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Columbia Chronicle (01/12/1998)

Columbia College Chicago

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The Chronicle

OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

Vol. XXXI, No.13

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January 12, 1998

One-man theft operation on campus got busted

By Eva Boyer
Staff Writer

The Chicago Police arrested Frederick Collins, 36, in Columbia's Wabash building Monday, Dec. 8, charging him with theft, criminal trespass and disorderly conduct.

The arrest came after a mounting number of thefts reported in the recent months at the college. In mid-November, The School of the Art Institute provided Columbia's security department with a picture of a man suspected to be involved in thefts that occurred on their campus as well as at DePaul University.

As a result, security alert flyers picturing the suspect were posted throughout the campus buildings warning students, faculty and staff to notify security immediately if he was seen in campus buildings.

According to the Director of Campus Security, Jose Gallegos, two separate calls were made to security by unidentified people on the 12th floor of the 600 S. Michigan Ave. building in the late afternoon on Monday.

They reported seeing a man fitting the description of the person shown in the flyer, roaming the floor and asking a lot of questions. After the second call, Gallegos and officers Ron Dorsey and Loretta Simms were dispatched to the scene where they performed a sweep of the 12th floor, but turned up nothing.

They continued searching for Collins through-

out the entire building until they found him on the first floor lobby.

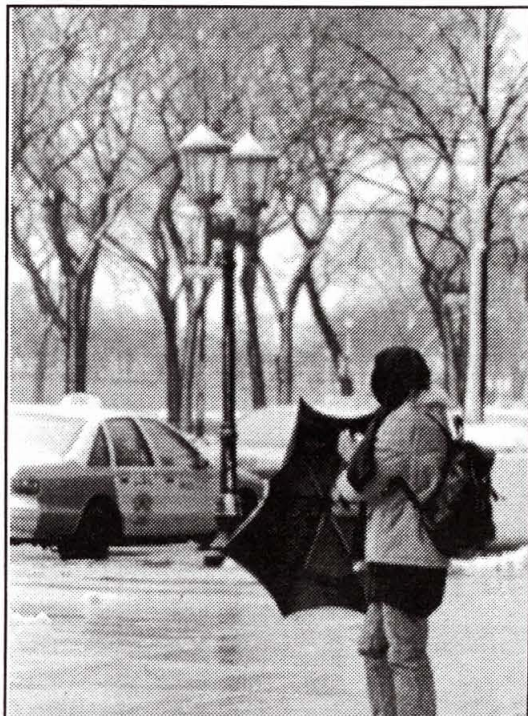
After apprehending Collins, security detained him for questioning and searched the bag he was carrying. It contained a cellular phone and a beeper. According to Gallegos, Collins claimed the items belonged to him and he was on campus looking for a job.

About 15 minutes later, Sabrina Alexander, Columbia's graduate student and work -aid, called security to notify them that her beeper and cellular phone had been stolen from her book bag in the associate dean's office on the fifth floor. Security called her to view the property. Alexander immediately identified it as her own.

"Then they handcuffed him [Collins]. I couldn't believe what I was seeing," said Alexander. "They did a remarkable job. Officer Simms is to be commended."

Collins was escorted to the security office in the Wabash building, where the Chicago Police placed Collins under arrest and removed him from the campus, detaining him at the 1st District Police Station on 11th Street for normal processing.

A court date is set for Jan. 22, 1998, at 9 a.m. Gallegos will be in attendance to testify. He remains confident that justice will be served. "He [Collins] will be banned from the college, there is no doubt about it," said Gallegos. "If he shows up, he will be arrested."



A pedestrian on Michigan Avenue struggles with gusting winds and freezing rain on Thursday, Jan. 8

Blair Fredrick/Chronicle

Telefile allows students file taxes painlessly

By Horace Toombs
Staff Writer

Uncle Sam has a painless and quick way for students to process their taxes with just the touch of a finger. This procedure applies to all those students who are working and attending school.

Telefile is a tax package that students can use to file their taxes by phone. Students with a simple tax return are able to process their tax forms in less than ten minutes.

Telefile is fast, free, and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There are certain requirements for students to receive the Telefile form though. Qualified students must have income under \$50,000, no dependents and an earned interest income of less than \$400.

The Telefile program began as a pilot project in 1992. This is the third year it is available nationwide. During the first year in Illinois at least 134,000 college students used the Telefile system. Last year Internal Revenue Service received over 240,000 Telefile forms from college students in the Illinois sector. Nationwide at least 5 million people have used the Telefile system. Once a student receives the

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Turning tables: From torment to triumph

By Tanisha Allen
Staff Writer

Nyiaolia SaVad, 45, started life off in rotten soil. Nyiaolia suffered heinous abuse at the hands of her own stepfather. Baths in Ajax and Comet failed to cleanse her internal feelings of filth, Nyiaolia felt she had no other choice but to run away.

After repeated runaway attempts she found herself in a never-ending road of wrongdoing until this downward spiral finally led to a drug trafficking conviction and a sentence of three years in prison with two years probation.

On the day Nyiaolia was released from prison, she decided that she had hit rock bottom and it was finally time for a change.

"I just knew when I got out there was going to be a positive life waiting for me," said Nyiaolia. "I felt at that very moment, 'Hey, I am worth something; I will amount to something.'"

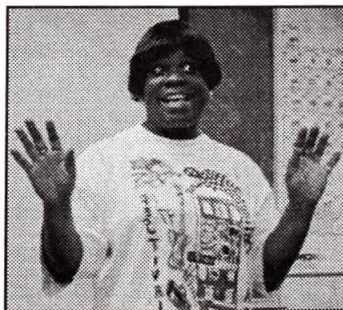
After Nyiaolia was released from Kankakee Correctional facility, she was transferred to the Jesse "MA" Houston work release center. It was there that she decided to enroll at Columbia College.

Nyiaolia enrolled in September 1992 and took a class taught by Zafra Lerman, Columbia's science institute director, called "Ozone to Oil Spills." For the final project, students were instructed to produce a work using creativity pertaining to their major. Nyiaolia decided to express herself through song.

She wrote a song entitled "Try to stop the air pollution." Lerman had inspired her so much that she wrote a letter about her past and how the class had helped her, and she sent it to the American Chemical Society in Washington D.C.

The letter brought her recognition. Vice President Al Gore called her to congratulate her on her song. And The New York Times called the same day.

Nyiaolia has always loved to



Vince Johnson/Chronicle

sing, she said. The abuse just suppressed it for a while. "Music was my way of getting away from the pain," said Nyiaolia.

Nyiaolia graduated from Columbia in June. "Now I know where I am and where I am going," said Nyiaolia. "Prayer is the key, and having confidence in yourself no matter what other people think."

Nyiaolia is trying to get into Columbia's graduate school. She is also in the process of signing a record deal, and doing a video for her air pollution song.

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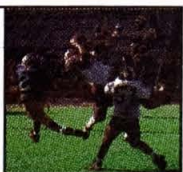
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Taxes

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Telefile package all they have to do is pick up the phone and dial the toll-free number.

According to Sue Hales, a public relations specialist for the IRS, some college students should have received their forms by the end of December and during the month of January. It is important for students to have their W-2 forms available because Telefile does all the computations immediately and will provide a conformation number once the procedure is completed.

An automated tax filing system is a great benefit to students who are constantly on the go as the small task can be performed, quickly anytime. Hales said her son is a college student and likes the convenience of not having to do any paperwork. Hales also pointed out Telefile has a shorter turnaround time to receive a refund.

"Students should receive their refunds in about three weeks and earlier if they have their refund directly deposited in a checking or savings account," Hales said.

According to Hales it is important that students don't misplace the tax package because the customer service number is a designated number for that student to use in contacting the Telefile system and it can not be replaced. "The customer service [number] is [different] for each individual student so keep it in a safe place," Hales said.

College News From Around The Nation

Canadian University Prof Asks For Permission To Grow Pot

TORONTO (CPS) — A professor at the University of Toronto has asked school administrators for permission to grow marijuana for medicinal use in the university's greenhouse. If Diane Riley, an instructor of behavioral sciences, gets her wish, the university could be the first organization authorized under Canada's Controlled Drug and Substance Act to grow the plant legally. The act allows research institutes, pharmaceutical companies and universities to test and produce illegal drugs.

"These people who suffer, the quality of their lives is not good," Riley told the "Ottawa Citizen." "I've worked with AIDS people, and I know marijuana can help them."

If the university agrees to grow the plant, it's more likely that Canada's health department will approve the use of marijuana for emergency medicinal purposes, said Dann Michols, the man in charge of regulating all drugs and medical devices in the nation.

Michols said the only thing preventing the department from approving marijuana as legal medicine has been its inability to find an institution willing to grow the plant.

Profs More Into Teaching, Study Finds

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (CPS) — The importance of teaching is growing in the minds of many professors at research universities, a recent study suggests.

The study, conducted by Syracuse University's Center for Instructional Development, notes a shift in attitudes that traditionally have kept academics out of the classroom and immersed in scholarly work instead.

In 1991, the center conducted a national survey of administrators and professors at 49 institutions and found that 73 percent reported their schools favored research over teaching.

The center recently completed a follow-up survey of 11 of those institutions and found that the figure had dropped to 49 percent.

Robert Diamond, who was director of the center at the time the survey was conducted, told The Chronicle of Higher Education that he viewed the findings as encouraging.

Universities don't necessarily value teaching over research, he said, but professors and administrators see their institutions moving between a better balance between the two.

Participants in the follow-up survey also reported that their personal priorities also have changed since 1991. Administrators and professors at nine of the 11 institutions recently reported less personal emphasis on research.

Losing weight tops New Year's resolution lists

By Christine Tatum
College Press Service

Kim Tillema, a sophomore at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, smiles when she says she successfully avoided the infamous "Freshman 15."

"I gained more like 10 pounds," she said.

A desk job that limited her exercise, bags of peanut M&Ms stashed around her dorm room and late-night runs for ice cream and pizza added inches to her waistline. The extra pounds were no big deal until this last round of holidays, she said.

"Whenever I tried on dresses for parties, I noticed they weren't fitting so well," she said.

"I'm going to start exercising and changing my eating habits—you know, cutting back on all the junk and taking smaller portions."

"It's not really the weight; it's my shape that I care about," she said.

She's far from alone. Losing weight tops most Americans' lists of New Year's resolutions, according to a recent study conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. At 19 percent, shedding extra pounds ranks above spending less money (12 percent) and last year's top pledge to stop smoking (11 percent).

Such promises are easy to make, but tough to keep—especially the one about losing weight, many college fitness instructors say. Curb your spending, and watch your bank account grow overnight. Cut out smoking, and feel better right away.

"But losing weight is different," said John Poitras, a strength and conditioning coach at Marist College's fitness center. "It takes weeks, even months, to notice a difference."

That's probably the biggest stumbling block that keeps people from accomplishing their goals.

There's nothing magical about losing weight; it takes discipline and a willingness to change your lifestyle, many fitness instructors say.

"You can't do this for a couple of weeks and then go back to your old ways—just like you can't exercise during the day and eat whatever fatty foods you want to at night," said Jim Johnston, head athletic trainer and coordinator of exercise/sports science at Hiram College in Ohio.

Among many steps people can take to lose weight this year:

- * Establish realistic goals, and vow to stick to them. The average person should not lose more than one or two pounds a week, or eight to 10 in a month, Johnston said.

- * Consume fewer calories. Avoid cheeses (white cheeses are generally more healthful than yellow ones), cream-based sauces, oils and salad dressings, and choose spices instead.

- * Count fat grams. "Order pizzas loaded

with vegetables because they'll fill you up faster,"

Johnston said. "Or order pizza with your favorite meat topping, then pick it off. You'll still get the flavor and not have to eat five pepperonis on every slice."

Another of Johnston's favorite calorie reduction tricks is the "dip and stab method." "Dip your fork into a salad dressing or gravy, and then stab your food," he said. "Once again, you get the flavor and a lot fewer calories."

- * Lay off alcohol and soft drinks. "I can't think of one healthy thing either of them does for you," Poitras said. "They're filled with empty calories your body won't use. They make your kidneys and liver work harder than they should. If you don't want water, drink juice or sports drinks instead."

- * Eat less at night. "Pizza at midnight is not a good idea at all," Poitras said. "If you're eating when you're less active, you're consuming more calories you're not going to burn. It's common sense."

- * Exercise more often and at your "target heart rate."

"When (you exercise) isn't as important — as long as it's at least an hour after you last ate,"

Johnston said.

"You'll see results if you exercise four to six times a week and keep your (target) heart rate up for 20 minutes per session."

To find your target heart rate, subtract your age from 220, and calculate 60 percent and 80 percent of that number.

The high and low numbers provide a healthy range for the number of times your heart should beat per minute,

Johnston said.

- * Vary your exercise. "People have their favorites, but they should choose exercises that work different parts of their bodies," Poitras said. "It helps them tone and condition, and it keeps them

from getting bored." Aerobic exercises, such as jogging and walking, typically keep heart rates up, Johnston added.

- * Make a note of it. "When people write down what they do, they can look back to see the improvements they've made," Poitras said.

- * Avoid weighing yourself every day. "People get so discouraged when they don't see change," Johnston said. "The best factors to determine if you're gaining or losing are the clothes you put on every day. If they're fitting more snugly or loosely, you'll know."

- * Reward yourself. "I tell people they can have one meal (made up of) whatever they want to eat—fettuccine Alfredo, french-fries and ice cream—every four days," Johnston said.

"As long as you're exercising and eating those foods in moderation and not every single day, you'll still see a difference."



Look at These Great New Army Offers

• \$40,000 for College

When you enlist and become eligible for a certain skill, you could qualify for the Montgomery G.I. Bill plus the Army College Fund. That means you could earn up to \$40,000 for college during a four-year enlistment.

• \$65,000 in Student Loans Repaid

If you're stuck with a student loan that's not in default, the Army might pay it off — up to \$65,000! If you qualify, we'll reduce your debt by 1/3rd for each year you serve.

• \$12,000 Cash Bonuses

If you qualify and volunteer to serve in one of the Army's top-priority occupational skills, you could receive a cash bonus of up to \$12,000!

Find out more about these and other Army benefits. Talk to your local Army recruiter today.

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AN OPEN LETTER

TO THE

COLUMBIA COLLEGE

COMMUNITY

RECEIVED

JAN 12 1998

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We were disappointed that a few P-FAC, IEA-NEA supporters have approached students and used valuable classroom time trying to persuade students to support the union in the upcoming election. While a number of unions use this type of "hard ball" pressure tactic, we think it has no place here at Columbia. However, since P-FAC, IEA-NEA chose to do so, we think it is important that the entire College community understands the situation.

While no one can predict what would happen if we had a union, we are most concerned that **union representation could threaten our mission of providing a quality, affordable arts education to everyone.** Why? Because the costs associated with union negotiations could, of economic necessity, force the College to take steps we would rather not take. Among other things, we are worried that unionization could result in:

- **A 15% tuition increase in the first year alone** (*if other funding sources can't be found*)
- **Increased class sizes**
- **Fewer course offerings**
- **Fewer part-time faculty from the professional world** (*some of them have told us that they would refuse to work here if there is a union*)
- **Even less money available to buy state-of-the-art equipment**
- **Decreased enrollment** (*if students cannot afford higher tuition*)

We are not saying that these things will necessarily happen. We are saying that we are concerned that, with a union, the economic pressures on the College may be so great that everyone associated with the College should be concerned.

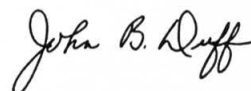
P-FAC, IEA-NEA made an initial demand of a **100% increase** in minimum pay for all part-time faculty. Because almost all faculty salaries are paid directly from the tuition our students and their families pay, we're very concerned about the union demands' potential effect on tuition costs.

And, no matter what the union says, there's simply no guarantee having a union would provide part-time faculty with better pay or benefits. All terms and conditions of their employment would have to be negotiated **and agreed to** by both the union and the College. **All of them.**

We appreciate the contributions of all of our faculty — both full-time and part-time. The College had been in discussions with the part-time faculty about a variety of issues. In fact, the part-time faculty received a 5% minimum increase — higher than the national average — for this academic year. But, P-FAC, IEA-NEA broke off those discussions and instead called for a union election. We would welcome the opportunity to resume the discussions, but are unable to — by law — during this election period.

The union election will be held on January 20. We hope that everyone — and especially the part-time faculty who are eligible to vote — acts with the best interests of the entire Columbia College community in mind.

If you have any questions about this, ask me, a department chair, or another member of the Administration. Thank you.



John B. Duff

President



Columbia College Initiates a Master Facilities Planning Process

Columbia is developing a master facilities plan to respond to several issues, including how Columbia's dynamic growth pattern places tremendous pressures on the College facilities; how the lack of a sense of identity or place within the College's present facilities negatively impacts a sense of community for faculty and staff; and how a master plan presents an opportunity to raise funds for future facility development. The master plan will present a clear and precise vision describing Columbia's future facility development that ensures individual facility projects will fit properly into Columbia's overall vision.

A primary ingredient for a master plan is the creative input of those who use Columbia's facilities: students, faculty and staff. The Master Facilities Planning Committee, a faculty and staff committee, and a team from the architectural firm of Loeb Schlossman & Hackl have organized several "voice of the users" forums to elicit ideas from the College community about the future of Columbia's facilities.

Master Facilities Planning Forums

"Voice of the Users"

How can Columbia's facilities better reflect its arts and communications focus?
 How can future facility development create a sense of community for students, faculty and staff?
 How will information technology affect future facility development?
 Are there changes in the teaching and learning process that suggest a need for a new type of instructional space?
 Is the physical proximity of related academic programs or service units important?
 What opportunities or threats exist because of Columbia's location in the burgeoning South Loop?
 What changes in Columbia's present facilities would improve its educational climate?
 Are there common facility needs that the College should address?
 How can Columbia develop new facilities that respond to the College's dynamic growth pattern?
 How can Columbia create a sense of identity, a sense of place, in its urban setting with many disparate buildings and a largely vertical campus?
 How do existing facilities support or deter Columbia's strategic initiatives?
 Should there be a physical focal point for Columbia's campus?
 What are the top three priorities, as they relate to facility planning, that Columbia should address?



Express your ideas and opinions about the future of Columbia's facilities.

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to attend one of the following forums:

Monday, January 12

11:30-1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 13, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

The forums will take place in Room 401 of the 600 S. Michigan Building.
 Light refreshments will be available. Please RSVP with Mary Blinn, extension 7768.

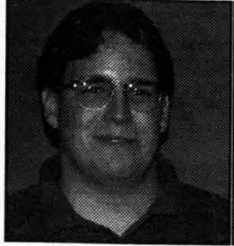
An additional "students only" forum will be held on

Thursday, January 15, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., in Room 401, 600 S. Michigan.

To facilitate additional input from students, the Student's Organizations Council (SOC) will be asked to offer its ideas, and students will be interviewed in several advanced interior design classes.

You can also send your ideas/comments in writing or via e-mail to Mark Kelly, Associate Provost of Planning at: mkelly@popmail.colum.edu. If you have any questions, please call Mark at extension 7650.





Robert Stevenson

Students, faculty voice your opinions for the good of Columbia

Next week P-FAC, IEA-NEA will begin voting to see if part-time faculty members want to unionize. This has become a real fight for them, and for the school, with both sides standing strong on their views. Now with the voting imminent the school is pulling out the big guns. In an open letter the Columbia Community, President Duff warns us that by unionizing, the part-time faculty will cause the school to undergo significant changes, which could, possibly, break the school.

In a letter written and printed in the Chicago Tribune, Stephen Longmire, a part-time faculty member here at the college made a great point about the schools position on P-FAC and how he feels part-timers are being treated.

"The comments of Columbia's Provost and Executive Vice-President Bert Gall amply explain why. (P-FAC is trying to form a union) 'This is not in the part-time faculty's best interest, nor the university's,' he is quoted as saying. Presumably Mr. Gall is among the Columbia officials' who oppose the organizing efforts, pointing out that student tuition is kept at a reasonable \$8,498 a year at Columbia partly because the university has a high percentage of part-time faculty members.' By similar acts of generosity, migrant laborers keep down the price of California produce...It is sad to watch college officials mount the indefensible argument that this egalitarian education must be underwritten by the systematic exploitation of a majority of their faculty, which is woefully underpaid and has no job security or benefits."

Mr. Longmire makes a good point here. The school is now trying to scare everyone by thinking that by forming a union, that part-timers would make this school unaffordable.

In a letter in today's Chronicle, President Duff asserts that the economic implications of forming a union may strain every aspect of the school, and in the end would force students to leave.

But in this ominous and convoluted letter, the president also states that "...no matter what the union says, there's simply no guarantee having a union would provide part-time faculty with better pay or benefits. All terms and conditions of their employment would have to be negotiated and agreed to by both the union and the College. All of them."

If this is the case, why is the school forecasting the demise of the school by voting for a union?

All of this reminds me of the American Civil War. The South feared the demise of slavery would destroy their economy and way of life.

This obviously isn't as important as the Civil War, but what you have to see here is that everyone should be able to decide, fight or vote for what they think is best for themselves.

Maybe you've seen the yellow posters advertising the school's initiation of a "Master Facilities Planning Process" in the hallowed halls of Columbia. The posters are inviting faculty, staff and students to "express your ideas and opinions about the future of Columbia's facilities." The other poster, a smaller pink page, is calling for student input as a part of the schools self-study and re-accreditation process. These are opportunities no one should pass up!

Today, at 11:30 a.m. and at 2:00 p.m., you can attend forums to discuss what sort of facilities the school needs. The meeting will be held in Room 401 in the Main building. There will be additional meetings on Tuesday at 3:00 p.m. and a special "students only" forum on Thursday at Noon. All of these meetings are to gather your thoughts on Columbia.

If you care at all about what goes on here, you should get to one of these meetings. If you can not attend, you can e-mail Mark Kelley, Associate Provost of Planning at mkelly@popmail.colum.edu with your comments.

Another avenue for which you can voice your gripes and gratitude is through The Self-Study Steering Committee. They want to know more about why you are here and if the school is living up to your expectations.

You can reach them through e-mail at selfstudy@popmail.colum.edu or through campus mail by sending it to Jill Summers, in Wabash Room 222.

This is a great opportunity for all who are here, students, faculty, staff and others. I've said before that we need a place to voice our concerns here at the school, with re-accreditation topping the administrations direction, I think everyone should take advantage of this opportunity. Remember you can always send your letters, comments and concerns to us at The Chronicle.

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

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

Editorial Cartoon of the week



Editorial

Apprehension of thief shows importance of alert and informed students and faculty

Over the past few months the increase in thefts at Columbia has been well documented. While the events have been unfortunate, especially to the victims one positive thing has come from them. Students and faculty are reminded that although security is present in the lobby of each building personal possessions should be watched at all times.

When items were stolen in the Wabash Building, some victims expressed that security needed to check for IDs at the doors to prevent thefts.

Fortunately security never implemented that policy. While ID checking may have prevented thefts

from occurring the inconvenience that students, faculty and visitors would have endured probably would not have justified the ID checking.

As reported in Eva Boyer's front page story, security did a excellent job of following leads that ultimately lead to the arrest of a man thought to be involved in a series of thefts. What happened on Dec. 8 was a perfect case scenario. Columbia security worked with security from De Paul and the School of the Art Institute to come up with a composite drawing of a man that is thought to be responsible for thefts at all three schools.

Distribution of flyers and alert students helped catch the thief. If students and faculty remain alert and report suspicious looking people to security thefts would probably decrease and Columbia would be a safer place.

Popular film teacher eats it

By Sam Walters
Copy Editor

Scott Marks is dead, or at least he will be following his imminent departure from the Columbia film dept. next semester. An "obituary" was how Scott jokingly referred to this farewell tribute when I proposed it to him, so I'll make my homage complete and frame it as such. I also have bow to the deceased's request that I not speculate as to whether he's dying of natural causes or is being professionally murdered except to note that Scott—who manages two movie theaters; who was the subject of a three page article in the Oct. 3rd issue of The Reader; who is unquestionably the most knowledgeable, passionate person about film I've ever met—has not only failed to be offered a full-time position by Columbia after twelve years of service, but has been restricted to teaching one class. So he's moving on to heaven, as he's surely already been to hell.

Scott grew up in Chicago and attended Columbia briefly—I told you he was smart—before graduating from Lewis University. He taught at Columbia from 1986 to the present.

Scott's childhood was marked by a overpowering curiosity about movies. By his early teens, when most of us were taking our first tentative tokes off some definitely ditch weed, Scott was a full-blown cinema junkie, booting up reel after reel of Scorsese, Von Stroheim, Lewis, high-grade horse. His addiction was clearly visible in his absence; he was often home, up late Friday nights watching old films on his television. While his condition may have been lamentable, it was the perfect psychological make-up—or break-up as the case may be—for a film teacher, as most junkies hate getting high alone. I take perverse pleasure in telling you that during his tenure at Columbia, Scott infected hundreds, thousands of students with his wonderful disease, leaving them jonesing, despicable film fiends who would hawk their friend's bike in a second or rip off their grandmothers to scam enough change for a matinee of "Casino"—not even "Goodfellas!"

My earliest remembrance of Scott was during my freshman year in a History of Cinema class. It was my first class at Columbia, in fact my first college class ever. I walked in and noted Scott in his customary baseball cap, brooding out from his desk towards a packed lecture hall. There was a low rumbling from the students that suggested a certain tension, a certain charge; like the hall was about to be set off. This, I later realized, was the result of the emotional ammonium nitrate unconsciously generated by students who'd previously studied with Scott—or heard of him anyway—in nervous anticipation of the certain, coming explosion of some of their most deeply cherished opinions. "Alright, gimme three of your favorite movies;" the master lights the wick. "Star Wars," somebody calls from the back. "Childish, trite, takes all its inspiration and best moments from a Kurosawa film." Oh! Commotion! Uproar! Blasphemy! To a fervent crowd of fanatic twenty-somethings, decked out head-to-toe in Scooby-Doo wear and generally tripped out on nostalgia, attacking the holy trinity of "Star Wars," "Empire," and "Jedi" is akin to pissing in the Holy Grail. What about my Star Wars lunch box, and matching bed-sheets! I've got all the action figures! I changed my name to Luke Skywalker!... love it, and I like Star Wars.

I don't mean to suggest with this anecdote that Scott was some sort of nasty troll, pulling weak, unwary students under his desk to devour them whole. He wasn't an intellectual bully and he wasn't an instigator. Scott described his teaching style as "honest," and it seems to me a near perfect summation. But I might go a step further and describe it as "physical." Scott liked to wrestle with his students, and remember the point of the sport isn't to injure but to test the strength of your position against that of your opponent's. In this way cerebral muscles are flexed, stances are checked for their steadiness and new ideas are smashed together. It is a process that can only be described as learning; both for teacher and pupil; both happily reduced to the role of student. If this process seems unduly turbulent or ferocious, I remind you that creation is generally a violent but beautiful thing. Having come across my fair share of teachers who were either too burned to care about subjects they'd taught for the umpteenth million time—and perhaps never cared for in the first place—it was refreshing, invigorating, invaluable to happen upon an instructor who was fervid enough about his work to vehemently put forth his beliefs for students to attack, embrace or reject. Scott, we thank you.

And soon it seems we'll be missing you as you're leaving our wretched little microcosm of the world behind. I'd say a prayer if it wasn't so damn incompatible with a wretched sinner like yourself. How about a toast then: here's to you Scott, here's to movies and, of course, to the dead walking.



DOWNHILL WITH JESUS

As part of my devout observance of the Christmas holiday, I've invited a very special guest, quite specific to the season, to the column this week. In keeping with his greatly renowned, exceedingly forgiving nature, he's graciously agreed to an interview. His ghostly half may be otherwise occupied making appearances round the earth, but we've got the man, body and blood with us here today; and I aint talking no wafer and cheap glass of Remy neither! The son of the cosmos' highest ranking politician and first first lady, he's ascended—ironically by getting nailed down—to become a major diplomat in his own right. He's the redeemer, the lamb, the apple of his mother's eye and the light of the world, ladies and gentlemen, would you please put your hands together and pray to accept him as your lord and savior...**Jesus Christ!**

(wild applause, miracles occurring, a crush of lepers crowds the newspaper stand)

There's...too many of you!

Back, back you shuffling bastards! Sorry about the rabble Jesus. It's very exciting to have you in the column. I'm thrilled that you've chosen to make the advent of your second coming in Makin' Tea. It's an enormous honor. Almost audacious.

Thanks dude.

This must be an incredibly busy time of year for you.

Yeah.

Obligated to hover in attendance at all the functions held in your honor.

Uhm.

Manifesting yourself before countless faithful. Well—
Spreading the wonders of your love throughout the world!
No dude, just Aspen.
Pardon?
Aspen. Y' know Colorado?
Aspen.
Yeah, they got some wicked powder this time of year.

Powder!
Y' know, snow?
I'm perfectly conversant in "street" **CREAM**
JEEZ, but I'm still shocked!
You don't board?
Board...Oh! Snow! Snowboarding! Ha, Ha, Ha, right. Er, no I don't "board."
Dude, it's gnarly.
Gnarly... you know Jesus I'm a little surprised at your grungy parlance. This loose lingo from the mesiah, it's a little incongruous. We've had your father in the column before and he was rather more eloquent.

Uhm...
He was very well spoken.
Uhm...
He talked good.
Oh yeah, that's the old man.
Are you ill? You look...medicated.
The holiday's are always rough y' know dude?
Christmas with the family, U-Huh, U-Huh, U-huh, Huh, Huh.
I'm sorry, how insensitive of me.
'S alright. Do you want some this?
No, put that away, it's not legal in this country.
On this planet, U-Huh, U-Huh, U-huh, Huh,

Huh.
So your family's not a comfort to you during the Christmas season?

Yuh right!
Oh, is there some dysfunction?
Well, my mom's alright, but I don't talk to my old man.

Really? Since when?
*Uhm, since I got **CRUCIFIED**.*
Good point—oooh sorry!
'S alright, I forgive you.
Thanks.
No, I can't help it.
Right...weird... but to play devil's advocate, you

had some choice in the matter didn't you?

*Don't believe The Hyple, know what I'm sayin' homes? I'm livin' with my mom and my dad and we're the perfect family y' know, we're like The Christs, of forty two Jerusalem lane, and then my dad gets me **CRUCIFIED**, but hey, 's all good cause somehow I'm **COOL** with that and we're still one big, happy unit. Dude! It's the Brady Bunch B.C.!*

And you had no say in this at all?
Dude, all I know is the night before I get busted, my dad comes down and's like, "Come to me my son, I wish to show thee something," and I'm really excited y' know, 'cause me and my dad never got to go fishin' or nothing. So my dad shows me how to turn water into wine, and I'm like Yeeeahh Booyee! Parrrtay! And then I'm all passed out and whatnot, but not for long, 'cause it's kind of hard to sleep with somebody driving nails through your hands and feet! And I was still messed up y' know? Crucifixion sucks dude, but crucifixion with a hangover is a horrible, horrible death.

Well...Jesus this is really fascinating and definitely worthy of some further investigation, but we're almost out of space. When will you be back?

I'm coming back?

Why, yes? You are coming back aren't you? Millions of people wait in expectantly for your imminent return—often the one bit of hope in their otherwise desolate lives; the great cosmic gamble on which they've placed their bid for salvation, the mighty panacea that will descend from heaven to cure their relentless, torturous ills.

Oh yeah, I'll be back, um...next Teusday.

Next Teusday?

Yeah dude.

Wow, I just scooped the apocalypse! How unlikely! You heard it here first, Jesus is coming back next Teusday for his third and final appearance. Armageddon is at hand!

It's gonna be wicked!
Or rather the antithesis!
Whatever!

One more question for you Jesus. Am I going to nailed to a cross for writing this?

Fer sure.

I thought so. Well Jesus, it's been a real pleasure having you in the column; you'll be hearing from me a lot this week as I've many, many sins to confess.

Righteous.

Indeed.

Stuff from Staff

By Sheryl Tirol

A trip down memory lane during winter break

Over the holiday break, I did what many typical college students did, spend time with family, work (which I really didn't do much of) and hang out with friends, catching up on gossip about everyone. Of course, this news can be both wonderful and terrible.

The most shocking news I heard (okay, maybe not shocking) was that one of my friends was engaged. I just can't fathom why you would get engaged or married at the age of 20. Am I the only one that believes that it's okay to not be married or engaged during or right after college? But who knows; anything can happen in the next few years.

I spent a lot of time chatting with friends at coffee bars reminiscing about the past. I also spent time looking at my photo albums and yearbooks. Why, I did this I don't know. I guess realizing how much time was quickly passing, and the shock of my friend actually getting engaged hit me. I remember when things may have been crazy a few years ago, but it was much simpler then. Now I have a lot to focus on and to think about concerning my future.

Granted, I have two years and a semester to go, but it feels like it was yesterday that I was a junior in high school, sitting in chemistry class struggling to balance formulas. As I was flipping through my yearbooks, I thought a lot about all my goals and dreams during that time. As sick as it was, I wanted terribly to be on the pom pom squad...of course as soon as I got on, I hated every moment of it.

After I reached that goal I figured out what I really loved to do, and that was writing. I started to look at the pictures of the teachers, and a smile came to my face at one in particular. Mrs. Brown. Brownie Lady to many of the students and staff. She was a little woman from Texas and was my English/journalism teacher and the newspaper advisor. I don't know what high school would have been like if Mrs. Brown had never been there. She inspired me more than anyone else in school. Mrs. Brown was like no other teacher. She waer and friend to many of us at the paper.

She told me to always stick with what I wanted to do and to stay determined no matter what. I think my greatest accomplishment was being the first and only student in my journalism class to be published. I'll never forget the look of pride, Mrs. Brown had on her face. Students were coming to her for help on their homework or stories for the paper, but they were also going to her for advice on life, and she always tried to console them and help them find solutions.

She also made a class a joy. A 50 minute lecture on The Odyssey could be torture, but Mrs. Brown was able to capture the class and hold the fast with her eloquence and passion. Before anyone knew it, class would be over. For every article I've written well, I always remember Mrs. Brown, and the help she gave me. From the torturous leads we had to learn to write, to the basics of how to interview people, she never let her frustrations show. She always believed in everyone and went out of her way to do what she could for students.

"Just Do It" is what she always told us, long before it was coined as a corporate motto. Do what you've always wanted to do, go after your dreams, and never stop believing. It's weird, but I guess after my friend told me that he was going to get married, I couldn't believe that at such a young age anyone could have experienced enough of life to walk down the aisle.

But then again, I'm not an expert to advise anyone as to when they should get married.

I just remember when I was in Brown's class thinking about what I was going to accomplish after college and how far I have yet to go.

Listening to her tell our class about how much we were capable of doing, it's hard for me to imagine myself walking down the aisle in two years and doing everything I've wanted to.

Heaven Forbid! We're Not Just Cloning Around Anymore

By Kathleen Parker
Tribune Media Services

Human cloning, like human death, was inevitable. But so soon?

The announcement last week that a Chicago scientist plans to clone human babies makes Internet shopping for blue-eyed sperm seem innocent as a game of sidewalk hopscotch. Ah, for the good old days of frozen embryos.

Like most Americans, I'm simultaneously appalled and fascinated by the prospect of cloned humans. Off hand, I can think of no one I'd like to see cloned, except perhaps my mother who died when I was 3. I'd like to take another peek at her. But could we get her back as a 31-year-old adult? I don't have time to await her maturation from infant to my mother.

Silliness, I know. Yet such are the fantasies we entertain when considering human clones. Weaned on Frankenstein, and only recently introduced to Dolly the cloned sheep, we're not exactly up to speed on the cloning issue. We either see monsters with random body parts strung together weirdly, or single-file lines of robotic look-alikes trudging along downtown conveyor belts with radio receivers embedded in their medulla oblongatas.

Meanwhile, the psychological leap from cloning sheep to cloning humans is like going from a small wheel fashioned from stone to jet travel. In a month!

Could we slow this thing down just a tad?

Thankfully, most of the right people in the right places are seriously annoyed with the scientist in question, whose name is too good to be true. Richard Seed! President Clinton, who in the wake of Dolly's creation urged a five-year ban on human cloning experimentation, is poised to stop Seed by whatever means necessary. Scientists, including those involved with Dolly, reminded the world that Dolly was the product of 276 mistakes. That is, 276 developing embryos had to be eliminated owing to disabilities, genetic abnormalities and other DNA quirks that made them unsuitable for life.

Beyond the merely horrific physical possibilities attached to human experimentation, there's the question of our souls. That we have become increasingly secularized is no secret. But just as we jumped precariously from the stone wheel to the jet, metaphorically speaking, we're now preparing to take a leap of millennial proportions — from a society still toiling philosophically with theories of creationism vs. evolution to one willing to usurp, in one dubious gesture, the role of God Almighty.

Again, regardless of one's religious beliefs, culturally we're a far piece from godliness.

Upon whose wisdom do we rely if not God's? The "experts"? The politicians? Dr. Seed? "God made man in his own image," Seed said. "Therefore, He intended that man should become one with God. Man should have an indefinite life and have indefinite knowledge. And we're going to do it, and this is one step."

Indefinite life? One with God? Heaven forbid, as we used to say in the old days. Rather than one with God, Seed seems to be the personification of hubris, which, as I recall, is the quickest route away from God.

Giving him the benefit of the doubt, maybe Seed, rather than the mad scientist he seems to be, is a biblical plant, so to speak, divinely inserted into the cloning debate to advance an overdue theological discussion. We've long overstepped our human boundaries and could use some spiritual repair.

That said, there's nevertheless much good to come of cloning techniques. According to the Biotechnology Industry Organization, comprised of more than 700 biotechnology companies and academic institutions in 25 nations, cloning technology and lessons learned from Dolly may be used someday to replace skin in burn victims, cure hemophilia and regenerate spinal cord tissue.

Who wouldn't favor such biomedical advances? Yet, Seed, in his urgency to venture into human cloning, jeopardizes such potential good. The BIO, while condemning Seed, cautioned legislators to tread slowly as they try to develop laws to prohibit human cloning lest they impinge on defensible experiments geared toward such developments.

On all fronts, it seems, we need to slow down, step back and, quite possibly, pray.

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Students!

LET YOUR VOICES BE HEARD!

Every ten years all accredited colleges must renew their accreditation with one of the regional accrediting associations recognized by the United States Department of Education. As you may have heard, Columbia College Chicago is now working on a comprehensive self-evaluation as part of the process for renewing its own accreditation with the North Central Association. We need your point of view to make our evaluation complete!

This is a great chance for you, as students, to voice your opinion on the education that you are receiving here at Columbia *and* to help your College community identify both strengths and areas of concern. The Self-Study Steering Committee welcomes your thoughts, as well as your responses to any of the following questions:

1. Why did you choose Columbia?
2. Is your experience at Columbia living up to your expectations?
3. Are you familiar with the College mission statement, and, if so, what does it mean to you?
4. Do the services available to students at Columbia give everyone who enrolls a reasonable chance to succeed in their classes and complete their college education?
5. Is Columbia preparing you for the career that you plan to pursue, as well as for life in general?
6. If you could change one thing about Columbia to improve the education that you are receiving, what would it be and why?

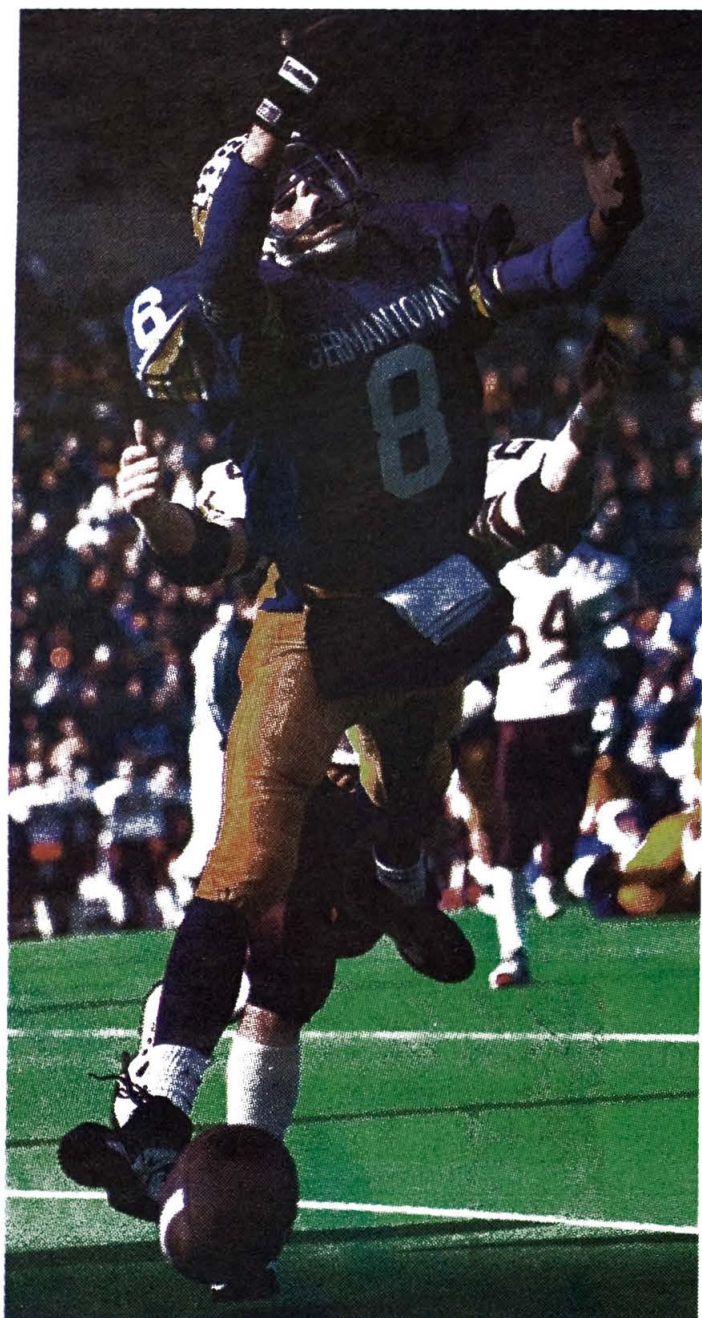
You can send your responses to us via e-mail at selfstudy@popmail.colum.edu or through campus mail by addressing your response to Jill Summers, Wabash Room 222 and dropping it off at any department, asking them to place it in their outbox.

Thanks for your help!

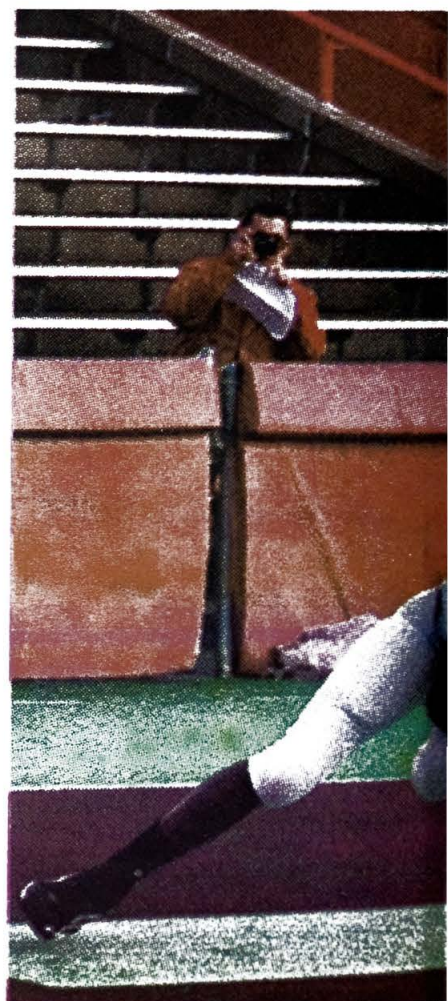
The Self-Study Steering Committee

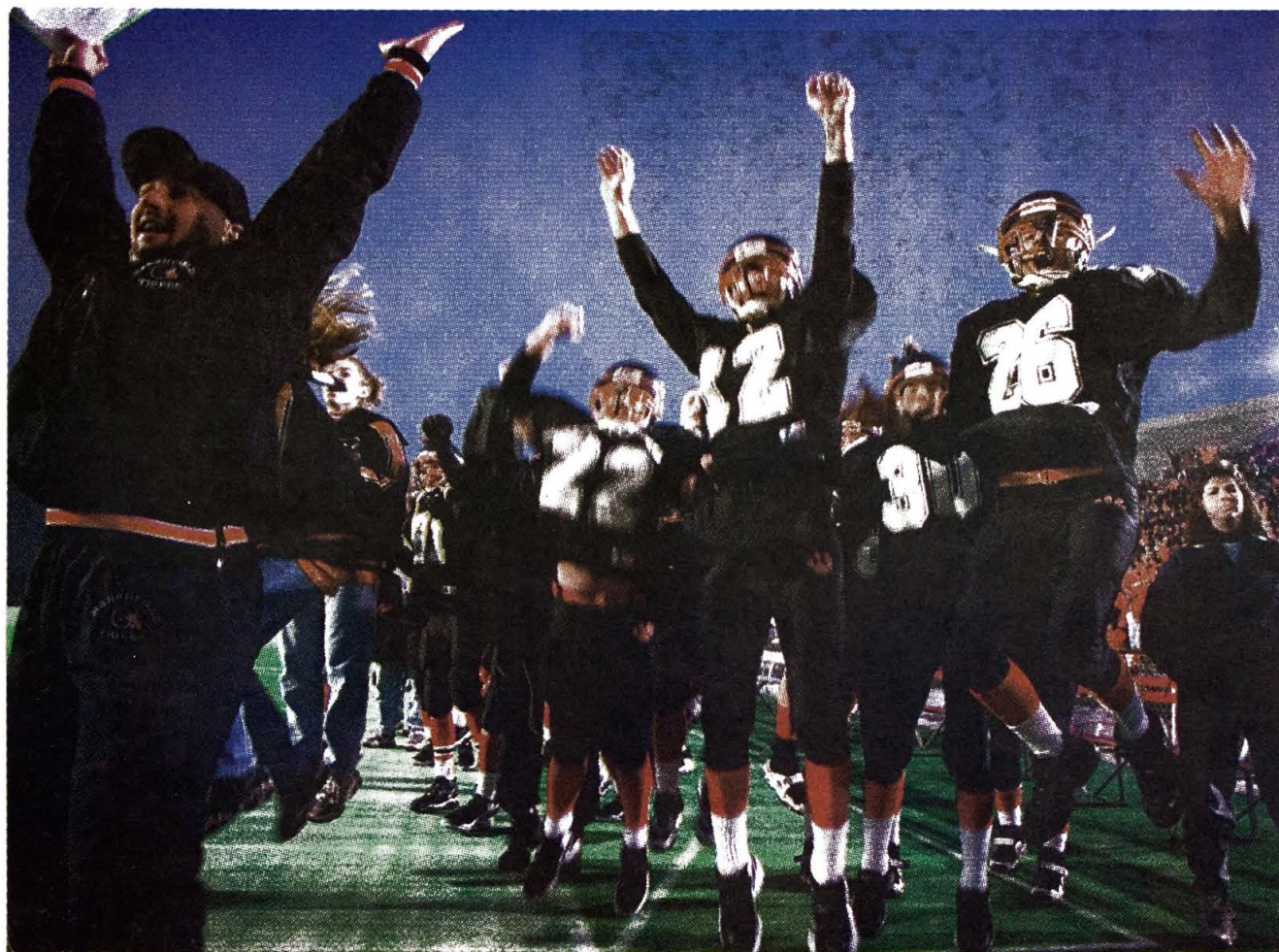


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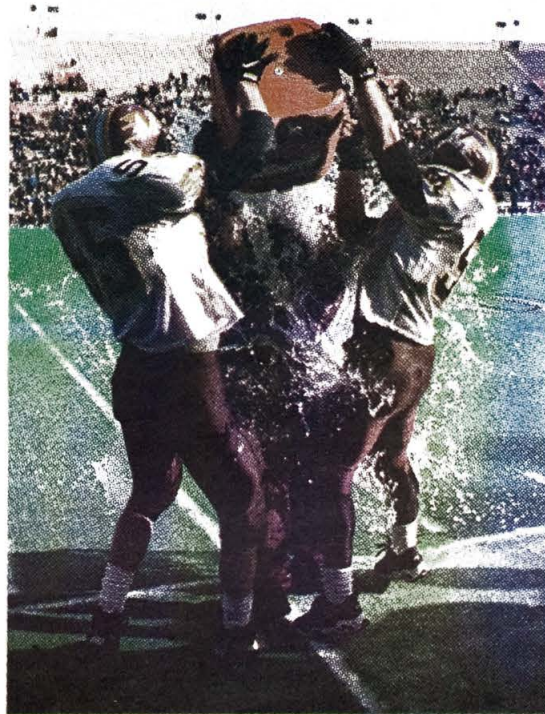
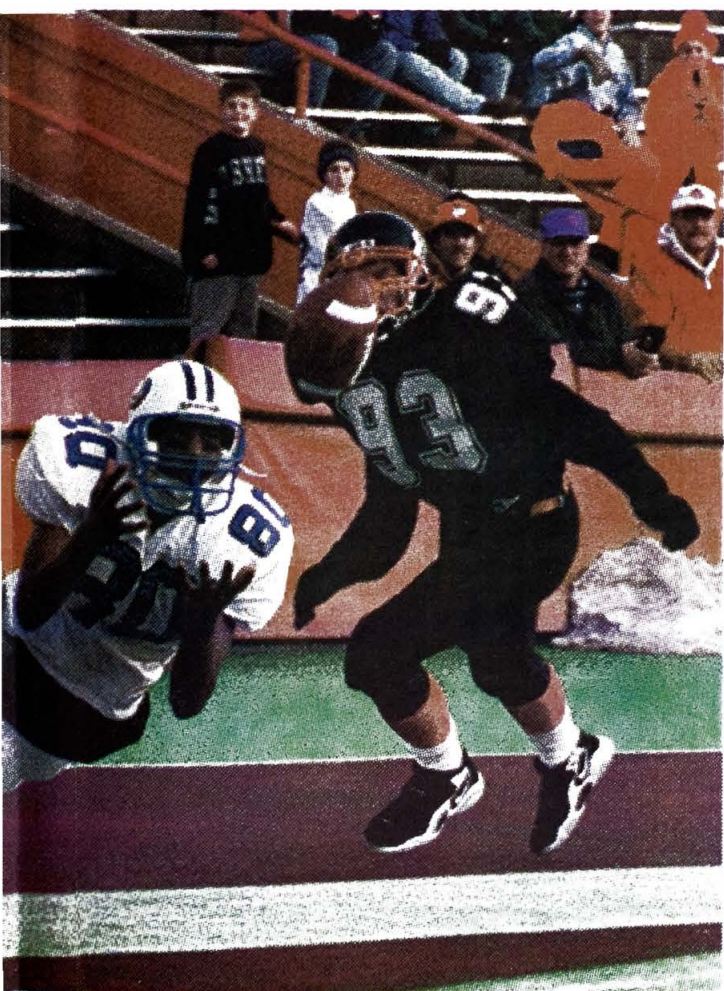


Grid Iron Action at the WIAA Football State Finals





Photographs by Marc Tobin



WEEKLY HOROSCOPES

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Service

This is the last week the sun will be in Capricorn this year, so you earth and water signs, take advantage of this opportunity. That's especially true on Monday, with the moon in Cancer. Quick-thinking and action will be required for almost everybody that day, especially Cancers and Capricorns. On Tuesday and Wednesday, the moon is in Leo, settling things down a bit.

Fire signs will have more energy those days, which is good. There will be lots of work for them to do. On Thursday and Friday, the moon is in Virgo. With that Capricorn sun, it's an excellent phase for business decisions. If you're studying anything requiring details, focus on memorizing the material then. It'll be easier. That's true all the way through Saturday, but not Sunday. The moon goes into Libra then, so relax. There will still be housework, but you can ignore it.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Something you've wanted for the home could happen Monday. Romance looks promising on Tuesday and Wednesday, but you keep getting separated. Persevere. Romance is good early Friday morning. The rest of the time it looks like nothing but hard work. Keep your nose to the grindstone Saturday and celebrate Sunday. By then you'll have accomplished more than you ever thought possible.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Study on Monday and you'll retain what you learn. Tuesday and Wednesday are good days for establishing a house policy you and your roommates can live with. Save time for romance on Thursday and Friday. Early Friday morning is especially promising. You may be tempted to spend too much on Sunday. Best not to shop in expensive stores.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). There's money coming on Monday. Save as much as possible. Tuesday and Wednesday are your best study days. That goes for practicing theatrical or musical skills, too. Clean house Thursday. You could get lucky Friday with a persnickety person. Shop on Saturday, and relax with loved ones Sunday. Conversations with the children will be especially interesting and entertaining then. **Cancer (June 22-July 22).** You're drawing attention Monday, most of it positive. Make shopping lists Tuesday and spend money Wednesday, after you know how much you've got. Thursday and Friday are your best study days. Cram as many details as possible into your brain. Saturday morning is not bad either, but Sunday is worthless. You'll have to use information you've already gathered by then.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Rumors abound on Monday. Some of them may be true. Be Careful what you say. You have an advantage with the moon in your sign Tuesday and Wednesday. Don't blow it by getting cocky. Thursday and Friday are good for money, and there's lots coming in. Saturday morning is not bad either. Catch up on your reading on Sunday.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A loved one's insights will help you understand a friend better Monday. Comply with bureaucratic demands on Tuesday and Wednesday. It's hard to get together with a partner Thursday, but things work out by Friday. Friday night and Saturday are excellent for romance. Plan your

date for then. Splurge on a special item for your home on Sunday.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Use new skills to solve a domestic problem Monday. Interaction with friends leads to an unusual decision Tuesday. Your experience is important Wednesday, so contribute it. A private meeting on Thursday helps with an important choice. Romance at home looks good on Friday. Listen instead of talking on Saturday. You can make your opinion known on Sunday.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Contact with a foreigner could be expensive on Monday. Use a delay on Tuesday and Wednesday to your advantage. Think about what you're doing before making a decision. The coast should be clear by Thursday or Friday. A friendly exchange turns romantic on Friday and Saturday. Love and learning are linked on those days. You'll learn a lot through the grapevine on Sunday, but don't tell everything you know.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Pay off a debt Monday. Distant contacts lead to new opportunities Tuesday and Wednesday. You'll do well in sports those days, so challenge somebody. The tests on Thursday and Friday are tough. You'll have to know the answers by heart. Your sweetheart is interrogating you on Saturday. Make sure you have the right answers. Relax with friends on Sunday and try something different.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Pay attention to a partner Monday. You may be apart, but it's important to stay tuned in. Fools and their money are soon parted on Tuesday. Something old works better than something new on Wednesday. Thursday's great for travel. Unexpected developments keep you home on Friday. Handle them so you can get out Saturday. An older person offers rewarding ideas on Sunday. Take notes.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Partners can handle Monday's assignment. Tell them what's needed. Take a friend's advice Tuesday and Wednesday, to understand a difficult person. Stash away as much money as you can on Thursday. Budget and pay bills on Friday. A secret love is revealed on Saturday, although you may think it's unsuitable. Feel more comfortable with someone you meet with Sunday.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Friendship leads to love Monday, though it's hard to get together. Work on Tuesday and Wednesday, but hand the ball to teammates on Thursday. Accept unwelcome financial advice on Friday. Let a Virgo get you organized Saturday and you'll have more time to play. Don't buy expensive gifts to show your love Sunday. It's the thought that counts.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week
... Born Jan. 12: You're strong this year, but you'll be stronger yet when you learn to work with a gentle partner. Jan. 13: You want nothing but the best this year, and that could get real expensive. Learn how to manage money and you can have it all. Jan. 14: There's no shortage of wealth this year, after you learn to create it. Jan. 15: Follow your heart in January, and plan the vacation of your dreams. Jan. 16: Somebody from a different country helps you find the best use of your talents this year. Jan. 17: There's a huge push toward higher education this year. Jan. 18: You could get an excellent career opportunity this year.

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'Space'

The Final Frontier

Amy Pugh
Staff Writer

In Tina Landau's new play, a towering gray wall overlooks actors who move about on chairs with wheels through a near empty stage. Characters, questions, and images fly about like stars in the sky. The piece is appropriately titled *Space*.

The play centers around Dr. Allen Saunders, a well-respected neuro-psychiatrist and professor at an ivy league university. The play opens with Saunders being presented with three new patients, all of whom claim to have been abducted by aliens. While none of the patients have any psychological symptoms in common, all three have been "abducted" in the same way. Saunders is a scientist—a believer in answers and absolute truths—and with these patients he is forced to confront his beliefs about aliens, science, and himself.

Thematically, *Space* does not delve into uncharted territory. From *Close Encounters* to "The X Files," stories of abductions and subsequent queries about what is really out there have been covered before. As recently as Robert Zemeckis' new film, *Contact*, we have seen the societal backlash against scientists who question these age old beliefs and rely solely on tangible truths.

While *Space*, at its core, may offer rehashed material, the similarities between this play and other "what's out there?" works end quickly. The method Landau uses to pose questions is as cutting edge as the *Steppenwolf* itself. The play moves entirely around Saunders, and as he is confronted

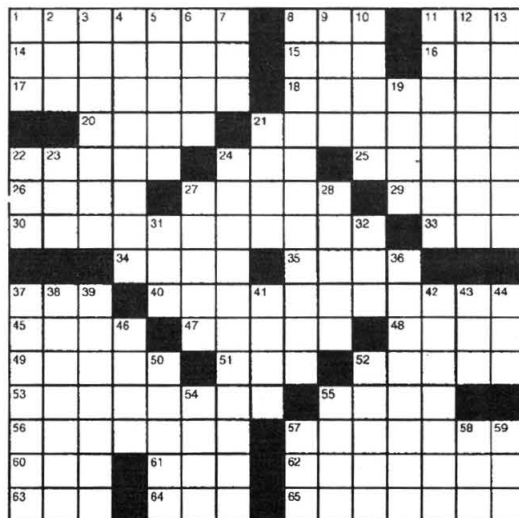
with the possibility of alien abduction and his beliefs are probed and examined, so are the audience's.

Tom Irwin plays Dr. Saunders perfectly. Beginning with a detached, professional attitude that leads to a frantic, childish one, we watch as a multi-textured, always believable performance unfolds. Saunders seeks answers from Dr. Bernadette Jump Cannon, an astrologer who works at the university. Dr. Cannon, as played by Amy Morton, lacks the spark of Irwin's performance. His desire for answers comes from his scientific beliefs being challenged, and his energy seems infectious to everyone but Cannon. Her interest in space seems passive, even though her character has spent years trying to make contact with alien life forms.

Space leads director-playwright Landau away from her previous writing efforts. She is known primarily for exploring historical subjects—the Revolutionary War in the musical *States of Independence*, turn-of-the-century entertainments in American Vaudeville and supporting gay rights in *Stonewall*. She began *Space* three years ago while conducting a graduate theater workshop at the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Mass. Said Landau, "I did one of those things I do which is to show up for a month and have no material except an idea I want to work on," adding, "this time, it was the word *space*."

Space is currently running at the Steppenwolf Theatre through January 24. For ticket information call (312)-335-1888.

Gametime!



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Answers from the last issue...



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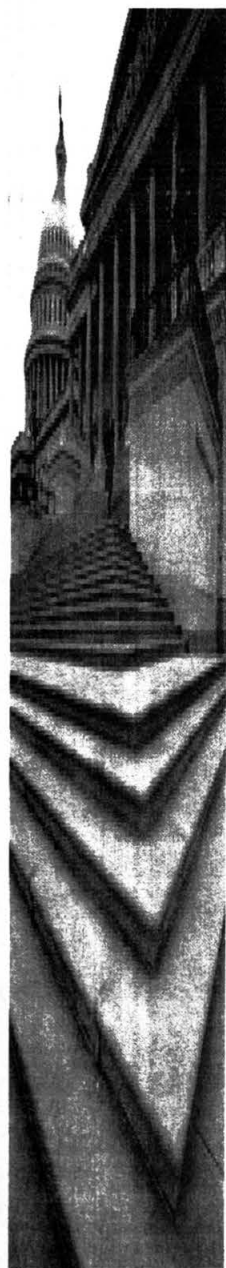
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FIRESTORM

FOX NFL COMMENTATOR FIGHTS FIRE WITH FIRE

Horace Toombs
Staff Writer

"Firestorm" is as simple as an action picture can get, but it moves as fast as the ferocious forest fire, it captures so spectacularly well.

The movie does not allow much time to dwell on plot developments that don't bear much scrutiny anyway.

The movie works well as a basic diversion under cinematographer-turned-director Dean Semler's punchy, effective helming. The engaging new-comer Howie Long, former Oakland Raider fierce defensive end and current Fox NFL commentator, works well as Jesse, along with Scott Glenn, Suzy Amis and William Forsythe as a villain who is so cunning and evil you would think he's stabbing you with a pitchfork.

At times, "Firestorm" has the basic appeal of early silents with their melodrama, derring-do and last-second rescues.

Jesse Graves (Howie Long) is a fearless smoke-jumper with a sly sense of humor, and is a perfect match for the Wyoming wilderness hero. He, along with his mentor Glenn and his close-knit team, are faced with a doozy of a fire—two of them, in fact, all set to converge on the bad guys as well as the good guys.

Forsythe, a state prison inmate, has devised a slick way to escape. He disguises himself as a firefighter and then heads for wherever it is. In the meantime he has hidden \$37 million which he stole off a train at the cost of 17 lives.

At certain times in the movie he nor his fellow escapees have much of a sense of direction, but they do know enough to take ornithologist Jennifer (Suzy Amis) hostage. By the time the picture is over, debuting writer Chris Soth created more perils than Pauline has ever faced and has even fashioned some average one-liner's for Long and Amis.

Firestorm plays like a TV adventure, yet it has big-screen style in its stunts, camerawork and special effects. J. Peter Robinson's score underlines the action strongly. The forest fire scenes are convincing and they really do look like they are out of control.

One odd and creepy moment in the movie is when they use a song, not an image: the voice of David Bowie singing "Cat People" from the cult classic movie. The image is a crazy and weird fantasy of putting out fires with gasoline.

Escaped convict Shaye (William Forsythe) takes ornithologist Jennifer (Suzy Amis) hostage.

*Photo courtesy
Twentieth Century Fox*

(Above) Howie Long as smokejumper Jesse Graves plans his next move against an escaped prisoner.

Photo courtesy Twentieth Century Fox



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'TITANIC' SAILS ON

Writer/Director James Cameron breathes vibrant life into a distant tragedy

By Jerry LaBuy
Assistant Features Editor

Every year at this time, film critics like to list their top ten favorite films of the previous year (myself included.) This year though, I'm at a loss. I don't have a list of ten, five or even two films released in the last year that, even if combined, could rival the overall quality and pure cinematic power held within my favorite film of 1997, "Titanic."

Most of us know the basic details of the Titanic's legend. She was the largest ship ever built and thought to be unsinkable. Yet, on April 14, 1912, she struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic and due to a shortage of lifeboats, sank into the cold depths of the North Atlantic with over half of her passengers.

Director James Cameron (*The Terminator*, *Aliens*) attempts to tell the Titanic's tragic tale by focusing not on the ship and its distant facts. Instead, he chooses to use the Titanic as a floating microcosm for the story's most tragic and forgotten element, its passengers. By doing so, he uses the Titanic as an example for many of mankind's problems, ranging from arrogance towards nature to the class struggle within its own culture.

Cameron doesn't just settle on the Titanic's actual historical characters to make his version a great and compelling film. He gives his audience a fictional love story that, when set against the events of the Titanic, happens to be one of the most honest depictions ever caught on film of what true love really means.

This fictional love affair, between third-class passenger Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) and first-class socialite Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet), is where the audience ultimately finds the heart of "Titanic."

Jack is a poor, American artist who is returning



Above: Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet) find each other on the ill-fated maiden voyage of the Titanic.

Left: Leonardo Di Caprio stars as Jack Dawson, a poor, free-spirited American who wins a ticket home on the Titanic.

Right: Kate Winslet stars as Rose DeWitt Bukater, an upper-class young woman who is trapped between doing what she wants and what is expected of her.

Below: Jack leads Rose through the Titanic's flooded first class reception area in an attempt to escape the tragedy surrounding them.

Photos by Merie W. Wallace

is the amount Cameron actually spent to make this film. It cost well over \$200 million and is being released by two major Hollywood Studios. (This is an rare practice that helped to spread out some of the film's huge cost.) For everything negative that has been said about that cost I say the money was well spent. "Titanic" contains some of the most impressively detailed sets, costumes and special effects ever to make their way onto a movie screen.

As interesting as Cameron has scripted his characters you can't help but lose yourself a little in the elaborate detail that surrounds them. From a completely accurate wood-paneled ballroom to the ship's massive engine room, Cameron researched for years so that his sets would be not only believable, but functional. This was necessary for the many takes of the required flooding needed for the film's final, climatic scenes.

Those final scenes come over halfway through the film as Titanic meets her fateful iceberg. As the first-class passengers play with the chunks of ice, they fail to comprehend the extent of the collision. The crew realizes though and when they go through the ship warning passengers to put on their life jackets, we as the audience begin to feel it too. Cameron then begins using the erratic lighting and quick cuts his action films are known and loved for.

Soon the frantic third-class passengers are notified but, in a tragedy within a tragedy, they are locked in the rear of the ship to prevent them from reaching the lifeboats before the upper-class passengers do. As the wealthy sip brandy and discuss



from Paris and has just won his ticket home in a last minute poker game. He and his best friend are soon on their way to the third-class portion of the ship where they find cramped quarters and an uncaring crew. Their spirits are high however, for they are on a trip to a new and exciting life in America.

This is contrasted by Rose who, although she is traveling in the best of conditions, considers the voyage to be a trip to a hellish existence. She has just been forced into becoming the fiancée of dominating millionaire Cal Hockley (Billy Zane) by her uncaring mother (played by Frances Fisher.)

With all of the personal stories and characters Cameron has developed in his film, it would seem easy for him to lose the power of Jack and Rose's story. He prevails though by somehow interweaving Jack and Kate with each of the main characters. This could have easily had a very forced feel to it, but Cameron manages to effortlessly juggle the meetings in a well structured and believable way.

Another inescapable aspect of the film that has gotten a lot of attention in the media



politics while waiting for the lifeboats to be prepared, the third-class begin to riot in order to escape. They eventually do break through and a scramble for the lifeboats begins, ending in bribery and gunfire.

I could try to describe the final moments of the ship but the only justice would be to see it. As the unfortunate passengers who couldn't make it into a lifeboat float for some sort of rescue the story comes full circle and makes you realize that the real tragedy of the Titanic was not the losing of a ship, but the massive loss of life due to greed and negligence.

After viewing a considerable number of films this year I can only say that "Titanic" was the most impressive I have seen on all levels. While many other films had great stories, characters and/or special effects, no other film blended them in such an awe-inspiring and impressive way.

James Cameron deserves the many accolades he is receiving and then some. He had a vision, stuck to it and for that you must admire the strength of his convictions. For it took a long time for him to bring "Titanic" to the screen and it'll probably take even longer for something as good to come along again.

Sara on Sports



Sara Willingham
Sports Columnist

So there I was, on a Saturday afternoon (I think), nursing a glass of wine at my parents house. My hangover was getting the best of me. It was one of the Saturdays of our Christmas break...or maybe it was a Sunday... Oh who cares what day it was, let's just say it was one of the BEST FOOTBALL DAYS OF THE YEAR! I am telling you, as the NFL playoffs are whittled down to the Conference Championships, we've been blessed with some damn fine football folks!

So anyways, there I was lying on the couch like a beached-in whale. I had been sleeping for hours, and snoozed right through the first three quarters of the Pittsburgh-New England game. "Damn!" I said aloud as I popped-up to a sitting position. "I've pretty much missed the entire game!"

Then I saw the score.

"SIX TO SEVEN?? THAT COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE RIGHT!"

We're talking Kordell up against Drew! Cowher versus Carroll! It's the stinkin' east coast facing the east coast, the air reeks of rivalry, and you mean to tell me that after THREE quarters of play it's only SIX TO SEVEN? That's ludicrous.

So after fixing myself a stiffy (cocktail, that is), I plopped back down on the couch, and waited for someone...ANYONE...to get within field goal range. And then it happened. Something not unusual for NFL playoff games. The whole damn game happened in the last five minutes of regulation. Let's reflect back...

It's third and goal. The Steelers have the ball on the Patriots' eight or nine yard line. Kordell Stewart hands-it-off to Jerome Bettis, and "The Bus" drives hard and gets it to the one or two yard line. Bill Cowher gives the nod. On fourth and one, rather than leave it up to his defense, he decides to go for the touchdown. You see, if Pittsburgh scores a field goal, that makes it 10-6, Steelers, and all Bledsoe would have to do is score a single touchdown to win the game. BUT! If Pittsburgh scores seven points, then they go up by eight, which means that the Patriots would have to score at least a touchdown and a two-point conversion to simply tie-up the game and send it in to OT. And, if worse comes to worse, and Pittsburgh gives-up the ball on downs, then New England will have to drive starting on their own one yard line. So Cowher thinks to himself, "piece of cake, let's go for seven." Well, it was a good though, Bill, but you probably should have sent Bettis up the middle instead of L'il QB Kordell because the Patriots' defense stopped him cold just short of the goal line. Oh Man! Now it's "worse comes to worse," and New England has plenty of time on the clock to move down field and win.

Good thing they've got crappy field position!

Well no sooner do I suck down the last sip of my drink, that Drew Bledsoe has his team on the go. They're drivin' like Mack Trucks. Picking-up first downs here, and running it out of bounds there. They're doing everything exactly right. It was at this point that I just knew that the Steelers were living their final moments of the '97-'98 season. What a shame. And then, with just under three minutes to play, the ultimate deciding factor occurs:

"Bledsoe drops back...he's looking for his man...he's chased out of the pocket...THE BALL COMES LOOSE...IT'S A FUMBLE...AND GILDON FALLS ON THE BALL!!! OH MY GOD, PITTSBURGH GETS THE BALL BACK AS #92, JASON GILDON, RECOVERS THE FUMBLE! THE STEELERS ARE GOING TO WIN THIS GAME AFTER ALL!!!"

Whew! Although that wasn't the exact quote from Pittsburgh's play-by-play man, Bill Hillgrove, I get goose bumps just imagining the excitement during that final play. Wow, I was drained. At first, it was like there was no game at all. Then, it was Pittsburgh's game, then New England's, and finally, the Steelers snatched-up the victory to move on to the AFC Championship game against the Denver Broncos.

Well, by the time this article is published on Monday, the Conference Championships will already have been determined, and we'll be left with two Super Bowl contenders. So I'll make my bold predictions, and pray for a miracle. I'll go with Pittsburgh over Denver (I've got this crazy Kordell/Cowher thing). And for the NFC? OK, here it goes. I predict that the 49ers will beat the hell out of the Pack...or shall I say, I hope that San Fran humiliates Green Bay on Sunday. It's gonna be Packer coach Mike Holmgren, facing his former co-worker, 49er coach, Steve Mariucci. It'll be a huge game, but it will be on San Francisco's turf. So, I'll stick to my Brett-bashing, and pray for a BIG Green Bay loss.

I hope you all have enjoyed your holidays, and most importantly, I hope you've enjoyed the National Football League. We've been spoiled in recent weeks after another brutal Bears' season with college bowls and NFL playoffs.

Speaking of playoffs...when do the Stanley Cup Playoffs begin???? (tune-in next week for an in-depth look at the "back-on-track" Hawks). Peace!

Cracks Appearing In bowls; Attendance Lags For Non-national Championship Games

By Dave Caldwell

The Dallas Morning News
Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service

DALLAS—Today's student-athletes are smart. They are also honest. They can spot a trend when they see one, and they are not bashful about pointing it out.

Daryl Bush is a linebacker for Florida State. Before the Seminoles played Ohio State in the Nokia Sugar Bowl, Bush was asked about participating in a game that had virtually no bearing on the national championship—and, as a result, was not a sellout.

"It shows a lot when college football gets to a point that if you're not playing for the national championship, fans don't go to the game," Bush said.

Bush was right. Thursday night's game, played after Michigan's Rose Bowl victory, was played before an announced crowd of 67,289 at the Superdome, or 9,500 below capacity.

ABC's telecast of the game showed rows upon rows of empty seats in the second half. One ticket scalper, hoping not to get scalped himself, was reported to be offering two \$75 tickets to the Sugar Bowl for \$50 total an hour before the game.

The Cotton Bowl, played before the third-smallest crowd in 50 years, is not the only bowl that failed to sell out. Of the 20 bowls involving Division I-A teams, only three technically drew capacity crowds: the Independence, Citrus and Rose bowls. Only three of 18 bowls drew capacity crowds last year: the Cotton, Rose and Sugar.

In fact, the most notable attendance statistic from the bowls was not the total crowd of 1,083,244 for the 20 games ... but the fact that there were at least 227,031 empty seats.

America's never-ending search for No. 1 might be to blame. The shared national championship between Michigan and Nebraska already has rekindled discussion about a national Division I-A football playoff. But the college football decision makers say playoffs can't exist without bowls, and until a playoff system is put into place, the bowls are the only way to determine a champion. Or champions.

The bowls often like to portray themselves as cherished, irreplaceable, must-see pieces of football folklore. But even if every person who had a ticket used it, one of every six seats for the bowl games was empty.

The Bowl Alliance was supposed to be one of the greatest innovations to hit college football since the T-formation, stoking bigger crowds with games that meant more. Despite one of the most memorable seasons in college football history, five bowls saw declines this year in attendance figures, which include tickets bought, not necessarily tickets used.

Network officials said their overnight television ratings from games played on New Year's Day showed a modest increase in viewers over a year ago, including the Cotton Bowl. But actual attendance at bowls seems to have flattened out, especially at the games where the stakes are not so big.

The five oldest bowls, the Rose, Orange, Sugar, Cotton and Sun, actually drew fewer combined fans in the 1997-98 season than the 1987-88 season, the 1977-78 season and the 1967-68 season.

The race for No. 1 might be driving fans away from paying premium prices to go to bowls that do not have a stake in determining No. 1. New Year's Day used to be the crossword puzzle, with each game came a new clue to fill in the grid that determined the national champion.

With the advent of the Bowl Alliance, the crossword puzzle is only one or two clues. The Alliance's three designated "national championship" games, in fact, have been blowouts.

The bowls that guaranteed themselves large draws this year also happened to be bowls that looked for teams in the general vicinity.

The Poulan-Weed Eater Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., came up with a match up that pitted nearby LSU and bowl favorite Notre Dame, and, even though the game was a rematch of a game played in November, the Independence Bowl drew a capacity crowd of 50,459, more than 10,000 than it did last year.

Although it was played on Friday afternoon in Atlanta, the Chick-Fil-A Peach Bowl came within 36 fans of a sellout crowd because two teams within driving distance, Auburn of the Southeastern Conference and Clemson of the Atlantic Coast Conference, played in it.

Mike Baggett, chairman of the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association, might have come up with the best reason why fans stayed away from the bowl in Dallas:

"UCLA didn't bring as many fans as a team in their position usually does," Baggett said. "Distance of travel has to be considered as a factor for the Bruins. The Aggies' fans are disappointed because of what happened against Nebraska a blowout in the Big 12 title game. That definitely had something to do with it."

In other words: The match up had no bearing on the national championship and did not include teams that were either from the area or powerhouses. So fans felt less of a need to make the trip.

UCLA estimates it will lose about \$200,000 because it was unable to get rid of all 12,000 tickets it promised to buy. About 2,500 went to area Boy Scouts, a nice gesture, but not one UCLA was thrilled to make.

Moreover, the bowls this year were not very competitive. The Rose and Cotton bowls had memorable finishes, but name another bowl with a great ending. Maybe the first-year Ford Motor City Bowl, won by Mississippi over Marshall, 34-31.

In the Division I-A bowls, only one underdog, won—Arizona State beat Iowa in the Sun Bowl. (Five underdogs won last year.) Only six favorites failed to win by more than the bookies' point spreads. Eleven bowls, or more than half, were decided by 14 points or more. Last year, only six of 18 bowls were that lopsided.

Only nine bowls this year featured two teams ranked in the top 25; there were 13 games with one team that had at least four losses. Possibly as a result, only six bowls drew more than 90 percent of capacity this year. And the Cotton Bowl was actually one of the better bowls at getting rid of tickets.

The Cotton Bowl was played to nearly 87 percent of capacity. The Carquest Bowl in Miami between West Virginia and Georgia Tech on Dec. 29 drew only 28,262, only a little more than one-third of capacity.

Locking some conferences into commitments seems to have backfired. The Big East Conference barely filled its four slots,

and its top representative, then-No. 14 Syracuse, was the lowest-rated team in an Alliance bowl. Big East representatives Syracuse, Virginia Tech, West Virginia and Pittsburgh lost their bowls by a combined score of 153-58.

As Bush said, if nothing is at stake, fans do not fill the seats. When the Rose Bowl joins the Alliance next year, a No. 1-vs.-No. 2 game will be virtually guaranteed for the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4, 1999.

As Fiesta Bowl chairman John Junker said, "The Alliance was put together in an attempt to possibly match up the No. 1-vs.-No. 2 teams in the bowls."

But where will that leave the bowls that don't have a No. 1-vs.-No. 2 match up? Scrambling for fans, most likely.

Without the prospect of a college football playoff for at least another five years, their best remaining selling point, tradition, is slowly getting stripped away.

Remember when the Southwest Conference champion played in the Cotton Bowl? Not only is there no SWC, but the SWC's successor, the Big 12, had its champion playing in the Orange Bowl on Friday. Even the prospect of "soft anchors," in which conference champions will play in nearby bowl games, won't guarantee them playing there if they were ranked No. 1 or 2.

Consider the healthiest bowl of all, the so-called "Granddaddy of Them All." With the Big Ten and Pac-10 joining the Alliance next year, the Rose Bowl might not feature the champions of these conferences for the first time since 1945.

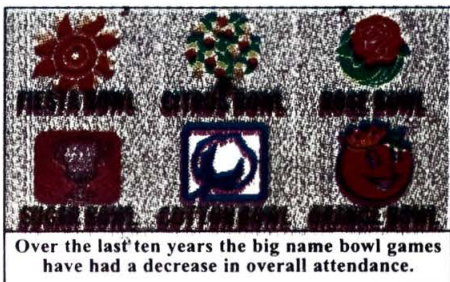
"That's going to be a sad day when I see that Big Ten and Pac-10 teams aren't in that game," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said last week.

"I'm a traditionalist," Washington State coach Mike Price said with a weak smile. "I think there's going to be a playoff, eventually."

But not yet. Don't hold your breath.

"What we play football for is the regular season," Roy Kramer, the commissioner of the SEC and the coordinator of the Bowl Alliance, said a month ago.

And what the bowl season is around for is to sell tickets, not to determine the best match ups. Except for one thing: Fans are as smart as Daryl Bush. They won't buy tickets unless the match ups mean something.



Over the last ten years the big name bowl games have had a decrease in overall attendance.

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