

12-13-1999

## Columbia Chronicle (12/13/1999)

Columbia College Chicago

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# COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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VOLUME 33, NUMBER 12

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1999



## CAMPUS

Why students should take their general education classes at Columbia

PAGE 2



## VITALITY

Low and Behold!  
Lounge Ax plays host to Low

PAGE 13



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## College ponders change in grading system

Students not taken by prospect of getting "B+" or "A-" instead of "A"

PATRICIA OROZCO  
Staff Writer

There is a possibility that Columbia's grading methods may change. Columbia's Academic Affairs Committee has begun discussing the possible use of pluses and minuses for final semester grades.

Theater Department and Academic Affairs Committee Chair Sheldon Patinkin said this is the first time this idea has been addressed to the committee.

"Absolutely no decisions have been made," said Columbia's Associate Academic Dean Avis Moeller. "It's at the very very, early early stages," she said.

The idea was proposed by one of the English Department's faculty members who feels that using pluses and minuses towards final grades will greatly help students figure out exactly where they stand when it comes to final grades. The idea proposes that grades like A+, A-, or B+, B- be used to grade student performance.

Jeff Schiff, who introduced the idea to the committee, said it wouldn't be fair for a student who's trying harder than another to still receive the same grade as the student who is barely sliding by. Schiff provided three reasons as to why he proposed this idea to the committee.

"Accurate representation is a reason. Motivation is another reason. To many [instructors] it's an issue of

grade inflation," Schiff said. "The flexibility to actually give a student a grade they deserve is important. It will reward those who work harder."

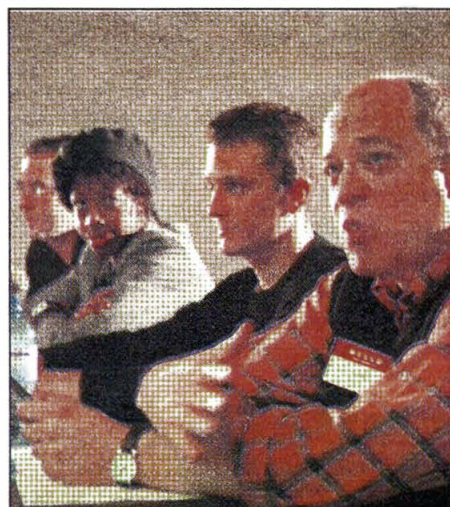
Even though Schiff sees this idea as useful, some students don't find a need for the use of pluses and minuses in final grades. "I think [the committee] should just stay with what they have," said Beatriz Guevara, a Computer Graphics Design major.

"Why even bother to use pluses and minuses?" Fashion Design major, Maricela Bautista, said. "It's good if you're on the borderline, but on the good grades I wouldn't want to have an A- or B- because it would just make me feel like it's not good enough," she added.

In order for the possibility of using pluses and minuses in grading to be considered by the College Council, the Academic Affairs Committee must first reach a decision.

"[The committee] discusses the issue and passes the recommendation to the College Council. The College Council then votes on the recommendation," Schiff said.

Schiff further stated that since the idea has barely been discussed, it is too early to have a definite response as to what decision may be reached. The committee has not asked the majority of instructors for their input yet.



DANA LORD/CHRONICLE

Ted Fishman, Shane DuBow, and Rosalind Cummings-Yeates, members of the panel which met to discuss literary journalism.

## Real-life angel makes college dream come true for freshman

DANIELLE HAAS  
Staff Writer

When Columbia freshman Jeffrey Toney, sat in his first grade class staring blankly at Mrs. Oral Lee Brown, he was too young to understand that she intended to make good on her promise of giving him a college education.

Toney was in first grade at Brookfield Elementary in Oakland, Calif. when he first met Oral Lee Brown, a real estate agent and widowed mother of two. She had walked into Brookfield Elementary with the intent of putting a group of first-grade students through college, under the pretense that they make it to that point.

Yolanda Peeks, principal of Brookfield at the time, remembers her shock at hearing Brown's proposal. "I almost fell through the floor," she said.

Toney remembers, "A lady came into the class and she gave all the students Christmas gifts, and I remember her saying she would be a part of our life and I didn't know what she was talking about."

Now Toney knows what Brown was talking about. Twelve years later, he is now in his freshman year at

Columbia, a resident of the dorm and a Music Management major.

Nineteen of the original 23 first graders made it to college, courtesy of Brown's generosity, and Toney is one of them.

Toney is still astounded that he is here today. "I am so happy I can't even talk about it in words. I love her like she's my mom. It's like she's an angel. She just flew in, said she was going to watch over us and she has."

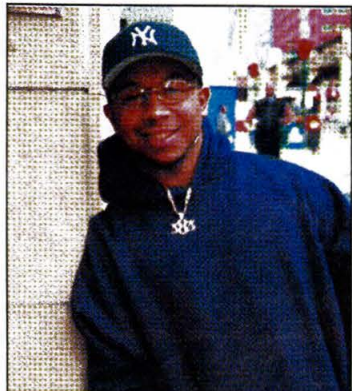
Toney's not the only one who believes Brown is an angel. Brown was recently awarded the John Stanford Education Hero award. It is in commemoration of her difference in the education of children.

It's hard to believe when Brown started her journey, she was told time and time again that it was an uphill battle.

"You can't change the world," said one colleague. She never believed any of it.

"When God is with you, no one can stop you," said Brown.

Brown not only promised to help them extend their education after graduation from high school, but she helped them enrich their experience also.



DANA LORD/CHRONICLE

Jeffrey Toney, recipient of tuition gift.

## Famous Chicago writers offer wisdom and advice

KIMBERLY BREHM & VALERIE DANNER  
Campus Editor & Copy Editor

A panel of some of Chicago's most successful journalists spoke before students last Thursday to offer both words of wisdom and encouragement to those aspiring to become journalists in the next century.

The panel discussion was a part of Columbia's week-long celebration of creative nonfiction. It was moderated by the Journalism Department's Artist-in-Residence Clare La Plante and Barry Rice, the director of the magazine program.

Others who participated in the panel discussion were Ted Allen, a Chicago-based contributor to *Esquire*; Rosalind Cummings-Yeates, a freelance-journalist and part time faculty member at Columbia; Shane DuBow whose work has appeared in *Harper's*, *Playboy*, and *GQ*; Jonathan Eig, executive editor at Chicago magazine; Ted Fishman, a contributing editor to *Harper's* and *Worth*; Mary Schmich, a columnist at the *Chicago Tribune*; and Alison True, the editor of the *Chicago Reader*.

"This is a wonderful group of Chicago writers that go beyond the five W's—great storytellers reaching a higher form of truth," Rice said. "Their voices come through in their stories. They write with style, flair and unusual formats—not the inverted pyramid."

These journalists are known for their literary journalism style and were asked to explain what it is all about.

"I grew up reading novels, not newspapers. That's my motto for writing literary journalism," Schmich said.

SEE ANGEL, PAGE 2

SEE PANEL, PAGE 2



## COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE  
623 S. WABASH AVENUE  
SUITE 205  
CHICAGO, IL 60605-1996

MAIN LINE: 312-344-7254  
EDITOR: 312-344-7343  
ADVERTISING: 312-344-7432  
CAMPUS: 312-344-7255  
VIEWPOINTS: 312-344-7256  
VITALITY (A&E): 312-344-7521  
SPORTS: 312-344-7086  
PHOTOGRAPHY: 312-344-7732  
FAX: 312-344-8032

WEB ADDRESS:  
WWW.CCCHRONICLE.COM

E-MAIL:  
EDITOR@CCCHRONICLE.COM

# Students unveil their talents at the Hot House

CELINA SUMNER

Staff Writer

The South Loop Review celebrated the release of its third annual issue with live readings and free food on Wednesday, Dec. 1 at the Hot House, Chicago's premiere world music club. The event, which was free and open to the public, was sponsored by the English Department.

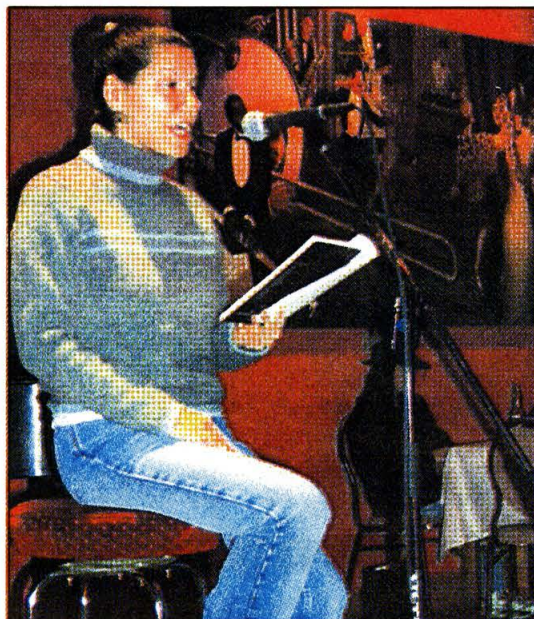
According to Rose Blouin, who teaches the South Loop Review Copy Editing course at Columbia, the South Loop Review is a collection of the best student-generated work in courses including Composition, Creative Non-Fiction, Literature and Professional Writing. The anthology was started by the faculty and the English Department because there was a lot of engaging non-fiction work coming out of these courses.

"All of us are really proud that this is already the third issue," said Blouin. "We just wanted to create a vehicle that would get students' work published." She also explained that all of the writing, editing and even the cover art was selected from Columbia students, so students can get hands-on publishing experience.

The cover art features student Leah Stricklen's photo of a man in a doorway, holding a burning cigarette. The photo told a story within itself.

Katherine Raz was one of the students who read her piece, "Rivers," which eloquently told about the intricate patterns of life. Raz explained at the reading that she wrote this piece in her first year at Columbia. "I came from high school to Chicago; I was a little freaked out," said Raz. "[Rivers] is something I wrote when I was still a kid."

One of the most emotional aspects of the evening came from student reader, Christina Raguso, who broke down while reading her piece, "Mamma Whispers." Many members of the audience were also in tears during Raguso's touching recollection of her dying father.



ANITA SADLER/CHRONICLE

Students read their work from the "South Loop Review" at the Hot House on Dec. 1.

Faculty advisor Tom Nawrocki explained that this was a joint effort of the Journalism, English, and Fiction Writing Departments and felt that this issue was the best and has the potential to do well in writing contests.

The advisors are looking for a few good students to put the 2000 edition of the "South Loop Review" together. The SLR Copy Editing course is offered in the spring semester for Columbia students, and submission forms are available in the English Department. All work must be submitted as hard copy and on disk (IBM Format), and has to include a submission form.

The deadline for the fourth issue is in February. A copy of the anthology is available for \$5.95. Any other information can be obtained by contacting the English Department at (312) 344-8100.

## Panel

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"Set scenes, use notion of suspense—how do you keep people wondering from beginning to end?"

The rest of the panel seemed to agree that literary journalism has similar elements of fiction writing.

"It's the kind of thing I like to read," Fishman said. "Good stories all have story elements with narrative art."

While many on the panel are magazine writers, most began their careers in newspaper reporting. Most agreed that these two outlets of journalism are very different in both their content and their style.

"Newspaper reporters are taught to be boring. You can stop at the jump and not miss anything," Eig said.

True added that in the last 20-30 years, journalism has moved to become more

subjective. She says that the main problem with this brand of journalism is that writers tend to put themselves in the story too often.

"I'm frustrated by writers who interpret subjectivity to mean that they are the subject. It's not like a paper, you can't count on readers; you have to earn them," True said.

There has to be motivation behind this type of literary journalism. Not everyone has the innate talent to produce stories that entice and move the reader. While these writers' stories can be compared, their motivations differ.

For Cummings-Yeates it's about helping out the subject. "I enjoy telling a story for people who might be voiceless."

Allen not only is taken by the by the people

he gets to meet, but he also likes to see how far he can take his ideas. "I love playing with words and pushing the envelope as hard as I can and not being afraid to do so."

"I realize that there is power in having words to play with, which comes with a responsibility to somehow do some good with the work," Schmich said.

These writers assured students that breaking into this business is not as difficult as some fear. All it takes is hard work, persistence and creativity. And no, you don't need an agent to sell yourself.

And yes journalism students, the writers agreed that thesis statements, correct grammar and sentence structure really do matter.

## Angel

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"I could not keep up with the ways that she wanted to work with them," Peeks said. Tutoring, donations of encyclopedias, books, interacting with them, field trips, are all kinds of ways to keep them inspired and feeling positive about school."

However, funding for the dream was harder than she thought.

"There were times when I ate beans," said Brown. She did manage to save \$10,000 a year to put into a trust fund. There is also an annual fundraiser with help from the community. The current status of the fund is \$183,000.

Growing up in Oakland was a rough life. Toney said the peer pressures and negativity didn't help either.

When Brown said the students could pick any college of their choice, Toney chose Columbia with the help of one his teachers, a native Chicagoan.

"I wanted to start over, a change from Oakland life, with new people and to explore. The description of the music classes drew me in. I didn't really know anything about the school. It was like stepping into a dark room."

Brown has helped shed some light into that room. She and Toney talk at least once a week on the phone.

"I call her for advice; she helps me with any homework and problems I may have," Toney said. "She points me in the right direction."

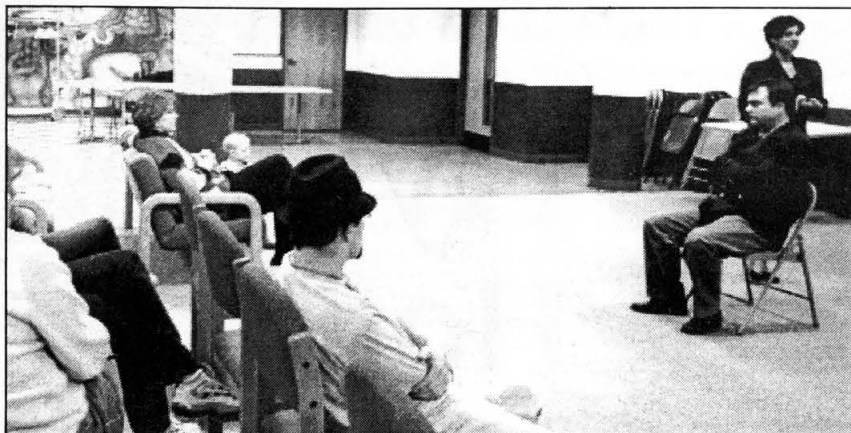
This past year, Brown has been to eight different high school graduations. "I cried until I didn't have any more tears."

She plans to be there in four years when Toney, along with her other kids, graduate from college. "When my babies walk across that stage, then they can just lay me down and let me die."



# CAMPUS NEWS

## Around Campus



BRENNIA McLAUGHLIN/CHRONICLE

The Covenant Players perform at the Residence Center, Dec. 8. They play out skits which address "issues of our day."

## Get your general education here

**PATRICIA OROZCO**  
Staff Writer

In the midst of next semester's registration, some of Columbia's faculty searches for a way to convince their students to take general education courses at the college. "There has been some struggle to get students to understand how vastly different the courses are from those offered at a community college," said the English Department's Chairperson, Garnett Kilberg Cohen. "They don't know how vastly different the courses are," she said.

In a memo directed to Columbia's full-time faculty, lecturers and artists-in-residence, Cohen wrote: "It is sometimes difficult to convince students to take their General Education courses at Columbia when they can take the same courses at local community colleges for far less cost."

The memo was in order to address statements that were "repeated by several faculty members at the faculty retreat" this fall, which stated that many Columbia students do not see a difference from taking general education courses at a community college than at Columbia.

According to the City Colleges of Chicago's present rate, the cost of taking a course at one of these colleges is \$47.50 per credit hour for In-District Chicago residents. The total cost would be \$750 for 16 credit hours, which is considered full-time. The in-district tuition rate for Illinois residents would total about \$2,245. The tuition charge for out-of-state students is \$162.95 per credit hour in addition to the in-district tuition rate meaning that the total cost would be about \$3,367.

The cost of this coming semester's tuition at Columbia is \$5,345. Each additional credit hour is \$275. This past summer \$258 per credit hour was charged.

Maricela Hernandez, a Columbia Fashion Management sophomore said she didn't see much difference in the level of difficulty in coursework offered at one of the city colleges of Chicago from that offered at Columbia. "It [the course] was the same. Maybe we just had different subjects to talk about," Hernandez said.

Hernandez took a speech class at Harold Washington College, 30 E. Lake Street, over the summer.

"The only thing that sucked was going to school every day. I'm not used to going to school every day," Hernandez said.

Cohen declared that the coursework and instruction offered at the colleges differs at Columbia.

"General education courses are not the same as those offered in other institutions," said Cohen. He further stated that there is more than one difference between a community college and Columbia's English department's general education courses. In fact, Cohen listed three reasons for taking general education courses at

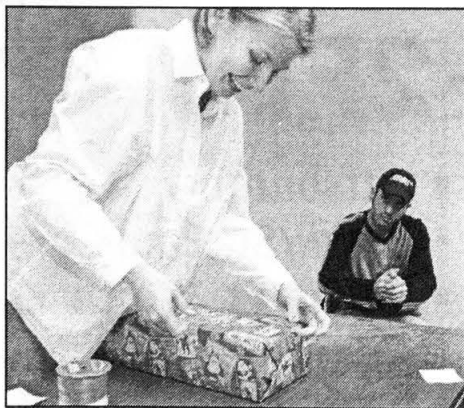
Columbia: a smaller class size, integration of the arts, and instruction.

Charles Cannon, Columbia's Science and Math Department Chair, also assures that our math and science courses are unique in comparison to those offered at community colleges.

"Students who elect to take their general education science and mathematics courses at Columbia reap the benefit of those designed specially for arts, media, and the communications majors," Cannon said. "All of our courses are designed specifically for these students," he said.

Cannon, like Cohen, pointed out that Columbia's general education courses have a smaller class size, offer "integration of the arts in most offerings" and the course work is different. He presented examples of courses offered in the Math/Science Department such as acoustics and electronics for Sound, Music, and Theatre majors, chemistry of art and color and chemistry of textiles and dyes for the Fashion Design major, and math for Marketing and Management majors.

Even though Hernandez's teacher was an actor, and the class consisted of about 20 students, she said that she didn't notice an integration of the arts in any of the coursework she was offered. She further said that courses at a community college are worth it for financial reasons. "It's worth it because it's way cheaper," Hernandez said.



ROB HART/CHRONICLE

Christine Ptacek gives a demonstration speech on wrapping holiday gifts, in one of Columbia's general education classes, "Basic Public Speaking."

## Columbia NEWS AND NOTES

### Blues star is on his way

Blues harmonica player Billy Branch will make a special appearance at Columbia on Tuesday, Dec. 14. He has performed for First Lady Hillary Clinton. Branch will appear in room 627 in the Wabash building at 11:30 a.m.

### "Lolita" author honored

The Prop Theater group pays homage to "Lolita" author Vladimir Nabokov with a performance at the Chicago Cultural Center on Thursday, Dec. 16.

"Speak, Memory" is a chamber theater piece with music based on Nabokov's autobiography and explores his reflections on growing up during World War II.

The performance is part of the Chicago Cultural Center's monthly "Literary Lounge" series. It is free and takes place at the Randolph Cafe at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St. at 6:30 p.m.

### A South African Journey for some of Columbia's Faculty

Norma Green, a faculty member of the Journalism Department, is in Cape Town, South Africa to attend the third Parliament of the World's Religions.

The parliament, a non-legislative assembly, is designed to create common ground among various religious traditions and faith groups and to help provide solutions to global concerns.

Also attending are Dean of Students Jean Lightfoot, who performed Negro spirituals, and the Liberal Education Department's Brother Wayne Teasdale, who is also a Christian Sannyasi (lay monk). Teasdale is giving presentations on his new book, "The Mystic Heart," which explores the possibility of a universal spirituality.

Also attending the parliament is Columbia's Artist-in-Residence and Pulitzer Prize winner John White, who is documenting the parliament with photographs. White has the daunting task of deciding what to cover among more than 70 sessions per day of the eight day conference.

First held in Chicago in 1893 in conjunction with the Columbia World's Exposition, the parliament was reconvened on its centennial. This is the first time the parliament isn't meeting in a Chicago location. Instead, South Africa was chosen because it was considered a "microcosm of the world's aspirations" by conference planners.

### Who wants to be a winner of \$500 for poems or fiction?

Budding poets or short story writers have the chance to pick up \$500 for their efforts, with HEART Quarterly having its second annual Poetry and Short Fiction Contest.

Entries must be previously unpublished and address social issues, such as racial, sexual, gender and class discrimination. Up to three poems (five page maximum) or one short story of 7,000 words or fewer may be submitted.

Entry costs \$15, which includes a one-year subscription to HEART Quarterly, and the winner will be published in the publication. Manuscripts cannot be returned. Mail entries to: HEART Quarterly Contest, P.O. Box 81038, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

### Last chance to meet Columbia College Black Journalists (CCBJ) in 1999

The Columbia College Black Journalists will have their last meeting in room 304 of the Wabash building on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

The meeting will center on the groups Y2K agenda and will include guest speakers, fund raisers and career forums. The CCABJ is open to any student interested in the media and diversity in the newsroom.



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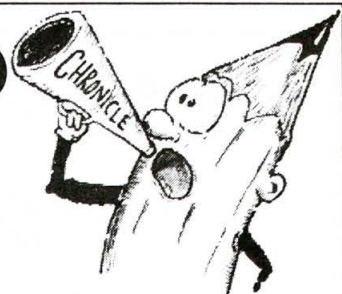
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# Want a job?



**The Columbia Chronicle is looking for a  
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*Students interested in this position must be in good academic standing, enrolled in at least 12 credit hours in the Spring semester and should be taking or have taken the core courses in Journalism. Knowledge of Windows '98, Windows NT, word processing, Photoshop and QuarkXPress is a plus, but not required.*

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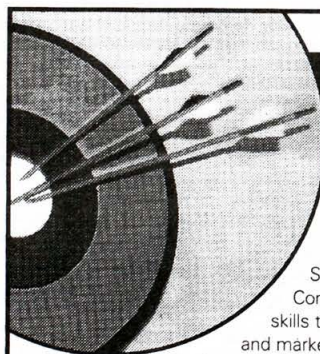
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- *enjoy a delicious brunch*
- *interact with Columbia alumni in your field*
- *hear an important keynote address*

**Watch for details coming soon!**

*The Career Planning & Placement Office  
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# VIEWPOINTS

## EDITORIAL

### New system may not be a plus

Apparently, Columbia has been considering adding pluses and minuses to grades in order to accurately represent the student's work and to motivate them.

The idea was introduced to the Academic Affairs Committee on the premise that it is not fair for a student who is trying hard to receive the same grade as the student who is barely sliding by. That premise is absolutely correct; it's not fair. That's where the A, B, C, D and F system comes into play. In theory, the student who works hard receives A's, those who don't receive F's. Unfortunately that is not always the case. A student can try until they're blue in the face, but if they don't have the intellectual ability or the talent, they won't make the grade—that is not fair.

If this process is primarily about making the grading more fair, then the Academic Affairs Committee should reevaluate it. Striving for fairness is noble, but the grading system is already that. If you work hard and get an A, you should be able to revel in the glory of an A, not an A-. It is impossible to be fair to everyone. The current grading system does a fine job. If there are large discrepancies

between the work of one student and that of another, they can receive different letter grades. If their work is at a similar level, then they receive the same grades.

Absolute fairness is unobtainable, and receiving a plus or minus next to the letter grade does not make it anymore fair. The other two reasons for the pluses and minuses were accurate representation and motivation. The grades are already accurate, and if students are not motivated by letter grades, then why would they be motivated by pluses and minuses?

What about the adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it?" The grading system is working fine, but there are other areas of Columbia that are not. Why isn't the long, tedious registration process fixed. What about the safety of the school with plans pending for an SRO across the street from the Wabash building? Who authorizes the credit card representatives to prey on students outside every building?

These are real issues that need to be addressed. It is disappointing to see the school focusing on an issue of such little importance. It is a waste of the precious time that could be used to better our school.

### From the Chronicle Mailbag

editor @ ccchronicle.com

Dear Chronicle,

For the third week in a row, you've stuck a knife in my gut and given it a twist. To begin with the latest cruelty, Billy O'Keefe's disparagement of the WTO protests in Seattle drove me to write this letter. He considers himself reasonably informed but by what criteria I cannot guess. By first-person accounts I've heard and the non-corporate media I've followed, the protests seem to me to have succeeded well beyond expectations, if not to everyone's satisfaction. The World Trade Organization's meetings were shut down for a day and their agenda was derailed, as can be gathered from even the mainstream press.

In Chicago, in other U.S. cities, and in other countries, smaller demonstrations echoed the effort in Seattle. My friends and I here found ourselves queried about the WTO by our bosses, coworkers, and families. The "complete failure" O'Keefe saw could only have appeared in the media that failed to cover local protests or treat criticisms of the WTO in depth.

His criticism of protestors supposed failure to tell "people what's going on" and claim that "this stupid newspaper... is published" for that reason drives the knife even deeper. The organizations and people in Seattle that I'm familiar with work year-round to inform people about the WTO. Last week they meant to do more, to instead SHUT IT DOWN. I also try to talk to people about issues that I feel strongly about. In that effort, I've found that the

Chronicle does not, in fact, let students know what's going on.

Two weeks ago I tried to respond to an editorial about an SRO proposed for Wabash Avenue. I e-mailed and faxed a letter pointing out some aspects ignored by the piece, such as the 80 percent plus reduction in affordable housing in the South Loop since 1961. My letter was not published. The following two weeks, the Chronicle, in its coverage of the University of Wisconsin case, failed to mention the financial backing of the suit and the students by right-wing organizations. Such omissions, as well as the absence of coverage of Columbia students working for the release of political prisoners, the closing of the School of the Americas, or against police brutality, almost made me give up on the Chronicle as a forum for critical discourse. O'Keefe's column, however, forced me to ask, one last time, how this newspaper can inform students.

Will ample space be guaranteed for letters such as this one? Will students not studying journalism be allowed to write articles? Can we expect anything more than shoddy reporting, uninformed opinions, bad movie reviews, and huge ads? In Seattle, activists suffered violence (initiated by police, by the way) in order to have their say.

Columbia students face a wall of silence as their concerns and opinions fail to penetrate their school's newspa-

SEE MAILBAG, PAGE 7

BY BILLY O'KEEFE

EDITOON



### R.I.P., you goofy decade!

Yes, it's that time of year again when we bid farewell to what we know as 1999. Don't worry—you won't see nary a mention of that God awful overly-abused word that begins with an M, and rhymes with selenium. Nope—not in this column.

Instead, I'm out to attack the whole 1990s. You know why? Because never has there been a time of more overly-politically correct people than there has been in these past 10 years. It's gotten out of hand.



VALERIE DANNER  
COPY EDITOR

Take my 'lil cousin Hayley (who has the misfortune of living in Kentucky). She experienced the wrath of the don't-look-at-me-funny-cause-I-have-a-good-lawyer decade a few weeks ago. Apparently three years ago, Hayley, who now is just 7 years old, was on a vacation and was visiting grave sites of famous deceased people, like Buffalo Bill. At the time, Hayley's 4-year-old brain was fascinated by it. On the headstone, she noticed the initials "R.I.P." inscribed. So when she asked her father what those letters stood for, he told her that they simply mean rest in peace. She was enthralled by the idea of someone "resting" in the ground; she didn't realize the resting souls were actually dead. It was something that stuck with her three years later.

It just so happened last month that one of the teachers at Hayley's school fell ill and had been hospitalized. The class was instructed to make a card for the teacher so that they could be delivered to the hospital room. Well, Hayley meant well. She decorated the card with a very heartfelt message on the front. But on the inside, was a big headstone, with that acronym that had made such an impression on her just a few years ago—R.I.P.

It was an innocent misunderstanding. Hayley didn't do it on purpose—she wanted her sick teacher to do just that—get some rest and have a little peace, like the people who were "sleeping" underground that she had visited.

Ah, but as been true with much of this decade, little incidents explode into big catastrophes and suddenly innocent blunders become monstrous calamities. And this R.I.P. situation is no exception.

The teachers at Hayley's school were outraged, and treated the act as if it was maliciously done and as if her little first grade head was about to spin around and start spewing pea soup. They failed to see what it really was—an innocent mistake by a student who had never even been in trouble before until this all took place. They also overlooked the fact that the whole situation was, well, kinda funny. The fact is that the error was caught before the sick teacher even saw Hayley's card, so really there was no damage done. Except to Hayley.

Of course, she was punished. She was called into the principal's office (which is major distress when you're seven). Her parents were called into school to discuss Hayley's thoughtless behavior. The bottom line is that she was put through all this unnecessary turmoil when all that was needed was an explanation along the lines of, "Hayley, R.I.P. is only used for people when they are dead; you're teacher is sick, but she's alive and kicking, so it is inappropriate to say that to her." Period. No family discussions. No meetings in the principal's office.

The odd thing is that such goofy instances don't seem to faze people anymore. They have gotten used to the dumbing down of our society. Just last week, a friend of mine who lives in upstate New York was telling me that her local high school has just adopted a "Swearing Policy." Basically, if any student is heard muttering a "bad" word, they are subject to a detention.

This just amazes me. In a day when kids come to school packing heat and making bombs in their bedrooms has become an extracurricular activity for some, somehow letting the f-word (gasp!) slip out while passing through the halls, hardly seems relevant. The administrators making up this rule need to spend more time getting in touch with their student bodies and their real concerns, rather than focusing on the unsolvable problem of profanity.

So come Dec. 31 when Dick Clark is getting ready to drop that big old ball to ring in the new year, I am hoping that perhaps we can say R.I.P. to this overly-politically correct decade known as the 1990s... dammit.

#### Editorial Policies of the Columbia Chronicle

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# A helping hand, a lasting memory

ALAN TRUBOW

Guest Columnist

I would like to meet every person in the world. Why? Because I believe every person in this world has the ability to teach me something that I would never have known without meeting that person.

Sometimes the people you least expect will teach you life's greatest lessons. This was the case the other day when I had the privilege of meeting a man named D.J.

I met the 42-year-old man while going to get a bite to eat between classes last Tuesday. He opened the door to the fast-food joint for me.

D.J. wore black jeans, although it appeared that they used to be blue. Besides looking like he hadn't had R.E.M. sleep in days, his torn leather jacket was begging to be cremated.

We made eye contact. He hadn't said anything yet. He didn't need to. I knew what he wanted.

He asked.

I declined.

But before I was five steps past this homeless man, I froze, backed up and asked D.J. to come inside. To this day I don't know why I froze, but I'm glad I did because D.J. ended up teaching me more than any class that day.

We approached the counter and I told D.J. to get what he wanted. He ordered a polish sausage, fries and a Coke. The tone of voice and looks the employees were giving

while he ordered were very degrading.

D.J. received his food, thanked me, and headed back out to the street. I was about to sit down at a table when I decided that I didn't want to eat alone. I headed outside to see if I could persuade D.J. to eat with me.

Upon opening the door, I froze for the second time that day--not because it was the coldest day we'd had this fall, but because of the sight in front of me. D.J. had given half of his meal to another homeless man sitting outside.

I couldn't think of anything to say, so I said, "I buy you a meal and you're not even going to eat with me?"

So the three of us sat down, ate, and talked for the next 45 minutes. We talked about everything from rap music to Bill and Monica (D.J. thinks the president is just a typical horny man).

As I watched D.J. finish off his meal, I realized that I hadn't touched mine. I couldn't eat. I am embarrassed to say it, but the sight of my new friends' dirty hands didn't make the food look too appealing.

I asked D.J. if he wanted to polish off my meal. To my surprise, before digging in, he asked the other man, whose name I cannot remember, if he wanted it.

Here was this man, a man who had told me that on some days it was difficult to get food, constantly trying to help others. While I was happy with the events taking place before me, I was also ashamed -- ashamed at how many times I have had the opportunity to help someone out and didn't.

The holiday season is upon us. Once again, everybody will be asking you to give this and donate that. I want to challenge Columbia students this semester, not only to give but to make it personal. So often we give to the Salvation Army or drop a dollar in those red buckets, and while those are great things to do, they lack meaning.

Instead, I'm asking you to personally take someone out and buy him or her a meal. Sit down and talk with them for a while.

All I'm asking you to do this holiday season is make a memory for yourself. Not only will you make someone else's day, you'll also walk away with a smile on your face. You might even learn something about life. All of us can come up with a million excuses why we cannot go out of our way. I'm asking you to be selfish and do this. I'm betting you'll come away with more than you ever imagined.

There are so many people around the South Loop area living on the streets. We have the ability to help these people, and not just during the holiday season. I am interested in starting a group at Columbia that is committed to helping people living on the streets. If you are interested in participating in something like this or have ideas on how to get this started, please e-mail me at alantown88@hotmail.com

As for D.J., I'd like to thank him for teaching me a little more about life and what it means to be a human being. Because of him, I will be having dinner with many new people in the next few weeks.

## Why I love the CTA, and why it loves me too

AMY WAGNER

Guest Columnist

I'll admit it. I love riding the CTA. It's public transportation. When you are driving a car you're alone, you're not surrounded by freaks. OK, not everyone on the CTA is a freak. But anyone who's ever ridden public transportation has to admit they've had a bizarre experience—at least one.

Sure, people who drive cars behold witless things also. We hear all about road rage. Who gets road rage riding on a bus? There are gruesome car crashes that slow traffic for miles. When you finally get to the accident, there's nothing but a few official-looking people and some broken glass. "I waited 25 minutes for this?" you might think. "I could have been home by now." Plus, how many times can you see the person in the car next to you picking their nose and find it funny. At some point it's just gross.

I digress. Cars are faster than standing around on a street corner for a half an hour waiting for a bus. Ever tried running for the train up stairs dodging people coming down those same stairs? Makes you feel like Frogger.

Riding one evening on a slightly crowded No. 66 Chicago Avenue bus, my friend and I experienced the worst case of rudeness ever on the CTA. A young teenage girl was sitting sideways in a single seat talking to her friends directly across the aisle. We took our places standing on either side of her clutching the cold metal poles that maintained our equilibrium. Since we weren't concerned with her conversation, we weren't paying much attention to her. Noting her hand waving us away, we realized she was telling us not to stand in front of her. She didn't like that we were standing on top of her, announcing loudly that she needed her space. Well, there wasn't really anywhere else to move to. My friend told her that. She didn't care. She wanted us to move. Her friends were giggling across the aisle, maybe out of embarrassment.

Seats opened up. We sat down. As the bus trudged toward

Michigan Avenue, more bodies filled it. Hearing a raised voice across the aisle, we knew it was this girl again. Now, she was arguing with the man in front of her. He was defending the rights of the standing passengers. She still didn't care. She must have thought she was on her own private bus. We were mere peasants.

Maybe it's just the No. 66; one more six and it would be the sign of the devil. But I have had another CTA moment on this bus. Going to work one night, I was waiting at a stop with two other women. One was standing with her empty pull cart. The other was an elderly woman sitting on the bench. I was leaning on the building behind both of them. I heard a screechy voice ask, "Are you going to stand there all night? I can't see the bus coming." The woman with the cart was apparently blocking the view of the old woman.

Finally, after what seemed like a fortnight, the bus arrived. I was behind the old woman on the steps when she said, "Somebody help me!" I panicked a little. That quickly died when the bus driver groaned, obviously recognizing her. "Nobody help her. She's fine," the bus driver grumbled. The woman continued on the bus, scoping out a seat. She honed in on a young Hispanic male, probably in his early 20s. As she sat down next to him, she loudly proclaimed, "I haven't had a piece of a-- in 25 years!" At this point, I had found a seat behind her on the bus. I could not see the face of the man. But, for the rest of her ride, the woman continued to discuss her dilemma.

With these two experiences alone, how can anyone say that driving all the time is better? Without the CTA, such stories could not be told. Conversation is a dying art, "they" say. Well, maybe if people rode public transportation more often, they would have stories to tell. These stories would be told to generation after generation, soon arriving at urban folklore status.

This is not a plug for the CTA, but for the human race. Sitting alone in a car can get pretty boring; I used to do it. Now I ride the CTA and my bike. I even enjoy riding my bike more than I love riding the CTA, but if you have ever ridden around the city on a bike, that is a story in itself.

## Mailbag

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

per. Apples and oranges? No, just a matter of degrees.

Carlos Fernandez

Junior

Film and Video Major

Editor's Note:

As far as your opinions on my column go, I will never take issue with what you have said, since the biggest joy I get out of writing for this paper is hearing from people who intelligently disagree with what I have to say. That's what makes the job interesting.

The other points you bring up, however, need to be addressed. For one thing, whether your letter came through or not, it was never given to me. Sometimes this is due to an e-mail provider that I would call a four-letter word at best; other times, letters fall in careless hands. In any case, it never has to do with a desire to silence anyone.

From now on, you and everybody else can send letters to [chronicle@mrbbilly.com](mailto:chronicle@mrbbilly.com). It may not look as slick as our other e-mail address, but I can promise you that (1) it works and (2) I'll receive everything you send there.

And finally (and I can't stress this enough), talk to me. I'm a full-time student with several jobs; this paper isn't my life. So if no one tells me when this or that demonstration or event is taking place, I can't possibly figure it out myself. My phone number at the office is (312) 344-7256. My e-mail is [mrbbilly@mrbbilly.com](mailto:mrbbilly@mrbbilly.com). Feel free to use either of these guys anytime.

— Billy O'Keefe, Viewpoints Editor

## Columbia Chronicle Opinion Poll

Question: Who would you like to stuff your stocking this Christmas?



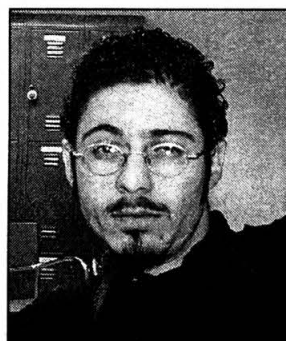
**William Gregory**  
Junior/Art History  
"I want Alejandro Fernandez in my stocking."



**Brooke Serson**  
Junior/Graphic Design  
"Andy Warhol. He's such an amazing artist. I'm sure he would put a Campbell Soup print in my stocking."



**Daniel Mulligan**  
Junior/Film  
"Seven of Nine. I want all the Star Trek goodies she can muster."



**Nikko Iordanou**  
Senior/Photo Journalism  
"Isabella Rosalini. Her chubby tummy has the greatest touch."



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INSIDE THE WORLD OF ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

VITALITY

Best movies of 99

The Hideout

The Hideout

The Hideout

Low

Low

Low

Low

Low

Low

Low

Low

The Cider House Rules

The Cider House Rules

The Cider House Rules

The Cider House Rules

Black Panther

Black Panther

Black Panther

Black Panther

An electronic Christmas



# Snow Falling on Cedars - A teary love story

EDEL COFFEY

Staff Writer

*Snow Falling on Cedars* is a classic tale of love and life and how all is unfair in such matters. Based on the 1995 best-selling book by David Guterson, the film incorporates such intangible things as how memories bind and affect all of our experiences, and how sometimes, things happen for no reason at all.

Set on San Piedro, a fictional island north of Puget Sound, this is a different kind of love story. *Snow falling on Cedars* is set against the historical background of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor and the subsequent Japanese-American "relocation camps." This was purportedly to prevent any conflict that could arise from the growing American mistrust of the Japanese.

Ishmael Chambers (Ethan Hawke) is San Piedro's local reporter, who, apart from his time spent at war, has spent his whole life there. His relationship with

Hatsue Miyamoto (Youki Kudo) is one that spans his entire life and their intense relationship is interrupted and destroyed by the evacuation of her family to the relocation camps.

The film pivots around several complex issues and unfolds in such an intricate manner that it is quite effective. The main action of the film is the

mysterious death of a fisherman and the murder trial of the prime suspect Kazuo Miyamoto, Hatsue's husband. However, the secondary elements in the film are almost as strong as this primary one.

The film is presented through a series of catalysed flashbacks and looped voices that ring in the viewer's ears. This is a wonderful and novel method to illustrate how people go through their everyday lives and how certain memories are triggered by certain events, emotions and people. The ringing voices essentially show how certain phrases remain with us forever and will eternally ring in our minds.

The use of flashbacks is not a new or exciting method, but producer Ron



Bass sometimes mixes characters' memories, using flashbacks within flashbacks to add a unique element to the film.

A lot of the film is set in the court room due to the murder trial. The theme of trials being about more than the truth comes to the forefront. Kazuo Miyamoto is Japanese-American and a highly decorated member of the American army. The prosecuting lawyer tries to use elements of the Japanese culture against Kazuo by representing them as vicious and barbaric, e.g. fighting with wooden sticks. The judge himself realizes that people's paranoid mistrust of the Japanese at the time may not have given Kazuo a fair trial. And so it falls to an eloquent and aging defense lawyer, as well as Ishmael's journalistic principals, to defend Kazuo against both an accusation of murder and the prejudices of the town.

The cinematography is astonishing, with several art shots of the sea, seagulls and the rain-soaked forests that are San Piedro. With a classical music soundtrack that is present at all the right moments in the film the technicalities of this movie are well-looked after.

One of the major themes of the film is the arbitrary and unjust nature of life and this theme is witnessed in almost every character.

*Snow Falling on Cedars* has a virtuous and humane tone to it, urging us to "live so that when this has ended we may look each other in the eye and know that we have acted honorably."



# The Cider House Rules

BRIAN CAMPBELL

Assistant Editor

After the excellent but crazy *Being John Malkovich*, it is great to see a film that could have been made decades ago, straightforward but magnificent. Michael Caine and Tobey Maguire turn in excellent performances in this sad film about an orphan who is raised by the orphanage doctor, before leaving him behind and discovering a life of his own.

Raised by Dr. Larch (Caine), Homer Wells (Maguire) learns all there is to know about delivering babies and performing illegal abortions at the orphanage in St. Cloud's, Maine, during World War II. Larch's orphanage gives his pregnant clients the choice, and unhappy with this moral dilemma, Homer soon makes a choice of his own. Even though he has become an unofficial son and partner to Larch, and like a brother to the other orphans, he breaks all their hearts by leaving. Larch can't bear to watch him go.

When airforce pilot Wally drives up to the orphanage in his soft-top car with an unintentionally pregnant girlfriend Candy (Theron), Larch performs the operation and Homer decides to leave with the couple. "I've never seen a lobster, I've never even seen the ocean" Homer tells Candy, before we see the car disappearing into the horizon, the world Homer is about to see for himself. St. Cloud's is Homer's home, but he knows he has to break free of Larch and make decisions for himself.

He works picking "Ocean Free" apples on Wally's family's orchard, and with the immigrant workers, resembles Steve Martin with his family in *The Jerk*. He writes to Larch that "killing mice is as close as I want to come to playing God," and Dr. God in the St Cloud's is finding it hard to live without his protege

Homer, turning to ether to ease the pain.

When Wally ships out, Candy has nobody to turn to except Homer, and they eventually fall in love. The other pickers move on, and Candy sleeps over with Homer in the Cider House, where the rules are bent behind Wally's back. Mr Rose, the chief of the pick-

ers, makes Homer burn the rules that hang on the wall for the workers. This hints at the abortions at the orphanage, where a furnace is used.

"Someone who didn't live here wrote those rules, we're supposed to make our own rules. We do, every single day, ain't that right Homer?" says Mr Rose. Both Homer and Mr Rose know they have made, and broken, their own rules.

Homer rejects Larch's offer to make him his assistant at the orphanage, but when things take a turn for the worst at St Cloud's, he turns down the pickers' offer to accompany them to Florida and says he has to "move on." Moving on means realising that the kids at the orphanage need him like he needed Larch.

Larch had asked what could possibly keep Homer working as a field hand -- the answer was Candy -- but as she cannot desert the recently disabled Wally, Homer's choice is made for him. "At least I got to see the ocean," he says before being joyously greeted on his return to St. Cloud's, where he can now apply his own rules.

After experiencing a different life with even more dilemmas, the prodigal son returns to where he was raised, to do what he is skilled in. He leaves his Candy behind and goes back to home sweet home. Caine with his American/English accent is reborn, and





# Best of 99 ...

LEON MICEK  
Correspondent

In the November issue of *Premiere*, screenwriter William Goldman wrote, "This has been the worst decade in movie history," Goldman then goes on to write about the lack of quality movies being made in Hollywood today. While his point that the percentage of good films seems to be dropping at an alarming rate is well taken, the decade has still produced some excellent films.

The best film of the '90s was released in the decade's first year. Martin

Scorsese's *Goodfellas* has- n't even been around for 10 years, but is already regarded as an all time classic. Based on a true story, *Goodfellas* brought the gangster film back into American culture after a decade of John Hughes and Michael J. Fox.

Gangsters continued to appear in many of the decade's best films such as *The Usual Suspects* and Quentin Tarantino's first two films, *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*. A new kind of gangster was also introduced to audiences in John Singleton's *Boyz n the Hood* and the Hughes Brother's *Menace II Society*.

Film noir was another genre that experienced a rebirth. The '90s best film makers, the Coen brothers, have reinvented the genre with films like

*Miller's Crossing*, *Barton Fink*, *Fargo* and *The Big Lebowski*. Often using the same core of actors, the Coen brothers have found a way to mix interesting characters, original plot-lines and dark comedy to create a world of their own that is always a great escape.

Novelists James Elroy and Elmore Leonard each had their works turned into noir/gangster films during the decade. Elroy's *L.A. Confidential* was a gripping story of '50s journalism and hot shot cops who wade through the filth of politics and crime. *Jackie Brown* and *Get Shorty*, were all able to turn Leonard's gritty, lowlife character's into flawed individuals that we can feel for. The sequel to *Get Shorty* based on Leonard's book "Be Cool" is currently in the

making.

The decade also had its share of films that affected society, although they were not necessarily among the best films of the 90s. *Titanic* was a phenomenon that lasted nearly until *The Phantom Menace* rumors were all over the media. *The Blair Witch Project* is still riding its marketing wave into video stores and the twist ending to *The Sixth Sense* could be compared to the buzz around *The Crying Game*'s ending earlier in the decade.

Oliver Stone created controversy on two dif-

ferent occasions, once with a little of the old ultraviolence in *Natural Born Killers*, and once by incriminating the entire U.S. government in *J.F.K.*, *Forrest Gump*, *Terminator 2* and *Thelma and Louise* each had their own impact on mainstream society.

*Schindler's List* and *Malcolm X* both reminded Americans of important times in history and were also among the best films of the last 10 years. *Shawshank Redemption* again showed that a Steven King story can be made into a great movie with the right director at the helm. We can now add

Frank Darabont to the list already containing Stanley Kubrick (*The Shining*) and Rob Reiner (*Stand By Me*). *Silence of the Lambs* started the serial killer/FBI fascination and *Seven*

kept the trend going for the second half of the decade. Robert Altman's *The Player* gave a great portrayal of Hollywood while *The Piano* and *The English Patient* were the two best love stories of the decade.

Perhaps the best thing about the last 10 years was the crop of promising filmmakers that was introduced to us. *American Beauty*, *Rushmore*, *Happiness* and *Boogie Nights* are just a few of the best films by new directors from the '90s. Sam Mendes, Wes Anderson, Todd Solondz, and Paul Thomas Anderson are all up and coming directors that should have an impact on the next 10 years of film.



**Goodfellas**



**The Usual Suspects**



## ROACH & Seals Reels

CHRIS ROACH  
Correspondent

DONNIE SEALS JR.  
Assistant Photo Editor

It's that time of year again—the end of it. So as the last year of the 20th century comes to a close, we here at Roach and Seals Reels would like to give our list of the best DVDs along with the best places online to visit for 1999 DVD purchases.

### Life is Beautiful

you view this film in its original Italian with English subtitles, or you can watch it in dubbed English. It also has a theatrical trailer, TV spots, and a featurette.

2. **Shakespeare in Love: Miramax Collector's Series.** The film won the Oscar for best picture at last year's Academy Awards, and with good reason. It is a well-written film about how Shakespeare's love affair helps him to write *Romeo & Juliet*. The DVD not only features deleted scenes and TV spots, but it also has director's commentary.

3. **The Nightmare on Elm Street Collection.** New Line turned this classic horror series into the best DVD set ever released. It even has an eighth disc made up of just extra features! As far as the films go, parts one and three are the best, but this is clearly the best modern horror series around.

4. **Go.** This fast paced movie from the director of *Swingers* is hip, fast and funny. It was probably the most entertaining film of 1999. Its DVD features an incredible number of extra features including director's commentary, deleted scenes, three music videos and a making-of featurette.

5. **Gods & Monsters.** This is the sad tale of film director James Whale's last years. The movie has an incredible performance from Sir Ian McKellen and an Academy Award winning screenplay. The DVD also has a lot to offer, including director's commentary and a documentary on Whale.

6. **Ghostbusters.** This hit from the '80s was brought back to life in '99, thanks to DVD. If you don't find something to like about this movie you should check your pulse—it's even better on DVD. It features: deleted scenes, conceptual drawings and storyboards, a 1999 star featurette and commentary with director Ivan Reitman and Egon himself, Harold Ramis.

7. **American History X.** The best thing about this film is the amazing performance put on by Edward Norton. It will be hard not to make him one of your favorite actors after seeing this. The DVD has deleted scenes, both widescreen and full screen formats, and the original theatrical trailer to offer.

8. **Saving Private Ryan.** Finally, Steven Spielberg's WWII masterpiece has come to DVD! This film is a visual masterpiece (thanks to former Columbia student Janusz Kaminski) and perfect for any movie collection. The DVD is nice, as it has a special documentary, and a special message from Spielberg himself. Unfortunately, no director's commentary, but overall, it's still great.

9. **Edtv.** This film was not recognized by anybody. Unfortunately it got lost in *The Truman Show*'s aftermath. This is, however, a good film. It is funny and touching, and nothing like Jim Carrey's movie. Its DVD makes it even better with Director Ron Howard's commentary, a making-of featurette, deleted scenes, outtakes and a music video.

10. **Pink Floyd The Wall.** *The Wall* is a story of a rock 'n' roll performers flashbacks and delusions. Each haunted image conjured up is another brick in the wall that is enclosing him. The whole story is told through the images on screen, and the music of Pink Floyd. This is a very sad, yet visually amazing movie. It is a true work of art. The DVD is something very special too. It features two documentaries, deleted material, an original preview from 1982, an original Pink Floyd music video, and commentary from Roger Waters, the former Pink Floyd member who wrote *The Wall*.

When shopping or looking for the latest DVD info, the best place to go it is on the Internet. It is first good to research what DVDs are available and what they have to offer, and also to research the most inexpensive places to buy them. We here at Roach & Seals Reels have compiled a list of sites to go to for that digital holiday gift.

-**DVDPRICESEARCH.COM.** What's the first step when buying a DVD online? I suggest starting your search at DVD PriceSearch.com. This site is wonderful if you want to find the best possible price for a DVD online. DVD Price Search looks for any DVD title, and compares the prices from every online DVD store together on one convenient chart. They also offer coupons and provide information on bargain basement deals.

-**THEDIGITALBITS.COM.** With more than 1,500 hits a day, the Digital Bits handles news, reviews, contests and much more. DVD guru Bill Hunt and his staff fill the site with everything going on in the world of this digital versatile disc. They also offer great feature stories about this new medium, and share their opinions on its future. The Rumor Mill, one of the most popular areas on the site, provides news on new DVD releases coming to a store near you.

-**DVDFILE.COM.** Looking for a review on a DVD? DVDFile.com has an extensive and thorough library of reviews on every DVD movie made. Period. The site acts as a search engine for DVD reviews and connects you with other DVD sites to provide you with any review needed. Along with its own DVD reviews, it also provides in-depth information and interesting feature articles on home theater.

-**NETFLIX.COM.** Tired of the hassle of returning DVDs to Blockbuster? Looking for a better selection than the two small shelves they provide? Check out Netflix.com, a rental service online that allows you to choose from thousands of titles. Here's how it works: you select the films you would like to rent online and Netflix bills you when they are shipped. Your movies arrive at your doorstep packaged in a special prepaid envelope case so that when you're finished, your simply place your movies in the mailbox. The rental period begins when you receive your discs, and you have a full week to watch your selections, so there's no rush. Also check out Netflix's rent-to-own package deals that allow you to keep DVD selections for longer periods of time.

**BUY.COM, REEL.COM, DVDEXPRESS.COM.** The year 2000 is slowly approaching, and shopping on the Internet has become the norm. But for those who are still a little uncomfortable but want to jump into this new venture, we suggest all the following sites. BUY.com sells televisions, books and DVDs. The selections is large, and they accept all major credit cards. The Web site is also easy to navigate. When looking for a bargain on a DVD, check Reel.com. They probably have some of the most inexpensive DVDs on the net, and sometimes they offer free shipping and handling. DVDEXPRESS was one of the first places online to sell DVDs. The prices are a bit steep, but the customer service and reliability rival any electronic store in the area. All of the previous Web sites are also featured at DVDPriceSearch.com.



**American History X**



# Christmas in Chicago

A SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY ESSAY

COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 13, 1999



DANA LORD/CHRONICLE

The "Toys for Tots" parade produced thousands of gifts for young boys and girls around the nation.



DANA LORD/CHRONICLE

A Chicagoland biker shows his support for the Toys for Tots program.



DANA LORD/CHRONICLE





CHRIS KUBIET/CHRONICLE

Someone is waiting for a holiday kiss.



A new breed of cabs zoom the streets of Chicago.



BRENNA McLAUGHLIN/CHRONICLE

Christmas patrons play holiday tunes Nordstrom's store at Oak Brook mall.





CHRIS KUBIET/CHRONICLE

his holiday season.



CHRIS KUBIET/CHRONICLE



BRAD BRETZ/CHRONICLE

St. Nick cruises the streets of downtown Chicago spreading Christmas cheer.



DANA LORD/CHRONICLE

Volunteers meet people along the sidewalks to petition those to help those who are less fortunate.





**JAMES**  
"THE GRINCHY CLAUS"

# Holiday STAFF PHOTOS



**BRIAN**  
"STAR"



**AMY**  
"SNOWFLAKE"

## Color Me Christmas



**ROB**  
"COLOR ME CANDLE"



**CARRIE**  
"COLOR ME TREE"



**DONNIE**  
"GINGER MAN"



**BILLY**  
"CANDY CANE"



**GRAHAM**  
"MSU - ELF"



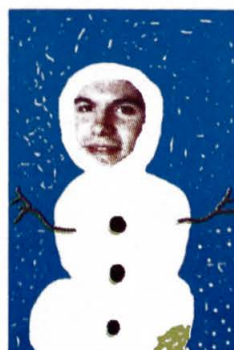
**BILL**  
"WREATH"



**KIM**  
"COLOR ME ANGEL"



**VALERIE**  
"COLOR ME STOCKING"



**BEN**  
"SNOWMAN"



**JILL**  
"GIFT"



JILL LOPRESTI  
Arts & Entertainment Editor



As you all may know by now, the Lounge Ax, our beloved rectangular tunnel of sound, is closing its doors after 12 years. Put aside all your moans and groans about the overly-sensitive sound technicalities that once blew your eardrums out, and the arguing concern over who the hell designed the layout for that joint. Just remember all the amazing shows these gals gave us. It seems that the DePaul fratboys and frosties have got their way. The Lounge Ax did not provide extensive sports coverage and Golf Pro, thereby lacking amongst its Lincoln Avenue competitors.

It is a sad, sad moment for independent bands and others that aren't mainstream enough to fill capacity at the Metro, Aragon or Park West. The thing about Lounge Ax and other venues such as the Empty Bottle was that at on any given night, you could almost be sure that a drop in would consist of witnessing some artists displaying innovative and intelligent musical performances. Shows dated until April have been canceled, but those who were lucky enough to check out Kranky



*A magnificent end to a magical place & Holiday cheer Low style*



recording artists Pan American, Low, and Sin Ropas provided a magnificent end of the year performance.

Sin Ropas started the evening out with a sit down set, prompting the audience and luring them in. The vibe began bustling between beer bottles and voices. Mid-set the Ax was packed.

Pan American, the mind and the machine, created a dreamy sound scape complete with twisted snares and crackling beats. The minimal sounds and styles, reminiscent of the early stages of

electronica, created solid transitions from ambient/trance to housier beats (see Aphex Twin Ambient Works Volume 1 & 2). Clearly, Mark Nelson (the second master mind from the amazing band Labradford), has mastered beat-matching and fluency.

Introduced by a love poem, Low began their long awaited performance. Immediately, the Low style Christmas festivities began, playing the majority of the tunes off their latest winter release "Christmas."

With typical Low procedure, the set continued with audience requests. Mimi, Alan, and Zak mesmerized the crowd with their trademark angelic crescendos and builds, with "Over the Ocean." Regardless of the many typical Lounge Ax technical sound problems, Low still managed to perform with finely tuned harmonious vocals.

Nearing the inevitable end, Mimi, three months pregnant and still standing, led the most precious rendition of "Blue Christmas," sad enough to pull the happiest Prozac recipient out of his glow. The Kranky Christmas show overflowed with the holiday spirit. Running lights and sleigh bells brought the set to an end. The reverence of the crowd echoed through applause as Low gave their goodbyes to Lounge Ax.

More than a decade ago, Sue Miller and Julia Adams, opened their doors and earned their proud position in Chicago's entertainment history. Low, with the help of Pan American and Sin Ropas, served as one of the most memorable big bangs that the Lounge Ax will go out with. Farewell--you will be missed.



*"after we spend all the money on our nieces and nephews, and a couple of our friends, there will be just enough left for one special gift" -- The sole line and shortest Christmas song ever, sang beautifully by Low*

## Chicago's Finest Hour at the Hideout

MARTINA SHEEHAN  
Staff Writer

The Hideout Tavern at 1354 W. Wabansia plays host to "Chicago's Finest Hour," a new monthly local music showcase. The first Wednesday of every month, some of Chicago's most underrated musicians take to the stage, performing three-song acoustic sets in the most intimate of settings.

The session's format resembles a sample tray of local music, with each band taking only about 15 minutes to perform two of their own songs plus a cover of one of the other performer's songs. The Irish inspired Drovers headlined last week's performance, playing for the small but enamored audience that filled the cozy old tavern.

Tucked away in one of Chicago's old industrial areas, the Hideout's home-like appearance makes it the perfect venue for "Chicago's Finest Hour." Owners Tim and Katie Tuten wanted to present a variety of local music acts without compromising the bar's original working-class feel. The venue, looking like a cross between an Elks Club Lodge and a dingy basement den, makes the event seem more like a get-together at a friend's house than a public performance. The giant mounted fish lining the wood paneled walls add to the homey feel, as do the tightly knit groups of musicians comfortably enjoying the overstuffed couches.

The Tuten's began hosting "Finest Hour" nine months ago with Tantrum

Production's Matt Suhar. The owners feel the monthly event has helped bring new patrons to the bar as well as expose people to bands they may not have otherwise heard. The acoustic format gives even better known bands a chance to show a different face. "And by playing only three songs, the audience gets a kind of teaser," Katie Tuten said. "That's why we always announce the bands' upcoming shows, so people can go out and see them later."

Other unplugged acts that night included Read Letter, Moreno and Woolworthy. Read Letter started the session acoustically, but then told the audience to imagine themselves writing a letter on a cold fall day while on the beach. Soon, a swirl of dark, ambient sound radiated from the keyboard for a spacey, dreary number that lasted more than a few minutes. Moreno then took over before Woolworthy performed their three melodically hummable unplugged songs.

The Drovers finished off the evening with one Read Letter cover and few Celtic sounding tunes, including a newer song tentatively titled "I Drank Your Tears." When introducing this tune, The Drovers' female vocalist explained she was trying to have the name changed because "drinking someone's tears is gross." The crowd really seemed to like that one.

Since the club began hosting "Finest Hour," featured bands have included local favorites such as the Baltimores, Busker Soundcheck and Local H. Next month's lineup for Jan. 5 features Nora O'Conner, Frisbie, Ruth Buzzy and Million Yen. Admission is by donation.

Happy Holidays from Vitality



**Anthony**      **Samantha**      **Sean**      **Uma**  
**LaPaglia**      **Morton**      **Penn**      **Thurman**

**-David Denby, NEW YORKER MAGAZINE**

**"THIS IS ONE VERY TUNEFUL  
LABOR OF LOVE!"**

-Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES

**"IT HAS CHARM  
AND INTELLIGENCE AND  
ENTERTAINMENT VALUE,  
and it's not like any other Christmas  
offering you'll see this season..."**

**Makes a comedy star  
of Sean Penn!"**  
-Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER

**"TWO THUMBS UP!"**

**-Roger Ebert and Lisa Schwarzbaum,  
ROGER EBERT & THE MOVIES**

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Written and Directed by Woody Allen

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 TONY HYMAN LAURA CUNNINGHAM DAUER ALISA KAPPELLER SANTO LUCASIO  
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 COSTUME DESIGNER JUDITH M. KATZ  
 MUSIC BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
 EDITOR JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
 PRODUCTION DESIGNER JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
 EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
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 WRITTEN BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
 DIRECTED BY JAMES NEWTON HOWARD  
 www.sonyclassics.com



# Black Panther Party -- "All power to the people"

TONIKA LEWIS

Staff Writer

All the small wooden folding chairs were occupied leaving little room to move down the narrow row. The people left standing were plastered against the wall and the large storefront windows were fogged. The small open space at 2012 W. Chicago Ave., better known as the Autonomous Zone, was filled to capacity Sunday night as people continuously spilled through the door to view a public screening of the 1989 video documentary *The FBI's War on Black America* by Denis Mueller and Deborah Ellis, commemorating the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Illinois Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark.

In 1969, on the bitter cold night of Dec. 4, Fred Hampton, chairman of the Illinois Black Panther Party, and Mark Clark, Peoria defense captain were shot to death in Hampton's apartment at 2337 W. Monroe by police officers during a premeditated police raid. Hampton was only 21 years old and Clark was 22. It took 10 years to prove that the 14-man raid--under the direction of the Chicago Police Department, State's Attorney Office and the FBI--assassinated the Black Panthers.

The years before the massacre had been turbulent for the United States. It seemed no coincidence that the assassinations of Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, President John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert all occurred in the same decade. It was believed that the United States government was in direct correlation with the murders.

The FBI's War on Black America paid homage to the historical legacy of the Black Panther Party with footage of their free breakfast and medical programs, rallies and speeches by various Panther members such as Kwame Toure, Fred Hampton and Huey P. Newton. The documentary also exposed the government conspiracy to disseminate the Black Panthers and how they infiltrated the organization with a counter intelligence program (COINTELPRO). COINTELPRO was a program designed to collect data on organizations the government deemed as a threat. The program, which still exists today, resulted in the deaths of at least 27 Black Panther members, and the imprisonment of hundreds. Various law enforcement authorities systematically raided Black Panther offices, medical clinics and the breakfast programs. By the end of

1969, COINTELPRO had so many Panther informants that no one trusted each other and relationships between the remaining leaders had been virtually severed, resulting in the fall of the Black Panther Party.

The Panthers accomplished a great amount within their five-year existence. They brought forth some of America's most provocative revolutionary leaders of contemporary times.

The Black Panther Party was the most progressive black radical organization that challenged America's white supremacist social structure with military discipline, community programs for oppressed people and the belief in "all power to the people."

Deborah Johnson, mother of Fred Hampton Jr., is continuing her struggle. In 1991, Fred Hampton Jr. was imprisoned. He was convicted and sentenced to 18 years in prison for firebombing a Korean store at 63rd Street and Halsted. The National People's Democratic Uhuru (Freedom) Movement, of which Deborah Johnson is president, is fighting to free Fred Hampton Jr. and are accepting donations for his legal defense fund. To contact the Uhuru House, call 773/924-7072.

## A Christmas Carol at the Goodman

KIMBERLY A. BREHM

Campus Editor

It's easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas during the holiday season. The overcrowded stores, the too-soon-played Christmas carols, and, worst of all, the financial debt that takes the rest of the year to recover from. There are days when all of us would like to say "Bah Humbug!" to it all.

That's why all of us should take the time to go and see *A Christmas Carol* at the Goodman Theatre. It is a great reminder of what Christmas is supposed to be about. We all have a little bit of Ebenezer Scrooge in us and, like him, need to be reminded that Christmas is about kindness and the generosity of spirit and finances.

*A Christmas Carol* is in its third decade of play at the Goodman, and every year they must have learned something, because it was one of the most spectacular plays I have ever seen.

My eyes were riveted to the stage from the beginning, when Scrooge shows Bob Cratchit just how cheap and cruel he can be, to the end, when all of the characters come on stage to sing a final Christmas carol.

Rick Snyder plays Ebenezer Scrooge for the second consecutive year. He is so believable as his character; when Scrooge is mean, when he is afraid, when he is sad, and when he is downright giddy at the end as he realizes he still has time to make amends for his evil ways. Snyder does an amazing job of projecting the wide-range of emotions that Scrooge experiences during his magical journey on Christmas evening.

The sets used during *A Christmas Carol* are some of the most professional I have ever witnessed. From Scrooge's business to his home, all looked like complete, real places. I loved the way the sets rotated so that you could see Scrooge enter through his front door, go

up a winding staircase, and wind up in his bedroom on the second floor.

The various moods set during the play added immensely to the experience of watching Dickens' most-famous work come to life. The theater uses special lighting, music, and fog machines to help add to those moods. When Jacob Marley makes his first appearance, quite unexpectedly, children and adults alike jumped out of their seats.

While some of the story of *A Christmas Carol* is downright scary, there is much in the play that is celebratory. Scrooge, as a young man, is shown dancing and falling in love one Christmas evening long ago. The Cratchits are always happy and joyful, even when there is not enough food on the table for everyone to eat. The Cratchits are the epitome of the lesson that it's not what you have, but whom you have, that counts in life.

The entire cast is very multi-cultural and diverse. Families are acted out with all sorts of different races and ages. It makes for very interesting viewing. In fact, the Ghost of Christmas Past is very different from most actors; he is deaf. He uses sign language, with a voice-over from off-stage, to convey his words. At the end of the play, when the entire cast comes out to sing Christmas carols, the last song is also signed. It is an emotional moment for all those watching in the audience.

*A Christmas Carol* is such a great play that seeing it will become a Christmas tradition in my family. My children and I were totally enthralled with the heart-warming tale and I know every year they will understand more of the play's important message.



## The Line-up

12/13	THE EX @ Empty Bottle
12/14-15	TOM JONES @ House of Blues
12/15-16	FREEDY JOHNSTON @ Schubas
12/16	GENE LOVES JEZEBEL @ Empty Bottle
12/17	NEIL DIAMOND @ United Center
	SMITHEREENS @ House of Blues
	LUKE SLATER @ Crobar the Nightclub
	SILKWORM, SIXTO, .22 @ Lounge Ax
	GREY EYE GLANCES @ Schubas
	LOCAL H, CUPCAKES, SILVERADO @ Metro
12/18	PHARAOAHE MONCHE with EXECUTIONERS, ROB SWIFT, TOTAL ECLIPSE @ House of Blues
	JANE OLIVOR @ Park West
	TRANS SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA @ Riviera
12/19	TEMPTATIONS, MARTHA REEVES & THE VANDELLAS, MARVELETTES @ Star Plaza
12/20	BARENAKED LADIES, PAULA COLE BAND @ Chicago Theatre
12/21	U.S. MAPLE, MARK ROBINSON, RICHARD BALUYUT @ Empty Bottle
12/23	BLUE MEANIES, APOCALYPSE HOBOKEN, ALKALINE TRIO, MARY TYLER MORPHIN/E @ Metro
12/26-27	TED NUGENT @ House of Blues
-28	@ Star Plaza
12/29	RUBBERROOM, ATMOSPHERE, PRIMERIDIAN @ Double Door
12/30-31	POI DOG PONDERING @ Metro
12/31	ANDREA MARCOVICCI @ Symphony Center
	ANDREW BIRD'S BOWL OF FIRE, KEVIN O'DONNELL'S QUALITY SIX @ Schubas
	DEF LEPPARD, DOKKEN @ Allstate Arena
	FREDDY JONES BAND @ the Vic
	SPLIT LIP RAYFIELD, PARLAY @ Lounge Ax
	WACO BROTHERS, ROBBIE FULKS, ANNA FERMIN'S TRIGGER GOSPEL @ FitzGerald's
	WILCO, STEVE EARLE & THE DUKES @ Riviera
	BoDEANS, MATTHEW SWEET @ Navy Pier
	TRANS AM, GOLDEN @ Empty Bottle
	OAK RIDGE BOYS @ Star Plaza
	COLLECTIVE SOUL, 10,000 MANIACS @ House of Blues
	BUDDY GUY @ Buddy Guy's Legends
	FLYING LUTTENBACHERS, CHEER-ACCIDENT, WOLF EYES @ Lounge Ax
	HELLSHOCK, CLOCKBOX @ Metro

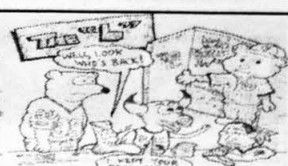
New Year's Craziness

12/31-1  
1/6-10  
1/7





# CHRONIC COMICS



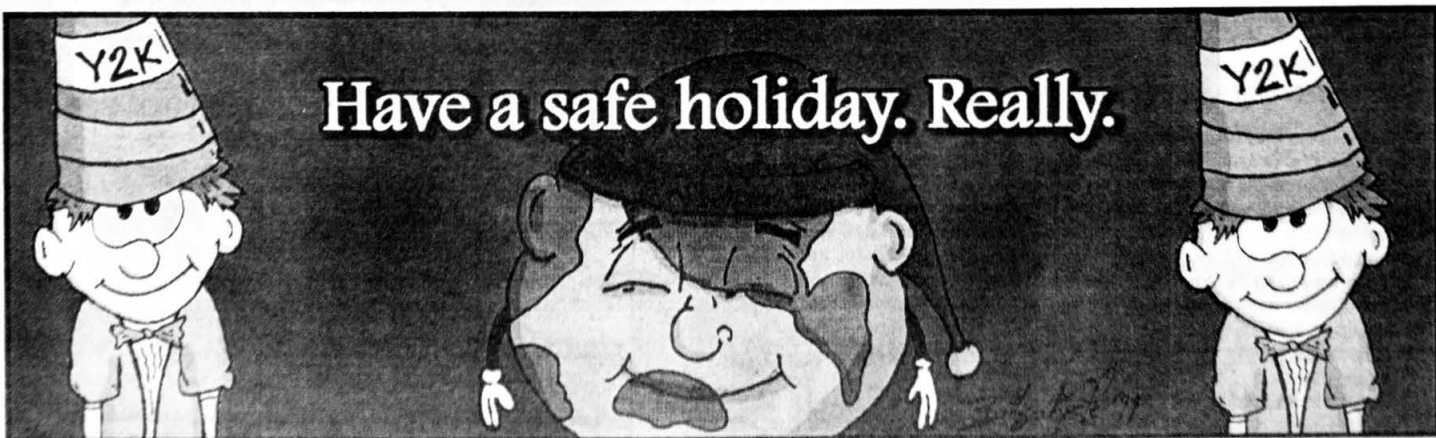
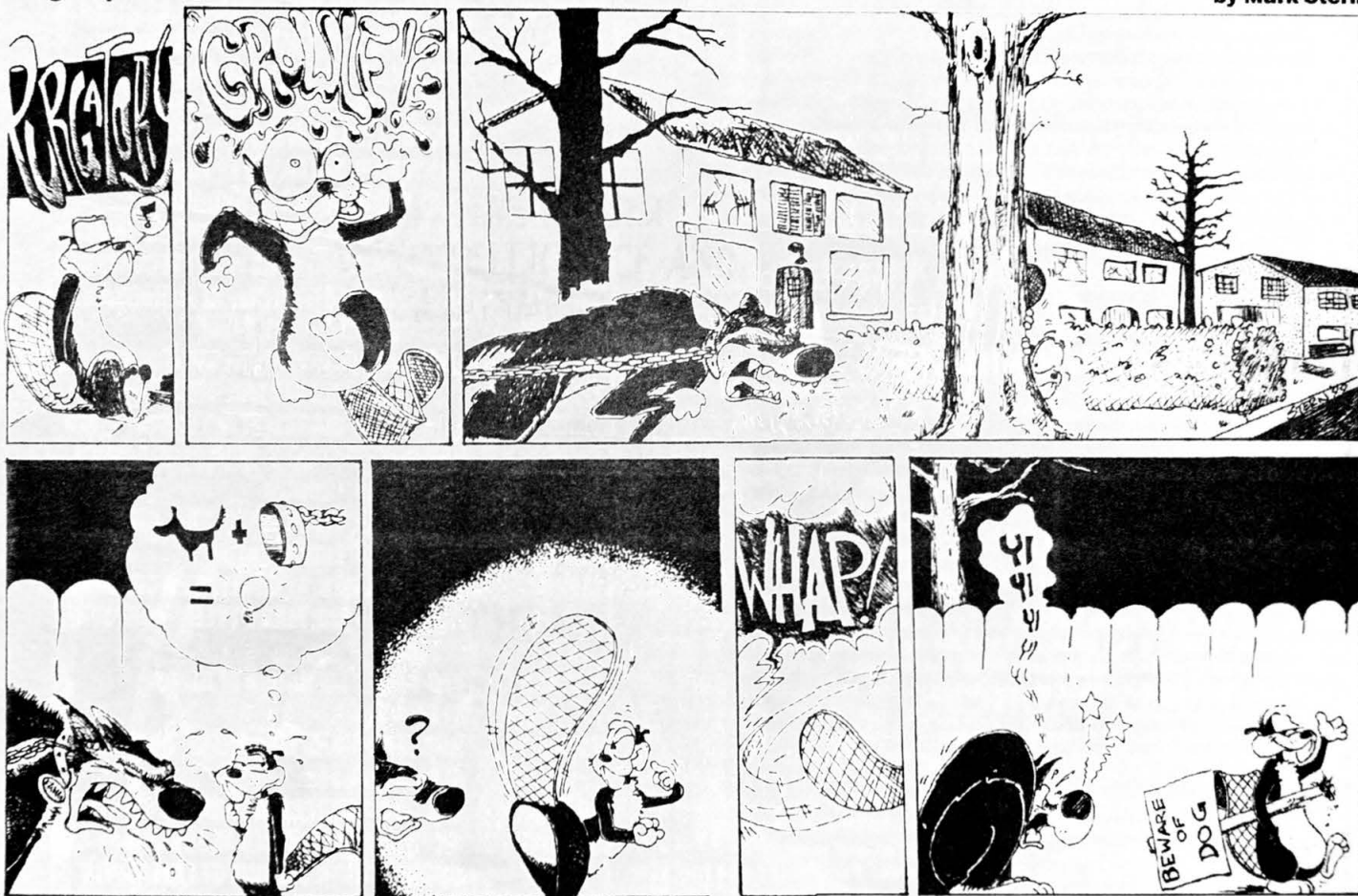
## Happy Xmas, War is Over

by Billy O'Keefe



## Purgatory

by Mark Stern





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—Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES



(HIGHEST RATING)

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—Jami Bernard, NEW YORK DAILY NEWS



(HIGHEST RATING)

**AN ABSOLUTE MUST-SEE!"**

—Lou Lumenick, NEW YORK POST



(HIGHEST RATING)

**AFFECTIONATELY HILARIOUS!"**

—John Anderson, NEWSDAY



(HIGHEST RATING)

—Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

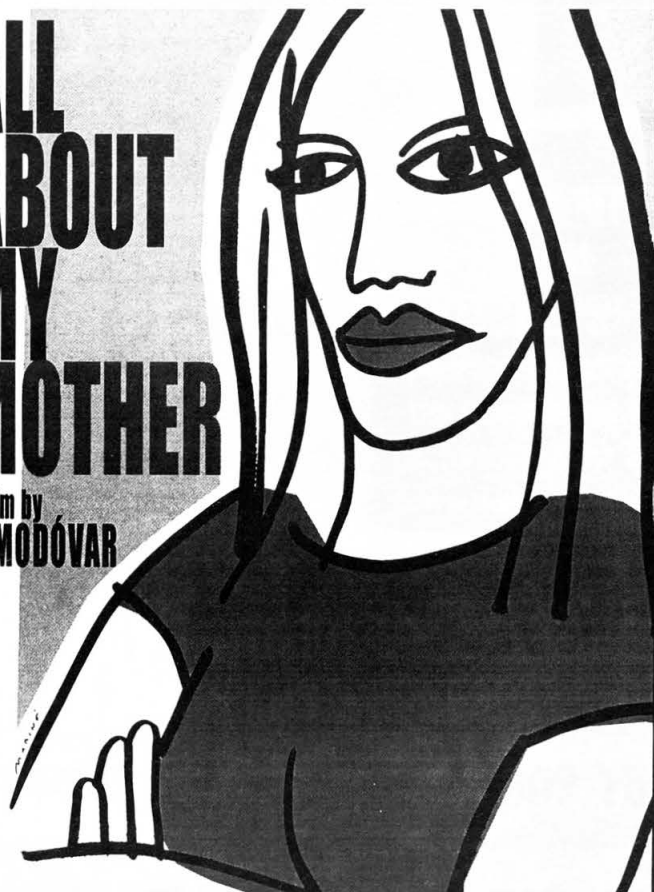


(HIGHEST RATING)

—Laurence Chollet, BERGEN RECORD

**ALL  
ABOUT  
MY  
MOTHER**

A film by  
**ALMODÓVAR**



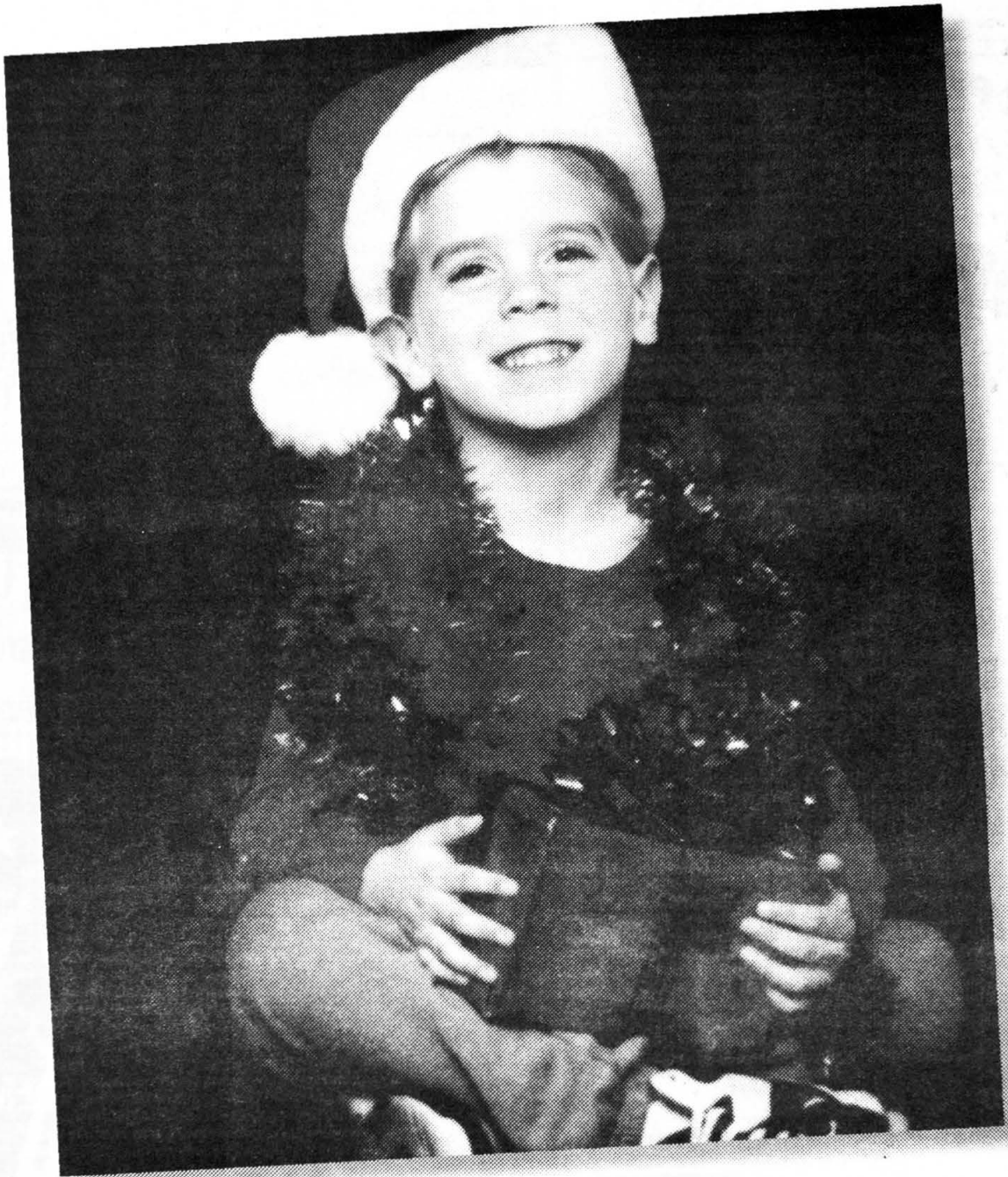
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**Aaron Borunda**

*Killed by a drunk driver  
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on Huntsville-Brownsferry Rd.  
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Dec. 13 NO PER	Dec. 14 8 PM	Dec. 15 8 PM	Dec. 16 8 PM	Dec. 17 7 & 10	Dec. 18 4, 7 & 10	Dec. 19 2, 5 & 8
Dec. 20 8 PM	Dec. 21 2, 5 & 8	Dec. 22 2, 5 & 8	Dec. 23 2, 5 & 8	Christmas Eve 2 & 5	Christmas NO PER	Dec. 26 2, 5 & 8
Dec. 27 2, 5 & 8	Dec. 28 2, 5 & 8	Dec. 29 2, 5 & 8	Dec. 30 2, 5 & 8	New Year's Eve 1, 4 & 7*	Jan. 1 4, 7 & 10	Jan. 2 3 & 6

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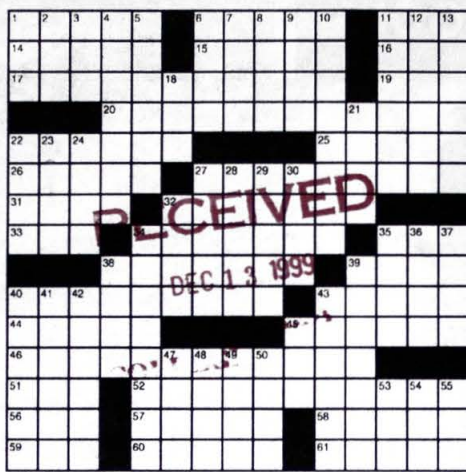
## CROSSWORD

## ACROSS

- 1 "Coming of Age" in —  
 6 Sets of cards  
 11 E-mail period  
 14 Warning signal  
 15 Exclusively  
 16 Ready when you —  
 17 Yellow-breasted songbird  
 19 Styron's Turner  
 20 Tool for many nuts  
 22 Move stealthily  
 25 Fred's dancing sister  
 26 Loafed (about)  
 27 Disseminator  
 31 Neighbor of Vietnam  
 32 Gallinule  
 33 Psychic's letters  
 34 Excess  
 35 Pi follower  
 38 Very beginnings  
 39 Pride signal  
 40 Judges  
 43 Denoted  
 44 Path  
 45 Dogs  
 46 Narrow-mindedness  
 51 Roadhouse  
 52 Audio IDs  
 56 "Malcolm X" director  
 57 German industrial city  
 58 Lucy's landlady  
 59 Annex  
 60 Minimum  
 61 Put off

## DOWN

- 1 Dolt  
 2 Clay, today  
 3 Checkers, e.g.  
 4 Electra's brother  
 5 "The Handmaid's Tale" author  
 6 Nighttime  
 7 River of Hamburg  
 8 Gun maker  
 9 Recognized  
 10 Creates a jagged edge



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12/11/99

- 11 Actress Blythe  
 12 Novel by 5D, "Lady —"  
 13 Restraining rope  
 18 Sleeve card  
 21 Adam's garden  
 22 Mosaic piece  
 23 Lupino and Tarbell  
 24 Drop heavily  
 27 Painful spots  
 28 Thicket  
 29 Where van Gogh painted like mad

- 30 Like so  
 32 Oscar-winner of 1936  
 34 Elevation standard  
 35 Horse color  
 36 Dock worker  
 37 Meal scraps  
 38 Show teeth  
 39 Get back together  
 40 Huns' leader



- 41 Lopped off branches  
 42 Reviewed harshly  
 43 Buoyed up?  
 45 Part of a pelvis  
 47 Misplace  
 48 Passport endorsement  
 49 Clinches  
 50 Mailed  
 53 Org. of Flames  
 54 Drink for two?  
 55 Stallone, casually

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- Ultraviolet dye identifies attacker for days
- Safety lock helps prevent accidents
- Multiple shots for continuous protection
- FREE lifetime refills if used in a crime
- 2 year warranty - can be tested anytime

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## COLLEGE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

By Chris "Kringles" Roach &amp; Rob "Prancer &amp; Dancer" Hart



**Aries** (March 21-April 19). You better not pout. You better not cry. You better watch out, we're telling you why. Because Santa Claus is coming to town with a vengeance. Don't believe in Santa Claus huh? We bet you believe in a sharp blade stuck deep into you chest.



**Taurus** (April 20-May 20). Despite Taco Bell's cute holiday decorations, we would stay away, unless you want a silent but deadly night. Go to McDonald's instead, as Happy Meal toys make great stocking stuffers. Then head over to KFC for your holiday dinner. There is a secret ingredient for every day of Christmas. He's the colonel; he can do that!



**Gemini** (May 21-June 21). You have about as good of chance of getting what you want for Christmas as Michael Keaton had of relaunched his career with *Jack Frost*. Don't fret though, just because it's a dog-eat-dog world doesn't mean you can't return that milkbone underwear. In fact, you can probably exchange it for mistletoe speedos.



**Cancer** (June 22-July 22). Rudolph isn't the only one with a red nose this Christmas, you little alcoholic you. The only difference is Rudolph was left out of the reindeer games, you will win many fun activities including "last one to make an ass out of himself and puke is a rotten egg."



**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22). Get an alarm for your chimney immediately. Do you really want a bearded fat man who spends the whole year in isolation with midgets coming into your house? And you thought the Nike sweat shops were bad!



**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Give up your love sick pursuit of Santa. The only thing he plans on going down is a chimney. However, we're sure one of the elves would be happy to stuff your stocking.



**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). We've talked to the Ghost of Christmas Future, and there will be no bah humpin' for you this holiday. We guess "Tiny Tim" will just have to spend another year having his hands keep him warm.



**Scorpio** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Christmas morning is going to be one of the most memorable moments of your life this year. Sad when you really think about it. Going to mass Saturday night isn't going to buy back your soul, unless you go on Easter also.



**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). This Christmas, it's a wonderful life! On cable we mean, your life remains crap. To avoid feeling depressed, go to some cheap motel and watch a dirty movie. Perhaps *Adult Toy Story*, featuring Buzz from a Light Beer & Stiffy.

# Holiday Horrorscopes



**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). This holiday season you will discover the true meaning of the holidays. It's such a misfortune that it will be sold out in every store. Since you will be so disappointed that you let both your family and kids down by spending your Christmas bonus on the Tickle Me Elmo that was popular, like so two years ago.



**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb 18). We like bunnies; they go hop. Unless you're talking about the Easter bunny. He doesn't do anything anymore, as he was killed on Santa's bloody rampage.



**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20). My favorite G.I. Joe was always Snow Job. He had skis and a red beard. I used to play with his action figure every Christmas. It's only now in college that I get the sexual implications of his name. Of course when we're young we never think of those things, like what a tight little package He-Man had. By the power of Grayskull!

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

**Dec. 13:** Monday the 13th, watch out for Jason!

**Dec. 14:** If it's really your birthday, then how come we were born on March 7th?

**Dec. 15:** We don't care if you're a year older. Show off.

**Dec. 16:** Look out! It's Santa Claus! Run for your life!

**Dec. 17:** If you let that stupid grinch in to your party you will be sorry.

**Dec. 18:** Put off your birthday a few days; how bout observing it a week late. We guarantee that family will come with all kinds of presents.

**Dec. 19:** The first present that you might want to open is the big colorful one that ticks like a watch.

## If You're Not Having a Birthday This Week ...

You will never have a birthday again, as Y2K will destroy us all. Run, RUN!

Rob and Chris explain in further detail. Call 312-344-7732 and pay only \$19.95 (New Holiday Special) per call; they would be happy to tell you when Jesus was really born!



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# Trecroci

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

"People's Elbow" on Triple H, Michaels swung a swift kick under The Rock's chin and gave Triple H the win.

From all indications, it looked like Michaels was going to return to the ring in some fashion, since injuries have kept him out of the ring for a year and half, but it didn't and he hasn't been seen since.

The biggest story of the year is a toss-up between the resurrection of WCW and the possible career-ending injury to "Stone Cold" Steve Austin.

Over the past few weeks, the WCW has been 100 percent more entertaining than the WWF. The comeback can be attributed to the hiring of the "Creative Control" angle that has played out since the new brain trust came aboard from the WWF.

# Hoops

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

to perform well to make up for the loss of two-time First-team Midwestern Collegiate forward who graduated and took with him 18.5 points a game.

The Ramblers can be proud of a solid recruiting class headlined by 6'4" swingman Jerrell Parker and 6'9" Croatian born Silvije Turkovic.

## Northwestern Wildcats

Graduated center Evan Eschmeyer covered up many of Northwestern's problems last season while leading them to an NIT berth.

"I didn't think we would make the NIT last year with three freshman starters and we did," O'Neill said. "We probably overachieved a little bit. I don't care who you are. It is very difficult to be a freshman in this league."

The loss of Eschmeyer and sharpshooter Sean Wink, who left the program, have forced O'Neill to change his offense while the Wildcats brace for a brutal Big Ten schedule. "We'll score more obviously from the perimeter and take more perimeter shots than we did last year," said the third year coach. "We have to manufacture shots

So far, the most surprising person to make an impact upon his return has been Jeff Jarrett. Now that he has aligned himself with "The Outsiders" he has achieved main event status and has been drawing huge heat from the crowd and conducting hilarious interviews.

The best moment, however, was two weeks ago, with a three-way match thrown together between The Outsiders, Sid & Goldberg and Bret Hart & Chris Benoit inside the steel cage. From Benoit leaping 20 feet from the top of the cage and across the ring onto Hall, to Jarrett joining forces with The Outsiders, handcuffing Hart and Benoit to the cage, the match was nothing short of awesome.

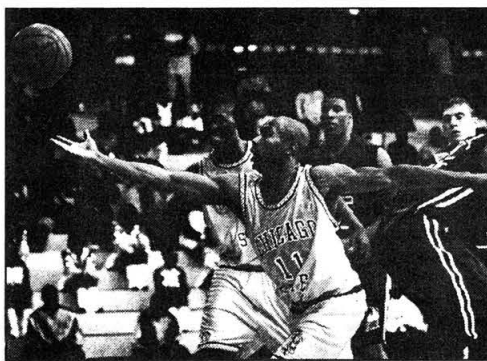
As far as 2000 looks, the WWF will add Taz from ECW, and with Austin being out, he is expected to make a mark immediately. While it is good to see The Big Show as the World Champion, he is not involved in anything, besides running after The Big Bossman in a never-ending angle. I hope that by the time this column

appears Jericho will have won the Intercontinental Champion from Chyna at Armageddon and give some credibility back to that belt.

The WCW meanwhile, will still be an ongoing face-lift that has been successful so far. With TBS's Thunder program expected to move to Wednesday's and the improvement of Nitro to decrease to two hours, the show will not waver like it does sometimes when it lasts for more than three hours.

Also, one of the most mysterious and unique individuals in WCW history will reportedly return to the ring. Kevin Sullivan is expected to reunite the Varsity Club group that was mainstay in the now-defunct UWF and NWA in the late-80s and early 90s before the name changed to WCW. The group will again consist of Rick Steiner, Mike Rotunda and possibly Steve "Dr. Death" Williams. Sullivan retired from wrestling in '97 after a lengthy feud with Benoit.

Stay tuned, because Sullivan is something to see.



Chicago St.'s guard Jermaine Hicks (#11).

in a different kind of offense, and we'll do that with motion."

Sophomore guards Steve Lepore and David Newman must remain consistent for Northwestern to stay competitive. Coach O'Neill thinks that by next year the Wildcats will be a solid program for years to come. Unfortunately, this year is yet to be played.

## University of Illinois-Chicago Flames

Despite finishing 7-21 and 2-12 in the Midwestern Collegiate Conference last season, UIC coach Jimmy Collins thinks his young team can compete with the best teams in the league.

"I'm a fervor optimist," said Collins. "I thought we were going to win the conference tournament last season when we were 7-20. I think this team is going to continue to get better. This is by far one of the smartest teams that I have been around."

The Flames (3-4) have been up and down so far this season. With two freshman, Joe Scott and Maurice Brown, getting many of the minutes in the post, inconsistency is to be expected according to Coach Collins.

"I've been telling these guys that they are just inches away from being pretty good," said Collins, now in his third year. "One of the things that has held us back has been [the lack of] a post player. Not just defensively, but offensively as well."

The encouraging news for the Flames is that Brown and Scott seem to be starting to become more comfortable on the floor. Brown led UIC with 17 points and 14 rebounds as one of the few bright spots in a Tuesday night loss to Chicago State, and Scott had 19 points and 10 rebounds during a Dec. 4 victory over St. Francis.

# That was then, this is now, Jerry Rice faces his mortality

MATT MAIOCCO

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

On the occasion of Jerry Rice's 37th birthday his wife, Jackie, treated him to a video tribute of sorts.

Rice was transfixed as he sat on the couch watching some of his best plays from a 15-year career with the 49ers in which he has broken almost every significant NFL receiving record.

If he had been granted his wish, he probably would have become 10 years younger as the candles were being extinguished.

"I was running down the field, bouncing like a deer," Rice said Wednesday. "And I caught myself watching the tape and saying, 'Look at that, I can't believe that.' And now it's not like that because of what's happened to me. I feel like I have heavy legs and I don't have the spring in them anymore."

What has happened is that Rice has been plagued by injuries to both knees. His career was remarkably injury-free until torn ligaments in his left knee virtually wiped out his 1997 season.

The past two seasons, it has been the right knee that has given him problems. About the time Rice's surgically repaired knee was rounding into shape, he sustained a partial tear of his posterior cruciate ligament when he fell to the hard artificial surface of the Georgia Dome in Atlanta last season. The injury did not require surgery, but Rice said the condition still bothers him.

"If you look back and I didn't have that (first) injury, there's no telling where I'd be right now," Rice said. "But it happened and I'm dealing with it and I'm trying to fight my way back. If it doesn't get any better, then I know it's time (to retire)."

When Rice watches film of himself during the week, he said he sees a player who shows some hesitancy. It took a highlight film last week to refresh his memory of what he looked like when he was clearly the best receiver in the business.

"It was very frustrating just because of the explosion

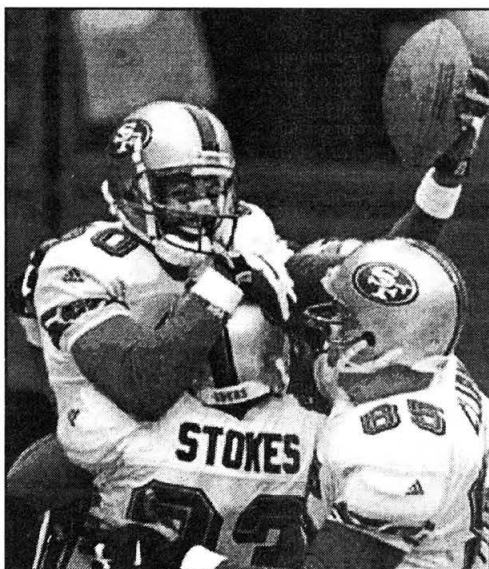


PHOTO COURTESY OF CBSSPORTSLINE.COM

The career of Jerry Rice is coming to a slow end.

that I saw," he said. "I got a little envious. That's bad when you envy yourself."

Now, Rice admits to also being wistful when he watches Minnesota second-year receiver Randy Moss, who will line up Sunday against the 49ers.

"I'd love to have those young legs," Rice said, laughing.

Moss is the first player to come into the league since Rice with skills that appear to be on par with those of Rice in his prime. In his rookie season, Moss put up numbers that rivaled anything Rice accomplished. Of course, Rice did it repeatedly, recording 11 consecutive 1,000-yard seasons and seven straight years of 10 or more touchdown receptions.

"If the situation is right for him, he's going to do a lot

of wonderful things," Rice said. "He's going to break records. He's shown everybody he's capable of making the big plays, but now what I really respect is I see him working underneath a little more. That's the true mark of a receiver, to be able to catch the ball underneath and take a hit and to make plays."

Even as Moss was catching a league-leading 17 touchdown passes last season, Rice served notice that he was not going away. Rice added to his all-time record totals with 82 receptions and nine touchdowns.

But this season has not been a joy for Rice, who said before the season it was time for him to turn the stage over to Terrell Owens and J.J. Stokes. Rice still leads the team with 25 receptions, but his average yards per catch is down to a career-low 11.

Team general manager Bill Walsh suggested Rice cut back on his rigorous offseason conditioning program to save his legs. But now, Rice said, he arrives at the team's practice facility at 6:30 a.m. every day just to be ready to play every week.

"I think I've worked so hard physically that I'm a little burnt because I'm always concentrating on that, making sure my quads are strong, making sure my legs are strong," Rice said. "And it takes a toll on you."

"And even with everything that has happened, I'm still working hard trying to get back. And if I come up short, I know for sure that I gave it 100 percent and there's no going to be a doubt in my mind."

Conceivably, this could be the final season for Rice and Steve Young, who continues to seek medical advice while he deals with post-concussion symptoms. Rice said Young's situation has made him think about the way he wants to leave the game.

"I think you want to step out of it on your own terms, but I know it's coming to an end," he said. "I think a lot of the guys are still amazed that I can do what I do on the football field after being around for a long, long time."

"Steve is a great athlete and a great person. To have something like this decide if he should play or if he should retire, that's pretty devastating."



# SPORTS



SPORTS

Jerry is going downhill

PAGE 19



y2k

No more Chronicle?!

COMING NEXT YEAR

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 12

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1999

## CHAIR SHOTS!

An inside look at the crazy world of wrestling and it's hold on America

The year of 1999 in wrestling is coming to end and in this edition of Chair Shots, we will take a look back and glance toward the future.

We will forever remember 1999 for the horrific death of Owen Hart. On May 23 of this year, Hart was getting ready for his match at WWF's pay-per-view, "Over the Edge," when his in-ring entrance turned sour. Wrestling as the Blue Blazer, Hart was to "fly" into the ring; but that never happened.

Instead, Hart plunged from the rafters of the Kemper Center in Kansas City, Mo. the ring, dying almost instantly. An unlawful death lawsuit filed by the Hart family is still pending against the WWF.

In addition, the world of wrestling also lost such colorful characters as Gorilla Monsoon, and "Ravishing" Rick Rude. With the loss of Rude, fans lost one of the entrepreneurs

of working the microphone to perfection, which paved the road for today's stars such as The Rock and Chris Jericho.

While the WWF has not yet taken advantage of his talents and the response that he has been receiving from the fans, Chris Jericho made the biggest splash this year by jumping from the WCW. In the moment of the year so far, was Jericho's debut in the WWF at the AllState Arena in Rosemont. Before a sellout crowd on Aug. 2, the Y2J countdown to his debut hit zero, and out came Jericho to a thunderous ovation, greeting the crowd to his now usual, "Raw is Jericho."

As far as matches go, the best has to be any of The Rock vs. Triple H matches. But still one sticks out. During its first month on the UPN network, Smackdown featured the main event between the two combatants with Shawn Michaels serving as special guest referee. Michaels had yet to give his allegiance with Triple H and Degeneration-X until this night. After nearly 10 minutes of back and forth action, just as The Rock was ready to slam the patented



BENJAMIN TRECROCI  
SPORTS EDITOR



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWF.COM

Y2J has made his impact in the WWF.

SEE TRECROCI, PAGE 19

## DePaul ready to make a statement

Chicago St., Loyola, UIC and Northwestern look to rebuild this season

GRAHAM COUCH

Assistant Editor

The college basketball season is now well underway, and the five Chicago area Division One basketball programs are all looking to improve from last year, when not one of them made the NCAA Tournament.

DePaul looks as if they are the best bet of the group for a NCAA bid come next march, but several other teams think



ROB HART/CHRONICLE

DePaul's chances rest on Quentin Richardson's (#3) shoulders.

they have a chance to surprise folks and wind up in post season play.

Team-by-team, this is how it breaks down:

### Chicago State Cougars

The Cougars (2-3) are looking to their talented senior backcourt to lead them. Point guard Jermaine "Squirt" Hicks is the key to the offense. His 20 points, seven assists and six rebounds helped Chicago State upset UIC last Tuesday.

His backcourt mate, Tim Bryant, is averaging more than 13 points per game and led the Cougars with 26 against UIC. Bryant thinks the 104-57 loss to DePaul on Dec. 1 in front of a national audience was the wake up call the team needed.

"We know what we have here. It's something special," said Bryant. "The DePaul game happened perfectly-national TV. It was embarrassing. It made everybody realize what they needed to do."

The Cougars will not know exactly how good they can be until Darrel Johns enters the line up. Johns, a 7'1" junior center who transferred from Eastern Utah, will make his debut Dec. 18 at Utah.

Coach Bo Ellis likes the fact that Johns' first game will be against a national powerhouse and does not think his presence will disrupt the teams' chemistry.

"It gives us a solid go-to-guy in the middle," Ellis said, who says Johns will start immediately. "With him being in there, it will make our other big guys a lot better because

now they have another big guy to throw around in there. Only time will tell how good we can be."

However, as good as Chicago State is, it should not be difficult to better last season's mark of 3-24.

### DePaul Blue Demons

After a heartbreaking 84-83 overtime loss to Duke, DePaul Coach Pat Kennedy was happy to escape with a 69-62 win over lowly Monmouth last Monday night.

Monmouth surprised the 22nd ranked Blue Demons (5-2) by shooting 61 percent from the floor in the first half including nine of 15 three-pointers to take a 44-39 lead.

"The one good thing that came out of this game is we didn't get upset," Kennedy said. "You see one or two of those games every year in college basketball early in the season. I'm just very glad this wasn't one of them."

Kennedy, who has restored the Blue Demons' program to prominence since taking over in 1997, has a team loaded with talent such as 6'7" sophomore forward Quentin Richardson, 6'4" junior guard Paul McPherson, and 6'7" sophomore swingman Bobby Simmons. They all have a chance to be NBA stars.

Richardson, 19.4 points and nine rebounds a game, says games this week against St. Johns and at UCLA will go a long way to determining what kind of team DePaul will be this season.

"These are going to be games that we have to go out and win."

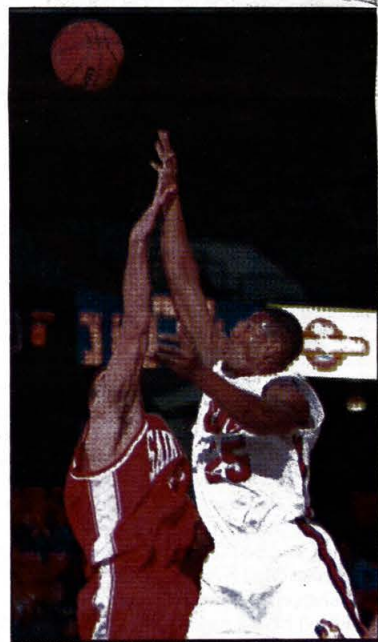
Richardson said. "We can't just play them tough or play them close. We have to win."

### Loyola Ramblers

The Ramblers made significant progress in Coach Larry Farmers' first season, finishing 7-7 in conference play, including wins over the league's top two teams, Detroit and Butler.

This season Loyola will rely on its steady backcourt of sophomore Chris Williams and senior Earl Brown.

Both are averaging over 11 points per game and will have



TASOS KATOPODIS/CHRONICLE

UIC's Maurice Brown (#25).

UIC's Maurice Brown (#25).

SEE HOOPS PAGE 18

## This week in Sports



### NFL

**Monday**-Denver at Jacksonville, 8:00 p.m., ABC.  
**Saturday**-Pittsburgh at Kansas City, 11:30 a.m., CBS, San Francisco at Carolina, 3:15 p.m., FOX.  
**Sunday**-Detroit at Chicago, noon, FOX, Buffalo at Arizona, 7:15 p.m., ESPN.



### NCAA

**Tuesday**-St. John's at DePaul, 6:30 p.m., ESPN2.  
**Saturday**-Kansas at Illinois, 11:00 a.m., ESPN, Louisville at Kentucky, 3:00 p.m., DePaul at UCLA, 5:00, FSC.



### NBA

**Wednesday**- Chicago at Indiana, 6:00 p.m., FSC, Toronto at Philadelphia, 7:00 p.m., TBS.  
**Friday**- Chicago at Philadelphia, 6:00 p.m., FSC.  
**Saturday**- Orlando at Chicago, 7:30 p.m., WGN.