

1-8-2001

Columbia Chronicle (01/08/2001)

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (01/8/2001)" (January 8, 2001). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/501

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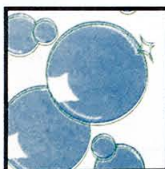
COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 34, Number 14

Columbia College Chicago

Monday, January 8, 2001

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Campus burglarized over holiday break; \$10k check lifted

By Joe Giuliani

Contributing Editor

Thieves broke into two offices in the 623 S. Wabash building during the holiday break and made away with a \$10,000 check and some computer software, said Chicago police.

The *Chronicle's* office, room 205, and the Office of Community Arts Partnership, room 721, were burglarized sometime between 3 p.m. and 9:05 a.m. between Dec. 22 and Jan. 2, said police. There were no signs of forced entry.

The \$10,000 check was stolen from a safe in room 721 along with \$10 to \$20 in currency. Stolen from room 205 was miscellaneous computer software valued at around \$90.

A cabinet and a desk drawer in room 205 were pried open; in room 721 the safe was also pried open. Police said faculty members returned to work on Jan. 2 to find the doors to the two rooms locked. But upon entering, they found their offices ransacked.

While police have said the incidents are "possibly related," Martha Meegan, director of safe

ty, dispelled the idea, saying each burglary was handled differently. Meegan said the break-ins might have occurred after faculty members left for the Christmas holiday but before security had a chance to lock the building.

"We're not prepared to make a judgement that people entered during the break," Meegan said.

Security lock the college's buildings the night of Dec. 22 and few people had access to the buildings during the break, Meegan said.

However, Columbia security and police believe the burglaries were committed by someone with access to the offices.

"It's a fair comment to say (the thieves) knew what they were looking for," Meegan said.

Julie Simpson, director of the Office of Community Arts Partnerships, said the thieves would not be able to cash the check but declined further comment.

In October, a PC was stolen from the *Chronicle's* office over a weekend. There were no signs of forced entry in that case either.

Taking shape



Photos by John Mattison/Chronicle

Anna Novak (above) hammers out the finishing touches on her final project sculpture.

Nao Kono (right), uses the throwing wheel to finish his final project for Patrick Micelis' Ceramics I final critique.

The final is a culmination of the students' work throughout the semester consisting of three bowls, two cylinders and a teapot.



College loses respected theater instructor

By Ryan Adair

News Editor

Columbia recently lost a prominent member of its faculty over the holiday break. John Murbach, Artist-in-Residence and full time set design instructor in the Theater department, died on Monday, Dec. 25.

Murbach had been a member of the college faculty for over 10 years, teaching each class in set design and construction through the Theater department. He was also an active and well-known member in the Chicago theater scene. Since 1978, he worked with many notable Chicagoland companies including the Irish Repertory Theater and Wisdom Bridge, on the North side.

In addition to area productions, Murbach also served as one of the resident set designers with the Theater department, and designed many of the departmental productions performed in Columbia's Getz Theater. The most recent and last show that Murbach designed was the student production of "The Wiz," which ran last month.

"John was a great problem solver," said Mary MacDonald Badger, a full time faculty member in the Theater department, who worked with Murbach on numerous productions. "The Getz is a difficult space to work with, but he mastered the art of designing in that area and it was always very clear for him what he needed to do."

According to Badger, Murbach traveled extensively in Europe, studying art and architecture, which he eventually integrated in his designs.

"He was a very good craftsman and a highly skilled scene painter. He was also a great collaborative artist, and enjoyed working with the other designers on a production," she said.

To those who knew him, Murbach did not have a par-

ticular design that was recognizable or regimented. "He was able to adjust his own aesthetic to the particular show he was working on," said Sheldon Patinkin, chair of the Theater department, who worked outside Columbia as a director on several professional shows, with Murbach serving as scenic designer.

"He was good at creating a world where all the elements came together," said Frances Maggio, a colleague of Murbach's in the Theater department. Maggio credited Murbach as a teacher who always looked out for his students and continually pushed them to do their best.

"The main thing about John is that he really made himself available to his students and their needs," Maggio

said. "He was constantly generous with his time and cared about everyone in his class."

Murbach, who was in his early 40s, had suddenly become severely ill during the middle of the fall semester. His quick passing, however, was something few had anticipated.

"He was a gentle, quiet, very kind, very funny man," Patinkin said. "His death was very sudden and totally unexpected. This is quite a big loss for us all."

Murbach is survived by his family in Ohio, including his parents and three sisters. The Theater department will host a memorial celebration in honor of Murbach within the coming months.

Increasing gas prices raise Columbia's heating bill by quarter million dollars

By Joe Giuliani

Contributing Editor

Faculty members voiced their frustrations with increasing workloads at Friday's college council meeting, and Executive Vice President Bert Gall announced that Columbia should be about \$250,000 over budget for the fiscal year due to soaring natural gas prices and extremely cold weather throughout December.

While it cost about \$15,000 to heat the school during December 1999, heating bills for December

2000 are over \$50,000, Gall said. The college will have to use endowment funds to cover the deficit if money cannot be reallocated.

"This is gonna hurt," Gall said.

During the meeting's open forum, council members offered suggestions to ease what many see as a workload that has increased to overwhelming proportions. Bob Thall, Photography department chairperson, emphasized the need for leaving faculty members sufficient time to further their careers outside of teaching. Columbia faculty have gone from working two and a half days per week in 1980 to working

four or five days per week now, Thall said.

"We need to decide what kind of college we want to be," he said.

One plan under consideration is limiting faculty to nine hours of teaching per week with three hours of artistic activity or community service.

"Other art departments have teachers work two and a half days a week," Thall said.

Film/Video department chairperson Michael Rabinger noted that while Columbia has more than twice as

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Briefly News and Notes

International students to feature works in Hokin Gallery

Columbia's International Student Organization and the Hokin Gallery will host the World Enigma Showcase, beginning January 8, running through February 1. The opening reception will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 10, from 5-7 p.m., with performances beginning at 6 p.m. The showcase will feature artwork, photography, poetry readings, original songs and a fashion show from members of the International Student Organization.

Noted author visits college

Elizabeth Berg, author of *Open House*, the *New York Times* bestseller and Oprah book selection, will read from her work Tuesday, January 9, at 4 p.m. in the Ferguson Theater, in the 600 S. Michigan Ave. building. All are welcomed to attend. Admission is free. For more information, please call the Fiction Writing office at (312) 344-7611.

City Gallery hints at spring

"Castelli di Fiori, Castelli d'Acqua" (Palace of Flowers, Palace of Water), a photographic installation by Chicago artist Tom Denlinger, opens the new year of exhibitions at City Gallery in the Historic Water Tower, 806 N. Michigan Ave., with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 11.

On view is a building of flowers that Denlinger has created by repeating images of floating red and yellow flowers against various shades of blue Chicago sky on freestanding 10-foot panels. The exhibition continues through March 15. Admission is free. The City Gallery is dedicated to displaying Chicago themed photographs by Chicago photographers.

Published poets read works

Poets Bin Ramke and Cole Swenson will read from their works Thursday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m., in the Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

Ramke is the editor of the *Denver Quarterly* at the University of Denver, where he has been a professor of English since 1990. He is also the author of five books including *Massacre of the Innocents* and *Wake*.

Swenson is the author of *Try*, which won the 1999 Iowa Poetry Prize. Her other recent books include *Noon* and *Namen*.

Admission to the reading is free. The event is presented by the Poetry Program, from the English department.

Tour Eastern Europe this spring

The Art and Design department is organizing a trip to Krakow and Prague during the spring break (March 29-April 8). The cost is \$1,895, prior to fundraising. This includes airfare, hotel accommodations, breakfast every day, three dinners, two performances, local transportation, side trips to Brno and Auschwitz-Birkenau, and all entrance fees to museums and galleries. Interested parties should contact either Joclyn Oats at (312) 344-7446 or Yvonne Gajewski at (312) 960-8022.

WWIP sets brown bag lunch

Women's Work In Progress will meet for another "brown bag" lunch on Wednesday, Jan. 10 from noon to 2 p.m. in the administration building's fifth floor boardroom. The mission of WWIP is to support and develop college activities that offer women educational and work-place opportunities.

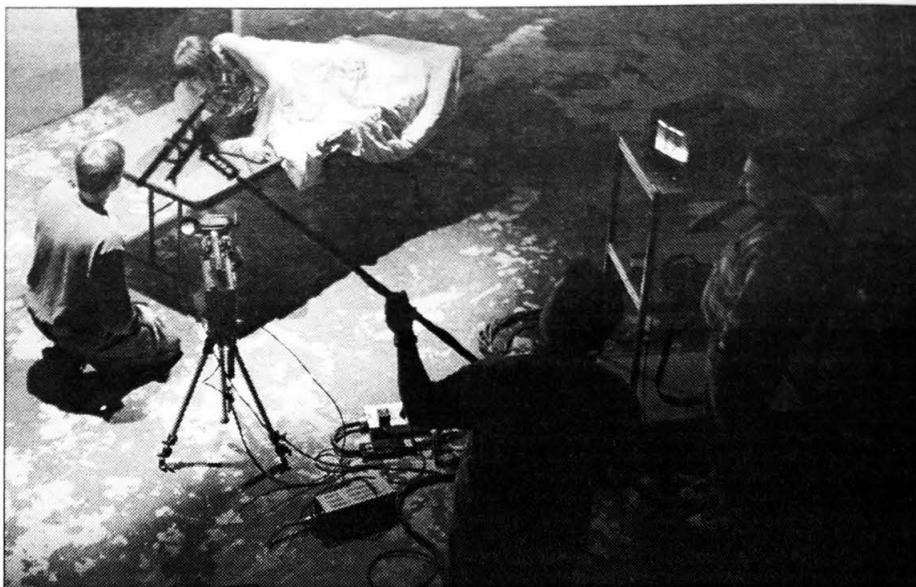
WWIP is a college service group open to all women faculty and staff and to any employee who is concerned about issues related to the education and professional development of women. The group seeks to provide a forum to those who like to meet informally and share work related activities and goals.

Anyone interested in becoming involved or would like to explore what WWIP is all about, are welcome at the Jan. 10 meeting, for an open topic forum.

Distinguished editors to speak

The Television department will host a panel of distinguished television editors, on Tuesday, Jan. 8. The event will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 1301, in the 600 S. Michigan Ave. building. Boxed lunches will be provided to the first 30 attendees. For more information, please call Ashley Knight at (312) 344-7344.

Around Campus



Dan Gerdes/Chronicle

Theater major Erin Toney and film major Mike Kuciak act in Ted "Kosh" Reagan's student film for his Directing II class.

Proposed pedestrian, bike paths cause Dearborn Park concerns

By Amber Holst
Editor-in-Chief

A plan to construct a series of pedestrian and bicycle paths throughout the Dearborn Park neighborhood has residents there wary of any changes.

The concern comes despite assurances from City of Chicago consultants that the plan is purely preliminary.

The plan proposes construction of pathways through Dearborn Park along 9th and 11th Streets, linking

Grant Park to the Chicago River. Currently, pedestrians west of Dearborn Park have to travel north to Harrison Street or south to Roosevelt Road to get east to Michigan Avenue or the park.

City officials say the pathways are an important ingredient for the burgeoning South Loop community.

Residents are protesting the proposal because many feel the walkways are not needed.

"I see no need for a passageway that upsets the community just because some planner wants to follow some principle of planning,"

said Ronald Wos, a resident of Dearborn Park I for 18 years.

Bonnie McGrath, a Dearborn Park II resident for six years, said she's concerned the walkways would disturb the quiet nature of the community.

"Dearborn Park I and II have a certain serenity even though we're in the heart of everything," she said.

Wos was also angry because the proposal, which affects Dearborn Park I residents, was not distributed to homeowners there, nor were they told about an Oct. 4 meeting at

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Council

Continued from Front Page

many film students as the University of Southern California, Columbia's Film department keeps a seven-person administrative support staff while USC's staff totals 35. Rabinger also pleaded his department's case by noting that the student to full-time faculty ratio in the Film/Video department is 62-1 while the ratio for the entire college is 35-1.

Fiction Writing Chairperson Randy Albers called the workload situation the most important issue facing the college right now.

"This is more important than the restructuring plan," Albers said,

referring to the college's plan to restructure its academic departments.

Gall also announced the college's purchase of a permanent trailer site in Los Angeles to be used in part with the college's "Semester in L.A." program. Gall called the acquisition an important anchoring of the Film department and predicted it would give Columbia a "sense of permanence, and more and better space" in Southern California.

"It invites the opportunity for other departments to send students to L.A.," Gall said.

In his report of the graduate

school, Associate Dean Keith Cleveland announced applications for this spring's graduation are up 30 percent.

In other council news, website designer Ivan Brunetti updated the council with plans for the college's website.

"We tried to jazz up the website," Brunetti said. "We're still experimenting with colors. We're trying to make it more uniform and consistent throughout." Originally, the website carried the same black and white design as the college's catalogue.

Visit our Webpage or we'll take the computer games (and Napster) away from our Webmaster.

Don't make Sal cry

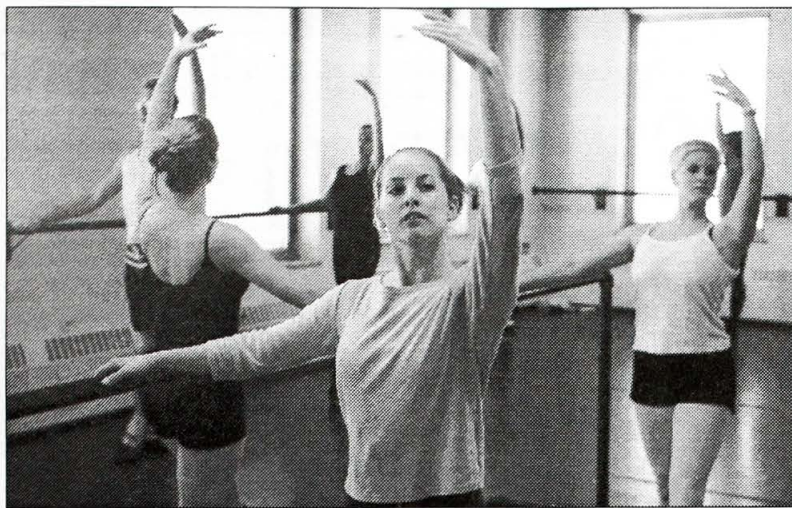
www.ccchronicle.com



If you have an upcoming event or announcement, please call the Chronicle's news desk at (312) 344-7255.

Practice makes perfect

COLUMBIA
COLLEGE LIBRARY



Dan Gerdes/Chronicle

Eduardo Vilaro's Ballet I class rehearses in Columbia's new Dance Center.

Path

Continued from Previous Page

Jones Academic Magnet High School to discuss the changes.

"The people who are most affected by the proposal, those living north of Roosevelt, were never told about it," he said.

Was also questioned the status of the plan.

"Nowhere on the document does it say 'draft' or that it is for discussion purposes," he said. "Nowhere does it say that this isn't really a plan and 'we're putting it out there just for fun'."

City officials and consultants, however, said the plan is merely a framework for change in Dearborn Park.

"This is just a concept," said Terri Texley, an assistant commissioner with the City of Chicago's Department of Planning and Development.

"This whole thing isn't even proposed," said Jack Pettigrew, a principal in Trkla, Pettigrew, Allen, and Payne, the urban planning and economic development consulting company overseeing the master plan for the city.

Both Texley and Pettigrew anticipated criticism of the plan.

"We presented concepts and ideas," said Pettigrew. "Not too many people from Dearborn

Park I liked the idea so it's something that will have to be reviewed."

The walkway proposal is part of a larger three-step plan that defines future development in the South Loop.

The plan would cover an area from Congress Parkway on the north to the Stevenson Expressway on the south to the lakefront on the east and the South Branch of the Chicago River on the west.

The first phase of the plan will analyze the existing conditions of the South Loop, said Texley, including zoning, new developments, parking, and buildings. City planners and consultants will study the analysis and produce a consensus based on community feedback.

Texley emphasized that the feedback is essential to the planning process. "We need to know if they are opposed to sidewalks right now or in general," said Texley.

The second phase will determine the best mix of green space, transit, transportation and development density in the South Loop, she added.

There is no timeline for the project, said Texley.

Carter appoints new member to board appointee will bring Internet experience to trustees

By Jessica Wheeler

Correspondent

Dr. Warrick L. Carter, Columbia's new president, recently appointed Bradley Keywell to the Board of Trustees. Keywell, who has an Internet background, is Carter's first appointment to the Board.

Columbia's Board of Trustees consists of a group of alumni and area professionals. There are seven standing committees within the board each headed by a chairperson. Two of the most important include the Governance and Nomination Committee and the Finance Committee, which is chaired by American Airlines executive Bill Hood. The Finance Committee is important to students and teachers because it deals with the annual budgets for each department. Just before Christmas break, the committee approved the budgets for the next fiscal year.

According to Priscilla Hunter,

a media relations associate in the Department of Institutional Advancement, the Governance and Nomination Committee "oversees and regulates the performance and reelection of trustees." This committee is in charge of holding the elections for the new trustees and informing them of their duties. Elections are held every March, May, October and December, and any trustee, including Dr. Carter, can nominate a new member. The entire board then votes on the candidate and a majority wins. Trustees serve a three-year term, and can be re-elected after the term is over. The terms are strictly on a volunteer basis, no members receive payment.

Barry Crown and Samuel Pfeiffer are Columbia's longest running members of the board, each having served since 1980. According to Hunter, two of the Board's most accomplished members include the Board's chair, Alton B. Harris and the secretary, Lerone Bennett Jr. Harris is a founding partner of

the law firm Ungaretti and Harris, and has been serving on the Board of Trustees since 1984. Bennett is the executive editor of *Ebony Magazine* and author of a best-selling biography of Martin Luther King, Jr. He has served on the board since 1987.

Many alumni serve on the Board of Trustees. The President of the Alumni Association, William Cellini, Jr., has been a long time member of the board.

Each of the board's committees meet weekly to discuss important issues, and the members report back to the entire board at the four yearly meetings. Anyone is invited to the meetings, which are usually held at the 600 S. Michigan Ave. building in the fifth floor boardroom. Columbia's Board of Trustees oversees much of what goes on at the school. The Board's decisions have a great impact on both students and teachers. Anyone, college-wide, can run for election to become a board member.

Perspective

National Buffoon's European Vacation

By Joe Siwek

Staff Writer

Over the holidays I had the great opportunity to spend 11 days overseas, traveling a good portion of Europe by train, logging many miles and staying in five cities in four countries. It was very tiring, but a fun task considering I slept in hostels, dingy hotels, occasionally on buses, and of course trains, trains, trains.

I'm putting emphasis on trains because they are the best—and arguably only—way to travel while in Europe. The European railroads are far more advanced than the United States', which really makes you wonder how we were ever considered as having a great railroad system. However, since America fell in love with the automobile it's easy to see how we forgot that we have passenger trains in this country.

Anyway, the reason I chose to go on vacation in Europe was to visit a friend, Jared Slater, who is studying in Austria. Slater is in a program, along with 25 other international students from all over the globe, sponsored by Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

On our journey I learned about many aspects of the European culture, customs and life in general. I am going to try and share a few of the lessons here. My stay in Dornbirn was short but sweet. I was introduced to a man named Niels Lockne, a native of Belgium who spoke of five languages. Lockne served as somewhat of a tour guide for me on that first night in a foreign land. He taught me, contrary to popular belief, that Europeans don't hate Americans, they just find the way we use a fork repulsive. Apparently we shovel food in our mouths like pigs and never clean our plate. I then took it upon myself to prove him wrong and proceeded to eat every morsel of food I was served at a local restaurant.

We came across a tavern called Gunter's Vintothek and apparently the staff had forgotten to lock the doors. It was after hours and the bartender was wary of serving us any drinks, due to town law. This brings us to my first lesson: When a bartender agrees to sell you a bottle of wine and two glasses, it is a polite way of asking you to leave. Now, now, don't think we were a couple of rude Americans demanding alcohol in the middle of the night. Eventually the bartender was more than happy to oblige us. We gave him a huge tip unheard of in Europe. The next lesson actually took place on the way to Paris and it was something my editor (Amber Holst a veteran of the European rail system), warned me about. When traveling by train overnight make sure you reserve a sleeper car. I cannot emphasize this enough. We had forgotten to arrange for beds and were stuck in a regular passenger car. Sleep was impossible, at least for me. Babies were crying, people were smoking and the lights remained on for the entire nine-hour ride. This also happened to be the second time in three days that I was awake for over 24 hours. My nerves were shot when we arrived in Paris and after my ATM card failed to work, the honking of a car horns were causing me to jump.

As for the city of Paris: After some much needed sleep we toured, for the next two days, one of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen. The Eiffel Tower is amazing although I do not recommend walking its 1,700 steps. If you have the chance, go to The Louvre (one of the most famous museums in the world) and see Leonardo De Vinci's "Mona Lisa." It is the single greatest piece of art I have ever seen and is more breathtaking in person.

This leads me to my next lesson. Americans tend to stereotype the French as being rude and a bunch of snobs. This couldn't be further from the truth. At least during the tourist off-season, the French were well mannered and completely friendly and helpful.

After our stay Paris we took a day train to Amsterdam. Now I know there are a lot of people that think Amsterdam is some sort of utopia for freedom and the right to party anyway you want. Let me be the first to say they are all wrong. In a nutshell Amsterdam is a stink-hole. There are more pimps, hustlers, whores, pick-pockets, coke-dealers, beggars, thieves, junkies, hookers, freaks and weirdos of all sorts that you find yourself constantly watching your back and unable to enjoy the rundown scum-hole part of the city known as the "Red-Light District." I don't recommend Amsterdam to someone who screws sleep for a living, especially since Amsterdam is full of them anyway.

Again on an overnight train, this time with a bed, to the fabulous and highly edible Berlin. Now, Berlin is a great city that had the best food I ate in Europe and it is very rich in history. However, the city will be a lot more fun in 10 years. I say this because there is so much construction going on in Berlin, the night sky looks like a fireworks show with all the construction cranes lit up with Christmas lights.

So if there is anyone that is planning on going to Berlin I would recommend that you wait as long as you can because I see a lot of greatness in that city once the 100 or so new buildings being constructed are complete.

After three days in Berlin (which is not nearly enough time to see the city) my fellow traveler and me accidentally bought first-class tickets on another overnight train to our next and final destination, Innsbruck, Austria. This proved to be very nice but expensive. Who I am kidding though, it was completely worth it and I would do it again.

Innsbruck, holder of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympic Games, is a quaint little city on the western side of Austria. It was here that I spent New Year's Eve and although the town was alive and rocking, I was not. Fatigue had set in and I barely made it to midnight. The town served me well as one last refuge before I was to return home. I enjoyed the sightseeing during my day. Innsbruck is tucked below two mountain ranges and is a very pretty and scenic city.

A lifetime of experience all wrapped up into 11 short days. I could go on but I won't. I would like to share my single most important observation that carried true through every town and country I visited: Europeans are five years ahead of Americans in fashion (although hairstyles are debatable) but they are five years behind Americans in music. We hear in the states have said goodbye to Billy Ray Cyrus and all his magic. And with that I'll say Guten Tag.

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NATIONAL CAMPUS NEWS

Firms selling bogus degrees increase through Internet

By Jennifer Radcliffe
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas—With the click of a mouse and a few thousand dollars, anyone who can operate a computer can get a college degree without ever attending a class.

In many cases, the student does not have to study, take tests or write papers. Internet-based diploma mills are producing a record number of phony documents on a daily basis that are being passed off as college degrees, experts said.

Teachers, doctors and government officials are among those using phony degrees to secure jobs, and little is being done to stop the multimillion-dollar international industry, experts said.

Advertisements for diploma mills show stately buildings and boast of accredited programs that offer flexibility for working adults. But in many cases, there are no buildings, no professors and no legitimate accreditation, officials said.

"It's worse than it's ever been, and it's growing exponentially," said author John Bear, founder of www.degree.net.

The latest edition of "Bears' Guide to Earning Degrees Nontraditionally," which is scheduled for release in January, will include 481 phony schools. That is an increase from 320 listed in the 1998 edition.

The Internet makes it easy for companies to spread the word about their services. At least one diploma mill sends up to a million e-mail messages a week advertising its business, said Bear, who co-authored the book with his daughter, Maria Bear.

The e-mail often falls in the hands of desperate people who know that degree holders have a greater chance of succeeding in the job market, he said.

An equal number of people are honest victims of diploma mills as they look for ways to benefit from the expanding dis-

tance-learning network that was established by traditional, legitimate universities, experts said. There are several legitimate nontraditional universities that are trying to establish themselves on the Internet.

"The public has no criteria for separating the sheep from the goats," said professor Barry Lumsden, who has taught a doctorate-level class about diploma mills at the University of North Texas in Denton for 15 years.

Web sites for phony universities can be deceptive, he said. People tend to think that Web addresses that end in ".edu" are legitimate, but there are no prerequisites to register for those addresses, Lumsden said.

In addition, many diploma mills boast accreditation from agencies that also are invented, making it crucial for potential students to do a lot of homework before they sign up or send money, he said.

Most of the people who run these schools are pretty slick operators," Lumsden said. "They know how to use words in their advertising that laypeople don't understand."

Lumsden said he is concerned that numerous ministers nationwide are among those using diploma mills to "earn" doctorates.

Such misuse puts employers in danger of hiring unqualified workers and may also cheapen the value of legitimate degrees, he said.

"God only knows how many people are in positions of power right now based on fraudulent credentials, he said.

Allen Ezell, a retired special agent who oversaw the FBI DipScam task force to investigate phony universities in the 1980s and 1990s, said there are some telltale signs that a university is

bogus.

"When a school sells you a degree and a transcript with no work at all, and you have courses on your transcript that you don't know anything about, and you're able to negotiate your GPA, and they're willing to backdate your diploma, something's wrong," he said.

Potential students must ensure that schools are accredited by recognized agencies, Ezell said.

That was one of the first questions asked by Plano, Texas, resident Jeanice Crowley before she signed up for classes at Jones International University, an online university based in Colorado that was accredited in March by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

"I spoke to various deans, and the accrediting agency called me," said Crowley, who has worked at Nortel in Richardson for 16 years.

Jones International University, which began offering classes in 1995, states that it is the only university of its kind to earn accreditation. The university has had about 1,200 students and 24 graduates.

Crowley said the online courses have been great for her. She expects to finish her bachelor's degree in international communications in a year.

"If I can get a telephone connection, I can be anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day," she said.

Pamela Pease, president of Jones International University, said her school is concerned about fraudulent competitors.

"It's unfortunate for everybody when things like those happen," she said. "But I don't think it's really been a hindrance. People can tell that somehow we stand apart."

Few agencies have taken a role in monitoring diploma mills, experts said.

Private watchdogs such as Bear and his Web site keep an eye on fraudulent com-

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New labor secretary sees no 'glass ceiling' for women

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Bush's choice to be labor secretary, Linda Chavez, doesn't believe women face a "glass ceiling" in the workplace that keeps them in lower-paying jobs, a review of her writings shows.

She also has suggested that the rising number of sexual harassment lawsuits has made America "a nation of crybabies." And she once criticized the Americans With Disabilities Act as "special treatment in the name of accommodating the disabled."

Democrats and union leaders who oppose her selection are riffling through her prolific writing to seize material they hope will rally support against her nomination as the Senate prepares for her confirmation.

But the Bush team hopes Chavez and her conservative views will appeal directly to workers, who don't always agree with the political positions taken by their unions, which spent millions to oppose Bush's election.

"Coming from a working-class family that taught her the values of hard work, fair play and educational attainment, Ms. Chavez embodies the values of working Americans," Bush spokesman Tucker Eskew said Wednesday.

"She has worked for a labor union, she understands the issues that matter to working Americans," he said.

Her father, who did not finish high school but was an avid reader, painted houses while her mother spent long hours working in restaurants and department stores.

Chavez worked for one of the nation's largest teacher's unions before rising to become a top official for the Civil Rights Commission during the Reagan administration.

She gained national attention for her views against affirmative action and made an unsuccessful bid for Congress. In recent years, she has been a prolific conservative columnist and television commentator.

She also founded the Center for Equal Opportunity, a conservative think tank that researches race, ethnicity and assimilation issues and which has supported English-only education.

A review of her columns shows Chavez has supported increased immigration as a way of filling jobs and fueling the economy but has strongly opposed affirmative action. She also has declared it "may be good business" for companies to discriminate against workers who refuse overtime.

While Bush has touted her credentials, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney has called her appointment as labor chief "an

insult to American working men and women" and called her an "avowed opponent of the most basic workers' rights."

A review of her writings also shows she:

- * Suggested a vote by the American Medical Association to form a union "ought to strike fear in the heart of every American."

- * Believes the increase in sexual harassment lawsuits is making the United States "a nation of crybabies," and that "with men are so often the target of such witch hunts, it's no surprise that a few strike back."

- * Argues against the "glass ceiling" blocking women from higher-level jobs, saying instead that women make different job choices than men and often put their families first.

- * Wrote that "discriminating against employees who won't work overtime or who will put in fewer hours per week in a salaried position isn't irrational, it may be good business."

Eskew said Chavez's "columns certainly represent a vigorous intellectual approach" and predicted she would make a "dynamic and exceptional nominee."

"Linda Chavez was chosen for her intellect, her ability to work hard and work well with others, even others with differing points of view and her reputation for keen understanding of public policy issues," he said.

Chavez's columns at times are pointed. She once criticized World Cup women's soccer champion Michelle Akers for supporting a federal Equal Pay Initiative. Akers and her teammates had boycotted training because they were paid less than the men's soccer team. Chavez argued the men's team generated more money than women's.

"Michelle Akers and her teammates would be better off placing their faith in the market to reward their skills than in some bureaucratic 'pay equity' scheme," she wrote.

During her tenure as staff director of the Civil Rights Commission, Chavez, a former Democrat, alienated liberals in Congress and civil rights groups by reversing established agency positions and opposing the use of quotas to help women and minorities make up for past discrimination.

"Affirmative action creates problems with standards and increases racial friction," Chavez, the product of a father with roots in Spain and a mother whose ancestors were from England and Ireland, told USA Today in 1995. "And it's simply not just."

Oprah Winfrey is quitting...teaching that is

CHICAGO (AP)—Winfrey spokeswoman Audrey Pass confirmed a report in the Jan. 8 edition of *Newsweek* that the talk-show host will not return next fall to Northwestern University's business school to teach "Dynamics of Leadership."

Pass did not give any details about why Winfrey has decided to give up teaching the class she's taught the last two fall terms.

But *Newsweek* reported that the

"demands of teaching have taken their toll." Winfrey admitted in the story that she hadn't managed her magazine: *O: the Magazine*, and grading papers as well as she should have.

"After several nights of lost sleep she has decided to give up the class," according to the magazine.

Winfrey began teaching the class at Northwestern's J.L. Kellogg School of Management in the fall of 1999. She taught the class again last fall.

Marajuana ads posted on D.C. buses and subway stations

WASHINGTON (AP)—Commuters in and around the nation's capital are getting a look at a public transit ad campaign questioning laws against marijuana use.

Change the Climate, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit group, sponsored 560 ads on buses and in ten Metrorail stations in Washington, D.C. and neighboring Rosslyn, Va.

Washington, D.C.'s public transit system is the first to display the ads. The group also tried to launch a similar campaign in Boston, but the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority rejected the request last January. The group has filed a First Amendment lawsuit against the agency.

Change the Climate plans similar ad campaigns in Chicago and New York.

There are three versions of the ads: One shows a young woman asking why kids go to jail for doing what politicians did when they were young.

Another shows a business executive with cancer who admits smoking marijuana after chemotherapy. He asks if it

is his choice and then answers "Wrong."

The last ad features a picture of two police officers and an American flag. It reads "Police are too important... too valuable... too good... to waste on arresting people for marijuana when real criminals are on the loose."

The group's founder, Joseph White, said he is trying to stimulate debate about marijuana issues.

He said he is not pushing the legalization of pot, but is concerned about the tough penalties people—especially teens—face for using the drug.

An estimated 70 million Americans have tried marijuana. If caught with it in the District of Columbia, they could face six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

Metro spokeswoman Cheryl Johnson said the transit agency initially rejected the ads, but changed its mind after being challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union on First Amendment grounds.

Governor names former gaming board chairman to U of I board

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Gov. George Ryan named businessman Robert Vickrey on Thursday to be a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, a year after he quit under fire as chairman of the Illinois Gaming Board.

Ryan spokesman Nick Palazzolo said Vickrey indicated he wanted to get back into public service.

"The governor believes Mr. Vickrey will do a great job as a member of the U of I board," he said. "He brings a unique set of experiences."

Vickrey, 56, of Peru, was out of town and not immediately available for comment, according to his

office at Miller Group Media, where he is vice president of legislative affairs and economic development.

Vickrey had been a member of the gaming board since 1992, when Ryan appointed him to be its chairman in the summer of 1999.

His resignation came a month after the board voted 3-1 in late 1999 to approve a \$609 million deal for Jack Binion's Horseshoe Gaming Inc. to buy the Empress riverboat casinos in Joliet and Hammond, Ind.

The board's initial approval, with Vickrey's support, had come over the objections of regulatory staff and anti-

gambling activists. Some months later the board itself rejected issuing Binion a casino license.

Vickrey said he left the gaming board because he was increasingly taking time away from his full-time responsibilities as a businessman.

"The beginning of a New Year is a logical time for change," he said.

Gaming board members are paid \$300 per monthly meeting and reimbursed for travel expenses. U board members are paid expenses only.

Vickrey's new appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

Degrees

Continued from Previous Page

panies, and government agencies do what they can.

Ray Grasshoff, a spokesman for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, said his office has a full-time employee responsible for monitoring the sites, as well as several other duties.

"It's a consumer-protection issue for us," he said.

Online universities that lack recognized accreditation and a certificate of authority to operate in Texas could face fines of \$1,000 to \$3,000. If an unauthorized university is offering degrees, the fines could reach \$5,000, Grasshoff said.

Unauthorized universities also could be reported to the state attorney general, he said. Figures about how many institutions had been fined were unavailable, Grasshoff said.

It is difficult to find perpetrators, he said.

Larger phony institutions often have parts of their business in several different countries, Bear said. They take telephone calls in one country, deposit money in banks in another country and print advertisements in another.

"We've got a gigantic, but not at all visible, fraud going on," Bear said. "The harm is extraordinary."

He estimates that the revenue of the diploma mill industry exceeds \$200 million a year. Steps must be taken to regulate it, he said.

"If somebody holds up the 7-Eleven for 50 bucks, they're going to be in jail before their Slurpee melts, but these guys are stealing millions every month," Bear said.

For Bush, winning over blacks will be a challenge

By Paul Pringle

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

LOS ANGELES—The toughest part of President-elect George W. Bush's efforts to bind the nation may prove to be winning over blacks, who remain angry about the disputed election and are wary of his policy goals.

Black political leaders, civil-rights activists and voters have said that Bush's pledge to reach out to blacks set the right tone, but that he has a long way to go.

"People are very upset," said Rep. Corrine Brown, D-Fla., who contended that ballot irregularities in her Jacksonville-area district alone cost Vice President Al Gore thousands of black votes. "And it's very deep-seated."

Brown and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus have demanded that the Justice Department press on with its inquiry into allegations that African-Americans' voting rights were violated in Florida.

They also urged Bush to meet with the caucus to spell out his agenda on issues such as aid to education, health care and affirmative action.

"Let's see where he's coming from," said Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif.

In his victory speech Wednesday night, the Texas governor focused on conciliatory themes and said he would reach out to blacks and other minority groups. On Thursday, he spoke by telephone with the

Rev. Jesse Jackson, in a conversation that dealt in part with "healing the nation," a Bush spokesman said.

At a rally in Tallahassee, Fla., earlier this week, Jackson spoke of the election problems as part of a pattern of officially sanctioned oppression, "racial targeting in education, in health care, in criminal justice, driving while black, and now voting while black. The election was essentially taken and stolen. You must get your votes in the public booth, not the private chambers of judges who are your political allies."

Fredrica Wilson, a state House member who chairs the Florida Black Caucus, complained at the rally that black voters had been disenfranchised—through neglect or design—by policies that targeted predominantly black precincts with outdated voting equipment.

Wilson and others repeated allegations that state police had been dispatched to create an intimidating presence in some black precincts; that students at some predominantly black colleges had particular trouble voting; that some black voters were inexplicably omitted from voter rolls; and that affidavits such voters needed to cast ballots ran short at polling places.

"We are extremely upset that our vote wasn't counted," Wilson said.

Less than one in 10 blacks voted for Bush in last month's election, the lowest mark for a Republican since 1964, according to exit polls. That was despite Bush's numerous overtures to blacks—from speaking at the NAACP's convention to naming Colin Powell as his secretary of state.

Dallas resident Chris Woods, who is black and who voted for Bush, said that he was impressed with the governor's stewardship of Texas and that blacks should

give him the benefit of the doubt as he launches his presidency.

"This is really a situation where blacks have become polarized to the Democratic Party," said Woods, 40, a computer technician.

But other black voters say that Bush has yet to live up to his own ideal of "compassionate conservatism."

"He really needs to be more compassionate," said Kenyetta Smith, 30, a black television writer. "I've read about his record in Texas, especially with the death penalty. That's a place he can start."

Merrick Williams, 30, an administrator for a Head Start program in Compton, Calif., said:

"The key to getting anyone's support is to show you genuinely care about their feelings. And for most black people, we don't feel that he cares about us."

Like others, Williams said Bush would score few points among blacks by naming Powell and Condoleezza Rice, his national security expert, to his administration.

"You just can't come with a song and a dance and promises and show one or two people who look like us," said the Rev. G. Lind Taylor, who heads church affairs for the Southern Christian Leadership Council in Los Angeles.

Michael Dawson, a University of Chicago political science professor, said his surveys have shown that about two-thirds of black voters simply believe that Bush does not have their best interests at heart.

"It's going to take an astronomical amount of work for Bush to gain support in the African-American community," Dawson said.

Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., said the president-elect could begin by dropping his plan for school vouchers in favor of broader education reforms aimed at cities with large black populations. "It can't just be bipartisan," Clyburn said of Bush's approach. "It's got to be biracial as well."

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., the son of the civil rights leader, said he will give Bush a 100-day post-inaugural "honeymoon" to address blacks' concerns, including election reforms.

"He says he wants to be bigger than the Republican Party, to be president of the entire country," Jackson said. "But his legitimacy will only come in his ability to close huge gaps."

Family turns into West Coast courier service for Boiler fan

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP)—A Purdue University fan who forgot to bring his Rose Bowl ticket with him to Pasadena, Calif., was bailed out by a helpful school employee—and the employee's Aunt Beth.

Thomas Nolan was working at the front desk of the Union Club Hotel in Purdue's Memorial Union on Saturday night when he received a distressed call from Phyllis Hunt. Hunt explained that her husband, Michael Hunt, was in Pasadena for the Rose Bowl, but had left his \$135 ticket at home in West Lafayette.

She was hoping there'd be another group of Purdue alumni heading to California, but Nolan told her they'd all left already.

The desk clerk, a Purdue stu-

dent and fan himself, felt for the Nolans' situation. He could sympathize with any Purdue fan in Pasadena without his ticket for the Boilermakers' first Rose Bowl appearance in 34 years.

"I would hate for this to happen to me," Nolan said.

Phyllis Hunt had called courier services and found that the cost of sending the ticket by overnight service ranged from \$189 to \$327, with no guarantee that it would arrive on time. Though Nolan didn't know of any more Purdue fans to send the ticket with, he knew of someone just as reliable—his Aunt Beth. Beth Saldana of San Diego was headed home after a visit to her mother, Lilly Esther Baker, in Lafayette.

After a series of phone calls, Nolan arranged to have Phyllis

Hunt drop off her husband's Rose Bowl ticket at the Union Club, and he sent it to San Diego with Saldana on Sunday.

"I was trusting these total strangers," Phyllis Hunt said.

"I said if it worked, it would be great and if it didn't, Michael wouldn't have a ticket with him anyhow."

Saldana gave the ticket to her brother, Keith Baker, also of San Diego, who was already planning to attend Monday's Rose Bowl. Keith Baker rendezvoused with Michael Hunt in California to turn over the ticket to Hunt in time for him to watch Washington defeat Purdue 34-24.

Nolan said he declined Phyllis Hunt's offer to compensate him for his trouble.

"To me, it was just doing a good thing," he said.

Death of U of I officer investigated

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP)—An investigation is being conducted by local and University of Illinois police into the New Year's Eve shooting death of a university officer.

Collin Jay Harmon, 29, apparently died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, according to university police Chief Oliver J. Clark.

"All indications are that it was accidental," he said.

Clark said his department is conducting its own investigation to determine if there are any departmental issues that need to be addressed. The shooting occurred at an apartment that is home to another university police officer.

Champaign Police Lt. Jerry Gamble said at the request of the UI, his department is not releasing

the names of the officers present during the shooting. Besides two other officers, there were three women who witnessed the shooting.

An autopsy performed Tuesday confirmed Harmon died of a single gunshot wound to the head, Gamble said. The results of tests to determine if there were drugs or alcohol in his system will not be available for several days.

Gamble said three weapons were taken into evidence and sent to the crime lab for analysis. He said it is common for police officers to be allowed to carry service weapons while not on duty.

Gamble stressed that his department, while conducting a thorough investigation, does not believe a crime was committed.

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COMMENTARY

New solutions to heating problem *Chicago, Columbia will benefit by going 'bubbular'*

Jesus Christ, for \$250,000 we could build a freaking bubble over the main campus!

Executive Vice President Bert Gall announced last Friday that somebody's been messing with the thermostat. Who was it? Fess up. You kids realize that that costs money don't you? Not peanuts either. Try 250 grand. You can forget about Christmas next year. We're broke.

Actually, Gall didn't blame the kids. He didn't blame the teachers either. Nor did he blame the school administration or the Building Services department. He said it was all the fault of skyrocketing natural gas prices. Heating bills throughout the state are expected to rise sharply this month as a result of these price increases and everyone's pointing the finger at the gas companies. Which is fine. Who cares really? We're going to run out of dead lizard juice eventually anyway. You have to accept that this sort of thing is going to happen.

But, instead of complaining (and raising tuition no doubt), how about this: Why not work on making our school more heat-efficient? Spend another \$250,000 and see if the bills go down. We're not going to control the price of natural gas. But we might as well try to keep its heat from getting away.

The *Chronicle* proposes we wrap each building in a thin layer of cellophane. Saran-Wrap should work fine. It will hold the heat that escapes through all these old bricks. And it will seal in freshness. Aluminum foil would work well also. With a foil wrap, however, there is a slightly higher risk of mass electrocution.

A better solution would be to build a plexiglass bubble over the campus. The way things are spread out, we'd probably need to build two - the north bubble and the south bubble. They could easily be connected by tubes and Jetson-style moving walkways. The bubbles them-

selves would be heated, eliminating the need to heat individual buildings and providing a balmy, spring-like atmosphere for students traveling from building to building in the dead of winter.

The ultimate solution of course is the construction of a giant bubble to protect the entire city from the harsh conditions of winter. It would be equipped with a retractable roof like the new Astrodome or the Diamondbacks' stadium in Phoenix, for when the weather is naturally cheery.

Imagine walking out of your Logan Square apartment in mid-December: your shorts are riding up a little but they do wonders for your ass so you pick your seat and deal with it. The leathery scent of your favorite sandals wafts to your nose as you lean back to look up at the Plexi-dome, the spattering of softball-sized hailstones against the city's roof just faintly audible as you reconsider your bare midriff as a possible

fashion faux-pas.

Sure, some of you are thinking this is all just a rubber-cement-induced Logan's Run fantasy. But didn't it work fine in Logan's Run? And wasn't everyone perfectly happy to subject themselves to the false hope of the Renewal ritual? And didn't they do just fine with laser guns that actually just shot goofy sparks and cracked like a ladyfinger? We can't have perfection, but we can strive to improve our world. Bubble cities are a step toward the future. But there are other options.

A more practical solution might be to place some windmills atop our lakeside buildings. We could harness the famous Lake Michigan bluster and use it to power our boilers. And we would be an instant tourist-luring scientific wonder. The merchandising possibilities are staggering. "Columbia College: Make the most of the

See *Bubble City*, page 11

Letters to the Editor

The return of "Concerned"

Letter of Apology: I am sorry for making a misconception about the Red Bull that a security guard was drinking in the 624 Michigan building [Letter to the editor, Nov. 27 issue of the *Chronicle*].

I guess the security guard's brown paper bag that she put over the can, her slurred speech and drunken demeanor didn't help much.

Concerned

Ineffective staff

Each year students come to Columbia College, drawn to its wide variety of art-based courses and vast opportunities. Columbia has things that other colleges just do not offer, and that is why I am here.

As a freshman, I have found my beginning experiences here to be very positive. However, I have also noticed that the students care more about this school than the faculty cares about the students. This does not include teachers but rather the office staff. When I asked a group of friends, all students of Columbia, if they have had any problems with the staff and offices at Columbia, I was answered with the chuckled reply, "Who doesn't?"

One of the people I talked to told me how the school had lost his letter of recommendation four times before he decided to send it priority-mail, which requires a signature-on-delivery. Delivery was verified and yet they still lost it a fifth time, at which time, a sixth copy was faxed which they have not yet lost. They also lost his financial aid forms, but it took them a month to even tell him about it and another couple weeks to get the situation straight.

This same student went into the financial aid office looking for forms for an independent student loan two times, but the women behind the desk said she did not know what he was talking about. The second visit after the woman had told him she could not help him, he realized that the packet he was looking for was on a shelf right behind the secretary. She had never even turned around to look if they had what he was looking for and had not even tried to help him.

Another student told me that, after leaving numerous messages on one of the staff's voice mail, when she finally got a hold of him he admitted that he never even checks his voice mail. The same friend told me she hand-delivered a huge plastic folder filled with about 50 to 75 pages of petitions, research, and letters that she had put a lot of time into collecting, to the secretary of the person who was supposed to have it. They lost it and then gave her the run-around for months, and even though they finally found the packet they still have not gotten back to her on the issues addressed in her packet. The offices have lost everything from applications, transcripts, fees or anything that students bring into the offices, and they don't seem to be trying to change.

This should not be. The faculty should have more respect for the students and treat them better by being

Resolutions more than means to end

By Tanisha Blakely

Staff Writer

Let's be thankful that we have made it through another year. From Elian to the presidential election, we have survived a lot. Although the results of the presidential elections have left a lot of people nervous about their social and economic futures, we still have the power to move forward through the barriers life presents. There is a new day promising new things for us to work with.

We have an opportunity to make resolutions, and actually keep our promises. It's not what we commit to that is important,

but our decision to improve our lives and our attempt at something different. Too often, people get comfortable with the way things are. We say nothing when someone is insensitive to a race, gender, or circumstance. We live our lives as if we're invincible, never taking heed to our health or how our carelessness affects those around us. Let's consider others for once and make a sacrifice. We all could use some adjustment.

I think everyone should make a commitment this year in order to prove that keeping a promise is possible. Nothing is worse than being selfish, and that is what not making sacrifices means. Sacrifices confirm our strengths and weaknesses. Whether it's get-

ting out of a bad relationship, giving up sweets, getting out of debt, or eliminating profanity from our vocabulary, we should all take steps toward bettering ourselves and making ourselves stronger. I hope that everyone decides to make New Year's resolutions and works hard at keeping them.

This might seem silly and you might laugh, but those who think this is a joke definitely have room for improvement. An unselfish act isn't a laughing matter. If more people sacrificed their time, money, or thoughts, we would have fewer student dropouts, killings and drug problems, and less discrimination. We would have more hope and love for the future.

Exposure



Photo by Patricia Dieball

Letters

Continued from Previous Page

more organized with what we send them and how we are helped. I would not want to go to any other school, but the office help does not seem to care about the students here as much as they should.

Kate Pirrello

From the Online Forum

More on the N-word

I always wondered why it was all right for a black person to use the N-word and not a white person. Donnie actually brought up a reason that I had never thought of before.

I can honestly say I've never said the word before in my life, not while singing a song or in everyday life. And while I don't feel it's right for black people to use the word either, I do think Donnie is right when he says white people don't even have a choice.

I don't think anyone should use it though. I'm sure some black people take offense whenever they hear the word, even if two black people are saying it. For that reason, nobody should use the word. Nobody.

Santa Claus

Blizzard gripes

Well, I think that the school's policy on school closings is unfair. It really doesn't take into account the biggest portion of the school community, the commuter. Many of our fellow students have to drive to school everyday, or take the metro.

It is unfair to those people to have to risk life and limb just to make it to class because the school is too stubborn to close. It is unfair because there should be a provision that at least the student is not penalized for being unable to make it to class or because they are late. Now I realize that some teachers are good about these things and are understanding, but there are too many teachers that are not.

Frosty

Shoulda thought about that before you wasted all your absences in the first week. And I hardly think you're risking life and limb by riding the rail for an extra 15 minutes and walking through 6 inches of snow.

Waaaaah

Maybe I should have explained myself better. When it snows about three feet of snow in about two hours like it did, then there should be exceptions made. Not when it just snows a little, I'm talking blizzard stuff people, not snow. Sorry if I confused you.

Frosty



Cartoon by Wayne Stayskal/Tribune Media Services

Hooray for censorship!

By Jim Walsh

Knight-Ridder Tribune

Me, I'm all for censorship in music because it would make everything a heckuva lot simpler.

If everyone would just get on the same page, we could ban Eminem and every other rapper or rocker who has ever used the word "faggot" and pretend that homophobia doesn't exist and that gay-bashings and hate-crimes don't happen.

And why stop there? We could ban all the songs that use the word "nigger" and "faggot" with affection and not explore their meanings or contexts because that takes too much time and thought, and then we could lump them in with all the hateful usages and flush 'em all down the same toilet.

We could call our country-music radio stations and their advertisers and complain about how icky the Dixie Chicks' song "Goodbye Earl" makes us feel and convince them that battered women such as Tina Turner and Nicole Simpson are big crybabies and that all those domestic abuse cases are myths.

We could ban gangsta rap, which tells some truly awful truths with more lucidity than any would-be president does these days, and pretend that one in four young black men really isn't in prison.

We can blame Marilyn Manson for Columbine and everything else wrong with kids today, pull his records from the malls

and rest easy, knowing that the NRA and Christian Coalition are watching over us. We can boycott teen-age lust songs and put a cork in teen-age suicide songs, and then teen-agers won't ever have sex or get sad.

We can dismiss Ani DiFranco as a self-righteous party-pooper because she has suggested we "blow up MTV," even though hers is an entirely rational reaction to the most influential, mind-deadening tool in the history of youth culture.

We should make sure that the words "cocaine," "weed" and "pot" are bleeped out on the radio because if we do that, then no one will ever get it in their heads to do drugs.

We should protest Bruce Springsteen's "American Skin (41 Shots)" and Ice-T's "Cop Killer" and pretend that police brutality and intimidation toward African-Americans is a figment of black America's imagination.

We can get Tipper Gore, a woman who has made a name for herself as the First Lady of Censorship, to shut up already about her struggle with clinical depression, which is what so much music is about, and pretend that everything's always hunky-dory.

As I said, I'm all for censorship.

We can jettison all that stuff, everything that makes us feel squeamish or uneasy or anxious. We can shove it all underground, airbrush it over with a smiley-face finish, and then when we look in the mirror, all objects will appear to be more perfect than they actually are.

Bubble City

Continued from Previous Page

Windy City"

Alternative energy sources abound. From wind power to geo-thermal power to nuclear fusion, there is a world of innovative solutions just waiting to be put to the test. The *Chronicle* proposes the school take

some initiative and try something new, risky and potentially groundbreaking. As long as we're throwing money away, we should at least try to make a difference with it.

Or we could just get some storm windows and turn down the heat.

COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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The Columbia Chronicle Photo Poll

Question: What was the worst gift you received this Christmas?



Marlenea Madry
Junior/Graphic Design

"I got a Chia elephant and it didn't even work."



Nina Gaglio
Junior/Film

"My grandma gave me a large dead moth in a baby jar."



Ann Livemore
Sophomore/Fashion Design

"My grandma got me a teddy bear picture frame. Last year I got Barbie socks."



Gabriel Cirrintano
Freshman/Music

"This big piece of onyx that lights up. It was dumb with polar bears on it."

The Columbia Chronicle

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This Week INSIDE A&E!

Comic books in the year 2000

Roach and Seals: 'Road Trip'
WWF wrestling update

Check out the *Chronicle* staffers' picks for
the top five albums of all time!

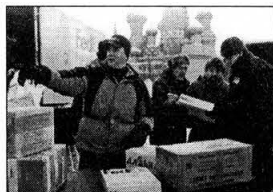
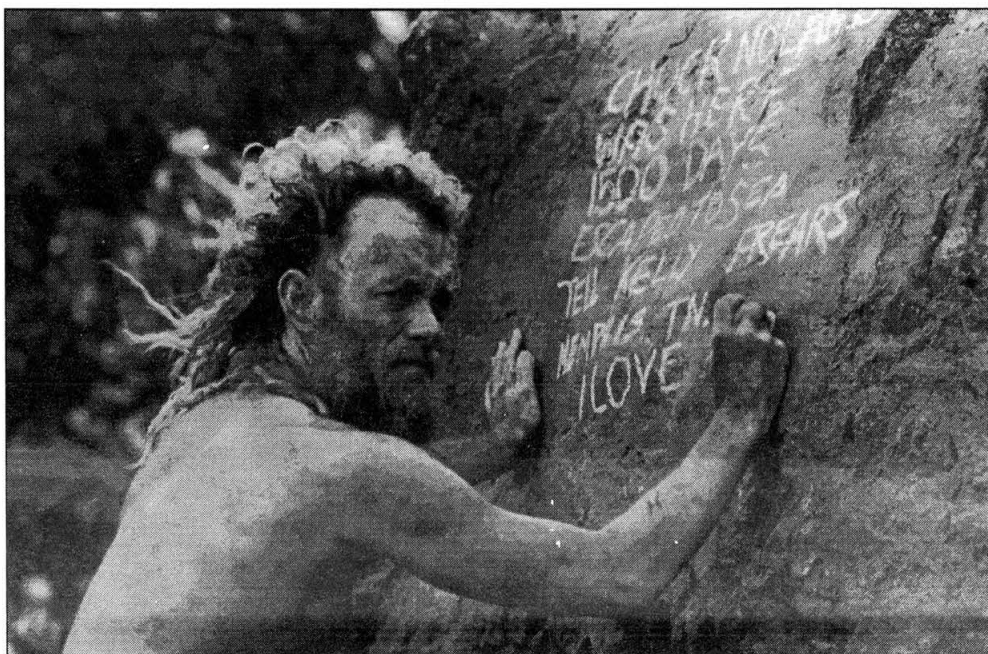
Book review: *The Art of The Matrix*
Game review Evil dead: Hail to the King

By Tom Snyder
Contributing Editor

In just over two weeks time, "Cast Away," the second collaboration between Tom Hanks and Director Robert Zemeckis has grossed \$100 million domestically. It is an interesting, often entertaining conceptual film with wide appeal but little emotional payoff.

My problems with "Cast Away" began long before I even viewed the film. If you are one of the many unfortunate souls who were subjected to its shockingly revealing preview, you already know the fate of Tom Hanks' character, island-bound FedEx employee Chuck Noland. The mystery and exhilaration you may have felt during Chuck's attempts to escape the island were murdered by Zemeckis' foolish belief that it's not what happens, but how, that's important.

In an age when it matters more *how* you say something rather than what you say, I guess the movie has worked (if you measure a film's success by dollar signs). However, in my opinion "Cast Away" has ruined one of the few things it had going for it: suspense. Don't worry; I won't repeat the key plot development as most critics have already so shamelessly done.



CAST AWAY Gave it away



Had Zemeckis not dropped the ball in the opening and closing scenes of the film, "Cast Away" may have still been what it so desperately desires to be: a deep, philosophical statement about the nature of life. However, as it stands with its confusing, unneeded early shots and unexplained characters, "Cast Away" is nothing more than an example of Hanks' brilliance as a movie star.

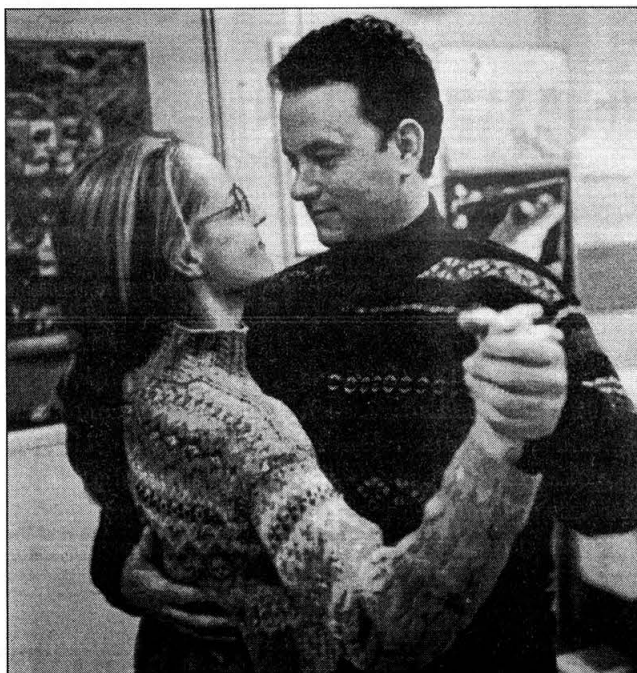
Hanks' performance in "Cast Away" will win him a third Oscar. It's that simple. Not only did Hanks halt production on the film for eight months while he lost nearly 40 pounds, grew the longest and scraggiest of beards and tanned his body a deep, dark red/brown, but Hanks also pulled off an acting feat. The challenge? Talk to a volleyball for half of the film's action and not make everyone cringe at the ridiculous sight.

After an artfully shot airplane crash full of screaming engines, crashing waves and a wall of sound that feels as though it will never end, Chuck Noland faces quite a predicament. Stay alive, and more importantly, stay sane all alone on a deserted Pacific island until rescued. After a few ocean-soaked FedEx packages wash up to his shore, Chuck Noland finds means for survival and an odd friend to talk to: Wilson, a hand-painted volleyball.

Now, I understand what you're thinking. Tom Hanks talking to a volleyball sounds like the dumbest movie ever, but alas, the plot device strangely works—until the end of the film.

My greatest objection to "Cast Away" comes in Zemeckis' decision to have Hanks speak to Wilson, rather than the picture of his fiancée (Helen Hunt) that he keeps in his broken pocket watch. The decision is disastrous, ruining a golden opportunity to leave the entire audience weeping at the film's climactic confrontation. Instead of a deep and strong emotional bond between Hanks' and Hunt's characters, we are more moved and crushed by the fate of a mere volleyball.

I enjoy and respect the fact that "Cast Away" attempts to be about the courage to go on living when there doesn't seem to be a reason to (because I believe that we can all relate to that at times), but Zemeckis' film is just too rough around the edges to accomplish its goal.



Book Review

By Sal J. Barry
Web Master

Finally, a book has been released for "The Matrix" fan that is as obsessed with the movie as I am; a 488 page full color volume that covers everything—from the shooting script to production art as well as each and every storyboard.

The Art of the Matrix is not one of those lame attempts to capitalize on a movie's hype (Can you say "Phantom Menace," boys and girls?). Considering that this book came out almost two years after the movie's release, it is for diehard fans who want to know everything about the 1999 blockbuster film. And the book covers virtually everything.

One of the coolest things about *The Art of the Matrix* is the storyboards. Unlike traditional storyboards which are merely crude drawings with lame arrows indicating action, the storyboards for "The Matrix" are drawn comic book style. Comic book artists Steve Skroce and Geoff Darrow draw each frame in great detail, and the book has over 200 pages of these black-and-white masterpieces. The book even reproduces storyboards of scenes that were cut from the film, such as a chase that was supposed to occur on top of a speeding el train (which was later changed to Trinity's rooftop chase scene).



The book also reproduces all of the full color artwork for "The Matrix," such as storyboards for shots with digital effects, and conceptual paintings of the Sentinels, the Neb, and the pods. The book even reprints several of the movie's posters—including unused ones—and stills of all the characters and all the best scenes.

Also printed in the book is the complete shooting script. What makes this truly cool is that it contains dialogue that didn't make it to the final cut, such as Cypher informing Neo that there were five others before Neo, that Morpheus at one time or another proclaimed to be "The One," and that that they all were killed by Agents. Later, Neo confronts Morpheus about this fact. Although these scenes didn't make the final cut, it is still cool to see what could have been. At the end of the script there are notes and excerpts of earlier drafts. These are also interesting to read because it shows how the idea of "The Matrix" progressed.

While the price, which is around \$60, may seem a little steep, the book is definitely worth every cent, because it comprehensively reproduces all the artwork as well as the script. It is a book made for Matrix fans, and it is great to see how the rich concepts and designs for "The Matrix" were developed. But my description of this book does it no justice because as Morpheus said, "You have to see it for yourself."



GAME REVIEW

By James Norman
Assistant Web Master



try to reconcile the nightmares that he has been having since his last adventure. Needless to say, things don't go as planned, and Ash is sent into another fight for his life against the evil forces of the Necronomicon (the book of the dead).

The game features Ash's trademark staple of weapons, including the strapped on chainsaw and "boomstick," the familiar cabin, and some very familiar enemies in addition to many new ones. Most importantly, the game features the voice of Ash himself, Bruce Campbell, giving those sarcastic remarks that he is famous for every time he dispatches a deadite. But the game goes past the familiar, and Ash will travel to new locations in the woods, and eventually to ancient Damascus to meet the Mad Poet Alzeez who wrote the Necronomicon.

"Evil Dead: H2K" borrows its gameplay from Capcom's Resident Evil series. It sets Ash in an environment to search for clues, weapons, and items to help get him through his quest as deadites pop out anywhere and at anytime. The biggest problem with the survival horror genre is that they are notoriously hard to control, and "Evil Dead: H2K" is even worse. They took the already complicated Resident Evil control structure, and added more to it. They added buttons to turn the chainsaw on & off and a button to make Ash trash talk. While the new functions make sense in the scope of the game, it's the sheer number of controls that complicate things, especially when you must react with a quick response. But with some patience, you will get used to them.

The graphics in "Evil Dead: H2K" are decent in the Playstation version, and the Dreamcast version and the PC version are much neater, but are not available at this time. The backgrounds are extremely detailed, which is especially noticeable in the cabin (THQ copied it perfectly). Other locations are nice too, especially the Hellbilly's

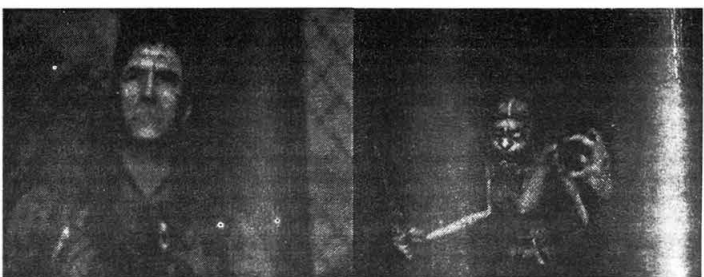
house, where the furniture is made out of human body parts. The characters, on the other hand, are not as well rendered; they look a bit choppy and thin.

The strong point in the game is the cut scenes. THQ did a very good job transferring the visual style of the movies and made new computer animated scenes that could have been taken straight from the films. They even copied the scene from "Evil Dead 2" where Ash retrofits his chainsaw in the workshop, and did a great job.

"Evil Dead: H2K" is a decent game. They succeeded in capturing the feel of the movies as well as the thin balance of humor and horror that the films are famous for. The game was made for the fans of the movies, and I think they won't be upset. If you have a Dreamcast or a game-worthy PC, wait a bit to buy this game because I'm sure the other versions are of a superior quality, if only in graphics.

Cheat Code:

Infinite Chainsaw Fuel-At the main screen, press X(2), Circle, Square, Circle, Square, Triangle. If you entered the code correctly, Bruce Campbell will say "Hail to the king, baby."



Dear Chrissy,

I am a junior at Columbia and have had relations of the sexual kind with over 15 different women while here. Most of them have been with girls that I have met at social gatherings, shindigs or going-on's. My question is, what is the best way to determine if your potential sexual partner is indeed free of any sexual diseases like crabs, herpes, or that disease that Liberace died from? What is the best way to tell?

-Jerry

For Chrissy's answer to Jerry's question please visit
www.ccchronicle.com

The Chronicle's picks: The top five albums of all time



Graham Couch
Sports Editor

1. Unplugged-Eric Clapton
2. Billy Joel's Greatest Hits Vol. 1
3. Les Miserables 10th Ann. Concert
4. Thriller-Michael Jackson
5. Easy-Duz-It-Eazy E



Chris Roach
Asst. A&E Editor

1. Joey Lawrence (any album)
2. The Sounds of Darwinism
3. Girl Kept Down-Amy Fisher
4. Now That's What I Call Music 4
5. Sartre Plays The Blues



Donnie Seals
Managing Editor

1. Songs in the Key of Life-Stevie Wonder
2. Donny Hathaway Live
3. Illmatic-Nas
4. Midnight Marauders-A Tribe Called Quest
5. Kind of Blue-Miles Davis



Sal Barry
Web master

1. Odelay-Beck
2. Playboy & Playgirl-Pizzicato Five
3. The Downward Road-Pursuit of Happiness
4. The Green Album-Skankin' Pickle
5. Apollo 18-TMBG



Matt Richmond
Commentary

1. REO Speedwagon *
 2. Cheap Trick *
 3. Boston *
 4. Kansas *
 5. Night Ranger *
- * Greatest Hits



Michelle Flores
A&E Editor

1. The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill
2. The Best of Sade
3. Legends-Bob Marley
4. Supernatural-Santana
5. Purple Rain Soundtrack-Prince & the New Power Generation



Tom Snyder
Contributing editor

1. Darkness on the Edge of Town-Springsteen
2. Chronicle: Creedence Clearwater Revival
3. These Eyes-The Guess Who
4. Sublime-Sublime
5. Hot Rocks-The Stones



Amber Holst
Editor-in-chief

1. London Calling-The Clash
2. The Man Machine-Kraftwerk
3. Substance-New Order
4. My Aim is true-E. Costello
5. Buena Vista Social Club



Bill Manley
Photo Editor

1. London Calling-The Clash
2. Unchained-Johnny Cash
3. 56-Elvis
4. Smithsonian Collection Old Blue Eyes
5. Nebraska-The Boss



Joe Giuliani
Contributing editor

1. Music 311
2. Achtung Baby-U2
3. Blood, Sugar, Sex, Majik-Red Hot Chili Peppers
4. Funky Precident-Various Artists
5. Physical Graffiti-Led Zeppelin



Jim Norman
Asst. Web

1. Hello Rockview-Less Than Jake
2. Act Your Age-Home Grown
3. New Found Glory
4. Waste of Mind-Zebrahead
5. How Far Shallows Takes You-Gob



Jim Sulski
Advisor

1. Buena Vista Social Club
2. Damn the Torpedoes-Tom Petty
3. Don't Tell a Soul-Replacements
4. London Calling-The Clash
5. Abbey Road-The Beatles

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— Mike Clark, **USA TODAY**

"Younger audiences ought to see this movie...we're reminded of how gripping policy give and take...can be. Donaldson and the corridors of official Washington seem well-matched."

— Richard Schickel, **TIME MAGAZINE**

"Seen through the eyes of presidential aide Kenny O'Donnell (Costner), 'THIRTEEN DAYS' is a suspenseful tale. Well acted, especially by Costner and Greenwood...they make us feel their life threatening pain and puzzlement."

— Peter Travers, **ROLLING STONE**

"The Kennedy bonding still fascinates, and director Roger Donaldson makes a lively business of watching politicians, diplomats and military brass go at each other in verbal contact, you don't see too many Y2K action films that focus on the spectacle of man thinking."

— Elvis Mitchell, **THE NEW YORK TIMES**

"'THIRTEEN DAYS' is a man's man drama. Bruce Greenwood is a startling realization. Steven Culp scores decisively."



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OPENS NATIONWIDE ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH!

DVD Reviews DVD Reviews DVD Reviews

ROACH and Seals... REELS

Chris Roach
Assistant A&E Editor

Donnie Seals
Managing Editor

Features

- * Deleted scenes
- * Behind the scenes
- * Cast & crew bios
- * Never before seen footage



There are few television stars that make the successful leap onto the big screen. Sure, the likes of George Clooney and Matthew Perry make it look easy. However, you cannot forget about those who have fallen from the limelight while attempting this transition. David Caruso, Jason Bateman and Alf are just a few names out of the dozens that have had their career ended when their heads got too big for the small screen. I bet many skeptics (including myself) thought that Tom Green, the crazy host to his self-titled MTV show would falter once entering the movie world, but after seeing "Road Trip," I realized those skeptics were wrong.

"Road Trip" is narrated by Green, who tells the tale of four Ithaca college students who brave the bumpy road to Austin, Texas, in order to recover a sex tape that one of them (Breckin Meyer) has accidentally sent to his long distance girlfriend. Green's comic wit is perfectly at home in telling this tale that could only happen to sexually driven, wise cracking, mischievous movie kids. It almost makes me wish the cast of "American Pie" had taken a road trip. Wait, what am I saying? One of the stars of "American Pie," Seann William Scott (better known as Stifler) does go on this "Road Trip." His appearance in the film adds the obnoxious comedy that he is sure to repeat for the rest of his life (Dude, Where's My Career?).

The story follows the four as they go through scenarios that truly need a stretch of the imagination. Not that my friends and I haven't stolen a bus from the blind, gotten stoned with senior citizens and totaled a car by attempting to jump a river gorge, but I just thought the characters themselves dwelled somewhat out of reality. It was as if the people making "Road Trip" just took characters that worked in other teen and college genre films and then added a spoonful of complete absurdity. "Road Trip" is truly only saved by the fact that the whole film plays with this extreme absurdness, and once you get over that, it is half-way entertaining.

Speaking of entertainment, the DVD of "Road Trip" has some comedy-licious extra features. For the unrated or "UN R8D" version as the cover dubs it, the film adds, as far as I could tell, only one extended scene that is sure to make any young man combust with sexual excitement (Sorry ladies, but if you want your added sexual treat, you'll have to get the unrated version of "American Pie" where Jason Biggs penetrates a hot apple pie). This scene features topless girls talking and touching themselves. Why it was taken out of the theatrical version baffles me, because in my view, it is just making an artistic statement. To keep your motor running, this DVD also has a short behind the scenes look at "Road Trip," and deleted scenes that are somewhat amusing.

It is clear that films like "Road Trip" are an attempt to beat the crap out of the dead horse that "American Pie" left lying. It attempts to grossout and shock rather than create a realistic story, characters and humor. However, it does hit the mark on a few jokes, whether they are gross or not, and it is in no way a dull movie. "Road Trip" is the kind of film you could watch again and again if it were on TV. You just wouldn't want to tell anyone how you spent your afternoon. And seriously, Green might want to talk to Alf before leaving MTV anytime soon.

Video

Man, I felt like I was on a road trip while watching this. Those colors were as sharp as the turns the movie took. Plus, the unrated version has some naked girls in it. Now if that doesn't make for a good video presentation I don't know what does!

Audio

Wow, what a workout my stereo had. I swear it must have shed at least 10 pounds after playing "Road Trip." Plus, the soundtrack was anything but whack! I thought "She's All That" had a tight score, but "Road Trip" definitely beats that out.

The Roach Says...

By **Chris Roach**
Assistant A&E Editor

I really must ask, because I know many people are thinking the same thing. Is William Regal really a Good Will Ambassador to America? I mean, don't get me wrong, I greatly appreciate the United Kingdom sending someone over to perhaps teach us the English way and to act as a spokesperson for their great country. My problem is, I am starting to think that William Regal has other intentions.

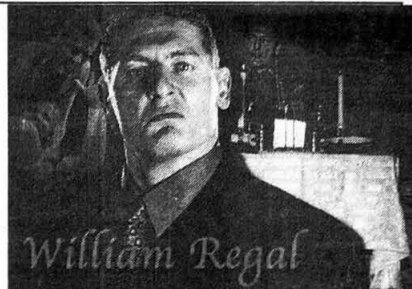


Photo from WWF.com

First, if his job is Good Will Ambassador, why is he wrestling? I guess he was a wrestler in England, and as long as he is in our country he might as well have a hobby. I don't have a problem with that. What I do have a problem with is the way he cheats and does anything but show "good will" to the WWF fans or superstars. A perfect example is when he told people in Alabama that they should not "love" their farm animals.

Maybe I am reading too much into it, but I could see how someone might find that insulting. Secondly, he is clearly a cheat in his matches. On Raw last week he had Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley referee his match with Austin. Not only did he give Austin a low blow (to the testicular area) he then won the match with Stephanie's fast count of three. I have to ask; is this the man England wants representing their country? I think that William Regal needs to be put in his place. I thought Austin running him down with a car on Smackdown! was a good start, but unless Lord Regal begins to show some true 'good will,' that is all it was, a start.

Speaking of good starts, the Dudley Boyz were off to one when they became the No. 1 contenders for the tag team titles after they beat the Right to Censor this past Thursday. Now all they need to do is beat Edge & Christian. And let me just say, as a writer myself, I am appalled at the grammatical errors in Edge & Christian's daily life. First, and believe me, I've checked, the words Awesomeness, Hanosity and Reekazoid are not words recognized by the good people at Webster Dictionaries. I do not know if these two are trying to be intimidating or what, but boys, no one is going to take you seriously if you use words that just make you look stupid. I guess on the bright side though, Edge & Christian are no longer vampires. Now if only that Gangrel could use good grammar. Oh, and stop drinking blood too.

Online Advice

Having relationship problems? Having trouble juggling school, work, homework and a social life? Is your family unbearable? Or do you just need some simple advice and guidance?

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The Arts and Entertainment section of the *Chronicle* would like to introduce its new online advice column. Get advice from a fellow student who knows what you're going through and can give realistic advice for today's struggling students. Send your questions to

fernando_chrissy@hotmail.com and look for answers and advice to your questions next week in A&E on www.ccchronicle.com

Hopeful Signs Seen For Comic Book Industrys

Tribune Media Services

It was a good year for comics. Sure, the industry remained pretty much mired in a slump. But there were plenty of hopeful signs in 2000. CrossGeneration Comics entered the arena, promising to rewrite the rules. Marvel worked to truly earn its nickname of the House of Ideas. And the business basked in the warmth of newfound respect. Here's a look at the year that was:

COMPANY WITH THE MOST MOMENTUM:

Marvel Enterprises, which got a couple of much-needed shots in the arm with the hiring of Bill Jemas as president of publishing and new media early in the year and the promotion of Joe Quesada to Marvel Comics editor-in-chief at summer's end. Jemas ushered in the successful Ultimate line, which offers an updated take on Marvel's top heroes.

Quesada is succeeding with his goal of making Marvel the home for comics' top creators, snaring such names as "Babylon 5" creator J. Michael Straczynski and attracting talent from rival DC. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" Jemas says of 2000. Although successes such as the X-Men movie and the Ultimate line have helped energize creators, slumping toy sales have hurt the company financially and the overall comics industry remains in trouble. But despite some fans' worries that Marvel Comics will screech to a halt, Jemas says there's no way that's going to happen: "The fact is, the comic-book business in and of itself at Marvel is profitable."

WILDEST ROLLER-COASTER RIDE: In July, a St. Louis jury leveled a \$24.5 million judgment against "Spawn" creator Todd McFarlane for his unauthorized use of former hockey player Tony Twist's name in the comic-book series. On Oct. 31, Circuit Court Judge Robert Dierker, who had presided over the case, tossed out the judgment. The case, he stated, lacked "credible evidence that McFarlane at any time intended to injure Twist's marketability, to capitalize on the market recognition of the name Tony Twist, or in fact derived any benefit whatsoever."

The legendary Stan "The Man" Lee had a turbulent year, as well. DC shook the comics world with the news that Lee—co-creator of Spider-Man, the X-Men and other Marvel mainstays—would be writing a 12-part series presenting his interpretation of DC's heroes. Meanwhile, his new Stan Lee Media was flying so high at one point that there was talk he might buy his old stomping grounds, Marvel. But at year's end, with its stock having plummeted to well under \$1 a share, Stan Lee Media was forced to suspend production and lay off 140 employees just before the holidays.

BEST NEWCOMER: CrossGeneration, which launched last spring. The company has suffered growing pains, with some artists having trouble adapting to CrossGen's bullpen style of producing comics; one artist was dismissed for attacking the company and its practices in anonymous Internet postings. But the company

has pushed ahead, delivering quality books on schedule as promised and netting some of the top names in the business, most notably writer Mark Waid and artist George Perez.

GUTSIEST POLITICAL MOVE: When Superman's foe Lex Luthor announced his run for the presidency, it seemed inevitable that his bid would fall short. But while voters in the real world were torn between Bush and Gore, DC surprised readers by having Luthor handily win the election. With Luthor now poised to take over the helm of the United States, the reverberations will affect not only Superman but the entire DC Universe.

BEST INROADS INTO THE MAINSTREAM: The comics industry, often the Rodney Dangerfield of the publishing world, won new respect in 2000 with the success of such graphic novels as Daniel Clowes' "David Boring" and Chris Ware's "Jimmy Corrigan."

Publishers Weekly added a quarterly section on comics. Entertainment Weekly routinely reviewed comics in its book section. And Time magazine issued a list of the top 10 comics of 2000, calling the year "the best for comics in a very long time." "The idea was first met with skepticism from fans, but Marvel's new Ultimate line—offering updated versions of its top heroes, such as the X-Men."

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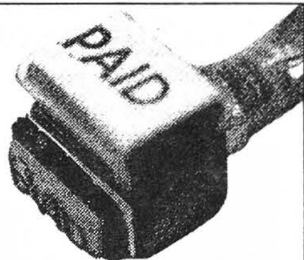
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Campus News

Student writers celebrate latest Review edition

South Loop Review, a journal of Columbia student creative non-fiction, composition, journalism and personal essays writings are all put together in this publication. Students as well as faculty advisors worked many long hours putting this book together for creative eyes to read, stated Laura Zarolo, former student editor and Columbia graduate.

This is the Review's fourth edition and is said to be one of the strongest editions since the publication became public, stated Rose Blouin, faculty advisor and coordinator for South Loop Review. *Continued*

Commentary

No bull-the truth about red beverages

There seems to be some confusion about last week's letter to the editor entitled...

Around Campus

Early registration takes over the Underground Cafe as a group of students cue up to receive print-outs of their spring 2001 schedules.

December 4, 2000

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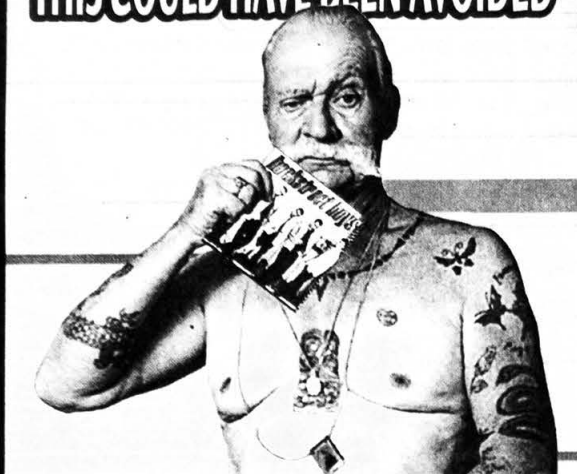
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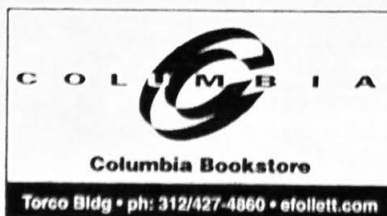
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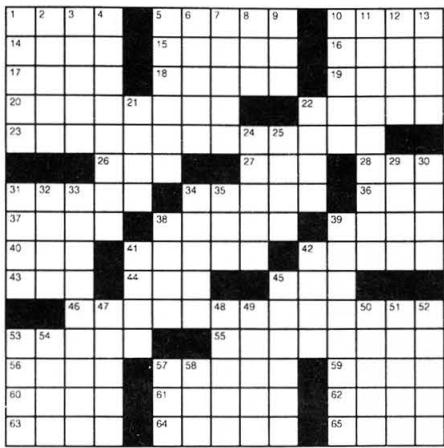
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Classifieds

CROSSWORD

Crossword

- ACROSS
1 Modern Persia
5 Confession of faith
10 Ready and willing partner?
14 Scruff
15 Casually
16 Bride part
17 Italian coin
18 Humiliate
19 Data, casually
20 Mysterious
22 Finishes a road
23 Brownstone, perhaps
26 Fanatic
27 Small, horned viper
28 Pi follower
31 Summits
34 Unfathomable chasm
36 Devour
37 Well-behaved
38 Asian peninsula
39 Son of Leah
40 Samuel's mentor
41 Israeli dances
42 Proximity bombs
43 Moines
44 Picnic pest
45 Pester
46 Stetsons
53 Highlanders
55 Trial performance
56 Cartoonist Peter
57 Bay of Naples isle
59 Bullets, briefly
60 Ooze
61 "The Tempest" sprite
62 Salacious stare
63 Tortoise's rival
64 Untidy
65 Correct galleys



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1/8/01

Solutions

- 7 Precise
8 RRs on trestles
9 Use indigo
10 Opera songs
11 "Pippin" star
12 Prison sentence
13 Son of Seth
21 Cassowary kin
22 Litter
24 19th President
25 Peak in Greece
29 "Gun Will Travel"
30 "Miss _____" Regrets
31 Brought to mellowness
32 slaw
33 Skin conditioner
34 Principal artery
35 Lingerie buy
36 Elevate
37 Edge of a stage
38 Made tidy
39 Red tablewine
40 Assassinated
41 itzhak
42 In the flesh
43 Marry in haste
44 lazuli
45 Tackle-box items
46 Set sights
47 "My Cousin Vinny" Oscar-winner
48 Derivative noise
49 Long, deep cut
50 Surface measure
51 Machine part
52 Exist

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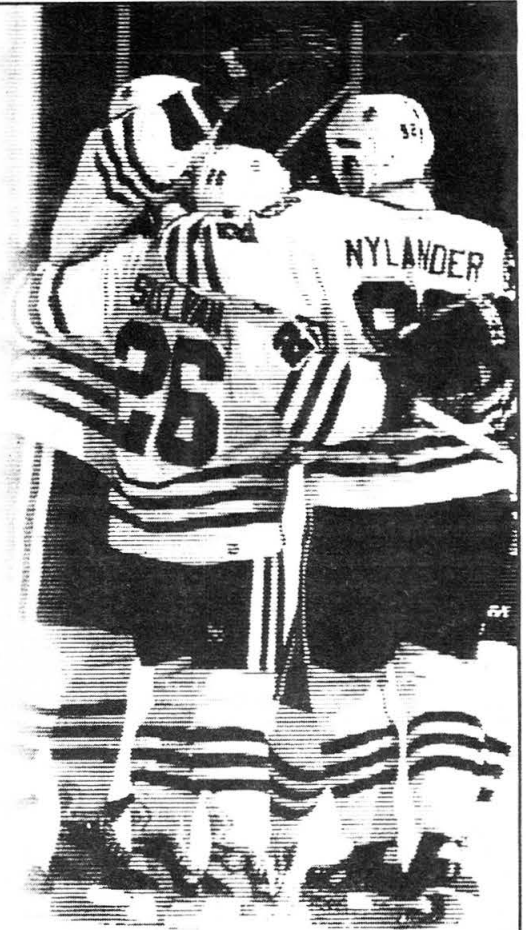
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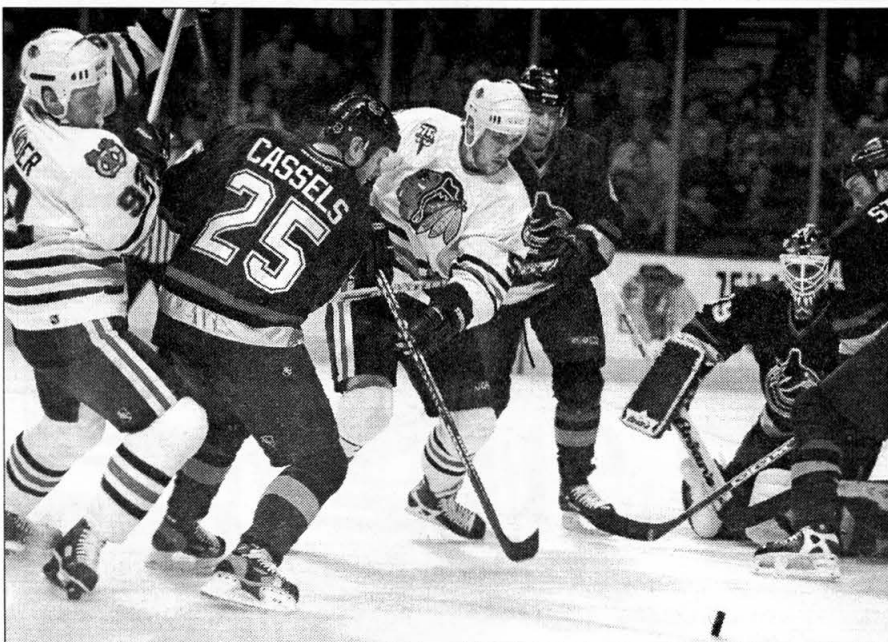
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Jamie Humphrey/Chronicle

The Blackhawks beat the Canucks 6-0 last Wednesday to go to 5-1-1 in their last seven games.

By Mario Reed
Correspondent

With a lot of hot sticks and solid play from their team leaders, the Chicago Blackhawks were primed for play against the NHL Western Conference's number five team. However after the game, Vancouver's coach wasn't quite sure his team was ready for the Hawks.

Vancouver coach Marc Crawford summarized the mindset in which the Blackhawks have played with as of late in a single word: "opportunistic."

Crawford was referring to a 6-0 clinic in which the Blackhawks outperformed his Canucks Jan. 3. It was the second time in as many weeks that Crawford had watched his team fall prey to the Hawks, and the second time was more than the coach was ready for. The Hawks exploded for six unanswered goals, and despite getting out-shot by the Canucks, still managed to endure for the shutout, the team's third of the season. The Canucks haven't been the only victim of the Hawks' new success, but speculation about the reason for it has provided many different answers.

Dec. 7, the Hawks suited up in Nashville to battle the host predators. Before they had the opportunity to see the ice, they had a visit from their general manager, Mike Smith. The Hawks went on to win that game, and the next one, and the next one. Whatever Smith said in that locker room had a lasting effect on the players, and it's showing through their play.

Team captain Tony Amonte summarized Smith's visit as a motivation that let the team know that if they didn't clean up their act there would be personnel changes. However, those personnel changes weren't going to include head coach Alpo Suhonen, according to Smith, and if the team, media and public were waiting for that, they could quit holding their breath. Well the team did, and after having a five game losing streak, they've turned it around.

The Hawks boast a 15-19-3-2 record along with 35 points. However, over the last seven games they're 5-1-1, with the lone loss coming in overtime in Carolina on New Year's Eve. It's been rumored that the sudden change in play is a result of Smith's stern tongue lashing in Nashville. Others believe it to be the shuffling of lines that head coach Suhonen has been experimenting with.

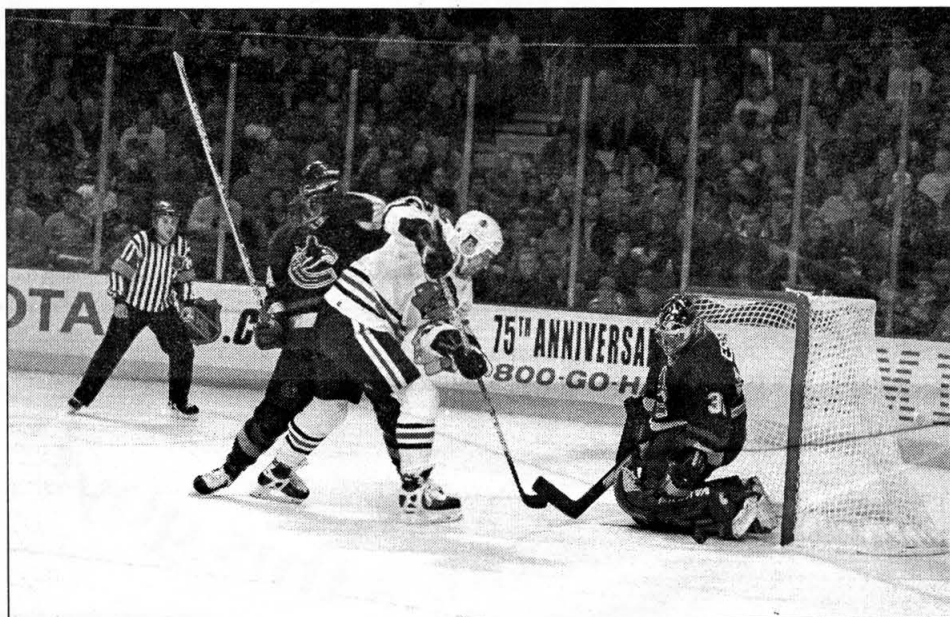


Jamie Humphrey/Chronicle

The Hawks recent play has been noticed around the NHL.

'Opportunistic' Hawks

Sullivan leading latest streak which has opposing coaches taking notice and the Hawks creeping back into the playoff hunt, now they must sustain their winning ways



Jamie Humphrey/Chronicle

Canucks' goaltender Bob Essensa unsuccessfully tries to stop a shot during the Canucks loss to the Hawks.

Whatever the outside reasons may be, the main reason for the Hawks' recent success is because they're back to playing Blackhawk hockey, playing hard-nosed defense, and putting the puck in the net, over and over again.

The Blackhawks are riding on the success of all of their players, but there are four that have become real leaders on this emerging Blackhawk team.

Steve Sullivan has been absolutely fantastic in this seven game stretch, and has done it in every way possible. He's found the back of the net five times in the last seven games and has been an accessory to a Hawk goal five times in that same stretch.

Sullivan's recent scoring has enabled teammate Michael Nylander to join in on some of the lamp lighting, and is also a reason for the Hawks' recent success.

Nylander from Sullivan has become a household phrase over these past seven games, with the tandem hooking up four times during the stretch. Nylander has also been on the giving side of a few Hawk goals while compiling four during the touchdown of games. During the Canucks' game the duo hooked up for the first two goals of the frenzy with Nylander finishing the deal on both Sullivan's assists. However, the two haven't carried the team alone, and team captain Amonte has been a strong set of shoulders in helping carry the load.

Amonte has been a pillar of consistency over this seven game stretch of success, scoring five times and serving up a couple of assists along the way. This gives him a potential

forty-plus goal season and has been a vocal leader during the team's recent turnaround. He has 19 goals in 39 games, and is focused on adding to that total.

During the stretch of seven games, the Hawks have outplayed some talented teams which include division rivals Detroit and Nashville. The Hawks have also shown how their defense has improved since early this season by shutting out the high scoring (3.4 goals per game) Canucks Wednesday night. Although it was a team effort the win can mostly be attributed to the solid play of goalie Jocelyn Thibault, who has also played well over the seven game stretch.

Thibault had posted only one shutout before the seven game stretch and that was against the goal challenged Columbus Blue Jackets. However, Thibault had an all-star performance against the Predators back on Dec. 7, while making 24 saves, and against the Canucks he was everywhere while snatching 27 potential goals from Vancouver. The placement of backup goalie Robbie Tallas was a motivation and reassurance to Thibault that kept him playing up to his potential.

Nylander believes that the talk from Smith was good for the team, and helped straighten out their heads. The team's play has reflected that it has done exactly that and with the aide of teammates Sullivan, Amonte, and Thibault, the Hawks are back to looking like contenders.

Although the team has been receiving tremendous contributions from Amonte, Sullivan, Nylander, and Thibault, it hasn't just been them. Left wing Eric Daze has been a major contributor during the stretch, as well as center Alexei Zhamnov, and many other players as well. Nylander stated that it's all of the guys taking responsibility for their play, and not just pointing the finger.

Before the game with Vancouver, the team was asked whether or not this winning streak was a reflection of things to come or just a fluke, and how long they could sustain it? Although the Hawks didn't answer it verbally, six goals on great passing and shooting, as well as a defensive slam dunk with the shutout is answer enough as the team has proven that they're going to be more "opportunistic".

Farragut

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

season success has been due to guard play. Nelson said he hasn't had this many good guards since he has been coaching, even when Fields was in his backcourt.

"Unlike past guards, they are willing to sacrifice and rebound with the big boys," Nelson said, pointing out that the competition between these four quality guards almost forces maximum effort. "There is always someone on the bench who is ready. As long as they are pushing each other the team is only going to get better."

The character of this season's Farragut team started to develop last year with the emergence of then sophomore guard Marcetteaus McGee.

Nelson did not feel McGee was ready to play varsity, but McGee would settle for nothing less.

"He heard me complain about guys not taking charges so he said, 'Is that all coach wants?' Before I knew it he put his hands up and boom, hit the floor. Then he gets up, looks at me and smiles," Nelson said. "Before long he made me put him on varsity."

That promotion within the program turned out to be a worthwhile investment. It paid dividends in the first game last season against Austin High School.

"We're losing and my juniors are out there waving to their girlfriends," Nelson jokingly remembered. "Austin was diving all over the place and our guys were looking at me like I'm not going to get my uniform dirty. So I put the sophomores in [including McGee]. All of a sudden guys are diving and running and chasing balls down. We end up winning the game on a three-point shot by McGee."

It didn't take a wake up call from underclassmen this season. The team has been too tightly knit to unravel when things have gotten tight. Nelson thinks his guys learned a lot from all the losing last year.

McGee may be an example of the attitude transformation this team has undergone, but there have been many variables in Farragut's return to prominence.

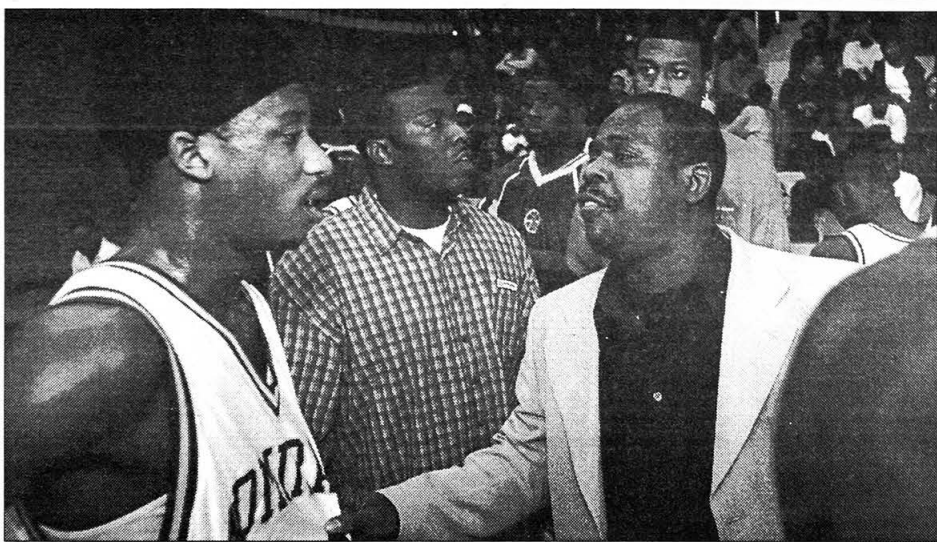
One factor has been 6-foot-7 junior forward Elliot Poole. Poole, who has started since his freshman season, has a reputation as a rugged rebounder and scores most of his team leading 16.4 points per game on put-backs. People close to the public league have started to compare him to Wright. However, Farragut's latest big man almost didn't play for the Admirals.

Coming out of grammar school, coaches all over the city were after him, even though he lived just blocks from Farragut. When Nelson heard that other coaches were trying to pull him away he would not stand for it.

"I said, 'Big Fella, you know you're not going anywhere, right?' We've got your place all set right [at Farragut]."

Nelson said that it used to be that he would have to go outside the Farragut Neighborhood to get most of his players, but now the bigger challenge is making sure the local kids stay put. He is able to sell them on the fact that he will get them exposure by playing in many of the prominent tournaments and that because of his position as the chair of the math department at Farragut, he can help them academically prepare for college.

Unlike most coaches I don't have to get someone to teach these kids ACT prep," said Nelson, who has a



Bill Manley/Chronicle

Head Coach William Nelson (right) has gotten maximum effort out of his players every game thus far.

degree in math and engineering. "I'm in charge of ACT prep."

Poole, who is leaning toward playing his college basketball at Wake Forest, is glad he decided to come to Farragut and said he has an excellent relationship with his coach.

"Coach has made a lot of sacrifices for us and spent a lot of time with us," he said.

Other key members of the Farragut team include 5-8 senior guard Anthony Gross (who looks like a little A.J. Guyton), 6-1 junior guard Courtney McGarry, 6-0 junior guard Jason Smith, 6-5 senior forward Daniel James, 6-6 sophomore forward Dennard Montague and 6-3 senior utility man Floyd Williams, who Nelson called the ultimate role player.

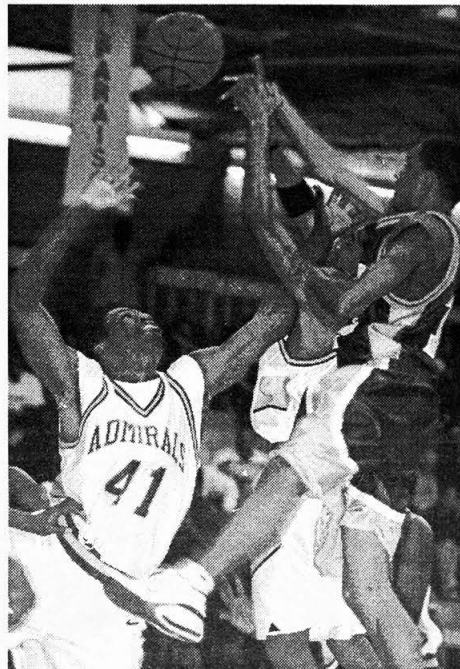
Nelson's only fear is that his team may peak too soon. He told his players that everything they have done up to this point is great, but the season really hasn't even begun.

However, he also knows this is a special group, and regardless of what happens in the public league and tournaments come March, his team will compete hard for each other the entire time.

"That's what I love about this team," he said. "There is no jealousy because one guy is getting more exposure than another guy, or one guy is getting more points or more time than another guy. Because when it's all over they all pick each other up and go home. I haven't had that in a long time."

Nelson loves the relationship with his players, which he said is the tightest group he has ever had. According to Nelson, not one player on his team grew up with a father in the house. That has made his role extra important.

"It's like a big family," he said. "When they're at my house they're taking out the garbage, washing the dishes and I'm cooking. I chastise them when they need it. I'm like the father figure."



Bill Manley/Chronicle

Daniel James (41) is one of the role players Nelson is relying on to take Farragut down state.

Local college hoops: Loyola loses at buzzer

By Graham Couch

Sports Editor

Cleveland State's Theo Dixon hit a buzzer-beating three-pointer to nip Loyola 73-70 in the Ramblers conference opener in Cleveland.

The loss spoiled the 26-point effort of Loyola sophomore guard David Bailey.

The Ramblers (4-9, 0-1) led by as many as 10 early in the second half, but could not withstand a 16-4 run by the Vikings.

Loyola hosts Wisconsin-Green Bay on Wednesday and Wis.-Milwaukee Sunday.

Ohio State jumped out in front early and took a 33-20 lead into the locker room on their way to a 73-56 win over Northwestern in Columbus on Wednesday.

Northwestern (7-6, 0-1) got a career-high 22 points from Winston Blake.

The Wildcats never led in the contest. Northwestern travels to Michigan State on Wednesday and Penn State Saturday.

UIC shot just 24 percent on their way to an embarrassing 95-44 loss to No. 23 Iowa State in Ames on Tuesday night.

Johnathan Schneiderman was the only

Flame in double-figures with 11 points.

The Flames (6-7) host Wisconsin-Milwaukee Thursday before traveling to Wisconsin-Green Bay on Saturday.

Rashon Burno and Bobby Simmons each scored 18 points as DePaul beat Fairfield 85-78 on Dec. 30 at All-State Arena.

The Blue Demons shot 58 percent for the game.

DePaul (8-4) travels to Southern Mississippi on Wednesday and plays host to Memphis on Saturday at the United Center.

Chicago State turned the ball over 26 times on their way to a 75-64 loss at Southern Utah Thursday night.

The Cougars were missing 7-1 center Darrell Johns, who did not make the trip because of a coach's decision and Terrence West, who was serving a one game suspension for fighting in CSU's loss at Hampton.

Chicago State (3-9, 0-2) hosts Oral Roberts Thursday and UMKC on Saturday.

Bet against the boys and the girl

Picks for January 8-14

Each week the *Chronicle* sports experts will make their picks for five football games for the upcoming week. If you think you can do better, send your picks to Ghcouch@aol.com or call them in to the *Chronicle* sports line at 312-344-7086. Your picks must be in no later than each Saturday at 11 a.m. The person who does the best will appear in next weeks' "Bet against the boys and the girl." Here are this weekend's games and the way our guys picked them.



G. Couch
Record: 35-26

Illinois @ Iowa
Wisc. @ MSU
N.D. @ Seton Hall
N.D. @ Kentucky
N.C. @ Maryland



S. Venci
Record: 36-25

Illinois @ Iowa
Wisc. @ MSU
N.D. @ Seton Hall
N.D. @ Kentucky
N.C. @ Maryland



T-Bone
Record: 33-28

Illinois @ Iowa
Wisc. @ MSU
N.D. @ Seton Hall
N.D. @ Kentucky
N.C. @ Maryland



N. Sutcliff
Record: 31-30

Illinois @ Iowa
Wisc. @ MSU
N.D. @ Seton Hall
N.D. @ Kentucky
N.C. @ Maryland



M. Richmond
Record: 32-29

Illinois @ Iowa
Wisc. @ MSU
N.D. @ Seton Hall
N.D. @ Kentucky
N.C. @ Maryland



A. Holst
Record: 16-18

Illinois @ Iowa
Wisc. @ MSU
N.D. @ Seton Hall
N.D. @ Kentucky
N.C. @ Maryland

A return to prominence

Led by a coach who believes in the team before the individual and a group of players who have bought into his message, Farragut Academy is back on top and looking for a Public League Title and a trip downstate

By Graham Couch
Sports Editor

Vince Lombardi once said, "They call it coaching, but it is teaching. You do not just tell them... you show them the reasons."

Farragut Academy's boys basketball team may not be the Green Bay Packers and Coach William Nelson may not be Lombardi, but the principle still applies.

The 1999-2000 season was by all accounts a disaster for Farragut. Poor effort and lack of team unity led to a 8-15 season that nearly dropped them down an entire division.

Those who were a problem a year ago are gone and the difference has been noticeable. Coach Nelson has not just told them, he has shown his players the results if they buy into his teachings.

"With this group, I don't have anybody like last year, ready to quit at the drop of a pin," Nelson said. "These guys want to

win. If that means that they are only going out there for a few seconds and playing, they're happy with the fact that maybe their two points were the difference in the game or their rebound or forced turnover."

The Admirals' desire to win has shown in their early season record. Even after a loss to No. 6 Crane High School last Thursday, Farragut stood at 7-2, including an impressive win of the Proviso West Holiday Tournament. They have gone from a team with little recognition to a team ranked No. 2 in the Chicago area and No. 20 nationally.

With that new-found respect has come tougher competition. Nelson declares that they have gone from being the hunters to the hunted. He doesn't mind that every team is coming at the Admirals with their best game, forcing contests to be closer than anticipated.

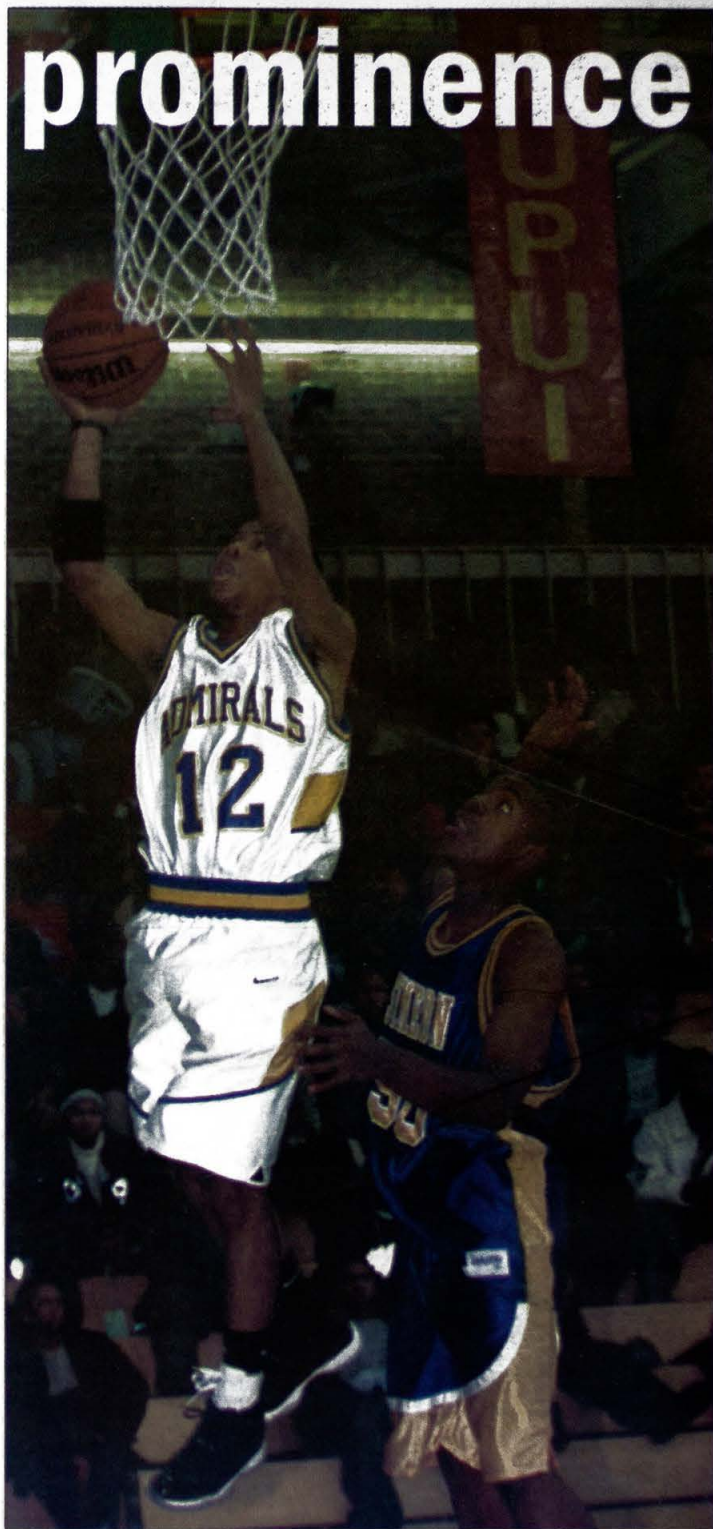
"I don't really want to play a blowout game because that's how bad habits develop," he said.

Farragut is famous for producing local legends such as Kevin Garnett, Ronnie Fields and most recently, Michael Wright, the All-Pac 10 junior at Arizona. However, unlike Nelson's great teams of the past, this year's squad doesn't win because of an individual standout. It is a complete team effort.

According to Nelson, this is the deepest team he has ever coached. He has eight solid players and several others who can provide quality spot minutes in a pinch.

"Having a lot of good players [as opposed to a couple stars], you don't have guys standing around thinking it's not their job to score a basket, or not their job to grab a rebound," Nelson said. "Everybody shares the load equally with this group. When I had Garnett, Fields and Wright, after those guys the talent level dropped down and there was a big gap. It was really hard to coach a team like that."

The depth has allowed Nelson to split his team down the middle during



Bill Manley/Chronicle

Marcetteaus McGee (12) has been one of the reasons for Farragut's success.

practices, making after-school sessions almost like a game. Because of the competitive practices, Nelson was able to schedule just three games between Nov. 22 and Dec. 22, choosing instead to play most of his non-conference schedule on Saturdays during the conference season. He felt that this will make them more prepared come tournament time. And it has an added effect, he always knows where his guys are on Saturdays.

"They don't have to go find a pickup game somewhere," Nelson said. "I've got a real one for them."

It's not as if last season's poor record has been the norm at 2345 S. Christiana Ave. It was the first losing season for Farragut since Nelson took over as head coach in 1994.

Much of Farragut's surprising early

See Farragut, page 27



Donnie Seals Jr./Chronicle

Elliot Poole has been compared to Arizona's Michael Wright.

College Basketball

Monday
Notre Dame @ S. Hall, 6 p.m.
Wednesday
Northwestern @ MSU, 7 p.m.
Thursday
Illinois @ Iowa, 6:30 p.m.

NFL

Sunday
NFC Championship
11:30 a.m., FOX

AFC Championship
3:05 p.m., CBS

Bulls

Monday
Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday
@ Charlotte, 6:00 p.m.
Friday
Charlotte, 7:30 p.m.