Wednesday and Thursday are excellent for romance, and Friday is just about as good, in some ways better. Your workload increases again over the weekend, so plan your time accordingly.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your house is the center of activity for the whole week, which can get kind of frazzling. Might as well admit it, you wouldn't have it any other way. That'll make Monday and Tuesday much easier. From Wednesday through Friday, it looks like there's something amazing going on in your home. It could be a complete transformation. Are you moving right in the middle of the holiday season or what? Looks like that could be the case. If you're not moving, at least you're changing

things all around. Maybe there's some decorating going on, or family coming to visit. Whatever it is, it's bordering on chaos. Better relax or you won't enjoy it. Saturday and Sunday look great, though. By then, you will have had your fun. By then you'll be too tired to do anything else.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Monday and Tuesday are about money — finding it, getting rid of it, sorting it, putting it into rows, figuring out your budget, paying your bills, balancing your checkbook, all that kind of thing. Get it out of the way early in the week so you won't have to deal with it later. Besides that, it's always important to know how much money you have in the bank before you start spending it, and you'll have plenty to spend it on, that's for sure. From Wednesday through Friday, you'll learn

very easily, so you'll also be very inventive then. Put yourself in a creative space. Magical things could happen. Saturday and Sunday are good for entertaining at your house. That's your excuse for spending money on decorations earlier in the week.



Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Monday and Tuesday are excellent for figuring out money matters — where you're going to get it and how you're going to spend it. There are a couple of creative ideas bubbling around in this cauldron, and with any luck at all, you'll be able to fish them out. One of them is a way to get more money from an older person, possibly your boss. From Wednesday through Friday, you could really feel the crunch. That's when you're going to be spending the most. Don't give up on the idea of making more, either. If you can take on a second job, that would be your

busiest phase. Saturday and Sunday are good for working with a partner and learning new skills. You may be doing both of those, in fact, without even noticing, and it looks good on you.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). You know what needs to be done on Monday and Tuesday, so don't put it off any longer. Here's the good news: Once you get this done, you're going to be really, really pleased with yourself. Here's the bad news: if you don't get it done quickly, you could be in trouble. Well, not real trouble, perhaps, but you'll feel guilty. And as every

Sagittarius knows, you already know you have to do, and stop complaining about it, even to yourself. From Wednesday through Friday you are awesome. The sun and moon are both in your sign and everything you touch turns to gold.

Make the most of those three days, then take care of practical matters over the weekend. Saturday and Sunday are best for any sort of commerce you have in mind.

Horoscopes



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Home and family are important on Monday and Tuesday, but something even bigger is going on. Looks like you're bonding with your whole community again. This has happened before, of course, but it's always a comforting feeling. You don't get to spend the whole day playing, though. There's work to be done. Set goals on Monday and Tuesday, but follow through on them Wednesday through Friday.

That's the tough part. All the reasons you don't want to do them will come right out. That's for sure. Just write them down and put them in a safe place so you won't be surprised when you see them again, and you won't be afraid of them either. Celebrate over the weekend by doing something you like a lot. You'll have fulfilled enough obligations by then to take some time off for yourself.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Watch your P's and Q's Monday and Tuesday. You might as well. Looks like somebody else sure is, and that person may have a promotion in mind. If you've been doing too much work for not enough money, could be a change is about to take place. Put on a good showing now, while you're getting this attention. From Wednesday through Friday, meetings and group activities go very well. Just about whatever you decide to do will work, so take on something that looks impossible.

Anything less would be boring. Old love is best, especially this weekend. Meet with someone you haven't seen in years, and finally tell him or her how you really feel. It'll make you both stronger.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Something you learn on Monday and Tuesday could benefit your career, even headed in the wrong different direction. Not to worry. If you're following your intuition, you're on the right track. You can follow your heart on this one, too, and a friend's advice. Put those all together and you'll find yourself involved in something you love. Once you've made up your mind what that is, the rest of the career stuff will come naturally. From Wednesday through Friday, there will be tests, not just one,

but several. If you are looking for a new job, that's perfect. You're being forced to reconsider. Is this really what you should be doing or not? If not, make the change now. On Saturday and Sunday, relax with friends. Win or lose, they're eager to give you support and the respect you've earned by being true to yourself, as well as true to your word.

Every week the Horoscope Page is brought to you by The Advertising Department of The Columbia Chronicle, "Columbia's Choice"

THIS WEEK

The sun is in **Sagittarius** all week, and so are Pluto and Mercury. Pluto represents surprise, and Mercury represents communication. So this ought to be interesting. **Sagittarius** is the sign of the truth, so new facts could surface, revealing what really happened. Neptune and Uranus are in **Aquarius**, and that position suggests these revelations will be factual rather than speculative. So we'll find out the real stories behind the current events, and we may also see a couple of scientific breakthroughs. Secret negotiations will have a chance of staying private on Monday and Tuesday, while the moon is in **Scorpio**, but from Wednesday through Friday, it'll be hard to keep anything private. The sun and moon will both be in **Sagittarius** then, the sign of full disclosure. It's the sign of justice, too, so don't worry about it. **Sagittarius** is also the sign of gifts and abundance, so this week ought to be lots of fun. Postpone being practical until this weekend, when the moon will be in **Capricorn**. That's a hard working combination, but also great conditions for comedians. **Sagittarius** is the sign of the joker, and **Capricorn** is the straight man.

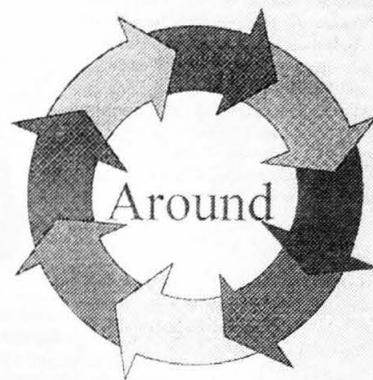
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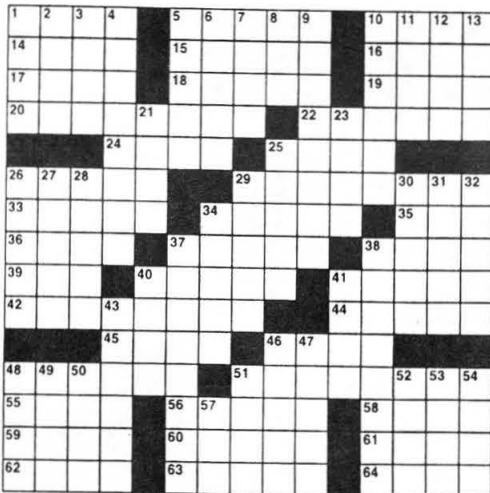
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- ACROSS
- 1 Body of water
 - 5 Sharp blows
 - 10 God of love
 - 14 Leave out
 - 15 Fortunetelling card
 - 16 Ascend
 - 17 Actor Hackman
 - 18 Tolerate
 - 19 Burrowing animal
 - 20 Written on metal
 - 22 Magazine head
 - 24 Holiday word
 - 25 Unclosed
 - 26 Home in the woods
 - 29 News flash
 - 33 Egg-shaped
 - 34 Lodging for motorists
 - 35 Yoko —
 - 36 Lord's wife
 - 37 Accepted customs
 - 38 Doctor's "at once!"
 - 39 Excavate
 - 40 Diner
 - 41 Setting
 - 42 More drowsy
 - 44 Walked in water
 - 45 Dispatched
 - 46 Pair of animals
 - 48 Group of seven
 - 51 Fasten again
 - 55 Toledo's water-front
 - 56 Decorate
 - 58 Land in water
 - 59 Poker stake
 - 60 Harden
 - 61 English school
 - 62 Enlarge
 - 63 Relating to birth
 - 64 Old clothes



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03/07/96

- DOWN
- 1 Theater section
 - 2 Last word
 - 3 Ruler
 - 4 Endless time
 - 5 Barrel rib
 - 6 Tag
 - 7 Very dry
 - 8 Home for a pea
 - 9 Spires
 - 10 Costly fur
 - 11 Uprising
 - 12 European capital
 - 13 Prophet
 - 21 Top-notch
 - 13 Prophet
 - 23 Valley
 - 25 Exterior
 - 26 Winter ill
 - 27 Make use of
 - 28 Symbol of authority
 - 29 Drilling tool
 - 30 Carried
 - 31 Silly
 - 32 Renowned
 - 34 Sacred song
 - 37 Keep up
 - 38 Sparser
 - 40 Fencing sword
 - 41 Hit
 - 43 High regard
 - 46 Spanish missionary
 - 47 Discussion group
 - 48 Char
 - 49 Sea bird
 - 50 Pocket bread
 - 51 Put to flight
 - 52 The Charles' dog
 - 53 Stop up
 - 54 Egg layers
 - 57 Genetic letters



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Albert Belle; now an Oriole but still a turkey in Chicago

By John Gelsomino
Sports Correspondent

Albert Belle finally made up his mind — he examined his priorities and made a decision. He proved that not only is he a selfish jerk but he is a hypocrite as well. The outfielder left the White Sox last week to join the Baltimore Orioles by agreeing to a five-year, \$65 million deal with the Birds.

This comes just a couple months after Belle said, "I've said all along I am happy in Chicago and I would like to stay in Chicago."

Albert said that he was happy with the direction the Sox were headed, happy with the players, happy with manager Jerry Manuel. As sincere as Belle sounded, the almighty dollar meant more to him than happiness.

Belle had a clause in his contract that said if he wasn't one of the three highest-paid players in baseball after his second year of the deal, he could have the option to receive a salary increase from the Sox or file for free agency.

Since Belle's \$11 million salary was not enough, at least for him, he opted to find offers elsewhere and after several contacts with other teams decided on the Orioles. Money obviously meant more to Belle than loyalty.

The White Sox are now cleared of this nuisance, this individual who would not cooperate with the media and whose off the field actions proved how poor his attitude toward life really is.

Belle has been suspended for destroying part of a bathroom, hitting a taunting fan in the chest with a baseball, and using a corked bat. He hit Brewer infielder Fernando Vina with his forearm and chased down kids with his sports utility vehicle on Halloween a few years ago after the kids egged his home.

Despite Belle's miserable disposition, he has been extremely productive with the bat. Last year, Belle hit 49 homers, a White Sox single season record. He also set single season records in doubles, total bases, and extra-base hits.

Belle's numbers may have been outstanding, but they are also quite misleading. During the White Sox's miserable first half of last year, Belle produced only 17 homers

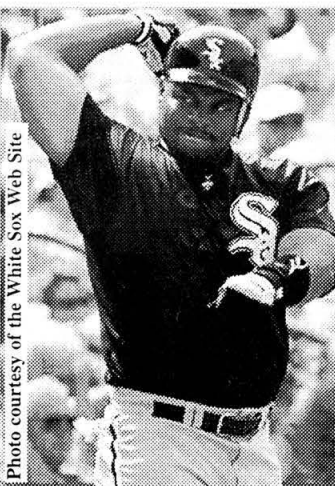


Photo courtesy of the White Sox Web Site

Belle recently signed a five-year, \$65 million deal with Baltimore.

and the team's supposed best player, you take a good amount of the responsibility because you failed to lead your club.

Albert Belle is not only a miserable person, he is a chronic liar as well. When he signed with the Orioles he told the press that he would talk to them often and communicate with the fans. If I remember correctly, he made those same promises when he signed here before the '97 season. Then, two games into the home schedule, Belle became an outcast to the media and only spoke at his leisure. Now, communication with the fans — that never

happened.

Belle often ignored cheering fans in the left field bleachers and never signed any autographs before or after games. I believe the only "communication" he has ever had with a fan was when he whipped that ball at a taunting fan in Cleveland. What a guy.

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Believe it or not, I feel sorry for Albert Belle. Here is a man with such amazing athletic ability, being paid unreal amounts of money to play a game that most of us would play for free, and he's miserable. He carries a degree with honors from Louisiana State University and, if you've ever heard him speak (the few times he does), he's an articulate, bright human being. If

Belle had any personality at all, he would be a national hero. He would be in the Mark McGwire - Ken Griffey Jr. - Sammy Sosa category. But despite all that life has given to Albert Belle he continues to be an ungrateful, sullen individual.

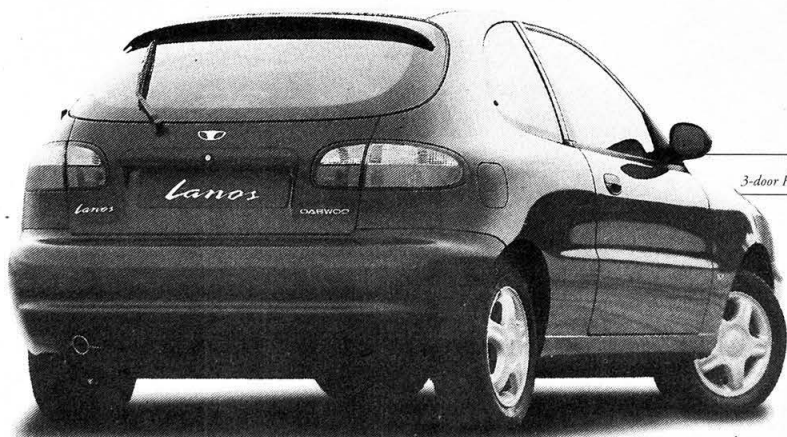
I really think Belle needs some psychological help; that's why I feel for him. Many people won't share my notion that Belle should be pitied due to his inflated income and dream job, but there are few people who are as miserable as Belle despite their individual situation. Belle might learn a lot if he actually did communicate with the common person, instead of closing himself off from the real world. Maybe he needs a visit from Jacob Marley this Christmas; maybe he needs the help of spirits to change his ways.

In all probability, Belle will continue his habits and just infuriate people in Baltimore. I wish him the best, but I'm glad he's no longer here. Belle's numbers will be missed, but don't look down on his replacement. Jeff Abbott, who will now be the club's regular left fielder, will develop into a very good player. He has a very smooth, polished swing and he produced good numbers in limited plate appearances last year.

Belle may have been exciting at times, but he didn't deliver all that was promised or what Sox fans hoped for. The two-year lease was insufficient and now the Sox will go in another direction.

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All I want for Christmas is...

By Marcus Jenkins
Senior Correspondent



He's makin' a list ... checkin' it twice ... I know, it really doesn't feel like Christmas. How could it when we were crackin' out the suntan lotion about 10 days ago?

But they're coming to a chimney near you. Santa and company are about to do that one day world tour. Along with the milk and cookies (he prefers Sausalito) and your wish list for that G.I. Joe with the kung-fu grip, how about adding our beloved sports teams? They are the ones that could really use a little holiday cheer.

I've added them to mine. Wanna see? Read it anyway, Grinch. Happy Holidays.

Dear Santa,

There's nothing I really want (except a few dozen PlayStation games). So you might as well give some extra gifts to the Bears, Blackhawks, Bulls, Cubs and Sox. They need it.

For the Bears:

—A couple more losses for the Bears so they can get that holiday toy that everyone's talking about: Kentucky QB Tim Couch, provided he doesn't do anything stupid, like stay in college.

—Now I know that you gave the Cleveland Browns the biggest gift of all with the first draft pick, but there's still a way. Santa, please make Dave Wannstedt GM in Cleveland. (Two presents in one!)

—Maybe Bryan Cox was (gasp) right. The Bears do need to see the Wizard. They need quadruple (new offense, new defense, new front office, new owner) bypass surgery on that heart of theirs. So how 'bout springin' for a new ticker for 'em Santa?

For the Blackhawks:

—Although they've had enough gifts lately, they really need that 30-goal winger. Psst, Santa ... Howabout Pavel Bure? He'd make a nice little stocking stuffer. Besides, it would give Alexi Zhamnov a friend.

—Yes, we'll take a new owner here too. What do Scrooge, the Grinch and Blackhawks owner "All Dollars and No Sense" Bill Wirtz have in common? They've all ruined the season by Christmas.

—We need a goalie. So how about giving us our Eddie Belfour back? If not, how about Bannermann?

For the Bulls:

—The Bulls, ah the Bulls. Their list is as long as Dennis Rodman's lacquered fingernails. We'll take the obvious, Santa. Please make Michael Jordan play again.

—To do that, we need a season. So bring it back, and give us Seventh Heaven, or "One for the Tongue" in the form of one more championship.

—And leave the Derrick Colemans, the Allen Iversons, the Jim McIlvaines and all the pouty, overpaid, red-nosed babies at the North Pole.

For the Cubs:

—I want to say thanks, Santa, for giving them a pitcher this year — with the batteries included. But we need more. Make sure the front office boys don't MacPhail in trying to push for the playoffs again this year.

—Hopefully we won't have to endure the death of another long-time announcer (watch yourself, Steve Stone) to breathe life into the team.

—Maybe, just maybe, you let the Cubs get to the World Series this year? If you gave them another pitcher and outfielder, they just might.

For the White Sox:

—So that leaves the White Sox. Albert Belle is gone, Jamie Navarro has a roster spot, Robin Ventura flew the coop to New York, no one goes to see them play, and a 70-win season is eminent. All I can say Santa, is thanks for making last year's wishes come true!

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good sports night!

Local area swimmers make it big time in Big Ten

By Eugene Spivak
Staff Writer

Over the past 15 years there has been very little athletic excellence for Chicago sports fans to get excited about. Of course, the Bulls have given us six championships to smile about. Aside from the Bulls and the 1985 Bears, Chicago has lacked any other professional championships.

On the baseball diamond, the Cubs and Sox have appeared in the playoffs a combined five times in the past 15 years. Since the dominance of 1985, Bears fans have had only a couple brief playoff appearances to get excited about.

In local college athletics there has been even less light at the end of the tunnel. DePaul has not had a respectable basketball team since the days of David Booth and Stephen Howard.

Illinois fans have not had anything to write home about since Jeff George was tossing the football around Memorial Stadium.

The only recent collegiate success was attained by the Northwestern football team. In 1994 the Wildcats reached No. 3 in the nation and went to the Rose Bowl. The following year they won a share of the Big Ten title and reached the Citrus Bowl. These days, the team has returned to its more familiar pre-Rose Bowl days.

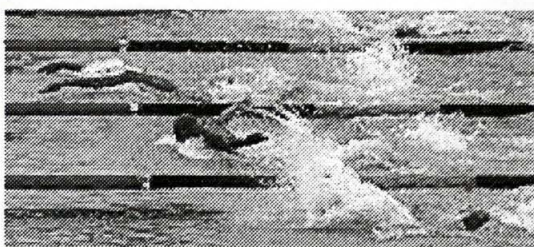
Recently rare athletic excellence was on display at the Northwestern Natatorium. The US National swim team went against the Big Ten All-Stars in a meet. To qualify for the meet, each individual swimmer had to be a member of the US National team or finish first or second at the Big Ten Swimming Championship in their respective event. To put things into perspective, there is not a single player on the Illinois football team that is top two in any statistical category throughout the Big Ten.

The attitude on the pool deck was a refreshing

change from the modern day professional athletes. Most of today's athletes require a payment to sign autographs. Large numbers of kids gathered around the top swimmers and all requests for autographs were fulfilled free of charge. While marginal stars in other sports are complaining about only earning \$4 million, swimmers are struggling to find money for a new pair of goggles.

Obviously these great athletes who compete in one of the toughest and most demanding sports

remain very humble. Reason being they are in a sport that requires ridiculous training commitments to be the best. All great swimmers hit the water before the sun-rises and are still swimming as the sun sets.



Unlike other sports, swimming rarely gets the exposure it deserves.

Sandwiched between is a rigorous weight or dry-land workout. Total training time could reach as much as seven hours per day.

At the All-Star meet, local flavor was highlighted by former Barrington star Bill Bishop. The University of Minnesota standout is ranked second in the Big Ten and seventh in the country in the 400 individual medley.

Bishop placed third in his event and fifth in the 200 butterfly. In the 400 swim he beat the highest paid and most recognized swimmer in the nation, Tom Dolan. Dolan has earned an estimated, \$150,000 over two years. Also adding to the local spotlight was former Fremd star and current University of Iowa swimmer Jay Glenn. Glenn holds the Illinois high school record in the 100 yard backstroke and also competed in the 50 yard freestyle.

While swimming doesn't always receive the attention and spotlight that other sports do, the effort and excitement that swimmers provide is equal to that of any other sport around.

Retro Fact

Ron Santo was never elected to the Hall of Fame, although Santo has the Cubs record for most home runs for a third baseman and was a driving force in the 1969 season. Ron had multiple gold glove and all-star seasons between 1961 and 1974.

