

3-15-1999

Columbia Chronicle (03/15/1999)

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (03/15/1999)" (March 15, 1999). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/444

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COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 19

WWW.CCCHRONICLE.COM

MARCH 15, 1999

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INSIDE

CAMPUS|4

Columbia grad embarks on African shoe safari

VITALITY

The world according to Judy Blume



SPORTS

March Madness Strikes again



P-FAC pact both historic, friendly

By Bruno VanderVelde
Editor-in-Chief

Members of P-FAC, the part-time teachers organization at Columbia, voted March 5 overwhelmingly in favor of ratifying the first-ever part-time union agreement in the country. This union formalizes relations between the college and the union and will establish guidelines for part-time faculty grievances, benefits, compensation, job security, and representation.

As reported in our March 1 issue ("P-FAC nets pay, benefits hike"), negotiators on both sides (college officials and part-time teachers) implemented interest-based negotiating. Old-style contract negotiation involves each side staking a claim and either not budging at all (causing the potential for strikes, lost productivity, etc.) or agreeing to compromise, ultimately leaving both sides bitter. Interest-based negotiating differs from traditional arbitration procedures in that it involves a more cooperative process by which both sides agree to what they agree on, while working out disagreements, like money issues, later.

Diane Davis, a Department chair at Oakton College and Illinois Education Association adviser to P-FAC, recommended a training session in which both sides would learn, quite simply, how to negotiate—but within the framework of interest-based procedures. Ground rules for the negotiation procedures were established, and both teams of negotiators went into the mediation proceedings having taken the same training.

Though this process of negotiation isn't time-tested or guaranteed, it was enabled to function ideally through the smart cooperation and understanding on both sides. The college even agreed to take over certain tasks for which the part-time union hadn't the resources; in an unlikely exercise in labor history, the school itself will coordinate the collection of P-FAC members' dues.

The result, according to P-FAC steering committee member Jack Behrend, is a happier faculty and a happier administration. Both part-timers and college officials are not only satisfied with their gains from the contract agreement, he said, but the once-opposing sides have "become the best of friends" as a result.

If the solution to Columbia's relatively low student retention is the newly-won potential for a high faculty retention, Behrend said, the college has just helped itself.

Fire at 600 South

By James Boozer
Contributing Editor

Work continues this week as crews repair damage caused by an early morning fire on Sunday, March 7 at the Museum of Contemporary Photography. The museum is located on the first and second floors of Columbia's main campus building at 600 S. Michigan Ave.

While a majority of the damage was confined to the museum, there was also some destruction to a second floor computer lab, offices on the second and third floors, and to the building's basement and the Underground Cafe, which was recently remodeled.

Columbia's Provost and Executive Vice President Bert Gall said last Monday that he could not say exactly how much damage was done.

"We won't know that for a week because we have to wait and see if we lost the wood floors in the museum...if so, that's an extra \$30,000," Gall said.

The Financial Aid and Admissions offices as well as the Underground Cafe have reopened after being closed on Monday. Freshman Seminar classes, which are located on the second floor of the main building, have returned to their offices after temporarily being relocated to the 624 S. Michigan building.

See Fire, page 4



William Manley/Chronicle
Firefighters examine the damage after the Sunday morning fire that nearly destroyed the Museum of Contemporary Photography and several offices.

Columbia grad Yan Geling wins awards, acclaim for fiction

By Jotham Sederstrom
Staff Writer

Months after winning an award for her movie script "Xiu-Xiu: The Sent Down Girl," Columbia graduate student Yan Geling is contemplating several more literary endeavors, while casually awaiting the U.S. release of the controversial new movie.

Based on the short story "Celestial Bath," published in Columbia's Fiction Writing anthology Hair Trigger #19, "Xiu-Xiu" swept the Golden Horse Awards, the Chinese equivalent of the Academy Awards. Despite the movie's six awards including best picture, best director, best actor and actress, Geling, 40, is

excited the most about her recent work.

"I don't feel much because I've been winning awards every year," said Geling confidently. "The movie is more of the director's baby."

To her credit, Geling has published numerous short stories and six novels, three of which have been translated into film. In 1998, Geling won the China Times Million Yuan Literary Prize—one of that country's most prestigious literary awards—for her novel "Inner Space." A book of short stories, a movie adaptation of her novel "Fu Sang" and even a television series documenting the lives of Chinese-Americans during the 1920s, are all in the works.

"Her degree has been somewhat delayed because she's been so involved in these other projects," said Randall Albers, Chairperson of Columbia's Fiction Writing department.

"Xiu-Xiu" is the tale of a teenage girl living in the midst of China's Cultural Revolution during the mid-1970s. Throughout the revolution young intellectuals were sent to the countryside to serve China by performing hard labor and

grudge work.

Xiu-Xiu has been conscripted during the waning years of the revolution to lead a non-existent women's battalion. Unaware of the battalion's demise, and unsure of her responsibilities, she meets Lao Jin, an impotent and shy horse herdsman near the Tibetan border with whom she forms a close friendship.

"The movie is very faithful to my story, but [the story is] short, so when we made it into a movie I added more detail and dialogue," Geling said.

A film about lost innocence and impossible love, Geling's unfavorable view of China's Cultural Revolution ignited controversy during the film-making process.

"It's critical of the Cultural Revolution," said Albers. "Her thinking was that she probably wasn't going to gain any fans from the Chinese government, so they decided to make the film on the sly."

To be safe, the staff and most of the actors (which consisted mostly of friends and relatives) were kept in the dark about the script and its connotations. Only the two main actors, Lu Lu and Lopsang, were given copies; residents of the area, located

on the Tibetan border, were under the impression that the group had a permit to film. They didn't. "The movie gives us, perhaps, an inside look at Chinese culture and history that we don't often get in this country," said Albers.

Born in Shanghai, Geling went to school until the Cultural Revolution closed it down and commanded her to join the People's Liberation Army.

"When you're that young, you don't really think about dying," said Geling, who was stationed in the Chengdu, Sichuan Province at 12 years old, and wrote as a war correspondent in the late 1970s.

"She has a really strong sense of story," said Albers. "She has a lot of interesting material and a wonderful ear for the language. It's both powerful and beautiful language."

A student at Beijing University, Geling fled China after the Tiananmen Square riot of 1989, and began taking classes at Columbia in 1990. "Columbia is very dear to my heart," said Geling, who recently completed her course work for a Master's Degree in Fine Arts in Fiction Writing.

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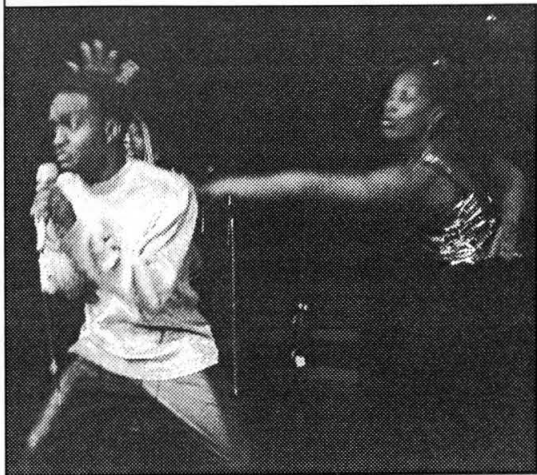
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CAMPUS NEWS

WGCI puts Columbia students to the test



Semifinal Auditions for the Eighth Annual WGCI Seminar on May 2 were held last week in the Hokin Annex. They were hosted by the National Black Programmer's Association and Grethia Hightower, Career Planning and Placement Adviser at Columbia.

Photo: Jason Glaser/Chronicle

Environmentalists at Columbia join with Amnesty International

By Gloria Brand
Staff Writer

Environmentalists and humanitarians of Columbia have decided to join forces in order to make a difference on campus.

The two groups involved in the merger are Environmentalists of Columbia Organization (ECO) and Amnesty International (AI).

ECO has been around Columbia since 1996 and is a grassroots organization aimed toward protecting and preserving the environment through recycling, art, writing and speech.

AI is a worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote all human rights. The original organization was started in 1961, but Columbia's AI group was founded during the fall semester of 1998.

According to the AI and ECO spokesperson, David Blumenthal, the groups decided to link under the premise that their mission statements serve the same general purpose.

"Both our organizations are appalled with apathy in general — apathy of students, apathy of the American populace — how we stand by and do nothing while both human rights and the environment are being destroyed," Blumenthal said.

The two groups currently hold separate meetings but they assist each other by sharing resources and personnel. One of the main focuses for the groups right now is recruiting students. "There is a sign of an epidemic problem at Columbia...all student groups have the same problem with getting college students involved," Blumenthal says that ECO and AI are not meeting their membership goals either.

Both organizations are hoping to join by next year and are currently planning a globalized function this spring. ECO meetings are held on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and AI scheduled meetings have yet to be organized. Both organizations can be contacted through the Office of Student Life, ext. 7459.

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.

Science, math, and art intertwine in Hokin exhibit

By Alicia Kelley
Staff Writer

The fifth annual student exhibit for Artistic Expressions in Science and Mathematics is on display through March 22 in the Hokin Annex lounge of the Wabash Building.

The very best creative projects are chosen by the faculty from courses such as Einstein, Biology, Mathematics in Art and Nature, and Chemistry of Photography. The projects are given recognition for almost a month.

"We encourage students to use their talents and be creative. Sometimes they build a bridge between two otherwise unconnected classes," said Pan Papacosta, instructor of the Einstein class.

Faculty members assign creative projects which can be done using any art medium. Students take a concept learned during the semester and exhibit it to their fellow classmates. Students have used dance, photography, painting, acting, graphic arts, and other art forms to express what the faculty thinks of as "incredibly successful projects."

"We came up with the idea to exhibit students creative projects because we have so many creative students at Columbia College. It gives the students an outlet to display their creativity," said Ann Hanson, instructor of Mathematics in Art and Nature.

At a faculty retreat two years ago, Papacosta and Hanson presented the concept

of incorporating creative projects into class curriculums. Since then both are pleased to see many more classes are using creative projects as part of the class requirements.

"Columbia's philosophy is to foster exploration and challenge students' creativity. Creativity is a way of finding new ways to do things. We have students use their imagination in class, without it there is no creativity," said Papacosta.

"Math is more than '2+3=5.' Students look for patterns and they find a way to express it through an art form," said Hanson.

Both Papacosta and Hanson expressed excitement while explaining their learning experiences as well as the students.

"I love to see the creativity oozing out of students. They continue applying what they have learned in the Einstein class even after the course is over. I feel like there is always a piece of me that is always with my students," said Papacosta.

"My class deals a lot with geometrical shapes and it is a hands-on experience. A spiral is one of the many shapes we deal with. Plants grow in spirals, as well as a baby in the womb. I teach them these concepts and they respond by teaching me," said Hanson.

A reception was held on March 3 for the students whose work is on display in the annex lounge. Papacosta and Hanson were pleased to see around 100 students and faculty show up to support the exhibit.

Issues and events you should know about...

On Campus

The **Italian II** class at Columbia is having its own **St. Joseph's Day** celebration Thurs., March 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge, 11th floor, 624 S. Michigan. St. Joseph's Day is a traditional Sicilian holiday when people open their homes to share their good fortune with others; the event features meatless dishes including fish, pasta, fruit, and Italian goodies. For more on the Italian II class or the St. Joseph's Day celebration, call RoseAnna Mueller at ext. 7532.

The **Interdisciplinary Arts** Dept. of Columbia is presenting its second annual **Spring Equinox Performance Evening** Fri., March 19, at 8 p.m. in the lower level auditorium of the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State. This year's featured performer is **Lactitia Sonami**, an Oakland-based sound artist. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and seniors. For more information, call Jeff Abell at ext. 7270.

Columbia College's **Black Student Union** meets every Tuesday in room 307, Wabash Bldg. at 5 p.m.

CHIPS, Columbia's Chronic/Illness/Injury/Pain Support, is sponsoring a **blood drive** Tues., March 16 at the Student Center, room 311, Wabash Bldg. It's too late to make an appointment to donate blood, but walk-ins are still welcome. CHIPS meets Tuesdays in room 304, Wabash Bldg. at 3 p.m.

Thomas Duff, Professor Emeritus at Seton Hall University, will deliver a paper on **Irish-American authors** from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Faculty Lounge, 11th floor, Torco Bldg. Duff will speak about the Irish oral tradition and how it affects Irish literature today.

Artist **George Gessert** will discuss selective breeding in the Hokin Hall, Wabash Bldg. on Fri., March 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. Gessert's latest creation, "**Art Life**," revolves around the colesus, a human-created hybrid houseplant.

Having trouble juggling work, school, and life? The Academic Advising Dept. is sponsoring a **Study Skills/Time Management Workshop** on Monday, March 15 at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. in the Student Center, room 311, Wabash Bldg.

Attention: Freshmen

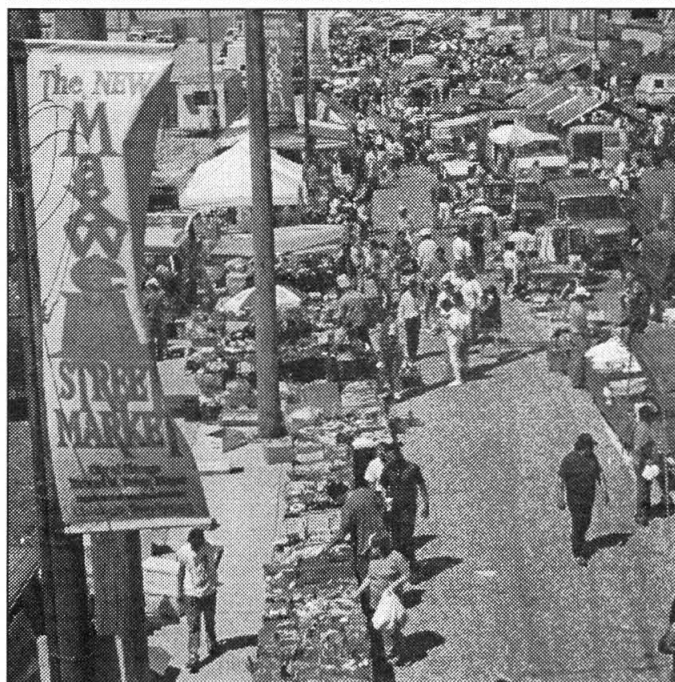
The Student Center, room 311, Wabash Bldg., is hosting a "**How to Survive Your Freshman Year**" seminar Mon., March 22, at 12 p.m. and again at 5 p.m.

Attention: Seniors

The Student Center is also hosting a "**How to Prepare for Graduate School**" meeting on Wed., March 24, at 12 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Around town

The **Museum of Contemporary Art**, 220 E. Chicago, is featuring the work of 23 artists from 16 countries in its "**Unfinished History**" exhibit, which is showing through April 4. The art exemplifies the artists' grappling with the unresolved conflicts of the 20th century. The exhibit contains works in architecture, film, sculpture, photography, video, installation, and electronic music.



Tamara Bell/Chronicle

Check out the Chronicle's photo essay on pages 4 and 5 of the **Vitality** section. This week's issue features pictures of the new **Maxwell Street market** on Chicago's West side.

Fire

continued from front page

The computer lab on the second floor of the main building remains closed and is not expected to reopen until computers and other equipment in the lab have been cleaned.

Gall expects the museum to reopen to the public in mid-April.

According to Chicago Fire Department spokesman Sal Marquez, the fire started outside the second level of the museum and was brought under control within a hour.

Because the fire occurred on a Sunday, no one was in the building at the time and no one was reported injured, Marquez said.

Two workers from U.S. Dismantlement, a Chicago-based company, were replacing the exterior Columbia College sign along Harrison Street after it was damaged by a severe

snow storm in January. They were using welding torches to remove bolts from the sign when sparks ignited insulation that was located behind the sign.

Jose Torres, an employee with U.S. Dismantlement, said that workers were cutting steel frames for the new sign when they realized the insulation was starting to catch fire. Workers tried to get inside the building to tell someone that the fire had started but since no one was in the building, the fire department was called.

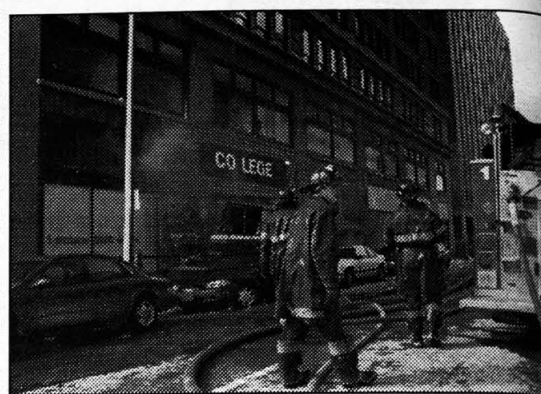
After arriving on the scene, firefighters did not enter the building for 15 minutes, until it was determined there was actually a fire taking place inside, according to Torres.

However, Bruce Hanson, a spokesman from U.S. Dismantlement, told the Chronicle in a phone interview that workers called 911 because "it was obvious [from the outside] that there was a fire."

Hanson went on to say that his company was unaware that there was insula-

tion behind the sign. He suggested that the fire may have started inside the second floor museum gallery when sparks from welding torches flew inside the room through a broken exterior window near the sign.

Gall credited firefighters for saving several expensive pieces in the museum. He noted that most of the museum's artwork, including the permanent collection, featuring works by 150 photographers, was safe because it was sealed in a high-security, humidity- and temperature-con-



William Manley/Chronicle

trolled vault.

Work on the Columbia College sign on Harrison St., which has now been completely removed from the building, is scheduled to begin in May.

Kenya trip with 2,000 shoes an exasperating, rewarding ordeal

By Kimberly A. Brehm
Staff Writer

"The children were so happy, it was indescribable," said recent Columbia graduate Carly Crone. "They were so grateful and appreciative. The children ran and jumped as they tried on shoes, some for the first time in their lives."

Crone is describing the scene which greeted her on a recent trip to Kenya where she distributed donated running shoes. Crone said she got the idea for a shoe drive while training for the Chicago Marathon. Many of the athletes — serious runners who go through shoes quickly — were looking for a means to donate the shoes to those in need.

"A group of runners talked about taking the shoes to Africa," said Crone. "Since I was already going to Kenya with Habitat for Humanity, I decided to organize a shoe drive. Our goal was four boxes of shoes."

Crone far exceeded what she'd hoped when she collected 2,000 pairs of donated shoes, filling 32 boxes. She thought get-

ting the shoes would be the hard part, but that proved fairly easy. Chicago, she discovered, can be a generous community. But Crone was far from her goal of getting the shoes to needy children, as customs officials informed her when she finally reached Kenya.

Crone arrived at Kenyatta International Airport, Jan. 17, with a letter from the Kenyan Embassy in Washington, D. C., which requested a tax and duty exemption on the cargo. Unfortunately, Kenyan officials weren't impressed and wanted payment.

Crone said she tried to convince customs that the shoes were in fact donations and not intended to be sold in the second-hand markets that prevail in Kenya. Customs officials still wouldn't budge and Crone said she got the distinct impression they were looking for a bribe. She couldn't resolve the problem in Kenya so she contacted a friend in Chicago to help her.

"I had to get a certification of donation and an airbill from British Airways showing there wasn't a charge on the shipment of shoes," said Symon Ogeto of Student

Life and Development. "In addition, a letter was needed from Columbia saying the shoes were donated by Chicagoans. There is definitely corruption in the Kenyan government, so I also wrote to the minister of finance in Nairobi, asking them to waive the taxes in Kenya."

Ogeto's efforts were in vain, so he moved to desperate measures. "I wrote a press release describing the problem and sent it to respective media outlets in Kenya."

The hostages shoes did receive media attention, both in Africa and Chicago, but in the end, Crone said, "I had to bribe customs officials with 500 pairs of the shoes so they would release the other 1,500."

After a two-week delay, Crone was finally able to distribute the shoes to children with the help of Chicago Marathon winner and Kenyan native, Orodoro Osooro.

"Suddenly, the whole challenging experience became worth it," said Crone. "When I saw the happiness and joy on their faces, the frustrations and pain went away."

Crone said her trip to Africa was an

eye-opening experience which has made her stronger. "During my trip, I had to go to the bathroom in a hole in the ground, kill my own chicken in order to eat, and bathe in brown water. But I would go back tomorrow. It was a very rewarding experience."

So rewarding that Crone is already making plans to return to Kenya in June. Her new aspiration is to collect 10,000 pairs of shoes by June 1 to take with her. "I know I won't be able to avoid a bribe to customs officials but I will be more prepared next time," she said. "No matter how angry I am that they are taking shoes away from children, my goal is not to solve political corruption but to give children something they would never have had otherwise."

Crone said she is dedicated to helping Kenyans. "The living conditions in Kenya make our poor seem rich by comparison," she said. She is hoping that fellow Chicagoans will contact shoes-for-kenya@hotmail.com for information on drop-off locations.



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CONGRATULATIONS!

The Columbia Chronicle picked up three more awards on March 7 at the "Best of the Midwest" College Newspaper Convention

Best Online Newspaper Competition

First Place- Columbia Chronicle Website (www.CCChronicle.com)
(Billy O'Keefe, New Media Editor)

Individual Student Competition

First Place- Leon Tripplett
(News Story)

Individual Student Competition

Second Place- Leon Tripplett
(Feature Story)

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Breathe Normally is presented with the generous support of Abbott Laboratories, as part of a three-year series of programs entitled Hope = Life: Living in the New Age of AIDS. Additional support is provided by the Lila Wallace–Reader's Digest Fund to the Stir It Up program.

Breathe Normally is co-commissioned by The Dance Center with support from the Lila Wallace–Reader's Digest Program for Leading Dance Centers. Additional funding has been provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and The Joyce Foundation.

The Changing Channels Festival is sponsored by The Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation, and WBEZ 91.5 FM.

Photograph by Jim Goldberg

Viewpoints

Editorial

Monica.

Let's all sigh together now. We were intrigued to see the outcome of this soap opera, and sick of it all at the same time. Everyone had, and still has, an opinion while in the same breath, as evidenced by polls, we're wishing it would all just go away.

Now, it's Monica's interview with "20/20" ala booksigning tour that's got us buzzing. I heard one co-worker say, "She was so smug — no remorse at all. If I were Chelsea—"

If you were Chelsea — what?

I can't tell you how many times in my life my actions have invited outside speculation. Actually, it happens everyday, everywhere — you know the chick in the van on the expressway who looks like she's talking to herself, while there's a baby cooing in back. Seinfeld treated us to the picking your nose dilemma — "But I was only scratching, I swear!"

I don't need to tell you how many areas of life are plagued by such misunderstandings, leading to assumptions, value judgments, soap-box lectures from people who don't know s@#\$ about you, et al. It happens on all levels, from the scandalous to, "Oh my goodness, would you look at her hair!" When I was 19, I broke up with a guy who appeared "absolutely perfect" to a friend of mine — nevermind he was mentally 12-years-old. For weeks, I had to hear about how I needed therapy for ditching him "because you obviously have issues." I was a blink away from strangling her when I remembered that she'd been in abusive relationships for most of her teen years. As long as my eye wasn't black, she just knew I was with The One.

It's all a matter of perspective.

We've taken it upon ourselves to figure everyone else out, haven't we? In the process, we "understand" and excuse our own behavior, mistakes to triumphs, while holding everyone else to TV-character-like standards. And the rich and famous? They're our role-models for some reason so they must be super-human. Then when we find out they're not, all hell breaks loose.

Is it, perhaps, that we can't really accept our own shortcomings and "mistakes" (read: those experiences that balance out the good stuff in life)?

Well, I can admit to them, but then — so you feel good about me again — I have to tell you how wrong and truly evil I am. And I have to say it in just the right way, don't I Monica?

That girl sitting next to you in class would never have worn those shoes you've got on; whether you're a chick or not, she knows what style is. And what about the married man who scopes for young male prostitutes during his lunch break after joking with his buddies about that queer in human resources? (I learned all about that from watching "Oprah.")

The senator who attacks the president for his adulterous affair is givin' it to his secretary in the closet on a weekly basis. They say it's only the lying under oath part they're pissed about, but maybe — I know it's a stretch — maybe the prez wouldn't have had to lie, like the millions of other men who would have, if people had minded their own in the first place.

The truth is, we don't know Monica Lewinsky, or any of these other people, no matter who we think we are. If you think you saw the "real Monica" on "20/20," you have a lot to learn about yourself. I guarantee a good portion of who we saw was an image she thought would make us happy; or she thought maybe we'd like her a little bit more and quit with all the fat-intern-on-her-knees jokes.

Ah, but she still screwed up as far as we're concerned. In this week's *Time*, Monica says, "Some people felt I wasn't remorseful enough or that I enjoyed this." Isn't it her business whether she had a good time or not and why? How does what the president and this woman did have anything to do with me or you or the folks on the Hill? If I'm not losing sleep at night, and my family is healthy, Monica can bob for all the apples she wants.

Of course she has some low self-esteem issues, so do you. We should look at our own relationships, romantic or otherwise, and remember how complicated they are — how they're loaded with all kinds of emotional baggage and other fun stuff. The stuff that no one else could possibly understand and shouldn't waste their time trying to figure out.

I don't need Monica to apologize any more than I need her to dress me in the morning. I don't need the president to be anything other than human, flawed and imperfect as the next. All I ask is that he's smarter than the average Joe. The idea of the king being divine supposedly vanished centuries ago anyway.

I certainly don't need Barbara Walters to smugly declare that she hopes "we can all move on" after she's done "the interview of her career" (sigh!).

Once we can treat ourselves the way we want others to treat us (read: give yourself a break, be human and relax about it), maybe we won't have any more of these 24/7-on-the-news scandals to complain about. We'll understand that we made them "scandals" in the first place.

Editorial Cartoon

By Billy O'Keefe



The Columbia Chronicle letter-writing contest

We haven't received a letter in a couple weeks now. Frankly, we're a little miffed. So the next person who writes us a letter and sends it to chron96@interaccess.com will receive a brand new car. Actually, that's not true. But send those letters, or else we'll have to assume that we're doing a wonderful job.

The Columbia Chronicle Photo Poll

The Question: With St. Patrick's Day right around the corner, what's your cure for a hangover?



Brooke Bell
Junior

"Scrambled eggs with American cheese and hot sauce."



Mikhael
Transfer/Radio & Sound

"Weed."



Shanae Visilana
Sophomore/Vocal Performance

"I take another shot and it'll be all right."



Andy Marno
Freshman/Photography

"Wait it out."

Fire Bad Good!

Will students' wishes for a Columbia community go up in flames?

Unless you've never heard of Columbia College (odd, since you're reading the *Chronicle*), it ain't news to you that the so-called campus on Wabash, Michigan and various other streets in

Billy O'Keefe
Viewpoints/New Media Editor

Chicago has almost no communal feel to it. True, a good lot of students at Columbia are friendly, outgoing people, and it's subsequently easy to make friends in the classroom. But once time runs out on that 2D Design class, there's little for most students to do other than go home or skip off to work.

The result is a school and little more; even the most extracurricularly-friendly students have a hard time forging lasting friendships at Columbia. School spirit? Not bloody likely. Basically, we're an attractive version of DeVry.

Of course, now that someone burned a nice

Before you know it, fire merchandise will be everywhere; t-shirts with the message "I survived the great Columbia fire (probably because it was on a Sunday)" are probably being made as you read this.

chunk of the main building, that's all in the past. Fire pride has swept across Columbia. Students now have something in common to discuss; even the U-Pass (remember the U-Pass?) is on the backburner. More than once I have heard someone say how cool it was to see Columbia on page two of the *Tribune* and *Sun-Times*. Before you know it, fire merchandise will be everywhere; t-shirts with the message "I survived the great Columbia fire (probably because it was on a Sunday)" are probably being made as you read this. Get 'em while their hot (pun intended).

Pretty pathetic, sure. But students who have developed a somewhat demented sense of community because of the fire are hardly nuts. Right now, that's all we have to work with.

Personally, I am one of the lucky ones; with my job at the newspaper, I'm surrounded by a terrific group of people that grows all the time. Not everyone is so fortunate, however; most students at Columbia have nothing doing here besides their classes.

In last week's editorial, the *Chronicle* expressed positive interest in the creation of a student government to unite various organizations and students from around the school. It's a great idea, and a nice first step — a necessary first step — toward molding some school pride at Columbia.

On a related note, we also need a mascot. Regardless of whether we have a football team or not, a mascot (or at least a nickname — something better than "the other Columbia") gives students a shared identity that's nice and easy to swallow. And while we're at it, let's throw in some school colors, tear down the El Taco Loco on the corner and put a few basketball hoops in its place, expand and promote the new student center and get some bands to play in the Hokin Annex.

In other words, let's do something. It's time we quit denying the notion that Columbia can grow beyond its current status as a stop on the route to a decent job. The solutions are out there; college campuses around the country must be doing something right, after all. The only factor that remains is how much we as students demand such solutions.

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

COLUMBIA CHRONICLE
COLUMBIA'S CHOICE

Editorials are the opinions of the Editorial Board of The Columbia Chronicle. Columns are the opinions of the author(s).

Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not the opinions of The Columbia Chronicle, Columbia's Journalism Department or Columbia College Chicago.

Letters to the Editor must include your full name, year, major, and a phone number. All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to the limited amount of space available. Letters can be faxed to us @ 312-344-8032, e-mailed to Chron96@interaccess.com or mailed to The Columbia Chronicle c/o Letters To The Editor, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60605.

You like hilarious stories? Well try this one on for size, tough guy!

A representative from Pepsi walks into the *Chronicle* office and hands us a huge check (one of those oversized cardboard checks to boot) in exchange for some ad space in the paper you read and reread every week. We cash it, buy some cool threads and a company car, and place the Pepsi ad not on the back page, not even on page two, but on page one.

Nuts to the news; we'd rather you drink some Pepsi One so we can live large. Now here comes Joe Republic, opinionated staff writer and Sprite drinker. "Image is nothing!" he screams, as he tears off a three-page rant about how much he can't stand Pepsi or anything cola. It's the best thing he has ever written, and since the Viewpoints editor is too lazy to write an

drunk out of their minds. Channel 5 is all over the story; so is Channel 2. Channel 7, however, sits on the news, at least for a while. The reason? ABC owns Channel 7, Disney owns ABC and McDonald's shares a weighty partnership with Disney. To report the story would damage the credibility of all parties involved, and Disney or ABC might penalize the affiliate (financially or otherwise), or at least scold them.

Channel 7's news is the most popular in Chicago, and if this story doesn't run, many people will be left in the dark. On the other hand, Channels 2 and 5, sensing such a turn of events, may cover it to death — unless, of course, McDonald's sponsors their newscast, in which case they may not cover it at all. Your best bet for such a story may then be the *Chicago Tribune* or the *Sun-Times*, but if the story carries no weight in the newscasts, it may be well-hidden in the papers, and nowhere near the McDonald's ad on page six.

You can call this example extreme, but you shouldn't. Perhaps children have never left McDonald's with a burger and a mixed drink, but it's no secret that the food preparation in fast food restau-

Ban the Box

There are plenty of people out there who would love to tell you what you should and shouldn't know. Are you one of them? By Billy O'Keefe

article of his own, he lets it run without even reading it. Joe's artistic brother Bob Republic is so inspired by the piece that he draws a biting cartoon about how Pepsi drinkers are all Communists. The Viewpoints editor, bitten again by the lazy bug, gives it the green light; it's his finest hour yet.

A few copies of the paper arrive at Pepsi's headquarters Monday morning. The ad shines in glorious grayscale on page one, and the Pepsi promotion people are pretty pleased. *Chronicle* 1, *Echo* 0.

But then someone turns to page six, and all is wrong again. After the contents of the anti-cola article reach the big man upstairs, a call is put in, and the campaign is history. The big check is sliced in two, the funding disappears and the newspaper has to fold. Joe Republic dies when he falls victim to a stray can of Clear Pepsi; Bob Republic takes himself out with his T-square. The Viewpoints Editor survives and becomes a dance major.

Believe the story I just told, for it could happen to you. With the Internet in full swing, crazy communication gadgets galore on the horizon and everyone and their Aunt Jane hoisting a video camera here and there, dubbing the 1990s the Information Age

is nothing short of disgusting. Still, most people have no idea what goes on and what it truly means; if they did, Ronald McDonald would be a hobo instead of a clown. Even among the most knowledgeable of consumers, there's no question as to what we still don't know. And as long as fast food joints fatten the networks' bank accounts, there is little motivation for the status quo to change unless we do it ourselves.

So what to do, what TO do? The best approach is to first understand that what you don't know can hurt you, and you don't know what you don't know. Then, teach yourself not to depend on the box in the living room for your real world education. If you want government statistics, ask the government or a similar organization. If you want nutritional facts, go to the restaurant, or call the corporation's headquarters and ask for them; no one can deny you such information. In other words, if you want the real goods rather than some filtered ideas, go straight to the source. They may lie to you also, but your chances are immensely better.

And by all means, whether you're a journalism student, a dance major or some schmuck who's here to meet girls, take a fact-checking or researching class. Regardless of major, everyone should have the ability to sort through what the folks at ten o'clock are and aren't telling you.

Don't mistake Ronald McDonald and Mickey Mouse as devil's servants; this is the way business works. It's not ideal, and it's not even right. But as long as people need jobs and as long as free enterprise exists (and free enterprise, by the way, is a good thing), the sort of practices that happen today will continue. So rather than complain about it and label all corporations and journalists as evil, learn to deal with and rise above it all. Nobody can educate you better than yourself.

Billy O'Keefe has never eaten a McDonald's hamburger in his entire life, because they're really, really gross.

Disney

OWNS

Family PC, Los Angeles Magazine, Institutional Investor Childcraft Education Corp., Reedy Creek Energy Services Hitchcock Publishing, Imprint Inc., Infoseek.com Celebration, FL (a city) 8 medical journals	ABC OWNS Over 30 TV and Radio Networks, including EPSN, A&E, Lifetime, and Channel 7 Chilton Research Services, Chilton Management Information Systems, Legal-Communications Corporation The Go Network (Go.com) over 45 newspapers from around the country over 50 trade journals, including Hardware Age, Womens Wear Daily, Cablevision and Motor Age	Hollywood Entertainment, Touchstone Pictures, Miramax Films, Buena Vista Television, Hollywood Records The History Channel, Siskel & Ebert at the Movies, E! The Mighty Ducks of Anaheim (NHL), The Anaheim Angels (MLB)
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Graphic by Billy O'Keefe/Chronicle

The biggest link in the food chain Here, you can taste a sample of Disney's many pieces of the pie. Keep in mind that this list isn't complete, and it doesn't include partnerships and sponsorships, of which Disney has many. Thus the folks with the Mouse Ears have a lot of say in much of the media that we encounter every day.

COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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The Columbia Chronicle
Suite 205
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Web Address
www.CCChronicle.com
E-mail Address
Chron96@interaccess.com

The Columbia Chronicle is a student-produced newspaper publication. It is distributed on Mondays during the spring and fall semesters.

Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the Journalism Department or Columbia College Chicago.



Billy O'Keefe/Chronicle

is a no-brainer. But if there's one piece of information that stands out among the rest, it's that more isn't always better.

The problem is, while the outlets of information may appear to be growing (MSCNNBCL-TV, anyone?), the real truth is that the same companies are distributing their information under different names and through multiple partnerships. As companies merge and corporations buy and buy some more, the menu from which we can obtain our knowledge is shrinking. Much like special interests influence political viewpoints in even the largest elections, sponsorships, ownerships and partnerships filter facts more than ever, and we're none the wiser.

You may be saying to yourself, "You think you're so smart? Then give me an example, you turkey!" No problem.

Let's say your name is Joe, and your best friend's name is Bob. You and Bob are a couple of jerks. You throw snowballs at the girls on the playground, you make noises in class and you both swear (and how). Fortunately, the teacher has no idea what's going on.

Of course, that could all change when Kathy, the leader of the girls and your worst enemy, goes to the teacher to rat on you. Fortunately, you have friends in high places. Tom, your other buddy and the most popular kid in school (he's, like, soooo fine, the girls say) lies for you. And Bob's girlfriend Sarah, one of the best, most reliable students in the class, keeps quiet. Kathy's friends speak out against your evil ways, but it doesn't do a lot of good. The teacher has no grasp of the truth, and quits her job in confusion.

Albeit less sophisticated, this is not unlike what goes on every day, right in front of you. As companies come together and back each other up (see the table to the right for a concise example of one company's tremendous scope), information becomes less about fact and more about public relations. Hence, we get a lot of stories about fires and snowfall and not too much about subjects on which we could actually use a little education.

Another example: It's common knowledge that one of McDonald's major draws is the Happy Meal Toy, and Disney Toys are some of the most popular; the kids, they love 'em. Seems like good, clean fun, right? It probably is. Ronald McDonald never hurt anybody; don't let the flaming red hair and evil eyes fool you.

Yet consider the possibility: A McDonald's employee gets the pink slip, and for a finale pours a dash of Long Island iced tea into the vanilla shake mix. Within a couple hours, kids everywhere are yelling obscenities at their parents and tipping over the Lego table,

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The show is of the highest quality. This musical celebration is likely to be packing the Mercury Theater for months."

-Chris Jones, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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-Roy Leonard

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-Don Snider, STAR PUBLICATIONS

"CHARMING!

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-Hedy Weiss, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"GLORIOUS. ENCHANTING. HILARIOUS.

Thank heaven for The Irish!"

-Betty Mohr, DAILY SOUTHTOWN

"★★★★

Captures the Irish spirit in a canny blend of the familiar and the fresh.

Plenty of humor."

-Dan Zeff, COPLEYS NEWS SERVICE

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March 22 - April 15 1999

Submission Date:

March 19th, Hokin Center
623 S. Wabash

DIVa R T

Open Call for Art Work

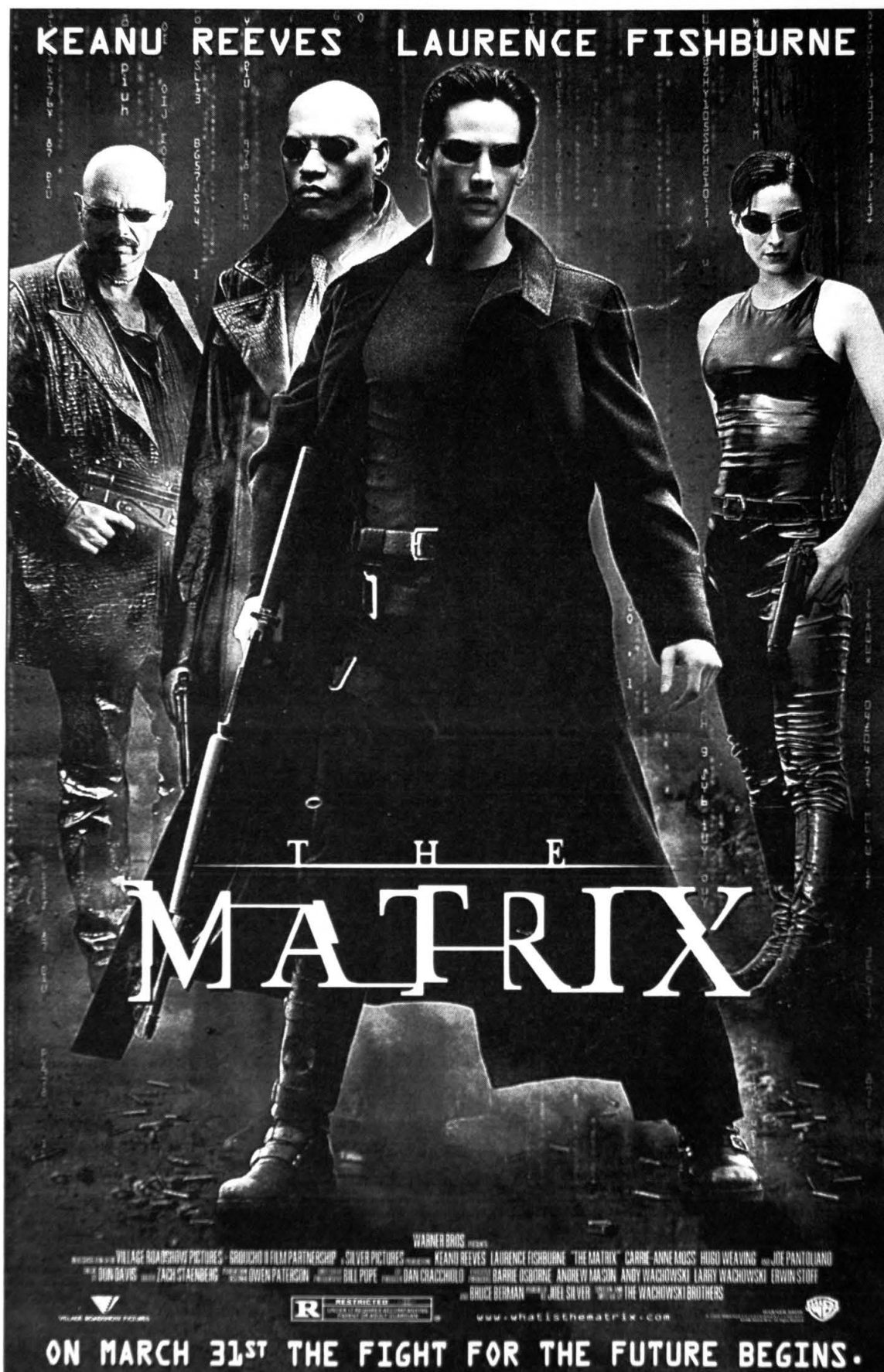
All Disciplines Accepted!

All matted work(photo, drawing,etc.) submitted to the Hokin Gallery must adhere to these glass sizes:
8x10. 11x14. 16x20. 30x40

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All paintings and/ or framed work must be wired and ready to hang.
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Please contact us with any questions! 312.663.1600 x7696

FREE TICKETS!!!

KEANU REEVES LAURENCE FISHBURNE



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.

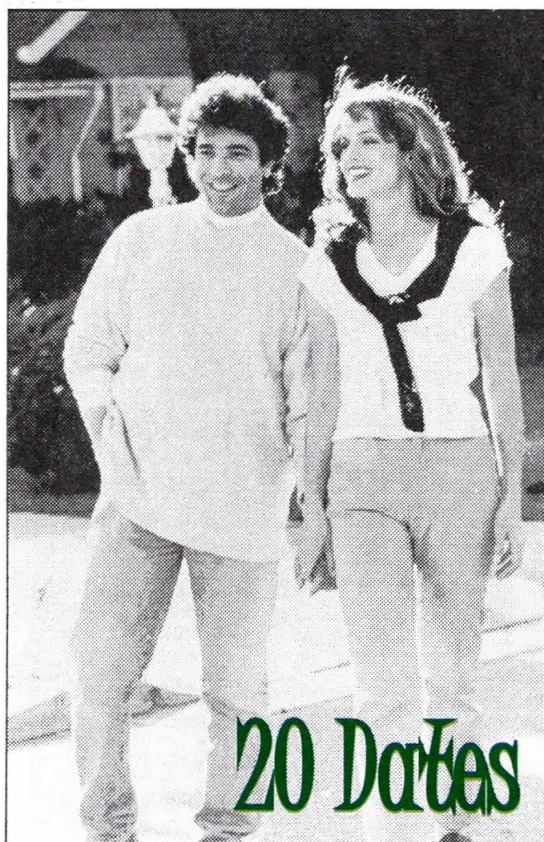
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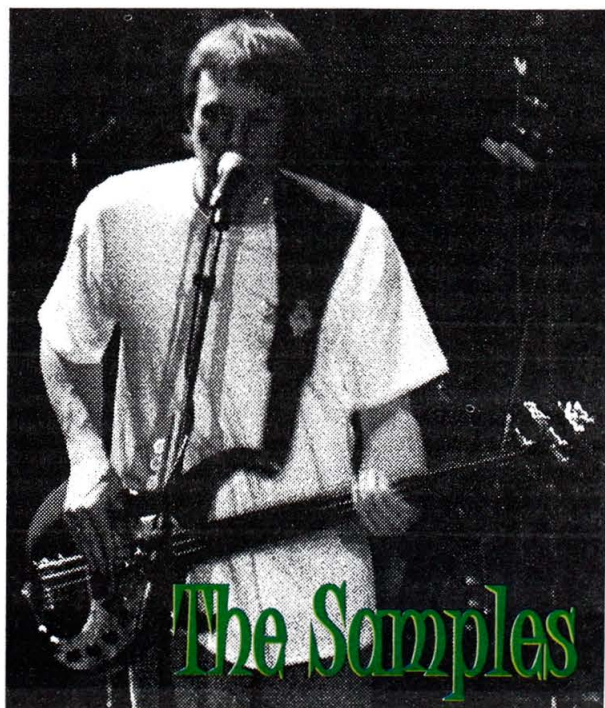
MARCH 15, 1999



Wacky
Leprechauns,
and much, much,
more !!!

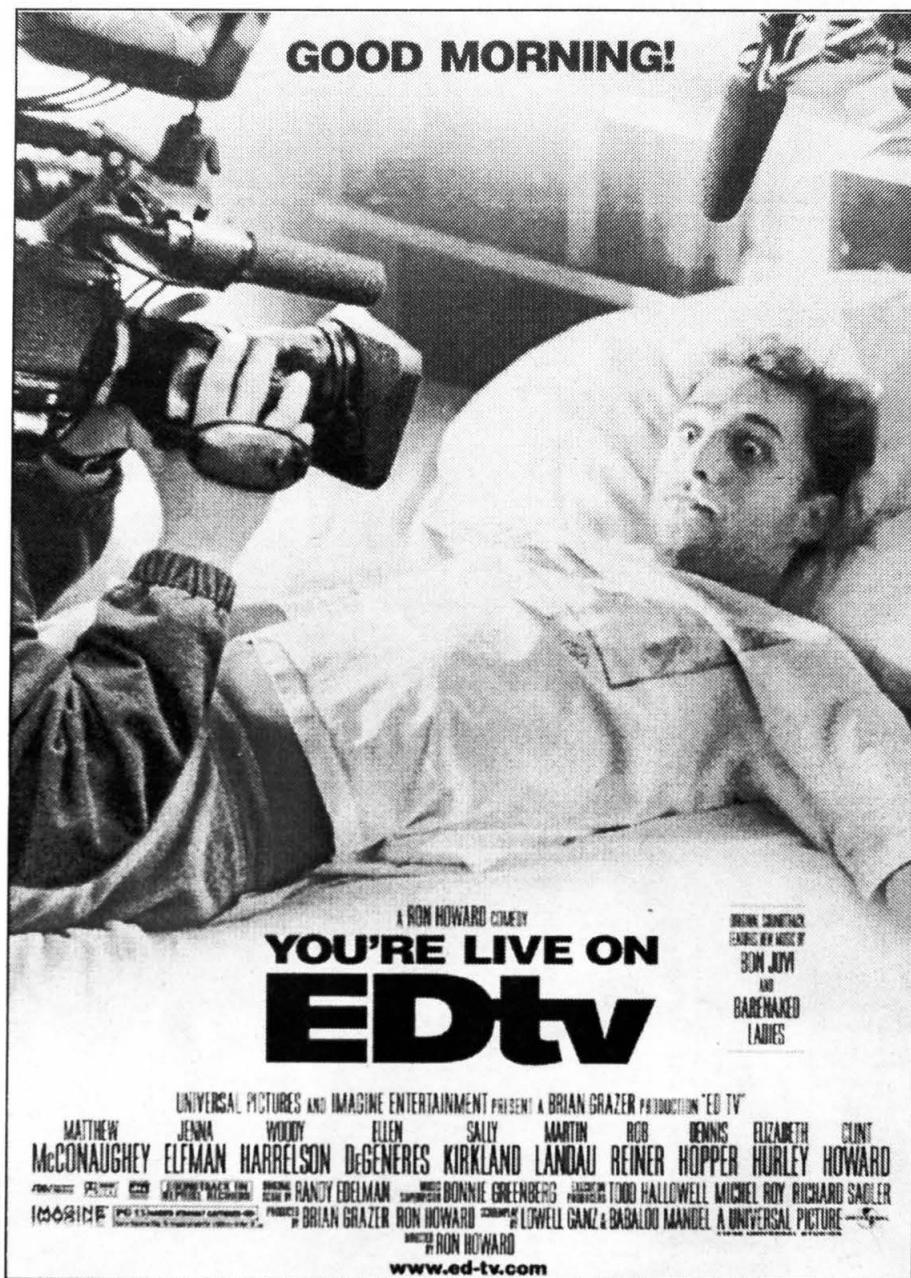


20 Dances



The Samples

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



For 31 years Ed was a nobody. But today, he's a somebody. And by tomorrow, he'll be the most famous man in America. Universal Pictures invites you to meet a nobody that everybody is watching—**EDtv**, a hilarious new comedy by Ron Howard.

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).

The person with the most embarrassing photo will also win an **EDtv** promotional prize pack.

EDtv opens nationwide on March 26!

The Samples are Simply Popular

By Alicia Kelley
Staff Writer

I didn't know what to expect after listening to The Samples CD, "Here and Somewhere Else." But to my surprise, the show at The House of Blues was entertaining and the songs sounded much better in concert. Some of The Samples' music involve reggae and ska sounds, while other songs have a jazzy pop-rock tune. I would say they are a combination of Grateful Dead, The Dave Matthews Band, and The Freddy Jones Band.

The Samples kicked off the concert at The House of Blues on March 5 where around 1,300 fans smiled and cheered them on.

"The Samples are great because their songs have meaning, they tell a story. Also, I like the films they show on the movie screen to the left of the stage, they go along with the story of the songs," said Katie Fisher, a fan from Lombard.

"They are down to earth, and I listen to them every day," said John Fisher, her husband and a fan for six years. Fisher bought his first CD after a friend recommended it, and now they are his favorite band.

The show was 18+, but the Samples seemed to draw mostly a crowd of legal drinkers. As the night progressed, fans displayed their intoxication, but The Samples did not fight off the fanfare, rather they welcomed it. Sean Kelly, lead singer and guitarist was pleased to see a shirtless male jump on stage and pull down his pants. "I was wondering if you wearing boxers or briefs man, thanks for letting me know," said Kelly.

Even though a small number of fans were more interested in the liquor at the bar, their eyes were still fixated on the televisions, which displayed The Samples playing their tunes. Fans on the floor pushed forward, jumped up and down, and waited for the servers to bring them their drinks so they would not lose their spot.

As the concert moved forward, fans became more intoxicated and more rowdy. During the song "Underwater People," Alex Matson, key-

boards and vocalist, was so excited he left the stage and he joined the fans. His feet didn't touch the floor until he bodysurfed across the whole crowd.

Fans seemed excited to get a closer look at him. When a female fan tried to follow in Matson's footsteps, and crowd surf, the crowd cleared and she hit the floor. Other women at the front on the stage awaited their turn to have their one minute of fame on stage as they danced the night away.

The male dominated crowd celebrated to the rhythm and melodies of the band. The Samples displayed their talents as the rhythm picked around eight beats per minute faster than their recorded CDs.

The fans did not have the same reaction to the opening band Alaskan, whose music can be compared to a mellow Green Day. The floor was scarce and the bars were full until they left the stage. Although Alaskan was good, they did a thankless job according to audience.



The Samples please the crowd at the House of Blues.

Alicia Kelley/Chronicle

The Samples, founded by Kelly and Andy Sheldon, bass and vocals, came up with their name after practically surviving off of free food samples at local King Supers supermarkets in their home town Boulder, Colorado. They have released eight full-length albums and have been together 12 successful years.

The Samples have opened up for bands as big as The Dave Matthews Bands and Hootie and the Blowfish. They have been on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and they have videos on MTV.

Why is it that they don't play bigger venues? The Samples have played the Red Rocks Amphitheater in their home state Colorado, but outside of that, they are not sell-outs.

When watching the band, I could tell they had more freedom singing at a smaller venue. Fans at The House of Blues were there because they truly like The Samples.

I agree The Samples are earthy people, and they like to have a lot of fun on stage. I think the show was a success, and I would see them again.

LOOKING AHEAD....

Concerts in Chicago this week

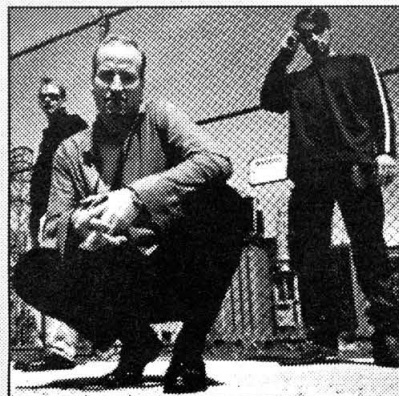
Silverchair
with Lit & Grinspoon
Monday, March 15
Vic Theater

Joe Henry
with Josh Rouse
Monday, March 15
Schubas

The Muck Brothers
with Michael McDermott
Wednesday, March 17
Gunther Murphy's

The Beer Nuts
with The Tosser & The Alderman
Wednesday, March 17
Double Door

V.A.S.T.
with Second Coming & 12 Rods
Thursday, March 18
Metro



Freddy Jones Band
with Harmony Riley
Friday and Saturday
March 19 & 20
Vic Theatre

R.L. Burnside
with Elmo Williams and Hezekiah Early
& the Crown Royals
Saturday, March 20
Double Door

Fuel
with Zebrahead & Mayfield Four
Saturday, March 20
House of Blues

Poster Children
Saturday, March 20
Empty Bottle

The Corrs
Sunday, March 21
Park West

A Common Evening with
The Roots
Sunday, March 21
House of Blues

Vital Pick o' the Week:

Explore the Irish in you.

This Wednesday, as you all probably know, is St. Patrick's Day. It's the one day of the year when the Chicago River turns (a more vibrant shade of) green along with every glass of Miller Lite. So pretend that you're an Irish lass or lad and live up to every stereotype ever given to the fair-skinned, red-haired sheep-stealers from the Emerald Isle.

This doesn't mean that you can get away with wearing a pair of green socks or a Notre Dame sweatshirt and a button that says "F*ck me, I'm Irish." And no Shamrock Shakes from McDonald's either. Although they are quite tasty, Shamrock Shakes just aren't the beverage of choice for the Irish.

Start your day off with a refreshing shower. And make sure you choose the right soap, because nothing makes you feel more refreshed than a bar of Irish Spring.

It doesn't matter what you wear (sure, green is nice), as long as you top off your outfit with one of those plastic green hats and a pair of shamrock-shaped plastic glasses. Those

look *marvelous* (read: tacky)! Ok; we're joking about the hats and glasses.

As far as eating like the Irish, we suggest you stay away from Irish cuisine, unless you like corned beef, cabbage, boiled red potatoes and such. Personally, we think a bowl of Lucky Charms would be a fine substitute. After all, they're magically delicious!

The main part of your St. Patty's Day should be spent where you'll find any good Irish characters: in a pub. Yes, it's time to take a day off and get rip-roarin' drunk.

That's right, everyone needs to take a "personal day" once in a while, so you might as well make it this Wednesday.

Most bars will have some type of special, including the always-entertaining green beer.

The best places to be, however, are the traditional Irish bars around the city. The Irish Oak, Vaughan's Pub, Gunther Murphy's, Celtic Crossing, Harp & Shamrock, Cullen's Tavern and The Abbey Pub are some of the finest establishments to toss back a

few too many pints of Guinness and start arguments about football (soccer, that is).

Irish entertainment should get you into the spirit of the day, and a plethora of bars will feature Irish acts. Both P.J. Clarke's (The Twigs) and Drink (The Drovers) will hold free concerts. Schubas will feature the Celtic sounds of The Lash. Martyr's has planned live Irish music all night, highlighted by The Cooleys. At Fitzgerald's in Berwyn, doors will open at noon and entertainment will be provided all day, including step dancers and the sounds of Dooley Brothers.

So, go ahead. Pretend you're Irish for a day. Speak in your finest Irish brogue and spend the day drinking and arguing with strangers about which is the best U2 album. And when you wake up Thursday, you might want to take a few Advil.

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day
from Vitality!



Babe Ruth George "The Mighty Hurricane" plays his accordion while people browse his fine merchandise.



Joe Kiuzil is one of many regulars who play music along

The Bizarre Maxwell

By Tamara Bell
Staff Photographer

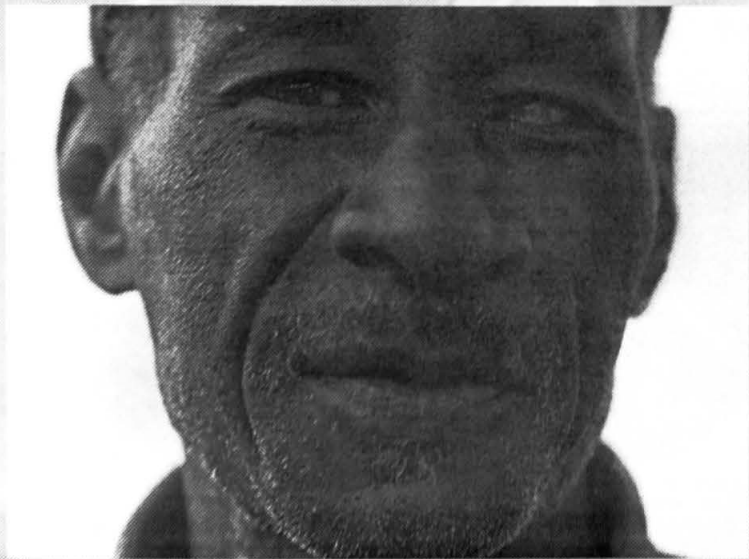
Hey, do you need some shining new rims for your tires, a toothbrush, CDs, fresh fruit, or perhaps a toilet seat? Name it, and you can probably find it in Chicago every Sunday. Chicago's Maxwell Street Market is located on Roosevelt and Canal St., open every Sunday from 6 to 3.

Shoppers walk up and down Canal St. every Sunday to find a bargain, but a bargain is not the best thing you will find. The greatest scene on Maxwell Street is its people, the merchants that run the market. Some vendors have been on Maxwell Street for over 20 years. The market has been a part

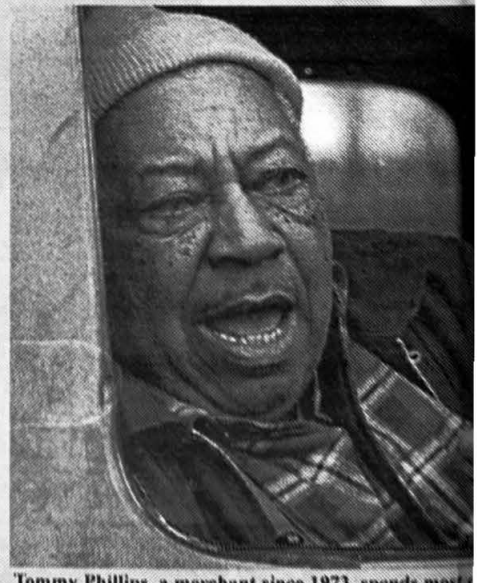
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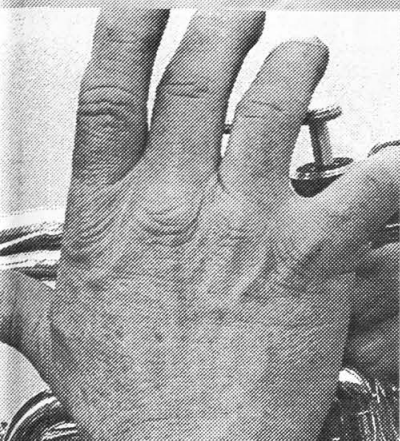
The eclectic selection of goods on Maxwell Street rival any specialty store.



Corn Bingham has been selling his wares on Maxwell Street for the last 27 years.



Tommy Phillips, a merchant since 1973, spends most



Maxwell Street.

e Bazaar, Street

ago's history since the early 1900s. The University of
at Chicago bought the original land on Chicago's West
1994. UIC bought the land for parking spaces and ten-
ents, none of which has evolved.

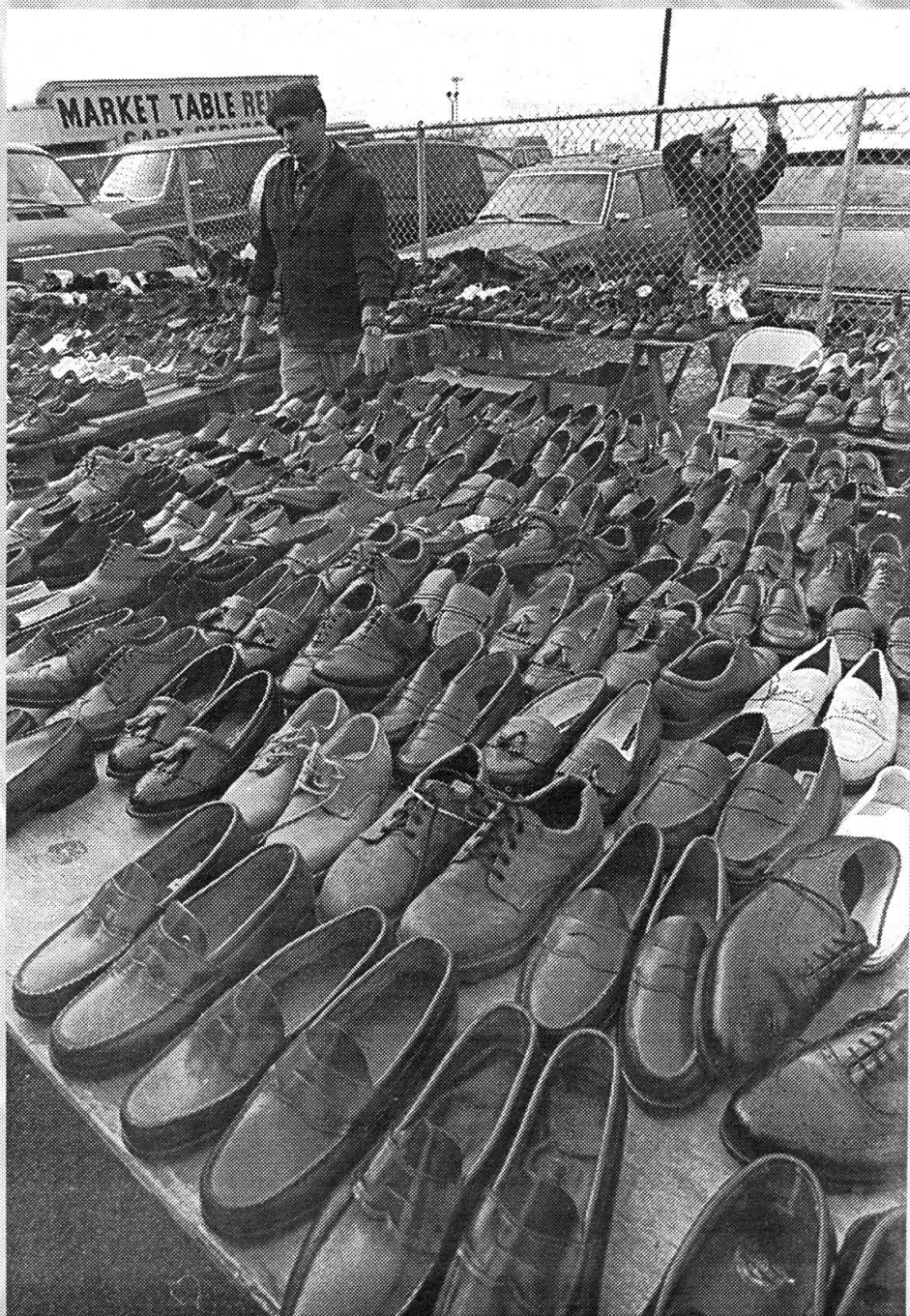
Shoppers were leery of the new Canal Street loca-
tion is famous- it is where Chicago Blues took root,
famous Maxwell St. Polish Sausage was born, but his-
oves on, and so must we. Although the location has
the legend still exists, and the people exist with it. Pay
ll Street a visit. It's guaranteed a good time, and you'll
o home emptyhanded.



of the cold days in his van to keep warm.



Vincent Hernandez sells everything from chips to bolts under his tarp.



Puberty unfolds in the name of Judy Blume at the Annoyance Theatre

By Jill LoPresti
Assistant Vitality Editor

"What Every Girl Should Know...An Ode to Judy Blume," is a hilarious blend of Judy Blumes' pubescent stories found in books, "Are You There, God? It's Me Margaret," "Deenie" and "Forever."

A strong cast with obnoxious energy blends with an amazing script for one of the best performances I've witnessed in a long time.

If you're familiar with Blume's novels, then instant infatuation with the play will be the case. If you haven't read any of her work, I'll try to fill you in on as much as possible. Much of Blume's story content revolves around the life of teenage girls, from the onslaught of puberty all the way to their first sexual experience. Training bras, menstruation, dating, "Playboy" magazines, first kisses, zits, foreplay, and life in general are things that almost every one has experienced (maybe not men as far as the training bras and menstruation go). Blume's stories document the funniest and most awkward times of teenage life. Puberty is "the great equalizer," according to Blume.

"What Every Girl Should Know" is a "combo platter of puberty, crooked spines and first love," said director Susan Messing.

The first character to appear on stage, Margaret, played by Dana Goodman, begins with a conversation with God — a routine in Margaret's life. She is by far the most obnoxious character and Goodman complements the content of the story perfectly. Every line that sprayed out of her big mouth made me laugh so hard that my stomach cramped. Along with her goofy facial expressions and quirky posture, Margaret was my favorite character by far.

Throughout the play, her major dilemma is whether or not she will be the last girl in her club to get her period and be able to use "Teenage Softies," the play's most popular brand of sanitary napkins. The funniest adventure of Margaret's puberty is an episode involving a training bra. According to her club's "policies," everyone must wear a bra. The character is a pre-teen A-cup and even though Goodman is a D-cup, the play still calls for her to wear a training bra. Just think about that equation for a while. Needless to say, things were falling out all over the place and the crowd loved it.

Just some more things to look forward to: Margaret experiences her first kiss as well as her first Playboy Magazine, stolen from her fathers' collection.

Next, Deenie, played by Julia Wolov, steps onto the stage. "Deenie," the next Blume book in the play, is based on a young girl's struggle with poor posture, masturbation and dating. Deenie is forced to be a model by her deranged, loud-mouthed, over-ambitious Italian mother, Thelma Fenner, played by Regina Reale. Only then is it discovered that Deenie has a crooked spine and needs a corrective brace. Doesn't sound so bad, does it?

Well, the brace involves a 3-foot harness that must be worn over her clothes, preventing her from most normal activities. Even with her physical disfigurement, Deenie manages to pick up a date and go on with life. Her exploration of herself brings about a world of questions, guilt and — I almost forgot — pleasure.

Katherine, played by Christina Gausas, pulls in the third story, "Forever." Katherine is the most sexual character in the play. A typical peppy, preppy high school senior takes us back — from our first encounter with 'blue balls,' to the hilarious mishaps of teenage foreplay (it gets pretty messy), all the way to multiple orgasms. With her first boyfriend, Michael, played by Kevin McGeehan, Katherine walks us through teenage love and heartbreak.

Complimenting the aforementioned characters are the slimy, bend-over-so-I-can-see-your-spine Dr. Kliner and Dr. Moravia; also among the crowd are rowdy classmates, teachers, parents, friends, a hairy-chested, sleazy minister, and a "TMI" (too much information) speaker on menstruation.

This may sound like an estrogen party, however, men are not alienated. The audience female-to-male ratio was split almost 50/50. Whether or not the men present were dragged by their girlfriends, I don't know. But gauging by the laughter and applause, the audience response indicated most were wholly impressed and entertained.

All three stories intertwine in and out of each other smoothly, with only a few overlaps that are ironed out fairly professionally. The stage is set from the very back of the theater and runs alongside the left until it curves to the front. This allows a setting in which there really is no front row and turning your head all around is inevitable. The Annoyance Theatre has a B.Y.O.B. policy, so throw down a couple beers — your neck should loosen up.

"What Every Girl Should Know...An Ode to Judy Blume" was originally co-adopted by Mary Scruggs and Susan Messing, who directed the performance.

A native of New Jersey, growing up near the towns Blume wrote of, Messing was immediately impacted by Blume's books. She also happened to endure puberty around the same time Blume's children were growing up. "Blume's books were chock full of information, not condescending, and written well for the age group," said Messing.

Messing is a founding member of the Annoyance Theatre and has worked on over 40 shows. She currently performs on the Second City Main Stage, teaches at the Annoyance Theatre and is involved in the Improv Olympics.

The show has been running since August 16 of last year and will continue through March. A possible extension is also in the works.

Puberty is great when you're watching it and what better way than to grab a beer, bring some friends, laugh and reminisce for only \$10! OK, enough with the commercial. Seriously — the show is running every Friday at 8:30 p.m. The \$10 tickets are scarce so be sure to call ahead and reserve tickets.



Deenie (Julia Wolov), Katherine (Christina Gausas) and Margaret (Dana Goodman) star in the hilarious comedy, "What Every Girl Should Know...An Ode To Judy Blume," at the Annoyance Theatre, 3747 North Clark St. (773) 929-6200.

Berkowitz lets us into his life

By Jennifer Dickerson
Staff Writer

What do you get when you have problems with your movie deal and twenty women who won't stick around? "20 Dates" is what you end up with.

Writer/director, Myles Berkowitz came up with this bizarre and zany idea — he wanted to film a movie with his twenty dates and tell everyone about it. On a quest for true love, Myles Berkowitz gave us one hapless romantic roller coaster ride through singlehood. Filmed candid-camera style, Myles gives us his all embarrassing moments.

In "20 Dates," Myles goes through extreme obstacles: getting kicked out of all the classy restaurants with his dates, being chased by the Los Angeles police department, and trying to please his hard-to-please producer — all just to find love and happiness.

Working with a budget of only \$65,000, Myles had a month to complete his movie. Trying his damndest to keep up with his producers' deadline, Myles goes crazy trying to get started with his movie. With incredibly funny scenes you won't find anywhere else, this movie will keep you laughing non stop.

With "20 Dates" filmed, each date or obstacle is a story of its own. Not used to the dating scene, Myles goes through the movie trying to find that special someone. Eventually, Myles seeks out Elisabeth, a pretty young woman who catches Myles' eyes at once. Being rejected initially, Myles doesn't give up that easily. Pursuing Elisabeth, he ends up with her on a few dates



Myles Berkowitz cuddles with his true love Elisabeth in his new documentary "20 Dates."

that will make you laugh.

Though dating exclusively Elisabeth on all his dates through out the movie, one can imagine what kinds of domestic problems they would be facing. Not wanting to give up on his true love, Elisabeth, he doesn't want to stop dating until his 20 dates are up. Which means he is determined to finish his movie and make it big in L.A. What's a man to do in this situation?

You got it—he brings Elisabeth to all his dates to fin-

ish that movie he so desperately wants to finish. All embarrassing moments won't stop this man from finishing his film. With Elisabeth accompanying Myles on those dates, his movie just can't but be funny. With a producer who won't leave him alone, Myles tries his best to accommodate everyone involved. Obviously he can't make everyone happy, but seeing him try to do so is worth the money to see him and this movie.

"20 Dates" is a mixture of reality and tongue-in-cheek satire that creates interesting cinematic experience that examines rather loosely the affairs of both single men and women, a hilarious journey through out the movie to find that special someone and finding true love is original and comical all in one. For anyone who has been there, this movie is for you.

This movie gives hope and inspiration for those who have given up on love.

Producers Eli Samaha, Jason Villard, and Mark McGarry all helped to make this movie as big as it is. This movie is rated R.

For more information about this hilarious movie, contact your local cinema or call ticket master at 312-559-1212; have your credit card ready otherwise you'll be the one missing out and you don't want to be dateless for this would you?

CALL FOR ENTRIES



COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A CALL FOR PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY CURRENT COLUMBIA COLLEGE STUDENTS.

A PANEL OF JURORS WILL SELECT TOP SUBMISSIONS FOR DISPLAY IN THE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE. WORK WILL BE JUDGED ON THE BASIS OF CREATIVE EXCELLENCE AND CRAFTSMANSHIP.

AWARDS FOR TOP ENTRIES WILL BE \$500 PER PIECE; OTHER AWARDS WILL RANGE FROM \$100 TO \$400 PER PIECE.

ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE PRESENTED IN SLIDE FORM, AND MUST BE ORIGINAL. NO COPIES OR DERIVATIVES WILL BE ACCEPTED. WINNING SELECTIONS WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO TO DISPLAY AS APPROPRIATE.

DEADLINE DATE: APRIL 15, 1999

INTERESTED STUDENTS CAN PICK UP AN APPLICATION FORM AT 600 S. MICHIGAN AVE., ROOM 300 ASSOCIATE PROVOST OFFICE FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS.

Hip-Hop at the Hot House

By Benjamin Trecroci
Managing/Sports Editor

Everything around us plays a part in our life, it just matters what you pull out of it. This notion of life is what Sonic Sum basis its style and lyrics on.

Sonic Sum, a New York-based hip-hop group that brings forward poetry, push ambience to the background and slide in their own produced beats, performed at the Hot House 31 E. Balbo, Wednesday night.

Their lyrics are drawn from all influences that come in and out of their lives. Vocalist Rod Smith said the name for Sonic Sum, "It's a long story, but mostly it's the summation of sonics that surround us. It's the sounds and the people that make up our lives."

In their singles, "Downtown Maze" and "Sky Pirate" that was being sold in the lobby they talked about living in this world and all that we must put up with to get by.

In the music industry today, there seems to be an emphasis on labeling into a group whether

It's a trip-hop/hip-hop/acid jazz/swing with a R&B tip, people want to put a label on music. For Sonic Sum they say their music 'is what it is.' "Play what you feel, nobody should judge you for what you listen to," said Smith.

The sounds that Sonic Sum were emanating all over the Hot House. The Hot House with it's very laid-back atmosphere with the Loop surrounding it from all sides including the "L" train that vibrates the bottles on the bar every ten minutes or so. The crowd slowly began to gather as DJ Sole from Chicago spun hip-hop tunes, such as a smooth remix of "Stressed Out," by A Tribe Called Quest and a few songs from BlackStar that caused many heads to bob.

After DJ Sole was done, Sonic Sum took to the stage, Rod Smith on lyrics, Eric on bass, Fred-I, Omar and Jun on the turntables. Smith with his bald head adorned with a beret and a goat-tea that pushed past his chin made him an intimidating force behind the mic and demanded attention. The background music between the bass and the hip-hop beats brought their music to levels that brought some in the crowd to leave their seats and gyrate onto the dance floor. While the crowd was somewhat small, it was well represented by those that appreciate music that stimulates their souls.

Following Sonic Sum, Mike Ladd also from New York brought his streetwise lyrics to the stage. Ladd spitted out everything from Cindy Crawford to the Lake Michigan and turned it into an open-mic segment that only he would occupy on this night. Ladd along with Frank-One on the turntables gave the crowd a little more funk to chew on.

After their visit to Chicago, Sonic Sum was going back to New York to put the finishing touches on their debut album. They said they enjoyed their first visit to Chicago, saying that Chicago knows their music. They also would like to one day tour and make their way back to Chicago, "God willing," said Smith.

Theater Department Update

The Theater Department will premiere their first production of the spring semester, William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," on Sunday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Getz Theater. Artist Henry Godinez and Department Chair Sheldon Patinkin direct the performance. Artist-In-Residence Tom Mula stars as Malvolio. They promise "guys in tights, girls in pants and noisy, fat drunks," and that sounds like a lot of fun.

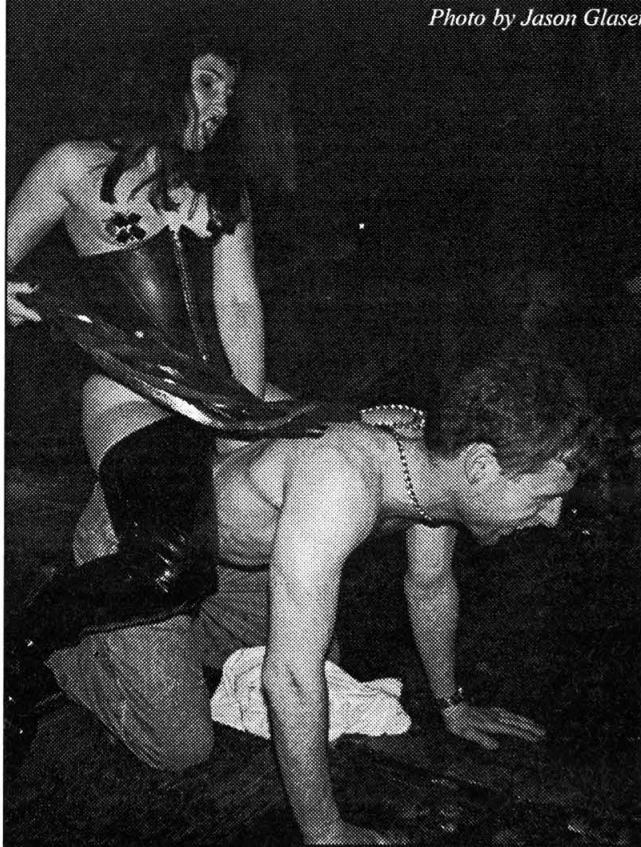
Preview performances will be held be on Thursday, March 18 at 4:00 p.m., Friday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m. Performances will run through Sunday, March 28. Special matinees for student audiences will be held on Friday, March 19, Tuesday, March 23 and Wednesday, March 24 at 10 a.m.

Tickets are free for Columbia students (\$14 for adults), and that is the best way to experience theater. Call (312) 344-6126 for further information.

You might get lucky !!
Check out what's
coming next week...

Coming next
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Photo by Jason Glaser



VANGUARD
AIRLINES

&

COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

SANDRA BULLOCK

BEN AFFLECK

*He went from the eye of the storm,
into the arms of a hurricane.*

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2 Grand Prize Winners

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Navid McIlhargy

The most adventurous date I ever had was when I.... was arrested by the police for making out with this girl on a private golf course. We got locked in when it closed. I had a brand new car. So to get out, I had to drive through some woods, messing up my car. On the other side was a fence and I tried to drive through. We got stuck - someone from the house next door saw us trying to drive through. They called the cops and we got arrested.

Cynthia Palmer

The most adventurous date I ever had was when I had met a wonderful man online (I am a multimedia student) and we corresponded for 3 months never having met. Our first date consisted of me flying out to London, Heathrow airport, where Jonathan met me and booked us on a ferry across the sea to Ireland on the 4th of July. My intuition was right, it was magical and we explored the Irish countryside for a week and then we became engaged there. Now almost a year later we are getting married in Chicago very soon.

Congratulations to our 2 Grand Prize Winners!!!

Opens in Theatres Friday, March 19th

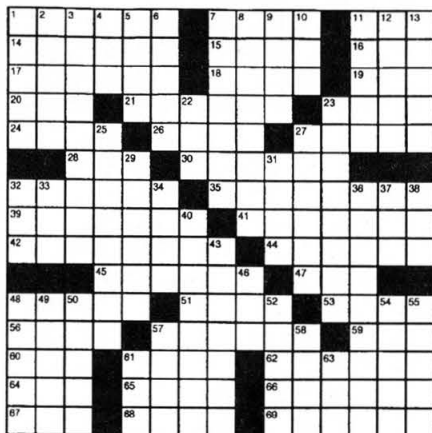
CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Booze
- 7 Wild revelers
- 11 To and
- 14 Every sixty minutes
- 15 Arab garments
- 16 Gambler's marker
- 17 Made amends
- 18 Average grades
- 19 "Viva __ Vegas"
- 20 Used chairs
- 21 Coastal inhalations
- 23 Supreme
- 24 The Orient
- 26 Chest bones
- 27 Waistcoats
- 28 Poorly lit
- 30 Theatrical works
- 32 Incarcerated
- 35 Making into law
- 39 "Born Free" writer
- 41 Apprentice
- 42 Numbskull
- 44 Spoke
- 45 Created a nurturing space
- 47 Miscue
- 48 Spoiled kids
- 51 "Quando rapita in estasi," e.g.
- 53 Little woofs
- 56 Paddles
- 57 Hand tool for holding
- 59 Hipster
- 60 Want __
- 61 Cardless suit
- 62 Shaken instrument
- 64 "Road to __"
- 65 Edgeless sword
- 66 Click beetle
- 67 Commandment breakage
- 68 Hardy lass
- 69 Discourages

DOWN

- 1 The Forbidden City
- 2 Minute amounts
- 3 Everyday
- 4 Container with a tap
- 5 Corrida cheers



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3/19/99

- 6 "Death on a Pale Horse" painter
- 7 Bloodcurdling
- 8 Showing deference
- 9 "The Beverly Hills" co-star
- 10 Draft letters
- 11 Collections of records
- 12 Prepare peanuts
- 13 Forces out
- 22 Help out
- 23 Collection of animal stories
- 25 Maladies
- 27 Leave empty
- 29 Interlocks
- 31 Red planet
- 32 Setup punch
- 33 Fuss
- 34 Accomplishes
- 36 Complex
- 37 French born
- 38 H.S. dropout's second chance
- 40 Imbruglia and



- Wood
- 43 Ridicules
- 46 Buy the farm
- 48 Wild swine
- 49 Wheel spokes
- 50 Fiery crime
- 52 Packing a rod
- 54 Expectant dad, e.g.
- 55 Headliners
- 57 Catholic leader
- 58 Merchant's goal
- 61 Old pro
- 63 Ship deserter

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1999-2000

FINANCIAL AID REMINDER

THE 1999-2000 FINANCIAL AID PROCESSING
YEAR IS NOW UNDERWAY.

During January, "**1999-2000 RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**" were mailed to all Columbia students who applied for financial aid during the 1998-99 academic year. If you received a "**RENEWAL APPLICATION**", follow the instructions provided, complete, and return it to the Columbia College Financial Aid Office as soon as possible.

If you did not receive a "**RENEWAL APPLICATION**" in the mail, or for any other reason have not yet applied for financial aid for the 1999-2000 academic year, come to the Columbia College Financial Aid Office and pick up a "**1999-2000 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA)**" immediately.

If accessing Financial Aid is important to you, act now in your own best interest. Missing a deadline is a costly mistake, so complete your 1999-2000 Financial Aid file as soon as possible.

Publications now available in the Financial Aid Office:

1. **1999-2000 FINANCING YOUR EDUCATION AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO.** Explains the Columbia aid process, lists institutional awards and program/processing deadlines.
2. **1999-2000 COLUMBIA COLLEGE STUDENT BUDGETING/FINANCIAL PLANNING AND DEFAULT AVOIDANCE PRIMER**
3. **1999-2000 FINANCIAL AID NEWSLETTER**
4. **DIRECT LOAN PAMPHLET** explains Federal Direct Loan Programs

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THE MOD SQUAD

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Stop by the Chronicle Office, Room 205, Wabash Building, to pick up a complimentary pass (Admit Two) to a Special Advance Showing of MGM Pictures, "THE MOD SQUAD."

The screening will be held at The Fine Arts Theatre, 418 S. Michigan, on Tuesday, March 23, 7:30pm.

No purchase necessary. While supplies last. One pass per person.



THE CHRONICLE
OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

"THE MOD SQUAD" OPENS IN THEATRES FRIDAY, MARCH 26!

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MARCH 15-April 2, 1999

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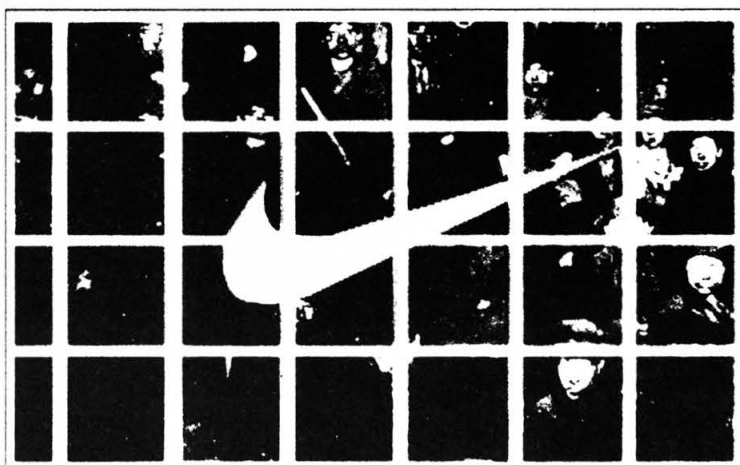
Magdalena Rodriguez

"I view my art as a force that frees me from the many social/political and personal conditions which I confront daily. Drawing means stripping myself of the everyday humdrum, recreating the world as I have come to know it thus far and reshaping it into something that resembles an aspect of myself that remains partially unknown or mysterious to me."

and:

Miguel Cortez

In the primeval world of Miguel Cortez's abstract paintings, as seen through layers of fossilized forms, a conflict is constantly evolving between a cosmology and chaos. A universe constantly in the process of disintegrating and reforming.



Columbia College Hokin Gallery 623 S. Wabash

By Linda C. Black

Tribune Media Services



Aries (March 21-April 19). An old problem practically solves itself on Monday, but on Tuesday and Wednesday new worries could develop. Just take responsibility for what happened long ago, for a breakthrough instead of a breakdown. Thursday and Friday, you're feeling much stronger, but don't be impetuous. Count up your money over the weekend and you'll find you have just enough.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Monday is good for having neighbors over. Make lots of time to listen on Tuesday and Wednesday. Looks like family members are trying to tell you something. Change habits for the better on Thursday and Friday, and settle down to work over the weekend.



Taurus (April 20-May 20). Initial frustration fades on Monday, as friends come to your rescue. Tuesday and Wednesday, you'll make your goals by working with a sensitive team, and Thursday you'll notice yourself getting luckier in just about everything. You're under pressure Friday, but can give support to another. Offer your shoulder to cry on over the weekend.

Horoscopes



Gemini (May 21-June 21). Do the homework Monday. There may be a pop quiz either that day or Tuesday. By Wednesday, you'll know whether you passed or not, and by Thursday you should be able to relax. You might not, however, due to silly worries you've adopted. Either fix what's broken or forget it, but worrying is not going to help. Friends bring you luck on Friday, and over the weekend you may discover that you have a secret admirer.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Don't risk your money on a crazy scheme on Monday. Discover something wonderful nearby on Tuesday or Wednesday, and find a real treasure at home on Thursday or Friday. Love blossoms over the weekend.



Cancer (June 22-July 22). An unusual development could increase your savings on Monday, and travel by water looks excellent Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday is an excellent day to renew an old friendship, and Friday looks good for a career advance. Friends turn into lovers, and vice versa, over the weekend.



Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Decipher the riddle on Monday, and collect your prize on Tuesday or Wednesday. Neighbors provide abundance on Thursday and Friday, but it's family members who give you what you really need over the weekend.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Confer with your partner before spending money on Monday, and follow your intuition in financial matters Tuesday and Wednesday. Signing up for school could be expensive Thursday and Friday, but worth it to advance in your career. Consider all your options over the weekend so you'll be ready to make your move next Monday.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Careful consideration of the situation on Monday will help you make a wise move on Tuesday or Wednesday. Money is coming in on Thursday and Friday. Use some of it to help bring in more work as well. Meet with friends and lovers over the weekend.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Consult an expert to solve technical problems on Monday, and heed your partner's advice on Tuesday and Wednesday. You're lucky with other people's money on Thursday and Friday. Don't let work interfere with travel over the weekend.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Love leads to more work on Monday, which could keep you busy through Tuesday and Wednesday. Allow yourself to be persuaded on Thursday and Friday, by a person you trust, and this weekend should be fabulous for shopping.



Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Take it easy Monday. You have lots to think about. Let a little child lead you on Tuesday and Wednesday, and get back to work on Thursday and Friday. Follow your partner's lead over the weekend.

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

Born March 15: Complete an old project by being wildly creative. Then you can start on a new one.

March 16: You're so powerful this year you may not know your own strength.

March 17: You're certainly looking good this year, and you should be feeling marvelous. Push yourself to try something new.

March 18: The money is coming in this year. Your job is to figure out how to hold on to it.

March 19: You may start out a little wild and reckless this year, but you'll learn how to calm down, and why.

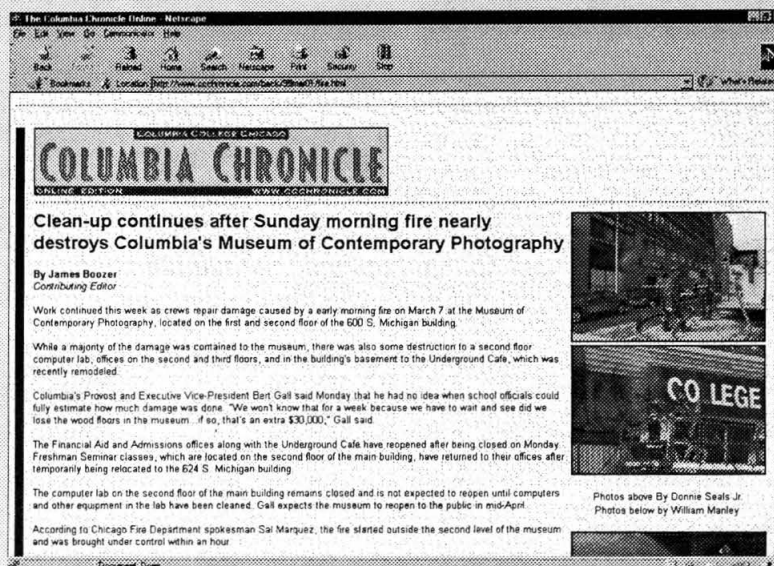
March 20: A close neighbor or relative provides friendship and structure for you this year.

March 21: It's all about love this year, and having what you want. You have plenty to choose from, so be wise about it.

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SOUPS

MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY

MUSHROOM VEGETABLE
TURKEY GREEN CHILE
CHEDDAR BROCCOLI
NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER
BLACK BEAN

MONDAY - THURSDAY 8 am - 6:30 pm

FRIDAY 8 am - 3 pm

Check your pants because March Madness is here again!

By Benjamin Treecroci
Managing/Sports Editor

Have you caught March Madness? I'm not talking about the Strep-A outbreak that is sweeping Chicago. March Madness is the disease that's caused by the NCAA men's basketball tournament. It causes people to miss school and it can transfix your eyes into submission after nearly twelve hours of non-stop college basketball carnage.

College basketball has turned March from a gateway to spring into one of the most exciting two and half weeks of the year. College basketball takes over television and some people's social life. With the 11 a.m. starting times in the first round, people have been known to ditch class or call into work to see the action, but this is possibly the first step in admitting that you have caught March Madness.

In 1987, the NCAA tournament expanded to 64

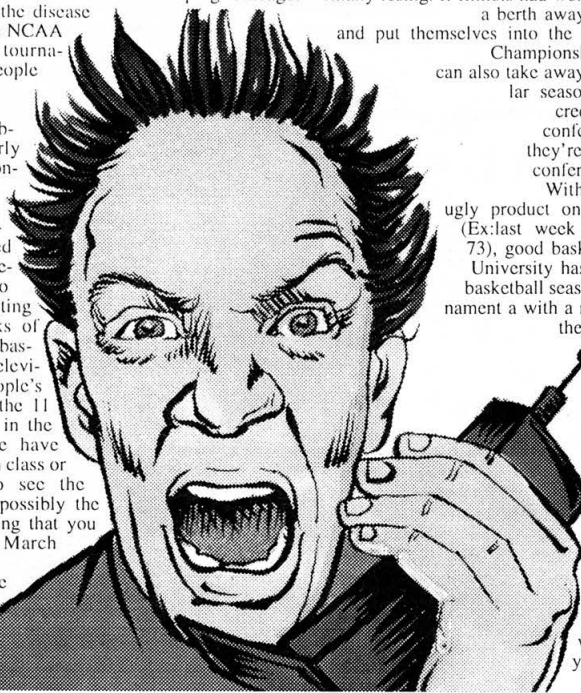
season are given a second chance to salvage the season. This year, Illinois finished the season 10-18, but after three straight upsets they found themselves in the final of the Big Ten tournament against Michigan State before finally losing. If Illinois had won, they would have taken a berth away from a deserving team and put themselves into the tournament. So, while Championship Week is exciting, it can also take away from a successful regular season. No one gives much credit to the regular season conference champions, once they're eliminated in their own conference tournament.

With the NBA putting an ugly product on the court this season, (Ex: last week Cleveland 86 Phoenix 73), good basketball is needed. Duke University has dominated this college basketball season, coming into the tournament with a record of 32-1. They are the odds-on favorite to win the entire tournament.

After Duke, the tournament is very much up in the air. Auburn, Utah, Stanford, Maryland and a few others have strong enough teams to contend against Duke, but maybe not enough depth to beat them. Traditional staple teams such as Kansas and Kentucky were a little down this year and at press time North Carolina, UCLA and Arizona have already been eliminated.

So now is the time for some basketball madness.

All around the country, people are gathering at bars and restaurants or they are just going to someone's house to watch the games.



"What the--? North Carolina lost to Weber WHO?!"

teams from 32 teams and since then, the tournament has taken off. The week before the tournament has turned into Championship Week, a week full of conference tournaments and at-large bids. Teams who had a weak regular

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Gin Mill

2457 N. Lincoln
A Michigan State Spartan bar that shows all the games.

Gamekeeper's

345 W. Armitage

Hi-Tops

3551 N. Sheffield
More than 30 TV's showing all the game. Bucket of six Domestic Beers for \$5.

Slugger's

Clark & Eddy
Three big TV's showing all the games. \$2 for 24oz Old Style can.

Michael Jordan's Restaurant

500 N. La Salle Dr.
Huge TV wall showing all the games.

Rising to the top of the Hancock

By William Manley and Rob Hart
Staff Photographer/Photography Editor

One of the most famous buildings on the Chicago skyline was the setting up for the "Hustle up the Hancock Stair Climb"

Shortly after daybreak, while most of the city was still asleep, a crowd of determined people gathered in the concourse level of the John Hancock tower to raise money for The American Lung Association.

"Hustle up the Hancock," the second annual footrace that is billed as the marathon of stair climbs was the host to more than 1,800 people that showed up to scramble tooth and nail, up all 94 floors to the top of the behemoth structure.

For those not as zealous, a shorter, non-competitive race was set up in a separate stairwell all to raise money for the well deserving charity.

The race began at 7 a.m. and participants set off at 15 second intervals all the way to 1 p.m. The people participating in the non-competitive race trudged up forty-two flights of stairs, while the racers in competition went the full ninety-four flights.

1,632 stairs and 1,000 vertical feet later, racers were greeted by an after race party on the observatory level of the tower.

Sadly, the usually breathtaking view of the city was obscured by the low hanging clouds. But that didn't stop the participants from enjoying the finish line spirit as catered food and music were there to greet them.

This is the second year for the race and many of the participants have come back to tackle the tower. Joseph Kenny, last year's winner, was first off the block at seven o'clock sharp to begin the climb. Just over ten minutes later he strode out of the stairwell calm and confident of his capture of the first place title again this year. Kenny has been climbing tower races since 1984, and has been training in office and bank building stairwells in and around his hometown near Indianapolis. Kenny considers the first parts of the climb the most difficult. He says that you have to focus all you're energy on not throwing in the towel on the lower levels.

Cindy Moll, the first woman runner to reach the top, has been climbing since 1984. She ran in a competitive climb like this only once

before in 1991. Her outlook eight years later is much different, a more positive expression is on her face and the thrill of accomplishment on her mind.

When asked why it took her so long to compete in

another race, she said "It hurt so bad the first time I never wanted to do it again."

Not all of the competitors were adults, Eleven year old Elizabeth Andrews, with her group from the 4th Presbyterian church in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, made it to the top in impressive time.

With no previous training, Andrews got up and came to the building to race with other members of her church.

Lisa Culen, from Palos Hills, has something to brag about, after beating all five of her friends and still finishing in less than 10 minutes, on the non competitive race.

Eleven-year-old Andrew Brown was there to race with his father, who was set to race later in the day well after Andrew finished the 42 flights in six minutes.

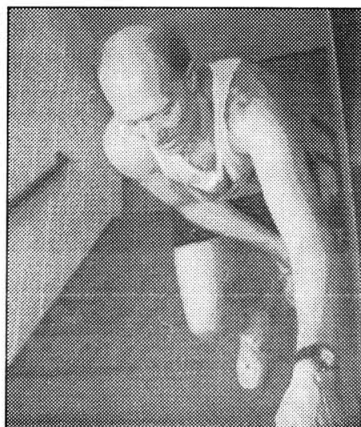
The second annual "Hustle up the Hancock" brought many sponsors and pledges to aid in the fight against lung disease. All those who participated were encouraged to get pledges to sponsor their climb. Prizes were awarded to those who raised more than 50 dollars, and the top fund raiser won two tickets to the Caribbean for raising two thousand dollars for the lung association.

Being a non-traditional race, the stair climb gathered kids as young as seven and adults as old as 70 together to raise money for the American Lung Association. In only its second year,

the race has attracted more than 1,800 participants. Next year, they hope for even more people to aid the research and development to prevent lung disease.



Photos by Rob Hart
Joseph Kenny (1) started first after winning last years race.



A runner the final three steps of the 1,632 steps.

SPORTS

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 19

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

MARCH 15, 1999

Not your average Joe

By Rob Steva
Sports Editor

To write a 600 word column describing what Joe DiMaggio meant to baseball and the country would seem to be doing an injustice. The truth of the matter is it would probably take every inch of this newspaper, only to begin the story.

Even though the majority of us never saw him play, the books, documentaries, magazines, newspapers, video footage and anecdotes tell us that "Joltin' Joe" was much more than just a centerfielder for the New York Yankees. He was an enigma who stood to represent a heritage, a sport and a country, and he did it the best way possible, with class. Maybe he wasn't the greatest baseball player of all time, but he was what a baseball player was intended to be. DiMaggio's elegance, style and modesty is exactly what today's athletes lack. The world will always have incredible athletes, but it may never again have genuine heroes. President Clinton said, "I have no doubt that when future generations look back at the best of America in the 20th century, they will think of the Yankee Clipper and all that he achieved."

His career evolved during a complex era in America, post-Depression and prewar yet he managed to inspire famous poetry, music lyrics and link generations, giving the country a hero when it needed one most. He was the type of player who didn't care about headlines, cameras or the spotlight. Rather, he cared about his fans, teammates and his sport. He was the first glamorous athlete who fit the television stages like a glove. Playing in New York, the country's epicenter for entertainment his brilliant on-field performance led to unparalleled fame off the field. During his remarkable hit streak, he went from a gritty diamond legend to pop-culture sensation by marrying Hollywood's sexiest screen star, Marilyn Monroe. DiMaggio was even awarded the game's first \$100,000 contract. In spite of the fame and fortune, which he never asked for, DiMaggio never let any of his success go to his head.

Not to take anything away from Mark McGwire or Sammy Sosa but they could afford to slump during their barrage of home runs last season. The words consecutive and streak allow no room for slumps. From May 15 to July 17, 1941, DiMaggio hit .408 with 91 hits in 223 at bats. More importantly those hits came in 56 straight games, a record which will never be broken. It was a moment we will never forget, seeing Roger Maris's record fall to McGwire and Sosa but imagine the difficulty of hitting safely in 56 straight games. There have been many great hitters through the years. But if the games elite hitters like, Pete Rose who in 1978 came closest, 12 games shy of the record, or Tony Gwynn this decades best hitter, can't maintain the mental toughness—then who can? DiMaggio even hit safely in 61 straight games as a minor leaguer.

Aside from the streak and the off-field fame DiMaggio completed the circle of excellence by winning. Not only did he win, he won often. Appearing in 10 World Series between 1936 and 1950, he won a record nine championships, winning 36 and losing 14.

Towards the end of his brilliant career, when he was aging and often plagued with injuries, a friend once asked him, why he continued to play so hard. "Becasue," DiMaggio said, "there might be somebody out there who's never seen me play before."

Joe DiMaggio's death marks the end to the 20th century and so too the end of a legendary life. Simply put, DiMaggio was a national hero in the rarest form and will be deeply missed.

There is finally an answer to the infamous question, "Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio?"

In the upcoming weeks, our Sports section will be changing. We are looking for sports writers that have an enthusiasm for sports and can show that in their writing. Hopefully you will enjoy the changes! E-mail Ben Trecroci, Managing/Sports Editor at btf3@hotmail.com or Rob Steva, Sports Editor at RSteva@AOL.com. for more info.

Joe DiMaggio was the Real Thing

By Michael Martinez
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

First and foremost, Joe DiMaggio was a ballplayer—quick and fluid in the field, swift on the bases, purposeful at the plate. But even to the generations who never saw him play, who knew him only as a product pitchman or as a genteel ambassador of the game, DiMaggio still was the real thing: a sports hero who transcended today's celebrity players and represented an unforgettable link to baseball's black-and-white days.

DiMaggio died Monday at his home in Hollywood, Fla. He was 84.

On the field, DiMaggio's achievements were remarkable: a 56-game hitting streak that ranks among sports' most cherished records; three Most Valuable Player awards; 10 American League pennants and nine World Series titles in 13 seasons with the New York Yankees. But he will also be remembered for his role in American culture.

He was a popular and dignified spokesman for Mr. Coffee on television commercials two decades ago, was married briefly to Marilyn Monroe and was a lyrical subject of a Simon and Garfunkel song that plaintively asked, "Where have you gone, Joe DiMaggio? A nation turns its lonely eyes to you."

DiMaggio never quite understood his lasting popularity, but while he frequently basked in it, he also protected his privacy. During his recent hospital stay in Hollywood, where he underwent surgery for lung cancer, he allowed only his lawyer and longtime friend, Morris Engelberg, to act as his spokesman. He permitted few visitors other than family.

While DiMaggio could be curt and aloof, he also was well aware that he was a symbol of professionalism and elegance, both as a sports figure and a public person.

"I think he's worn so well because of that aloofness," said New York Times sportswriter Joe Durso, who wrote a DiMaggio biography.

"When they revived him for television commercials in the 1970s, he was pretty obscure in the public's thinking. But when he came back with such understated presence, people began to appreciate him more."

"Who can explain why people have enduring heroes? John Wayne was one in the movies, and DiMaggio had the same American virtues in baseball. He became larger than life as the years went on."

Although DiMaggio, known as Joltin' Joe and the Yankee Clipper, was considered a naturalized New Yorker for his spectacular playing career with the Yankees, he was also a Bay Area native who usually returned to his roots. Born in Martinez, Calif., on Nov. 25, 1914, and reared in San Francisco, he retired to the same home in the Marina District that he bought for his parents after his rookie season in 1936. He spent idle hours at local race tracks, took long drives through the wine country and occasionally stopped by Paolo's, a San Jose restaurant where he ate lunch, reminisced with friends and enjoyed his privacy.

Literally and figuratively, San Francisco was a long way from New York, where toast of the town. He often dined - and was doted on - at such hot spots as Toots Shor's, where he commanded the best table and seldom paid for anything.

Had it not been for his physical talent, however, it's probable DiMaggio would have become a fisherman, as his father Giuseppe was before him. But DiMaggio, the eighth of nine children and fourth of five sons, developed his talent playing on the empty

dairy lots where horses who pulled the milk wagons were kept.

Only two of Giuseppe DiMaggio's sons became fishermen. Joe had no taste for it, and he and his other two brothers, Dom and Vince, became big-league ballplayers.

"I'd get seasick when the water was rough," Joe once said. "And I couldn't stand the smell of the fish and crabs."

His ascent in baseball was rapid. He made his debut with the minor league San Francisco Seals in 1932, at age 17, and the next season, playing for \$225 a month, he batted .340, scored 169 runs and hit safely in 61 consecutive games.

"Baseball didn't really get into my blood until I knocked off that hitting streak," he said later.

"Getting a daily hit became more important to me than eating, drinking or sleeping. Overnight, I became a personality."

In fact, it was a sign of bigger things ahead. The Yankees acquired DiMaggio from the Seals for a reported \$25,000 and five players after the 1934 season but decided to keep him in San Francisco one more year. He hit .398 with 34 home runs and 154 RBIs and was clearly ready for the majors.

By 1936, with an \$8,500 contract in hand, he was making his first cross-country trip to spring training in St. Petersburg, Fla. The New York media had already ordained him the next Babe Ruth. DiMaggio was not the next Ruth, but he was impressive anyway. In the New York Times that spring, Joe Kieran wrote: "In lively fashion, DiMaggio is going about living up to all the advance notices about him from the California area. He is fast in the field, turns loose a good throwing arm and hits to all corners of the Florida ballparks."

But DiMaggio, while naturally gifted, was neither boastful nor media savvy, as Ruth had been. He was quiet and introspective, physically unimposing and possessed a smooth, even swing.

"In street clothes, he looks tall and slim, probably because his face is inordinately thin," wrote Stanley Woodward in the New York Herald Tribune. "His profile comes to a point at the end of his nose."

Washington Post columnist Shirley Povich told readers: "He has none of Ruth's flourish and gusto, and none of Dizzy Dean's self-admiration. And because of that, he will set no salary records no matter how many slugging records fall before the power of his bat."

But DiMaggio could hit. He made his debut on May 3 and singled to left field in his first at-bat, going 2 for 3 against the St. Louis Browns. By the time the season ended, he batted .323, scored 132 runs and hit 29 home runs. He also made the cover of Time magazine.

A star was born, and DiMaggio kept on burning brightly. The Yankees, who had won just one World Series title in the previous seven seasons, won four in a row starting in 1936. DiMaggio averaged 34 homers and 140 RBIs during that span, including his first MVP award in 1939.

"As one of nine men," former Philadelphia Athletics Manager Connie Mack once said, "DiMaggio is the best player that ever lived."

DiMaggio's most glorious summer might have come in 1941 when he went on his 56-game hitting streak and carried the Yankees to another World Series championship. It began with a sinago White Sox's Eddie Smith on May 15 and didn't end until he went 0 for 3 against the Cleveland Indians, grounding into a double play in the eighth inning in his final turn. During the streak, DiMaggio batted .408 with 15 homers and 55 RBIs.

Around the horn...

Stephon Marbury was traded to the New Jersey Nets as part of a three-way deal with the Milwaukee Bucks and the Minnesota Timberwolves..... The deal sent Sam Cassell and Chris Gatling to the Bucks and Terrell Brandon to the T'Wolves...

Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis had their battle of boxers vs. briefs by weighing at 215 pounds for Holyfield and Lewis at 246 for their heavy-weight title fight....

Minnesota lost in the first round to Gonzaga in the face of an academic investigation that charged the school with fixing test scores.4 players were suspended...

Next Week.....

- Part three of why fans forgive and forget

- Terrell Davis, Jerry Rice and Bo Jackson make Chicago appearance