

9-30-2002

## Columbia Chronicle (09/30/2002)

Columbia College Chicago

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# COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 36, Number 2

Columbia College Chicago

Monday, September 30, 2002

Inside  
this week



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Jesse Jackson took 'Barbershop' too seriously

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## Sports

Blackhawks ready to hit the ice

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## All work, no play...



A construction crew works on the 700,000-sq.-ft. 'superdorm' and retail center, located on the corner of State Street and Congress Parkway. Due to the construction, Harrison Street will be closed to both pedestrian and automotive traffic, effective Sept. 30 and continuing until March of 2004.

Brian Morawczynski/Chronicle

## 44 new beds for students

Hostel opens extra floor to Columbia students

By Fernando Diaz

Staff Writer

Last July, Hostelling International struck a deal with Columbia to convert the fourth floor of the J. Ira and Nicki Harris Family Hostel at 18 E. Congress Parkway into housing for 44 additional students through this academic year.

Columbia has been able to offer the top three floors of the seven-story building to students since 2000, but this year got the chance to shorten its notoriously long waiting list for on-campus housing by offering students dormitory-style rooms on the fourth floor.

In addition to providing some of the most affordable housing in the South Loop, this marks the first time Columbia has fit food into the bill. Fourth-floor residents have been issued meal cards worth \$1,000 for use at Roosevelt's cafeteria in the Herman Crown Center at 425 S. Wabash Ave., which is just steps away from the dorms.

The meal plan was included because none of the rooms have kitchens like those at 731 S. Plymouth Court do.

"It's nice; it's not high school food," said Lindsay Drevlow, a freshman broadcast journalism major about the menu. She said she moved in last Wednesday after having talked to her roommate by phone during the summer. Drevlow said she prefers this dorm to Columbia's other residence halls. "The walls are nicer," she said.

Drevlow's room came equipped with furniture, including beds, desks, and dressers/closets. Each of the rooms also came with a sizable refrigerator.

"We provided the 6-cubic-foot fridge because sometimes you don't make it to the cafeteria," said Mary Oakes, director of residence life. The units and the furniture were installed after the lockers the hostel provided for its guests were removed.

Otherwise, it's up to the students to bring whatever other appliances they will use during the school year.

There are 12 two-person rooms, and five four-person rooms on the fourth floor. Of the four-person rooms, only one has a bathroom in it. Residents of the other rooms must use one of the two communal full bathrooms that can accommodate eight people each—one for men and one for women.

Just down the hall on the Congress side, Scott

## College receives \$2 million gift for further Ludington expansion

Money will help complete construction on building's seventh floor

By Ryan Adair

Co-Editor-in-Chief

To aid the continued growth of Columbia's largest academic department, the state of Illinois granted the college \$2 million to complete construction on and eventually open part of the college's Film and Video Department headquarters at 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Gov. George Ryan attended the official reception on Sept. 9 to award the money to Columbia. Ryan presented the check to college president Warrick L. Carter; as Film Chair Bruce Sheridan and Dean of the School of Media Arts Doreen Bartoni looked on. Several legislators were also in attendance, including state Sens. Barack Obama and Margaret Smith, state Rep. Judy Erwin and officials from the Chicago and Illinois film offices.

With the aid of this new funding, the Film and Video Department will introduce innovative facilities on the seventh floor of the 1104 S. Wabash Ave. building (aka the Ludington building). According to the presi-

dent's office, the floor will primarily feature the department's post-production labs—including audio labs and Foley and automatic dialogue replacement stages. The floor will also house rooms for the critical studies and directing concentrations. Other features for directing students include two screening rooms for college wide use and space for workshops and rehearsals.

The funding was secured with the aid of Sheridan and Bartoni, who traveled to Springfield, Ill. in May to network with state legislators with the help of a video produced by students, faculty, and staff that touts the benefits of Columbia's Film and Video Department. The six-minute video features students and alumni speaking of their personal experiences in the film program and also includes comments from Bill Kurtis—a well-known Chicago journalist and Columbia Board of Trustees member—regarding the school's individuality.

According to Sheridan, Carter and Bert Gall, the college's executive vice president, originally pursued the initiative for the college to obtain the funding. He noted that many state legislators had never heard of Columbia, prior to the video presentation.

"The video made it easier,"

Sheridan said. "It showed the worthiness of the project and may have laid the groundwork for future projects."

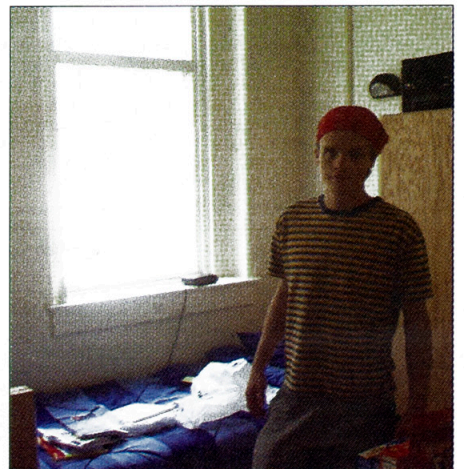
Both Sheridan and Bartoni said that securing the money is not only an asset for the Film and Video Department, but also a gain for the college community in general.

"This [money] is ultimately a benefit to the college. It accelerates moving the Film [and Video] Department completely into the Ludington building," Bartoni said. "[Opening the seventh-floor facilities will] free up space in the rest of the college. It also creates the possibility to move audio arts and acoustics to the main campus."

Even before the acquired funding was available, Sheridan said there was a plan to finish the seventh and eighth floors of the Ludington building. He also said administrators are committed to moving the entire Film and Video Department to the Ludington building and that plans to finish off the eighth floor—which he said would ideally house a large screening room and an independent production area—are in the works.

"Filmmaking is a communal process," Sheridan said. "The seventh floor will be essential [for Columbia] to have the components and resources of film production."

See Dorms, page 2



Dwayne M. Thomas/Chronicle

Freshman photography student Walker Blackwell shares his fourth floor dorm room with three other Columbia students. The college recently acquired this space in the 18 E. Congress Parkway building.



# CAMPUS NEWS

## Briefly News and Notes

### WOW ushers in Wednesday night film screening series

In conjunction with Columbia's Weeks of Welcome program, the Film and Video Department is kicking off the Wednesday Screening Series on Oct. 2, at 6 p.m. This week's series will feature the Big Screen repeat showing of the annual student film festival, including the best graduate and undergraduate films by students in the Film and Video Department. The series will be held at the 1104 S. Wabash Ave. building, Room 302. For more information call (312) 344-6708. The event is free and open to all.

### Shows lined up for Theater Department season

The Columbia Theater Department will begin this year's scheduled season with a little domestic drama. Jeff Ginsberg will direct Richard Nelson's "Goodnight Children Everywhere," with performances beginning in November. The Kander and Ebb musical "Cabaret" follows in December, co-directed by Estelle Spector and Theater Department Chair Sheldon Patinkin. The Theodore Ward African-American Play Prize Winner will run from Feb. 26 through March 9. The adapted Tom Mula play "Golem" continues the lineup in late March, followed by a production of the Noel Coward classic "Hay Fever" in April.

All performances are scheduled to be held at the Getz Theater or the New Studio Theater in the 72 E. 11th St. building.

### Exhibit featuring library art announces opening

Art of the Library, a program that showcases the creative talents of the library staff and Columbia community will have opening and reception on Oct. 3, at 6 p.m., on the third floor of the school library. The program will run continuously throughout the year and exhibit art of many styles and mediums. Stop in for refreshments and to meet the artists. For more information about the program or its artists and exhibits, visit [www.lib.colum.edu/artofthelibrary](http://www.lib.colum.edu/artofthelibrary). Columbia's library is in the 624 S. Michigan Ave. building.

### Student offices divide with new campus locations

Student Activities and Leadership office recently split offices with the new Student Leadership office now located on the first floor of the 1104 S. Wabash Ave. building, adjacent to the Glass Curtain Gallery. The Student Organization offices are on the lower level of the building, through the Herman D. Conaway Center.

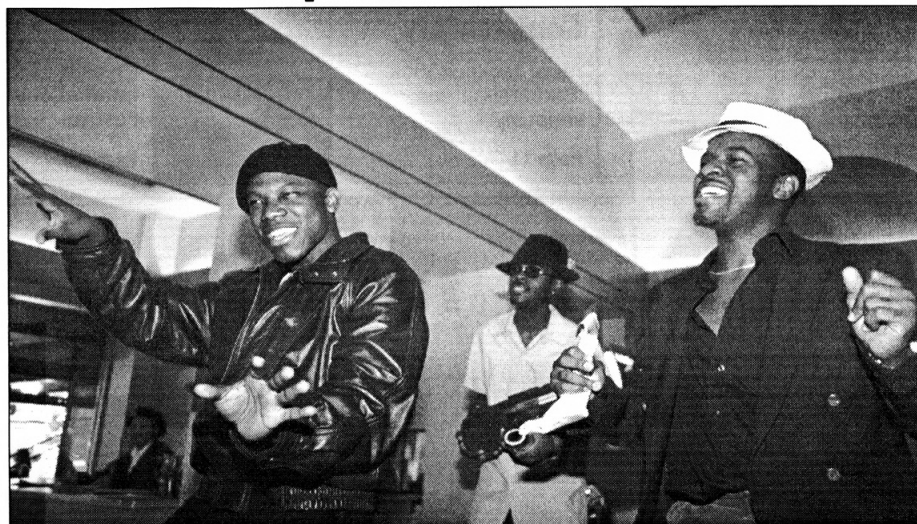
### Harrison Street to be closed for next year and a half

The portion of Harrison Street between State Street and Wabash Avenue will be closed to both pedestrian and automotive traffic from Sept. 30, 2002 through March 30, 2004. The closure will be implemented due to three projects that will impact the area: the construction of the University Center of Chicago, the Chicago Transportation Authorities' relocation work and the SRO construction on the southeast corner of Harrison Street and Wabash Avenue.

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

To reserve ad space, call (312) 344-7432.

## Around Campus



Michael Schmidt/Chronicle

Improv group The Macks run through an '80s pop review in the 623 S. Wabash Ave. building on Tuesday, Sept. 24. The Macks are: (left to right) Lance Barnes, Jonathan Cosby and Jon Ross.

## Candidate 'green' but eager

### ○ Housing and fair wages among key campaign issues

By Georgia Evdoxiadis  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Jason Farberman observes. He constantly scans a room, taking in what other people are doing or saying. Oh, he's talking to you, but his mind is elsewhere, occupied, perhaps, by thoughts of running for state representative.

Farberman is in many ways a typical opinionated 24 year old. He waits tables at Wolfgang Puck's Chase Cafe in Evanston and goes to see punk rock shows on the weekend. But lately much of his time and energy have been directed toward the achievement of a very atypical goal—he will stand for election this Nov. 7 in the 14th District as the only Green Party candidate in Chicago.

He says he can't even remember

how he got involved in running for office—it all just seemed to happen.

One day he was on the Green Party's website, searching for a campaign in which he could do some volunteer work. He noticed a solicitation on the site asking for people interested in running for office, and he sent an e-mail back, only half-serious. To his surprise, the Green Party pursued him.

"The next day I got a call and an e-mail," Farberman says, from a Green Party representative who encouraged him to get involved. He did. After pulling together some friends and acquaintances to help him out, on June 21, Farberman submitted 2,380 signatures, 880 more than he needed to get on the ballot.

The only problem was the Democratic Party. Just a week later, a woman named Kara Allen filed a lawsuit disputing the legitimacy of the signatures. Allen appeared to be a relative nobody, but her lawyer Michael Kasper had Democratic connections.

"Kasper's key," Farberman told the Chicago Reader at the time of the dispute, "He's very up front about his Democratic connections." Farberman represented himself, and through a combination of luck and persistence, got Allen to drop the suit. Allen, or her lawyer, misstated her address, and after some pretty bad publicity in the Reader, the objection was withdrawn.

Farberman has continued with his campaign, throwing a fundraising party at the Chase Cafe Sept. 18. The party was a strange and youthful affair, with punk rock bands, a mostly vegetarian buffet and a very short and unpolitical speech by Farberman. His technique is personal and doesn't translate well to large audiences, but comes across much more effectively one-on-one.

Farberman says he is preparing to start the meat of the campaigning in October, and is now calling potential supporters and encouraging them to

See **Farberman**, page 3

## Dorms

Continued from Front Page

Farago, a transfer management major, and Michael B. Chait, a freshman film major, share a room. They said they managed to fit a couch in by organizing their room differently.

Farago said he likes the walls too, but for a different reason than Drevlow's. He said that the off-campus apartments where he lived in Michigan, the walls were drywall and here they are plaster—which is more soundproof. Farago, a guitar player, said it's like heaven because he doesn't bother his next door neighbors—no matter how late it is or how loud he gets.

The communal bathrooms offer a private shower and toilet, and a separate counter with a sink below a large mirror. The hallways are clean and equipped with a security camera on the ceiling. Every door has a card lock. Unauthorized guests or intruders can't get through the first lock at the front door without a valid card, which residents must swipe to gain access to the elevator and the community kitchen on the second floor.

So far, the only problem was a fire alarm triggered at 3 a.m. by a smoker in the stairwell, said Jessica Trippy, a sophomore music business major and one of the resident advisers on the floor. She said after everyone had come back in after evacuating due to the alarm, they had to be evacuated a second time because a firefighter had inadvertently let a draft of smoke

back into the stairwell.

Despite these small problems, the floormates seem to be getting along well. Some of the fourth floor residents leave their doors open while they're in.

"There seems to be a good community developing on the fourth floor. People are sharing plates, pots, and pans. The residents are really happy with the place," Oakes said.

"I was kind of leery about blindly selling something over the phone," Oakes said. She said she referred potential residents to the hostel's website, but admitted that the posted images of the rooms were not an adequate representation—especially since the hostel's furniture was removed.

In the summer, the rooms have six or more bunk beds to accommodate the high number of travelers that visit that city during tourist season.

Columbia signed a five-year lease two years ago to use the top three floors of the building, but the agreement over the fourth floor has not been extended for the duration of the existing contract. Every year, each of the floors reverts back to the hostel during the summer months. At this point, it is unknown whether Columbia will be using it again next year.

Oakes cited the lingering effects of the Sept. 11 attacks on the travel industry as one contributing factor to Hostelling International's offer to Columbia.

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# Alumni's 'Barbershop' reels in both money and debate

○ A special screening and panel discussion is planned for Oct. 8 at the Burnham Plaza Theatre

By Angela Caputo

Assistant Editor

Controversy over the film *Barbershop* has created a stir among civil rights activists, but many of Columbia's students and faculty think the debate is overblown.

*Barbershop*, a comedy with a nearly all-African-American cast, gives viewers a glimpse into the day-to-day happenings in a barbershop on the South Side of Chicago. The film—which stars Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas and rapper Eve—was shot in Chicago. The film's producers, George Tillman Jr. and Robert Teitel, are graduates of Columbia's film program.

At the center of the *Barbershop* controversy is Chicago's Rev. Jesse Jackson, a pioneer of the civil rights movement. Jackson has requested that several scenes—which he considers defamatory to the memory of figures in the civil rights movement—be removed from the film's release in video and DVD formats.

Although the film's producers released a statement apologizing for potentially offensive remarks in the script, they have offered no concession to snip scenes.

Christopher Bowen, 20, a Columbia animation student, agrees with Jackson. "The first comment upset me, but I let it go. It was one line in a comedy. But, I walked out when he said Martin Luther King Jr. was a 'ho,'" he said. Bowen said this disgusted him because "it disrespects the sacrifices the civil rights movement generation made for black people today." Many Columbia students, faculty and others said they agree that the negative characterization of civil rights leaders is inappropriate. However, many said they don't consider the statements powerful enough to diminish the credibility of those leaders. They said they dismiss the comments of the Eddie character—which was played by comedian Cedric the Entertainer—as irrelevant, even absurd, as they were by other characters in the film.

Ron Pitts, self-credited first black filmmaker in Chicago and a Columbia faculty member in the Film and Video Department, said he agrees the comments about the civil rights leaders were in poor taste. However, in response to the controversy Pitts said, "Jesse Jackson should be worrying about bigger issues: like how to get more blacks into the film industry. We have bigger, heavier issues we could focus on."

This theme resonates with others. Columbia student Ashera Brown, 18, said, "We need to stop focusing on what's arbitrary and we need to focus on something real."

Brown's examples of important issues included poverty in black communities and the lack of social response for its remedies. "Furthermore, we need to focus on good things black people do—like making this film," Brown said.

Mary Mitchell, popular African-American columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times, supported this view in her reactive Sept. 24 column.

Also, in a previous column, Mitchell said, "Certainly, a stand-up comedy routine that denigrated civil rights leaders would be offensive to most black people. But there is a problem if we can't even portray these debates."

Pitts said he concurs that the dialogue was important and should be protected under artistic license.

"*Barbershop* made the point that there is open dialogue," said 23-year-old John Badal, a fine arts student at Columbia. "That was the most interesting thing about the movie."

Columbia's School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Office of Alumni Relations is hosting a screening and panel discussion to continue discourse on themes presented in *Barbershop* Oct. 8 at the Burnham Plaza Theatre where the film opened three weeks ago.

The aim of the event is to engage individuals in an intellectual discourse around the issues of ethnic humor and artistic freedom, said Micki Leventhal, Columbia's director of media relations.

The controversy surrounding *Barbershop* hasn't hindered the film's success. The film remained the top movie at box offices for its second consecutive week, earning an estimated \$13.3 million last week.



Producers George Tillman, Jr. and Robert Teitel flank Bruce Sheridan, Film Department chair, at the 'Barbershop' premiere.

Dwayne M. Thomas/Chronicle

## Farbman

Continued from Page 2

register to vote.

"I saved up enough money so that I can go down a couple of days a week and start going door-to-door and standing on the train platform and that kind of stuff."

Despite what appears to be a formidable challenge, Farbman is optimistic about his chances.

"It's a winnable race for a number of reasons. The incumbent [Harry Osterman (D-14)] is like a lot of other Chicago Democrats, in that they are just

part of the machine—they don't have great politics." He looks to his politics to win over the community he says Osterman has ignored.

Many of Farbman's big issues are ones that translate well to the young and disadvantaged. Affordable housing, frequently at odds with the gentrification rapidly developing in Rogers Park, is one of his favorite topics.

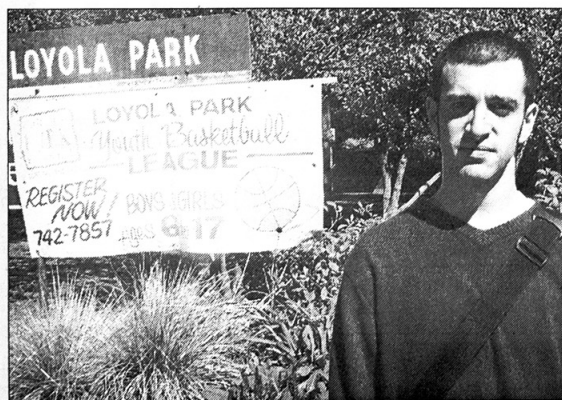
"Gentrification doesn't have to be a bad word. It's the way they

are going about it that is displacing a lot of people. They [developers] are not from the community, they don't care about the community—they care about filling the condos." Farbman names Boston as a model city for the kind of development he would like to see. In Boston, he says, when a new apartment complex is built, a certain number of affordable housing units must be included alongside the more expensive ones.

Another of Farbman's issues is the development of a living wage index for Rogers Park, where a community sets a minimum wage that takes into consideration the cost of living and the cost of supporting a family in the community, and then requires all employers to pay that wage. The Green Party has already pushed through such measures in cities like Santa Monica, Calif.

But Farbman's real draw is his uniqueness. He cares and, unlike many his age, is willing to commit himself to changing the parts of the system he doesn't like. Perhaps his chances are slim, but Farbman displays a rare determinism and motivation to get things done.

"I didn't spend a year of my life to lose," he says. Farbman gives the impression, however, that any result may be a victory.



Dwayne M. Thomas/Chronicle

Jason Farbman at the corner of Greenleaf and Sheridan avenues in the 14th District, where he is a candidate for state representative.

## The Editor's Desk



Georgia Evdoxiadis  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Like the changing colors of leaves, a harbinger of fall has arrived to herald the start of the new school year. This harbinger, fellow students, is one Lyndon H. LaRouche. Perhaps you have been accosted on the street by one of his thugs bearing crudely drawn signage and hoarsely shouting some strange and mystifying slogan. Perhaps, like me, you have wondered what the heck this guy is all about. And I am here to tell you.

Well, for starters, he has a hell of a website. Like most crackpots, LaRouche takes a strange pride in the failures of his ostensibly political career. Also like most politicians, he has committed crimes. Unlike most politicians, he got caught doing them. After some shady financial dealings, LaRouche and six of what he calls his "associates" (I think the technical term is "co-conspirators") were convicted of mail fraud conspiracy.

He stole money from old people. LaRouche tells the story a bit differently, and a bit funnier too. On his PR website, LaRouche proudly touts his status as the "only presidential candidate to have been convicted in a federal case," which he claims gives him a legitimacy shared by few others. Thank God.

LaRouche explains the conviction as a result of an elaborate conspiracy to "eliminate" him, one achieved with the participation of, among others, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the Communist Party, the Anti-Defamation League, the FBI (who played a "key, but not exclusive role") and a federal court judge. LaRouche must have been a dangerous man for so many groups that normally would have nothing to do with one another to conspire together against one man.

The "conspiracy"—which included, but was not limited to, the prosecution fabricating an entire bankruptcy—apparently kept good ol' LaRouche from making the payments to those old people that he had sincerely intended to make. The LaRouche website calls this one of the most "far-reaching intelligence operations ever directed against a U.S. citizen."

Another cross LaRouche has had to bear has been the evil machinations of the Anti-Defamation League, who have tormented him mercilessly with "vile epithets" such as accusations of anti-Semitism. The ADL is just "a cult of utopian military lunatics, typified by Zbigniew Brzezinski, Samuel Huntington, Henry Kissinger or the current Undersecretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz," says LaRouche. And they are out to get him. Beware, Columbia students, beware.

LaRouche may not be a viable political candidate (I'm not sure if being convicted of defrauding the elderly would eliminate him or not), but he sure is fun Internet reading. Do a Google search on LaRouche and you too can have a blast catching up on his zany antics. Read some of his fascinating ideas about the "Lieberman/McCain cabal" of power. Learn about how the ADL organized the events of Sept. 11 and subsequently created the "Osama bin Laden hoax." Continue, noticing that LaRouche's own website might be better proof of his anti-Semitism than anything the ADL could offer up. Whatever. Just don't get drawn into a discussion with one of those kooks on Wabash Avenue.

Speaking of politics, is it just me, or is the Bush administration just making up any lie they can think of in order to justify attacking Iraq? Saddam Hussein gave chemical weapons to Al Qaeda? Come on. Am I expected to believe that? Well, then, can someone please explain to me why it is exactly that the international terrorist group hasn't used them yet? A sudden onset of conscience? Or did we already kill them all in Afghanistan? Perhaps the new and improved federal security screeners found the anthrax in Osama's carry-on? I mean, those screeners are top-notch at finding nail files.

Oh, wait—I get it. We should attack Iraq to prevent Al Qaeda from using the chemical weapons. But wouldn't that—ahh, best not think too deeply on these things, right, G.W.? After all, we've done such a fantastic job of taking out Osama bin Laden, why start questioning things now? So when George W. Bush said he wanted bin Laden "dead or alive," did he mean he wanted him hiding in the mountains of Pakistan dead or alive? Because if he did mean that, he should have been more clear at the time.

So what did we learn today, boys and girls?

LaRouche—crazy. Bush—stupid. And you thought the first week of class was worthless.





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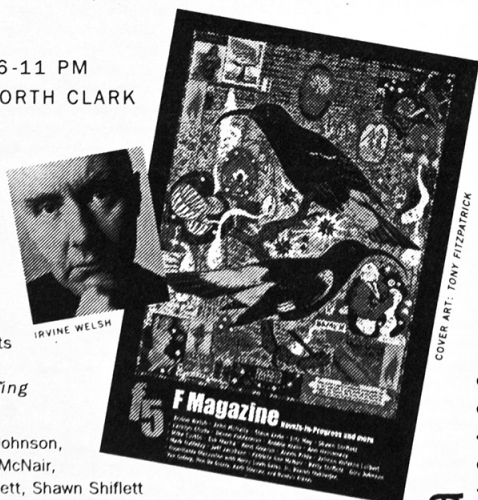
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Copies of *f5 Magazine* and works by Irvine Welsh will be sold on-site  
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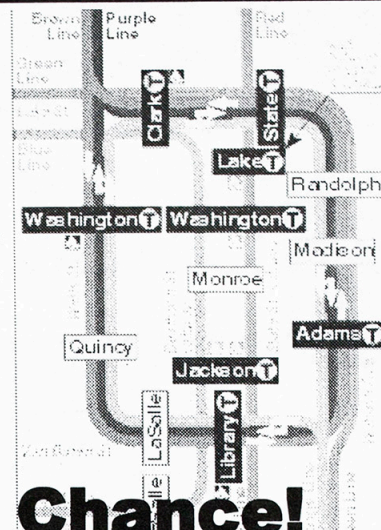
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Fall 2002

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- **Team Fee: \$30.00**
- **Games will be played on Tues. & Wed. from 7 10 pm** at the Roosevelt Gym
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Chicago, IL 60605  
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# NATIONAL CAMPUS NEWS

September 30, 2002

Columbia Chronicle



Jayson Mellom/San Luis Obispo Tribune

Elana Leoni has offered her couch in her San Luis Obispo, Calif., home to travelers who are part of the Global Freeloaders group that offers lodging to tourists in various countries.

## 'Global Freeloaders' fits backpackers' traveling budgets

By Meghan Sapp

Knight Ridder Newspapers

SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif.—Next month, Elana Leoni of San Luis Obispo is going to have a visitor from Tokyo sleeping on her couch for a few days—but she's never met him before.

Takashi Morita is a 24-year-old who found Leoni's name and hometown on a worldwide database for travelers. Knowing little more than that, Morita asked if he could stay with her.

He wasn't being rude. Morita was using Global Freeloaders ([www.global-freeloaders.com](http://www.global-freeloaders.com)), an Internet site with more than 3,000 members from more than 100 countries who are willing to offer strangers free accommodations. The site was started last year by 21-year-old Australian Adam Staines, who had spent the better part of three years traveling around the world.

"It occurred to me one day, why not harness this communal traveling spirit and create a website that pools together the collective resources of travelers from all over the world, and create a community inside the traveling community," he was quoted on the Internet site.

Leoni, a fourth-year international business major at Cal Poly, said she discovered the freeloading phenomenon when she was studying abroad in Melbourne, Australia, last year. During her four-month backpacking trip, the most expensive part of the adventure was the lodging, she said.

"Through my travels I realized the most fun I had was with the locals I met up with and spent time with," she said.

The service is one of give and take. New members need to be able to host guests in their home some time during the first six months of registration. This way, the database doesn't become "guest-heavy" as the website calls it.

Leoni made a few requests during her trip but never managed to arrange lodging. Nevertheless, she hopes she will be able to host people in her house to give back for the time spent in strangers' homes while studying abroad.

"I really love the idea of Global

Freeloaders, although it takes a little faith in people and risk on your part," Leoni said. "I would definitely want someone to take the risk on me if I was a backpacker."

Though the website says there have been no major incidents reported by members since the service's inception more than a year ago, 34-year-old Janell Carlson of Morro Bay said she was too concerned as a single female traveling alone to participate.

Carlson, a yoga instructor and massage therapist, is one of five Global Freeloaders members from San Luis Obispo County registered on the website. She signed up when she was getting ready to attend a course in San Francisco. At first, she planned on staying at a youth hostel, but thought she would try freeloading. She eventually settled on the hostel anyway.

**"Through my travels I realized the most fun I had was with the locals I met up with and spent time with,"**  
said Elana Leoni.

"I chose not to do it because it's pretty dangerous rather than using a youth hostel option as a woman traveling alone," Carlson said. "You really don't know what you're getting into."

Still a member, Carlson said if someone contacted her looking for a place to stay, she would evaluate each request individually.

"I would judge that case and would probably open my home to them. I guess it's that *Pay It Forward* kind of thing," she said, referring to the 2000 film based on Catherine Ryan Hyde's book about a boy looking for a way to make the world a better place.

Staines admitted that freeloading has dangers, but said he prefers to think better of the human race.

"There is a chance, no matter how small, that you could meet a dishonest person through the site," he tells visitors to the site. "In the end, I guess it's up to you if you're prepared to take the risk of inviting a stranger into your home. All I can say is, there's not been any major issues thus far, and I prefer to look at the world in a realistic, but still optimistic light."

"It makes my life happier and more fulfilling to put a certain amount of faith in humanity. And I've met some pretty cool people and had a pretty good time because of that outlook."

## Student captivates voters

By James Hannah

Associated Press

MINSTER, Ohio (AP)—Fresh out of high school, 18-year-old Derrick Seaver became the youngest state representative in Ohio history two years ago.

Now a part-time college student, he is running for re-election on Nov. 5 against a businessman more than twice his age who is pitting his life experience against Seaver's political experience.

"Who better to represent families than somebody who has one?" asked Republican John Adams. "Who better to represent veterans than someone who's been one?"

Adams is a former Navy SEAL and has five children.

However, Seaver is buoyed by incumbency, generally an advantage no matter the candidate's age, analysts said.

Incumbents get re-elected 85 to 90 percent of the time, said Rick Farmer, assistant professor of political science at University of Akron. "If he's done well and works really hard, he's going to be hard to beat, even in a Republican district," Farmer said.

Seaver is a Democrat elected in the heavily Republican 78th District in western Ohio. Although a member of the minority in a GOP-controlled Legislature, he said he did what he promised.

"Two years ago I said I was going to go to Columbus and sponsor and co-sponsor and vote for legislation," he said. "And I think if you look, we've done all of that."

Dwight Crum, spokesman for the House Republican Campaign Committee, said incumbents must run on their records, "or lack thereof."

"What has he passed? Is there a bill that he's passed?" Crum asked.

Of the five bills Seaver introduced, none made it out of committee. However, almost all Democrats—including veteran lawmaker—had the same experience.

Last year, for example, Republican lawmakers passed 75 of their own bills but only seven Democratic bills.

Adams, 42, is quick to point out that, if elected, he would join a Republican majority that gets bills passed.

Adams, of Sidney, worked as a technician at Bethlehem Steel before joining the Navy. He now owns furniture stores in Celina and Bellefontaine.

"I haven't won every battle I've gotten into," Seaver said. "I haven't had all good days down in Columbus."

Robert Adams, associate professor of political science at Wright State University, said young, inexperienced lawmakers cannot be expected to have a significant impact on legislation immediately.

"The Legislature ... is not an easy place to succeed in if you don't know the ropes," Robert said. "He comes subject to being the sheep among a flock of foxes."

Seaver said he is conservative in a like-minded district. He opposes abortion and is a member of the National Rifle Association.

He acknowledges that his views and votes have sometimes generated "friction" with other House Democrats. His age and the fact he's attending college have not gone unnoticed.

Earlier this year during the House debate on charter schools, Republican Rep. Jamie Callender told Seaver he was glad Seaver's classes were over so he could attend hearings. The comment was greeted by hisses and Callender later apologized.

"He was trying to make a joke, and it came out wrong," said Seaver, who also said the two lawmakers get along well. "I was not personally offended by it."

Seaver attends college part time at Wright State's lake campus in Celina, majoring in secondary education. He said attending school has never made him miss a House session.

House Minority Leader Dean DePiero said Seaver is one of the most articulate and hard-working representatives.

"When I was 18 years old, I didn't have any understanding of state policies and politics. He gets it," DePiero said. "I was really surprised at that."

Paul Bornhorst, 74, of McCartyville, said he will vote for Seaver again.

"He's pretty young. He's inexperienced, but as far as I know everybody I've ever talked to say good words about him," said Bornhorst, a Democrat. "I've been watching what his issues are a little bit the best I can, and most of them I agree with."





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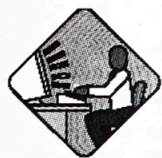
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# COMMENTARY

## Columbia Chronicle Editorials Commuter woes afoot

"When I was your age I had to walk to school through three feet of snow, barefoot, 15 miles, uphill both ways . . ."

Maybe Grandma and Grandpa like to embellish their days of yore to elicit untapped sympathy from a generation spoiled by luxury. And perhaps we don't have it quite as rough as our cantankerous elders did on their treks to class. However, with this week's closing of Harrison Street between State Street and Wabash Avenue, some Columbia students en route to the 600 S. Michigan Ave., 624 S. Michigan Ave. and 623 S. Wabash Ave. buildings may feel inconvenienced by the unwelcome detour. And those who routinely sprint the stretch of Harrison—in a mad dash on the way back from Starbucks—to beat the elevator surge that plagues our campus lobbies may, for once, better relate to grandparents' yawn-inducing yarns this holiday break.

The construction of both the University Center of Chicago and a single-room-occupancy housing facility—in addition to the Chicago Transit Authorities' el track relocation—promises to keep Harrison Street closed to automotive and pedestrian traffic until March 2004.

This means Columbia students will have to find alternative sidewalks to tread for the next year and a half, and also forces new students from out of town to familiarize themselves with the geography around campus.

Jona Whipple, 20, a theater major said, "I will be inconvenienced by [the street closing], partially because I don't know the area yet," Whipple, who transferred to Columbia this semester from Southeastern Illinois College in Harrisburg, added that she may initially feel intimidated seeking a new route to class.

The construction on the north side of Balbo Drive—a side effect of the Blackstone renovation project—only adds an extra detour on top of a detour for those unwilling to walk inches from oncoming traffic. Depending on the speed of one's stride, five to 10 extra minutes will have to be added on to previous travel times. That's five to 10 extra minutes of lakefront freezing in the brutal Chicago winter, where the snow flies sideways and the sidewalks turn to ice.

Krys Conerly, 20, a television and film major, admitted to being fed up with the inconvenience of construction around the city. "I'm a little mad," Conerly said of the Harrison closing, "but it is only five extra minutes."

Practicality aside, some students enrolled in night classes may not feel safe navigating the somewhat sketchy Balbo Drive—the seemingly quickest detour—after dark.

Conerly expressed more annoyance than fear regarding the matter, but said, "I'll probably be more observant."

Whipple, who said she felt comfortable taking Harrison Street, also said, "The less I have to walk in an unfamiliar area the better."

Unfortunately, however—unless one comes to school carrying a lunch pail, donning a hard hat and steel-toed boots, and is camouflaged in flannel and slick enough to slip stealthily through the war zone-like construction site—those who usually take Harrison Street can count on being inconvenienced.

And though complaining is protected by the First Amendment, it is also—in this case—futile. Frustrated commuters may find their time better spent simply slapping the snooze bar one time fewer.

## 'Superdorm' super pricey

Student housing is desperately needed at Columbia, according to college administrators. The pending University Center of Chicago, nicknamed the "superdorm," promises to narrow this shortage by opening beds to 660 Columbia students in 2004.

The "superdorm" will provide two types of rental units: 1,000-square-foot apartments with four private bedrooms each and 235-square-foot, dormitory-style suites, with adjoining bathrooms.

Conceptually, the increase of near-campus student housing seems in the interest of students. However, when comparing the cost of school-sponsored housing with that of off-campus housing, school-sponsored housing is significantly more expensive and less spacious.

Apartment-style living in the University Center will cost each resident \$800 per month (\$7,200 for the academic year) to merely share a 1,000-square-foot, four-bedroom apartment. These outrageous rates are typically beyond the means of college students who are juggling loans with low-paying, part-time jobs.

The dormitory-style rooms, which will cost \$1,200 per month—of which each resident pays \$600—seem even less economical. For a 235-square-foot room, Columbia is going to charge students more than double the market rate—which ranges from \$1 to \$2 per square foot—for an apartment.

The future University Center is not the only on-campus housing site with exorbitant rents. In the 731 S. Plymouth Court building, an apartment-style dorm room shared by four (two in each bedroom) costs students \$6,305 per academic year. That's \$700 per month. In the 18 E. Congress Parkway building, four students also squeeze into 1,200-square-foot, two-bedroom apartments for the same price.

Since the residence centers offer only nine-month leases, students are expected to pay higher rates to offset the cost of summertime vacancy. However, the "superdorm" will be renting out rooms for conferences during the summer to bring in additional revenue, as will the other buildings.

College rental rates often exceed private-market apartment rents. It doesn't add up that private-market landlords can charge renters less than Columbia does and still manage to turn a profit, despite sky-high property taxes. Columbia is exempt from such taxes.

Students can easily rent private apartments, which are less costly and more spacious in neighboring, privately owned buildings.

Just around the corner from the University Center construction site, at 740 S. Federal Plaza in the heart of Printers Row, students can secure a 12-month leasing contract and pay \$1,680 per month for a 1,500-square-foot apartment. Likewise, students who insist on staying in the South Loop have the option to rent efficiencies (larger studios with collapsible bedroom walls) for about \$800 per month. Not only would renting such units save students money, it would also offer them more peace of mind with the absence of unnerving roommates.

School administrators need to rethink their policy of overcharging students who rent dormitory apartments. Charging above market rates for units further burdens students who are typically up to their eyeballs in debt. Students can refuse to succumb to outrageous rents by choosing to rent in neighboring buildings that have more renter friendly rates.

## Exposure



Brian Morcwinski/Chronicle

## Credit card companies must stop targeting college students

By Andi Baca  
The Battalion

(U-WIRE) College Station, Texas—Like record players and betas, it seems that paying in cash is becoming obsolete. Eighty-three percent of undergraduates have at least one credit card and 47 percent have four or more, according to the Associated Press.

In an effort to control the marketing of credit cards on campus, Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., approached Congress to investigate the behaviors of credit companies. The Consumer Federation of America said Dodd used evidence from a 90-page study conducted by Robert Manning, which outlines the negative effects credit card debt has on students.

In the best interest of the students, Congress should follow the proposal to investigate and regulate credit card soliciting on college campuses.

New students are easy targets for credit card solicitors. Dan Prendergast, a senior biology major, said college students who have never had to support themselves might have trouble paying off credit cards. "If you're a freshman, it can be hard to understand the implication of several monthly credit card bills," he said. "I didn't really understand it all until I was a senior."

Educating students about the financial obligations and the consequences of having a credit card could save hundreds of students from wrecking their credit.

Valerie Grizzaffi, a sophomore marketing major, said college students could get trapped in bad credit if they are not aware of the responsibility. "I had bad credit my freshman year and now, as a junior, I can't get the cards I want," she said. "Most students don't know that debt will hurt them in the long run."

The proposed legislation points to more education as the remedy for student debt. Yahoo! News said Dodd approached Congress with the idea of passing legislation that would boost financial literacy

among college students, especially freshmen.

Colleges and universities should consider making credit card education more accessible to students, including adding it to their new student orientation program.

The Department of Student Affairs at Texas A&M University offers students budgeting advice on their website and through counselors. The more informed students are, the more likely they can effectively regulate their own budget.

While the world is driven by credit cards and their ability to allow people to purchase things they otherwise could not, the privilege of owning one should be just that—a privilege.

Qualified applicants who want or need a credit card have no trouble getting a card issued in their name, and do not need the solicitation of issuers on campus to get one.

In addition, many students find credit card solicitors an annoyance. Karen Bauml, a senior speech communications major, said solicitors interrupt her routine. "Campus can get really crowded, and when you are just trying to make it to class on time it is really rude to have someone trying to get you to sign up for a credit card," she said.

Although credit card companies provide financial information to students, this might not be enough to protect them from debt. Grizzaffi said credit card companies can post information everywhere, but students are not likely to read it. "I just paid what I could every month, I didn't really look into my increasing balance," she said.

Soliciting credit cards on campus is a rushed process, which does not lend itself to careful reading of credit card applications.

Paying off credit card bills is the responsibility of cardholders. However, colleges should promote better habits to educate and protect students. Legislation on the solicitation of credit cards on college campuses is a great place to start.



# Jackson's wounded ego to blame for 'Barbershop' brouhaha

By Katie Walsh  
Commentary Editor

Jesse Jackson is whining—again. Though you might not be surprised that he is angry, what he is ticked-off about this time may surprise you. It seems the predominantly black-produced, black-directed and black-acted film, *Barbershop*, contains some scenes that offend Jackson.

The movie, produced by Columbia alumni Bob Teitel and George Tillman, contains a scene in which a character played by Cedric the Entertainer makes derogatory statements about Jackson himself and civil rights figures like Rosa Parks.

*Barbershop*—which, as of press time, has already raked in \$38 million dollars and can be considered a huge success by all means—was written, produced and directed by African-Americans. Not to mention that the stars are talented black actors.

Jackson and other black leaders are falling all over themselves trying to get MGM to trim the scene's jokes from its future home video release and are threatening to launch a boycott of the studio if their demands are not met.

Surprisingly, in response to the brouhaha, MGM has stood its ground and said it will not giving in to Jackson's demands or the demands of others offended by the scene. MGM Studios said it will not issue an apology and that there are no plans to cut any scenes from the home video release.

Teitel and Tillman, however, apologized to Jackson and said that no harm was intended.

Given this latest protest, I am convinced that Jackson needs to hire a new press secretary or get a life—either works for me. It's becoming quite apparent that Jackson does not know how to pick and choose his public feuds well at all. Here he shows us that he is a man who is never satisfied, he has difficulty supporting something that is actually working in favor of his cause and also shows that his ego is so big that criticism from a fictional black character riles him.

Jackson is rarely satisfied with the way of the world—and by the world, I mean the world according to Jackson.



Not too long ago, Jackson was in a huff over the misrepresentation of African-Americans in film and organized a protest rally at the 1996 Academy Awards.

Though the protest was certainly not the best idea he has ever had, Jackson had a good point. He contended that African-Americans are shut out of a lot of good jobs in Hollywood; that the movies they make do not do as well financially as non-black films and that most films do not further talented blacks in the movie business.

Therefore, I cannot understand how instead of praising the movie for its success, he is criticizing it. The movie is doing extremely well and is a hit with black audiences and nonblack audiences alike. It has been No. 1 at the box office for two weeks in a row and everyone involved with the film has been critically praised in some way. The movie was written, directed, produced and acted by African-Americans: What more does Jackson want?

Jackson is having difficulty finding the positive angle in something going in his favor. He is downplaying the good things that can come out of a successful African-American film. The fact that these talented actors, producers, writers and directors are getting positive attention and critical acclaim seems to have totally escaped Jackson's radar. His tunnel vision is a shame; he should be praising Teitel and

Tillman instead of looking for apologies from them. Jackson should be calling upon studios to take a serious look at black writers and directors and use this film as an example of what blacks can bring to American culture through movies.

The most apparent issue in this whole debacle is that Jackson is having a little bit of trouble taking the joke aimed at him. One of the film's derogatory remarks claims that Jackson and his work are irrelevant.

Whether it was meant that he was irrelevant to the black community or irrelevant as a modern day leader, I don't know. And the irony is, despite his ranting and raving, Jackson doesn't really know either: He hasn't even seen the movie! In a way, this should discredit his entire argument.

Jackson has been quoted comparing himself to Golda Meir, co-founder of the state of Israel, and said that no one would dare make derogatory statements about her. So I guess he thinks no one should make jokes about him either.

Simply put, Jackson has a bruised ego and is using it as a catalyst to cause controversy. He's just upset because *Barbershop* is a hit and he had nothing to do with it.

My recommendations to Jackson are to think before he speaks out and to maybe go see the movie; I know all the controversy he's stirring up will definitely encourage others to do so.

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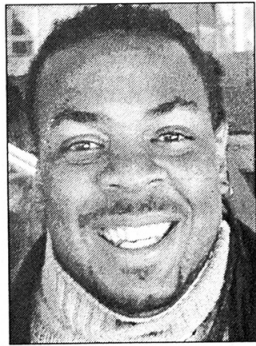
## The Columbia Chronicle photo poll

**Question: Do you think invading Iraq is a good move for the U.S.?**



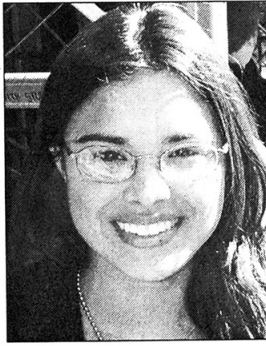
Jessica Zucker  
Freshman/Journalism

"No. It is going against everything we believe. We are supposed to be about peace, but all we do is fight."



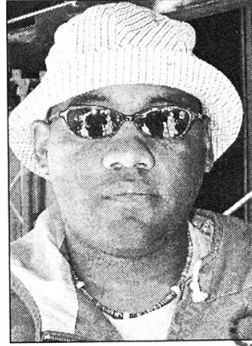
Carrico Sanders  
Senior/Marketing

"No. We have the right to preempt action. If we do invade it sets the precedent we are dictators."



Maritza Vargas  
Senior/Photography

"No. Bush is being selfish. He is only making the situation worse."



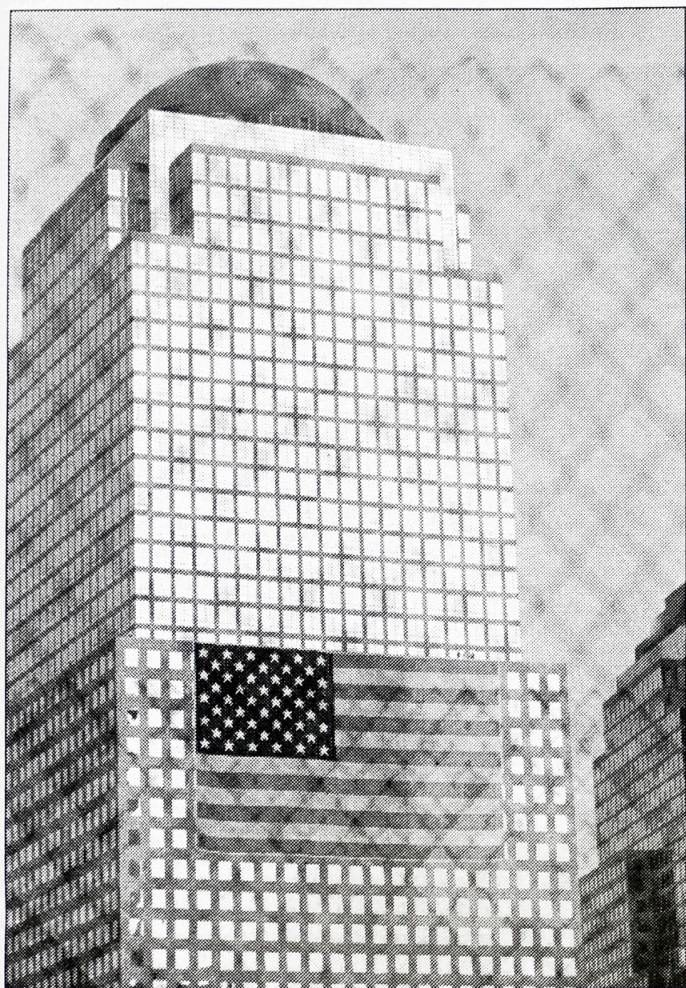
Kershon Ball  
Senior/Film

"No. I think we are just beating around the bush trying to capture [Saddam] Hussein. Bush has not made it clear to the American public."



# A Tribute To Our Heroes

Photos by Stacy Freudenberg



On the one-year anniversary of September 11, the city of New York planned a tribute ceremony for the families of those who died. Beginning at 1 a.m., bagpipers marched from each of the five boroughs to ground zero where they played for the families who lost loved ones, and the thousands of people who turned out to pay their respects. Candle light vigils were held around the city, and the eternal flame was ignited in Battery Park. For the thousands of people who lost loved ones, this day was a day of remembrance. For those who didn't, it was a day of quiet reflection.



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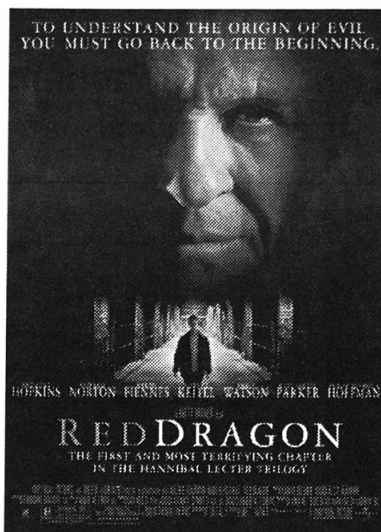
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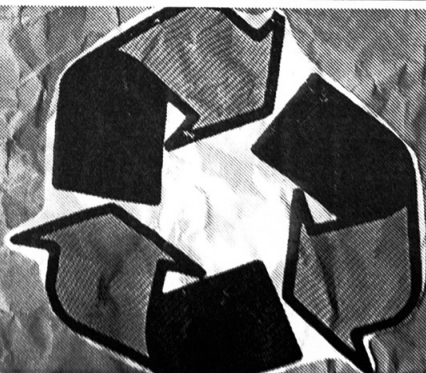
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# Astatine, unununium, glad to meet you

○ Sketch comedy troupe acts out the periodic table

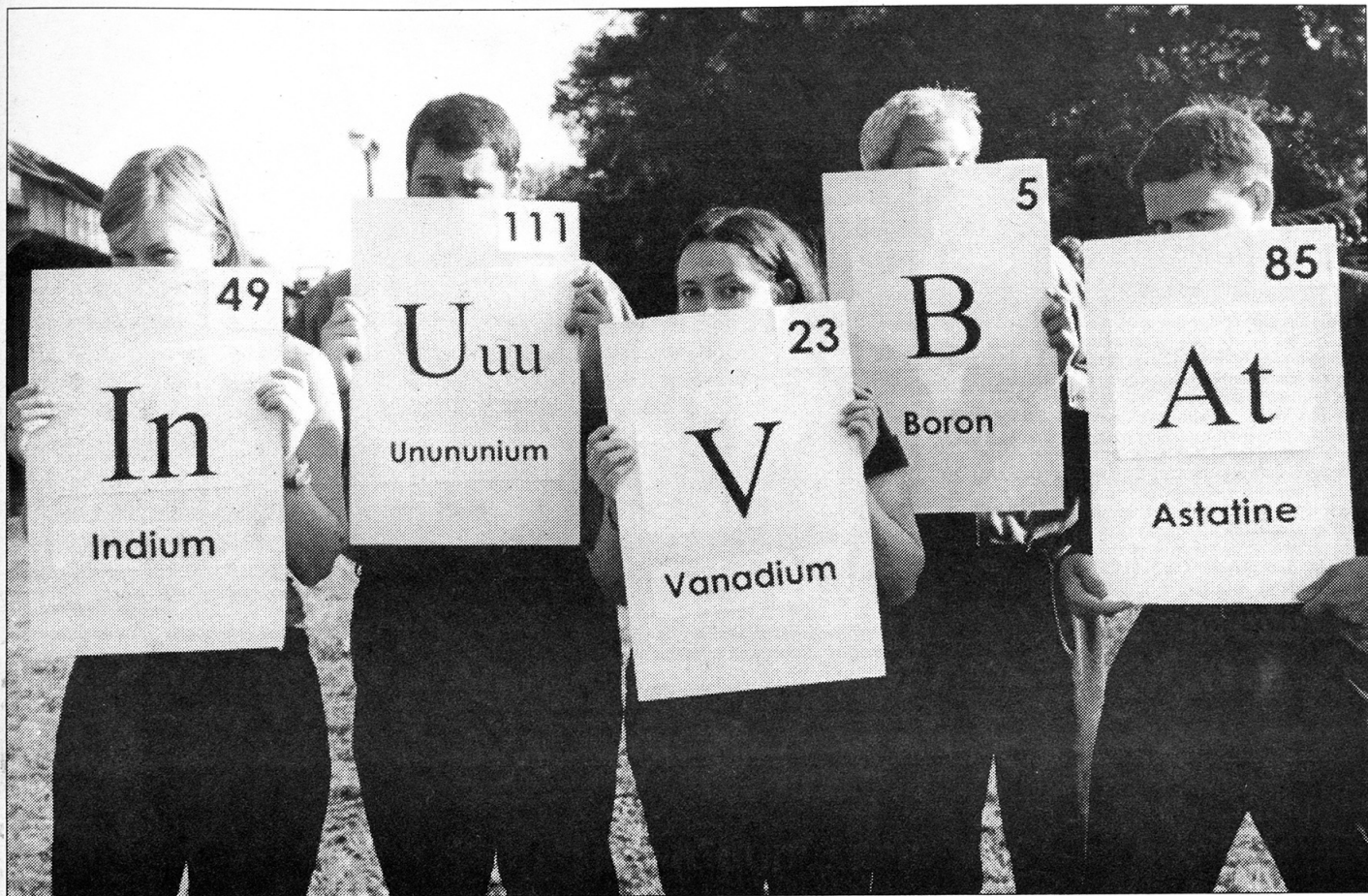


Photo by Becky Eldridge

(Left to right) Megan Kellie, Christopher Day, Ronnie Feldman, Jennifer Shepard and Matt Hovde peeking around symbols from the periodic table in 'An Element Never Forgets.'

By Michael Hirtzer

A&E Editor

While many spend their Friday nights boozing at watering holes alongside north Lincoln Avenue, others study the periodic table, not at their desk, but with an audience—an audience more likely to laugh than not.

The periodic table, after all, is complicated, and shouldn't be tackled alone. At press time, the table consisted of 117 elements, with the latest additions remaining nameless. It's nearly impossible to touch on all of the elements in a short period of time, but in about an hour and 15 minutes, the Galileo Players will touch on some of the lesser-known elements.

Their new production, "An Element Never Forgets," which runs through Oct. 20 at the Victory Gardens Studio Theater, is a crash course not only in the chemistry of the periodic table, but the chemistry in us all.

A prime example is the "Litmus Song," which goes something like this: "We wish romance were based on science / we'd know for sure if we fit like a glove / if only chemistry could test our chemistry / we'd have a Litmus test for love."

And it doesn't stop there. There's the sad, lonely folk guitarist ununium, the highly unstable and volatile astatine, and the forgotten element with atomic number 118, which was unfortunately withdrawn. Not to mention the non-periodic table oriented

material, such as the plight of a smart, yet unathletic young man who can't come to terms with his given characteristics or the fickle and reclusive ancient Greek cult led by Pythagoras.

The Galileo Players' mission is to question the world through critical thinking, all while having a laugh.

Matt Hovde, one of the Galileo Players' founding members said, "I've always been interested in finding how we know what we know and why we believe what we believe. That's just something that's always occupied my mind, and since I've also been driven to perform and direct, it seemed natural to express [myself] through the art of comedy or improvisation. And I know that's true of the other people in the troupe too."

The troupe does in fact give sketch comedy a fresh twist; their material is not only absent of any profanity and low-brow humor, but focuses on philosophical principles and scientific ideas that are enlightening, but not too overwhelming.

"We work hard to bridge the gap," Hovde said in a telephone interview. "A good portion of our audience comes to support us and has no extra interest in science and philosophy, so we try to put elements of the characters or theatricality that people will appreciate even if they don't care for the deepness that goes into the scenes."

He added, "Audiences react pretty well to the pure

comedy of it, and then the people who might have a similar interest might find even more that they like about it."

Hovde helped found the group after he met producer Ronnie Feldman and artistic director Tom Flanigan at the Second City Conservatory. (Jennifer Shepard, a graduate of the University of Iowa, is also a founding member.)

The four found they had more than a similar sense of humor; they all liked challenging themselves and others by questioning the things around them. Their past shows include: "Foresight is 20/20," "Trigonometry & Other Myths" and "The Unbearable Logic of Being."

Hovde said, "The material we choose to write and perform really does come from something that interests us and something we are passionate about."

The Galileo Players were recently incorporated, Hovde said, but they still maintain day jobs to pay the rent. They also tour, performing at corporate events, seminars, festivals and banquets. And while they've performed seven shows since they started in 1998, they take one show at a time. Hovde said he doesn't know what's next.

Catch "An Element Never Forgets" at the Victory Gardens Studio Theater, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. The show runs at 8:30 p.m. on Fridays, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. on Saturdays and at 3:30 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$15, with \$10 tickets available for students and actors.

## Arts Around Town

### Smart Museum

Ever since Germany became a nation in 1871, its people have been in constant transition. It was in states of either war or reconstruction from the early 1900s through the '40s, forcing the German people to reinvent themselves often. In light of this, the University of Chicago's Smart Museum, 5550 S. Greenwood Ave., will present a new exhibition exploring what it means to be German.

Running from Oct. 3 through Jan. 5, the exhibition will consist of various gallery talks, lectures, films and a collection comprised of more than 150 paintings, photographs, prints and sculptures from artists like Georg

Baselitz, Joseph Beuys, Erich Heckel, and Gabrielle Münter. The opening reception for "Confronting Identities in German Art: Myths, Reactions, Reflections" is Thursday, Oct. 4 from 4-7:30 p.m. and admission is free.

### Chicago Cultural Center Concert

The trio Jewels and Binoculars will perform improvised renditions of Bob Dylan songs at the Chicago Cultural Center, Saturday, Oct. 5, at 2 p.m. The trio formed after bassist Lindsey Horner met percussionist Michael Vatcher and reeds player Michael Moore in Brussels, Belgium. Led by Moore's alto sax and bass clarinet stylings, the three combine their passions for jazz and folk, giving a fresh twist to Dylan's music. As are all Chicago Cultural Center events, the concert to be held in the center's Claudia Cassidy Theater, is free and open to the public.

### Bill Maher at Centre East

After Bill Maher said the now-infamous lines, "We have been the cowards. Lobbing cruise missiles from 2,000 miles away, that's cowardly. Staying in the airplane when it hits the building—say what you want about it—[it's not] cowardly," he might as well have just quit his job as host of "Politically Incorrect" then and there. A few months later, ABC canceled the show, which ran from 1993 to 1997 on Comedy Central and from 1997 to 2002 on ABC.

Maher—whose book, *When You Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden* comes out in November—will perform his brand of social and political commentary at the Centre East theater, 9501 Skokie Blvd. in Skokie, Ill. on Saturday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$44; parking is free.

—Michael Hirtzer



# Steppenwolf offers 'Time of Your Life'

By K. Ryann Zalewski  
Assistant A&E Editor

Steppenwolf Theatre Co. is staging a revival of William Saroyan's award-winning play, "The Time of Your Life." Set during the Great Depression, the play is reminiscent of the gritty John Steinbeck novels depicting the same time period.

The story revolves around Nick's dockside saloon and a group of dusty, downtrodden misfits who hang around there one October day in 1939. Their leader is Joe, played by Jeff Perry, a mysteriously wealthy optimist who could afford to frequent a much more exclusive saloon rather than Nick's honky-tonk.

There's also Tom, played by Patrick New, who has been loyally running Joe's errands for three years—until he breaks away when he falls in love at first sight with Kitty Duvall, played by Heather Anne Prete. Kitty is prostitute with memories of a childhood on a farm and tales of a past as a star of burlesque.

Among the other lost souls are aspiring comedian/dancer Harry (Guy Adkins) and the lovelorn Dudley (Timothy Hendrickson) who half-heartedly threatens to kill himself over the love he's lost.

The play is subtly complemented with period music. Depending on the scene, the music emanates from the jukebox, the radio or live performers—all of which are on-stage. The use of an excerpt from a Hitler speech serves as a foreshadowing of World War II that causes a dark, brief pause to come over both the cast and the audience.

The brilliant acting by the Steppenwolf ensemble members and Chicago theater veterans keeps the optimistic tone of the play from becoming overly sentimental.

"The Time of Your Life" has an imaginative staging and set design, showing through the wall-less set onto the streets. There you see numerous ensemble cast members depicting the social issues of the day—including labor strikes, charity work, unemployment and prostitution.

One of the most colorful characters is Kit Carson, played by Rick Snyder. Carson is a wanderer with tales even he doubts. But Joe believes him faithfully. After Carson tells of surviving a great hurricane in Toledo, Ohio in 1918, he asks Joe, "You believe me. Don't you?"

Joe replies, "Sure, I believe you. Life's an art. It's not bookkeeping."

In "The Time of Your Life," the characters' desire to attain their dreams is only surpassed by their desire that others believe in them too. Throughout the play the message is to enjoy life in this moment because only the present is guaranteed.

In "The Time of Your Life," Saroyan wrote, "In the time of your life, live... so that in that wondrous time you shall



Photo by Michael Brosilow

Timothy Hendrickson (Dudley), Don Shell (Wesley), and Guy Adkins (Harry) in "The Time of Your Life" by William Saroyan, directed by Steppenwolf ensemble member Tina Landau.

not add to the misery and sorrow of the world, but shall smile to the infinite delight and mystery of it all." This is the message of the play in the simplest terms.

"The Time of Your Life" will be playing at the Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St., until Nov. 3. Shows run Tuesdays through Fridays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The

Oct. 9 show will be sign-language-interpreted for the deaf and hearing impaired. There will also be an audio-described performance for the blind and visually impaired on Oct. 10.

Tickets are \$35 to \$50. Half-price rush tickets are available one hour before showtime. To order tickets, call the Steppenwolf Theatre box office at (312) 335-1650.

## Chicago film fest focuses on mainstream and independent

Multiple locations citywide offer sneak peeks; chance to mingle

By Chris Coates  
Assistant A&E Editor

The scope of material is impressive: nearly 100 films of every genre, topic and locale. And for students at a school that prides itself on a stellar film program, it provides a chance to witness the best of world cinema.

Cannes, you ask? Hardly.

The Chicago International Film Festival kicks off its 38th year Friday with a grandiose honor to Pierce Brosnan onstage at the Chicago Theater.

Along with the Career Achievement Award, the festivities will feature a showing of Brosnan's newest flick, *Evelyn*. The picture brought Brosnan back to the Irish grounds of his childhood to portray Desmond Doyle, a man trying to save his four children from the archaic welfare system of Ireland in the 1950s. The account, which is based on a true story, took five years to produce and reunites Brosnan with the director of 1990's *Mister Johnson*, Bruce Beresford.

*Evelyn* gained critical acclaim at last month's Toronto Film Festival—an honor it shares with many of this year's picks.

It seems this year's organizers shied away from choosing unknown works, relying rather on critical favorites. For instance, the festival's last feature, *Frida*, is hardly an example independent or foreign cinema.

The picture portrays the life of Mexican surrealist painter Frida Kahlo (Salma Hayek), but it is directed by American Julie Taymor and produced by an American company: Miramax.

That said, selections from the festival run the gamut of genres and features submissions in the American; International; Special Presentations; New Italian; New Directors; World Cinema; Educational Programs; Black Perspectives; Educational Programs and Shorts and Documentary divisions.

One such documentary from filmmaker Michael Moore—best known for 1989's *Roger and Me*—will be shown to Chicago audiences on Saturday, Oct. 5. In the film *Bowling for Columbine*, Moore examines the 1999 high school shooting in Littleton, Colo. and its impact on American society's quest for firearms. The film garnered a standing ovation at the Cannes Film Festival and a number of awards in the Toronto Film Festival this month. The Oct. 5 premiere at Landmark's Century Centre Cinema—2828 N. Clark St.—is at 9:15 p.m. Tickets cost \$10.

Another critical fave—director P.T. Anderson of *Magnolia* and *Boogie Nights* fame—is also represented in the festival, which boasts a sneak preview of his newest picture, *Punch-Drunk Love*. Anderson dabbles in Technicolor in this dramatic comedy starring Adam Sandler. The cast also includes Anderson regulars Philip Seymour Hoffman and Luis Guzman. *Punch-Drunk Love* premieres at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. Tickets are \$13.

But the festival's lineup of 95 feature films (and 14 shorts) is also chock-full of works from talents previously unknown to domestic audiences.

Such is the case with the New Italian Cinema category of the festival, which will offer six films from the increasing independent movie houses of Italy. Another selection, *Women's Prison* was banned from the Iranian film festival due to its unflinching translation of injustices in Middle Eastern penitentiaries. Another section of the festival is devoted solely to local, unknown filmmakers and is called Illinois' Own.

Sue Mroz, an artist-residence in the Film and Video Department and former program director at the Chicago International Film Festival, says the fest is an opportunity or Columbia film majors to witness the industry's output.

"It's a chance to open your eyes and ears to what's being made," Mroz said. She said she thinks this year's festival offers students a chance to view selections from outside the mainstream.

"It shows Hollywood isn't the only place to make movies," Mroz said. The two-week long festival begins Oct. 4 and runs through Oct. 17.

For a full list of films featured in the 38th Chicago International Film Festival, call (312) 332-FILM.

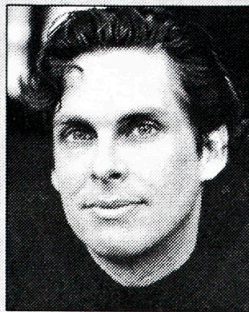


Adam Sandler plays Barry Egan in "Punch-Drunk Love," at the Chicago Film Fest Oct. 5.



## Don't escape Chabon's 'Amazing' latest novel

By Nicki Brouillette  
Correspondent



In his third novel, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*, Michael Chabon (*Wonder Boys*, *The Blind Assassin*) covers an array of diverse topics, ranging from the Holocaust to the legitimization of the comic book industry. And if the gold Pulitzer Prize seal gracing the cover isn't enough indication, let it be said: He did so with warmth, wit—and above all—literary prowess.

Like Superman descending from another planet, classically trained artist Josef Kavalier flees his home of Czechoslovakia in 1939 aided by his escape artist mentor. In doing so, he leaves behind both his family and the restrictions of a Nazi-German occupation. After a long and complicated journey, he arrives at the apartment of his relatives in New York City already formulating a plan to fund his younger brother's escape to America.

Josef's cousin Sammy Klayman (aka Clay)—who is gifted with a knack for telling tales of good versus evil and is always plotting his own road to greatness—tests Josef's artistic abilities by asking him to interpret a fart with his pen. When Josef responds by drawing three lines shooting out of the seat of a pair of pants, the two quickly forge a partnership in the disreputable business of comic books.

With Josef acting as the artist and Sammy filling the role of fantastical storyteller, *The Escapist* is soon born into the pages of Empire Comics. The comic not only fulfills the desires of every young boy in Brooklyn, but also serves as a means for Josef to illustrate his aggression toward both the Nazis and his new country—and all of this in the first few chapters.

The remaining 500 pages of the novel follow the comic book entrepreneurs as they attempt to use their inherent talents to raise money for Josef's brother's escape from Czechoslovakia.

Additionally, the comic establishes their place in a misunderstood industry while exploring their identities as Jewish-Americans.

Chabon successfully weaves together historical and fictional "fact" throughout the book. His research offers a fresh perspective on the events of World War II, which play out in overheard conversations and news articles. It also chronicles the growth of the comic art form.

In one scene, Josef encounters Orson Welles at the opening of *Citizen Kane*. Struck by the off-kilter angles of the film, he forges a relationship

with the revered actor/director and begins to interpret the panels of *The Escapist* in the fresh, similarly off-balance style of modern comics.

Chabon's prose, initially of the keep-a-dictionary-nearby variety, quickly gives way to fluid descriptions. His writing acquires a cinematic quality—one that frames each image as if it were a piece of film and provides insight into each character's realm of experience.

When Josef first glimpses his future love interest, he draws his impression of her. In describing the drawing, Chabon writes, "Her right foot loomed in the foreground, slender, toes curled. The lines of her bare and of her blanketed leg converged, at the ultimate vanishing point, in a coarse bramble of shadow. In the distance of the picture, the hollows and long central valley of her back rose to a charcoal Niagara of hair."

Later, in a scenario in which Sammy encounters two men kissing, Chabon writes, "Their mustaches interlocked in a way that reminded [him] of the way his mother used to fit his comb into the bristles of the brush on top of his dresser." This quick snapshot is an image that Sammy will carry with him throughout the novel.

Complimenting the story of Kavalier and Clay's pursuit of the American dream is the saga of their comic book. *The Escapist* is composed true to the monosyllabic style of comic books—but with such sensitivity to both the outside political world and the inner worlds of its creators' minds—that even the most pretentious literary snobs will find endearing.

In *The Escapist*, a dying escape artist gives his apprentice Tom Mayflower—the comic book's main character—a key. Mayflower is told that the key, which can release any lock, should be used, by night, to free those who cannot free themselves. By day, he is to disguise himself as an entertainer. Mayflower's life becomes a mirror image of those of his creators.

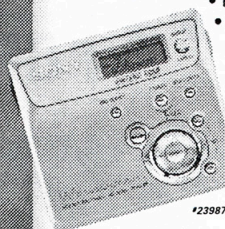
Naturally, this review does not even come close to covering the various areas of this 600-plus-page book. From the stories of an intense battle with censorship; to a restless Antarctic journey; to the search for the ancient golem of Jewish folklore—the thing that will keep the pages turning is the readers' vested interest and compassion for the characters' outcomes. In the end, the different veins of the story converge and beat in time as one complex, multifaceted, almost-human heart.

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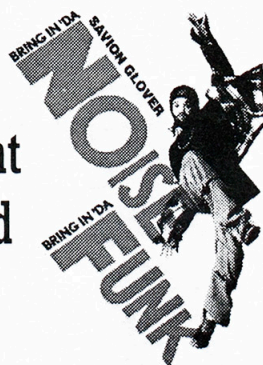
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Ryan Breen sits at a computer in Watson Hall. Breen, along with fellow communication majors Chuck Abate and James Kearns, won the "Best of the Fest" award at the Rock River Alternative Film and Video Festival.

## NIU students get 'rave' reviews at film fest

○ Documentary exposes party subculture

By Courtney Cavanaugh  
Northern Star

Three communication students at Northern Illinois University—Ryan Breen, Chuck Abate and James Kearns—stunned viewers at the Rock River Alternative Film and Video Festival with their 15-minute documentary, *Our House: Life Beyond Rave Legislation*.

"It was a good experience," Kearns said. "It was a class project that we turned into something more."

The film went on to win the festival's Best of the Fest Award and was screened by a panel of judges composed of industry professionals.

*Our House* also won best documentary, best editing and best overall production last spring at the NIU Golden Reel Awards, sponsored by Students Who Are Non-Traditional.

The film explores the subculture of Chicago ravers and the laws designed to put a stop to their parties.

"We wanted to just sort of show people the rave culture," Kearns said. "It was a culture that kind of had to die unfairly."

Filming the rave scene was Abate's idea.

He said he got his inspiration from his interest in music, such as jungle and house music.

According to Abate, the film originally was intended to be a class project. "We just expected a good grade," he said. "And the next thing we know, we're winning all of these awards."

The trio worked on the film under the supervision of communication professor Laura Vazquez.

"I thought that the *Our House* documentary was well-constructed

—both visually and in terms of the content that it conveyed," she said.

The film was difficult to produce in terms of editing, Breen said. It originally had about eight hours of footage that had to be cut to 15 minutes.

"It took about 88 hours in the editing lab," Breen said.

Editing was not the only difficult task for the project.

Abate said a lot of the buildings that hosted raves conducted regular business during the day. The owners were worried about tarnishing their images by holding illegal parties. "We knew we were going to have some problems getting cameras into the raves," Breen said.

Other than the success of the film, the project also proved to be surprising in another way.

"To my surprise: not much drugs," Kearns said. "A lot of dancing. It's a really special-type atmosphere, there's people just having fun."

Breen agreed that drug usage seemed to be lower than expected, but he said it still existed.

"It was kind of interesting to see people using ecstasy," he said. "It was interesting to see it firsthand."

Kearns and Breen are both currently working on their own projects and all three have plans to continue making films.

"I just want to do independent stuff on the side," Kearns said.

"Eventually, I'd like to make narrative films," Breen said. "Move to California, try my luck there."

"I'm aiming toward media," Abate said.

Vazquez is very pleased with her students' success.

"It's very rewarding for me to have students that go beyond me," Vazquez said. "I'm thrilled and very proud of all three of them."

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# Potentially disturbing 9/11 artwork removed

○ Silhouettes of WTC jumpers agitate viewers

By Ula Illytzyk

Associated Press

A Queens arts center has removed a controversial window display of human silhouettes depicting those who jumped or fell to their deaths from the World Trade Center.

The Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning said the artwork, which went up Sept. 11, was taken down on Tuesday. It had originally planned to keep it up through Oct. 5.

The silhouette display—placed in the windowpanes of the center's neo-Renaissance building—is the second work of art depicting falling WTC victims to be removed in less than a week in New York. Officials at the arts center—a nonprofit, multidisciplinary organization that works closely with numerous city cultural and educational groups—confirmed the removal but had no immediate comment.

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall said, "I'm delighted and relieved. Taking it down was the appropriate thing to do."

A photo of artist Sharon Paz's white, 10-inch silhouette human

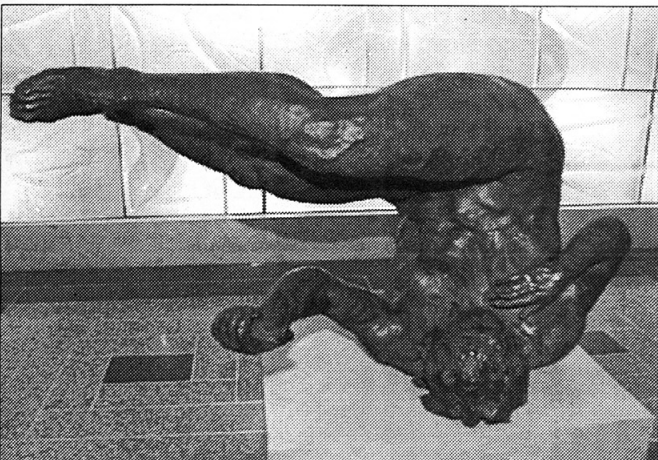
forms in various falling positions remained on her website Wednesday. In an accompanying statement, Paz said, "My interest was to explore the moment of falling to bring the psychological human side of the event, the moment between life and death."

"I think it is a strong piece, but I didn't mean in any way for it to be offensive or insensitive. People react different. This was my way to confront the event. I believe fear will not disappear if you will close your eyes."

Last Wednesday, a bronze statue of a naked woman—her arms and legs flailing above her head, as if in a backward somersault—was abruptly removed from Rockefeller Center following complaints that it was insensitive to victims of the attacks.

The piece, "Tumbling Woman," had been on display about a week.

Its artist, Eric Fischl, said the sculpture was intended as "a sincere expression of deepest sympathy for the vulnerability of the human condition, both specifically toward the victims of Sept. 11 and toward humanity in general."



Rick Gentile/AP

"Tumbling Woman" was removed Sept. 25 from Rockefeller Center amid concerns it was insensitive to 9/11 survivors. The work, along with a Queens photo exhibit, was to commemorate those who leaped from the World Trade Center.

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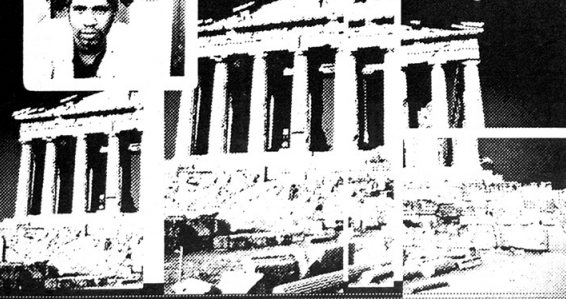
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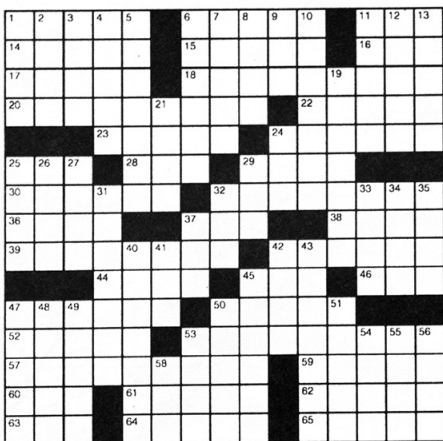
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Crossword

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- 6 Moocher
- 11 Links org.
- 14 Humiliate
- 15 Dwight's rival
- 16 Fall behind
- 17 "The Last Supper," for example
- 18 Entirely unlike
- 20 Art of the inanimate
- 22 Reveal
- 23 Temperamental
- 24 Expel from a country
- 25 Diligent insect
- 28 "Born in the ..."
- 29 Calendar span
- 30 Beds down on a branch
- 32 Four-time U.S. Open golf champion
- 36 Legendary lawman
- 37 Keg feature
- 38 Earthenware pot
- 39 Merino breeder
- 42 Clumsy
- 44 African nation
- 45 "Mr. ..."
- 46 ... constrictor
- 47 Beatty/Hoffman movie of 1987
- 50 Artist Jasper
- 52 Chicago airport
- 53 Roads across water
- 57 Fund-raising events
- 59 Philosopher
- Kierkegaard
- 60 Jurist Fortas
- 61 Hautboys
- 62 Singer Lopez
- 63 For example
- 64 Actor Nick
- 65 Beer stimulant



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09/30/02

Solutions

- 8 Other
- 9 Baseball hat
- 10 Racetrack near Miami
- 11 "Phaedo" author
- 12 Gainesville athlete
- 13 Contract negotiator
- 19 Strong admonition
- 21 Minus money
- 24 Cub Scout unit
- 25 Belligerent god
- 26 Biblical ark-tect
- 27 Ripped up
- 29 Casual agreement
- 31 Gloucester ghost
- 32 Forbid
- 33 Silver-tongued
- 34 Furthermore
- 35 Okinawa port
- 37 Small boy
- 40 Touring car
- 41 Damage
- 42 Aahs' partners
- 43 General pardon
- 45 Fluffy dessert
- 47 Small amounts
- 48 Yul Brynner film, "Solomon and ..."
- 49 Bill ... and the Comets
- 50 Singer Jackson
- 51 Vowed
- 53 Neato!
- 54 Opera song
- 55 Urges
- 56 Annoying fit
- 58 SHO rival

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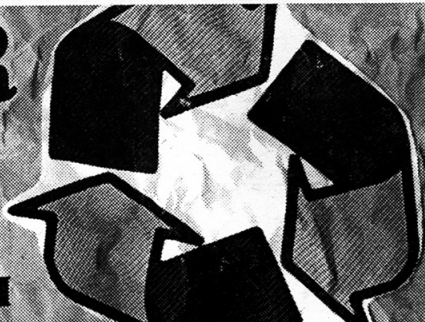
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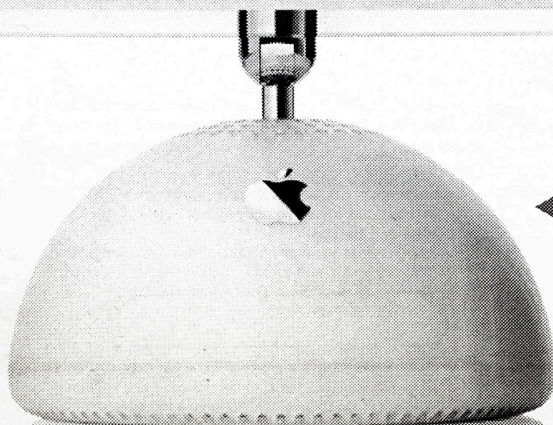
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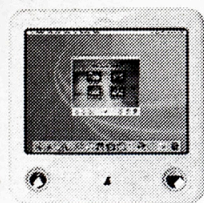
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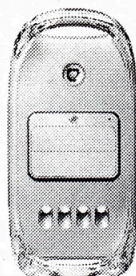
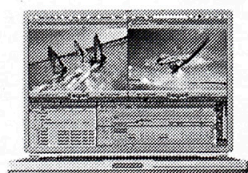


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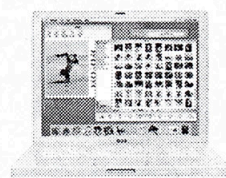


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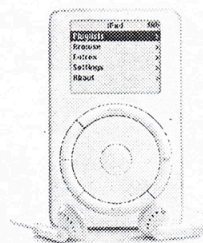
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## Sports

### News and Notes

#### Jordan will play in 2003

Michael Jordan put speculation to rest last Thursday by announcing he will fulfill the two-year contract he signed with the Washington Wizards last season. Jordan's future became uncertain after knee problems forced him to miss 22 games and resulted in a season-ending surgery. Jordan, who turns 40 in February, averaged nearly 23 points per game with 5.7 boards and 5.2 assists.

Still unclear is Jordan's present role on the team. Wizards' coach Doug Collins has mentioned using Jordan as a sixth man at shooting guard after acquiring Jerry Stackhouse, Larry Hughes and Bryon Russell during the off-season. Jordan said he expects a decision from Collins this week after the startup of Wizards' training camp.

#### Brewers name new president, general manager

Ulice Payne—a managing partner at the Foley & Lardner law firm—became the first black president of a Major League Baseball team last week, replacing Milwaukee Brewers' president Wendy Selig-Prieb. Former Texas Rangers general manager Doug Melvin is also replacing Brewers' GM Dean Taylor.

Selig-Prieb, daughter of MLB Commissioner Bud Selig, will remain a part of the Brewers organization, becoming the newly appointed board chair. Selig-Prieb's decision to lessen her involvement with the team and oust Taylor is a result of the Brewers completing the worst season in the team's 34-year history.

#### Expos could move to Puerto Rico in 2004

Charles Vaughn, a 33-year-old Atlanta businessman, has assembled a group of investors interested in buying the Montreal Expos and moving them to San Juan, Puerto Rico in 2004. Vaughn has reportedly spent 10 months putting the group together, which announced last week that it would apply to purchase the Expos. The Expos are currently the only team owned by the MLB and are being sought by additional investors in Washington, D.C.; Portland, Ore.; Charlotte, N.C.; and Las Vegas. Though the team's future is still in question, the decision whether or not to sell them to private investors could be made as early as this winter.

#### Sir Charles and E.J. to host new TNT talkshow

Former NBA all-star and TNT analyst Charles Barkley will co-host a new weekly talk show with TNT's "Inside the NBA" host Ernie Johnson. Beginning Oct. 31, "Listen Up! Charles Barkley with Ernie Johnson" will air every Thursday at 6 p.m. and segue into TNT's NBA coverage. Barkley will also begin making weekly appearances on CNN's "TalkBack Live" during the 2002 NBA season.

#### Rolen to extend contract with Cards for \$90 million

St. Louis Cardinals third baseman, Scott Rolen has reportedly agreed to sign a \$90-million contract agreeing to an eight-year extension with the team. According to ESPN.com, if Rolen signs he will be the highest paid player in Cardinals history. Rolen was traded to St. Louis from the Philadelphia Phillies in July and helped the team clinch the NL Central title. Rolen repeatedly turned down a seven-year contract worth the same amount of money with the struggling Phillies.

#### Commentary

## Title IX out of proportion

○ Both genders at equal risk of losing scholarships, funding

By Nick McAuley

Daily Trojan

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES—Thirty years ago, women had few, if any, prospects for continuing a high school athletic career into college.

Title IX changed all that.

With its adoption in 1972, the beginning of a long walk to even footing for female athletes began.

Based on what you believe, however, Title IX either hasn't done enough for female college athletes or it has done way too much to male college athletes.

There are three main tenets of Title IX, but the one that is most hotly contested is the one dealing with "proportionality." This tenet states that sports opportunities at a university must be proportional to the percentages of males and females on campus.

This means that if a school has 50 percent women and 50 percent men, 50 percent of the scholarships and funding need to be given to athletes of each sex.

Unfortunately, there is no rule setting guidelines as to how universities need to go about achieving this balance.

Frequently, instead of adding women's teams and scholarships, schools will eliminate men's sports, obviously not how the people that wrote Title IX envisioned things.

Many times groups of plaintiffs, often composed of players and coaches from extinct men's teams, have tried to challenge the legality by suing their respective universities for reinstatement of their teams. None of these lawsuits have ever been successful, with judges wary to make a case law defining judgment about such a hot-button topic.

Instead of having to decide the nuances of Title IX in court, a group of level-headed people are needed to get together and make some decisions that will affect the world of college sports forever.

Here's what they need to do:

First, eliminate any teams that make enough money to be self-sufficient from the proportionality discussion. Generally, this would mean football and men's basketball would not be considered. The reason for this is that it allows all the sports that would

be receiving any of the federal funds given to the school to get an equal piece of the pie without having the numbers skewed by the 85-scholarship monster: football.

Second, don't just remove football from the equation. I used to believe this, thinking that all schools made money with football and that it shouldn't be considered when determining how much money women's crew and men's volleyball should get. However, football is very expensive and a lot of football programs are not self-sufficient. Any sport that is drawing funds from the general pool needs to be considered together. If this results in some schools dropping football, so be it.

Third, allow donors to give money to specific sports and not have that affect the Title IX proportionality. If I want to give \$1 million to women's volleyball to endow scholarships and build new facilities, they should get to live like queens and have as many scholarship athletes on the roster as the rules allow. They should not have to make themselves even with a sport that doesn't get the same donations.

Fourth, don't allow the cutting of programs and scholarships in order for universities to get into compliance with Title IX. Even if it takes a little longer and requires a little more fundraising, it's better for everyone involved if a school has full men's and women's soccer teams and doesn't have to cut men's soccer to accommodate women's soccer.

Of course, none of these things will happen in the near future. Far too many people have fought over Title IX and emotions run very high.

Understandably, women are reluctant to grant concessions to men for fear that they will lose the significant progress that has been made over the past three decades. Men, on the other hand, are getting more and more bitter at having to feel like second-class citizens because of Title IX and certainly feel as though changes are necessary.

For the good of all college athletes, both male and female, significant changes have to be made to Title IX. Let's hope they're made before too many more athletes of either gender have to give up their sporting careers because of bickering and misguided attempts at complying with a very good law.

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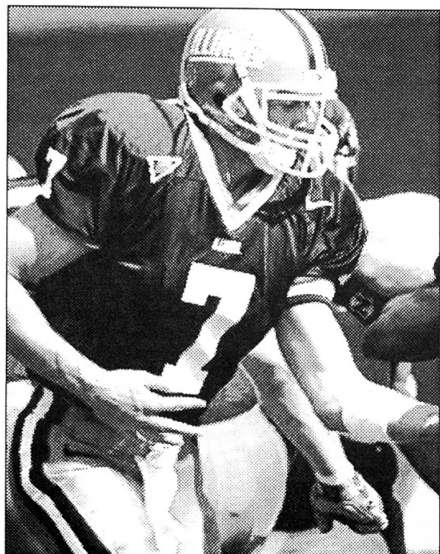
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# Twist of fate for local college football teams

○ Illini off to poor start, Wildcats' defense hurting while Irish seek BCS bid



AP Photo by Tom Roberts

Jon Beutjer replaced Justin Ward as Illinois' starting quarterback.

**By Rudolph Sanchez**  
Contributing Writer

It seems there has been a reversal of fortune for the University of Illinois and Notre Dame football teams this year. Notre Dame is off to a 4-0 record and Illinois and Northwestern can't seem to get on track.

One major concern for the Fighting Irish is the status of starting quarterback Carlyle Holiday, who was replaced by backup Pat Dillingham after injuring his shoulder in the third quarter against Michigan State. It remains to be seen whether or not he will be able to play against Stanford on Oct. 5.

Dillingham completed three of six passes for 84 yards. This included the game-winning touchdown to Arnaz Battle with less than two minutes left to play. The Irish was able to overcome an unbelievable touchdown catch by Michigan State receiver Charles Rogers.

New Notre Dame Coach Tyrone Willingham has brought a sense of pride back to a storied program that has been plagued by a lack of discipline the last few seasons. The defense is playing with a renewed enthusiasm and the offense is keeping mistakes to a minimum.

Despite the team's 4-0 start, there are some problems that will need to be fixed if the Irish are to have a shot at a BCS bid.

The defense carries the team. Notre Dame did not score on offense the first two games of the season.

Starting quarterback Holiday's skill have been in question—and when he returns from his injury, look for him to get even more pressure from opponents.

One team that can't seem to win games it should is the Fighting Illini. They suffered a heartbreaking defeat to San Jose State. A last-minute field goal by Spartan (2-2) kicker Nick Gilliam sealed the win. The Illini (1-3) offense certainly kept the game close by putting up 35 points in the loss. Unfortunately, the defense gave up 38 points.

Illinois was not able to find a true starting quarterback when the season began. They have since settled on Jon Beutjer. The Iowa transfer threw four TDs in the loss. He has thrown for a monster 703 yards and eight touchdowns in his first two starts as an Illini quarterback.

The defense, however, needs to start dealing with all of its problems. First, they can't seem to tackle anyone. Secondly, their pass defense must improve. Illinois opens the Big Ten season against Michigan.

The Northwestern Wildcats are another team that can put some monster points on the board. But when you give up 678 yards of total offense and 40 points to Navy, you are asking for trouble. Fortunately for coach Randy Walker, the Wildcats put up 49 points of their own to move their record to 2-2.

Wildcats' wide receiver Jason Wright ran for 186 yards and three touchdowns and quarterback Brett Basanez threw for 260 yards. Northwestern scored no fewer than two touchdowns in all but one quarter in the win over Navy.

## Stark

Continued from Back Page

Miller, analyst Dan Fouts and Eric Dickerson, who, like Stark, served as a sideline reporter, were let go.

John Madden, the former Oakland Raiders coach and a longtime analyst for CBS, then Fox, has joined Michaels in a streamlined booth this season.

Stark, in her third year with "MNF," is not featured in commercials promoting the telecasts or with the clips that go with the show's "Are You Ready for Some Football" theme song. But she is an essential part of the team. Sharp and savvy, she consistently receives high marks from television critics and colleagues.

According to USA Today, Stark is one of 127 women who hold on-air sports positions with one of the three major

she majored in foreign affairs and Spanish, Stark developed a love for journalism. Just a year after her graduation in 1995, she landed a job with ESPN, covering high school athletics. But with high-quality work and pleasant on-camera appearance, she climbed quickly.

In a two-day span in 2000, Stark said, her finance proposed, she reported on the U.S. Open golf tournament, and she hooked the opportunity of a lifetime with "MNF."

"It's been the best thing that's ever happened to me," she said. "I never thought I would be on 'Monday Night Football.'"

Although her hiring raised concern among critics—she replaced seasoned reporter Lesley Visser—Stark seems to

rephrasing her questions.

"You have to be completely comfortable with your information and knowledge of the game," she said. "Otherwise, you're going to get crushed. Players can sense that in a second. You earn your respect through your work."

Stark spends her week calling coaches, researching players and teams on the Internet reading stacks of newspaper articles, and brainstorming to come up with story ideas. She arrives at the stadium at least three hours before kickoff. Before game time, she follows a story, looking for the most up-to-date information. She has already built a reputation for knowing her stuff.

"You can tell she studies," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "The players and

female sports reporter. And at a nationally televised golf tournament this summer, Jack Nicklaus told her that she looked nice—but could she please move her shadow out of his line.

"There will always, always be people who are uncomfortable with women talking to them about sports," Stark said.

"People always ask, 'Do you think you and other women got your jobs because of your looks?' There's no way. We wouldn't be able to handle the situations that we're in.

"It's no longer the days where you don't have to think on your feet and someone is whispering in your ear. We work our butts off."

Stark is quick enough—even in those



Photos courtesy of <http://community-2.webtv.net/JJACONETTA/MelissaStark/>

networks and nine prominent cable networks.

"There's nothing more challenging or nothing more rewarding," Stark said of her job.

Stark grew up with the Baltimore Colts. Her father, Walter, was an eye doctor for the team and used to take Stark and her siblings to the games. At halftime, Stark would follow her father to the locker room, where he would check on any eye injuries. She even learned to throw a spiral from Bert Jones, who played quarterback for the Colts from 1973 to 1981.

Sports, Stark said, have always been a part of her life. She was captain of her high school tennis team.

"It was never like I played with dolls," she said.

At the University of Virginia, where

have established herself.

Madden said that only once has he congratulated a player after a game, the Dallas Cowboys' Emmitt Smith. He also said that only once has he congratulated a sideline reporter after a game. That was Stark, after the Hall of Fame exhibition game between the New York Giants and Houston Texans in Canton, Ohio, on Aug. 5.

"I said, 'You did a really great job. That's as good as it gets,'" Madden recalled.

Earning respect, Stark said, takes time—especially for female reporters.

When she began, Stark said, interviews were sometimes mistaken for flirtation, especially when she would ask athletes for their phone numbers in order to contact them for stories. Some players tried to test her sports knowledge by

coaches respond well to her. That's a tough, tough job. She handles it very professionally."

A recent study revealed that while female sportscasters receive the same likeability ratings as male sportscasters, they are not regarded as having as high a level of sports knowledge. The study also shows that while females are being accepted more and more on the field, the same respect the males receive, is still not there.

As much as Stark, blond-haired and blue-eyed, is known for her professionalism, she frequently is referenced by her attractive appearance. Male fans whistle, scream her name, and ask her to marry them while she is trying to work—she never gives them a glance. She has been a candidate in Playboy magazine's poll to determine the sexiest

high-heeled boots—to avoid being an inadvertent part of a sideline collision. And she had to duck and run when beer bottles started flying from the Superdome stands during a game between the New Orleans Saints and visiting St. Louis Rams last year.

Stark said she is more demanding of herself than her critics are.

"I hold myself to the highest of high [standards], so if everyone else holds me to one, that's no problem," she said.

Although Stark said she has no ambition to move into the television booth, she intends to remain in sports broadcasting for now, then move into news broadcasting.

Right now, she is enjoying her view from the sideline.

"It's the best seat in the house," she said.



# Preseason Hawks making progress

○ Ex-Ranger, Olympic gold medalist Fleury brings his talent, baggage to Chicago to replace Amonte

## Melissa Stark wins 'Monday Night Football' fans' hearts

○ Former ESPN reporter returns to sidelines for a third season

By Shannon Ryan

Knight Ridder Newspapers

FOXBORO, Mass.—Melissa Stark has only seconds to find her story. And right now, it is somewhere on the football field, hidden in a forest of sweaty, padded players.

After the New England Patriots beat the Pittsburgh Steelers in the first regular-season NFL game at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro on Sept. 9, the sideline reporter for ABC's "Monday Night Football" needs to get a post-game interview. Quickly.

With microphone in hand—and in high-heeled boots, no less—Stark breaks across the field and nudges her way into a tangle of giant athletes enveloped by coaches, photographers and television cameras.

Then, like a player emerging from a pile with a fumble, Stark appears with her story: Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

Last season's Super Bowl MVP had completed 29 of 43 passes for 294 yards and three touchdowns in the Pats' 30-14 season-opening victory.

Leading Brady by his blue No. 12 jersey to a less crowded part of the field—no simple task in itself—Stark asks questions that elicit just the right responses. With an audience of about 19 million watching, Brady's winning smile produces a glimpse of his trademark dimples.

Assertiveness. Knowledge. Passion.

They are qualities that Stark, 28, said she keeps as close as her notebook in her role as the telecast's only sideline reporter.

On Monday night, she's usually found five to eight yards from the game action. Stark will patrol both sidelines, updating injury reports, providing context and examining strategy.

To armchair quarterbacks, Stark's access may make hers seem like a dream job, and, indeed, she said that it is. What it is, too, is a three-hour challenge to give viewers information that might not be readily obvious.

"It's a much tougher job than people think," said Al Michaels, "MNF's" play-by-play announcer. "She is responsible for everything that happens on the field that needs embellishment. And so far, she's been spot-on."

Faced with declining ratings as it headed into its 33rd season, "MNF" endured yet another off-season personnel overhaul, although Stark and Michaels remained in their roles. Controversial comedian Dennis



Above: The Blackhawks' Jason Strudwick breaks away from Dallas' Steve Ott. Below: Jocelyn Thibault stops a Nashville Predators' shot on goal.

By Dustin Klass

Sports Editor

The Blackhawks have been playing well in the preseason (2-1 at press time) and hope to rectify their first round playoff loss to the St. Louis Blues last season. They continue to prepare for the regular season, which starts on Oct. 10.

The Blackhawks altered their roster in the off-season. They lost right-winger Tony Amonte to free agency. He signed a large contract to play for Wayne Gretzky and the Phoenix Coyotes. Amonte leaves a big gap in the Blackhawks' offense. He scored 26 goals last season and had 39 assists. Defensemen Chris McAlpine and Nolan Baumgartner also left the team as free agents.

A big acquisition in the off-season was Theo Fleury, who brings some baggage with him. The Blackhawks signed Fleury to a two-year, \$8.5 million deal in hopes he will fill Amonte's shoes. He was constantly a disruption while he was with the New York Rangers. The 34-year-old Fleury has battled problems with alcohol—and to make matters worse for him—last season, Fleury threatened to retire if NHL referees did not show him more respect. With 216 penalty minutes, he tied for third among forwards.

Fleury said that he would continue to play the game the way he knows how. "I'm a guy that wears my heart on my sleeve," he said. "Some of the things I did last year, yeah, it was definitely out of character for me. But I'm not going to change my style because of what happened last year."

Fleury played in all 82 games for the Rangers last season and scored 24 goals. He also had 39 assists, giving him

a total of 63 points.

The Blackhawks suffered a setback Sept. 24 after a 5-3 win against the Dallas Stars when they found out that their all-star forward Eric Daze will be out at least six weeks with a herniated disc in his back. Daze underwent surgery last Wednesday, at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and his doctor said it was a success. If his rehab goes well, Daze will miss about 12 regular season games.

The 27-year-old Daze was the MVP of the NHL All-Star game last season, in which he scored two goals and had an assist. He scored a team best and achieved a career-high 38 goals and 70 points.

More off-season signings included center Brett McLean from the Minnesota Wild, defenseman Jason Strudwick from the Vancouver Canucks and left winger Nathan Dempsey from the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The Blackhawks were able to re-sign backup goalie Steve Passmore, who tended in 23 games last season. His record was 8-5-4. Passmore, who is a stable second-string goalie, had a .904 save percentage in the 2001-2002 season. First-string goalie Jocelyn Thibault had a decent season last year, playing in 67 games and earning a 33-23-9 record. He had a .902 save percentage and surrendered a lot of easy goals which reportedly caused the team to lose a little confidence in him.

The Blackhawks are bringing back their best defenseman Jon Klemm. They are also hoping for another big year from center Alexei Zhamnov, who scored 22 goals and had 45 assists in 77 games last season—his best in a Blackhawks uniform. Right-winger Steve Sullivan, is coming off a 60-



AP Photo by Stephen J. Carrera

point season—and the Blackhawks will need another productive year from him if they want to contend for the postseason. Sullivan scored 75 points in the 2000-2001 season, and—if he stays healthy—he is capable of putting up those kind of numbers again.

Blackhawks coach Brian Sutter led the Blackhawks to the playoffs last season for the first time since 1996. He was able to get his players to leave it all on the ice every night, but they were not the most talented team in the league. The loss of Amonte will hurt, and the jury is still out on Fleury.

Remember that the Blackhawks play in the same

division as the 2001-2002 Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings, who only got stronger this year with the addition of all-star goalie Curtis Joseph. They are also in the same division as the Sharks, Avalanche, Blues, Kings and Stars. If they want to make another playoff run, the Blackhawks need to put as much—or more—effort into the regular season as they did last year.

The coolest sport on earth is still a couple of weeks away from facing off in the regular season. With some big name players dressing in new uniforms this year, it is sure to be an interesting hockey season.