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Columbia College Chicago

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INSIDE

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'Park it!'—our fantastic, wonderful list of South Loop parking spots

VITALITY

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SPORTS

Should Pete Rose be allowed in the Hall of Fame?



Recently purchased building to house new Dance Center



Donnie Seals, Jr./Chronicle

This building, at 1306 S. Michigan, will be the site of the new Columbia College Dance Center, with refurbishment tentatively scheduled to be completed by fall. The structure was bought by the college from the city of Chicago for \$1.3 million. The new Center, which will have its own performance stage, will replace the current one at 4730 N. Sheridan.

Reception at Student Center sheds light on school's new plans

By Alicia Kelley
Staff Writer

Columbia officials were pleased to see about 125 students and faculty who showed up for a reception in the new Student Center. "I am excited because students see this as a place they will come back to, even though we are not going to have food and beverages," said Thomas Harvey, overseer of the Student Center.

"The plans for the future are big," said Dr. Jean Lightfoot Lee, Dean of Students. Wilson-Taylor has organized a number of leadership workshops available for everyone to attend. Officials have scheduled programs to fit all of the students' different needs. Workshops for gay and lesbian students, self-defense for women, and how to survive your freshman year are some of the programs which will be offered this month. Officials have scheduled a blood drive on March 16 at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. for students who want to help out the community and local blood banks. Lee has plans to post calendars in a new glass case between the elevators, on the first floor of the Wabash building, so students will be able to keep track of events happening in the Student Center. Officials want to see students getting involved.

"We have plans for a full-blown student union, and we want students to make suggestions," said Lee. Officials are



Alicia Kelley/Chronicle

meeting with the Student Organization Council of Columbia on March 11 at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Center, to discuss future services and programs which students would like to see implemented. Officials are also bringing in an architect to talk about more space which will be needed for the future.

"Students are looking for a space, other than the Hokin, where they can control what is happening and what is available. This is the first step toward a real student union," said Lee.

"If students have a place to go where organized student groups advocate messages to officials, then we are obligated to get back to them. We have no avenue like that, and most schools do," said Lee. Officials agree that students working with other students is effective.

"I am excited that we can provide services like this for the students, and we can continue to

in the future. It's like a little acorn from which a tree grows," said Harvey.

School officials noticed the excited faces entering the new Student Center during the reception. "This is really nice, I am coming back; this is my new hang out," said junior Nick Priola (Theater), as he entered the Student Center for his first time.

"We have been begging for a Student Center for a long time. Now we have new furniture, new computers, and new part time faculty. This is a big step because we have never had this in our budget," said Lee. The new Student Center is located in room 311 of the Wabash building.

The center will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The center will close at 3 p.m. on Friday.

New Digital Media major to combine communication with computers

By Sheryl Tirol
Correspondent

This fall, Columbia will have a brand new major to offer students interested in computers and communication technology. Digital Media Technology will go into effect in the fall of 1999. It was created in a departmental effort by the academic computing department, and took a year to prepare and approve.

This new program is designed to prepare computer and communication technical professionals. The major's course of studies provides a broad understanding of computers and digital technologies, a solid foundation in software applications, highly developed problem solving skills and an aesthetic understanding.

Digital Media will allow students working with the technology not only to acquire the technical skills but also aspects involving arts and communication. Students graduating with this degree will in turn be facilitators, helping others understand the software and the steps to what needs to be done in their creative work.

Having worked in an arts environment, the students or facilitators will help artists

realize their vision.

Rebecca Courington, chair of the academic computing department, calls the students that will be involved with the program, "Techies with taste."

"Our graduates will have a strong foundation in hardware and software, an aesthetic sensibility and a firm foundation based on liberal arts and science classes that will allow them to facilitate, create and influence digital communications in business, art and other professional settings. This combination of technical knowledge with aesthetic appreciation and liberal arts background differentiates our program from other more traditional computer science or technical school programs and makes it uniquely Columbia's," said Courington.

Students will be taking classes from not only the academic computing department but also the art department. The program aims to give students a solid liberal arts background along with technical skills. Students who have interests in other areas will be helped to incorporate those electives into the Digital Media Technology major.

The program will consist of three tech-

nological classes: Computer Technology and II, and Network I. Once the students complete these first core classes, they will take an exam entitled A+ Certification. It is a current industry standard for micro-computer technicians to pass.

In addition, once they complete the exam, students will take Time Based Skill classes--Design for Web, Elements of Multimedia, and Time-Based Composing I.

There are five areas of exposure. The next step would be Productivity Skills: Advanced Applications, and Desktop Publishing. Productivity Skills classes consist of choosing one programming class of the students' choice.

Imaging Skills consist of: Introduction to Computer Graphics, 2D Imaging (art department), Technology, Art and Society, Computers in the Arts Seminar, and the final class will be the Digital Media Technologist Practicum.

Courington describes the last class similar to a student teaching program of the last year. Students in the practicum will actually be working in a real lab as a lab manager would, working on real projects.

So what does this major have that simi-

lar ones don't?

Courington said, "The Digital Media Technology takes the classes we already offer a focus and an emphasis," she added, "This program clearly shows what we do entirely different from Multimedia and the other programs."

Graduates of the Digital Media Technology will be working in a lab as a coordinator or facilitator. They will not be producing a product or project, but these graduates can assist students in their projects. The difference with that program and the Multimedia program is that graduates of that program are part of a team, and each person has a specialty within the team, and the goal is to produce a multimedia project or product.

Columbia graduates with the Digital Media Technologist major will find work in settings that value a blend of technical skills, aesthetic understanding of digital arts and a strong liberal arts background, said Courington. These include pre-and post-production houses; advertising agencies; graphic art houses; photo labs; modern journalistic enterprises; web-based businesses; and small and mid-sized computing facilities in business and academia.

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CAMPUS NEWS

Raworth teaches students the "beauty of being a poet"

By Kimberly A. Brehm
Staff Writer

"You must be ruthless in what you write to yourself. You must be your own severe critic by cutting and cutting at the words until you get to what you need to say." With these words, world-renowned poet Tom Raworth offered the best practical advice he knows to the 22 poetry students fortunate enough to be taking his classes this semester.

Raworth has obtained major success within the field of poetry. Since 1968, he has had 40 books of poetry published both in the United States and England. He is one of only a few living poets who can claim such distinction and Columbia is honored to have him teaching two poetry writing classes this semester.

Raworth started writing poetry in 1966. His first book was published in England and it quickly sold out. It was reprinted in America and earned him the Alice Hunt Bartlett Award in 1968. This award is prestigious in the poetry world and it helped launch Raworth's career.

"I was fortunate enough to meet Kenneth Koch, a poet in New York who also teaches the art. He invited me to do readings in New York and other American states. This led to more of my work being published and propelled me toward a following here in the United States," said Raworth.

In 1972, Raworth was invited to teach at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and by 1974 he was teaching at Northeastern University in Chicago. Finally, after teaching a semester at the University of Texas, he decided the academic life wasn't entirely for him.

"I like students, but I don't like institutions," explained Raworth. "I can't work in an academic environment, so I now teach only one semester a year. The rest of my time is spent writing."

In his short time teaching here, Raworth has been very impressed with Columbia students. "The quality of writing is excellent. I have been genuinely and pleasantly surprised by the level of writing. I must say that Columbia students are better writers, in general, than the students I have taught at other universities."

Raworth hopes to leave Columbia students with more confidence in their writing. He said he wants to expose them to a large array of works to show that poetry can come in many forms.

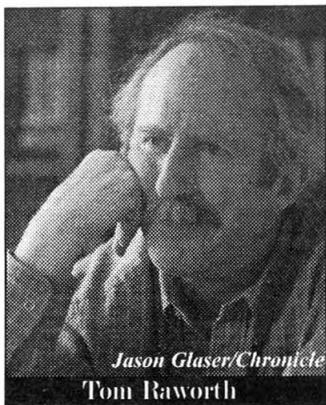
"I can't teach a student the core of poetry. I can't make someone a writer — it must be inside them. But I can expose students to as much as I can in one semester and show them the devotion it takes to be a writer," Raworth explained. "I can also encourage the things I feel are interesting about their writing and not discourage them. I can put things in ways they may never have read and show them the fulfillment you can achieve when you're doing something you love."

Raworth is quick to point out that being a poet is not a very lucrative career. While he admits to a very low-level existence, he considers himself lucky. He said, "I don't have to do what I don't want to. That's the beauty of being a poet." Teaching poetry full time is the only way for a poet to make a living, according to Raworth. He teaches one semester per year to support himself while devoting the rest of his time to his craft.

Raworth said he writes best when sad or depressed; it's only in his work that he can find relief from his emotions. "I'm a lazy writer. It begins in my head but I don't write it down until its ready and clear. I may know how the poem will begin but I don't know where the poem is going when I start. It's always a surprise to me," he said.

Raworth loves the literary life; he has made many good friends through the various teaching institutions and publishing companies he has been involved with. "I am extremely fortunate to do what I like to do and get paid for it, but I would get just as much satisfaction from a poem written down in a drawer as I do from poems that are published in a book. If you believe yourself a writer, you are one."

If you're interested in Raworth's work, he'll be giving a reading April 15 in the Hokin at 4:30 p.m.



Jason Glaser/Chronicle
Tom Raworth

C In the news

The Illinois Education Association (IEA), the largest organization of educators in the state, has topped 100,000 members. Recently, the IEA has been stressing more compensation for college professors. According to IEA executive director Clay Marquardt, more gains are being won for these professors, including the collective bargaining agreement to be signed by members of P-FAC (Part-time Teachers at Columbia.)

h On Campus

Jeryl Lavin has been named the new Director of Alumni Relations at Columbia. Lavin is a 1986 Columbia alumna; she majored in Writing/English. She served as the executive director of the Illinois Ethnic Coalition for eight years.

College life messing with your mind? Under a lot of stress? Fear not, fellow students—a **Fear, Stress, and Anxiety Workshop** will be offered Thurs., March 18 at 3 p.m. in the new Student Center, room 311, Wabash Bldg. For more information, call Student Support Services, ext. 8132.

Columbia's **Chronic Illness/Injury/Pain Support** organization (CHIPS), is welcoming students who live with chronic illness, injury, or pain. The group and support system is comprised of students of many different ages and experiences; it meets every Tuesday from 3 to 5 p.m. in room 304, Wabash Bldg. Students interested can call ext. 8132.

CHIPS is also sponsoring a **blood drive** Tues., March 16 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the student Center, room 311, Wabash Bldg. To sign up for your appointment to donate blood, visit the registration desk in the Wabash Bldg. on Wed., March 10. To sign up over the phone, call Rose Gordon at ext. 7662 or Pattie Mackenzie at ext. 8134.

s Around Town

"Schadenfreude," an improv sketch comedy, is performed every Friday and Saturday night at 10, Heartland Studio Theater, 7016 N. Glenwood. The performances include music and monologues, and the six-member cast includes 1996 Columbia graduate **Justin Kaufmann**.

A recent Chicago Tribune reader's poll named Schadenfreude (a German word meaning pleasure derived from the misfortunes of others) the city's Best Alternative Theater Company. For more information, call 773-293-0024, or email schaden-mail@schadenfreude.net. All tickets are \$5 per person.

e Attention: volunteers

Open Hand Chicago, a nonprofit organization that provides food and nutrition services for low-income people affected by HIV/AIDS, is looking for volunteers to help out at their grocery center in Humboldt Park on the West side. Volunteers would deliver meals to homebound clients and work at the centers selecting food from clients' preference lists, among other tasks. Several shifts are available. To volunteer, call 773-665-1000.

Do you want more Columbia students to know about your organization/activities? We'll help you spread the word! Please mail the Chronicle any pertinent information at 623 S. Wabash, room 205, Chicago, IL, 60605; email us at Chron96@interaccess.com, or fax us at 312-344-8032.

Student loan volume continues to grow

Loans, cars, credit cards adding up to massive debt for today's college students

By Diane Krueger
Correspondent

"I'm responsible with my finances," said Zorabel Valenciano, Junior, Broadcast major at Columbia. "I try to pay my balance every month. I don't owe a lot, but I work part-time so I can make my payments."

Valenciano, like many college students, grapples with the burden of paying off growing debts accumulated while in school.

According to a survey conducted by Nellie Mae, the largest non-profit provider of student loans, the average student debt in 1997 was \$18,800. In 1991, the average student debt was \$8,200.

Student loans make up the largest portion of debt that students accumulate. The growing cost of higher education coupled with the decline in grants awarded, force students who want to attend college to take out loans.

The U.S. Department of Education reports student loan volume has more than doubled in the last decade, with some 5.4 million students borrowing \$34 billion in federal loans in fiscal 1997.

"We've seen increases for a number of reasons," said Gloria Andrews, debt management adviser at Columbia. "Students who can't find jobs come back to school in

order to get more skills for other jobs and take out loans."

While \$18,000 of debt can cause many students to feel as though the burden may be too much to handle, advisers believe most students will be able to pay off their loans.

According to Diane Saunders, vice-president of Nellie Mae, a recent national survey of student loan borrowers helped provide information on just how burdened graduates are "once they enter 'real life' and begin repaying loans along with other debts, such as credit cards and car loans."

The study concluded that, while there are pockets of burden among certain borrower groups, the majority of student loan borrowers "are still able to successfully repay their student loans without a significant impact on their consumer and social behavior," said Saunders.

The federal government provides limits as to how much students can borrow in loans per year, so students don't get in over their heads in debt. Freshmen loan borrowers are limited to \$2,625; sophomores limit is \$3,500; juniors and seniors have limits of \$5,500.

Last fall, Congress passed a law, capping the interest rate both private and government loan providers could charge at 8.25 percent.

Columbia requires an exit counseling session for all seniors who have student loans. "The session lets the student know the total money owed, select a repayment schedule from 10 to 25 years," said Andrews. "But we let them know the longer repayment schedule they pick, the longer it takes to pay back and the more interest is charged."

Credit card debt is another burden more students struggle to overcome. In 1996, "twenty-something" consumers owed an average of \$2,400 on their credit cards, nearly triple what they owed in 1990, according to research conducted by Claritas Inc., a marketing research firm in Virginia.

According to research conducted by Nellie Mae, 67 percent of undergraduates have credit cards, with 27 percent claiming to have four or more credit cards.

For some students who have a high amount of debt, filing for bankruptcy seems like an intriguing option. By filing for bankruptcy, a debtor can re-establish his or her credit. However, there are some drawbacks.

"Federal student loan borrowers cannot discharge their student loan debt in a bankruptcy filing by federal law," said Saunders. Also, bankruptcy stays on the debtor's record for 10 years and prevents being able to receive other credit, such as

car loans, mortgages, etc.

A more effective tactic for handling a high volume of debt is to seek help from reputable credit counselors, such as Consumer Credit Counseling Services. A credit counselor may be able to arrange for the debtor to consolidate multiple card payments into one reasonable payment a month or lower interest rates.

"The credit card industry has poured millions of dollars into a campaign to get Congress to make it easier to collect unpaid credit card debt from bankrupt victims of their high pressure marketing of high interest credit cards," said Ed Mierzwinski, U.S. Public Interest Research Group Consumer Program Director.

A person with a \$1,000 credit card debt with an 18 percent annual percentage rate (APR) only making the minimum payment of three percent would take six years to pay in full, assuming all payments are made every month.

"As the credit card industry continues to saturate the market with card offers, college-age students and low-income consumers, those usually deemed bad risks are easy targets," said Bob Johnson, senior research associate at Purdue University's Credit Research Center.

Parking in the South Loop: A fight for space, rates

By Benjamin Treocroci
Managing/Sports Editor

With no official Columbia parking lot in place, students must go through the daunting task of finding parking for themselves.

For the person who refuses to pay for a parking garage and decides to squeeze his or her car in between a fire hydrant and a driveway, he/she has to circle the area in hope that somehow a spot will be open. In most instances, when a spot is found, it comes along with a "city gumball machine" (otherwise known as a parking meter). Meters run from Mon-Sat, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. For a whole quarter per fifteen minutes your car becomes a property of the city and subject to the wrath of the parking police, always ready to click the pen and plaster that ticket onto your window. Should you decide that meters are your thing, good luck trying to find a parking spot in front of any of Columbia's buildings.

If not, then you still have the entire city of Chicago in which to find an open meter, but then you would likely have to leave class in order to feed the meter (thus missing valuable learning time.)

Campus Safety Week emphasizes rape prevention

By Kimberly A. Brehm
Staff Writer

A woman walks out of Columbia after her evening class. With her purse casually thrown over her shoulder, she walks slowly to her car. It's been a long night and the streets are dark as she loses herself in thought of tonight's lecture. Suddenly she notices a man walking behind her, dressed in dark clothing. Her heart begins to beat quicker as her feet pick up her pace. She begins to sweat. Her inner radar is warning her she may

be in danger. One the rare occasion you find a spot that does not have a parking meter, isn't a loading zone, bus stop, snow emergency spot or a fallout shelter, then use some of that Drivers Ed knowledge and park that car! If you decide to take a short trip south a few blocks, there always seems to be a few spots that do not require an English major to understand exactly what the sign means. Otherwise, try near the Dearborn Townhouses just south of Polk; while it is predominantly a residential area, some spots become open during the mid-day while most people are away at work.

"Parking downtown takes up too much time and adds stress to my life every day. An official school parking lot would most definitely help everyone," said Casey Pulera, Jr. (Advertising). Pulera has been parking at 727 S. Polk, near the Residence Center, for the last two years.

"I don't like parking, it's a pain in my ass, it costs too much money and it's not convenient," said Steve Stanis, Sr. Journalism. Stanis has been parking at 605 S. Wabash.

The best bet is to try the nearly dozen and a half parking garages and lots that are within walking distance from Columbia. On Wabash alone, there are thirteen park-

ing facilities within four blocks either way from school. Most of the parking lots have some sort of student discount or an all-day special. With so many parking facilities in the area, one may become confused as to where to go to find the best rates.

Here are some options:

7th St. Garage, 7th & Wabash
Parking Special--\$5.70, all day with valid I.D.

Harrison Garage, 605 S. Wabash
Student Rates
Half-hour or less--\$4
2 hours or less--\$5
2-5 hours--\$7
5-7 hours--\$7.50
After 4 p.m. special--\$5.50 all-day

Auditorium Garage Inc., Congress & Wabash
Student Rates
First 2 hours--\$5
2-5 hours--\$5.70
5-12 hours--\$7.50
12-24--\$9
Early Bird Rate, Mon-Sat--\$7.50 in

Life and Development. Together, they coordinate presentations, videos and literature to be available for students to become more educated about safety matters.

"We are targeting specific classes in liberal education and the freshman seminars," said Meegan-Linehan. "Our goal is to teach an awareness of self. Your chance of becoming a victim is less when you project self-confidence and listen to your body."

Columbia is offering a well-rounded program that includes all aspects of sexual assault prevention. Joseph Weinberg, a rape prevention educator, is presenting a talk on sexual ethics and gender issues to educate on how society perpetuates assaults and rapes.

"I'll be speaking about psychic self-defense," said Meegan-Linehan. "It deals with the psychological aspect of the projection of personality and how it attracts victimization and how we can stop it."

Chimera, a physical self-defense method, will be taught during Campus

by 11 a.m., out by 7 p.m.

Congress Hotel Parking
All Day Special--\$6 Mon-Sat, in by 5 a.m.-11 a.m. out by 7 p.m.

Loop Auto Park
549 S. Wabash
1 hour--\$4.50
1-2 hours--\$5
2-4 hours--\$5.50
4-6 hours--\$7
6-10 hours--\$7.50
10-12 hours--\$8

Public Parking State and Harrison
All day special, Mon-Fri after 10 p.m.--\$7.50

520 S. State St.
Early Bird Special in by 8 a.m.--\$5.50

Grant Park Underground Parking, Michigan & Congress
All Day special, unlimited time--\$9
Lower night rates (after 6 p.m.) vary.
No student rates!

Safety Week. Chimera teaches practical and effective physical strategies against sexual harassment and assault. The course is suitable for women of all ages, abilities and physical condition.

Dr. Rose Gordon and Columbia Security Director Jose Gallegos' presentation will include information about date rape and drugs that can be involved, such as GHB.

Videos on how to avoid being a victim will be shown in the Hokin Gallery by Student Life and Development's Madeline Roman-Vargas. "Students can watch the movies while eating lunch," said Vargas. "The movies' are mostly common sense advice, but watching will make people think."

"I want students to be able to detect those in the building with bad intentions and assist others in trouble," said Meegan-Linehan. "They could become the eyes and ears of the community." Schedules of Campus Safety Week's programs are posted in all campus buildings.

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**THE CHRONICLE
COLUMBIA'S CHOICE**

CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

MARCH 8-12, 1999

- Mon., March 8th* *Movies in the Hokin Gallery*
Theme: Safety
 623 S. Wabash
 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- Tues., March 9th* *Self-Defense Workshop for Women*
Presented by Chimera, Inc.
 623 S. Wabash-Room 311
 12:00-1:00 p.m.
- Wed., March 10th* *Psychic Self-Defense*
How to Avoid Being a Victim
Presented by Martha Meegan
 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
 624 South Michigan Room 909
- Wed., March 10th* *What you should know about*
Date Rape Drugs Presented by
Rose Gordon & Jose Gallegos
 623 S. Wabash-Room 311
 10:30 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. (Two presentations)
- Thurs., March 11th* *Telling Men's Secrets*
Presented by Joseph Weinberg
- 624 S Michigan Room 1005
 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m.
 624 S Michigan Faculty Lounge
 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
 624 S Michigan Room 1001
 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
 624 S Michigan Faculty Lounge
 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.
 624 S Michigan Room 909
 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m.
- Fri., March 12th* *Movies in the Gallery*
Theme: Safety
 623 S. Wabash
 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

*Materials on display in the lobbies, 600 S. Michigan and
 623 S. Wabash*

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C O L U M B I A

 Columbia College Chicago

VIEWPOINTS

Editorial

Student union a necessity, not a luxury

Could Columbia's students benefit from a student government organization?

It has been a long time since anyone has uttered the words "student government" around Columbia. Such an organization would magnify the voice of the student population at the school, which at the moment is effectively nonexistent. At the moment, any student ideas (or beefs) must be proposed and dealt with by that student individually.

Currently, such an organization is the last thing from many students' minds, and this is understandable. Most Columbia undergrads are either part-time students or commuter students. They don't have the time or the drive to get involved with school any more than they have to.

This is a shame, especially when it comes to student issues. Aside from making a few gripes, the average student's voice is pitifully small to express his or her views in matters, from student ideas to problems with classes, etc.

...the college can't do it alone. What Columbia needs is a small core of students that want to be actively involved in college life and have the time and the energy necessary to put into a possible student government.

The closest thing Columbia has to a student union is the Student Organization Council, which governs the doings of the 20-odd student organizations (Latino Alliance, Columbia Urban Music Association, et al.) at the school. While the S.O.C. oversees the activities of these organizations, it certainly does not fulfill the need in providing a voice for those students that want to improve student life beyond those organizations.

The college is to be commended for generally taking students' suggestions and problems seriously. They have gone out of their way to improve student life—the new Student Center in the Wabash Bldg., for example, furnishes a badly-needed quiet space away from the library. Massive and even costly student surveys for the U-Pass and proposed on-campus child care have been taken to try to get the pulse of the Columbia student community.

But the college can't do it alone. What Columbia needs is a small core of students that want to be actively involved in college life and have the time and the energy necessary to put into a possible student union. These students could act as ambassadors to new students, sponsor college-wide student-oriented activities (which currently exist but are sorely underattended), and act as ombudsmen for common student problems. A student government organization would only improve the quality of student life at Columbia. Even high schools have these organizations. If the college is to expand its effort in creating a school that is more like a traditional college campus, the students must do their part, in that case, an organization of this kind is not only desirable, it is vital. It comes down to how badly the students want it and whether a few students will step up to fill this gaping void.

All Columbia students are invited 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 are interested or have any questions, call 312-344-7343 and ask for Billy, or send him e-mail at MrBilly78@aol.com.

Editorial Cartoon

By Billy O'Keefe



Gun Users, Not Makers, Responsible For Safety

By Robert Funk
Daily Kansan
University of Kansas

Two Brooklyn teenagers recently were playing with a gun they had bought on the black market when one shot the other in the head. The wounded teen lived and sued the gun industry. A New York jury found several gun makers responsible for the accidental shooting.

The decision, although controversial, opens the door to similar lawsuits in other cities such as Chicago, New Orleans and Miami. It's not really important to understand why

started out shooting a BB rifle. He was taught that you always keep the gun pointed at the ground and that you never, ever point it at people. He was taught to be very careful where he shot the gun and to study the background to see whether there was anything there that should be avoided. He was taught to keep the gun unloaded whenever possible and always to use the safety. He was taught that the gun was not to be fired in town. In fact, it never should be out of the gun cabinet except for appropriate use or cleaning. The young man was taught never to horse around with the gun or to show it off

That's right -- we have NO letters this week. So go and write some! chron96@interaccess.com

the decision was controversial or to evaluate its value as precedent for future suits. It is important to ask why the jury blamed manufacturers for the actions of an individual.

I'll make my point by telling a story. A boy started playing with toy guns (as many boys do), and his parents started to teach him the difference between toy guns and real guns. They told him that although it was OK to point and shoot play guns at the other kids, one must never do that with real guns.

Toy guns don't hurt people, they said, but real guns do. Real guns, like those in Dad's gun cabinet, were very dangerous and were not for kids.

When he got older, his dad (a former Army drill sergeant) carefully introduced him to real guns. The boy

to friends.

He slowly moved up the gun ladder, so to speak. He began shooting a .22-caliber rifle and a .410-gauge shotgun. He started with bolt actions, then moved up to semiautomatics. He learned how to shoot a handgun, again starting with a BB pistol and working his way up. The young man did a lot of hunting and a lot of target shooting in those early years. By the time he was ready to move out of his parents' home, he was fairly well-versed in the responsible use and care of firearms.

Living on his own, he continued to enjoy guns. He no longer enjoyed hunting, but he still enjoyed target shooting. He began collecting firearms. He bought handguns, rifles and shotguns. He got into more exotic weapons, such as TEC-9s, SKSs,

See Guns,
page 7

Taking the public for a Ride

Rachel Barton's fight for justice was anything but

True story: A North Carolina man purchased a box of twelve rather pricey cigars, and insured them against fire. Not water, fire. After smoking the cigars (using fire to light them, of course) the man figured he had an ingenious claim against the insurance company and filed for damages.

Billy O'Keefe
Viewpoints/New Media Editor

For obvious reasons (if you don't know, stop reading immediately), the insurance company refused to pay the man, and he filed suit. Since the cigars were insured against such activity, the judge ruled in favor of the man. With money up to his ears, the man celebrated by marrying the woman who sued McDonald's after spilling hot coffee in her own lap.

Pretty smart guy, right? Not exactly. In the time it takes to say "that's a pretty stupid idea," the insurance company fired back and had the man arrested — and convicted — on twelve separate counts of arson.

If only every case could go so well. Unfortunately, the torch has been passed on to younger, fresher talent, in order to insure disorder in the court for years to come. The rookie of the year? Rachel Barton.

.....

"I'm really quite stunned. I thought juries had more sense than that."
- University of Chicago law professor Richard Epstein

On Jan. 16, 1995, renowned violinist Rachel Barton boarded a Metra train to Winnetka, where she gave private lessons. An occasional rider of the train, Barton brought with her four separate items: a lunch bag; a purse; a book bag; and an Amati violin, aged over three centuries and worth around half a million dollars.

When she arrived at her destination, Barton struggled with all her luggage to exit the train. When the doors closed, the violin was caught inside with part of the strap, most of which still rested on Barton's shoulder outside the train. Rather than free herself from the strap, Barton waited for a conductor to spot her and reopen the doors. It did not happen, and the train started to move. Her arm still inside the strap, Barton was dragged nearly 400 feet before the train came to a halt. Her left leg was severed in the accident, her right leg maimed.

.....

"What do you think your legs are worth? You can't put a price on that."
- Juror Lisa Dixon

Still, Dixon and eleven other jurors did just that. This past Monday, Barton was awarded a sum of \$29.6 million dollars in her lawsuit against Chicago North Western Railroad/Union Pacific and Metra: over \$18.8 million from C&NW, over \$9.9 million from Metra. The jury originally awarded the violinist over \$30 million but subtracted 4.5 percent of the damages when they agreed that Barton was 4.5 percent responsible for the mishap. (You remember the last time you were 4.5 percent responsible for something, don't you?)

Now, it's no secret that what happened to Rachel Barton was awful. No one should have to

Story continues
on page 7

Give us your faxes, e-mail, letters and more!

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Taking the public for a ride continued from page 6

suffer through that kind of pain, that kind of loss. Thus, you're probably saying to yourself, "What is this, a news story? Tell me I don't know!" Well calm down, because this is where the debate begins.

The central argument in the case is whether Rachel Barton had the power to free herself from the shoulder strap, and whether or not she suffered because she tried to save her violin rather than remove her arm. Barton's attorney, Robert A. Clifford, claimed that the doors trapped her in the strap. The defense argued otherwise, and they won the argument standing still, even if the jurors did not take notice.

Clifford never denied testimony that Barton made no attempt to struggle free until after the train was moving. Not only does this not push the claim further, it clouds its factual truth; how could Barton know she was pinned by the strap if only then she tried to free herself? After all, it's that much harder to free yourself when fighting the additional momentum of a moving train. Such questions were never answered head-on, and suspicions arose that Barton was foolishly trying to save the expensive violin rather than ponder the consequences of such a maneuver.

- On the Web -
For another view on the Rachel Barton story, read Contributing Editor James Boozar's article at www.ccchronicle.com.

Instead of fighting facts with facts, Barton's team countered with theatrical reenactments of the events (even hiring a double to play Barton), provoked unnecessary exploration of the difficulties of everyday life since the accident (sex and bathroom activity being the most emphasized for some odd, odd reason) and then used the media to chastise the defense for violating her privacy during cross-examination on these same topics.

Instead of facts, Barton's lawyers employed tear-jerking techniques and fluff straight out of Sally Jesse Raphael country. "What we were worried about was that Rachel was really upset about the way she looked — her physical appearance," noted juror Ken Strzelczyk.

It's not at all wrong to feel concern or at least pity for Barton's plight — IF you're watching the case on television. The courtroom, however, demands a tad more objec-

tivity. Just a tad.

And you know what? The jurors lived up to such expectations beautifully. And you know what else? I just lied to you. In fact, the behavior of the jury was anything but professional. They became overtly friendly during the course of the trial. They cried foul to the press when the defense was "cruel" to and "harsh" on Barton. When the verdict was read, every single juror embraced Barton in some way, most often with hugs. Said Barton herself, "We felt like old friends... It was very personal." My sentiments exactly.

Perhaps the jury got a lesson in courtroom etiquette from Barton herself: After the victory, the violinist promised court clerks and bailiffs a private concert. The offer has yet to be denied. Talk about taking sides.

"I do hope that you will now allow me to put the public aspect of this terrible tragedy behind me and allow me to focus on my music."

- Rachel Barton, after the verdict was announced

Now that the trial is over (for now, until the losing parties appeal the case), Barton would like very much to have her life back. According to her, it was extremely difficult to relive repeatedly the events of four years ago during the course of the month-long trial.

Of course, it's not as if she didn't have a choice. Barton and her attorneys were offered as much as \$10 million to settle out of court, away from the supposedly unwanted spotlight of the public and the press. They turned down the offer, and refused to listen any further.

So either Barton is lying through her teeth, or she's been smitten by the possibility of turning her accident into a big payday. Will \$30 million repair the damage that \$10 million could not? Of course not. So, as we college brats say, what's the dilly?

It's simple. Barton's lawyers knew they had emotion on their side, and they turned that emotion into the cash-making Kleenex fest it was. Clifford originally asked the jury to consider rewarding Barton a staggering \$66 million in damages, and then upped the ante all the way to over \$520 million at one point. The basis of such a spike was that, according to Clifford, if the jury wanted the rail companies to be "punished" for what

they supposedly did to Barton, such an amount would do the trick.

Never mind that the many thousands of people who ride Metra every day would be punished as well, with necessary rate increases, in addition to innocent workers who might be out of the job if such a financial hit were to take place. And it doesn't matter that, as several jurors childishly noted, the people in this case would never ride a train the same way again. That's both stupid and selfish.

The fact is, millions of people ride the train every day, and safely. And you know what? It's not hard at all. The doors open, the doors close, the train moves, usually on a track. If you have tons of luggage to carry with you, take a cab, or organize yourself. (In Barton's case, stuff the lunch bag and the purse in the backpack. Smoosh the sandwich if you have to.) Of course mishaps will still happen, but does that mean we should reduce ourselves to children, and the train and all that surrounds it to a nursery? If we're not blaming the train stations and companies for mishaps like Barton's, we cry foul and build a sign whenever and wherever a car gets smacked around trying to race through the gates as they're coming down.

"I hope to be known for my music and not for my injuries."

- Rachel Barton, after the verdict was announced.

Not likely, not after the regrettable events of the past month. There is so much that is wrong with this case and its execution, far too much ground to cover in such a short amount of space here. Perhaps Barton is not at fault, and perhaps she was trapped. But who really knows, after the despicable, manipulative case her lawyers presented? Barton and company should be viciously ashamed of themselves for this blatant display of self-righteous pseudo justice. Whether Metra and C&NW appeal the verdict will largely depend on the publicity such a move would generate (probably not good). In any case, the rail companies deserve a fair shake. Here's hoping they get it.

Sources: WGN-TV, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Sun-Times*.

Guns continued from page 6

AK-47s and tactical shotguns.

The formative years of Timothy McVeigh, perhaps? Nope. The story is autobiographical.

I'm just a mild-mannered student trudging through his final year of classes and preparing to start a career in business.

I don't belong to a militia. I'm not even a NRA member. In fact, I'm all for practical gun control such as waiting periods and background checks.

Although I probably have enough dangerous weapons to make most people nervous, that kid in Brooklyn with the stolen handgun is much more dangerous than I'll ever be. Why? Because my parents did their job.

They taught me to own and use guns responsibly. They taught me to respect the property of others. Most importantly, they taught me to

respect life.

One of two things happened in New York. Either the teenagers' parents were AWOL when they should have been doing their job, or the kid knew about the dangers of firearms and simply put that information aside. If you want to hold someone responsible for what happened in Brooklyn, look to the parents or the kid, as appropriate. Don't blame an inanimate object, and don't blame the people who make them.

Guns don't kill people, people kill people. It's an old cliché, but it still rings true. We can't make the world completely safe, no matter how hard we try. People need to take responsibility for their own actions, and we need to place that responsibility on them.

© College Press Exchange, 1999

Shameful News Call: Is there any story that NBC News will not air?

By Eric Mink
College Press Exchange

After watching the 32-minute "Dateline" segment on Juanita Broadrick, the Arkansas woman who last year accused Bill Clinton of raping her nearly 21 years ago, I have only one question: Is there any story that NBC News will not air?

Indeed, from the way "Dateline" producer Ellen Mason and her senior colleagues constructed the story to evoke sympathy for Broadrick, to follow up questions that correspondent Lisa Myers didn't ask, to information that was left out, it appears that this story aired not because it was important, substantive, significant, relevant or timely, but because it was sensational and salacious and because Broadrick talked to NBC on camera. Period.

Yes, the piece included information that raised doubts about Broadrick's claims. But the material was presented as if it were oblig-

atory and sandwiched between other story elements that cast doubt on the doubts themselves.

Dubious moments:

-Myers asked Broadrick why she and her then-husband attended a Clinton fund-raiser three weeks after Clinton supposedly raped her. "I think I was still in denial," Broadrick replied, about "exactly what had happened to me."

Myers' follow up: Zero. No "Denial"? You mean you weren't sure what had happened to you?" Nothing.

-Asked if she could understand why people might be skeptical of her, Broadrick said yes, but she feared "I would be destroyed like so many of the other women have been."

Myers' follow up: Zero. No "But you said no one ever tried to pressure or intimidate you to keep silent." No "Who has been destroyed for speaking out?" Nothing.

-Myers failed to point out the consistent pattern of the Broadrick/rape story surfac-

ing whenever anti-Clinton forces get desperate: in 1992, with his presidential campaign gathering momentum; in 1998, days before Paula Jones' lawsuit was thrown out of court; late last year during the House's consideration of impeachment, and last month, as the case against Clinton was foundering in the Senate. For that matter, Myers didn't mention that she already had reported the basic elements of this story, including Broadrick's name, on the "NBC Nightly News" of March 28, 1998.

The presence of such high-level connections suggests the possibility that Starr's disinterest in Broadrick had less to do with a lack of relevance than with a lack of substance.

Everything about this story screamed "Stop!" But NBC News, following the lead of Internet gossip-mongers, said "Yes!"

For shame.

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The Columbia Chronicle Photo Poll

...will return next week. So get excited.

THE HOKIN CENTER PRESENTS



AT HOT
HOUSE
31 E. BALBO

FROM NEW YORK CITY

MIKE LADD'S SOUND SUM

DEEP DIVING
FREAKY GUMBO
OF SPOKEN
WORD AND
HIP HOP

ILL FLOW / LIVE
INSTRUMENTATION
FLUID HOOKS
AND WICKED BEATS

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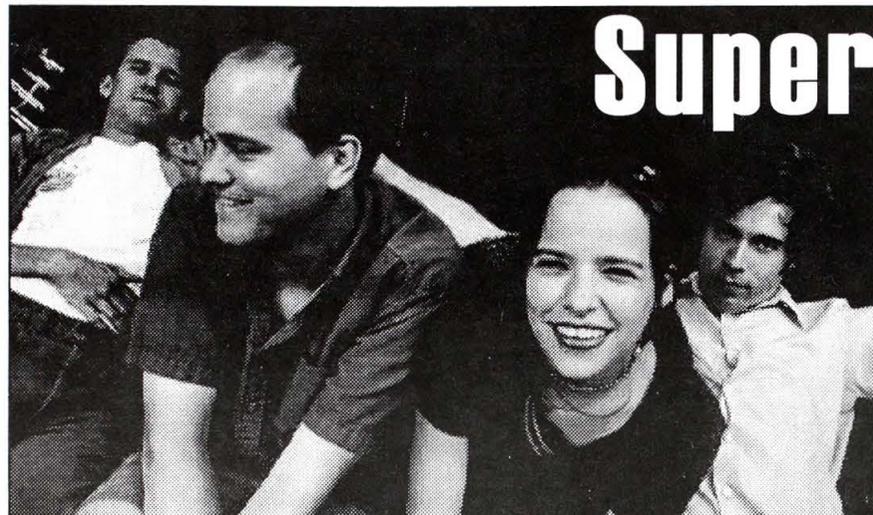
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Vitality

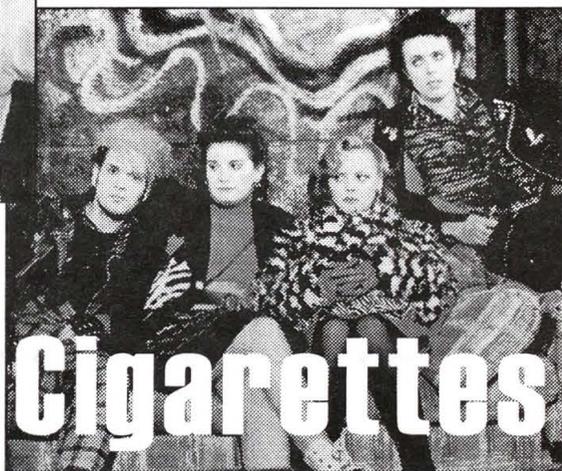
YOUR GUIDE INTO THE WORLD OF ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

MARCH 8, 1999



Superchunk

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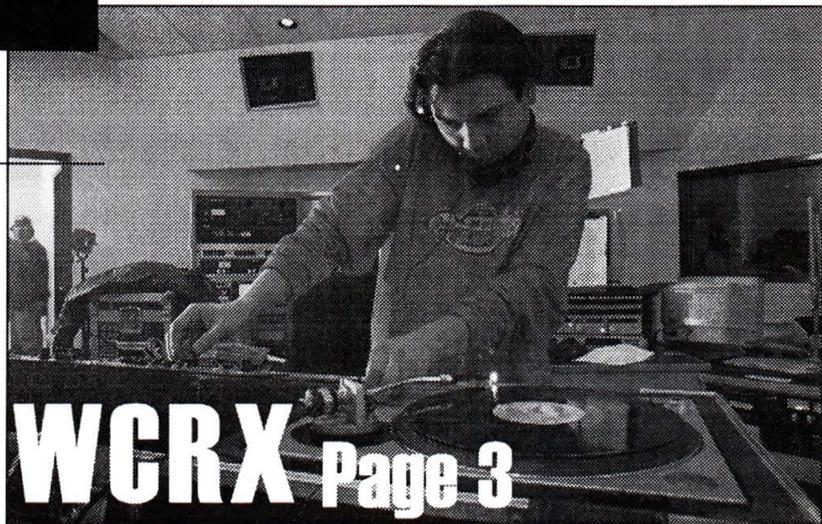
200 Cigarettes



A.P.E.

Cd Reviews:

Butterfly Child
Sleater-Kinney
Lo-Fidelity AllStars
DJ Rap and more...

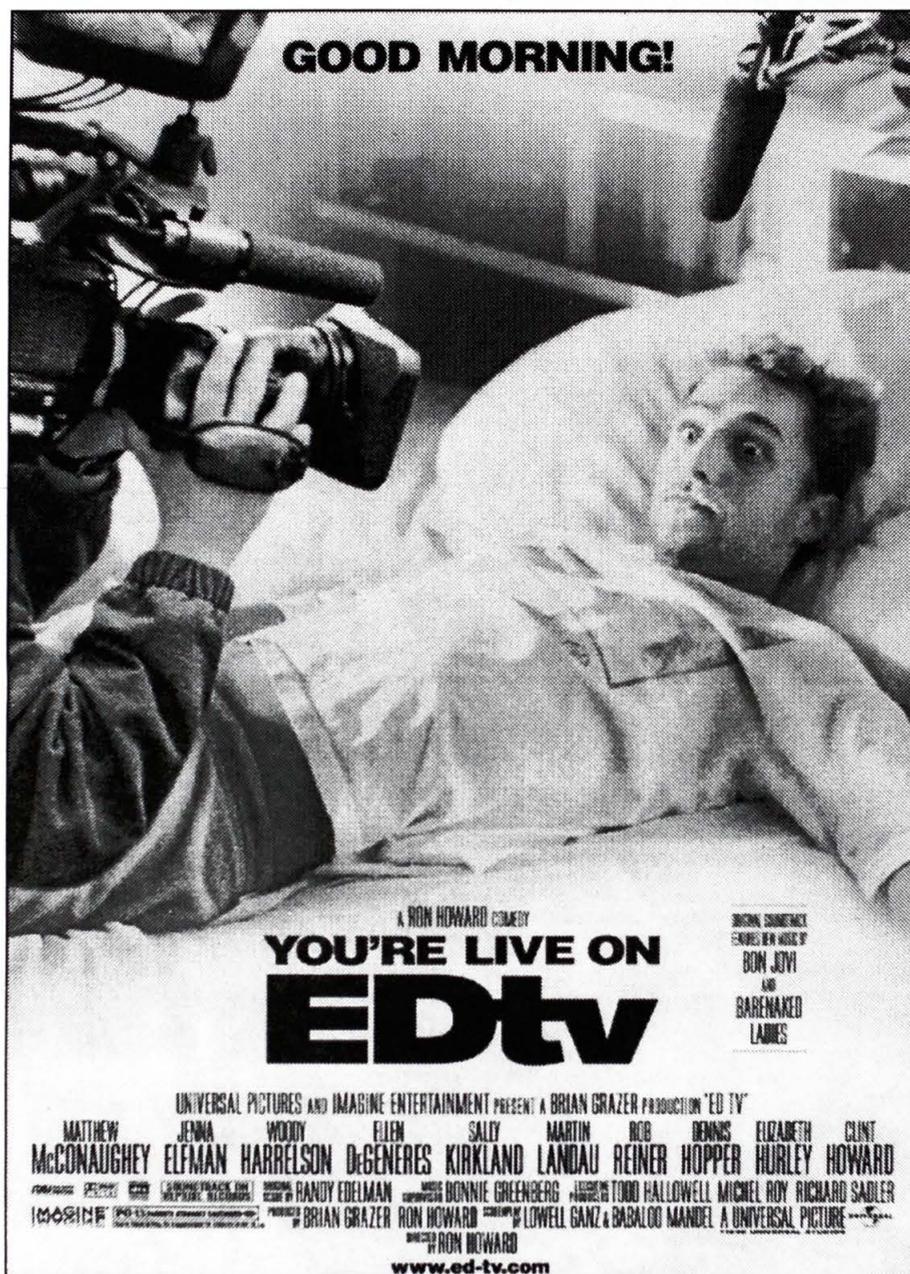


WCRX Page 3

**AEMMP
Records**

Page 3

The Columbia Chronicle and Universal Pictures invite you to a special advance screening



For your chance to win tickets, simply bring a candid photo of yourself in an embarrassing moment to the Columbia Chronicle office (Wabash Bldg., Suite 205) beginning March 15. The person with the most embarrassing photo will also win an EDtv promotional prize pack.

EDtv opens nationwide on March 26!

Vital Pick of the Week:

One of indie rock's finest bands will tear through Chicago this Monday night when Superchunk hits the stage of Lounge Ax (2438 N. Lincoln Ave.). They have been in the music business together for a decade now,

and Superchunk knows what the fans want. The Chapel Hill-based quartet is known for their spirited and fast-paced live shows.

They did just that last February when they treated a sold-out Lounge Ax crowd to an energy filled set of hits from their six full-length releases. Songs like "Seed Toss" (from "No Pocky For Kitty"), "From The Curve" (from "On The Mouth") and "Slack Motherfucker" (from their self-titled debut) had the crowd jumping around all night long. There is no reason to expect anything but the same from these indie rock veterans.

Lead singer and guitarist Mac McCaughan throws himself across the stage as he rips through his guitar with raw emotion. Guitarist Jim Wilbur likes to joke with the crowd in between songs. Bassist Laura Ballance

bounces around the right side of the stage while drummer Jon Wurster hammers away at his drum kit. All of this energy on stage is countered with energy from the crowd which translates into a buzz that fills the room.

That buzz has made Superchunk a household name for music insiders, but has never garnered them the mass appeal they deserve. Mainstream radio stations and MTV have shied away from them, but Superchunk doesn't mind. They continue to put out great records and their live shows are always highlights.

Expect to feel the power of Superchunk as soon as they step on stage Monday night. Here's a hint: Bring some earplugs. Lounge Ax is not only one of the smallest venues in Chicago, but it can also be one of the loudest. And that's just the way Superchunk likes it.

As always, Lounge Ax is a 21-and-up venue. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased at the door. Doors open around 7 p.m. and the music will start around 9 p.m. Expect this show to sell out.



Superchunk is (from left to right) Jon Wurster, Mac McCaughan, Jim Wilbur and Laura Ballance.

LOOKING AHEAD....

Concerts in Chicago this week

Superchunk
Monday, March 8
Lounge Ax

DJ Rap
with Kenny Ken & DJ Fearless
Wednesday, March 10
House of Blues

Dance Hall Crashers
with The Gadgets
Friday, March 12
House of Blues

Agent Orange
with Los Infernos, OS 101 & Armchair Martian
Friday, March 12
Metro

The Jungle Brothers
with the Freestylers & DJ Cantor
18 & over
Friday, March 12
Metro

Frogs
with King Missile III
Saturday, March 13
Empty Bottle

Chamberlain
Saturday, March 13
Elbo Room

The Drovers
18 & over with Sammy Llanas of the BoDeans
21 & over with The Gathering Field
Saturday, March 13
House of Blues

WCRX's delves into diversity

By Jennifer Dickerson
Staff Writer

Checking out WCRX's Chicago's Underground music special is a blast. It's four hours of music you can't hear anywhere else on the radio, and it's more than you'd expect.

One of the highlights was Qua'Diction's special poetry hour, which rocked the house when Luis "Too Live" Lopez recently brought in his young fans to check them out — the response from the kids really got everyone pumped up. Neo-Nate from Qua'Diction opened the Poetry Hour at 9 p.m. and he gave a taste of how poetry should be told — with a microphone, on the air.

For the next two hours, thumping music you just don't hear on any other station was jacking with the best beats around. Striving for originality and spinning super underground music, this radio station is giving their listeners what they want — funky music and a live guest DJ every night.

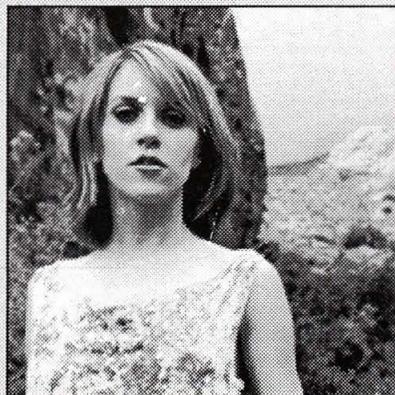
All music is checked with care by DJ manager Jamie "Jackin'" Larsen, and if the master copy

sounds good there's a good chance he'll play it. Each DJ who walks into the studio is experienced and it's obvious they all love what they do.

A non-profit-organization, WCRX is the station to tune to. With the best music heard first on this station, the club scenes will be jealous of WCRX's enormous variety and dedication to keeping their audience tuned-in and happy.

Old school, new school, gothic tunes, and, of course, your favorite hip-hop beats, will be heard on WCRX's 88.1. These DJs are doing their best to keep the older generations listening and the younger generations turned on. WCRX has been broadcasting for 10 years, and with their constant variety of groovy tunes, it's hard to change the dial.

For upcoming specialty shows, or if you want to request something, call (312) 663-3512. If you want to hear your own music live on WCRX 88.1, send your tape with your name, address, telephone number to Columbia College, WCRX at 33 E. Congress, Chicago, Ill., 60605-1996 (make a note if you'd like to have your tape returned).



Liz Phair
SOLD OUT!
Sunday, March 14
Lounge Ax

Lisa Brandt; the pick of AEMMP Records

By Benjamin Trecroci
Managing/Sports Editor

For the past seventeen years, Columbia has been producing talent through their own record company. AEMMP (Arts Entertainment Media Management Program) records, a graduate program that markets, produces and releases their own albums from artists they develop.

Each semester the program solicits between 75-80 demos from artists, depending on the number of participants. Publicity Director, Leyla Arsan markets AEMMP to mostly college students by posting flyers at local colleges, sending press releases to college newspapers as well as local publications, The Reader and New City. "We have been receiving a positive response from by using more creative tactics."

After listening to the demos, the board cuts the field down to three and finally one.

This year, Lisa Brandt was picked as the artist that



With the help of AEMMP records, Lisa Brandt is on her way to the top.

AEMMP chose to put their talents to use. Brandt a former punk rocker (formerly of G-Men) who proclaimed her early music as "Iron Maiden with a crazed woman." G-Men were formed in 1991 with a "post-punk noise with

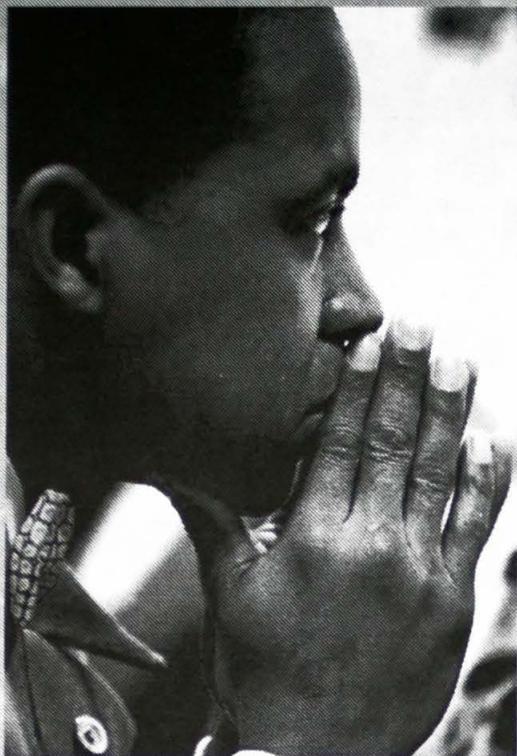
lots of screaming," said Brandt, recorded three albums before disbanding: "don't panic"-1991, "Fuse"-1992, "Betrayed"-1993

Before G-Men, Brandt was playing with a cover band called Apryon in VFW halls and other venues around Streator, Illinois by the time she was only 16. After Apryon, she played with other bands that never developed into much.

Her upcoming EP to be released later this month, entitled "I'll send an Angel" is a blend of acoustic sounds, orchestral twines and soothing lyrics. Brandt's music could be described as a Tori Amos style with Portishead's sounds. She also has a film-score for science-fiction/horror movie Acne, produced by Columbia student Rusty Osgood.

On Saturday, Mar. 13, Brandt appears at the METRO (3730 N. Clark) in the Solar Tribe record release party. The show starts at 10:30 p.m., 18 and over.

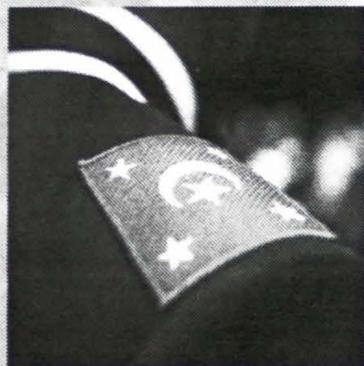
AEMMP records is located at 3130 N. Western Ave. Tequila Coleman president Debra Hale, Faculty Advisor.



Listeners ponder Farrakhan's words. Rob Hart/Chronicle



A charismatic Farrakhan tells 10,000 followers that after six weeks of sickness, "by the grace of Allah..."



By Leon Tripplett
Focus Editor

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan emerged from a brief silence Sunday for the annual Savior's Day celebration. The controversial 66-year-old Islamic leader told a sold-out crowd about his recent illness that has prevented him from appearing on the national scene in the past several months.

"With the help of Allah I am strong now," Farrakhan said enthusiastically to some 10,000 rally-goers who packed McCormick Place on Feb. 28. "I have been through a lot over the past couple of months. I have seen my health deteriorate, but by the grace of Allah and all of you who wished me a speedy recovery I can go back to doing the people's business."

Farrakhan, who in 1996 organized the Million Man March in Washington D.C., gave special thanks to the Imam, W.D. Mohammed, the son of his religious leader Elijah Muhammed, saying that it was time to make peace for the sake of Islam.

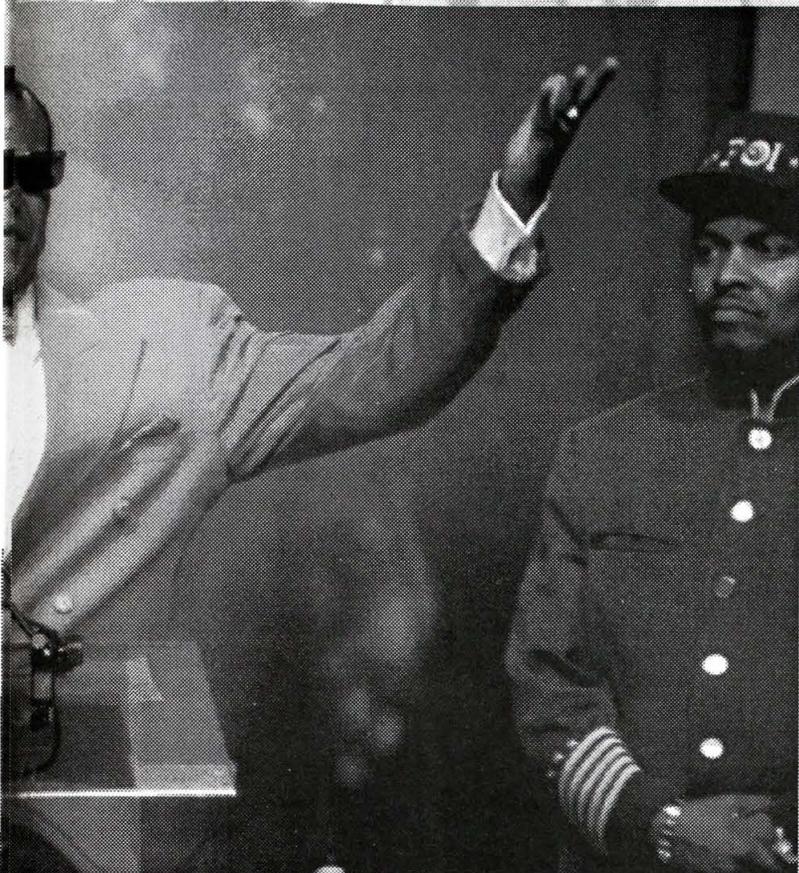
The two ministers were both brought up in the Nation of Islam under the auspices of their late leader, Muhammed, when the Imam took the secular road to Islam and Farrakhan created a grassroots movement in the current Nation of Islam.

"I was especially grateful to the Imam when I received a card from him," said Farrakhan. "We grew up together as young ministers in the nation, and as we live out our last days — years — we have to work together fighting for oppressed people throughout this nation and for Islam, Farrakhan said while fighting back tears."



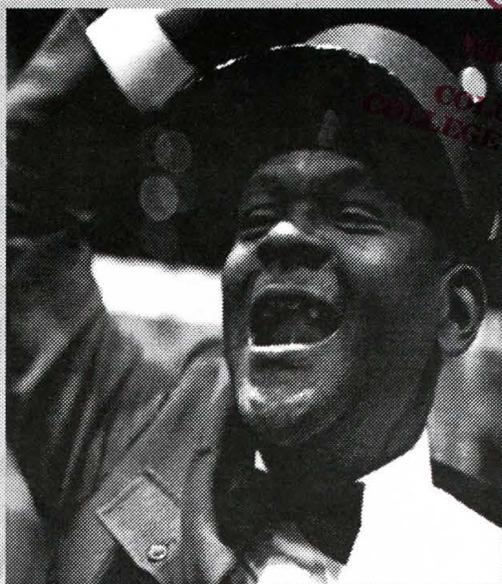
The Nation of Islam has a man every fifteen feet to keep order during the speech.

Donnie Seals Jr./Chronicle



al am strong now."

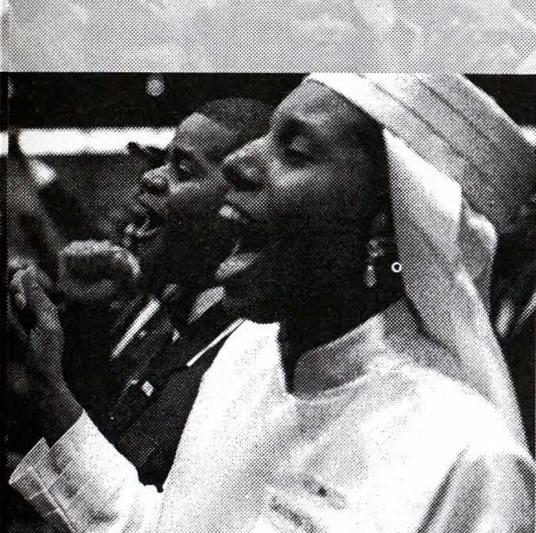
Kevin Poirier/Chronicle



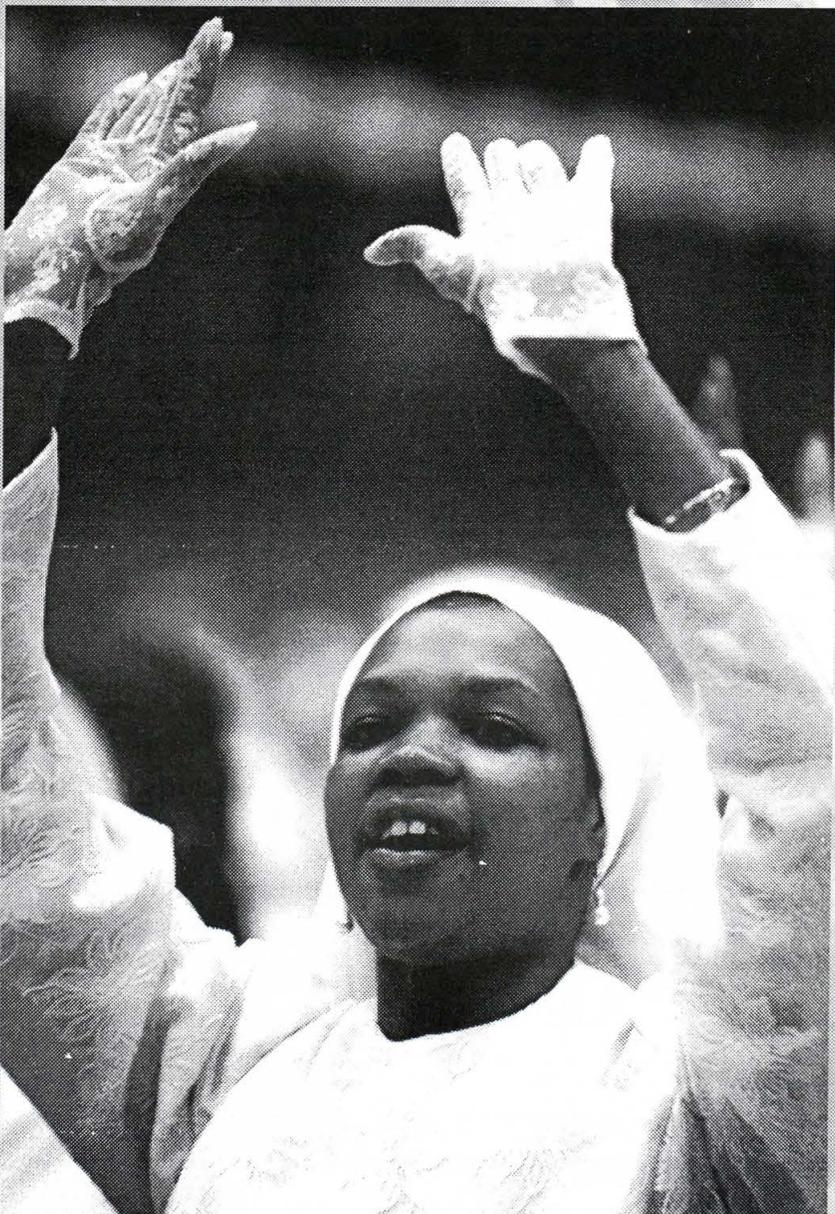
Donnie Seals Jr./Chronicle

Supporters are spiritually moved by the words of Minister Farrakhan.

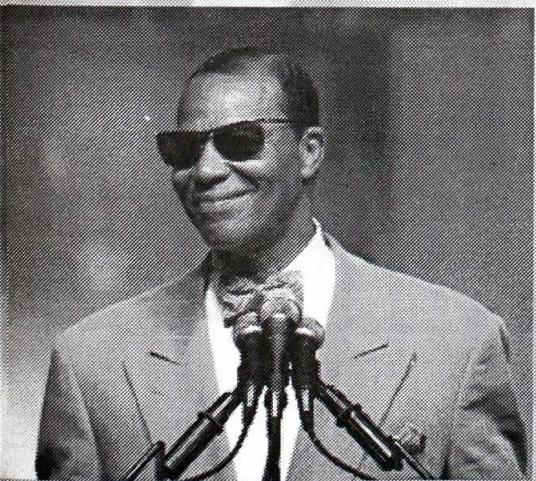
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Donnie Seals Jr./Chronicle



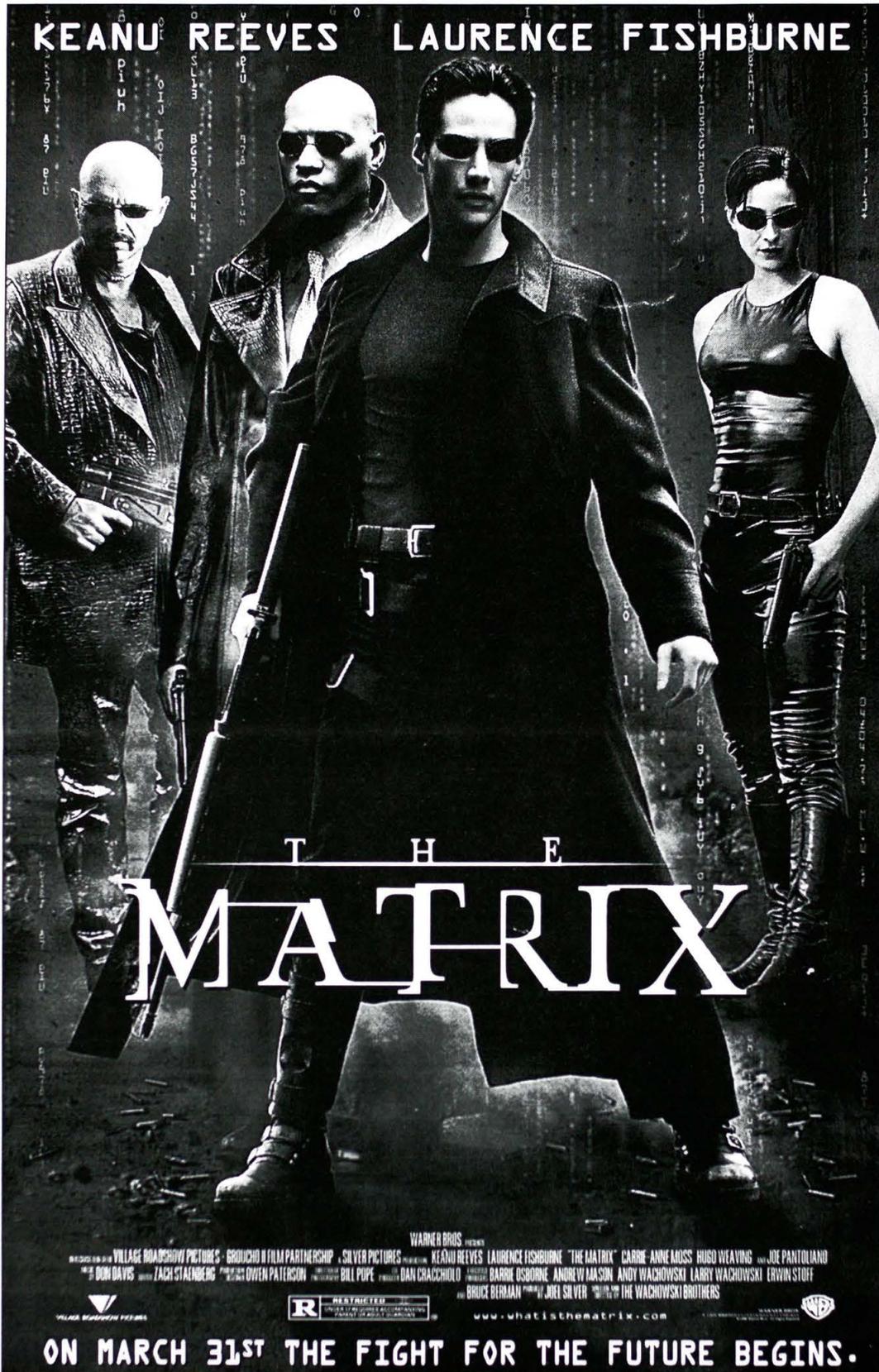
Rob Hart/Chronicle



Rob Hart/Chronicle

Moments after being introduced, Farrakhan stands before his people and looks out at the crowd that are give him an enormous ovation.

FREE TICKETS!!!



Stop by the Chronicle Office, Room 205, Wabash Building, to pick up a free ticket (Admit Two) to a Special Advance Showing of "THE MATRIX" at the Fine Arts Theatre on Thursday, March 25.

Tickets are available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis.

By Michael O'Brien
Correspondent

Sleater-Kinney "The Hot Rock"

It's ironic that the new Sleater-Kinney album came out the day before the Grammys. While the boring mainstream music establishment was celebrating mediocrity, the rest of us were enjoying the sound of tomorrow. The new album is less manic than the band's first three albums. Corin

Tucker is singing more than screaming, possibly because the new batch of lyrics are more mature, more fully realized than her previous efforts. The startling revelations come from the words this time, not the sound of the words. For the most part, "The Hot Rock" is an album of love songs. However, these are Sleater-Kinney songs, not Celine Dion songs—they won't tug at your heart strings with their sensitive beauty, they'll have their way with you, tearing you up and spitting you out.

"Get Up" is the first single and the highlight of the album. It's a fine representative of the entire album, proof that Sleater-Kinney has moved on from the riot girl stage. On 1997's "Dig Me Out" the vicious guitar riffs leaped out of the speakers, challenging the rock establishment. This time the threat starts slowly and sneaks up on you before you realize it's happening. "The Hot Rock" probably won't receive the universal critical accolades that "Dig Me Out" did. "Dig Me Out" will be remembered as the defining moment in riot girl history; "The Hot Rock" is too far ahead of its time. No one else sounds quite like this—their is no genre to stick this record in, it's absolutely mind-blowing.

A.P.E. "Kilimanjaro"

This isn't a disc I would have bought based on looks alone. The cover features an ape standing on the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro, striking a Statue of Liberty pose, raising a banana in place of the torch. Whatever anyone says, a band's name and album art are important. However, A.P.E. is a Columbia based band, so I gave their disc a listen. I was pleasantly surprised. The production was a bit tinny and the song titles are bad—they could have done a bit better than "Raver Girl," "Dirty Girl," and "Boo Boy."

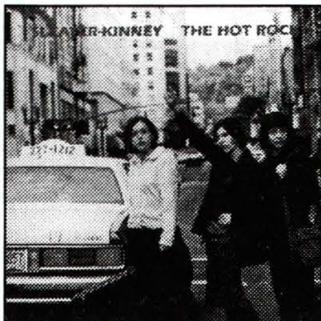
However, A.P.E. play with passion and "Kilimanjaro" has some decent hooks on it. The lyrics are rather simple, indicating the band's youth. "Raver Girl" is the album's standout track. A.P.E.'s quirky, high-school lyrics merge well with the melody.

Joel R. L. Phelps : The Downer Trio "3"

Ok, this is a little confusing, so try and stick with me. Joel R.L. Phelps used to be Silkworm. This is his second solo album. The Downer Trio is Joel R.L. Phelps along with Robert Mercer and William Herzog of Citizen's Utilities. "3" is the name of the album. Don't worry if you're unfamiliar with these people or their current or former bands. Just listen to the album. It's obvious why Phelps had to leave Silkworm. He simply has too much talent to be one of three songwriters in a band. Phelps first solo record was an unrelenting song cycle of anger, disillusionment and pain. A single cry of Phelps' voice is full of more misery than the entire Nine Inch Nails catalog. Phelps backs up his incredibly disturbing, distinctive voice with some simply beautiful music. He sticks to the acoustic guitar almost exclusively and interweaves breathtaking saxophone parts that sound fresh and unique to the typical rock listener. On "3," Phelps seems to have seen a sliver of light. He's lost the anger and vindictiveness that highlighted his debut album. "3" has a little hope inside of it. It's the sound of Phelps slowly picking himself up off the ground and trying to make sense of what's left of the world around him.

Butterfly Child "Soft Explosives"

Butterfly Child probably won't be recording for local independent label HitIt! Records for much longer; they are destined for bigger things. Lead singer Joe Cassidy has lost the Sting-like vocal style that hampered the band's first two releases. He sounds more alive, probably due to the fresher, less abstract lyrics. "Number One" and "Drunk On Beauty" are both radio ready Brit-pop hits. Butterfly Child's sound is heavily orchestrated and magnificently produced. It's a new take on the traditional brit-pop sound, full of a relevancy that Oasis never had and Blur seems to have misplaced.



By Chris Novak
Correspondent

DJ Rap "Learning Curve"

Charissa Saverio, also known as DJ Rap, grew up around the world. From the tribal regions of Africa, to the Suburban areas of England. She took classical piano lessons as her father, a manager for elegant hotels, moved the family across the world, and in turn, caused Charissa to become influenced in many ways by the various cultures she encountered.

In young adulthood, Charissa, down because of a bad relationship with a man and an unpleasant job, decided to relieve some stress by attending a rave with her friends. The rave was a profound metaphoric experience. After the rave, she decided to ditch the man and the job in order to experience a peaceful rave-filled life.

After going to local record shops and purchasing, Charissa decided to practice her own mixing. She laid down her first track, "Ambience-the Adored," and metamorphosed into DJ Rap. She received air-play on various underground radio stations in England, and while attending a rave, she was asked to perform live. After the live experience, she began her journey into the mainstream.

After multiple 12" releases, DJ Rap signed with higher ground for a full length LP, "Learning Curve," in July 1997. I have listened to the four-song sampler given to me many times, and each time I enjoy it more and more. DJ Rap incorporates her classical piano background in each track. The electronic melody emotionally thrills you as the melodies rise up and the break-beats bring you back down. She has a beautiful voice that filters over her mixes so flawlessly that you believe that her voice and music are one.

It was also a nice change of pace to listen to her CD, because it did not follow the run-of-the-mill formula of most electronic-based CDs, being that some of her songs were hard-core and some trance, but all with overtones of jungle beats. Her melodic influences and originality make DJ Rap's CD, "Learning Curve," a welcome edition to the genre known as electronica.

Bolt "Upright"

Bolt-upright is a confusing band out of Hollywood, Ca. They borrow too much from their influences. For instance, the first two songs from their debut album, "Red Carpet Syndrome," sound as if they were taken from the brand new Rage album and watered down. Then the next few songs are even more horrible, in my opinion; they sound like the slow songs off of any 311 album, but without the grace and style of 311.

This album is a very weak debut. But, I feel that it is weak, only because Bolt-upright is attempting to juggle too many styles of music at once. I feel that they should follow the ways of Green Day, that being, to find a style they are comfortable with, mature, and after four or five full length recordings, then branch out into a different style, gradually.

With sudden success of hip-hop/hard rock bands like Korn and Limp Bizkit in the mainstream, record companies seem eager to sign any band that may sound like they fit the genre even if they pale in comparison.

Although Bolt-Upright has talent musically, I feel that as a band, they are not ready or mature enough, for that slice of pie in the mainstream record industry.

Lo-Fidelity Allstars "How to Operate with a blown mind"

"Album of the month" "Great" "Phenomenal"

The above are just some of the many positive comments that magazines such as "Spin" and "GQ" have said about the newest British import to America, the Lo-Fidelity Allstars.

Only together for two years, record companies have been swooning over the possible future's of these six Englishmen. It is kind of ironic, considering they have had only four single releases and one LP release in their history.

After listening to the Lo-fi's debut album, I must say that this may be the blend of music genres that many people have been talking about for the past few years. Any type of music you can think of, excluding country, can be found in their debut disc, "How to Operate with a blown mind."

Their first single, "Battleflag," is a remix of sub-pop rockers pigeonhead. It is a wonderful melodic song with an edge. At its initial releases as a single, "Battleflag" caused a little bit of trouble due to the fact that hidden beneath the songs wonderful melody was a verse from a Prince song. So, needless to say, to avoid complications, the Allstars remixed the single, without the offending verse.

The Allstars have been signed on Skint records, famous for Fat Boy Slim, and are now currently touring the U.S. with Citizen King.

I must agree with all of the hype that has been given to the Allstars, they are a very talented and unique band that I am sure will be around for quite some time to come.



200 Cigarettes is smokin' in the theater

By Jennifer Dickerson
Staff Writer

A must-see comedy set in 1981, "200 Cigarettes" is absolutely hilarious. With several classic scenes and an all-star cast, this movie certainly knows how to reach its audience.

It begins with various couples on New Year's Eve. Their lives eventually intersect at a party in downtown New York. The characters give great performances as they share in all feelings alike: sentimental recollections, fears and even uncertainties about the future, which are emotions we all can relate to.

It stars Ben Affleck, Courtney Love and Christina Ricci, among others. They join in this New Year's event that will change their lives forever. The evening pushes its magic along as the characters share their most intimate secrets, and by morning they all have something in common with one another.

Everyone comes to a party at Monica's (Martha Plimpton) who is a mutual friend. They come to the party looking for a good time. Monica believes that a party where no one shows up is like "facing death." But as time ticks on, Monica's friend of the



Martha Plimpton, Brian McCardie, and Catherine Kellner star in "200 Cigarettes."

moment, Hillary (Catherine Keller) eventually leaves her for other interesting actions. However, after being bribed with the promise of keeping Monica's ex-boyfriend, Hillary eventually comes back.

Ben Affleck, who plays the klutzy bartender, serves up plenty of laughter. Every chick looks to him for a night in the hay, only he can't figure out why every woman leaves him. Meanwhile, Courtney Love, who plays Lucy, is head over heels in love with Kevin (Paul Rudd). Both are best friends and dateless, so they decide to hit a nearby diner together. They head off to the public restroom for a quickie that will make you laugh until the soda flies out of your nose.

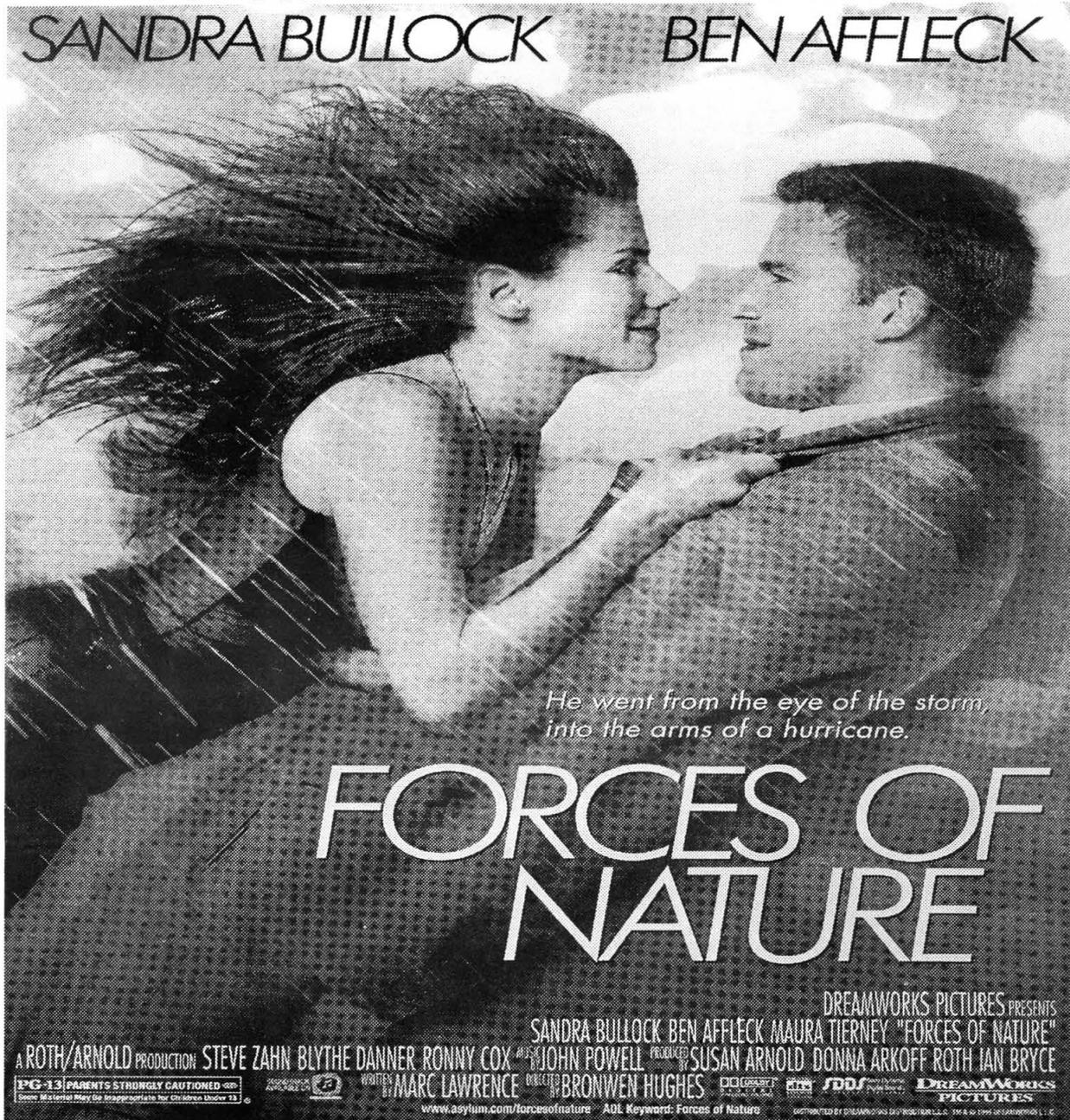
Another classic scene is when Kate Hudson and Jay Mohr, who had shared a liaison the night before, try recreate the moment another night. The entire time Mohr and Hudson are with each other, you will be rolling with laughter. The list of hilarity can go on and on.

Every scene in "200 Cigarettes" will leave viewers laughing and whooping by the end of the show. Not running longer than two hours, you'll be entertained long enough to want a sequel.

For information on tickets, call the nearest theater for show times or check it out at www.200cigarettes.com.

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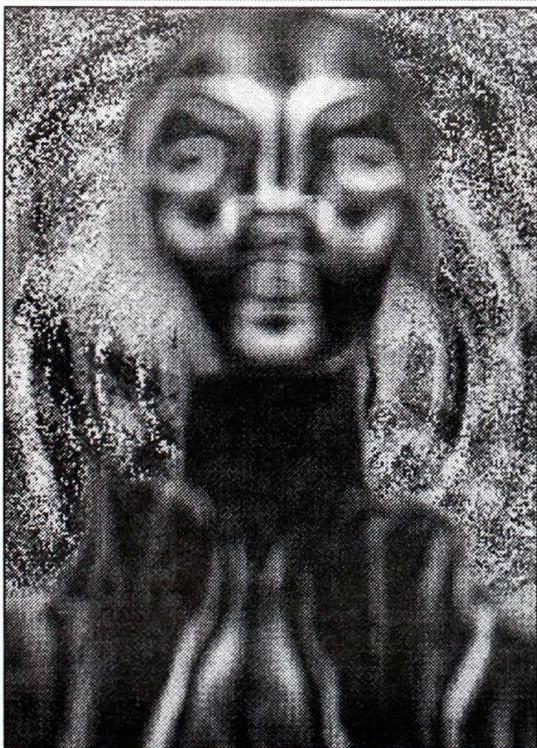
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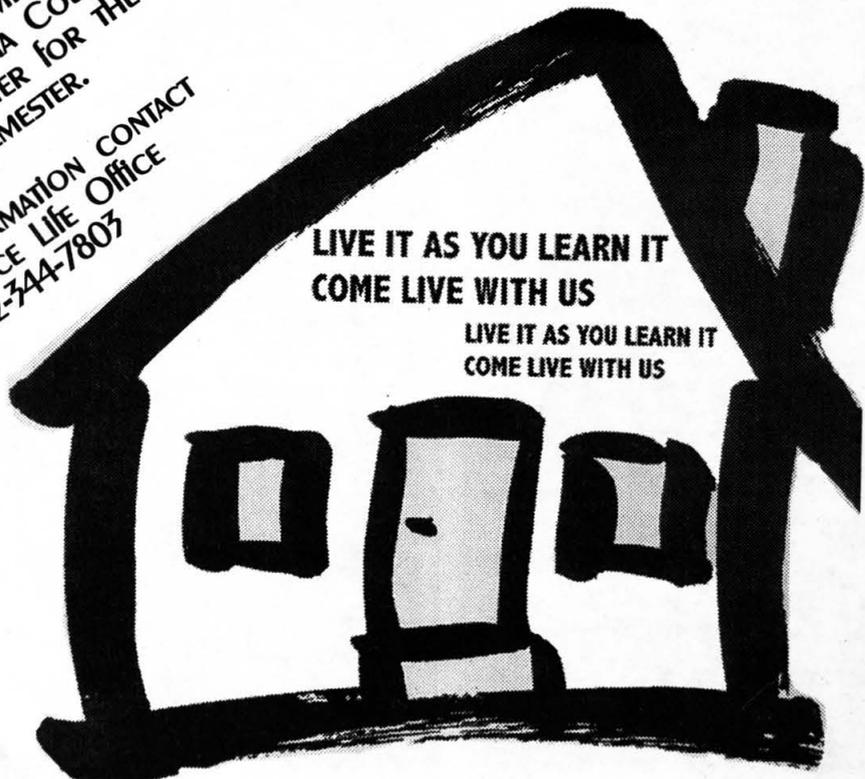
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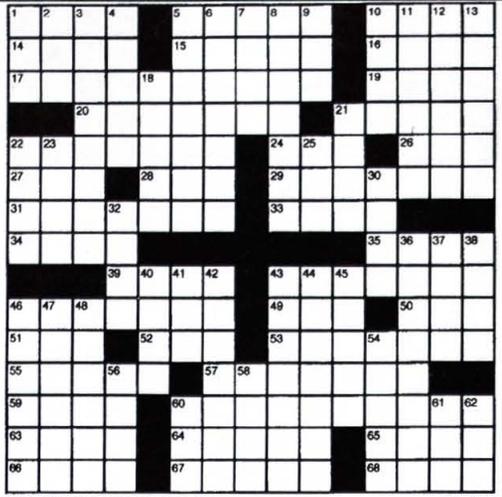
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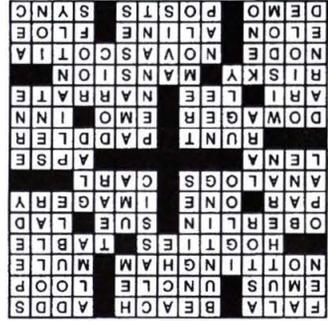
- 1 FDR's dog
 - 5 Seaside sand
 - 10 Tacks on
 - 14 Flightless birds
 - 15 I give up!
 - 16 Part of a bow
 - 17 Robin Hood's home
 - 19 Open slipper
 - 20 Birds feel together
 - 21 Data display
 - 22 First co-ed college in the U.S.
 - 24 Engage in litigation
 - 26 Young boy
 - 27 Golf standard
 - 28 Undivided
 - 29 Mental pictures
 - 34 Similar things
 - 33 Sagan or Sandburg
 - 34 Chanteuse Home
 - 35 Church recess
 - 39 of the litter
 - 43 Canoeist
 - 46 Wealthy widow
 - 49 Comic Phillips
 - 50 Traveler's stop
 - 51 "Exodus" hero
 - 52 Marvin or Remick
 - 53 Tell the story
 - 55 Hazardous
 - 57 Big house
 - 59 Focal point
 - 60 Maritime Province
 - 63 North Carolina college
 - 64 Dress style
 - 65 Ice on the move
 - 66 Dealer's model
 - 67 Military installations
 - 68 Out of (discordant)
- DOWN**
- 1 Marshy wetland
 - 2 I love: Latin
 - 3 German church member
 - 4 John Jacob or Mary
 - 5 Festooning



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material

- 6 Locomotives
- 7 Persistent pain
- 8 Enduring
- 9 Fabric border
- 10 Ata, Kazakhstan
- 11 Two-base hit
- 12 Sound as a
- 13 Quick
- 18 Ice house?
- 21 Rip
- 22 October birthstone
- 23 Cause of ruin
- 25 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
- 30 Happy
- 32 Zhivago's love
- 36 Flexibly
- 37 Shipped
- 38 Coastal bird
- 40 Unshightly
- 41 Maiden name lead-in
- 42 Vibrating effect
- 43 Baseball flag



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By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services



Aries (March 21-April 19). You should really be feeling your oats this week. A massive dose of spring fever could hit about Monday and last all the way through Wednesday, at least. You'll hate being cooped up inside. You'll want to get out and run. Unfortunately, this is followed immediately by a test on Thursday and/or Friday, concerning your responsibilities at work. Make sure at least the important stuff is finished, before you go out and play. You'll want to visit fascinating friends over the weekend, and you sure won't want to have to work overtime instead.



Taurus (April 20-May 20). Join forces and finances with a partner on Monday to get what you want. A surprising development could increase your savings on Tuesday, and Wednesday, your best investment is on travel. Be careful if you're leaving on Thursday, however. Odds are high you'll leave something behind. Could be your heart, if you have to leave someone you love to visit somebody else on Friday. This weekend would be a great time to get together with an older person and make plans for the future.



Gemini (May 21-June 21). The competition is going to be tough the first part of this week, with your opponent pulling all sorts of surprise moves. But even if you lose, you win, because it'll be so interesting. Don't spend too much money on social activities Thursday and Friday. You could get overdrawn much more quickly than you expected. Travel looks good for this weekend, though. The surprises there should be pleasant ones.



Cancer (June 22-July 22). On Monday, the choice is between love or money, but maybe you can choose both. Tuesday and Wednesday are very busy, but also quite profitable. Pay attention. There will be abrupt changes to your plans. Thursday and Friday are your best for working with a partner, so don't let yourself get overloaded. This weekend should be excellent for shopping for a household appliance.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Fun and games are on your mind the first part of this week, which could make it more difficult to get anything else done. Unfortunately, you still have a few bills to be paid, so quitting your job is not a good idea, especially on Thursday and Friday, when they'll really need you there. This weekend, negotiate with an expert to get something finished you don't want to do yourself. The time you'll save will make it worth the money you spend.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The first part of this week will be good for renovations around the house, including buying new. Get the whole place fixed up so you can entertain a special friend on Thursday and/or Friday. Over the weekend, you'll be more interested in fixing things again.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). The first part of this week is very busy as you juggle a full workload and a demanding partner simultaneously. Around Wednesday, things should start to quiet down, and you'll get a little more time to spend at home Thursday and Friday. Plan to do that on purpose, so you don't have to get sick to make it happen. The weekend is very good for romance, of an intellectual nature.



Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Your intuition is working well this week, and your energy level is high. That's good, because there's more than too much to do. You work hard for the money on Monday and Tuesday, and you can take a break by about Wednesday. Learn a new trick on Thursday that could get help you through the day on Friday. Plan to stay home this weekend, if possible. Don't worry. There will be plenty going on there to keep you from getting bored.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). On Monday, you get stronger, as the moon goes into your sign. Tuesday and Wednesday, you're at full force, and causing things to happen quickly. You can make a big impact then, so act decisively to get the changes you want. On Thursday and Friday, you'll see more ways to pay for the renovations you're requesting, and over the weekend, you can figure out how you're going to do what you want to have done. Be bold. Looks like destiny is on your side.

Horoscopes



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You're under a bit of pressure the first part of this week to get something done around the house. It could be your honey-do list, and your honey is getting tired of waiting. Your problem is, you have something else in mind, but you may not be sure quite what until Thursday and Friday. A difference of opinion could cause an argument, but don't fret. You should have a compromise worked out by the weekend. Do that, so you can go shopping together.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Looks like you're in school the first part of this week. From Monday through Wednesday, you're hanging out with friends, and learning a lot, whether you're in a formal educational setting or not. On Thursday and Friday, there will be a test — at least one. Don't expect it to be on the material you studied. It's more likely on what you've learned through experience. You should get through it fine, but either way, the weekend is excellent for a party at your house. Set up a few rules ahead of time, though. People will have a tendency to be rowdy.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You can expect to run into surprises from Monday through Wednesday. Changes are happening in high places, so watch out. Thursday and Friday should be a lot easier. An important friend puts in a good word for you. On Saturday and Sunday, go through the paperwork and pull out the stuff you don't need anymore. You'll feel a lot lighter once that's done.

If You're Having a Birthday This Week ...

Born March 8: Thinking about a career change? This could be the year for it.

March 9: Take on more responsibility this year and be willing to accept more money.

March 10: This year is about your career and making money and doing the work you love, not necessarily in that order.

March 11: Friends can help you get the funding you need to achieve your financial goals.

March 12: Don't let money get in the way of a friendship this year. Instead, have them work together, by backing a friend's schemes.

March 13: Don't even try to go it alone this year. Get a team to help.

March 14: This year is for getting those fantasies out of your head and down on paper. Some of them could be quite profitable.

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with Spicy Mayonnaise, Red Onion and Lettuce

Orvada on French Bread

With Tomatoes, Spinach, Sautéed Peppers & Onions

Turkey on a Kaiser Roll

With Sun Dried Tomato Sauce, Romaine & Sprouts

Dilled Tuna Salad on a Croissant

With Mixed Greens & Tomato

Vegetarian on Focaccia

3 Cheeses, Sprouts, Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Onion, Zucchini, Carrots

Chicken Pesto on Sesame Baguette

Breast of Chicken, Pesto Sauce, Roma Tomatoes

Boursin Cheese on Vegetable Roll

With Mixed Greens, Carrots, Peppers, Roma Tomatoes

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A Rotating Selection of Salads, Wrapped Sandwiches

Fresh Fruit Salad

Pasta Salads, Some Vegetarian, Some Containing Meats & Cheeses

Rice, Grain Salads (Tabbouleh, Couscous, Quinoa, Lentil, etc.)

We are located in the basement of the 600 South Michigan Building

Hours: Monday - Thursday

8:00 AM - 6:30 PM

Friday

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Latest fitness craze Tae-Bo proves to be a real kick

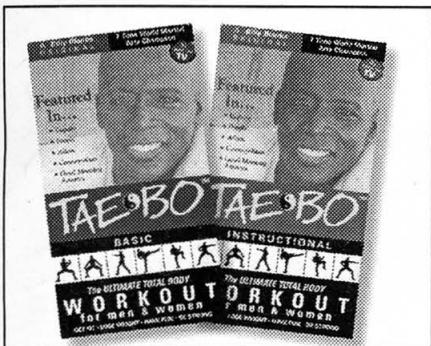
Fitness guru Billy Blanks combines aerobics and martial arts

By Rob Steva
Sports Editor

It's why Richard Simmons, Tony Little and Jenny Craig are all saying, "Now why didn't I think of that?" In less than two months Tae-Bo has snowballed to become the premiere workout in America and it's showing no signs of melting. Billed as the "future of fitness" it already has the stamp of approval from more than 20 athletes and celebrities.

Tae-Bo is a mixture of boxing punches and martial arts kicks developed by seven-time World Martial Arts Champion, Billy Blanks. Blanks is a seventh-degree black belt in Tae Kwan Do and holds black belts in five other forms of martial arts. He has also won 36 gold medals in international competition and has been a member of the Karate Hall of Fame since 1982. He has appeared in several movies including "The Last Boy Scout," "Blood Fist" and "Kiss the Girls."

While training in his home, Blanks combined music with his Tae Kwon Do moves and this is where Tae-Bo began. In 1989 he opened the Billy Blanks World Training Center in Sherman Oaks, Ca. By word of mouth, he established clients early, but when singer-dancer Paula Abdul came and quickly showed the effects of Tae-Bo, the business took off. Today's Tae-Bo users include Carmen Electra, Goldie Hawn, Wayne Gretzky, Shaquille O'Neal and Pamela Anderson. Blanks plans to launch new Tae-Bo centers nationwide in the near future.



The Tae-Bo experience consists of four tapes, the first being the 40-minute "Tae-Bo: Instructional," lays out the moves needed to successfully complete a workout. Masters of the first video can graduate to, "Tae-Bo: Basics," a 27-minute workout that will have your heart pounding and your body sweating. At 57 minutes, the advanced tape offers the most challenging and lengthy workout. There is also an 8-minute abbreviated workout.

Whether you're 7 or 97 Tae-Bo offers a great exercise for all levels and mixes a unique blend of self-defense, dance and boxing along with today's great music. "These tapes are better than other workout programs because they incorporate aerobics and martial arts. Blanks keeps you motivated and moving throughout the length of the tape," said Sean Bradshaw, a college student from Naperville. He has been working out with the tapes three days a week for over a month. Jenny Merkle, a college student from Carol Stream, said, "I took kick-boxing and loved it, so I bought the Tae-Bo tapes. The workout is very motivating and addictive also. It blends an intense workout with a good mix of music." Merkle has tried other workout tapes, such as "Abs of Steel" and feels that Tae-Bo offers a more complete workout.

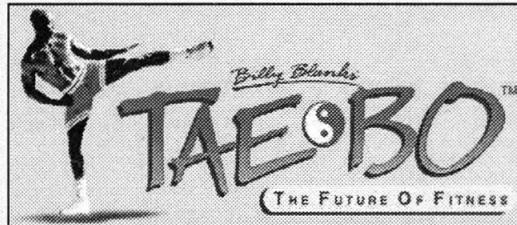
Many Tae-Bo fans work out every day; however, it's recommended that for noticeable results using Tae-Bo three times a week and maintaining a low-fat diet will create an amazing change both physically and mentally. Obviously results vary from person to person. "I use the advanced tape and workout only once a week, but that workout probably equals the intensity of three," said Merkle.

Dyslexia, poverty never slowed down Blanks

Billy Blanks attributes his desire to help others to the special care he has received all of his life. He was born the fourth of 15 children in a poor family in Erie, Pa., and despite poverty, dyslexia and an anomaly in his hip joints that would impair his movement, Billy went on to become the dominant martial artist of the 80s, a world-renowned star of martial arts films and the top physical trainer in the country.

In 1975 he became the first Amateur Athletic Union Champion, a title he would win five times. In 1984 he won the Massachusetts Golden Glove champion in the light-heavyweight class and Tri-State Golden Gloves Champion of Champions.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, has two children and is working on expanding his L.A.-based World Training Centers to the rest of the country. It is Blanks's intent to keep Tae-Bo as pure and unadulterated as possible to maximize the life-changing impact it can have on each person who wants to increase their level of fitness.



Time is of the essence for Chicago; Bulls, Sox, Reinsdorf

By John Gelsomino
Sports Correspondent

Many readers of the *Chronicle* may remember when Rob Steva wrote a column entitled "There's something about Jerry" [Feb. 22]. As much as I admire Rob's job and his terrific ability to write and report, I think he was way off base on this one.

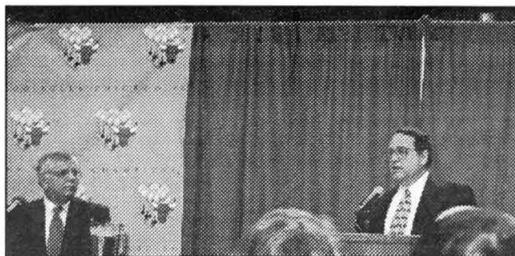
I understand the sad reality that the Championship team was broken up and the Bulls have gone from Finals contenders to lottery ticket-holders. But the reality of the situation has brought us to this point. Reinsdorf made it clear that in the summer and into the fall, the Bulls would make every effort possible to bring back the team that brought so much glory to this town. This entire possibility rested on the shoulders on one man, Michael Jordan. If Michael would come back, the Bulls could legitimately make another title run by re-signing the many free agents they had. The proverbial ball was in his court and Michael felt it was time to get away from the game.

Being the best player on the team, the Bulls would've had to find a very special player to fill those big shoes. No one was available -- the closest one was Damon Stoudamire, and Antonio McDyess is Horace Grant in training. The Bulls realized that the best they could be is a 3rd or 4th seed in the Eastern Conference with no chance of beating Indiana, New York, or Miami when it came to play-off time.

The Bulls decided to let the majority of their free agents seek employment elsewhere and settled for some very young prospects, some washed up veterans, and a man who has been begging for years for a more important role, Toni Kukoc, to lead them this season.

I will be the first *Chronicle* writer to say I like Tim Floyd. He was the perfect fit to rebuild this team. He has all the qualities of a successful coach. First, he's bright and well-spoken, a quick learner who communicates beautifully with the press. Second, Floyd has the ability

to learn and not be arrogant about his own theories. The Bulls continue to adapt the very successful and intriguing triangle offense designed by Tex Winter and Floyd has been very gracious in learning it. Third, he hates to lose; he has that fire inside of him to win, even with a depleted team he worries may sometimes underachieve. Finally, he is patient. If you play hard for Tim Floyd, he will respect you; if not you have a seat next to Bill



Rob Steva/*Chronicle*
Jerry Reinsdorf and NBA Commissioner David Stern bid a fond farewell to Michael Jordan during a press conference at the United Center.

Cartwright and the coaching staff.

If anything, the makeup of the Chicago Bulls this season is makeshift and temporary. This is the basement, where the process begins. The Bulls consist of one potential great player, Kukoc, and several capable role players. The biggest day for the Bulls this year will be the NBA draft lottery in May. The Bulls are assured a top six pick and although people believe this draft may be weak, the Bulls should be able to get a valuable pro

prospect.

The Bulls also have nearly \$30 million under the salary cap to work with. When the season ends they will pick up another \$6 million when Ron Harper becomes a free agent and, most likely, retires. Stephon Marbury would look really nice in a Bulls uniform and it may very well happen. The Bulls have a luxury no other teams have -- large amounts of money under the cap to bring in high quality players.

The same is true for the White Sox. They are very young but very talented. The club decided to build around young players who will grow and mature together and eventually become successful. The White Sox have had a taste of being mediocre since 1994 and the club realized they were not going to exceed a .500 mark and if anything the core of the team would get older and dissolve. The Sox are going back to 1990 when they played a bunch of youngsters who developed into fine major league players. The only way the franchise will achieve greatness is by developing the core of the team together.

Although I am a major supporter of the White Sox and Bulls, I have no hidden agenda in my support for Jerry Reinsdorf. The chairman has made many bad decisions regarding both clubs, no doubt about it. It is unfair, though, to criticize someone for a job that hasn't been completed yet. The next couple of years will be major tests for both Jerry Krause and Ron Schuler because their evaluation of talent and proper judgment will be the key to the future of each organization.

When all is said and done, I believe there will be more to be proud of in both organizations. The new era has begun, a new book is being written. It's only fair to give Reinsdorf an opportunity to complete the book before we judge it.

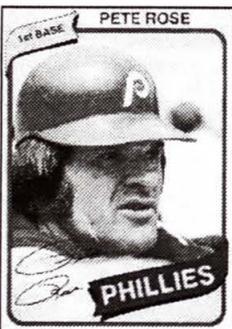
For Pete's sake, let him in

By Rob Steva
Sports Editor

It seems as though there is a double standard being used to determine who should be inducted into the Hall of Fame. These days the only qualification necessary is a pulse. Once considered to be the icing on the cake for careers for the game's elite players, the Hall has recently lowered the standard by which a truly great athlete is determined. Players whose careers stood to represent consistency, quality and success used to set the criteria. Career statistics such as batting averages, home runs, and runs batted in have been replaced with the number of drug charges, illegitimate kids, and DUIs. This doesn't say much for the voters -- who happen to be members of the media. Perhaps a change needs to be made. The fair and logical way would be to have the players or fans determine who goes to the Hall of Fame.

Last month the National Football Hall of Fame opened its doors to former New York Giant Lawrence Taylor. Considered by many to be the game's greatest linebacker, Taylor was a quarterback-seeking missile compiling 132 career sacks. Both prior to and after his retirement from football, Taylor had been caught with drugs and admitted to having a drug problem.

Last Tuesday the Baseball Hall of Fame Veterans Committee voted Orlando Cepeda into the Hall of Fame. Cepeda, who had been caught several times with drugs, ended his career with a .297 batting average and 397 home runs. While those are good numbers, they certainly aren't the numbers of one of the game's elite. If the Hall of Fame is desperate enough to find candidates who are drug users and have amassed mediocre career statistics, then maybe the voters are trying to tell us that mistakes are forgiven and it's time to forget about issues of the past.



If that's the case, Pete Rose deserves a spot in the Hall of Fame.

The year 1989 may have been the most depressing in baseball history since the Black Sox scandal in 1919. One of the game's most beloved players was banished from baseball for life because of a gambling problem and subsequently sent to jail for income tax evasion. Unfortunately for Rose, his addiction to gambling has cost him any shot at a Hall of Fame induction.

Nobody played the game with as much intensity and hustle as Rose. In 24 years he played a record 3,562 games only to retire and be banned for life. He did the unimaginable in 1985 passing Ty Cobb's career mark of 4,192 hits. If ever there was too harsh a penalty, Rose got it. After all, John McGraw, Tris Speaker and Cobb all gambled and they're in the Hall of Fame.

Few played the game with as much intensity and hustle as Pete Rose.

Voters for the Hall of Fame need to take a closer look as to who is honored. Somewhere lost in the shuffle is a double standard that is tarnishing the image of professional sport's most storied establishment.

THE CHRONICLE IS LOOKING FOR CORRESPONDENTS. SO IF YOU DON'T LIKE HOW WE COVER SPORTS, GET OFF YOUR ASS AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!!!!

Around the horn...

Last week forward Dickey Simpkins led the Bulls in scoring, giving fans and the team that added offensive punch...It's only a matter of time before that No. 8 jersey will be hanging alongside Michael's in the UC rafters.

America's National Pastime: Why fans forgive and forget

The second of a four-part series

By Rob Steva
Sports Editor

Once upon a time when Calvin Coolidge was president, Babe Ruth hit 60 home runs in a single season. That record stood for 34 years and became the most fabled in American sports until Roger Maris hit 61 in 1961. Two player strikes, a gambling incident, a spitting incident and thirty 37 later fans, have forgiven baseball for the horrible misfortunes that it visited upon society. For anybody that felt mauled by Monica and sick of Springer, the 1998 season replaced the bitter taste left by the '94-'95 strike with the sweet sensation of forgiveness. Mostly because of the bigred head in St. Louis and a Cubbie named Sammy. Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa sparked the interest of a nation, baseball's nation.

It was in June that Sosa lost more balls, 20, than a weekend duffer at Cantigny Golf Course. He captured the attention of desperate fans who were itching for an excuse to rekindle baseball's flame and forgive. In hitting a record 20 home runs in June he caught McGwire and the two created the "Home Run Chase of '98." The two made fans out of people who normally wouldn't watch baseball, people who assume that Babe Ruth is just a candy bar.

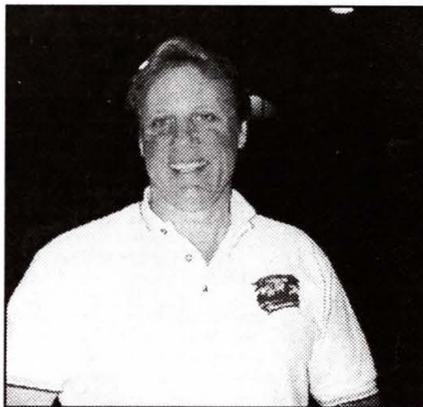
Even players were excited for baseball. "It's amazing -- to have played with Mark for five months this season, and then being traded over to Chicago and getting to play with Sammy for the remainder of the year, I had never been part of anything like this," said Cubs third baseman Gary Gaetti. "What's incredible about the whole thing is that they made it look so easy," said former Boston Red Sox outfielder Jim Rice.

From one corner of the country to the other Sosa and McGwire were the conversation pieces at breakfast, lunch and dinner. "It's funny because I know people who were talking about Sammy and Mark, who prior to this year hadn't even watched a baseball game," said McPherrin. In a year when a former pro wrestler became governor of Minnesota, Sosa and McGwire could have ran for president and vice-president and won in a landslide.

In the stands of St. Louis' Busch Stadium, about one out of every five people, from infants sucking on pacifiers to white haired grandmothers,

wore a shirt with McGwire on the back. St. Louis was becoming the epicenter of the game's comeback. Cardinals and Cubs games had the feel of revival. Even though attendance had recovered, no other teams in baseball averaged more fans on the road. And baseball, once a set-up line to cruel jokes during and after the strike, had regained its honor.

At 8:39 p.m. on the last Friday of the regular season, McGwire didn't have the most home runs in the National League Central, let alone the most ever in one season. Forty-five minutes earlier in Houston, Sosa had over taken McGwire in a contest that resembled the competitive madness of the NCAA tournament. A look of fear reflected off the faces of the Big Mac faithful as the scoreboard replaced 65 with 66 next to Sosa's name. "That whole weekend was like something out of a fairy tale," said ex-Cub and White Sox, Jay Johnstone. McGwire knew what had happened as the groans and murmurs of 48,159 fans told the story.



Rob Steva/Chronicle
Former Cub and White Sox Jay Johnstone feels the 1998 season was just what the doctor ordered for baseball.

After playing baseball for 20 years, Johnstone views the '98 season as the game's greatest, and says that it was a shot in the arm for baseball. "Ever since Babe Ruth went to the hospital to visit the sick boy and predicted the home run, baseball has been America's pastime. This game is embedded in all of us. Whether we have ever played it or just watch it on TV, Americans absorb baseball with a passion. Every industry goes through growing pains; many feel that in 1994 baseball needed to find out where it stood in society.

"Sure they may have shot themselves in the foot in 1994-95, but fans forgive," added Johnstone. Fans can't help but to forgive. It's the kind of game that links fathers to their sons. I think the typical image that people get when they think of American sports is a father and son playing catch in the yard, and that is what other sports like football and basketball can't offer. It's the history of the game that puts baseball in a category of its own."

Reflecting upon the final weekend of the season, Johnstone said, "It was like we were going to the moon for the first time again, everyone was watching. It was a sure-fire sign that baseball was No. 1 again."

After an off-season of traveling the world, attending the State of the Union Address and being one of the most famous athletes in the world, Sammy Sosa made his Spring Training debut last week and is 15 pounds heavier than last season...Maybe he swallowed his ego.

The top 64 members representing the PGA joined at the Andersen Consulting Match Play Championship last week. The purse was large, but after the quarterfinals, the highest seed left was the 24th and eventual champion Jeff Maggett...proving once again that golf can suck just as bad as the NBA...Way to go guys!

NEXT WEEK...

- Part three of why fans forgive and forget

- A feature on the return of the black quarterback in the NFL