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COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 34, Number 29 | Columbia College Chicago | Monday, May 21, 2001

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Inside this week

Campus
The Chocolate Messiah resurrects
Page 3

A&E
Blues Traveler hits Chicago
Page 17

Sports
Turner Cup bound
Back Page

Internet cheating creates mixed views

By Christine Layous
Staff Writer

"Plagiarism is a serious offense and is not, by any means, condoned or encouraged by Genius Papers."

A disclaimer with that message would be taken serious, but how seriously when it comes from an Internet site that's selling term papers?

For years, students have always found ways to cheat. As soon as new media emerged, new ways of cheating were invented. If a class required the student to read Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, students would go to Blockbuster Video and rent the film the day before the reading was due.

If a paper was due on the topic, the student may have stayed up and wrote whatever came to mind.

But now students are finding new ways to help ease their workload by buying papers off the Internet.

To make it easier for students, there are Web sites that offer papers for a price. Geniuspapers.com was even featured on the search engine Yahoo. They offer access to term papers written by students for a subscription of only $9.95 a year. "You've seen inadequate, over-priced, bargain junk," they state on their site. "We think you deserve better. We think you deserve high quality, low priced, easy access, A+ papers, which will help you on your own papers."

Most students don't read past "A+" but it states that they help with the papers: not supply the student with one.

AcaDemon.com is another site that offers "research"

See **Internet,** page 2

Dwayne M. Thomas/Chronicle

Grammy-nominated Hip-Hop artist and former Columbia student, Common, (foreground), performs with members of the band, Water Babies for the packed crowd at the Street Beats Festival, Friday, May 18.

Gourmand extends south along with Loop district

By Jill Helmer
Staff Writer

For the past 14 years, Gourmand's Coffeehouse has been serving South Loop customers in the historic Printer's Row.

A little over a year ago, Gourmand expanded, opening a new location at 1801 S. Indiana, serving Chicago's historic Prairie District.

A coffeehouse in an area that, until recently, was composed of not much more than vacant warehouses?

There is no doubt that the South Loop is changing. It's getting easier and easier to find a Starbucks near Columbia...maybe not on every single corner like on the North Side, but at least every three blocks or so.

Gourmand's owner Michael Yelaska observed this transition, and in it, saw an opportunity waiting to be seized.

"[The Prairie District] is a growing area; it's going to be a fantastic area in just a matter of time. That's why I'm there," Yelaska said.

So does the presence of a coffeehouse like Gourmand mean that the area is in fact changing and a new population is settling there?

According to Barbara Lynne, executive director of the Near South Side planning board, the Prairie District is, indeed, in transition.

"There have been a lot of changes in the last five years. There's the new Women's Park between the Glessner and Clark Houses, and there's new housing both under construction and planned," she said.

Lynne said that she thinks Gourmand will be a good addition to the Prairie District.

"You need that type of thing... small restaurants and pubs. That sort of thing makes a neighborhood a neighborhood. I think (Gourmand) will do fine," Lynne said. "People need a place like that—somewhere to go meet friends when they come home from work."

With more and more people coming to the area, either for residency or for employment, Yelaska said, Gourmand is trying to cater to the new demographic of the area.

"We'll be open at night eventually," he said. "We've had a lot of requests from residents for us to be open at night. Right now, we basically just get the lunch crowd."

Patrons of the new Gourmand's also agree that it is a good addition to the neighborhood. Bill Stronks, a resident of the Prairie District area, said he is a regular customer of Gourmand's.

"I live a block away, and I come here either for coffee in the morning, or for lunch," Stronks said. He said he's been going to Gourmand since it opened over a year ago. "There's nothing else in this

See **Gourmand,** page 3

Common—beats from the street

By Michael Hirtzer
Staff Writer

The sun was shining and the winds subsided for the inaugural celebration of Columbia's new president. The event, called the Street Beats Festival, hosted performers from a variety of musical genres featured alongside Grammy nominated Hip-Hop artist and former Columbia student, Common.

The parking lot across from the 623 S. Wabash building was an ideal setting for the event, which gave Columbia artists a chance to showcase their diverse talents in a tightly run professional environment. Columbia students were treated to Coca-Cola, Cheetos, pretzels, along with various pastry snacks and Mountain Dew's new Code Red.

Opening the afternoon was DJ Nole. He played deep house records at the beginning and during intermissions. He said the wide variety of bands "opened up people's ears" providing music that's rarely performed in the same place let alone the same afternoon.

The first band to play was the Columbia College Jazz Ensemble. The band, directed by Scott Hall, played renditions of cool jazz tunes by Duke Ellington and John Coltrane. Continuing on the jazz tip was Equinox 5 that consisted of five members of the Columbia jazz band. Nick Alvarez, of Equinox 5, said the atmosphere was very positive and the sound people were a great help, considering all the equipment involved in jazz big bands.

Announcers Michelle Gilliam, a freshman public relations major, and Reina Alvarez, a senior film major, provided background information on all artists as well as comic relief, as they made small talk and tried to energize the crowd.

The Reed Sisters performed next in the line-up, setting a laid-back romantic mood with sultry singing to mellow beats. One of the sisters, Brandi, said she thought more schools should hold events like Street Beat.

Only Columbia students were given access to the event, as it was funded by their dollars; but many bystanders— students from other schools, homeless and construction workers—danced to the music on the other side of the fence.

The band Sudden Dark, came up next on the hard-rock level, as they re-directed their anger into positive energy. The ska band, Last Man Out, followed with power chords and horn stabs. Both rock bands were well rehearsed and skilled, but the crowd was largely there for Hip-Hop.

Their hopes were answered with World Famous, as they came through with upfront, uncensored Hip-Hop. This is when the party truly began, as everyone went close to the stage and the stragglers from the Wabash building finally came over to join the crowd.

The multimedia group, Life Productions, followed keeping the heads happy with synchronized pop locking, a beautiful spoken-word poem entitled "Lonely Train Ride," and Thugz 4 Life with more rhymes.

DJ Nole played fellow Chicago resident Derrick L. Carter's, "A Hope Comes Over You," as Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly, stepped in to introduce the college's president Warrick L. Carter. Kelly reiterated Columbia's view that "Chicago is our campus" and Columbia is the "best student centered art college in the country, and the world."

Carter introduced the Chicago artist saying "Common means average, but this is outstanding music, an outstanding message." Dressed in an olive green suit with a bow tie, Carter added "I'm glad to be part of you" and Common proves that a "Columbia College education can take you anywhere you want it to."

Common, 'AKA Lonnie Rashid Lynn, is a former South Side resident, who now lives in New York. "I love being here, this is my home. It always feels good to come back. The crowd today made me feel really good and that's why I love to do what I do," Common said.

The Columbia population respectively and rowdily responded to their 'homey,' bobbing their heads and dancing to Hip-Hop and funk beats provided by Common's band, the Water Babies. Common touched on his entire catalogue of tracks including "I Used to Love Her" and

See **Street Beats,** page 5

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COLUMBIA

CLASS OF 2001

Companies rescind job offers to recent college graduates

By Margaret Steen
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

Graduating students entering the job market this year are learning an early lesson about the world of work: Nothing is guaranteed.

In the face of a swift economic downturn that has caused many companies to lay off workers, some employers, like Cisco Systems, are rescinding job offers they made months ago to students. Others are postponing the start dates for new hires or, like Intel, are dangling buyouts to persuade new graduates not to show up for work. And Agilent Technologies is including new hires in an austerity program that will cut all salaries by 10 percent for at least a few months.

The companies are also taking pains to make the affected students feel they have been treated fairly, since they know bad feelings now could lead to problems recruiting in future years.

Cisco, which is laying off thousands of workers, has told about 70 or 80 students — just under 10 percent of its college hires — that it won't have jobs for them after all. These students will receive 12 weeks' pay and assistance finding other jobs.

Lance Choy, assistant director of the Stanford Career Development Center, said several companies that recruit on campus have told him they are rescinding job offers. The companies are offering compensation ranging from several thousand dollars in cash to, in the case of one foreign student, help from an immigration attorney.

Other companies are trying different strategies. Intel, which is trying to cut about 5,000 jobs this year through mostly voluntary departures, has offered some of the students it had promised to hire this summer incentives not to show up. The compensation generally includes two months' pay plus the student's sign-on bonus, said Tracy Koon, director of corporate affairs for the company. Students who are offered the program can choose to come to work anyway, but they may end up in a different job than the one they signed up for.

Agilent is lowering salaries, at least temporarily.

The pay cut will apply to Emily Granada, who accepted an offer from Agilent in February and is scheduled to start her human resources job in June after finishing her MBA at the University of California-Berkeley. She learned about it one day last month, when she heard on the news that Agilent was cutting all employees' salaries by 10 percent for one or two quarters.

"The day after, I got a phone call from my future manager, which I really appreciated," Granada said. "I was definitely relieved that I still had the offer."

Charles Schwab, which has announced layoffs, has postponed the date some of its new graduates were going to start special training programs. A group that was preparing to start in April won't begin until later this year, said spokeswoman Sarah Bulgatz.

Students aren't the only ones affected, but they are more likely than other workers to have their offers changed or withdrawn. That's because there's often a lag between when students accept their offers and when they start work.

Observers of college recruiting say that although relatively few students are seeing their offers rescinded, the practice is not a new strategy for struggling companies.

"That's a reality in the workplace," said Andy Ceperley, director of the career center at Santa Clara University. "There are times through history where employers have pulled out."

The companies that are struggling with how to handle the college recruits they no longer need are trying to minimize damage to their reputations.

Some of the severance packages for students who have never worked for a company are comparable to what established workers at some companies receive. One reason is that companies want to make sure that next time they need to hire college students, the students will take their offers seriously.

"Word of mouth is huge among students," Choy said. "Students come back, they tell their friends, "This is how they treated me.' That makes a huge difference."

Granada said that even though she'll be starting at Agilent earning less money than she anticipated, the experience confirmed her good impression of her future employer.

"They had the option of laying off people or taking back offers," she said.

Street Beats

Continued from Front Page

"Doin' It," along with homage's to James Brown, George Clinton, and a freestyle where he gave respect to his former school (Luther South High) and Harold's Chicken's tasty mild sauce

After the show Common said he wants to encourage students to go after their dreams. "Work hard and believe in yourself," Common said exhaustely after his two-hour performance, "Don't fall victim to the system trying to be like other people. It's important to find your common ground—your foundation in order to be successful."

Common added that he was honored to be approached by the Senior Administration who referred to him as "a Chicago artist who would reflect the Chicago Community in a true manner."

—Contributing writer Sabina Ghebremedhin

Great summer jobs harder to get this year

By Rick Barrett
Knight-Ridder tribune

MILWAUKEE _ Students seeking summer employment are learning a painful lesson: The best-paying jobs aren't as plentiful as in years past, and competition for available positions is more intense.

In particular, summer job-seekers will find fewer employment prospects at manufacturing plants and high-tech companies _ two areas that provided many with gainful employment during the recent economic boom.

"Manufacturing and construction jobs haven't taken off this year as they have in past years, and there will be more competition for summer jobs," said Terry Ludenman, chief of local work force planning for the state Department of Workforce Development.

In recent years, high-tech companies have clamored for summer help as a way to give their year-round workers vacations and to groom students for permanent jobs later.

But with a softening economy, many companies are not opening their doors widely to summer help _ especially when it comes to higher-paying positions, said Liz Fredrichs, vice president of Waukesha Staffing Services, a regional employment agency.

"The job market is pretty soft right now compared to a year ago," she said. "Many companies are trying not to lay off permanent staff, and where they need summer help it's in the lower-paying positions."

In Milwaukee, Marquette High School senior Jacob Frautschi said he received a lot of rejections before receiving a job offer to be a computer Web page technician at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

"Companies said either they weren't hiring any more or they didn't have open positions," Frautschi said.

The Medical College job pays about $7 an hour, somewhat less than he hoped. But Frautschi said he believes the experience will be valuable when he enrolls at the University of Southern California in fall to study computer science.

"I might possibly find a second job this summer too," said Frautschi, who last summer earned money cutting lawns and operating his own home-based computer technical support business.

Overall, Wisconsin's work force expands by about 150,000 jobs every summer, according to the Department of Workforce Development.

In recent years, summer worker shortages have been severe in such tourism hot spots as Wisconsin Dells and Door County.

But even in the Dells, which requires more than 7,000 summer employees, the labor shortage is not as severe as usual, local business leaders say.

The Dells has cultivated a stronger year-round work force and has recruited at least 25% of its summer employees from overseas, said Tom Diehl, president of Tommy Bartlett Inc. and a veteran of the tourism industry.

"We are in better shape this year than ever," Diehl said.

Door County tourism businesses also are well-staffed heading into the summer, said Karen Raymore, executive director of the Door County Chamber of Commerce.

"We are in better shape because so many employers started recruiting even in February," she said. "There are still some worker shortages, but many employers have told me they are in great shape."

Door County businesses raised their summer wages to attract workers from outside the area, and few employers are paying less than $8 per hour, Raymore said. Also, like the Dells, Door County has recruited college students from other states and Eastern Europe.

"The summer labor shortage was so critical in the past that we had to get more aggressive," Raymore said.

Students who have experience with specific companies are better positioned to get the best jobs with those firms this summer, according to employment agencies and students in the job market.

Tiffany Hetzel said she's returning for her third summer job at Quad/Graphics Inc. in Hartford, her hometown.

Hetzel is studying graphic arts at Waukesha County Technical College and hopes to land a permanent job at Quad/Graphics after she obtains a bachelor's degree in graphics art management at her next educational stop _ the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Hetzel said she is fortunate to have a summer job in Quad/Graphic's customer service department, because some of her classmates have had more trouble finding decent positions.

"I think employers are a little more reluctant to hire this summer," she said. "I know enthusiasm counts when you are looking for a job now. You can't just walk into a company any longer and expect to be hired."

Although summer jobs are still plentiful in many service industries, some students might find they are competing for employment with workers who have lost their year-round jobs.

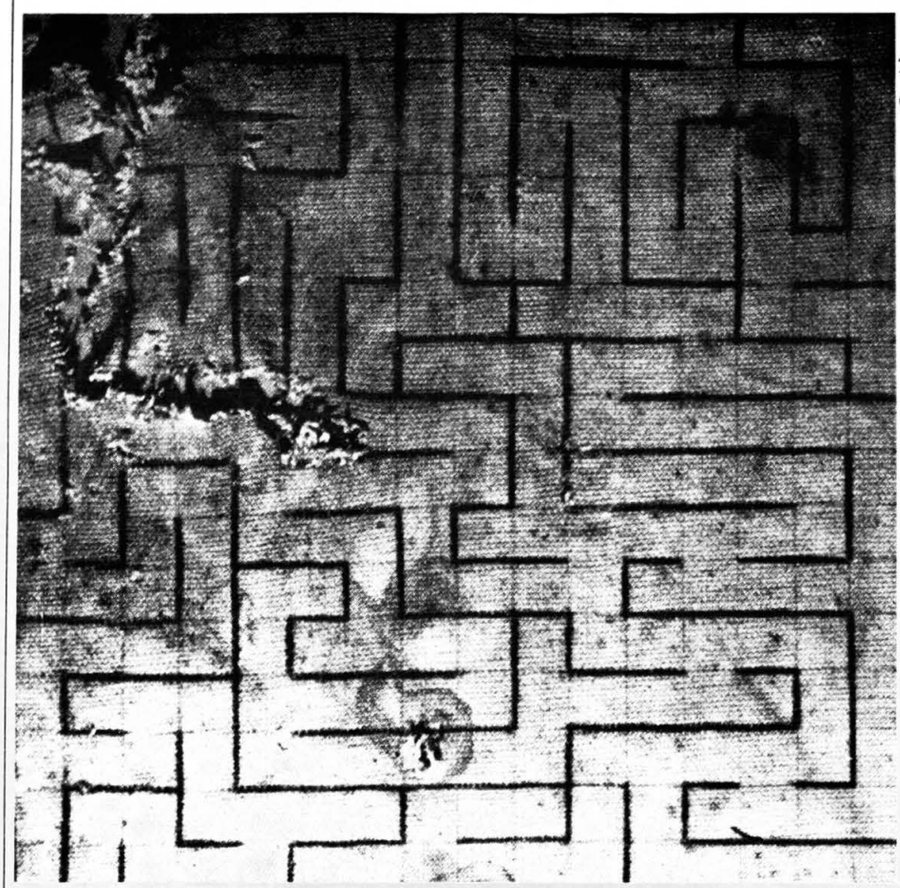
In Lake Geneva, for example, resorts said they have noticed an influx of job applicants who have been laid off from the Motorola cell-phone manufacturing plant in Harvard, Ill. That is a marked change from previous years when older adults showed no interest in summer jobs typically held by college students. Earlier this year, Motorola eliminated 2,500 jobs at its Harvard plant, putting a dent in the rural northern Illinois economy.

In some fields, such as culinary arts, summer job-seekers are doing well. Jesus Balestena of Milwaukee recently landed a summer job working in a banquet kitchen at the American Club resort in Kohler.

Balestena is a culinary arts student at Waukesha County Technical College.

"It wasn't hard at all to find a job," he said. "Actually, I had too many offers."

Although tough on would-be workers, the tightening job market has been a boon to some employers who have found a much-improved pool of resumes from qualified individuals.



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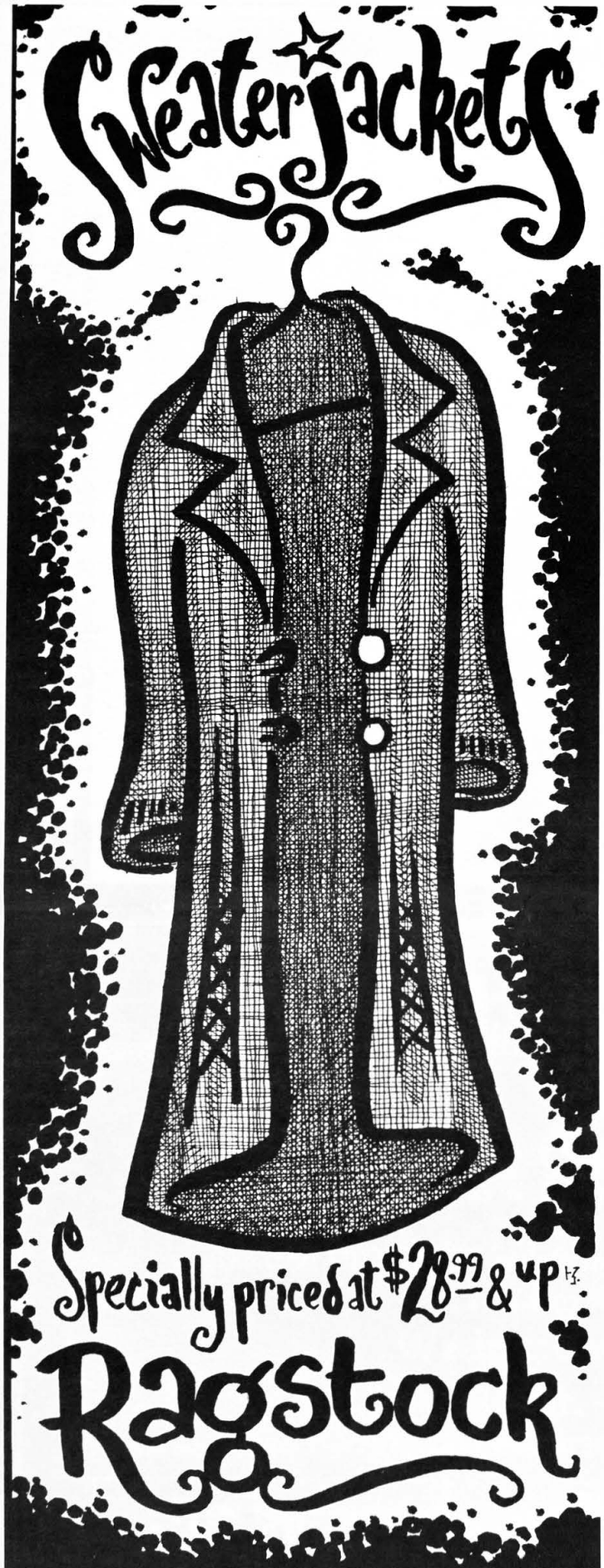

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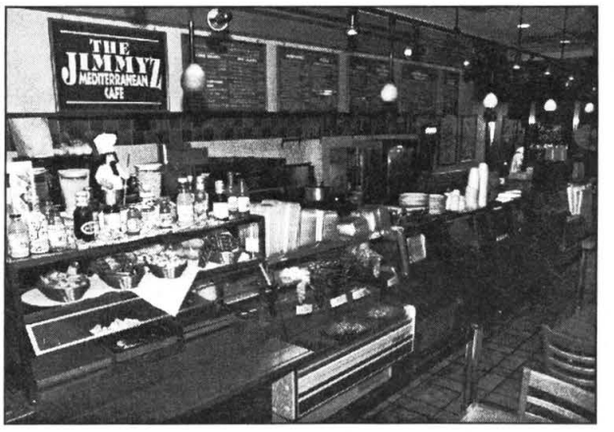

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COMMENTARY

The other side of reparations

Slavery is far from the only issue to be considered

By TreAndres Members
Staff Writer

Should African-Americans be compensated in a monetary form for what their ancestors endured during slavery?

In recent years this has gotten many white Americans on the offensive. A number of white Americans don't agree that contemporary blacks, who did not endure slavery, are entitled to money just because their ancestors were slaves.

The biggest assumption in this whole debate is that people assume slavery ended with the defeat of the Confederate Army in the Civil War and the additions of the 13th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution. However, slavery still persisted long after that, through Jim Crow laws in the South that prohibited African-Americans from enjoying their full rights as citizens to the defacto practices in the North that still hinder African-Americans:

From gentrification of black neighborhoods, to blacks being denied certain loans from banks because they are perceived as credit risks to blacks receiving fair and equal treatment from the judicial system, blacks have been mistreated.

The fact is that after the Civil War provisions such as the "Grandfather Clause" stated that if your grandfather was a slave you could not own land. Segregation and the share-cropping fiasco that took place in the South, the creation of the project tenement and various other social/political systems made the playing field so unequal that Affirmative Action could never be a viable solution.

This is more than 200 years of oppression I'm talking about. Blacks could not totally exercise their right to vote until the passage of the Civil Rights acts in 1965. That was 35 years ago, not even one average lifetime.

Also, the industry of slavery produced incalculable amounts of money for the United States, which is one of the reasons America is the super power it is today. Slaves fueled the U.S. agricultural and cotton industries.

Some critics argue that the African-American community grosses a higher income than most third-world countries, so they conclude that African-Americans don't need reparations. However, that is not the issue. The issue is that Africans were abducted and forced to work for the financial gains of the U.S. economy. These people were denied their human and civil rights at the expense of making profits for the United States.

These people or their surviving families are entitled to back pay due to services rendered on behalf of the U.S. government from 1776 to 1865.

Due are billions of dollars in lost wages as a result of racist practices on behalf of the United States and individual state governments, and due to psychological and emotional damage that has been inflicted on the African-American community.

If the United States is going to enforce human and civil rights throughout the world, then it must first rectify the atrocities that have been committed on behalf of its government and its subsequent prosperity

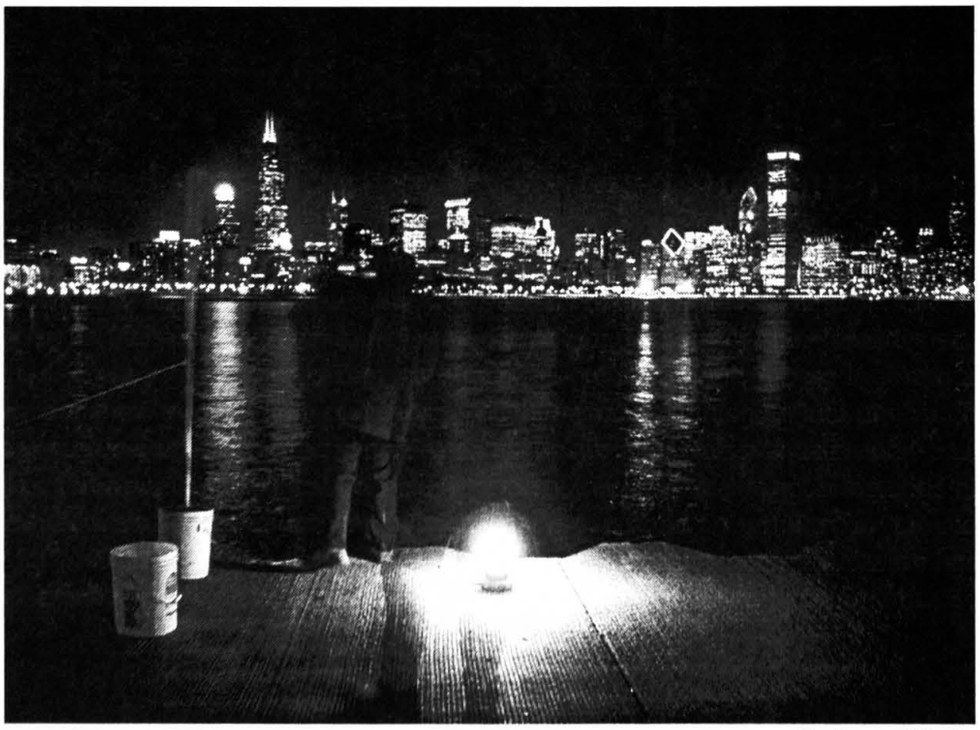
Slavery stripped African-Americans of their mother culture and separated the African-American family.

The repercussions of this fact are very visible today. In the African-American community, single mother households are not a novelty, in fact many times they are the norm.

There is no doubt that African-Americans are due compensation for the work their ancestors have done to make America prosperous.

If the United States is going to enforce human and civil rights throughout the world, then it must first rectify the atrocities that have been committed on behalf of its government and its subsequent prosperity. However, there may not be enough money to give African-Americans what they accurately deserve. Some possible alternatives are: making African-Americans exempt from paying federal and state taxes for 165 years; making college free to African-Americans for 165 years; or even a combination of the previous suggestions.

Exposure



Brian Morowczynski/Chronicle

Tuesday night fishing off the Adler Planetarium

Letters to the Editor

We deeply regret the error

In the May 14 issue of the *Chronicle* an inappropriate letter was anonymously submitted for publication. The letter was hastily placed in the commentary section. It is not generally the policy of the *Chronicle* to run anonymous letters. We deeply regret the error.

Following up redux

The tour guides of Undergraduate Admissions wish to respond to the letter to the editor, "Following Up," dated May 7, 2001 regarding housing problems and policies.

First, let it be clear that housing is limited with nearly 450 spaces. The Residence Life Office determined that the fairest solution in awarding housing is a first-come first-serve policy with priority given to out-of-state students. This has been the policy for years, and will continue to be for some time.

For students who wish to seek campus housing this fall, we suggest you add your name to the waiting list, or contact the off-campus housing coordinator. For students who seek future housing our best advice to you: APPLY EARLY!

In regards to Ms. Johnson's situation, we acknowledge that she faces unfortunate circumstances and we wish her the best in her search. We, however, cannot accept responsibility for an issue beyond our reach. Each of us strives to provide as much current, relative and accurate information as possible. On average we see 120 prospective students and their families each week. It is our hope that after each tour those families research further beyond our introductory overview of Columbia in order to make the best educated decision in choosing a school.

Tour Guide office of Undergraduate Admissions

Staceyann Chin

Amazing portrayal of Staceyann Chin (*Chronicle* Website DATE), she has a breathtaking stage presence that also captured the audience at theGay Pride conference hed at U of I.

This site was very helpful for me, because today I am doing a talk on Chin in my poetry class. Again thank you for doing such a beautiful job; you made her true essence and personality come to life.

Amy/Freshman Knox University

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Letters to the Editor must include your full name, year, major, and a phone number. All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to the limited amount of space available.

Letters can be faxed to us @ 312-344-8032, e-mailed to letters@ccchronicle.com or mailed to *The Columbia Chronicle* c/o *Letters To The Editor*, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205, Chicago, IL 60605.

Evolving evolution

By Josh Fredman
The Daily (U. Washington)

(U-WIRE) SEATTLE — One of the easiest targets of modern liberal dogma is the theory of evolution. It is attacked quite lividly, and many see it as such a ridiculous notion that they can only laugh at "those crazy hooligans."

To my chagrin, public support for evolutionary theory doesn't hold a candle to the antagonists' dogged stratagem. While unfortunate, this is understandable; you don't hear much public activism promoting a spherical Earth either, because it's something most people take for granted.

In the past, faith-based maneuvers have failed to discredit the theory, because faith-based arguments have no power over scientific data, just as many scientific data have no relevance in faith. This has led to the creation of new anti-evolution theories. One of the newest rising stars is called intelligent design.

Succinctly, intelligent design isn't a very original theory. It relegates God to the role of ambiguous, intelligent Creator, thus allying itself with agnosticism — though I'll bet you a steak dinner that no one who calls himself an intelligent design supporter is agnostic. This is because the purpose of intelligent design is to sugarcoat a pill that many non-believers find difficult to swallow.

There's no point spending my time discrediting intelligent design. If you already believe in it, more power to you. But for those who accept evolution, or who are at least still wondering whether or not it is plausible, I hope to try and solidify its credibility by showing its appeal.

Evolution is a theory — just like the opponents say it is. It is not proved. This is often the case in science. Just like a human being, it's very hard for a scientific theory to be completely perfect, because there is always some unknown factor that escapes our knowledge. However, even if evolution is not a proven law, it is a very well-supported theory.

You must first understand that evolution itself does not preclude the possibility of God. What it does preclude is the validity of a canonical Bible — which is why some organized religions are staunchly opposed to the theory. Really, though, evolution does not force you to abandon your faith. Science is a purely intellectual force, far less sullied by petty human conflicts than most things. It is our attempt to grow wiser by understanding how the universe works, one piece of knowledge at a time. Evolution in particular asks the fascinating question of life's mechanism.

I'm not a theologian. I don't know who or what God is. And whether or not the soul is real, it is a symbol of everything good in us. Evolution is just a theory, kids, not an enemy of personal beliefs.
And since that is the case, then the theory stands on solid ground.

Tribune Media Services

A different take on capital punishment

By Kelly Anderson
Correspondent

You all scream about human rights. You yell about the death penalty and how evil it is, and the inhumanity of Timothy McVeigh. You object and say it is not our right to take another human life. How well do you really understand this view that you so passionately oppose?

Let's say YOU are the one that receives that call one day telling you that someone in your family, someone who supported you, made you laugh, someone who loved you for who you are, was brutally murdered. On July 1, 1998, my family received that call.

Jack, my mother's younger brother, had been found dead in a dumpster in downtown Las Vegas, burned beyond recognition so bad that it took five days for them to identify his body. We were told they found metabolized heroine in his system and immediately said it was an overdose. So we flew to Utah to bury him in a closed casket, never seeing, never really knowing, never really sure that it was him that was inside. We returned home thinking he took his own life.

Four months later, we received another call. The Las Vegas police happened on information about Jack's death through a plea bargain in another case.

Now a man and a woman were involved in his death. The woman had bragged to others about taking Jack's life and had it not been for that plea bargain, we would have never known that Jack's death had really been a murder. We later found out from police that Jack had picked these people up after their car had broken down and they ended up living together in a downtown Las Vegas hotel. When Jack wouldn't sell them his car, they tried to kill him with lethal doses of heroine and any other kind of drug. When that didn't kill him, the man began to beat him and the woman pulled a plastic bag over his head. To destroy the evidence, they dumped his body in a dumpster, set it on fire, and then drove away in Jack's car. Immediately, the woman was picked up on a check fraud charge. The man was nowhere to be found. She remained in jail until her accomplice was picked up. With a second-degree murder charge against her, she received life in prison and 15 years for the car robbery.

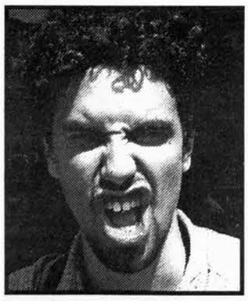
Before you make the judgment that the death penalty is cruel and inhumane, before you scream that it is not our right to take another human's life, the pain of those who have lost a loved one

Technically she can be paroled in 13 years. He received five years in prison with an accessory to murder charge, with parole possible after two years.It is sad to know that you can take another human being's life and be back on the streets within 13 years.

Before you make the judgment that the death penalty is cruel and inhumane, before you scream that it is not our right to take another human's life, the pain of those who have lost a loved one. Until you have experienced this pain, you will never understand.

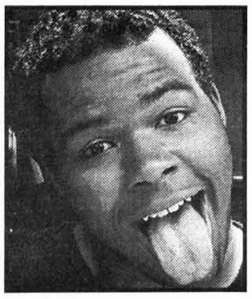
The Columbia Chronicle Photo Poll

Question: What is your ideal adventure?



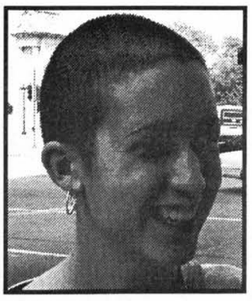
Ricardo De La Cruz
Junior/Marketing

"First I would go to Hawaii and jump out of an airplane naked."



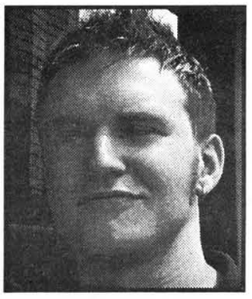
Jose Gonzalez
Junior/Computer Animation

"Get high with people in Amsterdam. Just hang out withpeople where weed is legal."



Sarah Zimmer
Sophmore/Photography

"Going hiking and traveling, visiting little towns with a lot of culture."



Bernie Sokolowski
Sophmore/Graphic Design

"Going to Mexico with an Asian toddler."

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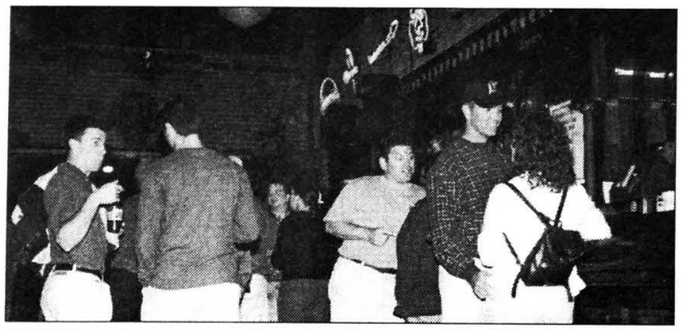
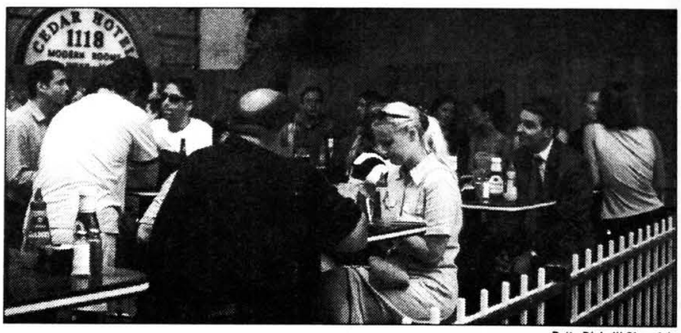
Summer is heading back to the Windy City... And so are the Beer Gardens





Patty Dieball/ Chronicle

Several Beer Gardens around Chicago feature both inside and outside facilities where you can enjoy an ice cold beer and a tasty lunch while still enjoying the warm summer weather.

By Angela Timmons
Staff Writer

When summer hits the city of big shoulders (and a few big beer bellies), there's nothing like enjoying a cold one alfresco with your cronies. And where better to do so than at one of Chicago's beer gardens? With my roommate and some of our closest binge-alcoholic friends in tow, we put on our drinking shoes and went to check a few out.

Seizing the opportunity to get out of my neighborhood and experience what barley and hops taste like outside of my zip code, we zeroed in on South Side first and headed down to the Irish enclave of Beverly.

Cork and Kerry at 10614 S. Western Ave., (773) 445-2675, was first on our list and though we hit it a little too early on a Friday—around six—it was evident that this was a swell place to unwind after a long week.

The staff is friendly, and manager Iris Tremaine gave me a nice little tour of the expansive, fenced-in beer garden. When I asked Tremaine if she knew the origins of the beer garden she said, "I don't know. Years ago people went outside, sat down, drank some beer and called it a beer garden." That was good enough for me.

One raucous group of neighborhood Cork and Kerry's devotees (or CK's as they call it) braved the chilly temperatures and were whooping it up under one of the many beer garden's heaters.

The tipsy women in the group, probably in their late forties and early fifties, challenged us to find a better beer garden anywhere in the city, particularly on the North Side, "This is the best!" they shouted. One of them ended just about every sentence with an Irish dance that would put Michael Flatley to shame. We were hooked.

Oh yeah, what about the beer? Cork and Kerry offers 18 different beers on tap at $3 for domestics and $4 a pint for imports. Domestic pitchers are $7, pitchers of Imports are $13. They don't serve food, so if you'd rather not have to fill up on their popcorn, eat before you come. Hours are Monday through Friday from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m., Saturday from 12 p.m. to 3 a.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m.

A shillelagh's throw away down Western Avenue, and you'll find Joe Bailly's at 10854 S. Western Ave., (773) 238-1313. Though the restaurant and inside the bar seemed a little too much like a grubby version of a TGIF or Bennigan's, the beer garden was pretty decent. And, it's open year-round so in the cold weather, it's under a tent-like covering and heated.

Joe Bailly's offers a full, reasonably-priced menu and after leaving Cork and Kerry's, we were ready to put on our food critics' hats. You can get anything from lamb chops and filet mignon for $16.95, to sandwiches for $6.95.

There's also an array of pasta, salads, and seafood to choose from. My roommate opted for the rueben and I had the cajun chicken, and both were as good as you'd probably get anywhere in the city.

Joe Bailly's also has drink specials each weekend night (we got bottles of Miller Lite for $2 each). They offer a full range of domestic and imported bottled and draft beer ranging from Newcastle to Haaker Pschorr Weisse.

Joe Bailly's hours are Monday 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

On day two of our beer garden excursion, we headed up to the North Side, and checked out Raymond's Bar and Grill at 2824 N. Ashland Ave., (773) 883-7297 in Lakeview.

Though their small outside dining area is technically a café by city zoning standards (because it's sitting on city property), anytime you pass by on a warm night, it's filled with folks from the neighborhood. Unfortunately again, the night we swung by, it was a wee bit frigid so we hung out with the patrons inside.

The back room has a pool table and a couple of dart boards. Ray's offers food, but we couldn't check it out that night because the kitchen was being remodeled.

Owner Raymond Garcia said they offer a variety of "pub grub" and from the looks of the menu, he's right. You can start an appetizer such as the "Chicago Fire" chicken wings for $4.95 and move on to one of their sandwiches or wraps that range from $4.95 to $6.95.

The front bar is uniquely decorated with an enormous stuffed sailfish hanging overhead caught by one of Garcia's pals. There's also a stuffed rooster perched on a high shelf to watch over you as you glug down your beer.

Anyway, if you're in the West Lakeview area, and need a comfortable place to drink, Ray's is the place to do so. Ray's has 12 beers on tap including Newcastle, Guinness and Harp.

Leaving Ray's with a buzz, we hopped in a cab and headed for Big John's at 1147 W. Armitage, (773) 477-4400, in Lincoln Park. Big John's is a bright, rustic little pub, and according to Linda Abu-Shalback, a waitress and Columbia-alum, shock-jock Mancow Muller from Q101 is known to frequent the bar.

That usually would be enough to run me out of there, but I had a job to do and Big John's certainly seems like a great neighborhood bar. If Mancow chooses a place like this to drink, I guess he can't be all that bad.

Their beer garden is located out back and was a little on the small side, though on a nice day with a few friends, I'm sure the experience would be enjoyable. But again, it was cold so I had to use my imagination and head back inside.

We ordered a couple of rounds of beer in the bar and checked the place out . Big John's has a few pieces of vintage Cubs and Sox memorabilia hanging on the walls and like most neighborhood bars, seems to be a place where people from the neighborhood come to watch the game and relax on a weekend night.

Big John's does serve food until 11 p.m. and offers daily lunch specials including their famous buffalo wings that are half-priced from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Big John's chili is billed as "the best around"and you can get a bowl for $3.50. They also offer a wide selection of sandwiches and salads.

Melvin B's at 1114 N. State St., (312) 751-9897 is THE outdoor drinking experience according to Murphy's Bleachers patron Eric Zoerb who said my journalistic integrity would be threatened if I didn't mention it.

Metromix.com lists the café (which isn't open in the winter) as "blader-friendly" where roller bladers from Lincoln Park stop by to down a few beers and sample Melvin B's specialty—turtle soup.

OTHER CHICAGO HOT-SPOTS THAT YOU CAN TRY OUT:

The beer garden at Navy Pier is a popular place during the summer months. There's free entertainment offered at the Miller Lite Stage. Check out the pier's Website or call the beer garden at (312)595-5439.

Rock Bottom Brewery has a roof-top beer garden open when the weather is cooperating. Located at 1 W. Grand Ave. (312)755-9339, Rock Bottom offers a variety of their own brews on tap and has a full menu of lunch and dinner items.

For the far-far-Northsiders, check out the Pinewood Beer Garden and Restaurant at 2310 W. Touhy Ave., (773) 973-4443. The prices are reasonable and according to Metromix.com, the atmosphere is quiet and hospitable. Their specialty is prime-rib.

I would be remiss to not include a couple of bars that were patronized on our recent drinking tour of Chicago. Though neither have beer gardens, they certainly are worth a visit if you find yourself on the Near West Side.

Hawkeye's on 1458 W. Taylor, (312) 226-3951. Owner Ed Claussen came to the Taylor Street neighborhood to open up Hawkeye's in 1987 after managing dance clubs on Division Street. Hawkyeye's is technically a sports bar though Claussen shows his dance club roots when the disc jockey fires up the small dance floor. Hawkeye's caters to the diverse neighborhood in Little Italy including UIC students, medical personnel from Rush-Presbyterian and UIC hospitals, and men and women going through the nearby Chicago Police and Fire training academies. It has a respectably-sized outdoor patio and offers a full lunch and dinner menu. Shuttle buses are available to major sporting and concert events at the United Center, Soldier Field and Comiskey Park. Call ahead.

A bit of a cultural anomaly, Dugan's, an Irish pub, is located in the heart of Greektown at 128 S. Halsted (312) 421-7191. Definitely one of my favorite bars, the place was filled with Irish police officers from New York City last St. Patrick's day (O.K., so NYPD Blue is one of my favorite shows). Open until 4 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, the place fills up quickly with off-duty Chicago patrol officers and detectives, and plenty of civilians from the Near West side and even Bridgeport stop in. A band is usually squeezed into the front of the bar near the large, open windows on Saturday nights. An added bonus: if you find you need to stretch your legs a bit while bellying-up to the bar, you can run out side and play a quick game of Ping-Pong. The table is set up outside on the sidewalk— during the summer. Just be careful when running out into busy Halsted traffic to retrieve any stray balls—you can find yourself becoming a little fearless after a few hours at Dugan's.

If you've ever been to a Cub's game, then it's likely you've been to Murphy's Bleachers at 3655 N. Sheffield Ave., (773) 281-5356. After the Cubs suffered a disappointing loss to the Houston Astros last Wednesday night, the 'Chronicle' dropped in to check out the scene. The extremely popular watering hole for baseball fans first popped up in the 1930s and was then Ernie's Bleachers—a drive-thru hotdog stand that sold beer by the pail. Murphy's has three outside bars, and several inside, that are staffed with plenty of people willing to serve you cans (not pails) of beer. Just don't expect a reprieve from the steep beer prices in Wrigley Field (my can of Rolling Rock was $4.50).

Murphy's is a good place to rev up before a game, or to continue the fun you were having in Wrigley Field. There's plenty of interesting eye-catching memorabilia to check out, and the south bar has a little museum that houses a miniature replica of Wrigley Field. Your beer munchies can be satisfied too, with reasonably-priced menu items such as burgers, hotdogs, and chicken sandwiches that range from $3.50 to $6.50 with fries. A cynical person might say the popularity of Murphy's Bleachers keeps one from really enjoying the place. The crowds are enormous and uh, shall we say, difficult to navigate. But when warm weather hits in Chicago, everyone is itching to get outside and drink. As Columbia senior Katie Tumbleson said, while enjoying the quieter back bar at Murphy's, "We look forward to it from October to March." So do I Katie, so do I.

Blues Traveler Performs Live at the Riviera Theater

By Prema Chandrathil
Staff Writer

Back after a 10-month hiatus from the Chicago venues, the Blues Travelers are back on spring tour.

They came to Chicago and played at the Riviera Theater on May 16. Opening act for the group was Peter Yorn, a folk rocker from New Jersey.

Blues Traveler's set featured a change from their past concerts. They moved away from their jam-band routine and played a shorter, less improvised show pulling back from solos. The group still played their blues-based blend of tight arrangements, but was loose enough to allow a few solos primarily by John Popper and Chan Kinchla.

Not surprisingly the group opened with the sentimental "Back in the Day," which touched on Bobby Sheehan's death. They then followed with "Believe Me."

Blues Traveler featured songs from their past albums, **Straight on Till Morning**, **Live from the Fall**, **Four** and their new album **Bridge**, which is available for purchase now.

This new album showcases newcomer bassist, Tad Kinchla, the younger brother of guitarist Chan Kinchla. After Sheehan died from a drug overdose in 1999, the remaining members took time deciding who would replace him.

The decision to bring in T. Kinchla was made by Popper and C. Kinchla. Another new addition to the band was keyboardist Ben Wilson.

The addition of Kinchla and Wilson changed the band's appearance and overall outlook. Yet one of the biggest changes was made by Popper. About two years ago, Popper followed in Carnie Wilson's footsteps and got his stomach stapled. On stage, the trimmed down Popper looked as if he lost about 100 pounds.

The concert sounded tight as the band stuck to their studio sound, keeping their songs short. Popper's harmonica playing and guitarist Kinchla, were the driving forces behind the band, giving the audience something to groove to.

Though the show was not sold out, those who came were treated to two and a half hours of groove-infused rock, plus an entertaining solo from Popper who played guitar behind his back and with his teeth.

Like Blues Traveler, they are still better musicians than writers. The band will appear on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno on June 5th.

John Popper, front man of Blues Traveler, plays the night away on his harmonica. The Blues Traveler just released their new CD 'Bridge' after a ten-month hiatus.

Beatfreak Freshman Shows Skill Behind The Boards

By Michael Hirtzer
Staff Writer

Sheboygan Hip-Hop? Yes. While Minneapolis, Minnesota is usually associated with the quasi-bisexual funk of Prince and the MLB's low-payroll underdog, the Twins, something else is materializing under the surface, away from the mainstream's eyes and ears.

The eight-plus Warriors Crew come off hard-edged and underground, as blue-collar MCs rhyme on beats banked by Columbia freshman and Minneapolis native, Jonathan Keller 'AKA JP.

Keller produced the **Warriors EP** in its entirety, at his previous school, Perpech High School. The school, which focuses strictly on the arts, is equipped with a fully stocked recording studio.

He has cultivated a sound that nods to his mentors (Pete Rock and Dr. Dre), while heading out to unpaved territory. Images of backpackers with walking sticks come to mind as spooky synths and clicky snares provide the backbeat as the mostly white MCs rock complicated verses.

The overall vibe is mystical, and not in the newly James Brownesque sense. MIDI-guitars, harps, and strings are peppered throughout, along with Castlevania-style (the nintendo game) atmospherics. Keller shyed away from using samples becausehe likes "to stay completely original," he said.

Aside from a piece of paper and a pen, the MCs take advantage of every Hip-Hopper's most important tools-a dictionary and thesaurus. They ditch slow, monotonous rhymes for the quickness, keeping their verbiage so thick, things get missed even with repeated listens.

At times, like on "Hurricane," they sound similar to Bone Thugz, as they "leave you strangled and mangled" and "bang you from every available angle," hitting on beat after beat at a break-neck pace. Other times, on "Only a Few" and "Shoot the Gift," they come off quirky like AWOL-One and furiously intelligent like defunct-Company Flow's El-P.

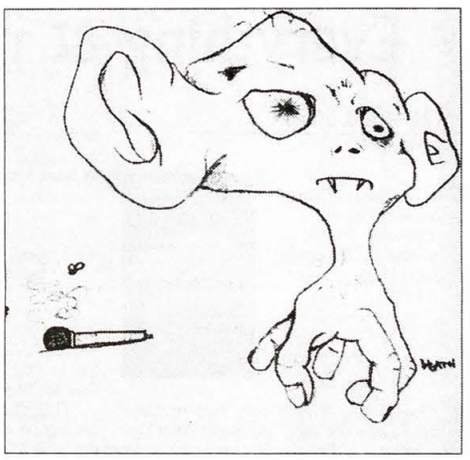
Sticking to (indie) Hip-Hop's unwritten ethos, Keller includes a spoken-word "Introduction," a skit, "Shoot the Shot," about tequila consumption, and an instrumental entitled "Art of War."

The fact that Keller is "mesmerized by string hip-hop" is evident throughout the EP; he even goes as far to reinterpret J.S. Bach on "This is for My Family."

Most people think of Hip-Hop as East Coast, West Coast, or Deep South, but no-coast hip-hop is going strong in the underground. Keller said his crew give "much respect" to fellow Minneapolitans Atmosphere and (last year's Blaze battle winner) Eyedea, but they don't want to be associated with that sound. Keller said "A lot of people just stereotype, that all Minneapolis Hip-Hop sounds like that."

He seems to be on the right track though, the production on the EP is clean, even in the Hip-Hop world of intentional roughness. While this EP is his first release, he has 35 beats he hasn't even used. He said he plans to use those as a foundation for an album, to be produced this summer.

Many of Hip-Hop's innovators have carved original structures with off-key ideas. People like DJ Premier, Timberland, and the Neptunes all became large doing their own thing. If this EP is only a taste of what Keller has to offer, he may, one day, be the beatfreak in demand.



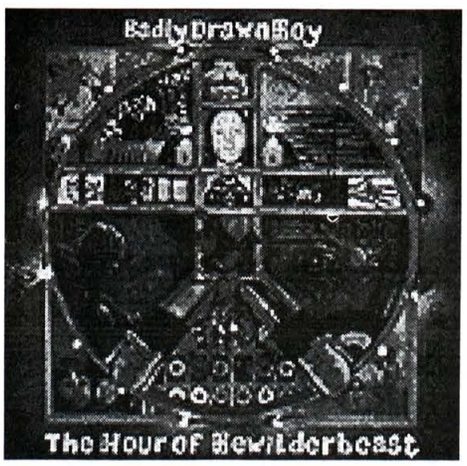
If you would like more information on the band, contact JP13Warrior@hotmail.com

Badly Drawn Boy's 'The Hour of the Wilderbeast' Bombarded with Attention

By Tina Spielman
Copy Editor

"Jimi Hendrix is alive and well," said Damon Gough of Badly Drawn Boy, full of British wit, last Sunday at the Metro. Gough gave his Chicago audience over two and a half hours of music, displaying why he's the latest English installment to pop music. Manchester born, Gough has established a cult following with his self-proclaimed "ground breaking" debut album, **The Hour of Bewilderbeast**, released in 2000. Since then, the album has infiltrated music with its innocent sounds reminiscent of the Beatles and Richard Ashcroft.

At the concert, Gough mixed simple vocal and guitar rifts with a candy-coated grittiness. He also showed off his harmonica stylings in a tribute to Bob Dylan called, "Absolute Genius." The performance was nothing short of rock star quality, as Gough started the evening pointing his guitar and finger at the audience. The show was complete with Gough's chain-smoking, and arrogant outbursts. However, the band's set shined when songs from **Bewilderbeast** were played, with B-Side interludes. Songs such as "Magic in the Air," as well as "Another Pearl" had the indie-rock crowd's heads bopping. "The Shining," **Bewilderbeast**'s first track, hit a sentimental note, as Gough sang to a photograph of his newborn child, which, he also passed around the audience during the show.



With their refreshing simplicity, Badly Drawn Boy hardly goes unnoticed by the music world. At the 2000 Q Awards, they took home the award for Best New Act, and also won the UK Mercury Prize in September, flooding the **Bewilderbeast** with attention.

Bewilderbeast was released on Gough's own Twisted Nerve record label then sold to XL Records for a whooping six-figures. "The Shining" is being used for the Gap's latest jean commercial. And the enlisting of Joan Collins for their fourth video, "Pissing in the Wind," will help plunge **Bewilderbeast** further into the mainstream.

Since their Metro performance, Badly Drawn Boy seems to be having little trouble promoting **Bewilderbeast** on their own. While Gough and his band played, "This Song," on a bare stage consisting only of a banner and table lamps, he accurately described the feeling of the concert when singing the lyric, "Beautiful song it has wings."

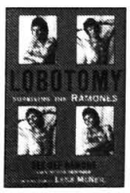
The performance was a blend of the ethereal and the kind of English arrogance associated with Oasis. Some show highlights included Bruce Springsteen and Journey covers as encores. The concert ended with **Bewilderbeast**'s final track, "Eulogy," with Gough pleading, "Please don't leave me wanting more," which is exactly what the performance provided- just enough music to fulfill the audience's pop appetite.

With the influx of superficial music and pretentious rock/rappers infesting music charts, Badly Drawn Boy strips music down to its original form, bringing their audience that feel-good-feeling they so desperately need.

The future in punk

Brian Costello
Contributor

This review was written prior to the untimely death of Joey Ramone, singer for the band detailed in this book. The editors and Mr. Costello wish to express their lament at this sad fact. –Ed.



Some so-called friends of mine are trying to shanghai me into playing in their band. Funny, because this Dee Dee Ramone autobiography is as convincing an argument as any that even if you're successful, there's no future in dicking around with a band, even if you're successful. Not only that, but playing in a band is a surefire way to destroy the friendships you had with fellow band members prior to unleashing your musical brilliance on an unsuspecting world. I have nothing but caustic words for most of the maladjusted schmucks I wasted my time with in bands, and Dee Dee wrote a whole book all by himself (except for ghostwriter Veronica Kofman) about what an ordeal it was making music with his brothers Joey, Johnny and Marky. Johnny: Power mad, loves Reagan. Joey: Sloppy drunkard. Marky: Snaps in studio, gets naked, clucks like a chicken.

Lobotomy is a welcome NYC punk companion to *Please Kill Me* by Legs McNeil, with the deceptive simplicity of everything the Ramones recorded. The Ramones inspired me in high school to start a band, and this book inspires me in grad school not to start a band, under any circumstances. Dee Dee, unlike many sentimental old school punkers prone to overly romanticizing the halcyon days of '77, looks back in anger. For every happy anecdote, he tells about a million unhappy anecdotes of being a screwed-up junkie playing in a functionally dysfunctional band that was criminally ignored by radio, and hanging out with fellow screwed-up junkie musicians (the Sid Vicious shooting-up-with-toilet-water anecdote is alone worth the price of the book). He also includes a brief mention of his criminally unsuccessful career as a rap artist. His overall tone is bitterness.

It's a sad read in the end, a worthwhile read, not great literary shakes, but engrossing just the same. So you should go buy it, and get uninspired to waste your time with music, and inspired to write books, because, as all good punx know, if Dee Dee can do it, so can you.

Everything & nothing

By Monica C. Kirsch
Contributor

Two or Three Things I Know for Sure
by Dorothy Allison
Paperback, Penguin Plume, 1995
94 pages

"Lord, girl, there's only two or three things I know-for sure," Allison's Aunt Dot used to say. "Of course it's never the same things, and I'm never as sure as I'd like to be." What do we know for sure? What stories do we tell ourselves to make sense of our lives? These are Allison's stories, the ones she tells "to prove I was meant to survive, knowing it is not true."

Although in the telling this book feels much like a conversation on a sunny afternoon on a park bench with your sister, at the same time there's nothing particularly safe and comforting about the subjects Allison tackles—family, poverty, relationships with women, rape—or what she has to say about them. Her writing in this memoir is as raw, uncompromising, and unflinchingly honest as her fiction writing in *Bastard out of Carolina*. From anecdote to anecdote, the stories are interspersed with black and white photographs of herself and others. This memoir form of Allison's theater piece still has the urgency, the immediacy of the poetry, the grab-you-by-the-pants quality of contact with a live audience.

"Let me tell you a story," Allison says, but she has no intention of letting us go if we don't care to hear what she has to say. She is simply going to tell her story so well that we have no choice but to listen.

This exceptionally quick read has the feeling of a spiral pulling in on itself, and yet it is the loose spiral of oil and water mixed together. This is not a linear book; this is not biography. It's something less, and something more. Allison tells us who she is, without giving us a timeline of her life because those facts and figures restrict her fuel for hope. Allison knows many things for sure, and yet nothing at all.

"I can tell you anything," she says. "All you have to believe is the truth."

Monica C. Kirsch, book reviewer, is a graduate students in the Fiction Writing Department. She can be reached at **chroniclereviews@hotmail.com**.

Columbia displays finest

Student film festival ends with a bang

By Cassie Welcher
Assistant A&E Editor

Eleven specially selected film students displayed their work last Thursday at The Big Screen 2001 film festival. The festival was held in the massive Harold Washington Library Auditorium. The films were submitted to the festival by a group of over 100 students and only eleven films were chosen (they ranged from documentary to animation). After a speech from the head of the Film and Video Department, Michael Rabiger, the event started off with an opening ceremony and the first six student films.

The first student that presented his film that night was Keith Dunkerley, with "The Basement." This is a story about a mother who asks her son to retrieve a block of wood from the basement. Nine year-old Jonathan loves horror movies and his imagination runs away when he enters the dark and scary basement

Elizabeth Lawrence, creator of "Nightmarecrawlers," was the next student to present her film. This is a story about a little girl who is troubled by the notion that her recently deceased grandmother is being eaten away by night crawlers. The girl struggles with the notion of mortality and, for the first time in her life, faces it.

Seema Shastri showed "Why is God...," a short narrative about a woman whose newborn child dies in her arms, forcing her to face the question of who she really is and the reality of God in her life.

Andrew Hodges is the mastermind behind "Hue," a stop-motion animation film about a frustrated composer and a gardener's song that inspires him. "Hue" features unique characters and the world that they inhabit.

Rikei Kubo is the creator of "Shira-Tama." The story is about Rikei Kubo and his wife. The premise of this piece is that his wife suddenly disappears one day, in search of a life as an individual.

Justin Krohn is the visionary behind Subway 2:36 a.m., a story about a minimalist city symphony where two strangers pass each other in the night.

"Paradise Lounge," by Shanra Kehl is about the fantasy world of 9 year-old Evelyn, who dreams of being a singer in an upscale nightclub. Her fantasies continue when the arms of Valentino, her imaginary love, grasp her. Shortly after, her fantasy is brought to an abrupt end.

"Gypsy Blood," by Samantha Sanders, is a comic fable about a woman who grows wings and must learn how to fly. She grows into her wings by examining the magic in her mother and grandmother's life, enabling her to come to terms with her own magic.

"The Mirror," Maris Lidaka's film tells a story about dealing with physical appearance. The character looks in the mirror and is not happy with what he sees. He tries to make it better, but nothing works. Finally he looks in the mirror and, ultimately, smashes it.

"O' Janay Walay," by Usman Zuberi, is a music video montage that is a metaphorical journey of the filmmaker's life in the United States during the past two years. The film is about his struggles with cultural differences during his travels.

The film festival attracts a large and wide audience each year. People had to be turned away this year. As I went outside for intermission, there was a long line of people waiting for their chance to see the students' films. The evening was like the Oscars, with awards and cash prizes being given out to the best students for screenwriting, cinematography and other categories.

Each film was unique. All films reflected their filmmaker's personal visions. I suggest attending The Big Screen 2002.

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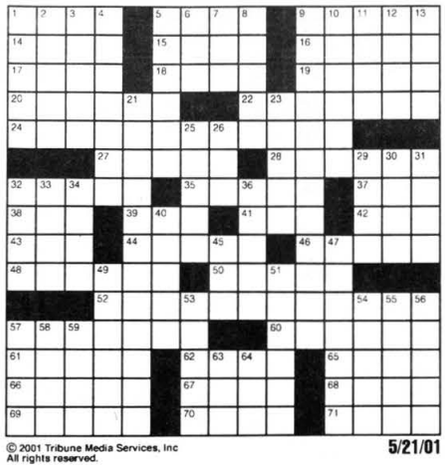

ACROSS
1 Man from Edinburgh
5 Tree fluids
9 Paris subway
14 Firefighter's sprayer
15 Team in a yoke
16 Like college walls
17 On a single occasion
18 Presidential stopper
19 Courage
20 1999 French Open winner
22 Age
24 North Carolina
27 River frolicker
28 Bushes
32 __ all folks!
35 "Teachers" star
37 Bring to court
38 Very long period
39 Depressed
41 Buffoon
42 & so forth
43 E-mail period
44 Like many baths
46 Small pies
48 Simple weapons
50 Malice
52 Persuaded
57 More rundown
60 Wise counselor
61 Remove bridles
62 Wight or Dogs
65 Monster of the Mojave
66 "__ Arden"
67 Regan's father
68 Read quickly
69 Egypt's Anwar
70 A smaller amount
71 Sherman or panzer

DOWN
1 Piglet
2 Line dance
3 Movie award
4 Woods' first stroke
5 Part of USSR
6 Guitar, to a guitarist
7 Stroke gently
8 Nose
9 Take care of business?
10 More level
11 Wear out
12 Guns it in neutral
13 Poetic offerings
21 Rectifies
23 Endures
25 Ivan of tennis
26 Letters outside a theater
29 PC operator
30 Target of a joke, often
31 Brief times
32 Williams and Turner
33 Ringlike earring
34 Starter chips
36 Took on cargo
40 Break in the audience
45 Plumb or Arden
47 In the company of
49 New York prison
51 Dubbers
53 Baleen whale food
54 City southeast of Rome
55 First name in fastballs
56 Hit the bottle
57 Regrets
58 Tolstoy's Karenina
59 Stomped (on)
63 Behold
64 __ Palmas

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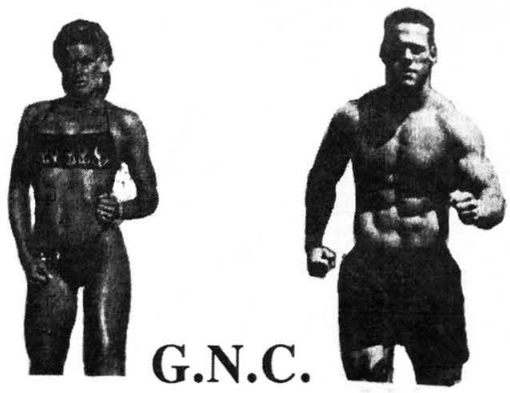

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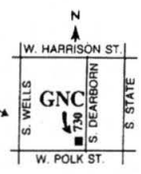

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On Ice Collision

Recently, it was reported that the International Hockey League would merge with the American Hockey League.

Sal J. Barry
Webmaster

This is a mixed blessing, as it may mean the demise of the IHL as we've known it for the past 56 years.

For those of you who just uttered "What the hell did he say?" allow me to elaborate (die-hard fans may skip the next four paragraphs). The American Hockey League (AHL) is one of the top two minor league hockey systems; the other is the International Hockey League (IHL). The AHL is comprised of 20 teams, concentrated in east-coast cities, and each of those teams is directly affiliated with an NHL team. The IHL, on the other hand, is made up of 11 team—all in the Midwest except for Orlando and Winnipeg, Canada—but each of these teams is either independent, or partially affiliated with a NHL team.

Therefore, the AHL has a lot of young players—prospects who were drafted but not ready for the NHL. The AHL also contains veterans who are in and out of an NHL lineup, as well as career minor leaguers. But over the past decade, it has become the NHL's favorite "developmental league", as many teams who used to have IHL minor-league affiliates switched to AHL affiliates (The Chicago Blackhawks were affiliated with the IHL's Indianapolis Ice during the 1990s up until a few years ago, when they switched over to the AHL's Norfolk Admirals).

On the other hand, the IHL has a lot of older, more seasoned players—many of them with NHL experience. But these players sign contracts directly with the IHL club, and not an NHL club. Therefore, most of them don't get "called up"; they are in the IHL until they can impress an NHL club enough to get a pro contract. This doesn't happen too often, so most IHL players are there because they love what they do.

A way to look at it is this: the AHL is made of players who will end up in the NHL one day, while the IHL is made of players who already had their time in the NHL. But both are considered equal as far as skill level. One could equate AHL and IHL hockey to Triple A baseball.

According to a press release by the AHL, the league approved a "significant expansion prior to the 2001-2002 season." Rumors have circulated that six IHL teams would jump ship—but which six? Some reports say that the Milwaukee Admirals, Manitoba Moose, Chicago Wolves, Utah Grizzlies, Grand Rapid Griffins, and Houston Aeros as the teams that would go. Unfortunately, no one from the AHL or IHL is commenting on this, and the AHL will not further elaborate on their plans until the end of the Calder Cup playoffs, which end in two weeks.

Sadly, the IHL—which was formed in 1945—looks like they are at their end. The league, which had as many as 18 teams in 1995, has shrunk to 11.

League mainstays such as the Fort Wayne Komets and the Peoria Rivermen have fled to other, lower echelon hockey leagues where operating costs are less expensive. Other teams, like the Michigan K-Wings (nee Kalamazoo Wings) have folded. Making things worse is the fact that the Cleveland Lumberjacks and the Cincinnati Cyclones are bankrupt, while the Detroit Vipers are rumored to suspend operations for at least next season. That would bring the "I" down to 8 teams—hardly a league at all. A merger with the AHL would be the best thing for the remaining IHL teams, although technically the AHL claims that they are "expanding" and not "merging".

So, why could this merger be a bad thing, anyway? First of all, remember that the IHL is made of mainly independent teams, so these teams sign the best non-NHL players that they can. While it's not the NHL in the caliber of play, the IHL is still quite entertaining. The games are rough, and the players—many with slim chances of returning to the NHL—are in it because they love to play, and not because they think they can land a big-league contract. While the Chicago Wolves are partially affiliated with the New York Islanders, and get some players assigned to them, they are still free to sign good players like Wendell Young and Rob Brown to bolster their chances at winning. A full time affiliation with an NHL club might mean the Wolves players and coaches would be different next season. The Wolves might affiliate with a bad NHL team—like the Chicago Blackhawks—and not be the same caliber of team they've been for the past few years.

But despite all that, the AHL-IHL merger would be great for the Midwest and western markets, adding further reach and stability to the league.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman made it clear that he wants to see one "Triple A" level hockey league made up of 30 Baseball. And Bettman may get his wish as early as next season. The AHL has 20 teams, and will add two more of their "own" teams next year. Should they decide to accept the remaining eight IHL clubs, that would bring their league to 30 teams. This may seem like a coincidence, but the numbers add up.

Sure, IHL fans may miss the exciting shootouts that are used to settle tied matches, as well as other

Robinson

Continued from Back Page

at the same time.

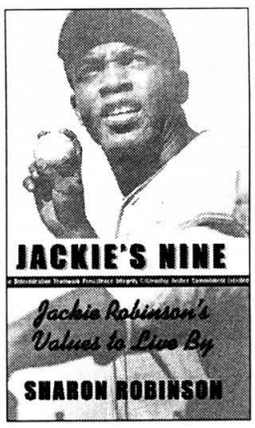
"It was hard to write because it brought back memories," Robinson said. "But it was a wonderful book to put together." She has just come out with her new book, *Jackie's Nine,* which details the steps that her father took to become successful in baseball. "This book was more a labor of love," said Robinson.

The recent publishing of the book has put the spotlight back on Sharon and her father. During baseball's year long celebration of Jackie Robinson back in 1998, Sharon met with Leonard Coleman, who at that time was the president of the National League. Together they developed a new program geared towards educating children. They offered lesson plans that were designed to teach children how to overcome certain barriers in their life, much like Jackie had done when he played baseball. Children from schools in Major League cities write essays detailing a certain struggle that they've had to endure. Each fall the essays are submitted and three winners are selected. The grand prizewinner gets to throw out the first pitch at a Major League game.

Some of the stories are heartbreaking to Robinson, who was abused herself during her first marriage.

"There was a child from San Diego whose father was hitting him," said Robinson. "And he wrote an analogy between his father abusing him and Jackie Robinson fielding a fastball. It was an incredible story and very upsetting at the same time. It was the first time he told anybody that he was abused." The child's teacher asked Sharon if Mark McGwire would come and meet with him. "I told the teacher that Mark wasn't coming by, but I made sure to bring a Padre," Robinson said.

A couple of days later, Tony Gwynn walks through the doors of the boys classroom and immediately begins to speak to his awestruck class. "He actually got there early," said Robinson. "He spent a half-hour with the kid in the principal's office. He then went to an assembly, where the kids kept asking how he hit the ball. Tony went through all the steps and the little boy who had been abused by his father is next to me and is getting fidgety. I'm thinking he's getting nervous because he's remembering a scene where his father is abusing him. He leans over to



me and simply tells me that he can't wait for the game later that night. He was already thinking of being honored on the field ."

The program has flourished since its inception, mostly because of the man they use as an example.

"We all have barriers to overcome in life," said Robinson. "And we use the nine values my father used to get over our barriers."

A benefit to the program has been the increase awareness by current players who are slowly starting to understand what Jackie did for them. When the program first started, Sharon was disappointed but hardly shocked at how many players didn't really know the story of her father. "It didn't surprise me at all because they were representive of many young players who have not learned to appreciate history. They don't always understand how something in the past will effect their future."

Things have changed quickly though. "They have hung out with me for the past four years and I've had guys who you would not imagine feel very connected to my father. It's not just African Amercian players. I've had white people connect with him on a certain level and also the Hispanic players. I'm real proud of them. They are good guys and they share wonderful stories when I'm on the road with them. They have come to appreciate the pioneer my father was."

So much in fact, that Toronto Blue Jay second baseman Homer Bush called up Sharon the other day and asked what kind of car Jackie was driving when he died in 1972. He wanted the exact model and ended up buying a vintage car. He gave the pioneer of baseball and his proud daughter the biggest honor he knew how.

He named his car Jackie.

Columbia baseball team wraps up its first season

By Dave Renderman
Correspondent

Columbia, along with the Student Organization Committee, introduced America's pastime, baseball, to the college for the first time in the school's existence. With the help of Adam Dassow, who played club baseball with the DePaul Blue Demons, got the ball rolling for the spring semester.

The baseball team began its season towards the end of March, with practices on Fridays and Sundays, over at Union Park. The team brought together Columbia students, who had a love for the game itself. The Bees, despite going winless in its inaugural season, played every inning of every game with pride and determination in their hearts. "Everyone on team was always upbeat, and we always went out there and had fun no matter what happened," said Dassow.

The team consisted of Steve Sharp, who caught every game for the Bees. Nick Panico, who played in the outfield, David Richichi, who pitched and played second base. Jim Dunn who played shortstop, Brain Kover who pitched, and played the outfield as well. Other players include Dillon Smith, who played third base, Mark Ramirez in the outfield, and Buddy Fugitt also in the outfield. Chris Bender played second base, Joe LoSasso played outfield and pitched, and Matt Shepard played first base and outfield. Jason Ring pitched and Dassow rounded out the team by playing first.

The team played competitively against teams like: DePaul, University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Robert Morris College, Northwestern, Loyola, and Marquette.

" I had fun playing with these guys, and it was fun for me getting back out on the diamond again," Smith said.

These guys also seemed to clown around, and keep each other's spirits up whenever they were doing badly. They never gave up, and seemed to get fired up for every game they played.

Most of the team will be returning for the fall season. Some guys that won't be returning are Fudgitt, Shepard, Smith, and Ramirez. "It was a fun and great experience for me, and it was one I will never forget," Fudgitt said.

" These guys were fun to hang with, and I hope they have better success in the fall," Ramirez said.

The team was special because it brought together a group of guys who want and love to play the game of baseball. The team came together on a cold Friday in March, and clicked right away. No matter how bad they were doing, they always stood by one another, and never got down on any one. This team was the first of its kind at Columbia. Before this, all Columbia had was Ultimate Frisbee, and now you can add baseball to the mix as well. Baseball has always been loved by every little boy or girl, and now Columbia gives guys and even girls a chance to live out a dream of playing a game they have always loved to play.

Like father, like daughter

Jackie Robinson's daughter continues her father's legacy as baseball's director of education

By Noel Sutcliff and Scott Venci
Correspondent, Sports Editor

Photo courtesy of Look Magazine

Sharon Robinson as a child with her family. Pictured from left to right: Jackie, Jackie Jr., Sharon, Rachel, and David.

Sharon Robinson wasn't even born yet when her father made history. And even though she was 6-years-old when he retired, it wouldn't be until she was much older that she truly understood just what Jackie Robinson had done. It was 1947 when a then 28-year-old Robinson broke the color barrier by being the first African-American to play Major League baseball.

Sharon and her brothers, David and Jackie Robinson Jr., grew up in a small neighborhood with no sidewalks or streetlights in Stanford, Connecticut. Each morning they would get up and eat breakfast with their father, who would get up at the crack of dawn and get the morning paper before the children got up for school.

Sharon and her brothers were always in the spotlight because of their famous dad, and they didn't always handle the pressures very well, especially Jackie Jr. He had no place to hide from the shadow of Jackie. It got so bad that Jackie Jr. stopped talking to his father altogether and turned to drugs as an escape.

"It was a real hard path for him," said Robinson of her brother. "He was very self-destructing."

At 18, he went to Vietnam. Upon returning home Jackie Jr., now 24, was dead. He was killed in a car accident, even though by that time he had kicked his drug habit.

Sharon had difficulty dealing with the fame too. "My life was a little more complex because I had famous parents," said Robinson. "My life was also just like any other kid who has to grow up and go through adolescence. The difficulty in trying to figure out who I was was particularly hard."

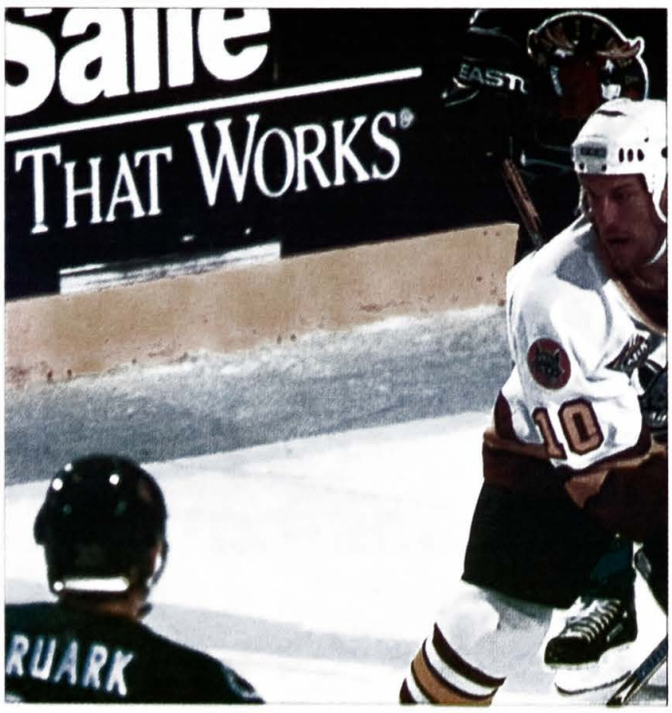
She married right out of high school and quickly changed her name. She went to college under her married name and tried to establish an identity of her own. After two years in college, Sharon was thriving. She invited her parents to her school one weekend, and after two years of anonymity, she introduced Jackie as her father for the first time publicly. "I loved my parents," said Robinson. "I just needed to go there and not have everyone know my father was Jackie Robinson."

Sharon went to a number of East Coast schools with the hope of becoming a nurse. She was influenced greatly by her grandmother, who lived with the family while Sharon was growing up. "She always said that women were supposed to be nurses and they where to marry doctors. She was kind of sexist like that. All the romance books she ever read had a nurse as the subject."

It was at that time that Sharon started to write. It was a way for her to express her feelings like she had never done before. She eventually got up the courage to write a book about her life with her father, which was difficult and rewarding at the same time.

"It was hard to write because it brought back memories," Robinson said. "But it was a wonderful book to put together." She has just come out with her new book, *Jackie's Nine*, which details the steps that her

See **Robinson,** page 23



Ross F. Deffman/Chicago Wolves

Larouche, Larouche, Larouche is on fire! Leading the "I" in scoring, Steve Larouche is on a hot streak for the Wolves.

Repeat Contenders

By Sal J. Barry
Webmaster

For the second year in a row, and the third time in four years, the Chicago Wolves are in the Turner Cup Finals. Last year, they won against the Grand Rapids Griffins in six games, and in 1998 they beat the Detroit Vipers in seven games. Unlike those past championship series, though, the Wolves will not have home ice advantage against their opponents this year—the Orlando Solar Bears. This is also the third trip to the finals for the Solar Bears; they made it in 1996 and 1999, losing both times. And because of the proposed AHL-IHL merger, this may turn out to be the last Turner Cup Championship series ever (see column, page 23).

In the second round of the playoffs, the Wolves beat the Manitoba Moose in six games. The Solar Bears, who the underdogs against the Grand Rapids Griffins, also won their series in six games.

Steve Larouche of the Wolves has led the IHL in playoff scoring, notching 11 goals and 4 assists in the 10 playoff games through Round 2. Rob Brown (3G & 10A), Niklas Andersson (1G & 12A), and Steve Maltais (4G & 7A) have also done superb for the Wolves. Leading the Solar Bears in scoring are Curtis Murphy (2G & 9A) and Todd Richards (1G & 10A); ironically, both are defensemen.

Wolves' goalie Richard Shulmistra leads the league in goals-allowed-average (1.17), shutouts (2) and save percentage (0.957) during the playoffs. Orlando goalie Norm Maracle, who has also played well, has managed to provide wins and leadership for the young Solar Bears' squad.

Expect this to be a close series. Both teams are great on the power play and on penalty killing. Both teams are 8-3 in the playoffs. While Orlando had the better regular season record, the Wolves were 3-1 against them. The Wolves are also the best team in the IHL since the All-Star break. Expect the Solar Bears to try to play a defensive game, as it is their style to win a game by one or two goals. On the other hand, the Wolves will try to create as much offense as possible, and rely on Shulmistra to continue his postseason heroics.

Prediction: The Wolves will win the Turner Cup in six games.