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Columbia Chronicle (12/16/2002)

Columbia College Chicago

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COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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Columbia College Chicago

Monday, December 16, 2002

Inside
this week



Commentary

We can't keep
our butts off
the ground

Page 8



A&E

Holiday spirit gets
Chicago into the
swing of things

Page 12



Sports

Pete Rose back
in baseball?
Don't bet on it

Page 17

COLUMBIA
COLLEGE LIBRARY

Video archives hit Columbia

○ Television Dept.
unveils searchable catalog
and database of rare
independent digital videos

By Lisa Balde
Staff Writer

It's the 15 minutes before Nixon's resignation. It's an interview with an angry New York cabbie who's complaining about the impact of television and media on society. It's the footage of a CBS news reporter getting interrupted by passersby as he tries to finish his on-camera stand up.

All this and more can be viewed through the Columbia Television Department's new Digital Independent Video Encyclopedia, which launched Dec. 12 at the Documentary Center in the Film and Video Department.

Created and directed by Artist-in-Residence Tom Weinberg, DIVE currently consists of a database containing thousands of independent video segments.

Each segment is catalogued so database users can type in keywords to search for material on a specific subject.

Once the subject is matched with valid video entries, the database categorizes each segment and displays the segment's title, its creator, its description and its credits.

"It can really be of interest to you,

if you're interested and if you're of a particular mind," Weinberg said. "[DIVE's contents] are personal and independent, sometimes upsetting, sometimes subversive."

Although the project began officially two years ago, Weinberg had been preparing for such an endeavor as this since the 1970s.

"We got a portable video camcorder in 1970," Weinberg said. "It was black-and-white and real clunky. I've been collecting video tapes ever since."

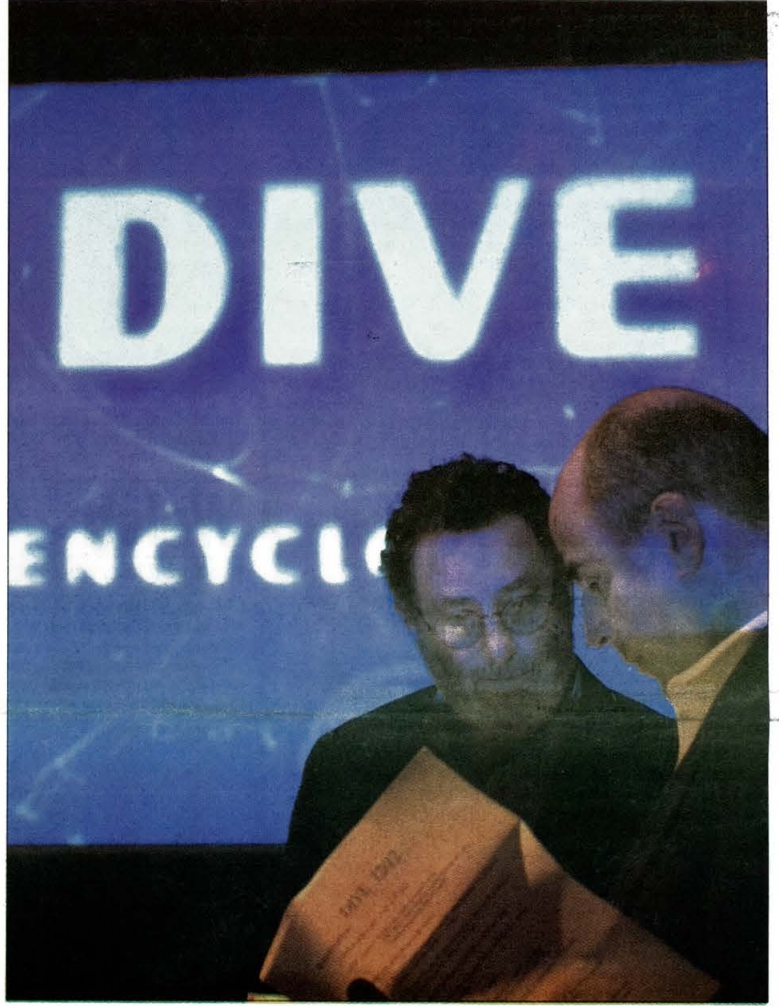
Weinberg is the creator and producer of "Image Union," the WTTW TV show, one of the few outlets during that time that allowed independent films to be showcased. Although the show was introduced back in 1978, it continues to air today.

Many of the video segments that were used on "Image Union," as well as some that were aired on other PBS TV shows, such as "The 90's," "Weekend TV" and "Timeout," are included in DIVE.

As Columbia students and faculty gathered Dec. 12 to see the fresh cataloguing of footage that, in some cases, was nearly 30 years old, they were able to view clips, most of which communicated underlying messages.

Segments such as "Muddy Waters and Rolling Stones at the Checkerboard" and "Media Burn," as well as various documentaries and

See DIVE, page 2



Joe Tambarello/Chronicle

Tom Weinberg (Left), director of DIVE, and Michael Niederman (Right), chair of the Television Dept., look over notes before the DIVE launch party Dec. 12 in the 1104 S. Wabash Ave. building.

Sept. 11 ushers in new rules for foreign students

○ Failure to meet new
requirements can result in
the government punishing
both students and school

By Fernando Diaz
Staff Writer

The federal government is in the final stages of overhauling its monitoring service of non-immigrants. Columbia's administrators and international students are dealing with last-minute updates to the rules and regulations as the higher-education system moves to meet the deadline for compliance.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or SEVIS, is designed to provide "tracking, monitoring, and access to accurate and current information on non-immigrant students [F and M Visa] and exchange visitors [J Visa]," according to the INS, one of the agencies that oversees the program.

"It's kind of intimidating right now but it's not that bad," said Gigi Posejpal, assistant dean of international student affairs.

Initially universities and students

would be obligated to use the new electronic monitoring system by Jan. 30, 2003. But at a meeting here in Chicago for school administrators in November, an official from the SEVIS program extended the date indefinitely until sometime next spring, Posejpal said.

Schools around the country were charged with developing their own software, sourcing it from third-party vendors or accepting what the government has prepared. Jenzabar, the Massachusetts-based company that is developing the OASIS system for Columbia, is also handling the software for SEVIS.

Alec Ott, director of marketing at Jenzabar, said they are also developing software for other schools as well. "SEVIS will be released for beta testing in December, with general availability expected in January," he said.

The software will feature data-entry screens for elements that have yet to be added and will have the ability to track and print changes.

In preparation, the Office of International Student Affairs is hosting

See SEVIS, page 2

'Trainspotting' author and Irish writer join Fiction faculty

○ New instructors to
teach classes in Scottish and
Irish writers, fiction seminars

By Randy J. Klodz
Staff Writer

Columbia will be welcoming the addition of two nationally known writers, Irvine Welsh and Antonia Logue, to its Fiction Writing Department for the spring 2003 semester, when each writer will begin teaching courses.

Irvine Welsh, the Scottish author better known for his book-turned-indie-film *Trainspotting*, will join the Columbia faculty as a visiting artist-in-residence and will teach courses entitled Fiction Seminar and Critical Reading and Writing: Contemporary Scottish Writers.

Welsh is also scheduled to make an appearance during Story Week, a series that has drawn quite a crowd for Welsh in the past.

The announcement of the faculty additions for the spring semester has created a buzz within the Fiction Writing Department and is likely to stir citywide interest for the program.

"He's kind of like a rock star who's a great writer," said Gary Johnson, graduate program coordinator for the Fiction Writing Department. "Students emulate him—he's not a lightweight."

"I'm not too formal," Welsh said. "You have to start from the belief that people have the talent and the desire to do well. I'll try to operate on as much of a needs-orientated basis as I can."

According to Don De Grazia—fiction-writing instructor at Columbia, and author of the acclaimed novel *American Skin*, Welsh's helped change the perception in London that "Scots don't read."

"Obviously, that was ridiculous," De Grazia said. "The reason Scots—with their glorious literary tradition—weren't buying much contemporary literary fiction was because not much was being published about the Scottish experience."

According to Johnson, another positive attribute regarding Welsh's writing style is his use of simple language.

"He writes in dialect, the way people speak," Johnson said. "We're trying to get our students to do this, get students to find their own voice in their writing."

Though he does not currently reside in

See Welsh, page 2

CAMPUS NEWS

SEVIS

Continued from Front Page

workshops to alert students about the program and updates which are intended to streamline the information collection process. Posejpal said they plan to offer the workshops on an ongoing basis to keep students abreast of further changes.

Posejpal has also informed the administration at-large of the project to clear up any confusion and it already seems to be working. One student was sent to her by a faculty member to ask about a course schedule change, she said.

A key component of the new process requires that students report changes in their status within 10 days to the Office of International Student Affairs, which will then send the changes to the INS electronically. In addition to the information already submitted, students will now have to report changes in their course load, major, and finances.

Once implemented, the strict policy could deal harsh punishments for not following the rules. If students fail to communicate these changes or fail to do so in a timely manner, they could violate their status and ultimately face losing their visa.

"A lot of things that you've been doing when you get around to it, have to be done within the 10-day window," Posejpal said.

"Failure to do any of these things can result in a penalty not only to you, but to us. We could even go to jail," Posejpal said at a workshop. She asked students there to notify her of anything they plan to do in order to eliminate the chance that small details might set off false alarms.

After passing the first stage of certification, an investigator surveys the school.

The investigators gave Posejpal a list of five students as a test-run to assess the validity of their visas. She said that an inconsistency in a student's grades, or course load would have required an explanation. If Columbia, or any university, is found at fault, it could lose its ability to grant I-20s, which foreign students must have to study here.

"It's becoming worse and worse to be a student here," said Christophe Catala, an undergraduate film major from France, who was planning to take only nine credits next semester.

Under the new rules, international students will have to take full course loads, 12 for undergraduate and nine for graduates. If they plan to pursue an internship, they must check with the Office of International Student Affairs to make sure it does not break any rules. Due to their visa status, international students have limited opportunities for employment where a paid internship might not be possible.

Citing the increased flow of information, Adi Bauman, 24, a digital technology major from Israel said, "It sounds like the government is trying to cover [themselves]. If someone wants to get away with something, they can."

The initiative originally developed as a response to the 1993 World Trade Center bombings, but was later invigorated with an infusion of \$38.5 million in 1996 to speed the conversion of its paper-based system into an electronic Internet-enabled database that would make the process more efficient.

In the aftermath of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, it was discovered that several of the hijackers and suspects had entered the country on student visas. It was also learned that some of them had also trained at flight schools.

SEVIS's monitoring extends itself to all F, J, and M class visa holders and their dependents. This includes universities, community colleges, high school foreign exchange students, and the dependents of non-immigrants with one of those visas. This would also include flight training schools, where the names of applicants are now sent to Attorney General John Ashcroft's office.

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

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Around Campus



The Dr. Curtis Prince Jazz Quartet plays at the Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration, held Monday, Dec. 9, in the Hokin Hall, 623 S. Wabash Ave. at 2 p.m. The celebration also featured Dr. Conrad Worrill of Northeastern Illinois State University.

Mike Schmidt/Chronicle

Welsh

Continued from Front Page

Chicago, Welsh said he is optimistic about the city and his initial impression of Columbia has been positive.

"I was shown great friendship and I thought it would be a nice place to spend some time," Welsh said. "Additionally, I have a lot of work in the United

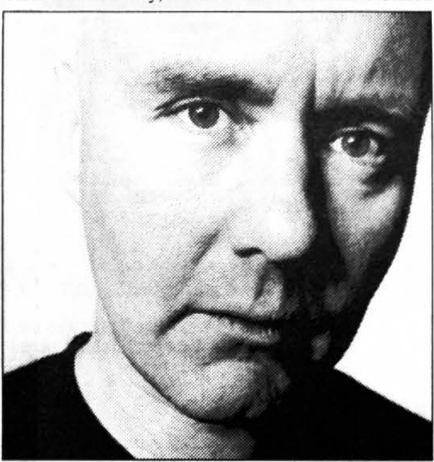


Photo courtesy of Random House

New Columbia Fiction faculty member Irvine Welsh.

States and it makes sense to be based there for a bit."

Welsh's new novel, *Porno*, the sequel to *Trainspotting*, was released in September.

Other fiction titles by Welsh include: *The Acid House*, *Ecstasy*, *Marabou Stork Nightmare* and *Glue*.

Welsh and De Grazia are both published by Jonathan Cape, the London publishing house to which De Grazia first sold *American Skin*.

"Welsh was the reason I sent my book there in the first place," De Grazia said.

Antonia Logue, an Irish writer known for her novel *Shadowbox*, which won the 1999 Irish Times Literature Award for an Irish Novel, will join the Fiction Writing Department as a full-time faculty member while teaching courses entitled Fiction Seminar and Critical Reading and Writing: Irish Writers.

"She seems to be very excited about the diversity at Columbia, as well as the basic teaching philosophy of the department, which views storytelling as a universal gift—one that all students, regardless of their social or academic backgrounds, can excel at if they are encouraged to utilize their own unique voices," De Grazia said.

Though Welsh does not know Logue personally, he said he's excited about having the chance to work with her.

"I think it's great that people from different writing backgrounds can come in and share their experiences and skills with student writers," Welsh said. "We're all student writers."

DIVE

Continued from Front Page

TV commercials served as commentary on money and TV and the role of the press.

"Our goal is to establish and perpetuate the collection," Weinberg said.

He said he hopes that, with the help of his work aides Nerissa Hamlin and Patrick O'Connell, DIVE will have a spot in the library as an archive that can be easily used by students at Columbia and across the United States. Weinberg said he also hopes to digitize everything onto DVDs and hard drives.

Although the program has been set up on the Internet, it isn't yet available to the public.

Until the database is fully accessible to a general audience, students are welcome to view parts of the collection in the Film Department.



Joe Tambarello/Chronicle

Tom Weinberg (left) and friend Mio Popadic (right) chat at the DIVE screening on the fifth floor of the 1104 S. Wabash Ave. building.

BE-HIV gives free AIDS Tests

○ Free condoms, tests part of health fair and AIDS awareness

By Michael DesEnfants

Staff Writer

Students filled the Hokin Annex on Dec. 5, to take part in day four of Columbia's first AIDS Awareness Week. The day's events, included some students practicing yoga and picking up handouts from health organizations from across Chicago.

Groups such as the Asian Health Coalition of Illinois and Amigos Latinos Apoyando Siempre (a social and support group for gay and bisexual people) were actively distributing information regarding AIDS awareness. The Columbia Health Center also sent workers to promote health awareness.

The organization BE-HIV (Better Existence With HIV) conducted free and anonymous HIV testing. According to Victoria Shannon, health fair organizer and coordinator of gay and lesbian student concerns at Columbia, 31 students came in for testing. Shannon said that so many students showed up for testing that an additional person was called upon to help with the demand.

Shannon said she was pleased with the awareness the events generated and hopes to continue

with the fair for years to come.

"The issue is on the back burner. People think we [do not] have a problem anymore because people have stopped dying in large numbers," Shannon said. "[But] people are still getting infected."

The City of Chicago was scheduled to conduct free testing for some STDs at the health fair, but did not make it to the event. Shannon said, however, that members of the Howard Brown Health Center would be coming to Columbia once a month to conduct inexpensive STD testing. BE-HIV will also come once a month for HIV testing, according to Shannon.

Carlos Perez, Columbia alumnus and information service coordinator at Test Positive Aware Network, said he was very pleased with the steady flow of students coming in for information brochures and free condoms.

"We are very interested in coming back to help with the health fair for many years," Perez said.

Shannon said she has little difficulty getting organizations to come to Columbia and help with awareness. "Everyone was interested in the college and very willing to come out and help," she said. "It is great to establish relationships outside of the college." Shannon said she hopes that, with all the attention the health fair generated, the school will continue to observe AIDS Awareness Week.

Spertus more than meets eye

○ 'What's in that building?' One staff writer finds out

By Lisa Balde

Staff Writer

It's happened to us all.

You're late for class, walking north along South Michigan Avenue against a frigid wall of wind that seems to blow in your face from every direction. Turning left, you catch a glimpse of a familiar site just before the 600 S. Michigan Ave. building. You've seen it a million times, but chances are you don't even know what they do in there.

Few people know much about the building at all, except that it is called the Spertus Institute, the name written on its facade. Other than that, there's only one thing most students know for sure: This mysterious place exists right between two of Columbia's biggest campus buildings.

More than 70 years ago, a man named Alexander Dushkin was appointed by the Board of Jewish Education of Chicago to run the College of Jewish Studies, a place where people could go to learn about all aspects of Judaism through a higher educational program.

In 1924, Dushkin started the fledgling school that, at that time, didn't even reside in one designated building and had a roster of only five students.

It turned out that the college became a huge success, and, as its student body got consistently bigger, the

mission of the growing institution was recognized among the public. In 1945, according to the Encyclopedia Judaica, it was designated a Not-for-Profit Illinois Corporation, and, by 1946, the school received its very own building.

The story of the College of Jewish Studies didn't end there. After several building and director changes, as well as multiple evolutions within the curriculum, it now stands at 618 S. Michigan Ave., right in the middle of our campus.

Divided into three main entities, the Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies includes not only a college, but also a library and museum. But, it doesn't stop there. The Spertus events for people in every age range, whether they are Jewish or not. (Out of the 75,000 people who took part in Spertus activities last year, 45 percent are not Jewish.)

It is not uncommon to see busloads of grade-school children waiting to get into the Spertus, which houses the largest Jewish museum in the United States.

The Spertus Museum offers a number of rotating exhibits throughout the year that correspond with some of the educational requirements set for Chicago public schools. Trained educators lead groups or classes through the museum, teaching visitors about topics such as ancient civilization, archeology and the history of Judaism.

Two of the biggest attractions include the Zell Holocaust Memorial, which, according to Associate Curator of Education Amy Neuman, focuses on the

See Spertus, page 5

City Year new opportunity for volunteering

○ AmeriCorps-affiliated program comes to Columbia this year

By Ryan Bishop

Staff Writer

Students looking to take a year off from their studies at Columbia, or other colleges in the city, have a unique and exciting opportunity. City Year, a nonprofit organization and a member of the AmeriCorps network, is a national service organization that looks for 17- to 24-year-olds, and provides them with a year of full-time volunteer service.

Members of City Year approached Paul Camic, internship coordinator of the Cultural Studies program, last month in an effort to reach out to Columbia students. Camic said he was thrilled about the opportunity to get students involved and is now helping to promote the leadership service development on campus.

"We are going to do a presentation to students in Chicago, and will be giving them an option for an internship of office work in the City Year program," Camic said. "Cultural Studies students will have priority on internships but we will be looking at all applications." According to Camic, the program is ideal for students who have graduated and are not sure what they want to do next or for students who merely want to take a year off.

"Students work in a democratic environment and gain a tremendous amount of valuable experience," Camic said. Beginning in late August, students chosen to be corps members will serve as tutors and mentors for Chicago Public School children. The program consists of one-on-one literacy tutoring and diversity-focused afterschool programs. According to Johnny Barr of City Year, the organization is looking to fill 140

full-time positions.

City Year offers its members several benefits; a \$4,725 education award for future education or loan repayment, a \$200 weekly stipend, health insurance and a CTA travel pass. The program is geared to those with skills in project management, research or public speaking.

University of Illinois at Chicago, Loyola and University of Chicago students will be offered the chance to participate in this year's AmeriCorps programs. According to Camic, training for City Year will take place in the University of Chicago and Chicago Public Schools throughout the month of September, in what is called The Basic Training Academy.

The training regimen consists of classroom management sessions, teamwork training and education about the different neighborhoods the students will be working in.

Beth Marco, who now works for City Year, participated in the AmeriCorps program last year. After graduating from college, she said she acquired an interest in nonprofit organizations.

"After this incredible experience, I decided to completely switch to being a teacher," Marco said. "This is a program where a lot of members learn about themselves and get a better feel of what to do for the next year of their life. You learn how to deal with diverse groups and students."

To apply for full-time positions with City Year, students should attend an information session, submit a complete application, including essays and two letters of recommendation. Students are encouraged to apply early to improve their chances of getting in.

Prospective members can reach Beth Marco at (312) 423-7162 to obtain an application and sign up for an information session. Visit www.cityyear.org to download an application and research information.

The Editor's Desk



Georgia Evdoxiadis

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Well, Columbia, I just *have* to stick my spoon into the pot of political turmoil for a steaming helping of what is now the "Trent Lott Fiasco."

In case you haven't heard, here's the deal: Senate Minority Leader Lott was at fellow Sen. Strom Thurmond's 100th birthday party when he decided to let loose with some jokes and banter about the Strominator's political career. Sometime during the speech, however, Lott descended into musings of a different nature.

"I want to say this about my state," Lott said. "When Strom Thurmond ran for president [in 1948], we voted for him. We're proud of it. And if the rest of the country had followed our lead, we wouldn't have had all these problems over the years, either."

"All these problems"? As in, desegregation? As in, anti-lynching laws? That's right folks, when Thurmond ran for president, the "Dixiecrat" platform focused completely on fighting integration and civil rights.

In 1948, Thurmond said this on the campaign trail: "All the laws of Washington and the bayonets of the army cannot force the Negro into our homes, our schools, our churches." Thurmond has since repudiated his past views on the issue and has hired minorities to work in his office. But Lott, apparently, nostalgically wishes for the old days.

All I can say is, it's pretty pathetic when you're less enlightened than Strom Thurmond.

OK, so, that's not all I can say. I can also say that 20 years ago, Lott made comments of an eerily similar nature. At a rally for Thurmond, he said, if "we had elected [Thurmond] 30 years ago, we wouldn't be in the mess we are today."

So when Lott appeared on "Larry King Live" and Sean Hannity's radio show on Dec. 11 and said that when he said "all these problems," he was talking about national defense, he was lying. That's right—lying. Say what you will about the '80s, but national defense was not one of our weaknesses.

And the fun doesn't end there. Lott also argued on the Hannity show that his office has hired African-American interns, and he said on "Larry King Live" that Mississippi has elected more African-Americans than any other state. This is supposed to be the evidence that shows he's not racist? Come on.

But, should Lott resign as leader of the Republican Party in the Senate? I say no way. I can't wait until the next election, when whoever runs against him gets to use this in his or her best commercial. Picture a black-and-white picture of Lott repeating those stupid comments over and over and over and over. Excellent. I'd rather watch Lott go down in the flames of a lost election than in a quiet resignation.

Oddly enough, however, many disagree with me. Even Republicans. Andrew Sullivan, a Republican pundit, has called for Lott to be fired. Jack Kemp, another Republican and former ally of Lott's has called the statements "inexplicable, indefensible and inexcusable." Conservative groups, including the Family Research Council, have called for Lott's resignation.

And of course Rev. Jesse Jackson, the hypocrite who once called New York "hymietown," has weighed in on the matter. It was Jackson's words that Lott used when he said on Dec. 11, in apology No. 2, that his remarks were a "mistake of the head, not the heart." The Rev. Al Sharpton has planned to meet with Republican Party leaders to discuss Lott, and former Vice President Al Gore was one of the first Democrats out of the gate.

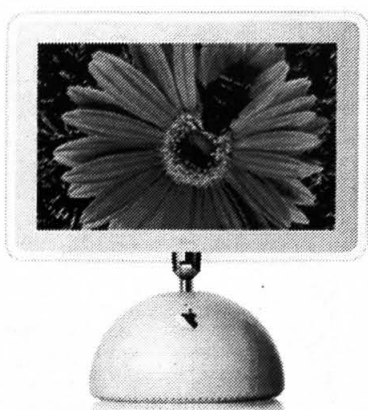
Whoa-ha! Only George Bush has failed to come out against Lott, but that's only a matter of time. GWB will do anything to protect the shining suit of armor Sept. 11 bought him. And if this furor goes on much longer, Lott will get dumped faster than a Dixie cup of tobacco spit. How's that for a Mississippi metaphor?

The really interesting addition to all the brouhaha is that it was the bloggers who first got up in arms against Lott's remarks. Sullivan and Matt Drudge were putting it on the virtual "front pages" of their websites while the New York Times and the Washington Post were pretty much ignoring the issue.

The Washington Times covered it as a "Black lawmakers upset with Daschle" story. Initially, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle didn't come out very hard against Lott (big surprise) and many African-American groups, including the Congressional Black Caucus and the NAACP, criticized him for not doing so.

Meanwhile, CNN, who had cameras at the original freakin' event, didn't get down to seriously covering the matter until Dec. 11, five days after the remarks were originally made. That's a millennium, journalistically speaking.

It doesn't appear, as of press time, that Lott is going to be forced out of his position, but you never know. Either way, Gore's a winner and I'm a happy lady. As the great poet Deborah Harry once said, "The tide is high, and I'm moving on."



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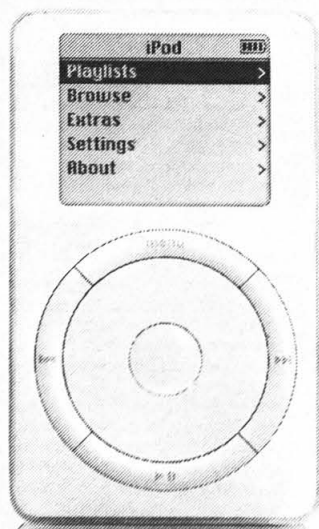
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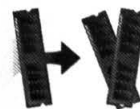
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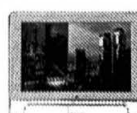
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Human Rights panel discusses journalism issues

○ Columbia's President announces Human Rights conference at Chicago Hilton and Towers, May 5-8

By Georgia Evdoliadis

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Members of Chicago's diplomatic and journalistic community, along with Columbia faculty and students, gathered in the Hokin Annex on Dec. 10 for a morning celebration of U.N. Human Rights Day.

The day, which marks the 54th anniversary of the creation of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is observed worldwide.

Columbia journalism teacher Rose Economou organized the event with members of the International Students Organization and her Tuesday morning Media Ethics and Law class. More than 100 students—many with bagel and coffee in hand—crowded into the auditorium to listen to speakers from all over the world.

Ten members of Chicago's diplomatic corps attended the panel discussion, from countries including Colombia, Canada and South Africa. Film student John Lyons also screened a clip from his documentary film *Too Flawed to Fix*, which focuses on the state of the death penalty in Illinois.

The film, made by Peace Productions, received grants from individual donors, religious organizations and Amnesty International—among others—according to Lyons.

"People were more than willing to help out," Lyons said.

Columbia's president, Dr. Warrick L. Carter, welcomed guests and introduced plans for an upcoming three-and-a-half-day human rights conference sponsored by Columbia that will be held in May of 2003. Carter highlighted some of the events planned for the conference, which will include a variety of multimedia activities. He also cited former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt's assertion that human rights should begin at home as one of the many reasons Columbia chose to host the observance of Human Rights Day.

Economou served as moderator of a panel discussion on human rights that featured Barteran Brown, Chicago lawyer and Amnesty International representative; Ana Mendieta, reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times; Dr. Zafra Lerman, founder of Columbia's Science Institute and chair of the Human Rights Committee for the American Chemical Society; Jose Fernando Gomez, consul general of Colombia; Mary Page, director of Global Challenges for the MacArthur Foundation and



Panelists: (Left to Right) Barteran Brown, Ana Mendieta, Dr. Zafra Lerman, Jose Fernando Gomez, Mary Page, Dick Longworth and moderator Rose Economou of the Journalism Dept. at the observance of U.N. Human Rights Day.

Dick Longworth, foreign editor and correspondent for the Chicago Tribune.

Fernando Gomez started the discussion with a heated criticism of a Tribune editorial that blasted the federal government for giving aid to Colombia. He asserted that a reporter's first job is to write accurately and fairly.

"The human rights situation in Colombia is difficult," he said, but asked that journalists look at the abuses committed by terrorist and guerrilla organizations, as well.

"You have to change the perception that only the state is responsible for human rights violations," Fernando Gomez said.

Mendieta responded to the consul general's remarks by pointing out that Colombia has the highest rate of kidnappings in the world. She also encouraged young journalists to seek out and document human rights abuses.

"Now in the newsroom it's very unpopular to cover human rights," Mendieta said.

Lerman agreed, and said reporters should strive to look for the underreported stories, but still get their facts straight.

"We must train journalists to report accurately, correctly and ethically," Lerman said.

Longworth defended the Tribune editorial by saying that a journalist's primary obligation is to criticize the government.

"The government still, in most places, has a monopoly on violence," Longworth said. He also said that he feels no need to be positive, and that the news should be about what is wrong in the world, not what is right.

Brown, who also teaches at the University of Chicago, said he worries about future breaches of human rights by the U.S. government.

"I have concerns about the rule of law in this country that I never thought I'd have," Brown said. He detailed some of the legal changes the Bush administration has wrought since Sept. 11, ostensibly to combat the threat of terrorism.

Columbia's Student Government Association President Gina Giannuzzi concluded the day's events with a quick appeal to keep in mind the larger issues of human rights.

Many of the consul generals had to leave early to attend a meeting, Economou said, but some of the panelists stayed to answer questions.

Spertus

Continued from Page 3

different types of loss felt as a result of the Holocaust.

On TV screens, relics from concentration camps and pictures are presented and six types of loss are communicated: the loss of people, tradition, freedom, identity, innocence and future.

According to Neuman, the memorial is an educational tool for people of all backgrounds. "We don't always want Jews to be seen as victims, though," Neuman said. "We want to show the traditions and celebrations, too."

The elements of tradition and celebration are major focuses of the museum, and can currently be seen through the work of the 2002 Phillip and Sylvia Spertus Judaica Prize competition winners. Each participant created a mezuzah, an item traditionally attached to the right side of the doorway of Jewish homes. The winner carved her interpretation of this object from maple wood—a task that, according to Neuman, was performed through time-consuming intervals of carving and resting.

The Paul and Gabriella Rosenbaum ARTIFACT Center

is another favorite among students and families.

"I love that part," said Neuman. "It's all hands-on. I wish I got to work down here. A lot of times when kids are studying ancient civilizations, it's especially [relevant]."

The first and most prominent section of the ARTIFACT Center is a replica of a real Middle Eastern dig, complete with artifact simulations buried in "trenches" throughout. Other sections look at aspects of the Middle Eastern past. These sections recreate the musical instruments, clothing, food, maps, and writing utensils that existed during this time period for an educational hands-on experience.

Tucked away upstairs on the fourth and fifth floors of the Spertus is the Norman and Helen Asher Library, the largest public Jewish library in the Midwest. According to Dan Sharon, the senior reference librarian who has worked at the library since 1971, any book dealing with Judaism in any way is probably on a shelf somewhere in that library.

Books on Jewish religion and philosophy, Jewish literature, Jewish travel, Jewish women, Jewish education and Jewish history—among other topics—are catalogued in this 100,000-book venue.

The facilities are open to the public for research throughout the week. But in order to check out books, students (with ID) must pay a \$15 fee and adult non-students

must pay \$30. According to Sharon, students who wish to use this service less frequently can take advantage of Spertus' Inter-Library Loan program, which allows students to work with their current school in borrowing books.

More than just a facilitator of book loans, the Asher Library also focuses on helping people understand the books' contents. Sharon said she has received phone calls of inquiry from the offices of Mayor Daley, Ann Landers and Roger Ebert, as well as from the U.S. Justice Department and the Chicago Police Department, regarding aspects of Judaism.

The Asher also features a rare book room filled with 2,400 books that were published before the 15th century, as well as wide variety of art books and music CDs and cassettes.

Keeping with the original framework of the institution that began so many years ago, Spertus offers graduate and doctorate programs in Jewish Studies and Jewish Communal Service, as well as a Master of Science in Human Services Administration.

The Rabbinic Mind, Medieval Judaism, Modern Judaism and Jewish Theology are all core classes that are required for the Jewish Studies degree. The Human Services Administration program, however, is a little different.

The curriculum is made up course modules that really don't necessarily have anything to do with the study of Judaism. Instead, it focuses on communication skills being developed within a community of Jewish learning—a tradition that began with the rest at the start of the institution.

According to Hal Lewis, the Associate Dean for Public Programming, the Spertus tries to collaborate with other educational institutions in order to diversify the type of events that are presented.

"We look for the right blend between subject authenticity and the style that's responsive to a nonacademic audience," Lewis said.

The response for the 30 to 50 programs per year that Spertus hosts has been positive, with smaller turnouts consisting of 40 to 50 people and larger turnouts reaching between 300 and 400 people.

One upcoming event will take place on Dec. 25 when a majority of the United States is celebrating Christmas: "Something Else! A Jewish Community Festival" will provide music, food and family activities for anyone at a loss for something to do when everything else seems to be closed.

Many Spertus events are free but require a reservation. A list of upcoming events can be found at www.spertus.edu or by calling for more information at (312) 922-9012.



The Spertus Institute's ARTIFACT children's room. The entrance to the institute is located at 618 S. Michigan Ave.



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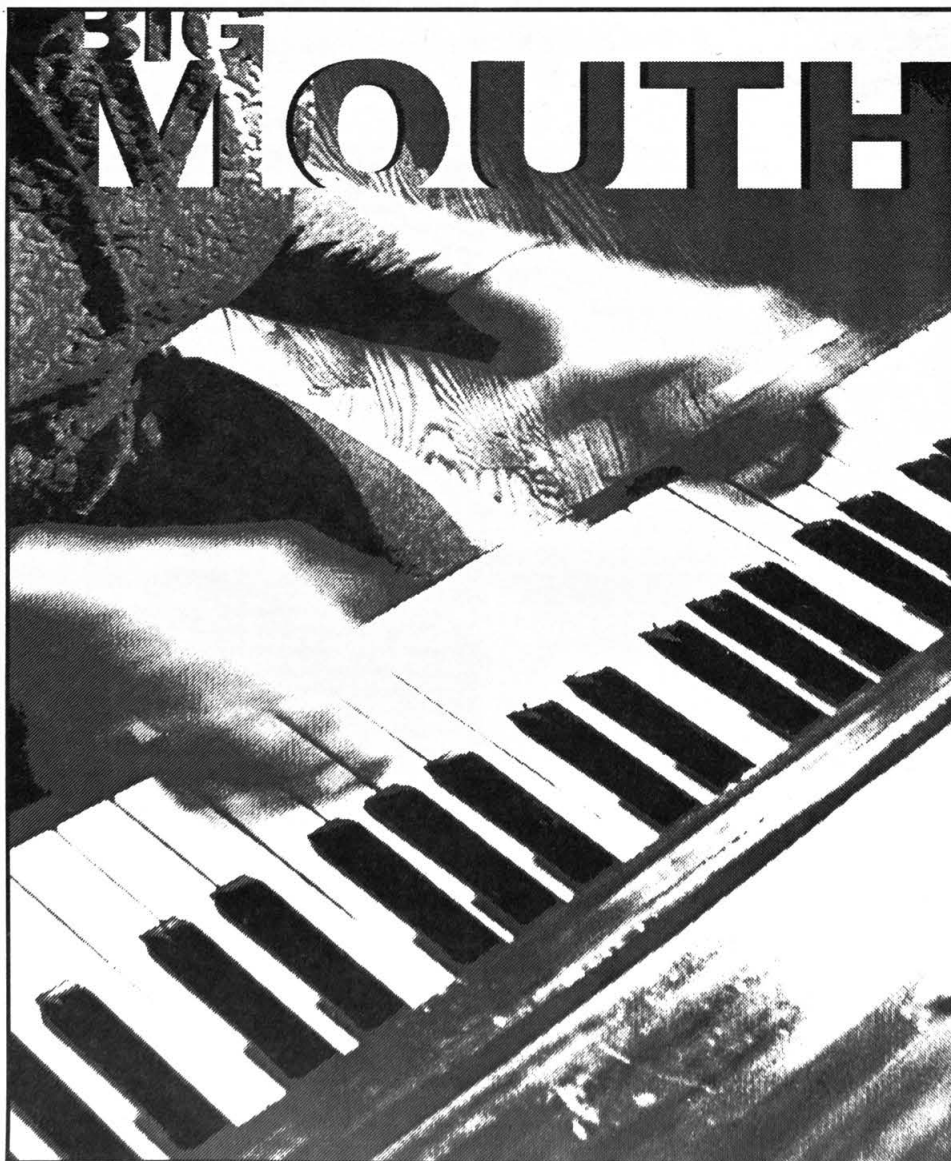
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 **Columbia** COLLEGE CHICAGO

Free speech on campus at risk

○ Court to decide future of student organization's freedom of speech

By Emily Winter

The Daily Cardinal

(U-WIRE) MADISON, Wis.—Freedom of speech may be limited at colleges and universities in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana if a court rules against three Illinois student journalists. *Hosty v. Carter* will be heard by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals on Jan. 7.

The case originated in the fall of 2000 when the Dean of Students Patricia Carter at Governor's State University in University Park, Ill., canceled further publication of the school's student newspaper until students agree to let the administration review its content. In response, three students sued the university for infringing on their First Amendment rights.

But, if the court rules in favor of Carter, administration at colleges and universities in the three states will have censorship rights on all school-sponsored student activities, said Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center.

"[A ruling in favor of Carter] would say any school-sponsored activity that involves free expression on campus—student media included—could be reviewed by school officials before publication," he said.

Robert Dreschel, a University of Wisconsin-Madison professor of journalism, said he thinks a ruling allowing university administration censorship would have negative consequences.

"The really bothersome part is that if that's what the

court were to decide, then clearly, legally speaking, that authority would be there and I think that would be devastatingly bad," Dreschel said.

Despite possible implications in Wisconsin, Dreschel said he thinks censorship is unlikely to be an issue at UW-Madison. "I frankly very much doubt that the administration at UW-Madison would have the slightest interest in attempting to censor *The Badger Herald* or *The Daily Cardinal* and so on," he said. "I think that's just a matter of common sense and wisdom that that would be the case."

Paul Barrows, vice chancellor of student affairs at UW-Madison, said he is unaware of administrative attempts to censor student activities at UW-Madison in the past. Additionally, he said he thinks UW-Madison works to preserve freedom of speech.

However, Barrows said with such freedom comes a certain level of accountability. "We would like to emphasize how important it is to be responsible," he said. Though UW-Madison may be unlikely to take advantage of censorship opportunities, Goodman said he believes that other college and university administrators would like to see the court ruling favor Carter because they want censorship power.

"I think that schools are concerned about image. They want to control the image of the school that is presented to the community, and one way to do that is by censoring student media," Goodman said. "The fact is that it's not their role to control image through censoring student media or other school sponsored activities on a college or university campus."

Since the courts have ruled in favor of First Amendment rights for college students in the past, Goodman said he thinks a ruling in favor of Carter would be unusual. A ruling on this case is expected sometime next summer.

College students recognize global warming threat

○ Princeton students participate in Ben & Jerry's environmental hunt

By Lindsay McGregor

The Daily Princetonian

(U-WIRE) PRINCETON, N.J.—"Eating one pound of steak causes the same greenhouse gas emissions as driving X miles in a car," read the first clue of a scavenger hunt held Saturday, Dec. 7. The team of students that guessed "15" as the correct answer rushed off to the Dinky to sign their names on a poster and copy a statistic about greenhouse gas emissions.

Those who guessed wrong were sent to the parking garage, losing time in a race to find answers to all seven questions concerning energy production and use, habitat destruction and international policy in relation to global warming.

Organized by the Princeton Environmental Network as part of Ben & Jerry's One Sweet Whirled campaign, the scavenger hunt was the latest event in the network's fall campaign to educate students about global warming and the ways individuals can reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The campus awareness drive was part of a national effort sponsored by the Dave Matthews Band, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream and SaveOurEnvironment.org, a coalition of the nation's top 20 environment advocacy groups.

Gift certificates for Ben & Jerry's ice cream, Dave Matthews Band compact discs and other prizes awaited the winners.

"The One Sweet Whirled campaign urges people to make a pledge to reduce their personal carbon dioxide emissions by 2,000 pounds," said Lauren Siciliano, Princeton Environmental Action president and the campus representative of the One Sweet Whirled campaign in a press release.

By taking a pledge to "fight global warming: Loose 2,000 pounds," participants agree to reduce their personal carbon dioxide emissions by 5 percent by making changes such as doing laundry in cold or warm water rather than hot, turning off a computer when it is not in use and recycling.

The fall campaign has also included the distribution of information packets at the Frist Campus Center and a contest to win a lifetime supply of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.

"We hope that particularly through the scavenger hunt, students will realize their individual impact and the impact of the University on global warming and how even an individual can combat global warming," Siciliano said.

However, some question the relevance of the fight against global warming and the effectiveness of targeting individuals.

"Even the scientific community has not reached a conclusion on whether global warming is a threat," said Evan Baehr, College Republicans vice president. "I don't think that increasing awareness on an individual level will have any influence at all."

Affirmative action debate rages on

○ UW System may help University of Michigan defend its affirmative action policy

By The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Officials from the University of Wisconsin System—which encompasses all 26 University of Wisconsin schools—are looking into how they might support the University of Michigan in its legal battle before the U.S. Supreme Court to defend its affirmative action policy.

"The UW System believes that diversity is a compelling interest in higher education," said UW System spokesman Erik Christianson. "We're very interested in the Supreme Court's ultimate decision in the Michigan case."

Regent Gerard Randall made the request to look into how UW System might help Michigan defend its policy, which is similar to the one UW System uses. Randall argued at last week's UW Board of Regents meeting that the system should consider getting involved in the potentially landmark case to help protect the legality of race-based admissions policies.

"I'm looking to find out how we might be able to participate," said Randall, one of two black regents on

the 17-member governing board. System President Katharine Lyall and other regents agreed to his request but said information-gathering is the main point of the probe.

The Supreme Court is expected to rule in June on the University of Michigan case. The justices will decide whether white applicants to the university's law school and undergraduate student body were unfairly denied admission.

The ruling will be the Supreme Court's first statement on higher education's use of affirmative action known as "race-conscious admissions policies" in legal papers since 1978. That's when the court narrowly upheld the University of California's policy, ruling that public colleges could not set blatant racial quotas but could consider race in admissions—either as part of an effort to enroll a diverse student body or to remedy societal discrimination.

UW's board will likely hear a report from system lawyers at the next meeting in February, after which the regents will decide if further action is warranted.

"With affirmative action, one definition is different from another," Regent Phyllis Kruttsch said. "I would not want our board to take a particular stand without knowing all the facts."

Randall agreed that lawyers should gather the facts, but reiterated that he was interested in supporting the University of Michigan even if other members demurred.

Researchers explore pig organ transplants

○ Researchers say animal-organ transplants in human beings is likely

By Molly Meyerhoff

Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

(U-WIRE) AMES, Iowa—It may be years away, but the day is coming when a person needing an organ transplant could receive that organ from a pig. Hank Harris, professor of microbiology, is researching how pig organs could be used for human transplants.

The use of animal organs in transplants is known as xenotransplantation. According to Harris, there are advantages and disadvantages to using pig organs in humans. Harris said pig organs are very similar in size to human organs.

"Physiologically, [the organs] do the same process," he said. A pig's liver will detoxify alcohol just like a human liver,

Harris said. He said pig organs are less likely to transmit diseases to human organ recipients than more closely related animals such as monkeys.

Eileen Thacker, associate professor of veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine, said studies have shown pig viruses placed into human cells in cultures have not infected human cells.

The main disadvantage to using pig organs is that they contain a compound for which humans produce antibodies, Harris said. This would cause the body to reject the new organ, he said.

Organ rejection is always possible and remains a concern when human organs are transplanted to humans. Scientists are researching "knock-out pigs," or pigs that wouldn't have these genes, Harris said.

Researchers are looking for a way to keep the pigs germ-free, but Harris said it's impossible to keep them germ-free through the time of transplant. A pig organ placed into a human body will cause an immediate rejection like any

other organ transplant, Harris said.

Thacker also said there is a concern that a transplant recipient will have a suppressed immune system and therefore be more susceptible to infection. That infection would likely come from another human rather than the organ.

James Roth, distinguished professor of veterinary microbiology and preventive medicine, said the FDA has to approve this before it will be used.

"[The FDA] has stringent rules to make sure there are no infectious diseases," Roth said. He added that about 200 known diseases can affect pigs—some of which can be transferred to humans just by contact with the pig. "It's not very common to catch a disease from a pig in the USA," Roth said.

Harris said the FDA is working on a process to approve the use of pig organs but it will be five to 10 years before it gets approved. Thacker said she thinks using pig organs would eventually be a "good idea down the line."

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COMMENTARY

Columbia Chronicle Editorials No 'butts' about it

Chicagoans feeling disenfranchised as they stand outside their office buildings in the frigid winter weather puffing away on their nicotine sticks may have to brace themselves for some more time lighting up outside.

The Chicago City Council has started a battle between the smokers and the nons over banning smoking in city restaurants. Heated debates went on both inside, by the council, and outside, by citizens.

The ordinance would make it illegal to smoke inside restaurants. The original proposal of the bill also would have made it illegal to smoke inside bars, as well. The City Council apparently saw what a debacle that would create and quickly took bars off the list.

Advocates of the bill say that smoking is just as lethal secondhand as it is firsthand and those who choose not to smoke should not have to endure inhaling the smoke of others when they are dining out.

Smokers who sharply oppose the bill say it is a violation of their right to smoke and they are being persecuted for doing something that is legal in this country.

Legal or not, everyone knows that cigarette smoke, any way you inhale it, is not good. Americans, especially those in big cities like Chicago, already inhale enough toxins just floating around our environment, and no one wants to add a few more to the list if they don't have to.

But this argument could go on forever with no one ever winning full support. What is interesting is how the city plans to enforce a grand new ordinance like this when they can't even begin to

enforce ordinances that have been in place for years.

In case smokers don't know, it is against the law to throw cigarette butts on the ground. That's called littering. In other words, in the eye of the city, putting your cigarette out on the ground and leaving it there is about as legal as throwing a trash bag out your apartment window and letting its contents spill all over the streets—though police may handle both entirely differently.

But come on now, how many people actually get arrested for littering by tossing their cigarette butts on city streets? Not a lot—and certainly not enough for the city to put up statistics about it on its website.

Although Mayor Daley—who is incredibly environmentally conscious, (he really does ride his bike to city hall sometimes) should be given points for trying to improve the quality of life of Chicagoans through this ordinance—he needs to follow up on the current ordinances before jumping the gun on this new one.

This would be a moot point if people would just throw their garbage—even cigarette butts included—into the hundreds of trash cans on city streets. And Columbia has tried to do its part to remedy the butt situation by strategically placing butt disposal cans at the entrances to school buildings. Still, anyone can walk by on any given day and see dozens of butts lying around on the sidewalk.

If the city cannot keep up with littering smokers, how can we be sure that creating new ordinances that require constant monitoring will work? It appears we can't.

Who's in charge, anyway?

On Dec. 8, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services announced that it will stop sending children to live at the Maryville Academy City of Youth home in Des Plaines, the state's largest facility. The decision came after the arrest of Maryville employee Michelle Alexander in connection with charges for not reporting the sexual assault she allegedly witnessed on Dec. 7. This decision also came after the February suicide of a 14-year-old girl and an alleged rape of an 11-year-old girl by at least two boys, ages 11 and 12, and possibly a third boy, also 11, on Nov. 15.

While the move was definitely necessary to analyze why Alexander allegedly did not report what she saw, some investigation must be done about the oversights that resulted in the other two incidents at the Maryville group home.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Des Plaines Deputy Police Chief James Prandini said that the Nov. 15 assault was reported to the state's child abuse hotline on Nov. 17 and that on Nov. 21 and 26, Maryville staff told police investigators that they might need to be involved in the case. An official police report was not filed until Dec. 2—17 days after the rape allegedly took place.

The Sun-Times also reported that after the alleged rape, the 11-year-old returned to the home with a bruised chest and wearing a urine-stained shirt. The girl complained to Maryville staff "my mouth and private part hurts." According to the same article, the girl took a bath and then went to bed without receiving any medical treatment. The girl was taken to the hospital by

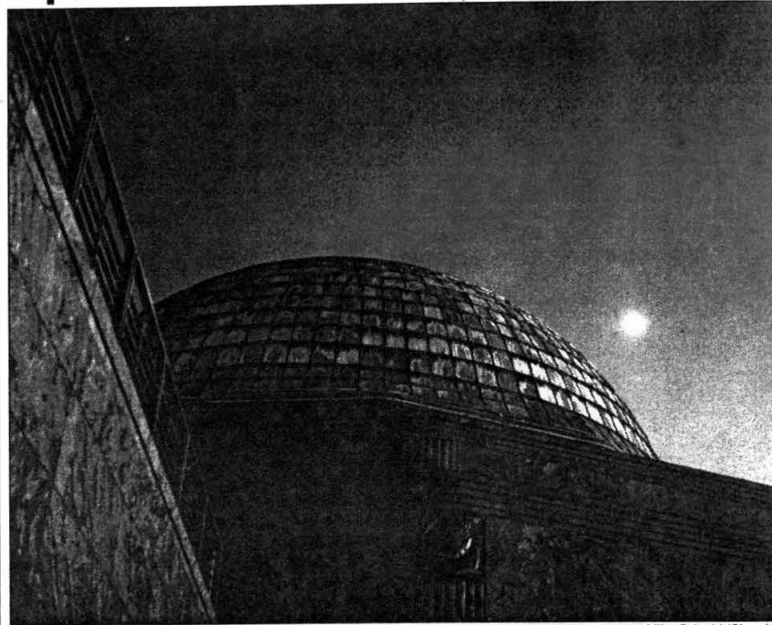
Maryville staff three days later. The original report to the state made no mention of the girl's bruises, stained shirt or complaints about pain in her mouth and vagina.

This is just another example of the negligent behavior of the Maryville staff in supervising the children at the home and meeting their needs. The Chicago Tribune reported "consultants investigating the 271-bed facility in the last 18 months found troubling and often dangerous conditions rooted in an under-trained staff's inability to cope with its growing population of mentally ill youths." However, Maryville Academy is not the only one to blame in this mess.

DCFS Chief of Staff Martha Allen told the Chicago Sun-Times, "We don't know who's supervising. It's too easy for kids to get together and get involved in sexual activity there. Our mission is to protect kids. These latest incidents have just illustrated, painfully, something has gone wrong."

If the DCFS's mission is to protect kids, then it needs to take better care of the children it serves. If the state is going to take children from their families because they believe there is not a safe home environment, then they need to provide a secure environment not put these children at further risk of abuse. The children involved in the incidents had histories of abuse, suicide threats and psychiatric diagnoses. The state needs to analyze not only the Maryville homes, but also their own procedures in dealing with the children it cares for. DCFS needs to have a stronger supervisory presence, to revise the requirements of who works at these facilities and strengthen guidelines for dealing with careless staff behavior.

Exposure



Mike Schmidt/Chronicle

Bush's new choice: Model Ford

By Chris Coates

Assistant A&E Editor

Adding another curvature to his crooked cabinet team, President Bush announced last week his pick for filling the Treasury Secretary post vacated by Paul O'Neill on Dec. 6. O'Neill, a former big-business CEO with liberal tendencies, held the position since Bush entered the White House. Pundits claimed O'Neill's monetary ideologies did not fit snugly with the administration's, which is eager to kick-start the lethargic economy and combat Enron-esque big business accounting. In all, the candid O'Neill—who was essentially forced to resign—lost the confidence of Wall Street, discounted a probable recession and had major issues with Bush's infamous tax cut, all while traversing the globe with Bono. Such wavering ideological differences usually spells disaster in the hyper-loyal White House, where the President frequently spouts pet names for his closest advisers.

In reality, the move marks the first effort by the Bush administration to seriously align an economic strategy before campaigning for their new tax plan and the 2004 presidential race. Perhaps this explains the grandstanding of O'Neill's resignation by the normally deliberate, demurred and diminutive Bush, proving he's not pleased with the economy and is willing to take concrete measures in forcing a recovery (preferably before Nov. 4, 2003).

Like his father, Bush Jr. seems to be reconsidering the magnitude of domestic fiscal security versus stirring up foreign melees with decidedly back-burner issues. (The same day O'Neill announced his resignation, the Labor Department revealed unemployment rates for November that reached an eight-year high.)

Bush tapped 63-year-old John Snow, a lawyer currently at the helm of the country's largest railroad company, CSX. Snow is also a close personal friend of Alan Greenspan, making him a clear ally to the markets. With a past position as Transportation Department's deputy undersecretary in the Ford White House, Snow is a centrist-conservative and is willing, unlike O'Neill, to preach the administration's fiscal policies to the media and on the floor of Congress. Better yet, Dubya's daddy tapped Snow to serve on his White House Conference for a Drug Free America in '88. If he's good

enough for No. 41, he's good enough for No. 43.

But wait. Alas, all is not well in the land of Bush appointees. Not only did he donate \$1,000 to John McCain's failed presidential bid in 2000, Snow's CSX is the subject of a multimillion dollar lawsuit alleging the railroad behemoth benefited from slave labor before the 1865 abolition. The suit contends the success of CSX and a score of other companies is the manifestation, at least in part, of employing (err, forcing) slaves to work some 150 years ago. In the case of railroad companies (the suit also named Norfolk Southern, Union Pacific and Canadian National—North America's largest systems), slaves built most of the rail lines, specifically south of the Mason-Dixon Line prior to the Civil War. The suit calls for a financial payback to the estimated 35 million descendants of those enslaved from 1619 through 1865.

Aside from the CSX lawsuit, Snow's image is relatively unbruised in comparison to that of the other Bush cabinet members—namely Halliburton's own Dick Cheney.

Last week, a federal judge rejected congressional inquiries to view internal documents from meetings of the vice president's energy task force. Along with Cheney, the meetings featured high-level energy executives and lobbyists working to hammer out the Bush energy plan, which infamously included expanding oil drills in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. One of the few executives at such meetings (in this case, with Energy Secretary Spence Abraham) was none other than John Snow, proving the depths of his insider relations. In light of executive privilege, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) and Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) petitioned the information last spring after news that the embattled Enron Corp. participated in some of the meetings before their massive downfall. Of course, it didn't work—Cheney's strong arm of the executive branch forbids such a coup d'état.

In true irony, it was Cheney himself who was the biggest admirer of O'Neill, at least early in the administration's run. But as the economy began to stumble, O'Neill took little action, gaining suspicion and eventual doubt from Wall Street and the administration. In short, O'Neill refused to play political hardball; something Snow—with a grab bag of connections in tow—will have no trouble with. Let's just hope such links help him to help us where it counts: in the pocketbook.

Greedy unions share blame for UAL downfall

By Katie Walsh

Commentary Editor

Well it's official, United Airlines is bankrupt.

Surprised? You shouldn't be. The second largest airline in the world (second to American Airlines) filed for bankruptcy last week amid a behemoth amount of debt and internal problems that have plagued the company since the early '90s.

Last week United shocked analysts by disclosing the company's daily losses of \$22 million, three times what they initially reported.

Many of us, the lowly passengers, probably think United's problems stem from one of the many terrible experiences we've had with the airline. While their tendency to treat us like cattle doesn't help them gain sympathy, it's not the big issue to blame for their downfall, because people still fly United.

There are two reasons United failed, one being poor business decisions. But the bigger reason is the unions. Unions are the largest single factor in the downfall of United. And while union members are crying now, fearing many of them will have to look elsewhere for work and take even bigger pay cuts, no one else should be crying for them.

The unions—mainly the mechanics union—got greedy, like they almost always do in America. The United mechanics demanded huge raises this year before they would even consider cuts. It was evident that they would never get the hikes they demanded, and voted to reject \$700 million in back pay over the next five years. This rejection shocked everyone, including union officials who genuinely believed the mechanics wanted to save their jobs. It also caused UAL stock to drop 32 percent that day.

It is debatable whether the back pay would have saved the company or not, but the rejection pretty much sealed the deal—United would have to file for bankruptcy. The following week, the government denied the company a \$1.8 billion bailout loan and everyone, except for a few diehards, knew that was the end of the story.

Whether or not the mechanics' back pay would have saved the company is irrelevant. The rejected plan showed just how greedy and self-serving unions are in this country.



John West/Chronicle

After United's stock lost more than 90 percent of its value in the last two years, the pilots union wised up and realized that if they didn't do something they would be largely to blame for running the company into the ground. So they did something. The pilots agreed to \$2.2 billion in back pay.

In fact, all other unions with United agreed to back pay in some form except the mechanics union. United mechanics are the highest paid in the business, and the cuts they were asked to make were less than what the pilots incurred.

The nearly 30,000 United employees who will lose their jobs over this can thank the mechanics on their way out the door. The bad news for the mechanics is that with bankruptcy, all contracts are void. Meaning: United will have to renegotiate an entirely new contract with them and all other union employees.

If the executives at United are smart, they will be tough with the unions, especially the mechanics. Experts say that if United does not want to go the way of Eastern Airlines, TWA or Pan Am, it will have to reduce its heavy overhead. This means that the fat union club members will have to tighten their belts a bit. That's OK. It needs to be done. United workers

are the highest-paid in the airline industry and many in the industry blame the company for driving up pay scales to unattainable heights.

In 1994, the last time the company seriously feared bankruptcy, it created a lethal form of ownership. United employees conceded \$4.9 billion in wages, pension funds in return for 55 percent of United's stock and three union seats on the company's board. This made them essentially employee-owned.

The thought was that if you own it, you would keep it up and running.

It didn't work. The special-interest riddled unions made sure they kept themselves up and running, not the company.

Experts say that filing for bankruptcy will be a good thing for United. Restructuring will more than likely cause them to downsize. Some say they should model themselves after no-frills airlines like Southwest and JetBlue. They are thriving and expanding. Continental Airlines has been through bankruptcy two times and seems to have finally gotten it right. Maybe restructuring is really a good thing. Maybe now United will finally start treating passengers as human beings instead of cattle.

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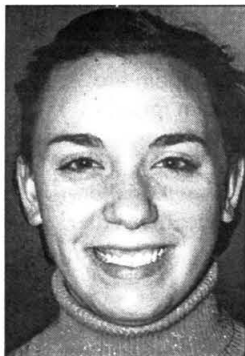
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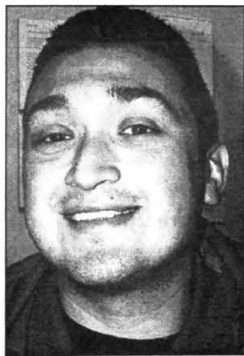
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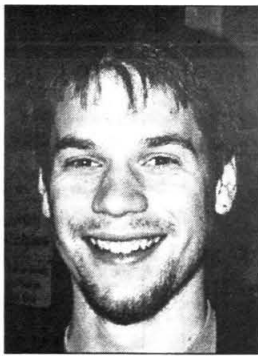
Question: What do you want for Christmas this year?



Lauren Hamilton
Freshman/ASL/English
Interpretation
"I want my nose pierced."



Mario Silva
Junior/Art
"I want new clothes."



Paul Conigliaro
Junior/Film
"I want a GameCube with Super Monkeyball II."



Martina Klimek
Sophomore/Graphic Design
"I want a diamond ring."

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(Photographs by full-time Fiction Writing faculty member Ann Hemenway.)

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"Catch Me If You Can" runs into theatres on Christmas Day!

Holiday happenings

The Chronicle highlights just a few of the many seasonal events

By Lisa Balde
Staff Writer

THE HOLIDAYS ARE BACK, AND the evidence is all over Chicago. Whether it be displayed through the sparkling lights along Michigan Avenue and in surrounding neighborhoods; the enormous holiday tree and display in Daley Plaza; the massive mobs raiding retail stores for the holiday sales; or the winding line of children waiting to share their wish lists with Santa—the climax of the year is definitely here.

As it has in past years, the city is supplying an array of things for people to do during this holiday season.

What better time to enhance your cultural awareness than during the holidays? This month, some of Chicago's most renowned playhouses are putting on shows for the season. Of course, the classics are all there. The **"Radio City Spectacular,"** which stars the Rockettes, runs through Dec. 29 at the Rosemont Theatre at 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont, (847) 671-5100. **"A Christmas Carol"** runs through Dec. 28 at the Goodman Theatre at 170 N. Dearborn St., (312) 443-3800. **"Miracle on 34th Street"** runs through Dec. 29 at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts, 777 N. Green St., (312) 327-2000.

But, there pretty much can be a twist on everything—even theater. In fact, you can be a part of the chorus in **"Do-it-Yourself Messiah,"** which is playing at the Civic Opera House at 20 N. Wacker Drive (312) 332-2244. Or you can sit back and just enjoy some holiday irony in **"Christmas My Ass (Redux),"** which is currently being performed at the WNEP Theater at 3209 N. Halsted St., (773) 755-1693.

Attending all these events could get kind of expensive, though. So, if you don't have the money to go out and catch a show or grab a holiday drink, give something back. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities available in the Chicago area. Some prospects include: assisting others in their quest to learn to read at **Literacy Chicago**—contact Nadia Whiteside at (312) 236-0341; working at a soup kitchen or helping in the distribution of canned food donations at the **Chicago Food Depository**—call (773) 247-3663; and helping connect families at the **National Runaway Switchboard**—for information call (773) 880-9860.

Of course, there's nothing like taking part in the activities that delighted you as a child. For \$5, anyone can rent ice skates to skate at the **McCormick-Tribune Ice Rink at Millennium Park** at 55 N. Michigan Ave., (312) 742-5222. Plus, while you're there, you can check out Navy Pier's extravagant lights display nearby at 600 E. Grand Ave., which is free to the public.

The city is also hosting a slew (or should I say, *sleigh?*) of events. The **Holiday Concert Series at City Hall** is a good opportunity to see the local, young talent, as Chicago elementary schools perform for the public free of charge from noon to 1 p.m. at the west end of the City Hall lobby (121 N. LaSalle St.) through Dec. 20. **Christkindlmarket**, a model of a real German market is taking place at **Daley Plaza** (50 W. Washington St.) and will remain through Dec. 23. This is a neat place to shop, eat or visit Santa. **Santa's House** will be available at Daley Plaza through Dec. 23 to



anyone who has a wish list to share.

But the holiday festivities don't stop on the 25th. The city will host **New Year's Eve at Buckingham Fountain** to ring in the New Year with a fireworks display (11:40 p.m.).

Holiday events do not necessarily have to be traditional. **Challenge Park Xtreme Paintball Field** at 2903 Schweitzer Road in Joliet, (815) 726-2800, and **WhirlyBall** at 1880 W. Fullerton Ave., (773) 486-7777, both offer nontraditional alternatives. These activities aren't necessarily cheap, so be sure to bring a group.

And last but not least, did you know you could cut down your own Christmas tree? Well, it's possible. If you don't mind traveling a little.

There are several tree farms in Harvard, Plainfield and Lake Villa that specialize in helping people obtain the perfect tree—all you have to do is show up.

Many of these programs are family-oriented and provide a variety of activities in which both adults and children can partake. They include: **Ben's Fraser Fir Farm** at Wooster Street and Capron Road in Harvard, (630) 279-3227; **Family Christmas Tree Farm** at Illinois Highway 59 and Petite Lake Road in Lake Villa, (847) 949-0172; **Ben's Christmas Tree Farm** at 7720 Ryan Road in Harvard, (630) 279-0216, and **Anderson Tree Farm** at 502 Illinois Highway 126 in Plainfield, (815) 436-21400.



*Photos
by
Brian
Morowczynski
and
Stacie
Freudenberg*



Although it may have less name-brand recognition compared to Rockefeller Plaza's, Chicago's Christmas tree, in Daley Plaza, has no less stature—and just as much spirit. For 90 years, the tree has served as a centerpiece to the city's holiday celebration.

This year's tree is composed of 25 balsam firs from Tomahawk, Wis. lashed together.

Also in Daley Plaza and across the street on Block 37, the city presents the seventh annual Christkindlmarket, a European village ringed with small cabins offering handmade gifts and holiday treats with a German twist.

Chronicle Co-Photo Editor Brian Morowczynski gives a special look at how Daley Plaza's Christmas tree took form along with other holiday events photographed by Co-Photo Editor Stacie Freudenberg.

The market, at Washington and Dearborn Streets, runs through Dec. 23.



12 films of Christmas...

○ Chronicle Arts & Entertainment Editors wrap up their favorite holiday films

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation



In the annals of contemporary slapstick cinema, there will indubitably be a place for the loveable Griswold family—that hapless kin of *Vacation* fame. *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*, released in 1989 (and flanked by 1985's *European Vacation* and 1997's *Vegas Vacation*), follows the Griswold clan—headed up by father Clark (Chevy Chase)—in their preparation for a “good old-fashioned family Christmas.” There's the cutting down of an evergreen (Clark slices down a sequoia of girth), holiday shopping (Clark flirts with the lingerie saleswoman) and, of course, the stringing of the exterior twinkling lights (Clark falls off the roof).

More than its predecessors and knock-offs, *Christmas Vacation* hits every comedic switch with precise timing and is, in the end, a gratifying holiday tale of a father struggling to build the perfect Christmas for his decidedly ungrateful relatives.

—Chris Coates

All I Want For Christmas



No, this movie didn't make the cut because

I'm a huge Thora Birch fan, although she did help her film *All I Want for Christmas* edge out Jim Varney's *Ernest Saves Christmas*, but that's another story altogether.

This film echoes, yet again, that Christmas isn't all about merchandizing but about being with your family, even if your parents are divorced. So what if mom has a new boyfriend and dad's too busy with his hip diner-style restaurant?

Rent this 1991 Christmas classic for some serious *Parent Trap*-esque scheming, early teenage dating tips and a chance to see 9-year-old Birch sing with ill effect.

—Michael Hirtzer

Christmas Evil



One Christmas Eve, when poor Harry Stadling (Brandon Maggart) was just a young boy, he went downstairs to catch a glimpse of the jolly St. Nick to help prove to his brother that Santa was real and not their father dressed in the suit. And no he didn't see mommy kissing Santa Claus as the popular song goes. He saw Santa Claus kissing mommy—but not on the lips: Think a few feet below that.

Devotees of the *Evil Dead* trilogy might find this Troma “classic” about a homicidal, Santa-obsessed, toy factory manager, who keeps a list of naughty or nice neighborhood children, to be a delightful holiday treat. But for everyone else, *Christmas Evil* (aka *You Better Watch Out or Terror in Toyland*) is too campy to be taken seriously and can never quite capture the feel it's striving for.

—K. Ryann Zalewski

A Christmas Story



Along with the “I'll be back” of *Terminator* fame, “You'll shoot your eye out” undoubtedly ranks among the most memorable silver-screen taglines. Set in 1940s mid-America, *A Christmas Story*

weaves the saga of the post-World War II childhood of Ralphie Parker. In his quest for the ultimate Christmas gift, Ralphie decides upon, much to his parents' objection, a Red Ryder Carbine Action, 200 Shot, Range Model Air Rifle BB Gun. But, as every child knows, parents don't decide what kids get for Christmas—Santa does.

Released in 1983, *A Christmas Story* is a much under-appreciated Christmas jewel, one that is begging for a second view. In fact, the TNT network will give you a second look—then a third and beyond—with their annual 24 hours of back-to-back *A Christmas Story* on Christmas Eve.

—Chris Coates

Jack Frost



Before Michael Keaton's character got hit by a bus and turned

into a snowman, most knew Jack Frost as the mystical winter sprite. And who could forget the 1979 Claymation TV movie in which Frost wishes to become human after he falls in love with Elisa, or was it Alicia?

Anyway, this hour-long holiday tale tackles standard seasonal fare like love and thankfulness, but also delves deeper into the realms of weather maps, the Kingdom of the Winter Clouds and a snow gypsy named Holly.

Highlights include a villain named Kubla Kraus and his rusty donkey, a Buddy Hackett-voiced groundhog named Pardon-Me-Pete and one or two really great songs including a number that goes something like this: “It's just what I always wanted / It's perfectly right / It's just what I always wanted / A Christmas delight.”

—Michael Hirtzer

It's a Wonderful Life



It's hard to believe that when released in 1946, *It's a Wonderful Life*, arguably the best-known Christmas film ever, was really a box-office failure. *It's a Wonderful Life* only became the classic it's revered as today during the 1960s when it started running repeatedly on television during the holiday season.

And who can dislike this tale of George Bailey (James Stewart)—down on his luck and his life's path—who learns how much impact his life had on others, with the help of his guardian angel-in-training Clarence Oddbody (Henry Travers)? This is the perfect movie to watch at Christmas for anyone who has ever doubted his or her importance in the world. We could all use a visit from Clarence.

While some argue the movie is borderline sappy, I am not ashamed to admit that I cry every time when Clarence gets his wings and the whole crowd in the Bailey house starts to sing “Auld Lang Syne.”

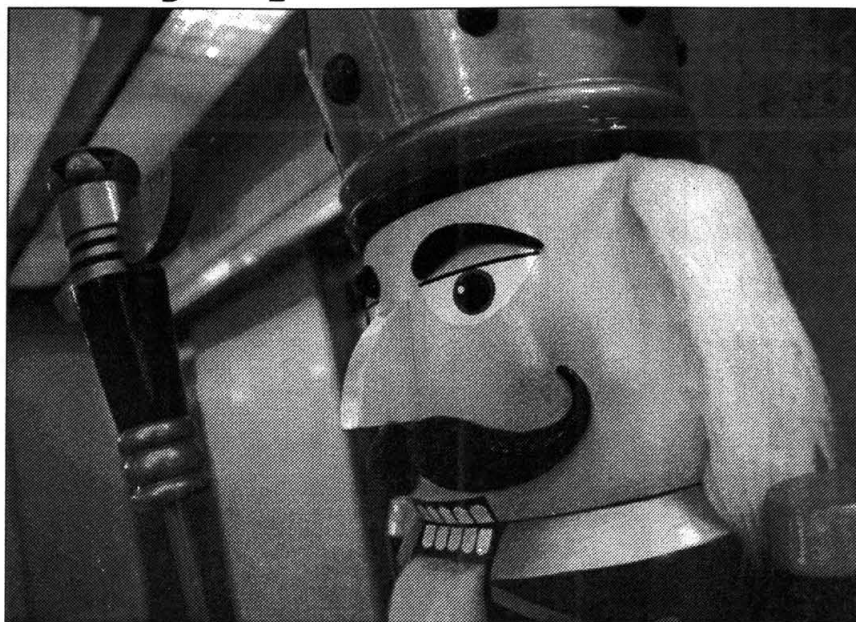
—K. Ryann Zalewski

Pee-wee Herman's Christmas Special



With Paul Reubens back in the news with charges of possessing child pornography, it's nice to revisit a more trouble-free era, when Pee-wee Herman amused audiences in his magical playhouse. Add to that the wonderment of

Holiday Exposure



Brian Morowczynski/Chronicle

Christmas and all hell breaks loose.

Pee-wee Herman's Christmas Special follows the escapades of the adolescent Pee-wee Herman and his madcap acquaintances including Chairy, Conky and Magic Screen, to name a few. They're gearing up for Christmas and, well, having a comical time doing it. Pee-wee adeptly constructs a room of fruit-cakes and explains the significance of Hanukkah.

But it is the cameos that make *Christmas Special* all the merrier, if such a thing is possible. Magic Johnson plays Magic Screen's cousin, Annette Funicello makes Holiday greeting cards and Little Richard figure skates. Sheer mayhem. Also featured are Joan Rivers, Oprah Winfrey, k.d. lang, Cher, Whoopi Goldberg and the esteemed Charo. Watch for pre-fender bender Zsa Zsa Gabor as Princess Zsa Zsa.

All in all, a true joy to rent and view. This campy, star-studded Christmas classic is certain to bring a smile (if not a wince here and there) to even the staunchest of humbugs.

—Chris Coates

Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town



Ever wonder why Santa Claus wears a red suit? Or why he only visits one night a year? Or how reindeer fly? Or why exactly he climb down the chimney?

Filled with criminal activity and a dramatic jailbreak, *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town* is an animated “E! True Hollywood Story” for the “Sesame Street” crowd. Narrated by the North Pole mailman (voiced by Fred Astaire), *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town* follows Santa (alias Kris Kringle) from a young orphan raised by the Kringle elves up to the jolly St. Nick we know today. We learn how Santa met Mrs. Claus (interesting fact—Jessica is her first name) and why he lives in the North Pole.

Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town will bring back warm, fuzzy memories of childhood Christmas specials and answer all those nagging questions about this most mysterious holiday character.

—K. Ryann Zalewski

A Charlie Brown Christmas



For many, the holiday season is a joyous occasion. But for some, it's the loneliest time of the year; filled with introspective thoughts like “Is Christmas all about retail?”

and “Who are my real friends?” and “Do I know her well enough to warrant a Christmas card?”

But as Charlie Brown will soon find out, Christmas is all about being thankful for what you've got, even if it's the last, sorry tree you can find; so what if the rest of the Peanuts gang is digging the scene at Snoopy's house, with his award-winning décor and Charlie's flying solo in an abandoned field?

This 25-minute holiday classic shows that everything can work out in the end. The Christmas pageant goes as planned and Linus, Schroeder, Pig-Pen, Patty and all the rest of the gang find out that Charlie was really on to something. Oh, don't forget about the subtle jazz of the Vince Guaraldi Trio soundtrack.

—Michael Hirtzer

Prancer



We all recognize that a reindeer is one hell of a swimmer—their insulating hairs trap air, thus rendering them buoyant. But are reindeers really capable of extended air travel? In this 1989 holiday release, thankfully, we receive tangible evidence and mounting proof that reindeers really know how to fly.

Prancer follows the plight and flight of one-ninth of Santa's memorable reindeer regiment. Tidily tucked between Dancer and Vixen, the film's namesake stumbles into the life of Jessica—an innocuous Santa-loving lass living in a poor working household somewhere in the Midwest. With an injured leg, Jessica concurs the reindeer is indeed Prancer and decides to nurse it back to health, spawning the phrase: “Prancer's in the shed near my house.”

A truly uplifting yarn, *Prancer* was followed by the aptly titled *Prancer Returns*, marking the storied reindeer's triumphant homecoming to Jessica where, thanks to the advent of 2001-era special effects, we actually see Prancer fly. Hooray.

—Chris Coates

Silent Night, Deadly Night



When killer Billy Chapman was only 5, he looked on as a man in a Santa suit brutally murdered his mother and father. Raised in an orphanage and beaten by the Mother Superior, Billy is now 18 and gains a job in Ida's Toys. On Christmas Eve, the store Santa calls in sick and Billy must fill in.

Something snaps in his mind and he goes on a rampage.

Silent Night, Deadly Night (aka *Slayride*) is a cheap imitation of the *Halloween* series it so desperately wants to be, but there is one great scene where a girl is impaled on the antlers of a mounted buck. Otherwise filled with all the typical 1980s slasher flick-shtick (including lots of bare breasts), *Silent Night, Deadly Night* is best left to devotees of that genre.

—K. Ryann Zalewski

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer



Sometimes clay is funny. Such is the case with *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, the 1964 Claymation classic that is a staple of the CBS television network. Viewing *Rudolph* as an adult, it's hard not to overlook how bizarre it truly is.

Based on the popular song of the same title, *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* tells the tale of the young Rudolph, a reindeer with a red nose. With a scarlet snout, Rudolph is alienated by his fellow reindeer friends and excluded from their corresponding reindeer games. But with help from old Father Christmas and a stop-motion camera, Rudolph regains his status and effectively goes down in history lyrically.

A classic of mythic proportions, *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* is accented by the voice of Burl Ives in his role as the Wilfred Brimley-esque Sam the Snowman.

—Chris Coates

CINEMA CIRCUIT

A brief explanation of the Chronicle's rating system.

- Garbage, leave theater.
- Barely sufferable.
- Some OK scenes.
- Three out of four stars.
- Gives viewers a pause.
- Watch it again and again.
- So good, make a bootleg.



&

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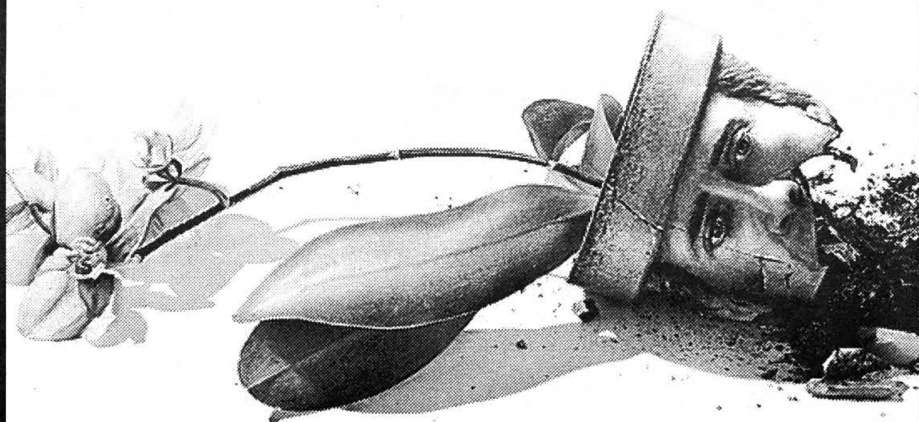
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Holiday classic hits the stage

By Lisa Balde

Staff Writer

There are some holiday stories that will always remain classics no matter what, and "Miracle on 34th Street" is one of them—even when translated from film for a stage production.

How can one forget the jolly, lovable protagonist who claims that he is Santa Claus—the same Santa who traditionally travels around the world in one night, bringing gifts to all who deserve them.

How can one forget the frazzled single mom and Macy's parade director, Doris Walker, who tries to steer away false hopes for her small family—but who, in the end, accepts the fantasy and magic of Christmas along with the rest of the world?

And, of course, who could forget Fred Gayley, the man who single-handedly rescues and revitalizes Kris Kringle's name before the Supreme Court after Kringle is placed in a mental institution for believing that he is the true Santa Claus?

Few will forget such a remarkable story of hope and belief as long as it continues to reproduce and evolve for future generations, and as the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts proves, this tradition will not be lost in Chicago.

Presenting a contemporary version of *Miracle on 34th Street*, the Chicago Center was not only able to accurately grasp the same themes that make this story so timeless, but it also put a humorous spin on the whole package, effectively poking fun at the commercialization of Christmas, which has accelerated since 1947.

The audience first meets the majority of the main characters in the opening scene, when the Santa that Doris (Sarah Wellington) originally hires to play the grand finale role of her Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade shows up stumbling drunk.

Kris Kringle (Bradley Mott), like the *Miracle* Santas before him, delightfully comes to the rescue and saves Doris and her assistant, Mr. Shellhammer (Nick Lewis) from their crazy, clue-

less general manager (Bill McGough).

The rest of the play pretty much centered on getting Doris and Fred together, making Susan believe in Santa and getting Kringle out of the slammer—a plot that was altered quite a lot in order to accommodate the needs of the 21st century.

Perhaps it was apparent from the very beginning that this wasn't going to be a dramatic depiction of the original movie. This point became obvious in the scenes in which Santa's department store chief elf confides in Kringle—not about emotional family issues, as in the original movie—but about not being asked to audition for "Law and Order: the Musical."

Quirks such as this were sprinkled throughout the play. For example, the Bonjour Puppy, which turns out to be just a motionless ball of fabric, is the hot toy of the season that customers literally freak out about—especially when Macy's announces that they won't be carrying it this season.

A blonde broadcast anchor with a shoe fetish, a hyperactive sales associate, an elf with an addiction for approval and a frustrating managing assistant, to whom no one pays attention are some of the tiny perks that break down this heartwarming tale into a comic treat for the entire family, making the experience even more creative and enjoyable for the audience.

But, oddly enough, none of these elements were depicted by the main characters.

The actors who portrayed Doris, Fred and Kris demonstrated solid, believable characters (I'm still not sure if Doris' accent was real). But, the ensemble and the supporting actors filled this two-hour show with the spice needed to ensure a hit.

"Miracle on 34th Street" will run through Dec. 23. The times are: Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Special holiday performances will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tickets range from \$25-\$50 for adults and \$20-\$35 for children 12 and under. Call (312) 327-2080 for more information.



Photo by Michael Brosilow

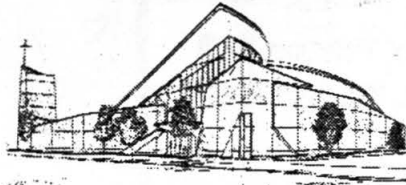
Bradley Mott and Meredith Maresh star in an updated theater version of the classic Christmas film 'Miracle on 34th Street' at the Chicago Center for the Performing Arts.

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Kaufman's abstract 'Adaptation'

By Polina Goldshtein

Staff Writer

The power of passion is underestimated at times, although passion is what ultimately drives people to pursue their dreams, to go beyond their limits and to change their destinies. It doesn't make a difference what one's passionate is about. Passion can be strong enough to take over one's life and lead him or her into the most unexpected places and situations—but I bet you didn't think I was talking about a passion for orchids.

A widespread phenomenon called "orchid delirium" or "flower madness"—a syndrome that dates back to Victorian times when wealthy orchid fanatics in Europe were obsessed with finding new kinds of orchids—is the focus of the new film *Adaptation*. With 30,000 existing varieties, "orchid delirium" continues to drive people in their appreciation for the strange beauty of the flowers and in their passion for finding its rare forms.

Speaking of adaptation, that's exactly how the film came about. In 1999, Academy Award-winning director/producer Jonathan Demme and his partner Ed Saxon hired Charlie Kaufman—best known as the Academy Award-nominated screenwriter for *Being John Malkovich*—to adapt New Yorker writer Susan Orlean's best-selling nonfiction book *The Orchid Thief* for the big screen. But despite *Malkovich*'s success, Kaufman had insecurities both in his career and his personal life.

At first, Kaufman couldn't see *The Orchid Thief* as anything more than a book about flowers. He said it lacked a narrative structure and there was no real story. He became frustrated and depressed, as he was unable to find a way to turn the book into a screenplay. Then, out of desperation, Kaufman decided to use his own dilemma as a framework for the script—inserting himself into the screenplay. Subconsciously, Kaufman crossed the border between real life and fiction by combining his story with Orlean's book.

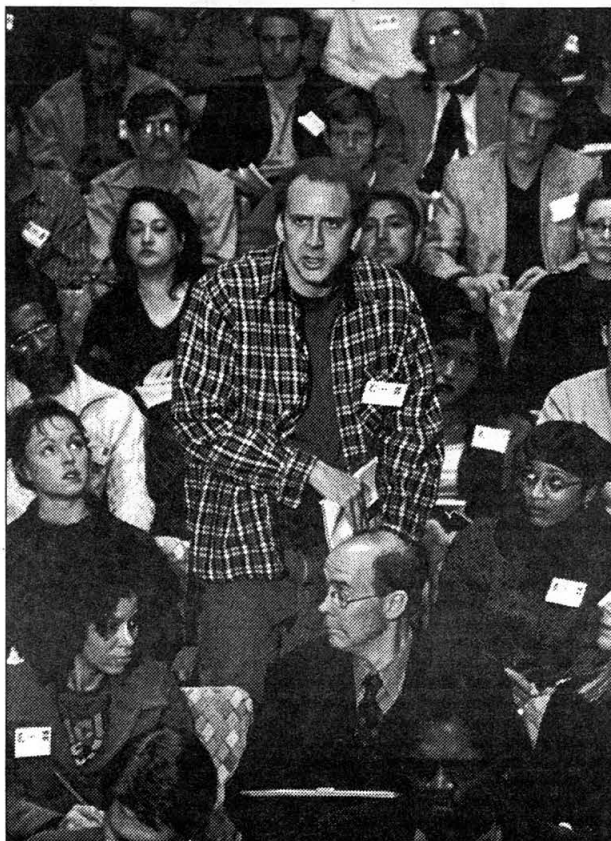
Did you follow that? If you did, you now understand the focus of producer Demme's, director Spike Jonze's and actor Nicolas Cage's *Adaptation*.

During a recent interview, the three explained how they approached this rather unique and unusual film project. Cage said he was first attracted to the project because of an affinity for *Being John Malkovich*. He said he received a phone call from Jonze asking him to play the twin lead characters, Charlie and Donald Kaufman.

"I loved their first movie together, and I knew they have an unusual vision about this script," Cage said. "I wanted to be a part of that vision." Cage also said that Jonze was supportive of him experimenting and improvising while preparing for the role of twins.

"The script was very good, and I had a lot of respect for Spike's vision of it," Cage said. "A lot of times I sort of end up directing myself, but working with Spike I would just go on autopilot and let him do what he thinks is right."

Cage said the hardest part in



Nicolas Cage (Center) plays Charlie Kaufman, a stymied writer who seeks advice from screenwriting guru Robert McKee, in *'Adaptation,'* an unusual adaptation of New Yorker writer Susan Orlean's book *'The Orchid Thief.'*

"It was odd to see [Kaufman] watch me play a 'surrealistic' version of himself."

—Nicolas Cage

playing the role was going back and forth from Charlie to Donald four to five times a day. "It was kind of tricky, because let's just say that I don't like to mix my peas with my steak. Well, I don't eat steak anymore," Cage said. "I like to save the best for last—[but] it didn't work out this way in *Adaptation*. Spike would ask me at the beginning of every shoot how I feel today. And I would say that today I feel kind of cranky, not too happy with myself and we would decide to start with Charlie. But I would still end up playing both parts at the end of the day."

Cage also conducted several interviews with Kaufman, trying to capture mental sketches of him. According to Kaufman, some character traits were fictionalized for the movie, but some of Charlie's insecurities are true to how Kaufman is in real life. Cage said, "At one point I wanted to move in with Charlie and sleep on his floor in a sleeping bag, but that didn't work. Then I invited him to go with me to Mexico on a fishing trip, but that didn't work either."

Cage added that, in the end, it was still strange to try and capture the screenwriter's persona. "It was odd to see Charlie watch me play a 'surrealistic' version of himself," Cage said.

Kaufman admitted that it was difficult to reference his own character in the screenplay. "How did I decide to insert myself into a

screenplay? Well, I was sitting in my car, eating a cheeseburger. And the next thing I know, I am in my bedroom with a tape recorder," he joked. Kaufman said he was freaking out about not being sure how to work this and whether it's going to work and didn't tell the studio at first. However, he told Spike about an idea of writing himself in, and Spike was excited because it somehow felt right and decided to direct it.

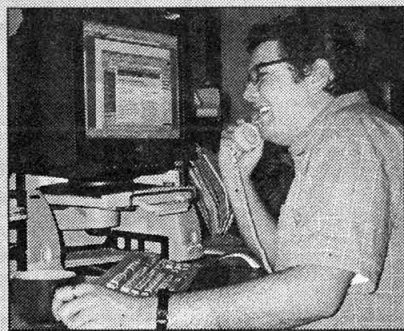
Jonze—who started in the business directing music videos for artists like the Beastie Boys, R.E.M. and Björk—said, "It didn't feel right to have a regular musical score put on top of the movie, so I went through my CD collection. I had some ideas for the movie before and thought about what the character might be listening to."

The eclectic blend of music includes the use of the Turtles' hit, "Happy Together," as a theme in at least two soulful scenes between the Kaufman brothers.

Kaufman collaborated on the script with a great team of people: Jonze, who made his feature-film debut on *Malkovich* with Kaufman after working as a director on a number of commercials, short films and music videos; Demme and Saxon, the producing team who won an Academy Award for *The Silence of the Lambs* and—last, but not least—the amazing cast of Cage, Meryl Streep and Chris Cooper.

After making *Adaptation*, the cast and the crew are keeping busy. Kaufman's next project, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, will star Jim Carrey and Kate Winslet. Cage said he is very excited about his directorial debut with *Sonny* and that he will be starring in *Matchstick Men* for director Ridley Scott. Streep is currently working on a movie version of the Pulitzer Prize-winning drama *Angels in America*, which co-stars Al Pacino and Emma Thompson. Upcoming projects for Cooper include a role in the film adaptation of the best-selling nonfiction book *Seabiscuit* and in the HBO movie *My House in Umbria*.

In the Loop



By Chris Coates

Assistant A&E Editor

In a fit of curiosity some years ago, I found myself in the audience of "The Jenny Jones Show"—effectively rendering myself another cog in the wheel of daytime television. In reality (and I hesitate to mention such a thing in the same breath as Ms. Jones) the experience was, in a sullied way, somehow fulfilling. Pertinently titled "Your Funky Smell Has Got to Go, it's Time for a Makeover on the Jenny Jones Show" it featured willing folks appearing on national television in an effort to shed their sloppy ways via a new wardrobe fitted by the Jones beauty team. All in good fun, I say.

During the morning taping, we were introduced to the "slobs," as they were. Less than two hours later—and after an apparently swift restyling—the ex-slobs re-emerged, sans sweatpants and tank tops, to the audience's awe. It was a fast transition, even in the world of television. I was impressed.

Of course, the alterations Jones inflicted upon her willing guests were purely cosmetic—as they tend to be in the talk show format. That's what made ABC's "Extreme Makeover"—a kind of avant-garde "Jenny Jones" equivalent to Olympic speed skating—particularly alarming when it premiered Dec. 11. The hour-long special focused on three white urban professionals, each hovering around thirty years of age. But unlike my "Jenny Jones" incident, the "makeover" these guests experienced was hardly temporary. Or as the show's website almost cheerfully delineates, in naive detail: "Through the skills of a group of doctors, a plastic surgeon, an eye surgeon and a cosmetic dentist, along with a dream team of hair and makeup artists, stylists and personal trainers, 'Extreme Makeover' will transform this trio's lives and ultimately redirect their destinies."

That's right, kids in TV land, these folks are going under the knife for the sake of vanity—or, as ABC's site, reveals, to become better human beings. ABC foots the bill, viewers watch and Neilsens soar—sending the wallowing network back to the days of its "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" ratings.

And who can blame them, really? It's wholly reasonable that in a society fanatical about physical beauty, a network can capitalize on a bent nose, a chipped tooth or a wee mole. God forbid you have all three.

One of the show's contestants, the 31-year-old Stacey, had a virtual plastic surgery catalogue-full of work performed on her poor body: a nose job, brow lift, under-eye lift, chin implant, liposuction, topped off with bit of dental work. She emerges from the operating room looking like a trodden boxer, head draped in gauze, nose held together with splints.

Twenty-four-year-old single mother Stephanie—who ironically works as an insurance representative, according to ABC—underwent teeth whitening, eye surgery, a nose job and liposuction, but rounded out the inventory with a predicable pair of breast implants (no pun, please).

On the other hand, the only male contestant—a 29-year-old personal trainer named Luke—was left relatively unscathed, receiving a macho "tummy tuck," dental work and a nose job. It makes sense that the only male on the program had the least degree of poking, stitching and carving done to his body—proving finally that all women should heed only to their facade. Men, well, we're exempt.

The biggest qualm I have with "Extreme Makeover" is the fact these people were hardly disfigured. No Quasimodo or Elephant Man in this group. Not even a Janet Reno or pre-surgery Greta Van Susteren. These are fine-looking people, hardly worthy of a woeful gaze—and certainly not worthy of a scalpel.

What kind of people are these, willing to put themselves through a perilous operation just to attain a pleasant outward appearance for others to gaze? You can thank the scores of magazines with flawless and airbrushed celebrities, tummy-tucked, pruned and faultless. However, ABC isn't culpable per se—they know viewers flock to such before-and-after programming.

And who are these viewers, ready to endure 60 minutes watching pitiable image-conscience souls getting their nostrils ripped apart and pieced back together again? Do they condone? Commend? I would weep for such Neanderthal viewers ... if only I wasn't one.

In that same vein, a co-worker posed an intriguing question after "Makeover." She inquired, "If you could wake up tomorrow, without surgery, and have something physically different, what would it be?" I couldn't come up with anything witty then or now. I do hope, however, I would have the strength to say "nothing at all."

ADAPTATION



Run Time: 112 Minutes

Rated: R

Featuring: Nicolas Cage, Meryl Streep, Chris Cooper

Director: Spike Jonze

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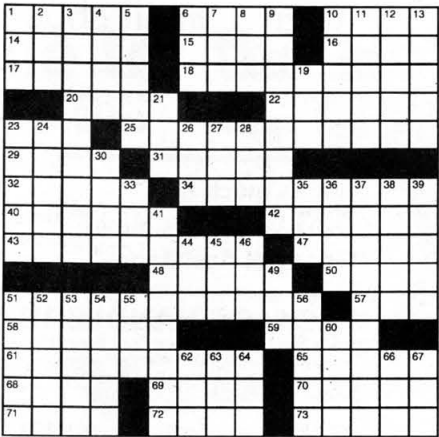
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 - 15 Jacob's brother
 - 16 French thought
 - 17 Sandal strap
 - 18 Alienates
 - 20 Zion National Park's state
 - 22 Frat boys
 - 23 "Malcolm X" director
 - 25 Code man
 - 29 Suspend
 - 31 Early insect stage
 - 32 Rand McNally book
 - 34 Invigorator
 - 40 Marine facility
 - 42 Put to sleep
 - 43 Tutor of Alexander the Great
 - 47 Support-line staff
 - 48 Pipsqueak
 - 50 Worn out
 - 51 Mimic
 - 57 Pompous fool
 - 58 Cramped
 - 59 Declare positively
 - 61 Test subject
 - 65 Self-evident truth
 - 68 Keats poems
 - 69 Nothing in Granada
 - 70 Paul Anka hit
 - 71 Tryout
 - 72 Part of U.A.R.
 - 73 Old anesthetic



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 - 30 Guys' dates
 - 33 Took a load off
 - 35 Fetch
 - 36 Middle of Roman months
 - 37 Father of John the Baptist
 - 38 Cultural values
 - 39 Takes five
 - 41 Namibia's neighbor
 - 44 A pair
 - 45 Writer Deighton
 - 46 Pitcher's stat
 - 49 School org.
 - 51 Mass of metal
 - 52 Bea Arthur role
 - 53 Asks intrusive questions
 - 54 Physicist Mach
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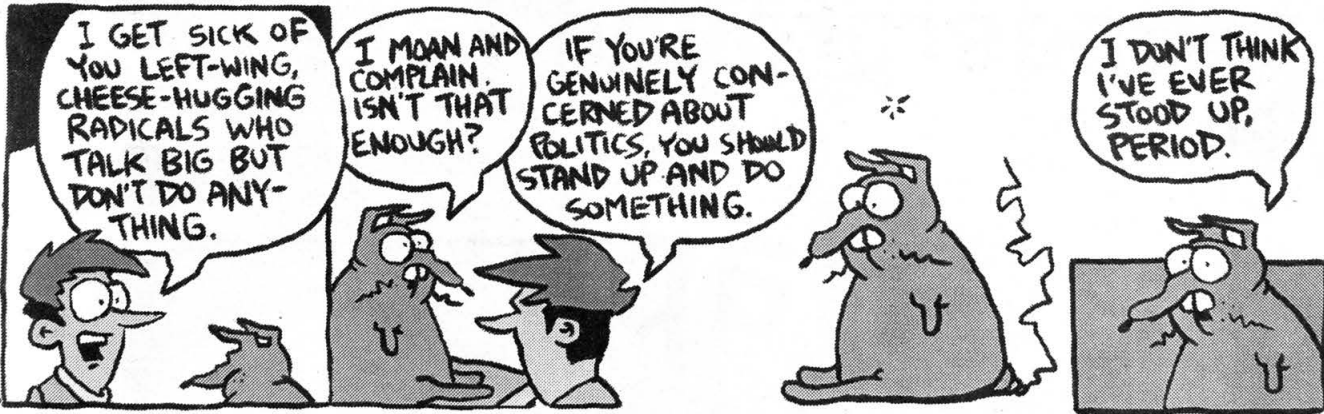
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'Canes looking to repeat

○ Two sole undefeated teams, OSU and Miami, vie for BCS Championship

By **Rudolph Sanchez**
Contributing Writer

This past season has only produced two undefeated teams, making it pretty easy for the BCS to figure out who will play for the National Championship. No. 1 Miami will square off against No. 2 Ohio in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 3.

Ohio State (13-0) will be playing for its first championship since 1968. The Miami Hurricanes (12-0) are looking to repeat as National Champions—and extend their current winning streak to 35 games. Miami may be a strong favorite, but a closer look at both teams suggests it may be closer than most people think.

Miami averages 41.9 points a game and has never scored less than 26. It will be an interesting match up between Miami's offense and an Ohio State defense that allows only 12.2 points per game.

Ohio State has the nation's fourth ranked rushing defense giving up 78.7 yards a game. It will need to really step up against a Hurricane offense that averages 192.8 rushing yards per game.

Miami running back Willis McGahee compiled 1,686 total rushing yards and has 27 touchdowns. Equally impressive is quarterback Ken Dorsey's numbers. He compiled 3,073 yards passing with 26 touchdowns.

Despite the numbers Miami put up during the season, the Hurricanes have shown that they are not unstoppable. They were just one field goal away from losing to Florida State. They also had to hang on for wins against Rutgers and Pittsburgh.

Just like Miami, Ohio State relies on its talented running back and quarterback. Freshman standout Maurice Claret ran for 1,190 yards and 14 touchdowns. Quarterback Craig Krenzel passed for 1,988 yards and 12

touchdowns. Despite fewer passing yards and touchdowns Krenzel has a higher quarterback efficiency rating than Miami's Ken Dorsey.

Ohio State will need plenty of offense to keep up with Miami's shootout-style. They will probably need more offense than their 29 point average.

The Buckeyes may be undefeated but the road there was far from easy. They squeaked by teams like Purdue, Penn State, Wisconsin and Michigan, winning each of those games by no more than 6 points.

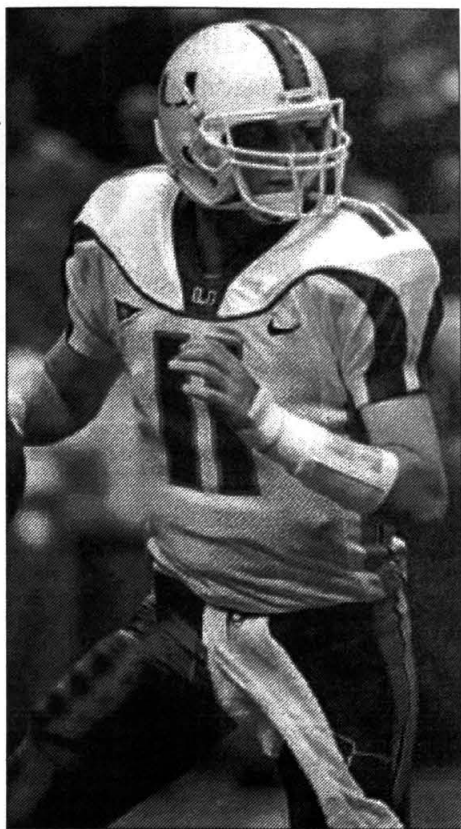
There are not many who feel Ohio State has what it takes to defeat Miami but the Buckeyes like their chances.

"I know there are going to be a lot of people around the country saying, 'Ohio State does not belong in this game.' Ohio State can't win this game," quarterback Craig Krenzel said. "I don't think that's true, and none of the guys on our team believe that's true. We believe we deserve to be playing on Jan. 3. We respect Miami and we know they're a great team, but there's not a guy on this team who doesn't think we can compete, who doesn't think we can't go out and win."

Ohio State will need to make some big plays if they want to upset the Hurricanes. Buckeye defensive back and receiver Chris Gamble could be the key player for Ohio State.

Gamble was recently awarded Ohio State co-MVP along with quarterback Craig Krenzel. Gamble began the season as a flanker and started the first eight games at that position. In the last five he also started at cornerback. Starting just five games at cornerback Gamble led the team in interceptions with four and broke up six passes. All of Gamble's picks sealed wins for the Buckeyes and two of them came in the end zone.

"I think we have a good chance against [Miami]," Gamble said. "We just need to play within our game plan and we will be fine."



AP Photo/Kevin Rivoli
Miami quarterback Ken Dorsey has a 38-1 record as a starter.

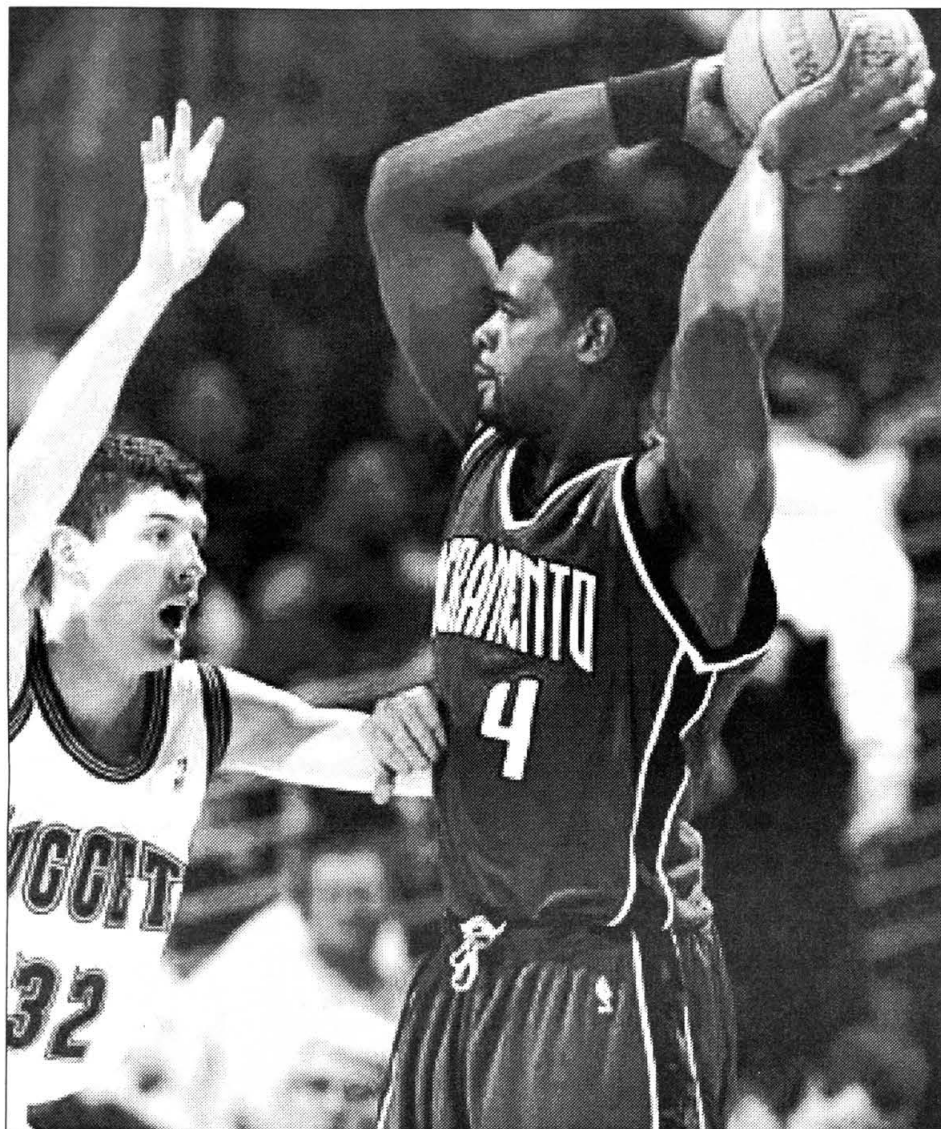
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Chris Webber's day in court to come after season

○ Former Wolverine star's family also implicated in charges



AP Photo/David Zalubowski

Sacramento forward Chris Webber (Right) has been accused of receiving gifts from a booster while attending Michigan.

By Steve Jackson
Michigan Daily

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich.—The trial of former Michigan basketball player Chris Webber won't take place until July 8, well after the regular season and playoffs have concluded for the Sacramento Kings star forward.

"Nobody else would be accommodated like this," Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino told the *Sacramento Bee*. "Would a schoolteacher who wants to wait until the summer break? No. Would a physician who is seeing patients and performing surgery every day? No. Would a construction worker who can't feed his kids if he doesn't work when the weather allows? No."

Webber, his father Mayce Webber Jr. and his aunt Charlene Johnson are facing charges of obstruction of justice and lying to a federal grand jury about their dealings with banned Michigan basketball booster Ed Martin. Each has pled not guilty.

Martin, who pled guilty to money laundering charges, said he loaned more than \$600,000 to four Michigan basketball players, including \$280,000 to Webber and his family. Webber has maintained that he only received pocket money from Martin, but his father admitted to taking gifts when he testified before the grand jury.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds postponed the trial at the request of Webber's lawyer, Steve Fishman.

"You've got teammates, an organization, the citizens of Sacramento," Fishman told the *Detroit Free Press*. "There's a lot more people than Chris Webber who are affected by this."

Edmunds said the court often agrees to work around the schedule of "seasonal" employees, like Webber.

Webber's lawyer, Steve Fishman, was confident that the trial date, which was originally proposed to take place in May or June, was fairly determined.

"The suggestion that Mr. Webber is receiving special treatment because he happens to be a professional basketball player is so ridiculous as to deserve no further comment," Fishman told *The Bee*.

The judge also delayed a decision on a request from Johnson's lawyer, Steven Levy, who wanted to immediately depose Martin, 68, because of his poor health.

"If we have any indication [of his ailing health], we'll take that up, but I see no reason to depose at this time," Edmunds told *The Bee*.

But Edmunds did appear inclined to issue a subpoena ordering the University to turn over an edited copy of its report into Martin's associations with its players that it supplied to the NCAA, along with interviews with its former players. The subpoena was requested by Levy.

University spokeswoman Julie Peterson was unsure as to whether or not the documents in question had been shared, but said that the university strictly enforces the federal law that bars the disclosure of student records without a judicial subpoena.

The next hearing in this case will take place Feb. 5, when a series of defense motions seeking the dismissal of the indictment on a variety of grounds will be heard.

On Nov. 7, the University punished its men's basketball program for the NCAA violations linked to Martin.

It said it would prohibit the team from playing in the 2003 postseason and also forfeited 112 regular-season games and tournament victories from five seasons.

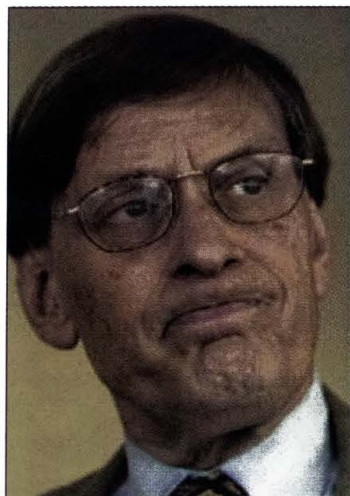
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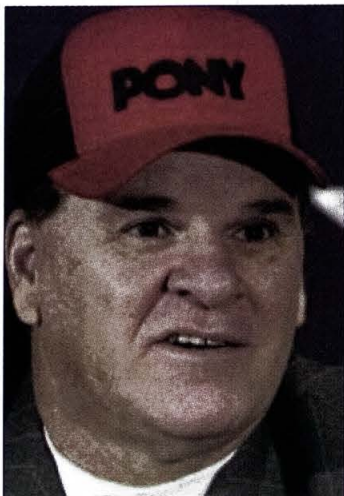
Commentary

Rose should be in Cooperstown

○ It's time for Selig to allow the 'Hit King' to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame



AP Photo/File



AP Photo/File



AP Photo/Douglas Healey



AP Photo/File

Clockwise from upper left: Bud Selig: commissioner who won't budge. Pete Rose: feels misjudged. Fay Vincent: ex-commissioner with a grudge. Rose's Sept. 11, 1985 line drive that broke Ty Cobb's all-time hit record.

By Dustin Klass
Sports Editor

As many of you know, Pete Rose met baseball Commissioner Bud Selig before Thanksgiving in Milwaukee. Obviously, the meeting was to discuss Rose's possible reinstatement into baseball.

There is no question that Pete Rose is one of the best baseball players in history. The numbers say it all. The all-time hit leader recorded 4,256 hits and had a batting average of .303 over the course of his 24-year career.

The problem is that there is significant evidence proving that Rose bet on baseball in the mid- and late 1980s—and worse—bet on the Cincinnati Reds, who he was managing at the time. Rose will probably never admit that he bet on baseball, but that should have nothing to do with what he did on the field as a player.

Rose should not be reinstated into baseball, but he should be inducted into the Hall of Fame. He should have been able to grace the museum in Cooperstown, N.Y. with his presence many years ago. However, 13 years later he is still waiting for his chance to be inducted with baseball's elite.

Ever since he was banned from baseball for allegedly betting on baseball in 1989 by then Commissioner Bart Giamatti, Rose has made appearances in Cooperstown during induction weekend, but not to attend the ceremony. He set up shop in a local memorabilia store and signed autographs to anyone willing to purchase it for a hefty price.

Former Commissioner Fay Vincent who succeeded Giamatti after he died on Sept. 1, 1989—a week after he banned Rose from baseball—refused to lift Rose's ban. Rose applied for reinstatement in 1997, but Selig turned his down request.

A lot of people close to baseball have been saying it would be nice to hear Rose admit that he bet on baseball so we could put this saga behind us and move on. However, it doesn't look like that will ever happen. Anyone watching the 1999 World Series between the Yankees and Braves remembers when NBC reporter Jim Gray almost ruined the All-Century ceremony when he

bombarded Rose with questions about the betting scandal. Sure that was bad timing on Gray's part, but also sent a message that Rose will never admit that he committed the cardinal sin of baseball.

But it is time for Major League Baseball and Selig to let Rose have his spot in the Hall of Fame. He does not need to coach or even step on a major league field for as long as he lives, but he belongs in Cooperstown.

Forget that he should or shouldn't admit to his alleged wrongdoings. Baseball fans have spoken. Rose received the longest ovation in San Francisco during baseball's Memorable Moments ceremony before Game 4 of the World Series.

That night in Atlanta before the infamous Gray interview, the fans cheered louder for Rose than their hometown hero Hank Aaron. In fan polls, they have been in favor of Selig reinstating Rose.

Baseball should listen to its fans on this topic. Major League Baseball should compromise with its fans by not reinstating Rose unless he admits to betting on baseball, but certainly let him be among the game's immortal.

We are always hearing about how baseball wants to be more "fan-friendly." Well, compromising with its fans would be a step in the right direction for Major League Baseball.

Rose's former teammate on the Big Red Machine and Hall-of-Famer Joe Morgan, made it clear on ESPN.com last week that he asked Selig to meet with Rose. He did not ask for him to be reinstated. Because Morgan requested a meeting, it seems as though he and some other Hall of Famers want Rose in Cooperstown.

John Dowd, who investigated Rose for Giamatti in 1989, recently accused Rose of not only betting on baseball, but betting against the Reds when he was managing them. If Dowd's allegations are true, it would be one of the worst scandals in baseball history.

However, this allegedly happened when Rose was managing the team—not playing for it. That does not justify the alleged actions, but it does separate what he did off the field from what he did on it. There is no question that he deserves to be in the Hall of Fame as a result of his efforts on the baseball field.

Key dates in Rose's battle

The Associated Press

Feb. 20, 1989—Rose, the Cincinnati Reds' manager, is summoned to the commissioner's office to answer questions. One month later, baseball announces it is investigating "serious allegations against Rose."

March 21, 1989—Sports Illustrated reports on allegations tying Rose to baseball betting.

March 30, 1989—The Cincinnati Enquirer, quoting former baseball security chief Henry Fitzgibbon, says baseball investigated gambling allegations against Rose in the late 1970s.

Aug. 24, 1989—Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti announces that Rose is banned for life from baseball for gambling. Rose signed a document the previous day saying he is not admitting any guilt and may apply for reinstatement after one year. Giamatti, answering questions, says he has concluded that Rose "bet on baseball."

Sept. 1, 1989—Giamatti dies of a heart attack. His replacement, Fay Vincent, says he has no intention of changing Rose's ban.

April 20, 1990—Rose pleads guilty to two counts of filing false income taxes by failing to report income.

Aug. 10, 1990—Rose reports to federal prison in Marion, Ill., to serve a five-month sentence.

Jan. 7, 1991—Rose is released from prison.

September 1997—Rose applies for reinstatement but commissioner Bud Selig doesn't rule on it, saying he hasn't seen a reason to alter the ban.

July 13, 1999—Rose is not invited to a ceremony before the All-Star game honoring the 100 players, including himself, on a ballot to pick baseball's All-Century team.

Oct. 24, 1999—At a ceremony honoring baseball's All-Century team before Game 2 of the World Series in Atlanta, Selig allows Rose to appear in the ballpark. Rose receives the longest ovation over every other player. Coming off the field, NBC's Jim Gray repeatedly asks Rose if he wants to apologize to fans for betting on baseball, but Rose tries to change the subject. Gray's contentious interview draws criticism from players and fans.

Sept. 22, 2002—At the closing ceremony at Cinergy Field, former Reds pitcher Tom Browning spray-paints a red No. 14 on the pitcher's mound as the stadium erupts in chants of "Pete! Pete!"

Sept. 23, 2002—Rose organizes his own celebrity softball game to bid farewell to Cinergy Field, where he made so much history. More than 40,000 fans show up to watch him and Johnny Bench, Tony Perez, Joe Morgan and other celebrities. One sign in the stands reads, "Rose in the Hall. Bet on it."

Oct. 22, 2002—During a promotion of baseball's Most Memorable Moments before Game 4 of the World Series, Rose receives a 70-second standing ovation and chants of "Hall of Fame!" from the crowd at Pacific Bell Park.

Nov. 25, 2002—Rose and Selig meet secretly in Milwaukee about the career hits leader's reinstatement to the game.