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September 22, 2003 Volume 37, Number 1

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

Dude, where's my stuff?

Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Film major Kevin Buchholze guards a friend's belongings as hundreds of students move into the Residence Center at 731 S. Plymouth Court last week. For full story, see page 3.

College loses top execs

❍ Gall, Johnson tallied more than five decades of experience at Columbia

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

Two top administrators with a combined tenure of a half-century resigned from Columbia within weeks of each other this summer.

Executive Vice President Bert Gall and Director of Human Resources Paul Johnson announced their resignations via collegewide e-mails sent to the Columbia community just weeks before the start of the semester.

Gall had worked with the college since 1969 and Johnson since 1989 after a two-year teaching stint, totaling more than 50 years of service between the two.

The resignations were each given with minimal prior notice to the current administration.

Two consultants, recruited from firms outside the college, have been integrated into the empty positions in order to fill the two major gaps in the school's administrative hierarchy.

"Most of you know Bert and the many contributions he has made to Columbia … in his 34 years of service," Columbia President Warrick L. Carter wrote in his e-mail announcing Gall's resignation on Aug. 22, "culminating with his leadership efforts in the construction of the new student dormitory."

According to the e-mail, Gall will oversee the production of the University Center of Chicago, Columbia's "superdorm" to be shared with Roosevelt and DePaul universities until its completion next fall, remaining a part-time consultant for the project until then.

"Bert is looking for different opportunities that have become available to him," Carter said in response to Gall's employment plans beyond the University Center of Chicago.

One possible option, according to his e-mail, includes plans to pursue job opportunities obtained from Gall's work on the superdorm.

Johnson, whose time at Columbia was made up of a brief period of teaching and 16 years with the Human Resources Department, announced his resignation Sept. 5.

He said he will stay at Columbia until October to supervise the first implementation of the pension and benefits plan.

Johnson's career plans beyond that remain ambiguous, as he cited only "new challenges" in the e-mail as the reason for his departure.

Gall and Johnson both took part in major projects for the school, including the recent pension updates in response to a $9 million schoolwide deficit that forced pensions to be frozen last semester.

Gall was also involved in helping the college expand with projects including a student union at the current Buddy Guy's site on the southwest corner of Wabash Avenue and Eighth Street, as well as the long-term proposal and refurbishment of 619 S. Wabash Ave., which was recently purchased by the school.

The two men were replaced by consultants Michael Debbish from the Cleveland-based Austin Company, a constructional management firm, and Debra Bertone from Robert Half Finance and Accounting.

Debbish, who will fill in for Gall, and Bertone, who will act in Johnson's place, are only temporary replacements, according to Mark Lloyd, the assistant vice president of marketing and communications.

Neither Carter nor Lloyd could discuss the implementation of search committees needed to permanently fill the positions.

Carter officially announced the placement of both Debbish and Bertone on Sept. 8, three days after Johnson's resignation.

"It is true that we're in the process of transition in a number of areas," the e-mail read. "But here, too, we are making every effort to ensure that the transitions are smooth."

He pointed to a long list of work-related projects by each of them, including Debbish's maintenance work with the Tribune Company and WGN, and Bertone's recent work

See **Administrators**, Page 6

No takers for Presidential mansion

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❍ Gold Coast residence remains a hard sell

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

There have been no offers for Columbia's multimillion dollar presidential mansion in the months since the board of trustees decided to sell it off in an effort to dig the college out of a massive budget shortfall.

On the market since July, the Gold Coast property, at 1258 N. Lasalle St., is listed at nearly $3.8 million, records show.

The college purchased the building in November of 2000, with the intention of renovating the space as both a residence for the college president and a venue for luring possible donors and select school functions.

The college's board of trustees voted May 22 to sell the property, which is located at Goethe and LaSalle streets, after college President Warrick L. Carter suggested the sale. A soft economy was cited as a chief factor behind the decision.

In May, Carter said the sale was one of a number of "belt-tightening" moves to pull the college out of a multimillion dollar budget shortfall. With last year's loss of millions in state funding and a similar drop in endowments, the college imposed sweeping economic stopgaps, including freezing faculty pension benefits, capping executive salaries and selling off property deemed frivolous by administrators.

The building's real estate agent, Millie Rosenbloom of the Habitat Company, said that "a property of this magnitude usually don't move that quickly." Rosenbloom said that she has not received any offers since the 105-year-old townhouse was listed on July 9.

Rosenbloom said that she expects whomever purchases the posh 19th-century property will keep the multi-use building the same.

The 15-room building features three baths, five bedrooms, a gourmet kitchen, an attached two-car garage, an elevator, a home theater and a library.

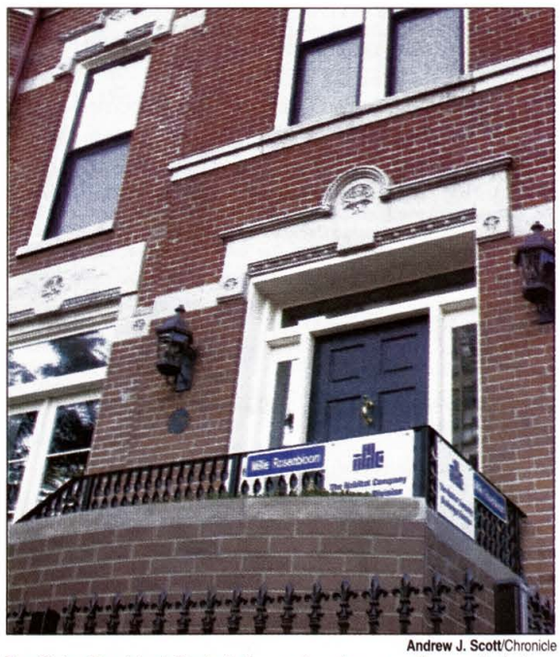
Two years ago, the college extensively remodeled the 8,300 square foot townhouse after purchasing it in 2000 for $1.35 million. The total bill came to $3.7 million.

According to records obtained by the Chronicle, the Cook County Assessor's Office estimated the property's market value at nearly $900,000 in 2002. The building was valued at more than $307,000 in 2001, before the renovation. Under its previous arrangement, the building was carved into nine apartments.

The three-story building is listed as residential with business zoning, which allows at-home workers, Rosenbloom said.

Carter and his wife, Laurel, occupied the top two floors of the residence, which is separate from an area

See **Mansion**, Page 6



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

For Sale: President Carter's house has been on the market since early July. The mansion's asking price is $3.8 million.

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MONDAY

U-PASS pickup resumes at 10 a.m. in Room 311 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., and continues through Oct. 1 for all full-time students. For more information, call (312) 344-7393.

A reception for "Only on Paper: Six Centuries of Judaica" is scheduled for 5-8 p.m. at Columbia's Center for Book and Paper Arts, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

The rare exhibit of extraordinary documents—which are on loan from Tel Aviv until Dec. 13—is the first and only display of the rare collection in the United States. For more information, call (312) 344-6630.

TUESDAY

Late registration for the fall semester starts at 11 a.m. in the computer lab at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court. Continuing students must meet with their academic adviser before registering for classes.

Registration ends Sept. 27. For more information, call (312) 344-7645.

WEDNESDAY

At 10 a.m., the Office of Student Development's Counseling Services is presenting "Don't Let Stress Make You a Mess" in the lobby of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. For more information on this Welcome Week event, call (312) 344-7480.

THURSDAY

Producers for "Out on a Limb," the Television Department's sketch comedy show, are holding open auditions from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Classic Studio of the 11th Street Campus, 72 E. 11th St. Additional auditions are scheduled for Sept. 26 in Room 301.

The program is shown on Columbia CC.TV and WYCC-TV. To make an appointment, call (312) 344-7410.

FRIDAY

At 7 p.m., the Thüringen, Germany-based Meininger Puppet Theater performs Hans Christian Andersen's "The Steadfast Tin Soldier" at the Chicago Cultural Center, G.A.R. Hall, 78 E. Washington St. Tickets are free. For more information, call (312) 744-6630.

This week in history

From the Sept. 22, 1999 edition of the Columbia Chronicle

News of a "South Loop village" has area college officials hoping for the best: an 18-story, $200 million dormitory in the South Loop.

Bert Gall, then the college's provost and executive Vice President, said the proposed building could transform "the South Loop into a student quarter unparalleled in the history of Chicago."

Four years later, Gall—a key player in the building's construction—was in attendance of the multimillion dollar University Center of Chicago's topping off ceremony in August.

The building billed as the world's largest student dorm is set for completion for next fall, just in time for Columbia, Roosevelt and DePaul University students to move in.

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

Chris Coates
Editor-in-Chief

When callers ask Tom Leykis "How are you?" or "How ya' doin'?"on his L.A.-based call-in talk show, the shock jock best known for revealing Kobe Bryant's accuser answers sarcastically, "Do you care?" Most don't.

Neither do I.

The same is true in the beginning weeks of school, when droves of fellow classmates ask, "How was your summer?"

To make my life easier, let me answer it for all of you: terrifying.

That's because the unnerving fact that this is my last summer as a student has been eating away at me since late May. You see, by this time next year, I'll be another gear in the massive machine known as the "workforce."

By September 2004, my first column of the academic year will be merely a faint memory. No more summer hiatus. Or winter hiatus. Or spring break hiatus. It is the official death of my childhood.

Grad school is starting to sound pretty nice … . Or maybe a degree in cartography.

Granted, I haven't exactly been laying around. The Chronicle's website needed tending to (once or twice) and the Chicago Journal needed lots of help from their trusty intern. I mean, "contributing writer." Plus, there was picking staff, moving furniture and dabbling in Chicago Carry-Out's new summer menu. I just love their new extra-greasy chef's salad!

It's all in an effort to make the Chronicle the best college newspaper of its size as we cover Columbia College and its immediate environs.

Oh, which brings me to my point: Welcome to Columbia College Chicago! And considerably more important, welcome to the Columbia Chronicle!

Maybe you're a new student and saw this issue sitting on the back of a toilet at the South Loop Club. Or maybe you're a fifth-year senior and just discovered the Chronicle gives out free movie passes every Monday (623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205).

But there's a better reason to read the Chronicle, aside from the dozens and dozens of awards this publication wins each year.

Here's the secret: Unlike your high school paper, you might actually need the Chronicle. I know, it's not as glamorous as the Internet or television, but as a newly christened adult, a newspaper actually means something to you now. Or it should.

You might learn something in this thing and talk about it with other people, collecting their input to formulate an opinion of your own. And it's not even for class! Crazy, I know.

Speaking of craziness, Columbia takes the cake.

Let me explain.

See, unlike high school or other schools, your money counts here. Even though you can trace its history to when Cleveland was in the White House, Columbia is still very much tuition-driven; no tax dollars in this place. That means the quality of your education depends on where your money's going. These guys don't mess around. They play for keeps.

(Insert shrugged shoulders here.)

That's where we come in. All jesting aside, the Chronicle has consistently proven it can hunt down, digest and disperse data from the college's sometimes-murky inner workings.

Just look at the cover of this week's issue and you'll see how cash calls the shots at Columbia. It's becoming increasingly clear the iron-fisted administration of the college is running our education like a privately controlled business. We'll talk more about this later, I promise.

But it's not all negative. Well, mostly.

The University Center of Chicago, a $150 million project to house 1,700 Columbia, Roosevelt and DePaul university students in the South Loop, is set for completion in September 2004. A Single Room Occupancy housing building is planned for Wabash Avenue and Harrison Street. Then there are alleged plans for a Columbia student center a few blocks away. Columbia is quickly becoming the South Loop's largest landholder.

And it's all for you, my friends. All for your taking. All for your education. After all, you bought it. Or at least the ceiling tiles.

For you kids living in the dorms, I highly suggest you explore the neighborhood whenever you have a few hours to burn. Don't worry: You'll get used to the homeless. Just don't make eye contact. Ever.

So, relax and enjoy your first year. The classes are easy, worries of employment are a few years off and everything is still new.

Enjoy it while it lasts.

Announcements

Late news: Pension plans

■ Marking the apparent end of a summer full of negotiations, Columbia's Board of Trustees agreed to a new pension benefit plan for faculty and staff.

The Sept. 17 announcement outlines a requirement for the college to contribute 7.25 percent of payroll to the new plan over three years. It is funded entirely by the college.

According to a statement released by Columbia President Warrick L. Carter, the "college will contribute nearly $6 million annually for the next three years to the pension funds," an amount that is "four times higher than Columbia has traditionally allocated for retirement benefits."

The college stopped contributing to its pension plan last year in an effort to stave off a multi-million dollar shortfall.

The Chronicle will have complete coverage of the new pension plan in next week's issue.

College acquires new building

■ Columbia officials have confirmed that the college has purchased the building at 619 S. Wabash Ave., the former home of Universal Bowling, for $1.15 million.

Micki Leventhal, the college's director of media relations, said that there are no solid plans for the use of the 71-year-old building, which was placed on the market last spring. The college closed on the building in late August, she said.

The acquisition adds 100,000 square feet to the college's usable space.

Last year, college officials pointed to possible use of the building by the Art and Design Department.

The building sits directly north of Columbia's Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

A new year, another fire alarm

■ A false fire alarm caused the evacuation of Columbia's 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on Sept. 16. The alarm was tripped by dust in the building's vents, a Columbia security official said.

Instructor wins award

■ Albert Williams, an instructor in Columbia's Theater Department, has been named to the 2003 Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame. Williams is also the recipient of the George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism for his reviews in the Chicago Reader.

CAT's second year

■ Columbia Activity Tract cards are available in the Student Activities Center, Room 311, of the Wabash Campus Center, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Dance, Dance, Dance

■ The organizers of the Jazz Rhythm project are holding auditions for the Salsa routine on Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m. in Room 300 of the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave.

For more information, e-mail rice_coleman@hotmail.com.

Not crossing the picket line

■ With the ongoing worker strikes at the Congress Plaza Hotel, 531 S. Michigan Ave., college officials say they're not willing to cross the picket line for the school's annual convocation, which is usually held in the historic hotel's ballroom.

Instead, organizers are making due by planning a circus-themed covocation in a series of big top tents on the northeast corner of Harrison Street and South Wabash Avenue.

According to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, early plans call for fire-breathers, trapeze artists and, of course, free food. The event also features a student expo, famous Columbia grads and live music.

College president Warrick L. Carter will deliver his annual address to the student body.

The event is scheduled for Oct. 10 at 12 p.m.

The covocation is mandatory for all incoming freshman. The college has been holding the convocation since 1998.

For more information, call (312)344-7928.

Columbia's NBC shot

■ A book by Aubrey Niffenegger, with the college's Book and Paper Arts Center, was featured Sept. 17 on NBC's "Today."

Weather

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

Monday, Sept. 22	Cool with a few showers	High 68° Low 52°
Tuesday, Sept. 23	Partly sunny, breezy and cool	High 68° Low 49°
Wednesday, Sept. 24	Times of clouds and sunshine	High 70° Low 53°
Thursday, Sept. 25	Clouds and sun, a shower possible	High 70° Low 55°
Friday, Sept. 26	Clouds and sun; a few showers	High 72° Low 56°
Saturday, Sept. 27	Partly sunny	High 70° Low 51°
Sunday, Sept. 28	Partial sunshine	High 70° Low 53°

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What I did on my summer vacation: Pose for Playboy

○ Columbia's Jenny Haase goes from senior to intern to Playboy model, a summer experience that shows the true value of an internship

By Chris Coates
Editor-in-chief

On page 15 of the September issue, a confused reader writes to Playboy: "I'm curious why you have spent so much time and energy trying to get celebrities to pose in your magazine when right in your office you have the all-American girl." The girl he's referring to is Jenny Haase, a Des Plaines, Ill. native, Playboy intern and the magazine's June employee of the month.

Now in the September issue, Haase is the subject of a six-page pictorial of her own. In any other normal September, the 21-year-old would be just another Columbia student getting ready for the fall semester.

"It's definitely going to be interesting when I go back in [the] fall," said Haase, referring to her relatively demure role as a senior advertising art direction major at Columbia.

Last year, Haase said she was tipped off to openings at Chicago-based Playboy by Fred Nelson, a professor in Columbia's Art and Design Department, who once worked in the magazine's art department in the early '70s.

A blonde "girl-next-door" (complete with a Midwestern accent), Haase said Nelson mentioned Playboy a lot in class, usually harkening back to the good times he had at the headquarters. Thus, Haase was hooked.

Nelson made a few phone calls and found an opening in the magazine's art department. It was the first time Nelson, who has worked at Columbia for 15 years, ever used his connections at Playboy to land an internship for one of his students, he said.

"[Haase is] a real, real sharp, intelligent woman and she knows what she wants," Nelson said.

Using such sharpness, it wasn't long after Haase started last summer before a photo editor asked her about posing naked in the storied magazine. Maybe it's Hugh Hefner's spirit, or a sign of the times, but Haase didn't find the proposition too out of the question.

"I went home and talked about it with my family," Haase said in a telephone interview with the Chronicle from Playboy headquarters. The entire Haase clan, grandparents and all, gave the seal of approval, she said. "[We] decided it was an opportunity of a lifetime and it was definitely worth giving a shot."

That shot, ironically enough, came with another Columbia connection: The shoot's photographer, George Georgiou, is a part-time faulty member in Columbia's Photography Department.

He thought Haase handled it like a pro.

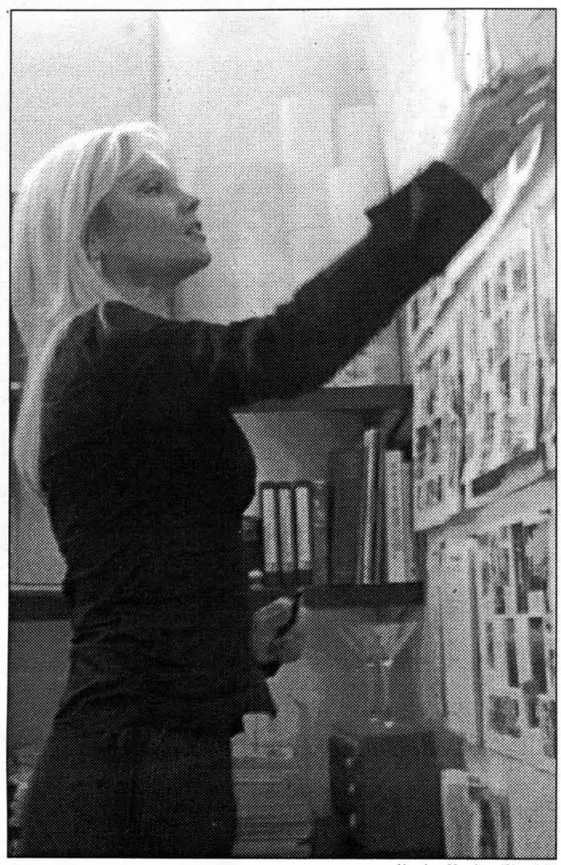
"She was easygoing," Georgiou said, especially for her first time "doing any of that kind of modeling."

"She was great to work with," he said.

And did Haase find it a bit strange to be snapped in the buff?

"When you work here, I've developed such an appreciation for this magazine and the people I work with," she said. "It made it that much more comfortable."

In November, Haase was the Cyber Girl on Playboy's website and by this spring, she made it in the print version of Playboy Special Editions' College Girls issue. She was also the subject of www.plaboy.co College Nude Photography Contest, where a lucky young photographer from one of the nation's colleges won a chance to snap Haase sans clothing.



Heather Morrison/Chronicle

Jennifer Haase, a Des Plaines native, is the subject of a six- page pictorial in the September issue of Playboy.

But it was her role as the first-ever employee of the month in June that really triggered heavy praise for the half-century old glossy. Soon, readers were calling for more of the Des Plaines native, who, as per her intern duties, reads much of the email that filters into Playboy.

"It was interesting to see all this feedback about me being the first employee of the month that they have ever done," Haase said.

Sensing a formula for success, Playboy's editors decided to give Haase, her own six-page pictorial in the September issue.

The spread's text mentions Columbia by name, a fact Haase said shouldn't bring the college's reputation any harm.

"I don't see anything negative towards it," she said. "[It's representative] of me and what I do here, which is art and design, which is applied to what I do at school. So it kind of all ties together."

That said, Georgiou said he thinks the pictorial will certainly bring attention to Columbia.

"Whether or not the college likes it is a whole other story," he said.

Although he didn't have anything to do with Haase posing, Nelson also thinks it serves as a positive image for the school.

Micki Leventhal, Columbia's director of media relations, said that the college's administration does not have a statement on the issue.

Georgiou said at least one other Columbia student has posed naked in Playboy. Heather Phelps was in the magazine's Sexy College Girls 2002 issue. Phelps attended Columbia from 1995 to 1996 and has appeared in the pages of Playboy several times since 1996.

However, Haase is the first Columbia student to ever receive a full spread in the magazine.

And while she is a featured model in this month's issue, Haase is still technically an intern, although she's crossed over into the editorial and photo departments. In fact, Haase said Georgiou even showed her how to "develop and make my own prints."

"It's nice to work here because it kind of helps a little bit here and there with school," she said.

Most interns don't make the front page of the magazine—which this month features under the heading "Return of Jenny the Intern: Half pay, full nudity." She's even made it out to the Playboy Ranch to hobnob with the likes of Justin Timberlake at Hefner's birthday party, according to the magazine.

She's also grabbed some attention from the media, appearing last month on the nationally-syndicated radio talk show, "Murray in the Morning."

So, what does the future hold for a globetrotting Columbia student who just happens to be featured in Playboy? Well, mainly the fall semester.

"Hopefully I can finish with this next year and I'll be set to go," she said.

According to Haase's Playboy bio, she probably won't be staying in the Windy City very long: "I've always wanted to experience Hollywood glamour."

Of course, that's after she completes her internship.

Virus slows network

○ OASIS system temporarily crippled

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

A virus that crashed Columbia's internal computer server two weeks ago prevented nearly 400 incoming and continuing students from registering through OASIS, Columbia's Internet portal, on campus, a college official said.

Lines of people were jammed in the corridor of Columbia's Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, Sept. 10 and 11, until OASIS representatives sent them home to register.

The virus, called the Nathi virus, was one of a series of bugs infecting the system and slowing down OASIS, Columbia's sole source of registration, since the middle of the summer.

"It sends out messages to the Internet," said Chief Information Officer Bernadette McMahon, "which flood your network...on windows-based machines."

The Information Technology Department had the system repaired within 24 hours from when the school was hit by the virus, McMahon said.

But hundreds of students felt the initial repercussions of it.

Brian Amidei, a technician hired by the college to help streamline the registration process, said he handed out 459 tickets that day to students

See **Virus**, Page 6

Homecoming bittersweet for dorm's newest residents

○ Students, parents crowd for first day of move-in

By Adam J. Ferington
News Editor

They came from as far as Virginia and Vermont, and as near as Oak Lawn and Schaumburge. But despite their geographical distinctions, they were all here for the same reason: moving day.

As throngs of new and returning students lined the sidewalks surrounding Columbia's Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, the pavement was lined with televisions and dinette sets, stereo systems and bookcases; a virtual outdoor flea market that streamed through the doors like trains at Grand station.

Although the cavalcade could've easily been mistaken for a block party, the mood was one of mixed enthusiasm and trepidation as the impatient multitude waited in the sweltering heat for the opportunity to move their effects into the building's scant elevators.

In spite of the structure's elevator deficiency and uncomfortable temperatures, the process seemed to move forward moderately ordered and controlled.

"It's going fairly smooth," said Mary Oakes, director of Residence Life. "We've got building services unloading people as quickly as they can. With roughly 300 people a day coming in, we want to get people unloaded and situated as quickly as possible."

According to residents, the professionalism of the dorm's staff is what initially attracted them here. "They seem to care a lot about the people here," said Freshman Stefanie Butler.

Her roommate Alexandra Ruse agreed. "Security was a big concern for me and my parents, but here you can get a guard to walk with you, and there's always someone at the desk."

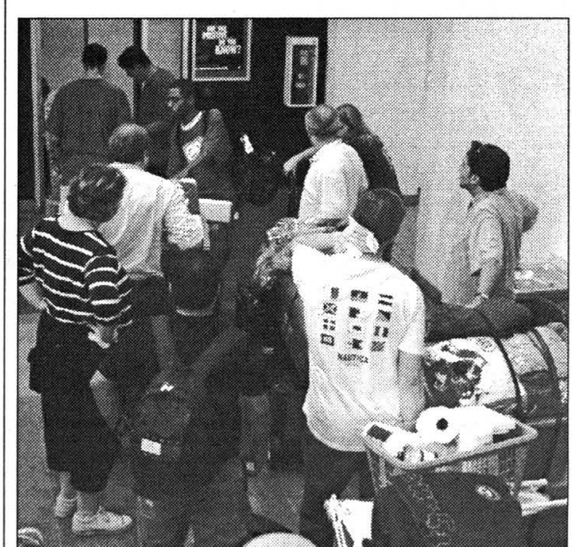
Butler and Ruse, who initially met over the summer after exchanging phone numbers, were impressed immediately, not only with the apparent quality of dorm life, but also with the school itself.

"A lot of schools don't really have an opportunity to meet people and mix, but [Columbia] seems to want everyone to try their own thing," Ruse said.

With Columbia's "Superdorm" scheduled to open next fall, Oakes is confident that the residence hall's affable and efficient policies will transition smoothly to the monolithic structure.

"Once [the Superdorm] opens, we'll have about 1,200 beds altogether between all the [residence] buildings," Oakes said.

"It may be challenging, but we'll keep doing the best job we can."



Heather Morrison/Chronicle

Parents and friends help new students move in at 731 Plymouth Court while learning their first lesson: lines are a way of life at Columbia.

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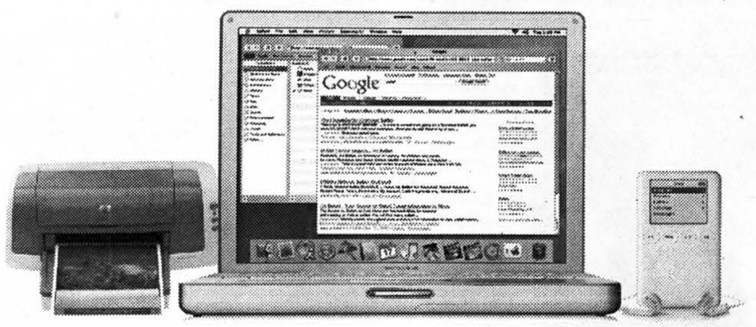

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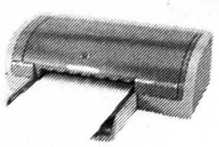

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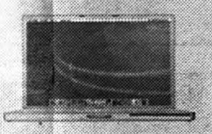

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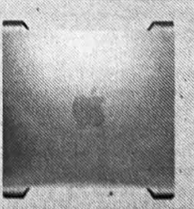

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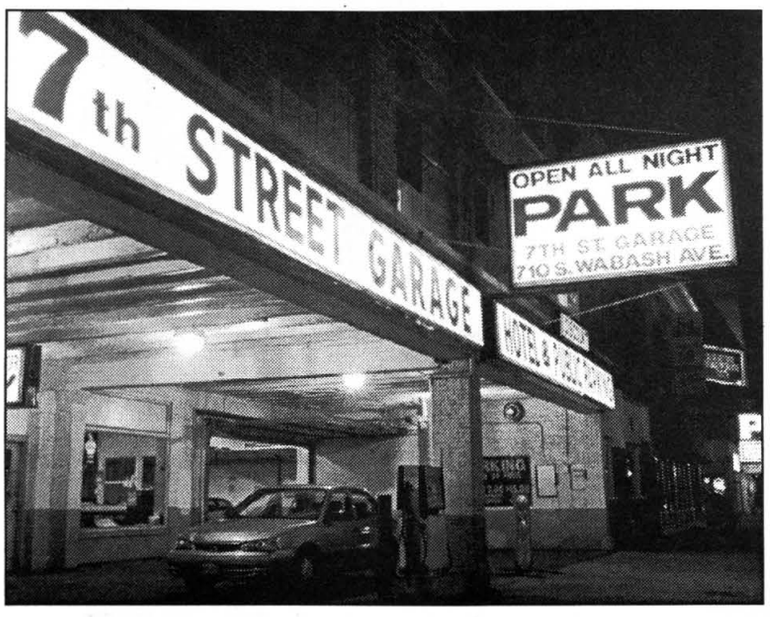

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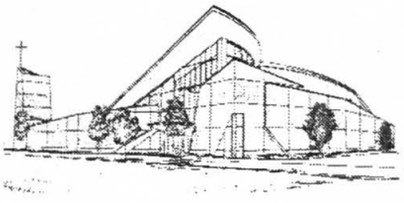

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Welcome Back!

WOW events showcase Columbia's fall offerings

Campus-wide departments are pulling out all the stops to welcome new, returning students

By Fernando Diaz
Assistant News Editor

Columbia will welcome its newest class with three weeks of events, exhibits, screenings, performances, job fairs and one doughnut day that will culminate in the New Student Convocation on Oct. 10.

The Weeks of Welcome will serve to highlight semester long programs or events in order to involve new students in Columbia's culture.

Many departments and offices around campus have been busy preparing their schedules of events. Most will showcase student work from last year as well as introduce students to services offered by the college.

Many students "go to class, and then they go home," said Mary Butler, coordinator of the Minority Mentor Program. Her program is hosting a meet-and-greet session on Sept. 26 — from 2-4 p.m. in Room 311 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., — to get freshmen involved in student organizations early.

Aside from "inviting the [Student Organizations Committee] to recruit freshmen," they will be offering henna tattoos, she said.

The Minority Mentor Program is not the only group using food to lure students.

"A lot of people leave after walking into the first floor [of the library], because there are no books," said Marilee Brown, a library circulation assistant. "Food always works," she said, referring to "Doughnut Day" on Oct. 8, which starts at 9:30 a.m.

Aside from food, Counseling Services is giving away 10-minute chair massages on Sept. 24. Members of the department will be available in the lobby of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Students at Columbia are allowed 10 free sessions with a therapist from the department throughout the semester to help cope with any issue from relationships, to fitting in, to coping with stress or family issues.

The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., will welcome Susan Marshall & Company to debut its 30th season on Oct. 2-4. Also scheduled is a pre-performance discussion by Susan Marshall on Oct. 3, and a DanceMasters class she is conducting on Oct. 4 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Columbia students can purchase their first performance ticket for $5, with each subsequent ticket at full price. The DanceMasters class is $24.

Beginning Wednesday, the weekly Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Discussion Support Group will take place in Room 314 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. The group has been meeting for a year and a half, and is co-facilitated by Maya Shewnarain, academic adviser, and Charley Knapp, a therapist with Counseling Services. The task "is to provide a safe place for GLBT students to meet each other and to talk openly about the experience of being GLBT at Columbia and anywhere in the world," Shewnarain said.

For film lovers and students alike, the Michael Rabiger Center for Documentary will continue its Thursday screenings. During the Weeks of Welcome, they will screen *Gimme Shelter*, a film about the Rolling Stones' 1969 tour. Each film illustrates "how documentary is relevant to mainstream [culture], documentary isn't just boring and obscure," according to Lemeul Huntington, documentary center technical coordinator. "It's a chance to showcase our special little corner of Columbia," he said. The other two films are Nick Broomfield's controversial look at the life of two of rap's most infamous icons, *Biggie and Tupac* and Stacy Peralta's story of the never-ending summer *Dogtown and Z-Boys*.

The Film and Video Department is re-screening its year-end show of student work, The Big Screen 2003, on Oct. 1 in Room 302 at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. "It gives our new students a chance to see what we're about, it gives them something to shoot for," said Eileen Coken, manager of administrative services for the department.

The Career Center for Arts and Media, the college's job search office, is offering an ongoing career fair with a twist. According to Matt Green, an adviser at the center and head of the fair, the goal of bringing the employers is for students to get a job while in school rather than begin the search for a job post-graduation.

Starting Sept. 29 and running through Oct. 10, prospective employers will be available to meet with interested students in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Representatives from staffing agencies, South Loop hotels and service-oriented companies are looking for students to fill many positions.

Also, FOCO, a "festival celebrating the cutting edge of Latino Pop Culture," according to press materials, will begin today in C33 Space at the Parkway Building, 33 E. Congress Parkway, with an exhibit of works by two Latino artists. Work by Carlos Aponte, a New York-based Puerto Rican artist and author, and Colectivo Hematoma, a "graphic design guerilla collective" from Guadalajara, Mexico will be on display.

The International Student Affairs office is hosting meetings to soften the culture shock associated with a new life in the United States on Wednesdays and Thursdays through Oct. 2. Symon Ogeto, coordinator of International Students Affairs, will cover housing, employment, aspects of time management, identification, shopping and how to call long-distance. "We will cover different areas where students have needs," Ogeto said, "[like] how to sign a lease."

UPASS gridlock

Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Hundreds of students were forced to wait hours on Sept. 19, the first day of UPASS distribution. Students formed a line in the 3rd floor halls of the Wabash building that wound around the floor twice, sending them to the Hokin Annex until they were ready to be photographed. Schools officials expect the line to continue through early this week.

Mansion *Continued from Front Page*

intended for entertaining donors and staging student activities.

The purchase and final renovation of the property raised eyebrows in 2000 partly because of the price and the fact that the townhouse is located more than two miles from Columbia's South Loop campus. The neighborhood features many homes valued at well over $1 million, including the University of Illinois at Chicago's presidential mansion.

As part of the original plan, the college agreed to open the first level of the home to student activities, but later placed extensive limits on the types of events inside the mansion. The limits were met with widespread disapproval from the college community.

In a statement released last May, Carter said, "The house has been an unremitting source of controversy over the past couple of years," and that its sale makes good economic sense.

Carter, who was hired in 2000, will continue to live in the residence until the building is sold, according to Steven Kapelke, the college's provost/vice president of Academic Affairs.

Once the residence is sold, the college will search for and eventually purchase a new residence for Carter.

Carter told the Chronicle that there are no plans in place for his living arrangements after the sale of the mansion adding that, "We'll cross that bridge when we get to it."

Before the purchase, the college paid for its president's living expenses, wherever that space was.

For example, the college footed the bill for the Lake Shore Drive condominium of former college president John B. Duff, who retired in 2000, and the living space of the college's first president, Mike Alexandroff, who retired in 1992.

Carter said that the college has provided a "living allowance" for past presidents and that he will likely receive a similar stipend.

"I'd like to live someplace that's convenient," Carter said, "and that will serve the college as well as our own living circumstances comfortably."

While it is unclear exactly where the president will live, Carter did not exclude the South Loop as a possibility.

"We have ruled nothing out," he said.

For a full tour of the residence at 1258 N. Lasalle St., visit: www.columbiachronicle.com/mansion

Administrators *Continued from Front Page*

with PNC Bank Corporation.

"We continue to grow, continue to add more faculty and staff positions, continue to improve the quality of our physical plant and the services we provide students," Carter wrote.

Debbish, who spoke with the Chronicle during his third week at the school, agreed that Columbia's tight focus on the overall dedication to its students and to the campus is on target.

"[Columbia is] everything I expected and more," Debbish said.

Although maintaining the day-to-day upkeep of the college is demanding, Debbish wants to focus on the college's long-term projects as well.

Ongoing developments underway include the consistent, floor-by-floor refurbishment of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., and the preservation of the college's buildings per their historically significant status.

Space is still a primary issue not only to Debbish, but also to the rest of the administration.

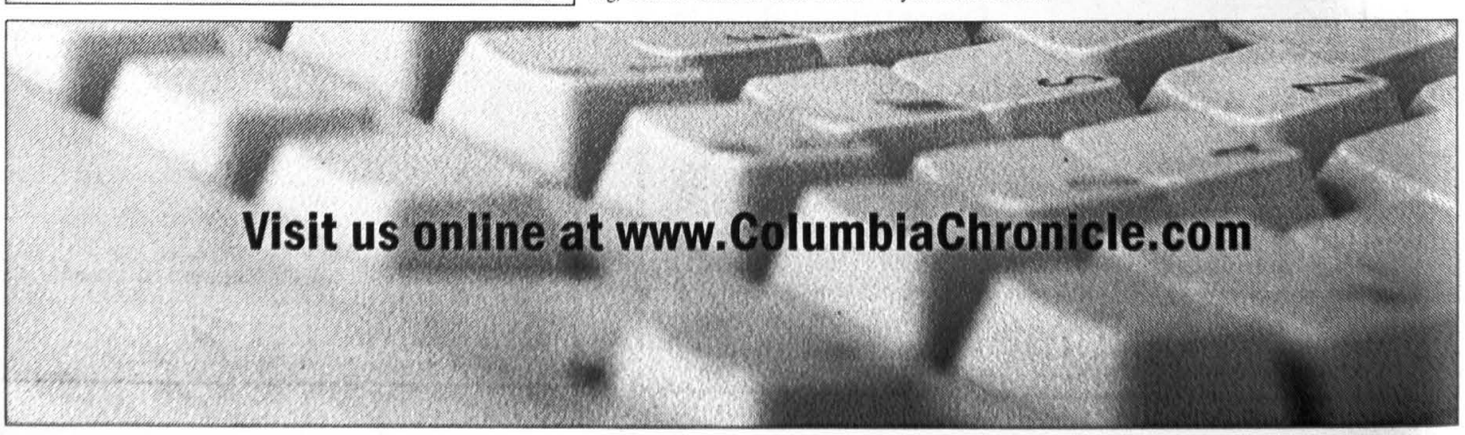
One of his first concerns, similar to those of Gall, is to create as much space for classrooms as possible.

In terms of Debbish's tenure at Columbia, the Austin Company told him to clear between six months and a year on his calendar.

Bertone was not available for an interview.

In other personnel additions, Carter announced last week his decision to hire a new vice president for Institutional Advancement, a job vacated by Woodie White last semester.

According to the announcement, Sam Ross held titles as the vice president for development and marketing at Jane Addams Hull House and the vice president for university advancement at Benedictine University.



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I want to share with you our vision about what we expect of ourselves as an educational institution and what we want for you. Here at Columbia College, we are not satisfied in training, nor in educating artists. We seek to *civilize* them.

What does this mean? It does not mean teaching manners or good social graces. Sometimes, it's just the opposite.

Columbia's mission statement demands that we prepare our students to "communicate creatively" and "shape the public's perceptions of issues and events," to "author the culture of their times." At the same time, as an institution, Columbia College enrolls students who "reflect the economic, racial, cultural and educational diversity of contemporary America." We recognize that we serve an "important civic purpose by active engagement in the life and culture of the City of Chicago."

In short, we want to produce artists and communicators who are able to stand outside their society, to criticize it. At the same time that we are preparing artists and communicators to engage their society, to improve it. We seek to foster an independent spirit in a culture of interdependency.

Here at Columbia, you will find opportunities for such engagement. There are photography and art galleries, a music center, a world-class dance center, a professional-quality theater, numerous experimental theater spaces and auditoriums, cabaret-style venues, award-winning fiction and poetry publications, a campus-based radio station, a Columbia College Chicago television station, a truly outstanding student newspaper, and research resources like the Center for Black Music Research and the Center for Arts Policy – all with public programs. With these programs, we are not only encouraging free expression, as freely and wholly as we can, we are also maintaining vital connections with the daily lives of our neighbors.

We believe that arts and media colleges – like Columbia College Chicago, the largest visual, performing and media arts college in the nation – have an obligation to students to prioritize civic engagement, both in the classroom and in their daily lives. We not only seek to teach creative individuals, but we also seek to nurture development of the complete human being who engages in interdependent relationships with others.

This, then, is the meaning of being *civilized* – not only being proficient in an aesthetic discipline or the cultural trappings of society, but also fully engaged in the civic life of the community. Again, welcome to the Columbia College Chicago.

Dr. Warrick L. Carter, Ph. D.
PRESIDENT

And this is what we call homework...

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Columbia | COLLEGE CHICAGO

Administrators' unexpected departure stirs mix of emotions for employees

○ Half-century of service by Johnson, Gall fondly remembered; uncertainty left in wake

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

When top Columbia administrators Bert Gall and Paul Johnson resigned from their respective 34- and 18-year tenures at Columbia, the college was nearly deserted due to summer break.

Although schoolwide e-mail proclamations swept the computers of the college, it wasn't until weeks after the initial announcement that many Columbia staff and faculty discovered the two top administrators were gone.

Some staff and faculty members told the Chronicle that they're torn between a sadness for the loss of longtime colleagues and a subtle uncertainty as to how the school will be affected by this huge and sudden change.

"I think both resignations are a great loss to the college," said Joan Erdman, a full-time liberal education faculty member.

Erdman spoke highly of both men, citing the successful projects she worked on with each of them.

She said she feels Columbia is heading into a period of uncertainty.

"Most people recognize we're entering a new era in the human resources office," she said.

Columbia President Warrick L. Carter may have sensed that concern and answered it with an e-mail response to the college two days after Johnson's resignation. Attempting to prevent rumors from spiraling out of control, Carter introduced Gall and Johnson's temporary replacements.

"It's natural that, with these changes may come some degree of uncertainty and, perhaps some feelings of insecurity," the e-mail read. "I'm writing to address concerns you may have about changes within the college and, I hope, to allay any fears you may have about the future."

For some, though, that might not have been enough to compensate for the departure of Gall, who had been with the college for over three decades, and Johnson, who'd been here for nearly two decades.

Gall was responsible for directing all maintenance and security issues for the school, according to his now former colleagues, and he had to be knowledgeable about minute details of Columbia's inner and outer workings, as a result.

Johnson created the Human Resources Department. In 1989, he worked under former Columbia President Mike Alexandroff to piece together a department that was responsible for the negotiations of part-time faculty member contracts and the creation of new pension plans.

Anyone who works in any position, of course, has supporters and naysayers, Erdman said.

Although Gall and Johnson may have had their share of opposition, uneasiness was still felt among faculty and staff last week toward the temporary replacements the school recently outsourced to take over the Human Resources Department and the Executive Vice President's Office.

"We assume they will be temporary," Erdman said of the newly placed consultants. "We hope the faculty and staff will be included in the [decision-making process]."

"You have to have someone in there," said Eric May, a full-time fiction writing faculty member. "Your hope is that they'll be able to do their job."

May, who attended Columbia as a student when Gall was still a provost with his signature ponytail, has known Gall for nearly three decades.

"Columbia College Chicago is one of the greatest success stories in American higher education in the last 30 years," May said, "and Bert Gall had a lot to do with it."

May, among others, expressed Gall and Johnson's deep love and dedication to the college.

"Bert Gall hired me in 1978," said Paula Epstein, the coordinator of the Library Outreach program. "He gave me an opportunity to grow personally and be a part of the growth of the college. No one loves the institution as much as Bert Gall. He understood the mission of the college."

None of them, however, could explain why either would leave the school so abruptly.

"[Gall's] intimate knowledge of the college is in some ways, irreplaceable," said Mark Kelly, vice president of student affairs. "But, all administrators, in the end, are replaceable."

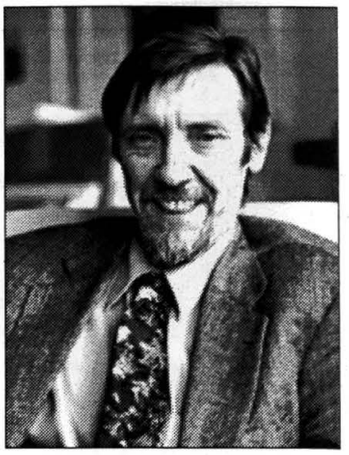
"With any new leadership, I think things change," said Dominic Cottone, the director of student leadership. "I think people are scared, because change is always scary."

Cottone said his outlook is as optimistic as possible and that the students he supervises will probably even benefit from the change.

"Now with Bert gone, I think it's going to open up new opportunities," he said. "We'll be really happy to get some more space on campus to utilize."

Temporary consultant from the Austin Company Michael Debbish, like Robert Half consultant Debra Bertone, is only suppose to be a temporary replacement for Gall.

According to Mark Lloyd, the assistant vice president of marketing and communications, Bertone is not only currently working closely with Johnson until his departure in October but is also working with assistant director of human resources, Patricia Olalde. Neither Olalde nor Bertone could be reached for comment.



Chronicle file photo
Former Executive Vice President, Bert Gall.

The New Addition

Sitting in Gall's old chair is Austin Company consultant Michael Debbish, who describes himself as a workaholic and whose first impression of Columbia is a positive one.

Debbish, who arrives at work between 6 and 6:15 every morning, told the Chronicle that he is ready to conform his efforts to the mission of the college. He still wants to do it with the help of Columbia's staff.

"I want to be as transparent as possible so people don't feel as if they can't come to me with a problem," he said.

Like elevators.

Debbish said that when he first came to Columbia three weeks ago, the erratic status of the 33 E. Congress Parkway building elevators was kind of a running joke.

Debbish said he knew they needed to be replaced, and that the elevators are on schedule to be replaced one-by-one as early as January.—*Lisa Balde*

Virus

Continued from Page 3

waiting in line. He only got to register 45 of them before the system completely crashed.

Adviser restrictions were waived that night, so students could add or drop classes from their home computers.

"Columbia students showed a remarkable degree of patience and resilience during the registration computer crashes, and they have a sense of humor," said Academic Advising Director Janet Talbot.

Talbot told the Chronicle that the majority of those students waiting in line had no problems registering at all once they left to use different computers.

And those who did have problems had a record-breaking solution waiting for them.

According to Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly, a help desk was set up by 1 p.m. on Sept. 11, the same afternoon the virus infected nearly all the computers in the school.

The desk, now dubbed "the war room," features between five and 10 people troubleshooting problems as students call in.

Students don't have to wait through an operator or sift through an automated message. They can talk to a human immediately, Kelly said.

Kelly said that problems with the slowness of the OASIS portal were due to viruses that have been plaguing institutions and other colleges, as well as Columbia.

A virus called Sobig.f began paralyzing Columbia's system in August, clogging computer e-mail accounts with hundreds of messages entitled "Your details," "Thank You," "Re: Thank you!" and "Re: Details," among others.

The virus slowed Columbia's internal e-mail server and the OASIS portal to a crawl just weeks before registration.

According to Chris Thompson, the vice president of product marketing for Network Associates, viruses such as this one could have hit any school—and did.

Nearly a week after the infection began, almost 100,000 computers were still swamped with spam mail, no matter how many individual e-mails were deleted.

"This worm propagates via e-mail and attempts to spread via accessible network shares," Network Associates warned on its website, touting the use of virus protection software.

Firewalls protecting Columbia's computer server saved the school from more drastic repercussions in both cases.

According to Kelly it was proof that the OASIS system can hold its own.

The help desk is still at work on the sixth floor of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., fielding any computer-related questions in need of an answer.

2 East 8th Street Building to become 'dorm-style' housing by next fall

By Fernando Diaz
Assistant News Editor

Columbia has another place to lodge some of the students waiting for on-campus housing. The 2 E. 8th St. building, which until recently was a residential property that leased its units, has been purchased and is now operated by College Park Communities.

The Pennsylvania-based group will run the building similar to a dorm with some differences.

The building will not be "dry," but "underage drinking will not be tolerated," said Carrie Horwitz, on-site director of student life for CPC.

If students are caught breaking the rules, their co-signers, in most cases parents or guardians, will be notified in addition to the police.

By next fall, when all remaining leases with nonstudent tenants will expire, the building will offer 330 dorm-style units to students of Columbia, DePaul and Roosevelt universities, Robert Morris College, the Art Institute of Chicago and Illinois Institute of Art.

The renovation process underway will replace all of the furniture in the units, and by Jan. 1, 2004 will include Ethernet and basic cable bundled with utilities in the lease.

A resident assistant will monitor each floor and each student will have their own lease.

In all other aspects, the building will function like a private residence, offering students furnished units.

Horwitz said she anticipates space for about 20 students in five to 10 units to be available within the next month.

There are currently 57 students living in the building through CPC, and Horwitz said she expects to see that number rise to 70 by the end of October.

Carter gives SGA go-ahead on new amenities proposal

○ Student Government looks to add ATMs, bus shuttles

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

A Student Government Association amenities proposal that could extend computer lab hours and create a schoolwide shuttle service was endorsed by Columbia President Warrick L. Carter in a meeting with the SGA Sept. 17.

The proposal, which was submitted by the SGA at the end of last semester, outlines student requests, including the addition of lockers and ATMs to the school, extended library and computer lab hours and the enhancement of safety and security features.

It is the first written proposal given to the school within the SGA's one-year tenure. The SGA student-run organization was launched last fall.

"Everything that was on the amenities proposal ... was all things that [the administration] knew students needed and requested in the past," said SGA president, Justin A. Kulovsek.

Many of the requests, according to Kulovsek, were items Carter said the school was looking into even before such things were formally proposed by the SGA.

Now that Carter has approved the initial phases of the proposal, Kulovsek said, it will be directed to Michael Debbish, a consultant who was outsourced at the end of August to fill former Executive Vice President Bert Gall's duties after his resignation this summer.

"The initial objective is making the students' campus life as easy as possible," the proposal reads. "With our combined efforts, we would like to see these amenities go into effect as quickly as possible."

Although no dates were specified as to when any of these amenities are to be initiated or permanently put into place, the administration reportedly said in the Sept. 17 meeting that the school was already considering the execution of such tasks.

The proposal did highlight specific requests and suggestions for change, including the extension of library hours from 9:30 p.m. to midnight and placing ATMs in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.; the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building; and the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Updating and adding handicap-accessible drinking fountains to every school building was also included, as was obtaining locker space for art and design, journalism, dance, theater and film students.

The changes will be made, Kulovsek said. But because the school is in the midst of so many structural enhancements, the changes may come separately over a few semesters.

As the SGA enters its third semester of operation, it does so without a full senate. The SGA will enter the new semester with six empty senate seats, three fewer than those left vacant at the beginning of fall 2002.

Kulovsek isn't concerned, though. He received a variety of inquiries this summer from students about representing their respective departments, and Kulovsek is prepared to appoint senators as needed.

Even with seven empty seats, the SGA is still able to make decisions due to its quorum status.

The SGA's first meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second week of the semester.

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U. Illinois cracks down on student file sharing

New regulations implemented in response to lawsuit

By Leah George-Baskin
Daily Illini (U. Illinois)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Because of the recent heat put on by the Recording Industry Association of America, universities are uploading software to choke the amount of data that can flow in or out of a student's computer.

According to Peter Siegel, campus chief information officer, the University of Illinois is not uploading software, but is maintaining its procedure of putting a limit to what a student can transfer on and off campus. All students pay for access to university infrastructure and Siegel said they try to maintain a level of fairness as to how much bandwidth each student uses.

The RIAA recently filed 261 suits as an ongoing part of the recording industry's enforcement of laws against file sharing.

Transferring illegally pirated music and videos is risky for students, Siegel said. While the university does not look at the content of what is being shared, he said they do watch the amount.

"It's not a matter of the university backing the record industries," Siegel said. "It's a matter of the law."

Wendy Seltzer, staff attorney for Electronic Frontier Foundation, said she believes universities should not be held responsible for student file sharing. She said a university's primary purpose is to educate, and monitoring and prohibition are hindering students.

"Universities are over-reading the law and doing more than the law requires," Seltzer said.

Based in San Francisco, the EFF is an organization working to protect a person's right to download files, and to educate people about civil liberty issues related to technology, according to its website.

Amanda Collins, spokeswoman for the RIAA, said the recording industry feels it is necessary to go after people who are illegally sharing music because it is against the law.

Collins said they work closely with the higher education community to help students and faculty to learn about legal alternatives online and that it is up to the individual universities to decide how they deal with students.

Siegel said when they have students who appear to be sharing files illegally, they are notified by the RIAA. The university then contacts the student and if need be, makes them aware of legal ways to share music.

He said the university will not take action against students and will not make assumptions.

"Fines for sharing illegal files can be as much as $15,000 to $20,000."

—Peter Siegel, U of I chief information officer

"Our approach is to be as responsive as possible," Siegel said. "A fear I have is that the recording industry won't care if we talk to the students and will want to take all the students to court instead."

Siegel said fines for sharing illegal files can be as much as $15,000 to $20,000.

Seltzer said some defendants settle out of court before a suit is filed for around $3,000, but a person can be fined $750 to $150,000 in copyright statutory damages for each song or work.

Seltzer said she thinks everyone who is sued will be driven to settle. "It's all a new kind of suit, and precedent from other cases won't help much in these situations."

The RIAA began prosecuting individual students last year, causing some to pay large financial penalties. The RIAA has indicated that it will be more aggressive this year, Siegel said.

Collins said in the past three years, music industry sales have fallen 31 percent.

According to the RIAA, computer users illegally download more than 2.6 billion copyrighted files, mostly songs, every month. At any given moment, more than five million users are online offering an estimated one billion files for copying through various peer-to-peer networks.

Seltzer said the RIAA's overall tactic is aiming at the wrong ends and thereby scaring away fans. Fans are sharing files because they want music and like what they are hearing, so the recording industry should look to compensate their fans in a better format, she said.

"[The recording industry] is trying to push on every place it can and working on the ones that give in by suing them," Seltzer said. "It's a total misuse of the legal process and is solely for the purpose of scaring other people. But the way the copyright law is written, they are allowed to do that."

Seltzer said she believes the RIAA should be figuring out how to build a better distribution method instead of suing its fans.

Collins said the recording industry has started to provide legal ways to gain music online.

"Record companies are licensing music to online sites all the time," Collins said. "There are dozens of legal sites out there and great ways to get music legally right now."

Collins emphasized that when people engage in illegal activity, they are not anonymous.

"We do emphasize to the community [that] while there is a cultural sense that it's ok to share music, videos and movies, the RIAA has the authority and the capability to specify who is doing this and [to prosecute] them," Siegel said.

Testing out saves cash, students say

To offset tuition hikes, students opt to take exams instead of paying for classes

By Kathy Matherne
Daily O'Collegian (Oklahoma State U.)

(U-WIRE) STILLWATER, Okla. Many students are trying to find ways to offset the recent tuition and fee increases. One way students have discovered is to take a College Level Examination Program test rather than pay the cost of the equivalent class.

Kay Porter, manager of University Testing, said she noticed this trend lately.

"We hear it a lot," Porter said.

Many times it's parents who are aware of this option and encourage their children to take advantage, Porter said.

She also attributes a lot of their business to word-of-mouth among students. Last year, University Testing gave 957 College-Level Examination Program tests as opposed to the 753 tests given the year before, Porter said.

Brenda Miller, a senior office assistant in the testing center, talked about the costs of taking a CLEP test.

Tests containing an essay cost $80, but $30 can be put on your bursar. The remaining $50 goes to CLEP and must be paid by credit card or money order. A test that does not contain an essay portion only costs $65 and $15 of that can be put on your bursar. This cost is minimal when compared to the cost of a class, lab fees and books.

The minimum score required to pass a CLEP test is 70 percent, according to Linda Owens from the Admissions Office. "You don't have to make an 'A' to get credit," Owens said.

Many students want to know how hard the exams are to determine their chances of passing or possibly wasting their money.

"It's supposed to be hard," Miller said.

Students can repeat a test if they do not pass, but they must wait six months before retaking it.

The testing process has been made easier, however, and more efficient.

Since 2001, the CLEP tests can be taken on a computer at the testing center. Students no longer have to worry about No. 2 pencils and hand cramps. There's also no more waiting for scores, Porter said.

Students now receive their scores immediately since grading is done by computer. Even essays are done on the computer, so they are graded quickly as well.

The only test students cannot receive their grade immediately for is the history test. The history CLEP test is still graded by hand since the testing center does not currently have the software needed to grade this type of test.

The most popular CLEP tests offered are the Spanish, freshman college composition and college algebra exams.

Owens stressed the tests are not just for freshmen. CLEP tests can be taken up to the deadline for grades to be turned in for graduation. Also, students can take as many tests as they wish as long as they meet their on-campus credit hour requirement, which students get from their degree sheet or adviser.

Owens suggests there are more beneficial times to take the exams.

"If you're considering testing," Owens said, "you might want to do it before the holidays to see if you get credit."

Drug injection site opens in Canada

Vancouver first in effort to provide refuge for drug addicts

By Stephen Hui
The Peak (Simon Fraser U.)

(U-WIRE) VANCOUVER, British Columbia - North America's first government-sanctioned, supervised drug injection site has opened in Canada and proponents hope it will help reduce the health risks faced by intravenous drug users.

While the injection site in Vancouver, British Columbia, will serve as a place to shoot up in a safe, clean environment, it will also assess its own harm reduction impact through a scientific research project.

"This is a human problem and this supervised injection site is a humane intervention," said Liz Evans, whose PHS Community Services Society will be operating the facility with the regional healthcare authority, at a press conference.

But the launch on Sept. 15 was just for the media. Injection site staff was seen turning away drug users at the door, telling them: "Come back next week."

When users are allowed into the facility, they will enter a reception area before being directed into the injection room. Staff from the intravenous drug user community will greet and register them. In the injection room, users will find 12 seats where they may take their own drugs in front of large mirrors and under medical supervision. Spoons, syringes, tourniquets, water and antiseptic pads will be provided.

Afterward, users will head to a post-injection area where they may "chill out" or access other services, including treatment for injuries, addiction counseling and referral to drug treatment programs.

"This is not going to be a silver bullet," said Dean Wilson from the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users. "This is going to help prevent blood-borne disease transfer. It's going to stop overdose resulting in death. It's also going to entice people into a healthier continuum—something that's been very difficult to do in the past."

The injection site will be open from 10 to 4 a.m., every day of the week. Two registered nurses and a manager will staff the facility at all times, and an addiction counselor and physician will be available on-call.

"I just wanted to try and make a change in the stigmas of how people with addiction are being treated," said Tanya Jordan-Knox, a recovering drug addict and injection site staff member.

The injection site is located in the city's drug and poverty ravaged Downtown East Side. The B.C. Centre for Disease Control estimates that more than 90 percent of the neighborhood's 4,700 intravenous drug users have hepatitis C and 30 percent to 40 percent are living with HIV.

"It's time they did something like this," said Mark Fiddler, 44, a one-and-a-half-year resident of the Downtown East Side. "You have people dying in the alleys."

"They need more detox and rehabilitation sites," Fiddler added.

Needle exchanges collected and distributed over 2.7 million syringes in Vancouver last year. While an expansion of that program is in the works, there are no plans to open more injection sites.

"One site is not going to be enough for the Downtown East Side or Lower Mainland of British Columbia," said Earl Crowe, an outreach worker with the Centre for Disease Control. "We need another five sites within just miles of this site."

Heroin maintenance programs should be the next step in the city's harm reduction efforts, said Jenny Kwan, the member of the legislative assembly for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant.

Former U. Michigan star's sentencing held until 2005

King's forward to complete community service

By Dan Rosen
Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Chris Webber's dealings with the law took an unexpected turn Sept. 16, but not one that will land him in prison, at least for now.

The former University of Michigan basketball star had his sentencing deferred for about two years by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Nancy Edmunds instead ordered, that Webber, as a provision for his bond, volunteer at least 150 hours at a six-week summer literacy program at Butzel Middle School in Detroit for each of the next two summers.

"He's excited about working with this program," Webber's attorney, Steve Fishman, said by phone.

The Sacramento Kings forward pleaded guilty to criminal contempt in July following accusations that he and his father, Mayce Webber Jr., lied to a grand jury about accepting money from former booster Ed Martin.

"I believe that Mr. Webber understands the seriousness of his offense, that he is remorseful," Edmunds said at a hearing Tuesday. She said she is unsure whether or not she would treat Webber's plea as a felony or a misdemeanor.

Webber's sentence will not likely be handed down until August or September of 2005. But Fishman said that the NBA all-star forward is not upset about any lack of resolution to the case.

"It's basically resolved," Fishman said. "There's no frustration at all."

In 2002, Martin pleaded guilty to conspiracy to launder money. At that time, he confessed that he gave $616,000, from gambling funds and other money, to four former Michigan basketball players: Webber, Maurice Taylor, Robert Traylor and Louis Bullock. According to Martin, Webber was paid $280,000 of that sum. Martin passed away from natural causes on Feb. 14 at age 69.

Last Tuesday, Webber said he still has a strong emotional connection to the university.

"My heart bleeds maize and blue," Webber said. "They were the happiest days of my life."

Michigan banned itself from the 2003 post-season as a result of the scandal. It also forfeited 112 games from the time that the four were enrolled at the school.

Last spring, the NCAA ruled the Wolverines ineligible for the 2004 post-season also. They will forfeit one scholarship each year for the next four years and will remain on probation for that time. Michigan must also dissociate itself from the four players for a 10-year period.

Fishman said that the deferring of a sentence does not happen often.

"It's a very unusual [decision], but this is an unusual case," he said.

Male college numbers plummet, educators concerned

○ Men look for work while women are more geared toward school, experts say

By Susan Thomson
St. Louis Post-Dispatch (KRT)

ST. LOUIS—The slide of male students to the rear of the college class went largely unnoticed over the past two decades, amid concern about the educational needs of women. Only recently have researchers, authors and teachers begun to sound the alarm about what some see as a social time bomb in the making.

Many say men's second-class graduation rate—42 percent now—is the end result of educational neglect.

Questions such as why men are falling behind in school and what can be done to bring them up to women's speed are taking on urgency.

As education researcher, Thomas G. Mortensen reads the college graduation statistics, men are in crisis.

"A growing share of men just aren't making it," he said.

"Women have won the war in education," said Mortensen, who has been drawing attention to this "gender gap" in higher education since the mid-1990s. "It's over with."

He blames the nation's gradual shift from a brawn to a brains economy.

"I think it's because [men] have lost their jobs in farming, they've lost their jobs in manufacturing and they don't know what else to do."

And that, in his view, is just as problematical for women, who "are not going to find similarly educated men to marry and share their lives with, because they're just not there."

A study presented in May to the Washington-based Business Roundtable by researchers at Northeastern University portrayed men as an emerging educational underclass. The study says they could prove the underclass drags on the nation's productivity, economic growth and Social Security system and threaten the future of marriage, the stability of families and the welfare of children.

That's not to say that men aren't making educational progress. Along with the nation's population in general, they graduate from both high school and college at generally greater rates than they used to.

Which raises the question: If young men of prime college age aren't in college, where are they? Behind bars, for one place. According to the latest data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 419,700 males between 18 and 24 are in state and federal prisons and local jails. That's 16 times the number of their female contemporaries.

Among men in that age group who are neither incarcerated nor in school, nearly a quarter are unemployed or "not in the labor force," the Bureau of Labor Statistics term for those who neither have a job nor are looking for one.

The rest are working—and not necessarily at dead-end jobs, according to labor analyst Russell Signorino, who sees job prospects for young noncollege men as better than those for young noncollege women. Manufacturing jobs haven't entirely dried up, he said.

As for other areas where men with just a high school education still earn living wages, Signorino cites the construction trades, machining, tool and die making, maintenance, trucking, warehousing and sales.

"These jobs are open to women, but they're still male-dominated," Signorino said.

To John Gaal, coordinator of the apprentice program of the Carpenters District Council of St. Louis, the issue isn't so much men not going to college as women not taking advantage of the alternatives.

"Not enough women are aware of the opportunities that are available to them in these nontraditional occupations," he said. "Therefore their default is college."

Preston R. Thomas, a high school counselor, sees boys as more dedicated to money.

"Guys perceive themselves as having to be macho breadwinners," he said. "What tends to happen is at an early age they feel a pressure to go out and earn money."

For the young men interviewed for this story, money was typically the main reason for not being or staying in college. The cost of college, fear of loans, the iffy job market for college graduates and their own preferences for ready cash in their pockets figured variously into their decisions.

Thomas has known high school boys who so give in to that money pressure that they take second jobs to pay the bills they rack up.

"Once you get into that cycle, it's hard to get out of that cycle," he said.

One way out is to drop out of high school, which boys do more than girls, diminishing their college-eligible numbers.

Ron Dunn, 23, just became "more focused" on work than on school. While still at McCluer High School in Florissant, Mo., he got a job as a deli worker, slicing roast beef. "It was cool," he said. "I dug it." So much that he left school for it, a move he describes now as "a choice I shouldn't have made."

> **"Women have won the war in education. It's over with."**
>
> ***—Thomas G. Mortenson, education researcher***

At the St. Louis Job Corps center, he has picked up his GED as well as skills in home building and cooking.

As for college, he says he's "all for it" and would like to go "to see what it's like."

Greg Topolski, 19, saw enough in two weeks of community college.

"It wasn't for me," he said. "It was too much like high school."

He quit to work at a grocery store in Eureka, Mo., where he started before graduating from Eureka High School. He bakes and packages bread, stocks shelves, bags and checks groceries, collects carts from the parking lot—whatever is needed, he said. He said he has been told he has management potential.

He sees himself as on a much more serious track than his old high school buddies.

"My friends, they went away to college and all they do is party ... ," he said. "They come back and they're failing all of their classes because they're doing all that drinking."

Kevin Pollihan, 24, also a Eureka High graduate, went to community college for three semesters and has been waiting tables for the past three years at the Pasta House in Chesterfield, Mo. He hopes to join and make a career in the St. Louis Fire Department. Pollihan believes he's just as well off as contemporaries who stuck it out in college and graduated.

"I see people my age who have college degrees who are working at jobs you don't have to have a college degree for, like selling cell phones, and they have loans and stuff," he said.

Young men aren't holding back from college for lack of smarts. A yet-to-be-published study by ACT shows that, all things being equal, high school boys and girls test equally well, said Jim Sconing, the educational testing service's director of statistical research.

Research also shows that elementary school teachers like girls better than boys, said Arden Miller, professor of psychology at Southwest Missouri State University.

"The kinds of things that schools emphasize make them a more reinforcing environment for girls," he said. "In school, students are expected to sit down and talk—the things that females do better and that can be problems for boys. ... Boys just aren't as well-suited to an activity that is primarily verbal."

That's the main reason, advocates say, that boys are three times more likely than girls to be routed to special education and three or four times more likely to be labeled with attention-deficit disorder.

In high school, when they might be building their resumes for college, boys as a group are seriously slacking off. This is true nationwide, even worldwide, worried experts say.

For example: Of the 850,000 high achievers from public and private schools around the country recognized in the latest edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students*, two-thirds are girls.

One-night stands still a college staple

○ One night of sex an option not worth exploring for some students

By Lindsey Bourdreau
Rocky Mountain Collegian (Colorado State U.)

(U-WIRE) FORT COLLINS, Colo. - To some students, one-night stands means taking someone home for just one night of sex and nothing else.

This may sound exciting, but many Colorado State University students do not think of the consequences that may follow.

"Usually, a one-night stand happens when someone is drunk or high," said Deb Morris, a health educator with the school's Hartshorn Health Center. "When this happens you have a huge risk of sexually transmitted infection and pregnancy."

Some students know and think about the dangers of one-night stands before they happen, but they do not do anything to prevent them.

"I think about the risks before I do it," said Tyler Messenger, a senior recreational tourism major. "But it's not like I'm going to say no if a girl wants to have sex with me."

Morris said there are not only physical effects, but emotional ramifications also.

"When it's a one-night stand, people wake up the next day and think, 'oh no'." She said the CSU Counseling Center is a good resource for someone struggling with regretful sex.

"I regretted it afterwards," said Kym Weiner, a senior public relations major. "But if I thought it was the right person, I would do it again."

However, there are a number of students who do not participate in one-night stands.

"My sexuality is a gift I only let my monogamous partner unwrap," said senior finance real estate major, Rhett Bruno.

Brandon Horton said that while he does not want to have a one-night stand, he might consider one in the future.

"I have not had a one-night stand," said Horton, a senior landscape architect major. "I'm not going to say I absolutely wouldn't do it, but I have no desire to."

Unfortunately, some CSU students might not be willing to let one-night stand partakers into their beds.

"I wouldn't sleep with someone who does that," Bruno said. "It's scary because they are probably skanky."

Morris said the Hartshorn Health Center is a beneficial resource where students can get tested for sexually transmitted diseases and obtain the emergency contraceptive pill. She suggests students not have one-night stands.

Racial segregation still exists at U of I despite historic court ruling

○ Chancellor: Campus has ways to go before achieving diversity

By Beth Hurtubise
Daily Illini (U. Illinois)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Fifty years after the Supreme Court banned segregation in schools, University of Illinois Chancellor Nancy Cantor says the fight for diversity still continues at the university, echoing concerns felt throughout campus.

"There is very little, if any, mixing of races in our lives," Cantor said. "We have to start with recognizing that we have lived and have continued to live in separate lives."

Cantor's remarks came as the university is kicking off its 50th anniversary celebration of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education, which stated that segregated schools were inherently unequal.

Cantor spoke at a brown bag luncheon at the university YMCA on Sept. 16.

Beginning with childhood, many races don't attend the same schools, camps, churches or malls, she said.

"We haven't moved terribly far from the Brown v. Board of Education ruling," Cantor said.

Cantor has supported integration, particularly in higher education, where she fought for affirmative action while provost at the University of Michigan.

Because Cantor is a staunch supporter of that school's controversial policy, which some say admits underqualified students, she and others came under fire this year after another Supreme Court ruling.

The Supreme Court's June decision in Grutter v. Bollinger sided with affirmative action supporters, bolstering the idea that affirmative action in higher education promotes diversity and raises the quality of a university.

"Higher education can help us move towards learning to live together by stretching our hearts and expanding our minds," Cantor said. "We need to acknowledge group richness and the importance of culture and race to individuals as they grow."

But black students have had a rough history at the university, said Special Assistant to the Chancellor Clarence Shelley, while speaking before the Central Black Student Union on Tuesday.

Shelley said the university was chartered in 1867, but remained all white until 20 years later when the first black student, Johnathon Rogan, enrolled.

But even in 1944, only 148 black students attended the university, Shelley said.

Then in 1959, five years after the Brown v. Board decision, the university created its first policy opposing discrimination based on race and religion, Shelley said.

This policy stated all clubs had to accept members based on skill and qualifications alone. If any organization discriminated on race or religion, it would not be recognized.

The policy did not affect university admissions or the Greek system.

The ground gained by black students required a lot of others to risk their educational careers, Shelley said.

"It is very important to know the history of African-Americans on campus," said Victoria Ogunsanya, vice president of the Central Black Student Union. "So many people worked hard and stood up so I could be here today."

But many say the university still has a long way to go. Only 2,000 blacks are currently enrolled at the university, out of a total of 38,000 students on campus, Ogunsanya estimated.

"People need to be more aware of how not diverse our campus is," she said.

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The Alexander Burke Trio
Conaway Center
1-3pm
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Big Mouth Open Mic Afterhours Series
Celebrating FOCO 03
Hokin Annex
6-10pm
Thursday, October 2

Coming Out Stories
Open Mic & GLBT Expo
Hokin Annex
1-5pm
Thursday, October 9

New Student Convocation
Parking Lot on the Northeast corner of Wabash and Harrison
12pm
Friday, October 10
Featuring: Family Style @ 1:30pm

Afternoon Acoustic Music Series
Columbia College Jazz Band
Hokin Gallery
1-3pm
Wednesday, October 15

Ray Spiegel/Tabla player and Pandit Barunkumar Pal/ Indian Classical Guitarist
Hokin Annex
1-3pm
Wednesday, October 22

Drum Circle Series
Hokin Annex
1-3pm
Tuesday, October 28

Halloween Party
DJ Genghiswon/Costume Contest
Conaway Center
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Thursday, October 30

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Hokin Annex
7-9:30 pm
Thursday, November 13

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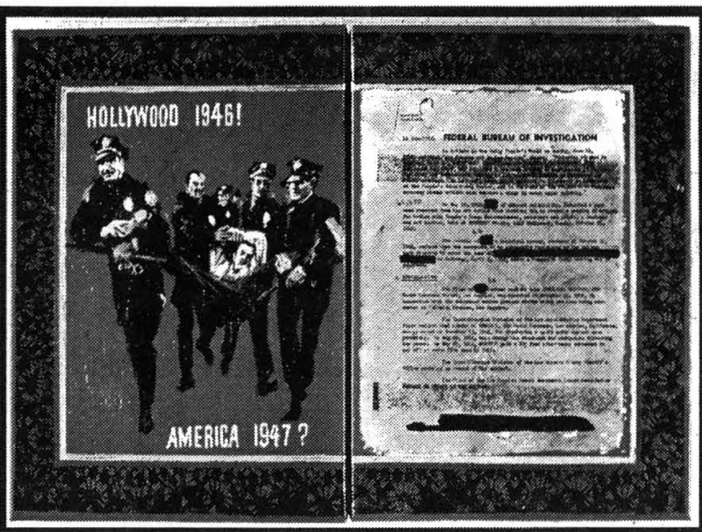

Arnold Mesches: FBI Files was organized by P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York, an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art. The Exhibition is curated by Daniel Marzona, P.S.1 Associate Curator.

Arnold Mesches: FBI Files is supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors, Jim and Sak Costanzo, Meg Cox and Richard Leone, John McCall, Geri and Charles Lemert, and Jill Ciment.

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Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

To the Columbia College Chicago Community,

I wanted to take a moment and welcome everyone back for the 2003-04 academic year and also report to you some Student Government initiatives for the coming year.

The Student Government Association was created to act as a bridge between the students, faculty, staff and administration. We strive to create a more perfect union through our determination to the Columbia College Chicago community.

Last year was the first year that Columbia had an official Student Government. We played an active role in many of Columbia's administrative meetings and committees. Some of these committees included: College Council, Academic Calendar Task Force, Task Force to Review Governance, Sexual Health Committee, Student Affairs Committee of College Council and the Board of Trustees.

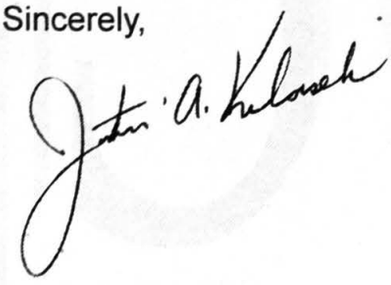
Throughout the year the SGA surveyed students on many issues from Safety and Security to Student Amenities. Last May, using the research from these surveys, a proposal was drafted and submitted to Columbia's President Dr. Warrick L. Carter. This was the first time in the history of Columbia that the student body officially submitted a proposal to the President. The proposal asked the school to review many amenities the school currently has and gave recommendations of other amenities that the school currently does not have. I am happy to announce that the administration is currently in the final stages of reviewing this proposal and we should see many of the amenities you asked for included on our campus.

This year the Student Government will be holding open forums on many different issues. Each academic department has an SGA Senator to represent the students in that department. These Senators will be holding departmental forums to hear your concerns.

I invite you to attend our SGA Senate and Committee meetings and let your voice be heard. We will be publishing our meeting minutes in the Chronicle and on our website. We want to make sure everything we do for you is published for your review.

Lastly, if you would like to become involved with the Student Government Association please contact me via email at SGA@COLUM.EDU or by phone at 312-344-6657. Welcome back and have a great year!

Sincerely,



Justin A. Kulovsek
President
Student Government Association

.....FALL 2003 UPASS Update.....
ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS

Since we're
changing our computer system,
there are ***no preprinted U-Pass cards*** this semester.
All students will have a new photograph taken.

Be aware: lines may be long.
You MUST bring a photo ID and your OASIS ID number!

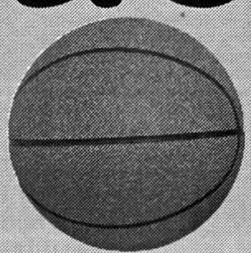
The CTA U-Pass is available to all full-time (12+ hours undergrad or 9+ hours grad) students. For general information, call Student Activities: 312-344-7459. For U-Pass information, including maps, discounts, and bus/train schedules, visit www.chicagotransitauthority.com

Pick up your U-Pass at 623 S. Wabash, room 311, from 10:00am - 6:00pm on the following dates:

friday, sept 19	thursday, sept 25
monday, sept 22	monday, sept 29
tuesday, sept 23	tuesday, sept 30
wednesday, sept 24	wednesday, oct 1

Columbia College Chicago and Roosevelt University Present:

Basketball Intramurals



For Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni

- **Basketball Intramurals Interest Meeting** will be **Sept. 25th** at 7pm.
- **Registration Due:** by October 3rd.
- **Captain's Meeting:** October 7th at 7pm.

Intramural's Begins:
October 14th
7:00pm-10:00pm

Roosevelt University Fitness Center, 4th Floor, 430 S. Michigan Ave.

Questions?

Contact:

Columbia College Chicago's
Student Leadership Office
1104 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL 60605
312-344-6791

Roosevelt University
Marvin Moss Student Center
425 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605
312-341-2430

Columbia College Student Activities Office
623 S. Wabash Rm. 313
Chicago, IL 60605
312-344-7459

Columbia Chronicle Editorials

Bad timing for Columbia's summer changes

"Nothing endures but change," wrote the Greek philosopher Heraclitus. For Columbia, such is particularly true. With roots stretching back to its days as a 19th century oratory college, Columbia has endured vast changes in its location, ideology and administration. Only the latter has seemed to happen so quickly.

This summer, two of the college's most influential and highest paid administrators have quietly relinquished their roles. Bert Gall, the college's executive vice president and a 34-year employee, stepped down Aug. 22; Paul Johnson, Columbia's director of human resources, resigned Sept. 8. Johnson has had a relationship with Columbia since 1977.

With five decades of combined service, it's strange neither said goodbye to the college community they helped shape. Neither would talk publicly about their resignations. Johnson said in an e-mail that "new challenges" prompted his resignation. Outside interests attracted Gall, administrators said.

While this is hardly an executive shake-up, bidding farewell to two imperative administrators at the beginning of an academic year is concerning nonetheless. Put simply, this was not an opportune time for any sweeping changes. Both leave behind full plates, including important decisions that affect the college's fiscal health, the happiness of its employees and the size of its expanding footprint in the South Loop.

Gall was spearheading the college's continued expansion with the purchase of the building at 619 S. Wabash Ave. and the construction of the University Center of Chicago. His resignation means the loss of an administrator with intimate knowledge (and indeed a master plan) of exactly how Columbia will look in the future.

Both Gall and Johnson were key players in the college's heated pension negotiators. Facing a $9 million budgetary shortfall last May, the college decided to freeze contributions to faculty pensions—a controversial move that raised concerns from the college community.

With Gall and Johnson removed, there are renewed and ever-increasing concerns about pension, health and benefit packages for the college's employees.

For this reason, the Chronicle questions the timing of the resignations. We are not alone.

In a terse, two-part e-mail message sent collegewide Sept. 10, Columbia President Warrick L. Carter addressed mounting apprehensions about the moves.

"It is true that we're in the process of transition in a number of areas," he wrote. "But ... we are making every effort to ensure that the transitions are smooth."

We disagree.

Both resignations were abrupt, with little fanfare and even less explanation. At a time when Columbia's campus is deserted for summer, word spread quickly in the college community. Such shady goings-on and poor communications seeded a whirlwind of rumors, many of which predicted more resignations.

In many conversations with the Chronicle this week, college administrators said they were uncomfortable speaking of the changes in administration. In an interview about Johnson's resignation, Carter repeated word for word the same sentence he said about Gall's resignation weeks before: "Whenever a long-term service individual leaves, you lose something in terms of the institution."

At least the business side of the institution. While these administrative shake-ups are big news for faculty and staff, we trust such decisions are done with our greater good in mind. There are no indications that any problems in the boardroom will affect the classroom. As cold as it seems, this was simply a business decision.

And one way to encourage a dynamic and profitable business is to introduce new blood—a position that we endorse.

It is a new concept for our college.

In the case of most of the school's dean appointments, for example, the college has sided with persons from within the college who are familiar with its rather complex dealings. Promoting from within makes sense.

Also troubling is the fact that Columbia has provisionally filled Gall's and Johnson's jobs with outside consultants from different firms.

While the positions needed to be filled quickly, we question the apparently brusque appointments. At a pivotal time in the history of our college, the selection of two pro-tem stand-ins as two of the college's most influential administrators is worthy of concern.

We just hope both replacements can learn quickly.

We will never forget ... maybe

At the foot of Manhattan, at the corner of Church and Liberty streets is a construction site. There are a few trucks in the corner, a metallic ramp on one side and the massive sea wall holding back the Hudson River on the other.

In other words, it's easy to forget 2,000 people died there.

In the more than 1,400 days since three commandeered planes crashed in Washington, New York City and Shanksville, Penn., the physical reminders of Sept. 11, 2001 are gone—the World Trade Center's remnants carefully toted away, the Pentagon carefully reconstructed, the hole in rural Pittsburgh filled.

What remains are those of humans. The medical examiner's office in New York says that nearly 20,000 pieces of human bodies were recovered from the World Trade Center. But because the remains underwent tremendous trauma, much of the DNA that is used to identify the parts is unrecognizable. More than 1,200 victims remain unidentified. Their fate is unknown.

In the aftermath of the largest foreign terrorist attack on the United States, it was difficult to imagine a return to normalcy. But it happened. We returned to flying aboard airplanes, though security was tighter. We returned to visiting major cities, though they were now ringed with cement Jersey barriers. We returned to visiting foreign countries, though getting back to the states involved another half-dozen questions. We returned to opening letters without worrying that there was an airborne illness inside. Vice President Cheney returned from his undisclosed location.

And the 24-hour news cycle smoothly moved into 24-hour coverage of the War on Terror, then Operation Iraqi Freedom.

But what did we learn?

For future students of history, Sept. 11, 2001 will be a dividing point in American history, akin to Dec. 7, 1941 or Nov. 22, 1963. Perhaps it's because our American resilience, our emergence from the unthinkable two years ago has been so swift, so remarkable, that it seems we have forgotten exactly what happened to us.

But more importantly, we forgot what we felt like two years ago.

"Many of the more important lessons from New York have not been absorbed, and there are serious gaps in preparedness and response capabilities," said a study released on the anniversary of Sept. 11 by the University of Illinois at Chicago International Center on Human Response to Social Catastrophes.

The same study outlines major problems in the mental health world concerning the coping mechanisms of those dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. One way of dealing with trauma, of course, is convincing yourself it will never happen again.

And that's exactly what we're doing.

No one wants to say it, but deep in our subconscious, we think it can't happen again.

It explains the window dressing we call airport security, the bored security guard inside the Dirkensen Federal Building and the complacent immigration officer at the Tijuana border check.

They say the terrorists will not hit us again. Our government has learned. The CIA and FBI have learned. National Security has learned. It can't happen again.

That is, until the power goes out like it did last month. For many of the 50 million Americans and Canadians in the eastern quarter of our continent, the first logical thought was terrorism. Rumors went wild: The terrorists have hit a power plant. It's 9/11: Part II.

Of course initial speculation of Blackout 2003 pointed to a sagging tree branch in Ohio.

We still have a lot to learn.

Calling all Chronicle readers

We'd like to pretend you notice the small things in the Chronicle; the fact we changed our text, moved a few lines or changed our masthead. But we know better. We'd like to tell you about it anyway.

Over the summer, the Chronicle's crack team of editors has spent dozens of back breaking hours pruning and shaping your student newspaper into what you hold in your hands today.

Can't tell the difference?

You see, this year, the Chronicle's staff roster is at an all time high, and we're taking aim on making our coverage the best it has ever been.

We've got a full section of the campus news that affects you—in the pocketbook, in the classroom and in the future. We're covering a rapidly changing South Loop in City Beat and sending reporters to film screenings, gallery openings and concerts in our revamped Arts and Entertainment section.

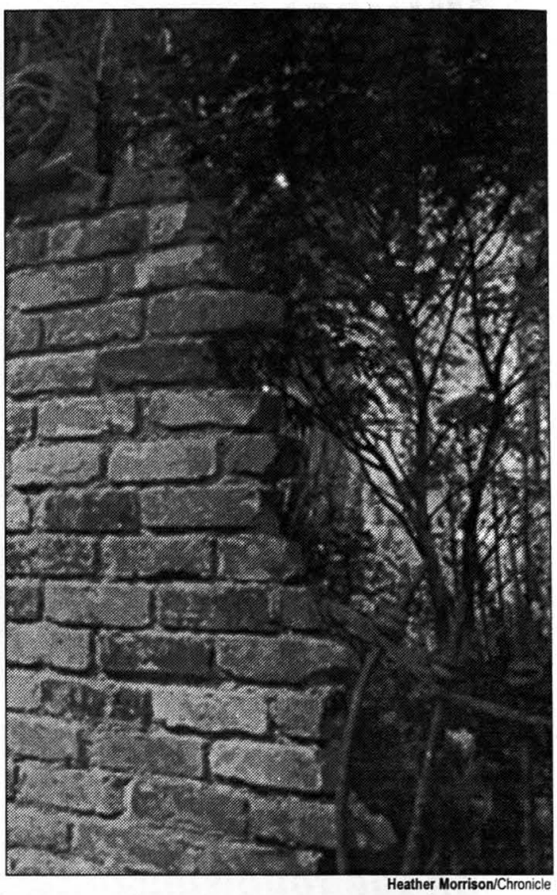
This year, you'll notice bigger headlines, better photographs and six rotating columnists that will make sure the student voice is heard loud and clear. That's in addition to a full section of commentaries and editorials each week in the Chronicle.

Which is where you, the reader, come in.

The Chronicle is always looking for input, and we're especially interested in what you think about what we do. So, call, write and e-mail us.

This year, we're always listening.

Exposure



Heather Morrison/Chronicle

$ 85 billion and counting ... Iraq's new bill arrives

Staff Editorial
The Crimson White (U. Alabama)

(U-WIRE) Alabama Gov. Bob Riley asked the good people of his state, very nicely, if they could possibly scrape together $1.2 billion extra from the spare change behind their couches.

The answer he received was no. A very firm no. A 2-to-1 no. The kind of no that would make somebody very much afraid to ask anyone for money ever again.

A few days earlier, President Bush said something that should strike considerably more fear in the hearts of those allergic to taxes than Riley's proposed tax plan.

Bush asked Congress to give him not $1 billion, not $2 billion, but $87 billion to continue the fight on terrorism in Iraq. And it's safe to presume that most people, upon hearing a dollar amount that large, can't even visualize it properly.

It's difficult to imagine how anybody could possibly spend $87 billion.

They can only scratch their heads and say, "Well, golly bum, that's a lot of money."

The government's recent habit of making gross cost underestimations only compounds the already huge price tag of the continuing War on Terror. The amount of money already appropriated for our continuing fight to protect the American way obviously didn't cover the bills. The amount of time necessary to get Iraqi oil running freely and covering our bills was underestimated.

And while nobody really wants to hear or even think about the "Q" word, it seems our Iraqi operations may be degenerating into a quagmire that will continue to suck America's funds and kill her soldiers for far longer than any of us would like.

It's difficult to imagine how anybody could possibly spend $87 billion.

For example, the extra $1.2 billion for which Riley asked was supposedly enough to drag Alabama's educational system out of the toilet and even set up a scholarship fund for all our high school students graduating who meet the minimum requirements of a 3.0 GPA and a 20 ACT score.

In contrast, CNN reports that our military operations in Iraq will cost more than $4 billion a month for the next year.

That's more than $48 billion the first year for the military operations alone.

Now the federal government has once again extended its stinking, greedy paw, and it's more than appropriate to echo the sentiments of Alabama voters concerning taxes.

We have to look for ways to cut costs, trim the pork and, above all, hold our politicians accountable.

Eighty-seven billion dollars is just too much.

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

Letters can be faxed to us at (312) 344-8032, E-mailed to Chronicle@colum.edu or mailed to the Columbia Chronicle c/o Letters to the Editor, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205, Chicago, Ill. 60605.

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Slapping cuffs on grandma one download at a time

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

The first time it happened, it seemed like some kind of joke.

The Recording Industry Association of America recently announced its plans to slam hefty lawsuits upon those responsible for any downloaded music saved to their PCs. And why? So they could sue your grandma?

But, after 261 federal suits were filed two weeks ago, people stopped laughing.

As tens of thousands of dollars were lost in suits by those who allegedly "stole" music from the web, people quickly began ripping any file-sharing equipment from their computers, thus ending their stint in music theft.

"If you're going to lose your house, how are you going to buy a CD," said Joyce Mullen in an interview with Newsweek. Mullen, the parent of a downloading teen, was one of the 261 sued by RIAA.

Piracy has become a buzzword in the entertainment industry in recent months, serving as a finger-pointer to the ominous "real reason" why music and movie sales have plunged to an all-time low.

Advertisements touting the hanging of downloading criminals are seemingly plastered everywhere so that audiences of people—the same people record companies and movie producers rely on to make their product successful—are shamelessly blamed for the 15.8 percent sales drop reported by the RIAA for the first six months of 2003.

But as solemn production assistants and fledgling musicians front these anti-piracy commercials, one has to wonder—is this just a scheme for corporate hotshots to make money for themselves?

"Today's pirates operate not on the high seas, but on the Internet, in illegal CD factories, distribution centers, and on the street," read a statement on the RIAA's website regarding piracy. "The pirate's credo is still the same—why pay for it when it's so easy to steal? The credo is as wrong as it ever was."

Wait, did they just say pirates? Piracy pirates? That sounds more like the name of a'90s grunge rock band than the reason why music sales are being driven into the ground.

And the idea that people are using their computers as galleons to plunder the record industry into utter mutiny is really just as silly as suing grandma.

The RIAA has obviously neglected to monitor the current trends in their own field of interest. Dozens of new artists are merging into the music express lane every week, making it harder for accomplished musicians' work to stand out and even harder for new musicians to gain a unique reputation of their own.

"the economy has nothing to do with it!
YOU are killing the music industry!"

Ryan Duggan/Chronicle

Throw a few typical teens into the mix, along with three or four major record labels and a few independent labels, and no one is going to know how to classify "new music" at all. They're certainly not going to know what music to buy.

Bill Tuggle, a hip-hop buyer for Tower Records on 2301 N. Clark St., agreed. He said that high prices and underdeveloped artists are far more detrimental to the business than online file-swapping, elements that have certainly hurt mainstream record stores like Tower Records.

Please note that, according to a column run in Newsweek, the top five songs that are downloaded the most include such stellar selections as Jennifer Lopez, R. Kelly and Nelly. Eminem topped the list

There are just more artists in general, and it has become easier to make records, he said.

Of course, Universal is trying to bring in a few more sales, especially around the Christmas season, by lowering the prices of CDs staring Oct. 1.

But, what difference is that going to make to the overall industry?

No progress will be made if no one even knows what's out there. And any knowledge that currently exists about music styles will surely deplete if music can't be shared and tested via resources like the Internet.

It's kind of like being at a party, Tuggle said. If there are 10 attendees, you might like some of them, but at least you get to talk to them. If 100 more people show up, you're not going to know whom you like or who to even give a chance, he said.

And following that analogy, you might just give up.

Meanwhile, independent music distributors are doing just fine, despite all this piratelike stealing going on.

Billy Smith, a supervisor at Reckless Records and a student at Columbia, said sales haven't slowed at his store.

Crappy bands equal crappy sales, he said, which probably has something to do with why other stores are having problems.

Smith said that RIAA is suing downloaders because they have no one else to blame, and of course, they can't blame themselves.

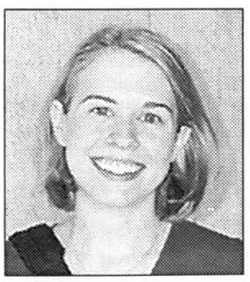
Until RIAA and labels such as Universal and Sony start accepting some responsibility for the current state of the industry, nothing is going to change. Their energy needs to be funneled into sorting out all these bands instead of into suing little kids and grandmas for wanting to listen to their songs on the computer.

"Stealing is still illegal, unethical, and all too frequent in today's digital age," reads the RIAA website. "That is why RIAA continues to fight music piracy."

Those words are certainly a code that pirates can live by. Johnny Depp would be speechless.

Face the public: The Chronicle photo poll

Question: Why is the music industry floundering?

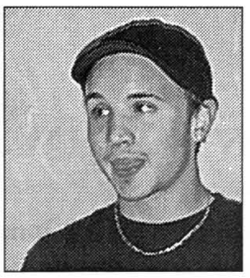


"I think the Internet probably does have a part in it. If you can get it for free, why would you buy it?"

—Rebecca Browne, 22 senior, photography

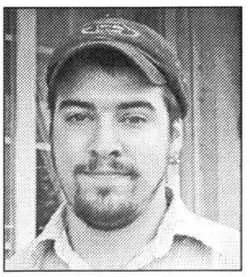
"[The music industry] is influenced by what popular music is, and no one is being original."

—Brittany James, 18 freshman, dance and fashion design



"I think sales are down because of [services like] Napster. I don't buy CDs anymore. I don't really like the new music."

—Jose Caffarini, 22 junior, graphic design



"There's a lot of crap out there."

—Steve Cathers, 21 junior, film and video

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HUB happenings

HUB Mix-A-Lot

October 9, 2003
12:00 pm

Interested in joining an organization? Always wondered what CUMA stands for? Like meeting new people? Come and kick it in the HUB! Meet members of various student organizations and you never know... you might find the organization that is just right for you.

"Show Us The Money"/Penny War

November 20, 2003
5:00pm

Does your organization need more money? Well, money is tight so its time to go to war! Grab your pennies and compete to win a cash prize for your organization in HUB WAR I. Looking for the ultimate fundraiser? Come to this panel discussion to pick up helpful hints on raising money.

It's a Wonderful HUB

December 18, 2003
12:00 pm - 3:00 pm

When do Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, Ramadan, and New Year's Eve fall on the same day of the year? December 18th in the Wonderful Hub!!!

"What We've Learned"

February 15, 2004
5:00 pm

Each one, teach one. Join us in a round table (ok they're oval) discussion with your fellow organizations to share past experiences, the good, the bad and the ugly.

"Leadership 101"

March 25, 2004
12:00 pm

The HUB wants you... to become a great leader. Join us for this panel discussion on various leadership skills, from Conflict Resolution (how to break up a fight) to Grief Relief (don't worry, be happy)!

Contact the Student Organization HUB for more information:

1104 S. Wabash, Lower Level, Conaway Center
312-344-6655
studentorganizations@colum.edu

Whammy Awards"/Open Mike in the HUB

April 22, 2004
6:30pm doors open, 7:00pm program begins

And the Whammy goes to.... Will you be the next "Queen of Copying" in the HUB? Do you qualify for the Mr. "I-Need-to-Fax-This" award? Perhaps you're just looking for another place to flaunt your organization's talents. This is your night!

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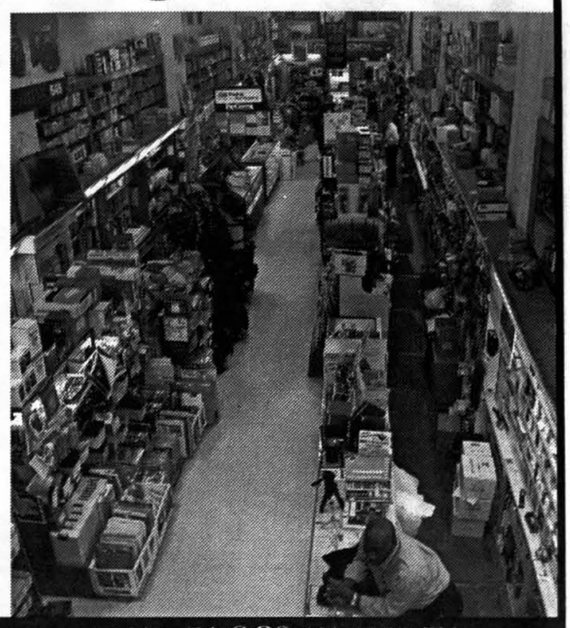
- **Digital Film Scanners, Printers, And Digital Camera Accessories**
- **Frames & Photo Albums**



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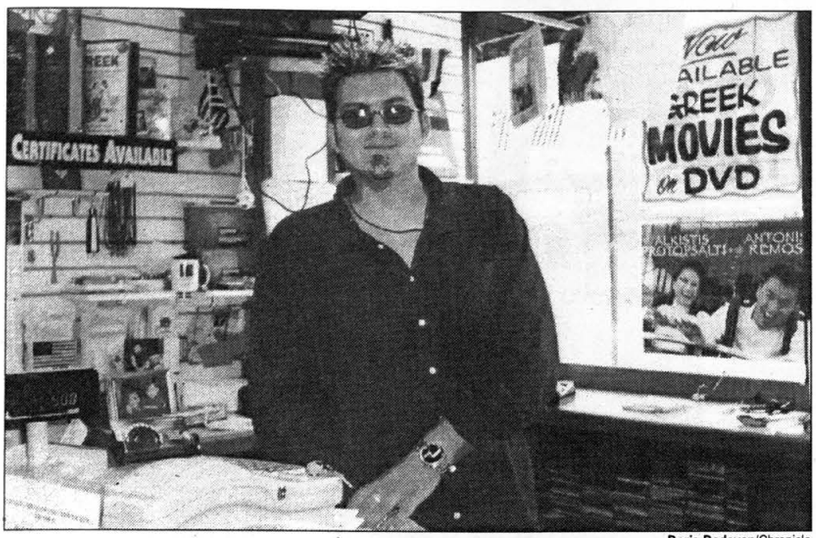
DJ drops beats in Greektown



Doris Dadayan/Chronicle

When he's not spinning, Giannis Morikis (above) works at his family's store, Greektown Music and Gift Shop, 330 S. Halsted St.

By Doris Dadayan
Co-A&E Editor

The following is part one of a recurring feature that the Chronicle will be reporting on throughout the semester: Profiles on Chicagoland DJs.

The crowd looks to them to control the night. They control the vibe and the feelings and emotions for those few hours when you just want to be away from it all. The right songs mixed with the right beats will determine if it will be a good night. One bad song and the crowd will be annoyed. Mix in some old-school jams and some crowd pleasers and the crowd will go crazy, cheering and waiting in anticipation for what's to come.

The clubs in Greektown are packed with club goers on the weekends ranging in age from 21 to 60. All from different backgrounds, they come to hear Greek DJs spin modern and traditional Greek music along with American hip-hop and house mixes in the European-style clubs along South Halsted Street and Jackson Street.

Giannis Morikis, also known as DJ Konfusion, a former Columbia sound major now studying business at McCormick Business College, was recently one of the guest DJs who spun in the little corner booth at 9 Muses Bar, 315 S. Halsted St., on Wednesday and Friday nights.

"It's like an adrenaline rush. I am obsessed with music. I can't not listen to it. It has to be around me all the time," Morikis said. "When I'm deejaying, I'll bounce around the little DJ booth. It's just a very, very happy feeling for me."

The 6-foot-3-inch, spiky haired DJ's fixation with music started when he was a baby. Born on April 25, 1977, he grew up listening to old school hip-hop artists that his sister used to play for him, like Grand Master Flash, Slick Rick, and Notorious B.I.G. When he was 12, he started experimenting with making his own music.

"I had this little crappy CD boom box, and I would take CDs and record them on a tape," he said. "I found out that if I would record something, then rewind it a little bit, then record over it, it would mix it by itself." Morikis discovered house music at the age of 15, and at 17, he got his first real turntable and taught himself to play vinyl, which to this day, he prefers to work with.

His first serious gig was in 2000 in what was then Club Excel. He deejayed a few times at Byzantium, 232 S. Halsted St., and Barrel Café, 820 W. Jackson Blvd. Still, Morikis said he is far from being the "perfect" DJ.

"There have been times when I've screwed up, and it pissed me off. I was really upset with myself. There are a lot of smaller things that I mess up on that, like, I doubt the general crowd would pick up on, but I know it, and it bugs me," Morikis said. "But you just have to adjust and keep on going. It's a lot harder than people think. You gotta keep the tempos. You gotta keep the beats. You got to keep it sounding smooth, or people will be like, 'What the hell did he just do?'"

Morikis said that he really doesn't do much to prepare for the night when he knows that he'll be the DJ. "I'll practice to get the beats right, so it doesn't sound like a train wreck, and then I'll have the first, like, couple of songs that I know I'll start out with, and then I'll just go from there. I just try to read the crowd."

Deep Dish, the DJ duo from Washington, D.C., are Morikis' biggest inspirations, and he recently had the chance to meet them on June 12. "At Transit, I got to hang out with them in the DJ booth for the last song of the night, which was produced by Puff Daddy called 'Let's get up, let's get ill,' and it was, like, a quarter to four," he said. "They were jumping up and down in the DJ booth, and I was right behind them, jumping up and down, and lights were flashing on the crowd. The whole crowd was facing them, yelling. It was the most memorable thing for me…I completely and totally look up to these DJs."

Morikis is taking a break now from his DJ gigs to go to school and to work at his family-owned store, Greektown Music and Gift Shop, 330 S. Halsted St.

Morikis said he looks forward to returning to deejaying and will start making his own demo mix and tracks to increase the exposure that may one day get him deejaying in the clubs in Greece, Ibiza and the United Kingdom.

The Weekly Dish

Moore celebrity than working man's champion

Matthew Jaster
Co-Arts and Entertainment Editor

For 20 minutes during the Academy Award-winning documentary, *Bowling for Columbine*, I was mesmerized. Finally, a film that questioned the political and social problems of a nation overwhelmed with gun violence. Instead of the usual two and half hour soft drink or car commercial, here was a movie that made us question issues in our own community. Michael Moore was taking action and encouraging his "working man's army" to do the same.

But, behind all the inspiring speeches and political quests, Moore just wants to be loved. *Bowling for Columbine,* like the rest of his work, is basically another sensational ego trip.

Consider the August release of *Bowling For Columbine* on DVD. Included in the special features is a lengthy discussion on his controversial Academy Awards speech. Moore, sitting in a backyard somewhere in Michigan grips his Oscar as if it were some lost biblical relic.

He spends the next 15 minutes trying to convince the audience that his acceptance speech was important. Moore said he feels he had a responsibility to his fans to cause some chaos at the Academy Awards. Then why does he suddenly feel the need to justify his comments on the DVD?

Shouldn't winning the Academy Award be enough? Moore, the filmmaker, made an important piece about our obsessive gun culture, while Moore, the icon, continues to whine about it. I don't mind the message, unless it's being shoved down my throat. Sometimes keeping your mouth shut is more effective than beating an issue to death.

Unfortunately, this is what Moore does best. I've yet to watch a film that he doesn't twist and turn into his own personal science project. Behind the baseball cap and the ratty beard, he's just a guy standing in front of the camera smirking at everything he gets away with.

During *Bowling for Columbine*, Moore attempts to play six degrees of Kevin Bacon holding Dick Clark responsible for the death of a young Flint girl. He suggests that a series of economical events led to the tragedy, attempting to tie together an ill-conceived welfare program with a school shooting. The whole segment has a "Jerry Springer" feel to it.

In the most ridiculous sequence, he replaces corporate scapegoat Roger Smith of *Roger and Me* fame with NRA poster boy Charlton Heston. The actor fumbles through the interview with a complete lack of focus, giving Moore the opportunity to add some carefully crafted sincerity into his film. (Boo-Hoo).

As a Flint, Mich. native, I've always been suspicious of Moore's work. He brings up some excellent points in *Roger and Me* about the economic effects General Motors had in Flint, but quickly turns it into a disastrous travel narrative.

When most people discuss *Roger and Me*, their first reaction is to discuss how awful it must be to live in Flint. I can assure you that the city isn't just crazy deputies and rabbit ladies trapped in an automobile factory ghost town. It's a city that's been neglected, trying desperately to put the pieces back together. The community is doing everything they can to make a difference.

Meanwhile, Moore will keep pumping out books and movies until his audience moves on to the next controversial icon. I was willing to join him and fight the good fight until I watched him babble on and on about his acceptance speech. The sarcasm and wit found in his book *Stupid White Men* are lost in his self-righteous documentary films.

If he wants to expose the horrible truths of our disenchanted culture, I think his first priority is to look in the mirror and take some responsibility himself. Sometime this year, I think he forgot exactly what he was fighting for. If you go out and buy *Bowling For Columbine* for $19.99, I'm sure he'll remind you.

Maybe his next project will be a three and a half hour film that chronicles his unique rise to super stardom. (Insert finger down throat here). If John Travolta hadn't already snagged the title for his romantic angel epic, he could have called it *Michael*.

It doesn't matter what he puts out next, the "working man's army" will snap up everything that has his name on it. It's not that different from Gene Simmons and the Kiss army—all make up and special effects, fancy camera angles and melodrama. Just watch Moore on the *Bowling for Columbine* DVD, with that Oscar gleam in his eye and that blue-collar smile, you'll find a man begging for attention.

THIS WEEK in arts & entertainment

Monday 9/22

"Only on Paper: Six Centuries of Judaiaca from the Gross Family Collection" 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

R. Kelly CD Release Party 7:00 p.m. Small Venue Chicago

Chicago White Sox vs. New York Yankees 7:05 p.m. U.S. Cellular Field

"The Great Train Story" 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Museum of Science and Industry

Michel Sarazin paintings 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Kamp Gallery: 563 Lincoln Ave.

Tuesday 9/23

Chicago Fire vs. Los Angeles Galaxy 7 p.m. Cardinal Stadium

"Menopause, the Musical" 8 p.m. Apollo Theater

"Anti-Spacesuit: The Dirty Future", a group show 11a.m. - 6 p.m. Gallary 2: 847 W. Jackson Blvd.

$2 domestic bottles and mixed drinks Parkway Tavern: 748 1/2 W. Fullerton Ave.

The Sound of Music 7:30 p.m. Auditorium Theater 50 E. Congress Parkway

Wed. 9/24

Frank Lloyd Wright and Japan 100 Years Later 9:15 a.m. The Art Institute

Blue Man Group 8 p.m. Briar Street Theatre

Buddha's Belly/ Punsapaya/ All Four/ Abstract Giant 8 p.m. House of Blues

Grana' Louise Blues Band 9 p.m. Blue Chicago 736 N. Clark St.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" 7:30 p.m. Royal George Cabaret Room 1641 N. Halsted St.

Thurs. 9/25

Biggie and Tupac, by Nick Broomfield 6:30 p.m. 1104 S. Wabash Ave. Room 407E

Ballet Hispanico 8 p.m. Chicago Theatre

Ted Nugent 9 p.m. House of Blues

Tim Baker/ DJ Jacq 10 p.m. Metro Smart Bar

$2.50 Guinness, Bass, black and tan pints, Miller Lite and Bud Lite bottles Celtic Crown Public House 4301 N. Western Ave.

Friday 9/26

Aerosmith and Kiss 7 p.m. Tweeter Center

Godhead 7:30 p.m. Oasis One Sixty

R.E.M. 7:30 p.m. United Center

The Girl from Chicago 8:15 p.m. The Gene Siskel Film Center

Now showing at a theater near you: *Duplex* *The Rundown* *Under the Tuscan Sun*

Sat. 9/27

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club 11:30 p.m. Metro

Latin Dance Lessons with Lisa "La Boriqua" HotHouse 9:30 p.m. 31 E. Balbo Drive

A Tale of a Naughty Girl 3:30 p.m. Gene Siskel Film Center

Bouncing Souls 6:30 p.m. Metro

Sonic Music & Dance Fest 21 & Under Dance Party 7 p.m. NIU Convocation Center

Sunday 9/28

Snowboard Film Festival 3 p.m. Park West

Urban American Directing Workshop 3 -7 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn 10 E. Grand Ave.

"Alien Encounters" 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum 1300 S. Lake Shore Drive

Half-price burgers and pizza, 25 cent hot wings 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. The Beaumont 2020 N. Halsted St.

Karaoke at Subterranean 2011 W. North Ave.

Universal makes move

○ Major label aims at getting fans back to record stores with new price policy

By Matthew Jaster
Co-A&E Editor

Despite the over exposed artists covered on radio and television, there's plenty of talent filed away in local music stores still waiting to be discovered. Of course, you have to shell out between $16.99 and $18.99 to hear these artists.

Universal Music Group, a label responsible for 30 percent of all album sales in the United States, has come up with a possible solution. Starting in October, the label will introduce a new pricing policy in an effort to get fans back into music and get music back to the fans. The policy will attempt to reduce the manufacturer suggested retail price of CDs to $12.98.

"I think it's a great idea," said Bill Houlihan, a senior sports marketing major. "I spent a lot of money on CDs this summer, so every little bit helps."

Columbia students easily spend hundreds of dollars on textbooks, transportation, food and social activities each year. With nothing but change in their pockets, however, it's hard to rationalize spending so much money on music.

"The idea is to create more awareness of the titles in our catalogue," said Scott Kawa, a Universal College and Lifestyle marketing representative and a Columbia student. "We hope it brings consumers back into the stores."

According to the Recording Industry Association of North America's year-end statistics, from 2001 to 2002, the number of CDs shipped to stores—indicative of sales—dropped 8.9 percent. CD prices and piracy share the brunt of the blame.

Dondiego Lomax, a sophomore dance choreography major, is happy about the new policy. "For the music fans, it's good," he said.

"It could be too little too late, but we're hoping other labels will follow Universal's lead," said Brad Hathaway, store manager of Crow's Nest Music at the DePaul Center. "I think it's probably a step in the right direction."

After Universal's announcement on Sept. 3, Crow's Nest Music has been hit with several inquires about the price change from customers.

"People are constantly coming in asking when the prices on these CDs are going to drop down, so there's definitely some interest," Hathaway said.

Some students aren't as enthusiastic.

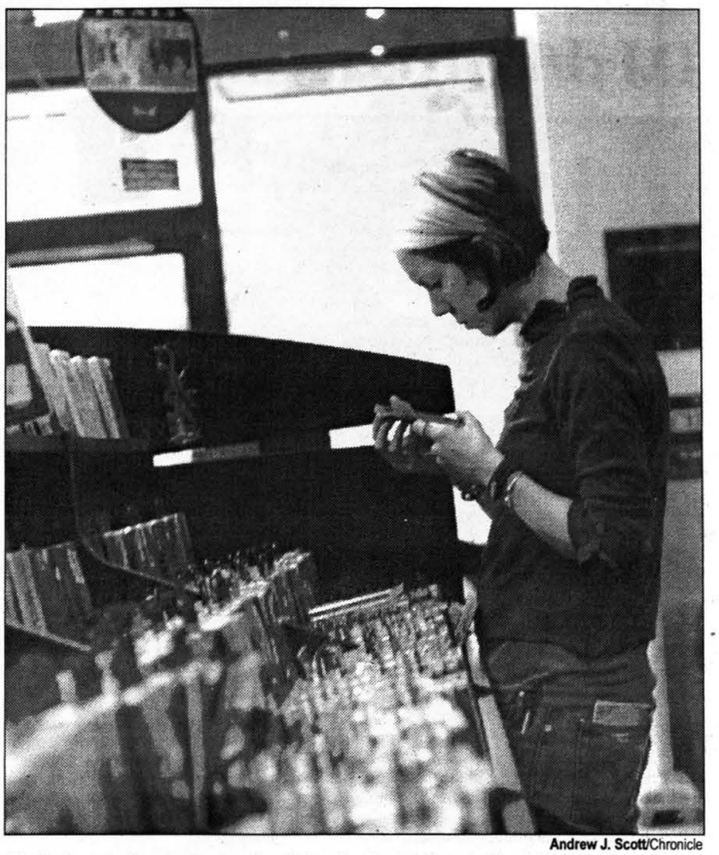
"It's nonsense," said Ian Sklarsky, a senior film major, "CDs should be ten bucks flat rate. I don't think dropping the prices is going to make a difference."

Ben Perkins, a buyer for Rolling Stone Records, thinks it has more to do with the label itself.

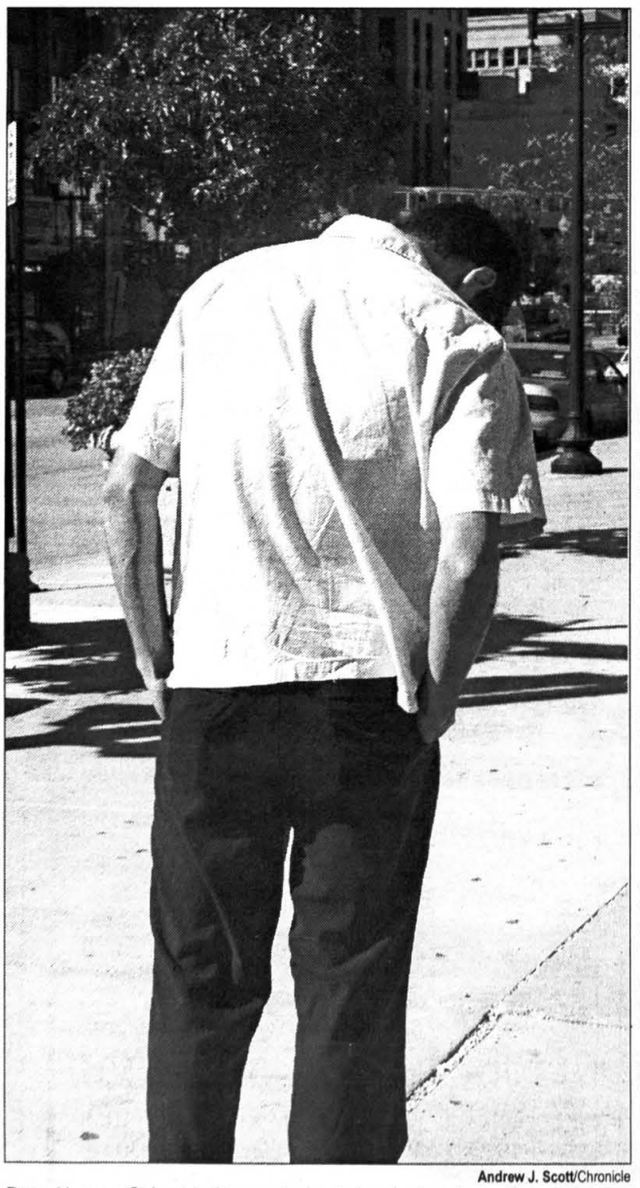
"It sounds good for the consumers, but Universal needs to do this for themselves to make more money," Perkins said. "The label's only reducing prices on half of their labels; it's more a publicity move than anything else."

Universal's roster includes Eminem, 50 Cent, Jack Johnson, Jurassic 5, Queens of the Stone Age, and U2. It also includes historic recordings from Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Marley, Nirvana and the entire Motown catalog.

In the end, it all comes down to the fans. If they refuse to buy CDs for $20—or now at $12.98—the industry will have to make some adjustments. Who knows, maybe the $3 you save on the rock 'n' roll can supplement the $400 you spend on textbooks.



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle
Emily Cunningham peruses the CD collection at Crow's Nest, 333 S. State St.



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle
Drew Huey, a Columbia film graduate, hates it when he is given the Rejection Hotline number.

Just can't take a hint?

○ Hotline serves to prevent public shame for both parties during rejection

By Doris Dadayan
Co-A &E Editor

"I think, er, heaven must've lost a … no, wait. I lost my puppy and I was wondering … uh, no, that's not it. Do you believe in walking by love at first sight, or, wait, hold on. Uh, is that a keg in your back pocket 'cause I'm about to tap that … oh, what the hell, can I just have your number already?"

Pick-up disasters can strike at any time. It can happen at a club, neighborhood pub, library, coffee shop, gas station or drug store, and they can be quite awkward for the one being hit on. No matter what the reason is for the victim's disgust, it is important to remain pleasant.

Don't give dirty looks to your friends standing in the corner of the bar laughing at you. Don't start sending messages to God asking what you've done to deserve this. Don't lie to the person and say you can't date because you are mentally unstable.

And whatever you do, do not start wondering if you are just becoming too picky, or if the person just had a little too much to drink, ran out of shampoo that day or suffers from an anxiety disorder.

> "Regardless of the reason, accept the fact that you've been rejected, and get over it."
>
> *—Prerecorded hotline message*

No, you must leave this jarring scene without making one.

Enter the Rejection Hotline.

Designed as a service that professionally lets them down easy, the hotline's website, www.rejectionhotline.com says that the Rejection Hotline was created to be a "public service to both the rejecter and to the rejectee."

This allows the rejected a private refusal "without being subjected to public embarrassment and/or ridicule from anyone who otherwise might have witnessed a more public rejection."

The Rejection Hotline's website offers phony customized business cards with fake company names and phony e-mail addresses, as well as an investigation department which works to track down the person responsible for giving the number.

The idea behind the hotline came from the sighting of an unpleasant public rejection.

"We originally started the whole thing just for fun," said 26-year-old founder of the Rejection Hotline, Jeff Goldblatt, in a recent e-mail interview. "We came up with it a few years ago over a few beers after watching an uncomfortable rejection scene unfold before us at a bar."

"It started with a guy who clearly couldn't take the hint that the girl wasn't interested, so we felt bad for her," Goldblatt said. "Then she decided she'd had enough and started screaming at him, letting him and the entire bar know that he should go away and leave her alone. Then we felt bad for him because he was humiliated, and his friends were across the bar laughing at him. It was just an ugly situation all around."

Goldblatt said that the hotline started as a joke between friends, but then it started to gain popularity through the media.

Suddenly they we were getting thousands of e-mails requesting numbers for more cities. Each of the Rejection Hotline cities in the United States averages over 1,000 calls a day, according to Goldblatt.

"One of the coolest parts about the whole thing is reading all the e-mail we get from people across the country," Goldblatt said.

He added that the best e-mail he's ever received came from a girl in Chicago. "It said, 'This is the funniest thing ever. You are a genius. Will you marry me?' That was definitely the first marriage proposal I'd ever received," he said.

Chicago has one rejection number posted on www.rejectionhotline.com, and with a call to (773) 509-5096, a chipper male voice explains the possible reasons why the caller was given the number: "Maybe you are just not this person's type; this could mean short, fat, ugly, dumb, annoying, arrogant or just a general loser. Maybe you suffer from bad breath, body odor or a nasty combination of the two. Maybe you just give off that creepy, overbearing psycho-stalker vibe. Regardless of the reason, please take the hint. Accept the fact that you've been rejected, and get over it."

Yes, rejection sucks.

Rejecting someone else is pretty bad too. But if you happen to be the one who gets dissed, keep in mind that there's always someone better out there.

And if you're still a little pissed off about getting the Rejection Hotline number, Jeff Goldblatt would appreciate the chance to respond back to any questions or negative comments.

Book Review

Lovelorn Brit main focus of debut novel

By Doris Dadayan
Co-A&E Editor

She's beautiful, smart, classy and witty. She wears the latest designer suits, has her hair done religiously at the salon and wears Cristalle by Chanel. She uses words like "loo," "shag" and "bloody hell"; she's a Brit, after all.

With just one look at her, one would think that she has it all. And really, she does have it all, except for the one thing that she can't get: love.

What Goes Around, by Alexandra Carew, brings us into the world of Catherine Wellesley, a 20-something who goes through her days thinking she is constantly being punished for something she had done in a previous life.

She believes that there is a higher force controlling her every decision in life.

Working in beautiful Hong Kong as a producer for Frontier Television, Cat falls for Irishman Declan, an editor for the television station, who spouts phrases like, "Oh, for f---'s sake!" and ,"My god, woman!"

But of course, as luck would have it, his mousy-looking girlfriend, Harriet, has a firm hold over his heart and won't let go, regardless of what Cat tries to do to win him over. It seems that no matter what she does, Cat is constantly caught up in a cycle of heartache and hopelessness.

As Cat says,"If you're unlucky in love, aren't you supposed to be lucky at something?"

So, she turns to new age devices to begin her self-healing process. She turns to psychics, tarot cards, horoscopes, self-help and astrology books.

But, tracing back to all the time and money spent throughout her year in China, she finally realizes that she tried to make every thing she heard, every card she'd drawn and everything she read to help her see something that was always there, waiting for her the whole time; someone who no fortune teller could ever have predicted she would be romantically tied.

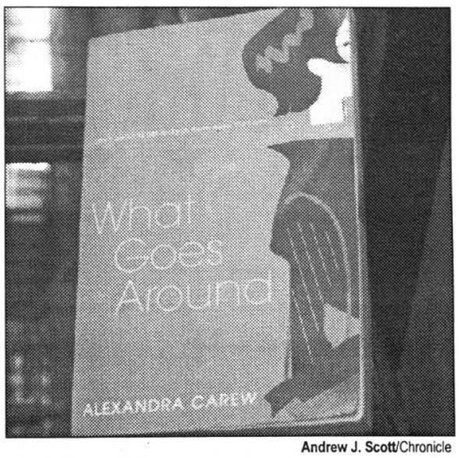
If this single-corporate-girl-trying-to-find-a-boyfriend plot sounds like it has been used a lot lately, well, that's because it has.

The plot itself is nothing new, but the book, Carew's debut novel, is beautifully written.

Carew brings the reader inside the heads and conversations of the hilarious characters in the story.

And those who could not put down the Bridget Jones series, written by Helen Fielding, will find this novel just as insatiable.

So if you're just looking for some brain candy reading, there's no way you should miss *What Goes Around's* hot pink cover and the very delicious story inside.



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Wesley Willis, local hero, '90s kitsch icon, dead at 40

By Chris Coates
Editor-In-Chief

Wesley Willis, the schizophrenic, sometimes-homeless songster who came to national prominence with his off-kilter lyrics and repetitious synthetic beats, died Aug. 21 in Evanston, Ill. He was 40.

The Cook County medical examiner's office could not disclose the cause of death, but according to his record label, Willis was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia last year. He was undergoing treatment at Palliative Care Center and the Hospice of the North Shore when he died, according to a press release.

Leukemia was one of the many ailments that plagued the 6-foot 5-inch, 300-pound Willis. According to friends, the South Side native was abused as a child and faced chronic obesity and ardent racism. After he was diagnosed with schizophrenia in 1989, Willis became homeless, mumbling loudly to himself as he wandered the city streets.

He was always artistically inclined, so the eccentric Willis started chanting rhymes and penning drawings with felt tip markers as he sat outside bars and clubs on the North Side.

Ironically, Willis' seemingly erratic behavior spawned a cult following after he began hawking homemade mix tapes on the streets of Wicker Park.

The kitschy tapes featured the boisterous Willis shouting chaotic lyrics to the mechanical cords and drum beats of a Casio keyboard.

His songs were instantly recognizable, and at the height of his career,Willis was playing sold-out venues across the country.

A typical song in Willis' repertoire is "Rock 'n' Roll McDonald's," an allusion to the musically themed fast food restaurant at 600 N. Clark St. in Northbridge.

Its lyrics read:

"McDonald's is the place to rock/ It is a restaurant where they buy food to eat/ It is a good place to listen to the music/People flock here to get down to the rock music."

Each of his songs ended with the phrase, "Rock over London, rock on Chicago" followed by a commercial slogan ("Blockbuster Videos. Wow! What a difference," was a favorite).

With outlandish behavior like that, the tapes soon became a fixture of the underground music scene; grabbing attention from mainstream acts like the Smashing Pumpkins and the Dead Kennedys.

Willis continued releasing hits on independent labels, eventually reaching cult status as his songs flooded into high schools and college campuses in the mid-'90s.

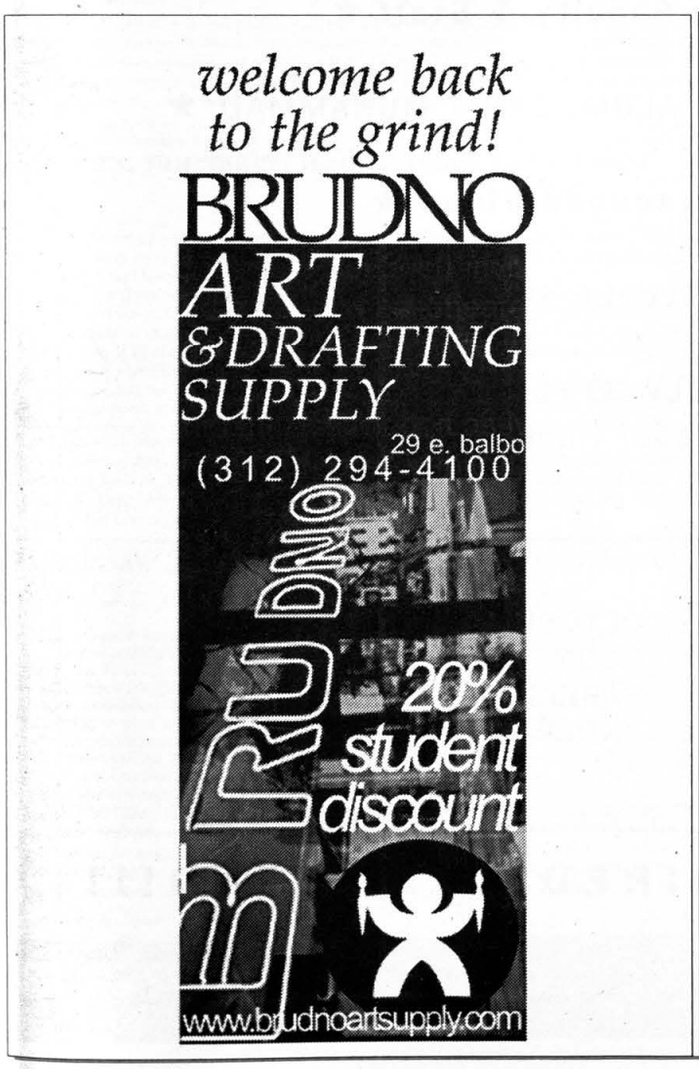
In his 1999 CD *Greatest Hit Vol. 2*, Willis sings "Arnold Schwarzenegger" in his signature non sequitur style: "I love your movies/ I love you too/ You are the best man that I have ever liked/ You are my rich man/ You are my big millionaire. Arnold Schwarzenegger."

Willis wrote hundreds of songs and released more than 50 albums.

He was the topic of a number of documentaries chronicling his story of survival.

Willis' *Greatest Hits Vol. 3* is scheduled for release in October.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.



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QUICK PICS AT THE MOVIES

Little life in 'Cold Creek Manor'

☹

There seems to be a growing number of films that combine several genres in hopes of creating something original and fresh. *Cold Creek Manor* is an incredibly bad example of the mixed-genre fad.

It quickly becomes clear that Mike Figgis, director of *Leaving Las Vegas*, is unsure of what kind of film he wants to make. It's a psychological thriller with drama, comedy, horror and suspense thrown in for good measure.

The story revolves around Cooper Tilson (Dennis Quaid) and his wife Leah (Sharon Stone), who move out of the city with their two children and into an old manor in upstate New York.

While Cooper works on a documentary project about the family who previously owned the estate, a former resident, Dale Massie (Stephen Dorff), returns to take back what he believes rightfully belongs to him. Chaos and terror ensue, dragging the film along until its ridiculous climax.

Figgis tries, unsuccessfully, to make the audience care about these characters and the situation they've been put in. During the film, It's hard not to imagine the pitch meeting went something like this:

"It's a character-driven suspense piece, sort of *Cape Fear* meets *The Shining* meets *Funny Farm*."

Void of any real substance or style, be prepared to laugh at things that aren't supposed to be funny and wondering what Quaid and Stone thought was so appealing about the project in the first place.—*Matthew Jaster*

Nothing lost in Coppola's 'Translation'

☺

Sofia Coppola's newest foray into film, *Lost in Translation,* starring Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson is intelligent, yet surprisingly subtle.

Murray is charming as Bob Harris, an aging film star who, like many real-life Hollywood stars, has headed to Tokyo to become a product spokesman while pocketing a cool $2 million. During his week in Tokyo, he meets the 20-something Charlotte (Johansson), who has tagged along with her jet-setting photographer husband John (Giovanni Ribisi).

After a late-night encounter in a hotel bar, the two characters bond over their mutual insomnia, their feelings of isolation and by the culture of Tokyo itself. The couple embark on a week-long, (for-the-most-part) platonic relationship (She's been married for two years, he for 25.).

From the outset, Coppola (daughter of Francis Ford Coppola of *The Godfather* fame) uses the otherworldly, neon wonderland that is Tokyo to elicit a slick, sterilized environment. Shots of packed, slots-only gambling halls and off-the-wall video arcades interlaced with panoramas of the city are all framed so beautifully that they add to the film's surreal mood.

The only jarring scene in the film is Murray's one-night stand with a second-rate songstress who looks like she stepped out of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, which just doesn't fit his character.

Overall, *Translation* is understated, poignant and endearing because of—not in spite of—Murray's masterful performance. There are some culture clash moments that, if not for Murray, would seem contrived rather than realistic, while Johansson's vulnerability and intensity shines in the quiet moments of the film. And Coppola does a fine job, flexing her artistic muscles as both a director and as a screenwriter. —*Kristen Menke*

Guitars, mariachis and murder in 'Mexico'

😐

Numerous stars, over-the-top action and an unbelievable plot are what make *Once Upon a Time in Mexico* just as intriguing as director Robert Rodriguez's 1995 hit *Desperado*. Unfortunately, this time around, Rodriguez fails to combine these elements successfully.

Antonio Banderas returns once again to play El Mariachi, the gun-wielding, guitar playing hero. A man of few words, El Mariachi is convinced by Sands (Johnny Depp)–a corrupt and manipulative CIA agent–to avenge the murder of his wife (Salma Hayek) and daughter. Sands hopes that, with the help of El Mariachi, he will avert an assassination attempt on the Mexican president by power-hungry cartel boss, Barillo (Willem Dafoe).

An inconsistent use of subtitles does not help as Rodriguez overwhelms viewers with nonstop shoot 'em up action in every place imaginable—from the town church to the streets of the Day of the Dead celebration, where the ultimate showdown occurs between a multitude of cheesy cartel henchmen and a trio of mariachis, one of whom is played by Enrique Inglesias.

Once Upon a Time in Mexico would be difficult for anyone whose interests include more than sensational Western shoot-outs to sit through if it were not for the consistently bizarre humor offered by Depp, who at one point asks a grungy murderer, "Are you a Mexi-can or a Mexi-can't?"—*Kat Gresey*

'Chainsaw' likely to be a 'massacre' upon release

☺

Why anyone would attempt to remake one of the greatest horror cult classics is an absolute mystery. There is nothing any filmmaker could offer that will make you forget the wonderful terror of the original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*. It's an insult to even try. That said:

Last week, I saw the preview for the first time at the movie theater. The trailer is a short masterpiece, spontaneous and flashy, giving us only the slightest bit of information to stir up the inner Leatherface in all of us. Jessica Biel, of "7th Heaven" fame, runs around the house, sweating and screaming, as she attempts to survive the power tool attacks. The trailer ends with a series of eerie snap shots–a chilling moment that made me consider taking a chance on the full-length feature. Memories of Gus Van Sant's *Psycho* remake quickly changed my mind.

If you haven't seen the trailer, by all means, get to the multiplex and check it out. Director Marcus Nispel teams up with producer Michael Bay for the updated version, scheduled for release on Oct. 17. The man responsible for *Pearl Harbor* and *Armageddon* has been trying to get this picture made for years, so we have a pretty good idea how the film is going to turn out. It will be loud, over the top and not worth spending your money on admission. Skip the flick, check out the preview and maybe catch the thought-provoking *The Lizzie McGuire Movie* instead.

—*Matthew Jaster*

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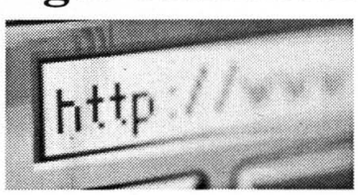

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Horrorscope

Hey, it's a gruesome world out there, we're just trying to help you out

For the week of: Sept. 22-28

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Do your socks match? Did you remember your underwear? Did you brush your teeth? Well if you didn't, maybe you should. And go buy yourself a full-length mirror, people are starting to notice.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Mama never forgets, just remember that.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
A stress-free week for you. One of your four personalities will get it right this week.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Whatever happened to that promise you made on that night when the moon was full and wolves were howling? Oh, you know what we're talking about, you filthy liar, you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Damn, you look so good this week! Can you stop looking so good for just one second?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
It's important to pamper yourself this week. Buy yourself some new pajamas, some sexy underwear and spend the weekend in bed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Your secret admirer is tired of keeping it a secret, and will finally make the big move. It will involve $1 million, a Dodge Neon and a cat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)
Take caution while traveling. You are hard to see this week. Are you wearing decent clothes? No, that is not considered decent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Stop playing the lottery. You're never going to win, fool.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
It's time to clean out your desk at work. You never know what might be living in there, you dirty beast.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Visit your local pet store and buy "one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish." And stop talking to the parrot. He's not listening anyway.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
It's time to give up exercising. It's not working anyway–go get a cheeseburger, some onion rings and just call it a night already.

Strangers unite in Zen Feat

❍ Good vibes bring band to a higher state of enlightenment, communication

By Kat Gresey
Assistant A&E Editor

They describe their sound as "absolutely amazing," with their fans "all up dancing" and "getting wasted." They are Zen Feat: a four-man band with an undefined style that includes elements of everything from rock and pop to jazz and folk music.

Having just completed a summer of exploratory touring, these guys decided that what they have together is worth pursuing, and at the very least, worth a fond memory or two.

"The four of us loved playing together," said lead vocalist/guitarist Aaron Williams of the past summer. "So, we decided to keep it up."

Twenty-four-year-old Williams can also be credited for getting the group together. Formerly a solo acoustic guitar player Williams was playing small coffee shops, when one night he had a dream he was rocking and rolling on the "Late Show with David Letterman" with other musicians.

Inspired, he formed the band Strangers in Dreams, which lasted two years and was where he first played with current Zen Feat members, percussionist, Tom Bligh, 22; and keyboardist, Zach LaMotte, also 22.

After S.I.D. broke up due to what Williams said was, "too many members, too many minds and too much pessimism," the three band mates decided to move on, picking up their youngest member, 19-year-old bassist Nick Hill.

"The connection we have between us four is actually pretty f-------. We didn't expect it," Williams said.

"It's all about the band chemistry," Hill added, "communicating with other people."

Apparently, they communicate very well. Unlike the often negative feedback received by S.I.D., the audience reaction to Zen Feat has been good, and the band primarily relies on that positive word-of-mouth for promotion.

The band said their main focus is to please the audience. If the audience isn't feeling the vibe, they will change up their set.

From the serious "Zen Feat" to the passionate "Our Body," Zen Feat cover a wide spectrum. They have a humorous funk song titled "Boob Job" and a Spanish jam, "Maria," in which they improvise, and Williams makes up lyrics on the spot about a girl named Maria whom he has never met.

Bligh's favorite song to play is the bluegrass folk song "Swampy Boogie."

"It's simple," he said. "It's something that we would never play in Strangers in Dreams. It's totally not serious at all. It always gets people dancing." Williams added that everyone loves "Swampy Boogie."

Zen Feat also plays covers of Radiohead, Eminem and Coldplay, as well as the themes from "Cheers" and *Mario Brothers.*

"You can play whatever you want, and someone will like it," Hill said of the Chicago music scene.

A combination of musical influences is what makes their music so interesting, according to Williams. Between the four of them, they like hip-hop, jazz, blues, classical, folk and straight-up rock, which all comes out in their music and is great for the eclectic Chicago music scene.

Being a music business major at Columbia doesn't hurt either.

LaMotte believes Columbia leaves it up to the student to further their career out side of the classroom but that all the materials are provided for the students to use.

Photo courtesy of Zen Feat

Zen Feat's diverse background creates an eclectic style that adds to their zen-like approach to music.

"It's a great launching pad," he said. "All the tools are there if you know how to use them."

Hill said getting to play somewhere is often all about who you know, citing difficulty the band had playing at Mayfest because they didn't know who was running the show.

"They teach how to play music. They don't teach you how to get a gig. It's all peace and love though," Hill, a jazz performance major said. "No one throws you a bone. You bust your ass."

LaMotte said students need to take more ownership in their school. "Don't do the 'jet out of class,'" he said. "Stay a few minutes. A lot of people don't understand the term 'networking.' In order for us to get where we need to go, we need everybody in all departments to do that."

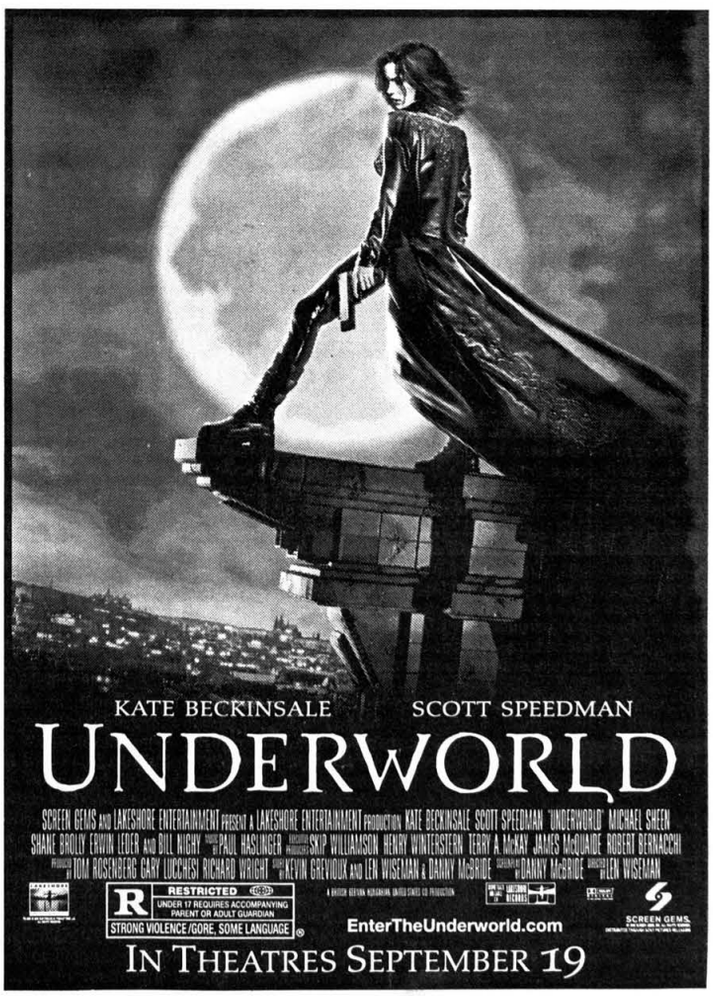
Currently, Zen Feat has a self-titled, nine track demo available. They are working on a website and promotional flyers, and if a fan wants to hear their music by downloading it off the Internet, they are all for it.

"You want our music, do whatever it takes to get it," said Williams.

"Do it. It only becomes an issue when that's how you make your money," said Hill with a laugh.

And they will continue to play.

"We want to expose our music to more people, and we want people to enjoy it," Williams said. "We are going to play as much as possible and get our music out there. I think people are really going to dig this group."



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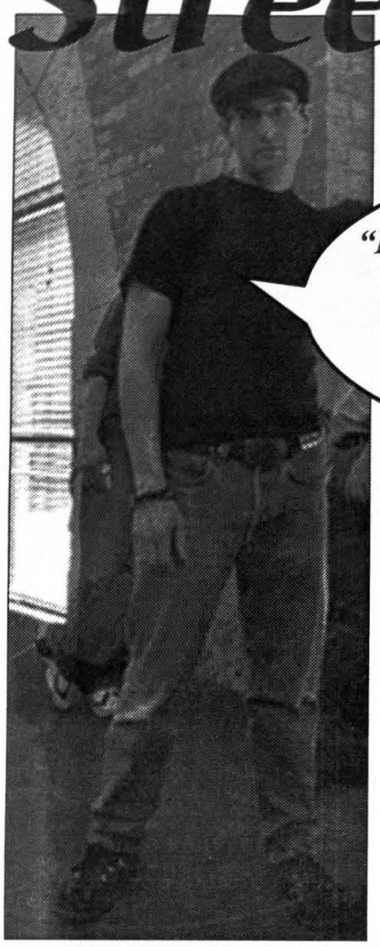
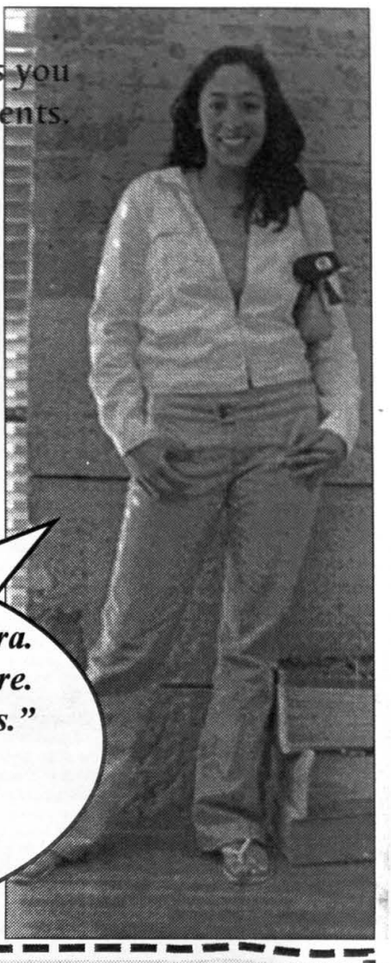
Street Wear

Every week the Chronicle brings you fashion from fellow Columbia students.



"I found these at a yard sale."

Name: Joee Liebman
Age: 22
Major: Film and Video
Year: Sophomore



"I bought [the outfit] at Zara. It's a Spanish clothing store. It's all seasonal colors."

Name: Yunuen Oseguera-Pardo
Age: 21
Major: Arts management
Year: Sophomore

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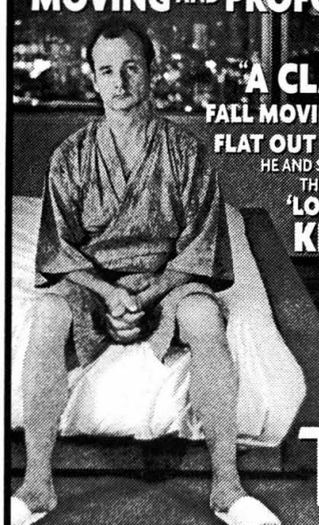

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McDonald's hopes no one will grimmace at adult Happy Meals

CHICAGO (AP) - McDonald's Corp. has enlisted the aid of Oprah Winfrey's personal trainer to promote an adult version of the Happy Meal, the fast-food giant's latest effort to offer healthier products.

Instead of Happy Meal standards like a burger and a toy, the new Go Active Meal will include a salad, an exercise booklet and a pedometer meant to encourage walking.

Fitness guru Bob Greene has agreed to help promote the Go Active Meal, which is being test-marketed at 150 McDonald's restaurants in Indiana.

McDonald's and other fast-food chains have tried to offer healthier fare that will still temp taste buds as the fat and calorie content of their core products has come under scrutiny. Burger King, the No. 2 hamburger chain, launched a new line of low-fat, baguette-style chicken sandwiches on Sept. 18.

On Sept. 5, a federal judge in New York dismissed an obesity lawsuit against McDonald's that alleged it had been hiding the health risks of eating its popular Big Macs and Chicken McNuggets. It was the second time this year that U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet threw out a class-action lawsuit that blamed McDonald's for making people fat.

Greene, who can't remember the last time he visited a McDonald's restaurant, said consumers had to take "personal responsibility" for the choices they make when it comes to consuming food. He will also consult on new menu items for the Oak Brook-based company, which also announced a new taco version of its premium salads on Sept. 16.

McDonald's has a "long, long way to go" to solidify a reputation for promoting healthy foods, said Bob Goldin, an analyst at Chicago-based food consultancy Technomic. But Goldin was willing to give the company credit for trying.

"McDonald's sees some major trends, and the company is trying to be responsive," Goldin said. "Whether these initiatives will actually move the needle [to boost sales], I don't know."

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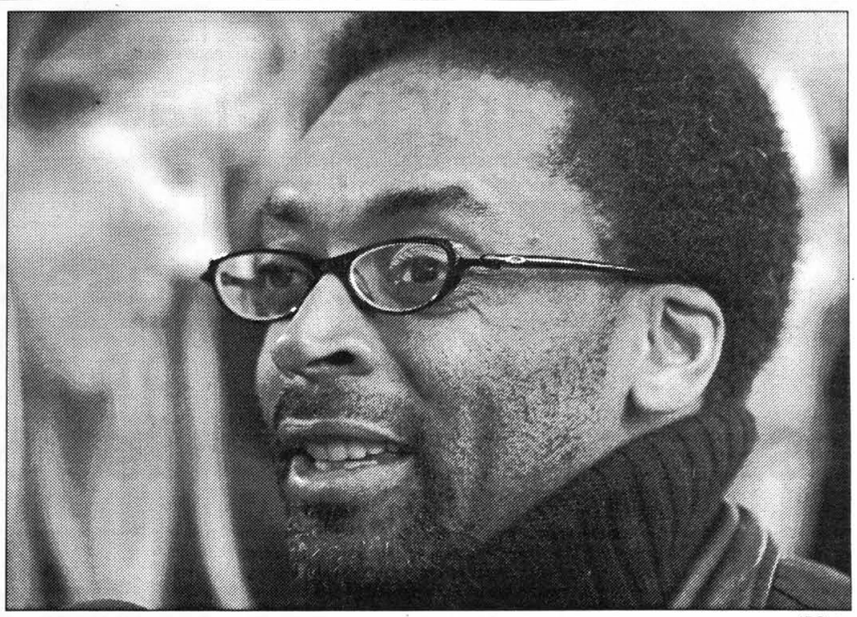

AP Photo

Director Spike Lee talks to the news media as he arrives for a Los Angeles movie premiere.

Spike Lee says Americans need to focus on issues, lay off fluff

By Lynn Elber
AP Television Writer

REDLANDS, California (AP) _ Spike Lee, whose movies often have a political edge, says Americans need to think all the rice we need. We don't have more about important issues and lay off the fluff.

``We as a people are more concerned with J.Lo and Ben Affleck than these so-called weapons of mass destruction,'' he told 750 people who gathered Tuesday night at the University of Redlands.

The director of ``Do the Right Thing'' and ``Malcolm X'' also criticized the U.S. intervention in Iraq.

North Korea poses a greater threat to the United States ``but they don't have resources'' the country wants, he said. ``We've got oil.''

Lee also took aim at what he called the stereotypical roles blacks have played in recent films such as ``Bringing Down the House,'' which starred Steve Martin and Queen Latifah.

In such films, ``the uptight white person is shown humanity by someone from the 'hood,'' the 46-year-old director said.

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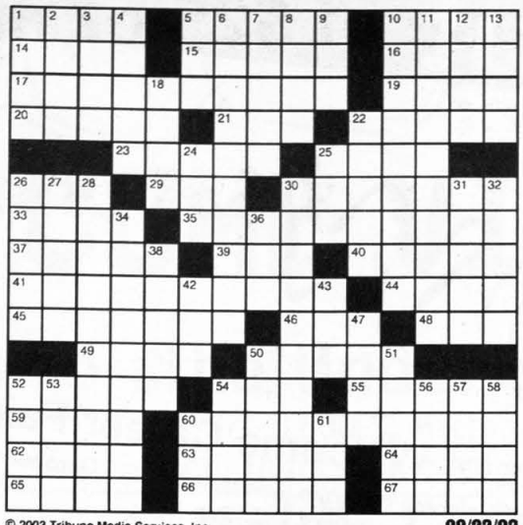

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09/22/03

ACROSS

1 Chomp
5 Winger of films
10 Carnivores' mouths
14 On the peak of
15 Self-evident truth
16 Cain's brother
17 Script for a movie
19 Keyboard goof
20 Diaphanous
21 Stately tree
22 Discernment
23 Traffic advisories
25 Tight spots
26 Wane
29 Agree silently
30 Rejecting authoritatively
33 Pub choices
35 Suspenseful novel
37 Mark new prices
39 Prevent
40 Watered silk
41 Methane mixture
44 Rescue
45 Free from bacteria
46 Corn holder
48 Actor Beatty
49 Steiger and Stewart
50 Shuffles
52 Office subs
54 Hamlin pest
55 Military foul-up
59 Cookie snack
60 Korea and Florida
62 Stiff breeze
63 Ta-ta, Gigi
64 Dunce-cap shape
65 NBA team
66 Browned bread
67 Beer barrels

DOWN

1 Deep singer
2 Seven-year malady?
3 Ripped up
4 Fencers' foils
5 Quayle or Rather
6 Not worth salvaging
7 Paper money
8 Wander aimlessly
9 Singer Grant
10 Brownsville's Mexican neighbor
11 Short-haired cat breed
12 Shed tears
13 __ gin fizz
18 Poet's Ireland
22 Actress O'Neal
24 Republican letters
25 JFK bird
26 Merits
27 Sheep call
28 Edification
30 Truths
31 Pluck
32 Love of money
34 Jurassic beasts
36 Joke or choke
38 Spreadsheets
42 Smith and Gore
43 Red or White team
47 Porgy's love
50 Hysteria
51 Moved stealthily
52 Mini-city
53 Toledo's lake
54 Second opportunity
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57 Hollow tooth
58 Manipulates
60 Touch lightly
61 Screwball

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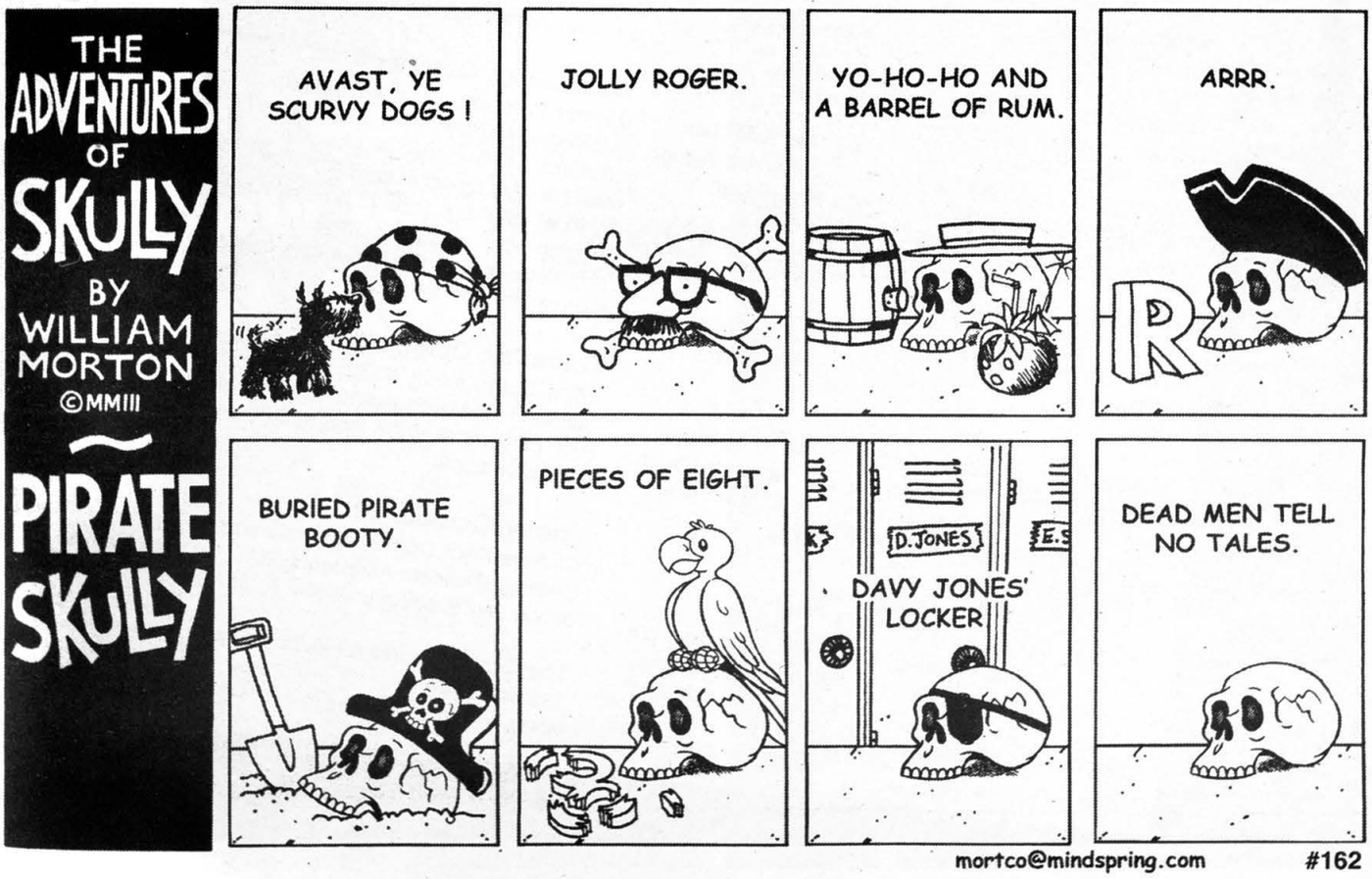

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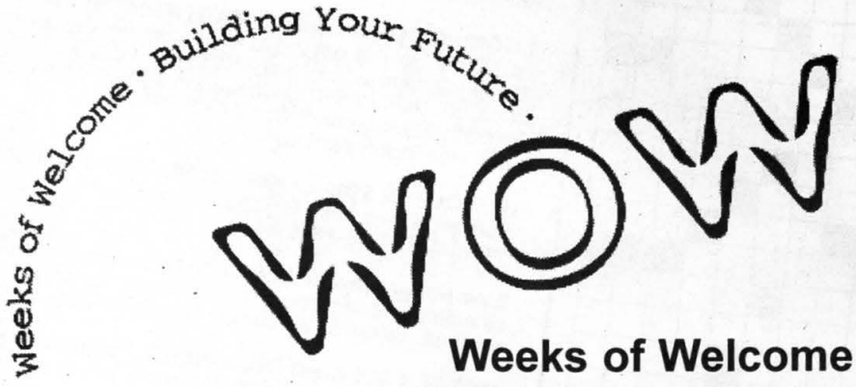

Weeks of Welcome Career Fair

A Weeks of Welcome program || September 29 - October 10

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Employers seeking student workers will be visiting campus to meet you and accept your resume/application during September and October. New employers will be added throughout the Weeks of Welcome, so check the career center website, **www.colum.edu/careers/weeksofwelcome**.

Monday, September 29

Hilton Chicago: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Seeking various Part-Time and Full-Time Hotel and Restaurant positions www.hilton.com

City of Chicago: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Primarily seeking Public Service internship candidates, including interns specializing in design, management, marketing, public relations, and cultural affairs. www.cityofchicago.org

Tuesday, September 30

Old Navy (State Street): 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Seeking to fill retail, asst. mgr., and visual merchandising positions.
www.oldnavy.com

Wednesday, October 1

IT Resource Center: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Seeking Part-Time tutors, instructors, computer lab monitors, and general IT-support folks in areas including digital video, graphic design and web design.
www.itresourcecenter.org

Thursday, October 2

Food Team: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Staffing firm seeking candidates for short- and long-term placement in the food and hospitality industry.
www.rifood.com

Illinois Dept of Human Services: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Seeking those interested in State of Illinois positions oriented towards the social services. Also seeking computer-oriented IT/MIS candidates.
www.dhs.state.il.us

Friday, October 3

Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Seeking program aides, work-study aides, interns, and volunteers for educational positions (including teaching art, photography, design, etc).
www.bgcc.org

Monday, October 6

Kinko's on Clybourn: Noon to 5 p.m.
Seeking employees for the 2300 N. Clybourn location of Kinko's. Knowledge of computer hardware, software, networking and/or printing helpful.
www.kinkos.com

AFLAC: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Seeking various part-time employees for their downtown offices as well as intern candidates.
www.aflac.com

Tuesday, October 7

Seville Staffing: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Seeking candidates for office/administration temp assignments.
www.sevillestaffing.com

Wednesday, October 8

Banner Personnel: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Seeking candidates for various temp office/admin positions.
www.bannerpersonnel.com

Hyatt of Printer's Row: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Seeking banquet staff, bartenders, room service staff, front desk staff, and reservations agents.
www.printersrow.hyatt.com

Thursday, October 9

Food Team: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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Friday, October 10

College Park Communities: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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Coffee bar, Bagels, Sweet Rolls
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No secret to Magz's appeal

New neighborhood watering hole taps into old feel

By Jeff Sabatini
Contributing Writer

"The best kept secret in the South Loop," reads the sign outside of Magz 649. Perhaps it's the unconventional name or maybe the off-the-beaten-path location at 649 S. Clark St., but the moniker rings true on a Monday evening when bartender Danny Kiriakakis knows every customer by name. Of course, this small crowd of regulars doesn't mind having the place to themselves as they talk sports, shoot pool and glance up at the TV news over domestic beers.

"It's a neighborhood bar," said Tim Halic, 43, over a longneck. Halic, a fiber optics technician who works at nearby SBC Communications Inc. and lives in Oak Lawn, said the appeal of Magz is simple: "Everybody knows everybody."

And "everybody" knows the Magallanez family. The breakfast customers—yes, the bar opens at 6 a.m.—know Christine Magallanez because she cooks their eggs and pours them coffee. The nighttime patrons know Danny, her 27-year-old son, and the weekend crowd buys their drinks from her other son, Albert, 33. On this night, Christine's husband Al Magallanez, 57, is playing pool.

"It's not fancy, but it's very clean," said 50-year-old Christine. "Our prices are cheaper than just about anybody down here."

Magz certainly doesn't offer the shrink-wrapped chic of neighboring Bar Louie, nor does it wallow in the seediness of a bar like George's Liquor. On first glance, it might look like a working stiff's joint, but then a group of suits will amble in and take up residence. Christine said the bar's clientele reflects the nature of the South Loop—all different kinds of people. Some, like Halic, work in the neighborhood but don't live there. For others, the opposite holds true.

As South Loop watering holes go, Magz is relatively new. The Magallanez clan opened the place in a space that was formerly occupied by a sports bar, September's, less than less than two weeks after the 9/11 tragedy.

"That made it very difficult," Christine said. "It was the wrong time to open up."

But the Magallanez family is making a go of it. Christine has been in the restaurant business since she was a teenager. She used to own a place at West 18th and South State streets that was razed in the late 1990s to make way for the Chicago Police Department's Central District station. Back then, she said, the South Loop was a "dump."

"We were way ahead of our time," she said.

Besides the Clark Street bar, the family owns a restaurant at 115 S. Clinton St., also called "Magz," but without the numeral suffix.

Christine said she prides herself on serving only "homemade" food at her establishments—nothing is pre-portioned. The menu at Magz 649 has been "temporary" since it opened. Christine keeps it in a state of flux, with things that don't sell well befalling the fate of the black marker. The majority of selections still available are typical bar food—burgers, sandwiches and appetizers—and as the handwritten note on the menu explains, "We also have pizza."

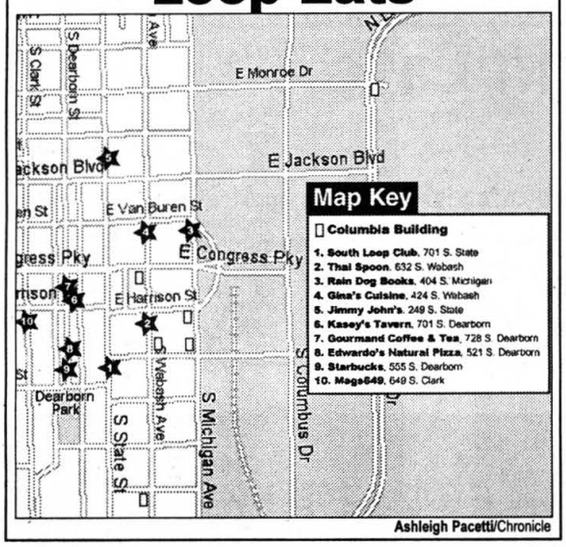
"It's huge amounts of food. You're not going to go away hungry," said Denise Paris, 34, the daytime bartender at Magz 649.

Paris, a two-year South Loop resident, started working for the Magallanez family in October 2002 after coming into the bar for a condo association social hour. She said she didn't make many friends among her Market Square Lofts co-dwellers, but she did strike up a friendship with Christine and the family.

It's evident as Paris sits among the regulars, sharing a drink with Christine after their day shift ends. The women laugh. Someone puts money in the jukebox. The next game of pool starts. Al Magallanez buys a college student a beer.

"It's a local bar," said Halic before he finishes his drink and heads home to the suburbs, "but it's downtown."

Secret South Loop Eats



Ashleigh Pacetti/Chronicle

State Place From page 36

ital within them, ultimately transforming the inner city real estate into a mixed income, economic opportunity for both residents and businesses.

A number of residents who live, shop and work in the South Loop voiced concerns that there is a lack of services that support retail in the community, according to Sanchez-Carlson.

"A lot of retail is under-served due to the lack of daytime traffic," she said.

State Place, however, will include a Multiplex health club, a Charter One Bank and a Walgreens. Additionally, Michael Tobin, managing principal of Northern Realty Group Ltd. believes the project will provide the entire city with additional revenue. Currently, Jewel-Osco, Starbucks and an Amoco-BP gas station are the only retail in the immediate area. Tobin believes the development would encourage pedestrians and retail to actively invest in the community.

"Previously, there wasn't even a reason to walk along State Street," he said. "But we are filling the hole in the doughnut and providing tax dollars for the city by creating commercial trade in an area that used to be a noncontributing, tax-exempt property."

The plan to construct State Place began in June of 2000 after the city selected Northern Realty Group Ltd., Mesirow Stein Real Estate Inc. and Near North Properties as their development team. The actual construction, however, began in August. Tobin said the team was informed of Johnson's interests in the development just as construction was set to begin.

"Through the use of an intermediary broker we discovered our business plans fit closely together," he said.

At the time, Canyon-Johnson was actively pursuing opportunities to invest in developments around the country and, according to Lombard, "the timing was perfect."

The fund provided the State Place project with equity of about $15 million, making it the largest financial contributor outside of the construction lenders. But Lombard said they did not get involved in the project only to make money based on Magic Johnson's name.

"Anytime Magic is involved it raises a level of awareness, but first and foremost we have built a company that brings not just name value but quality to the table," he said.

In addition, Tobin believes Johnson's attachment will help people take a look at the property at first. But patrons are not going to purchase a condo based solely on name recognition.

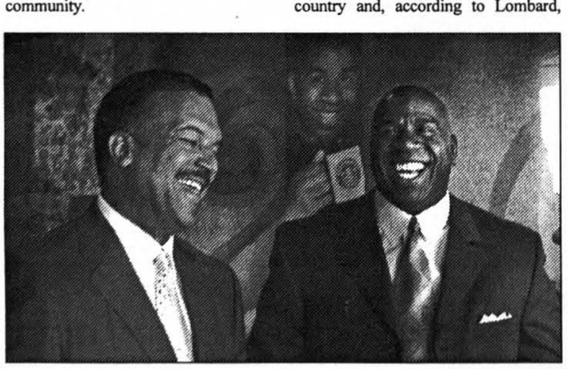
"The best we can hope for is if people think, 'If Magic thinks it's a good investment, we should at least look at it,'" Tobin said.

State Place condos do not, however, meet affordable housing standards. Units range in price from $279,800 for a one bedroom to more than $1 million for a penthouse suite. Since Johnson joined the venture, there has been no significant increase in property sales, Lombard said. Before his arrival, 50 percent of the units were already sold, and out of 610,000 total square feet of property, 40,000 square feet were pre-leased.

"We have had a pretty brisk level of activity since we came in. Only three to five more units have been sold," Lombard said.

Canyon-Johnson has already invested in more than $300 million in projects around the country including four Starbucks in Chicago. According to Lombard the company plans to continue to look for property in the Chicago area.

State Place is set to open in the fall of 2004. Tobin and Johnson will be present for the ribbon cutting.



Jack Dempsey/AP

Ken Lombard, president of Johnson Development Corp., and Earvin "Magic" Johnson, chairman and chief executive officer of JDC, are spearheading plans for a multimillion dollar condo project in the South Loop.

Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

A rider boards a northbound CTA bus at State and Jackson streets in the Loop. Regular bus customers say a string of strikes this month have caused widespread delays. The CTA disagrees.

CTA riders say strike slows service

One of transit authority's 17 worker unions are on strike

By Hiroke Abe
Contributing Writer

Frustration among bus riding commuters has peaked and passengers are learning to cope with the transit slowdown, born out of a month-long stalemate in contract negotiations between the driver's union and the Chicago Transit Authority.

Sarah Davis, 24, who uses CTA buses several times a day traveling between Logan Square and Ukrainian Village, is among commuters making due with increased travel times. She said that some bus routes seem to be running smoother than others.

"It depends on streets. When you go to smaller streets, you will wait for 45 minutes and you will see six [buses] in a row. I think it's inconsistent," Davis said.

Despite CTA patrons' awareness that buses are moving at a snail's pace, transit authority officials said they have seen no evidence of slowdowns. And bus drivers said they are merely "following standard operating procedures."

Contract negotiations, which have been underway between the CTA and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241 for more than three years, are merely the latest round of wrangling over the sticking points of what each side sees as a fair shake.

Local 241 represents the largest number of CTA workers such as bus drivers, mechanics and janitors.

Of the 17 unions that exist among the transit workers, Local 241 is the only union without a contract, according to the CTA.

Drivers want a pay raise and pension guarantee. Their contract has been frozen since 1999, according to Ediberto Rosado, a part-time CTA bus driver.

A CTA spokeswoman said the authority is not willing to comment on what they expect to see come out of a contract deal.

"At the request of the arbitrator neither party will discuss the matter while in arbitration," said spokeswoman Ibis Antongiorgi.

Some drivers said that their inability to strike a deal thus far is not solely based on CTA neglect of workers' wages and benefits. Contracts have also been frozen because of disputes within the union. Some drivers charge that union leaders have been too closely tied to CTA executives to advocate on their behalf.

"[Local 241 officers] didn't do a good job, because of their miscommunication," Rosado said.

Since Local 241 was in trusteeship in August, ATU, an International Labor Union representing transit operators, has taken over Local 241's operation, trying to remedy the stalled negotiations, according to the CTA.

Members said they are hopeful that the new leadership will help to move the process forward more quickly.

Meanwhile, union members are working to bring the plight of the drivers into the public eye by holding rallies with the Rainbow/ PUSH Coalition, on almost a weekly basis, according to Joe Hicks, a full-time bus drivers and a Local 241 activist.

Starting at CTA headquarters—in the Merchandise Mart— bus drivers and union leaders are heading up marches to Daley Plaza, trying to leverage support against what they consider an unfair labor contract.

"We represent [the] city. We make the city move. We just ask for the fair contract," Hicks said. "And we need an answer."

Reopened HotHouse still in red after fundraisers

World music venue looks to clear up licensing problems with Chicago code inspectors

By Angela Caputo
City Beat Editor

After a tumultuous spring and summer, the HotHouse, a popular South Loop arts entertainment spot, is working to get back on its feet after its programming was interrupted by city charges that the venue was operating beyond the scope of its licensure.

In what HotHouse Executive Director Marguerite Horberg described as "a ground swell" of community support, more than 150 individual donors and community groups came to the organization's rescue, in recent months, to help recoup a revenue loss of $80,000.

The fund-raising effort helped to cut the organization's losses in half. The group raised about $40,000.

"We have a very resilient organization," said Horberg. "[Our troubles] gave people the notion that Chicago without the HotHouse is one that they did not want to live with."

The second floor venue at 31 E. Balbo Drive, has been a cornerstone of cultural and arts programming in the South Loop since moving into the neighborhood from Wicker Park in 1997. HotHouse prides itself in showcasing theatrical, musical and free-standing works—many with progressive political underpinnings.

Coordinator of Columbia's Fine Arts Department, Adam Brooks, said that the importance of the organization is that it provides "a whole genre of music and other sonic information that one can't find in the Loop or in any other part of the city."

Adorned with works from Chicago artists, the loft-style space, 31 E. Balbo Drive, is more than meets the eye.

Known for its rich nightlife scene, the HotHouse hosts acts that other entertainment venues don't find economically viable, Horberg said. And, bigger name acts can be seen at the South Loop Club for much less, she added.

"It's part of our mission to bring [art and culture] to more people who otherwise might not have access to it," she said.

Upcoming programs at the nonprofit arts organization include hosting acts from the World Music Festival: Chicago 2003 and Jazz Without Borders, a multicultural jazz series. The HotHouse has also partnered with Columbia in its annual Mayfest/Manifest arts fair.

The organization's recent financial woes began when city inspectors paid a surprise visit to the club on May 9, 2003, after a tip that the organization was without proper licensing, according to an Illinois Department of Revenue spokesperson.

In an effort to comply with city orders, HotHouse administrators applied to the city's Liquor Control Commission for Tavern and Public Place of Amusement licenses.

Director of the city's Department of Revenue, Bea Reyna-Hickey confirmed that the licenses were applied for and are caught up in the inspection phase.

"At this time they haven't passed [inspections]," she said. As soon as they pass they will receive a license without delay, she said.

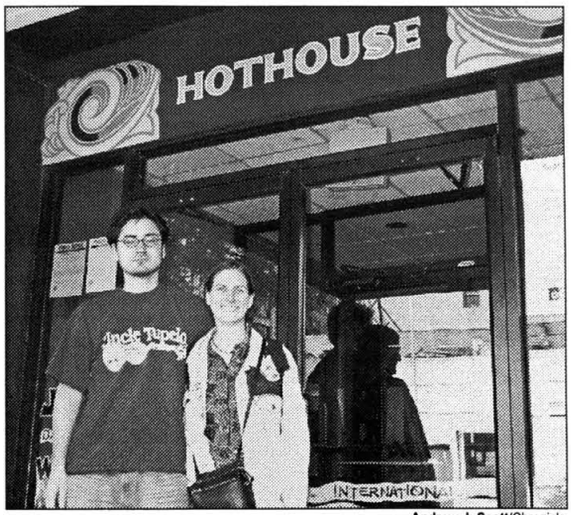
Although the HotHouse licensure issue remains in a state of limbo, Horberg said that she is anxious to lay the issue to rest.

"We would like to put this issue with the city behind us so we can pick up more projects."

While the future of the HotHouse remains unsure, the organization's administration, community members and patrons say that the run in with the city is a mere set back and its future looks bright.

That sweet sense of serendipity is what many, like Brooks, said is the lure of the venue.

"Everything I've seen in there has always been something unexpected."



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

HotHouse's bookkeeper, Holly Hutto, and program director, Timothy Bisig, wait outside the building at 31 E. Balbo Dr. The building was shut down in May by city officials.

Libby

From Page 36

Confederate relics on the building's second floor, including munitions, uniforms and even a petrified Egyptian mummy.

The validity of the collection is debatable: Gunther used his shrewd knowledge of marketing and commercialism to capitalize on naive audiences. A particularly far-fetched exhibit contained what Gunther claimed was the "skin of the serpent that tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden." Nevertheless, much of the collection was indeed legitimate, according to a series of studies conducted by the Chicago Historical Society.

One portion that proved particularly enthralling to Gunther was his affection for the recently assassinated President Abraham Lincoln. Sensing a market, Gunther decided to move his ever-increasing collection out of its cramped headquarters and into a new building, the Libby Prison. He wanted to stay in Chicago, however the Libby Prison was almost 800 miles away in Richmond, Va., the capitol of the Confederacy.

• • •

In four decades, the Libby Prison, a former tobacco depot that was commandeered by Confederate soldiers, saw 50,000 men pass through its gallows after the Battle of Bull Run in 1861. Behind the infamously retched Andersonville Prison in Georgia, Libby is widely measured as the most inhumane detainment facility in the Confederacy.

In 1888, the prison was taken apart stone-by-stone and plank-by-plank, and nail-by-nail. Much like the dismantling of Wacker Drive last year, workers carefully labeled each piece and placed them in order. After all, it had to fit together again when it arrived in Chicago in 132 different railcars.

Sitting on a full block of Wabash Avenue between 14th and 16th streets, the museum was surrounded by a gothic-style castle, complete with colonnades and spires, which were constructed in preparation for the prisoner-of-war camp.

In the yard, Gunther billed a small structure as "Uncle Tom's Cabin." He hired authentic Civil War veterans as guides, each pointing to Jefferson Davis' saddle in one corner and a new creation of its time: the museum gift shop. There Gunther sold his signature candy, silver commemorative spoons and Libby Prison cigars to tourists on their way to his Libby Prison Hotel and Restaurant just across the street.

Much as the vendor hawks World Trade Center T-shirts today in New York, Gunther was capitalizing on a mourning nation, a country still recovering from the horrors of the Civil War.

In a short time, the museum saw hundreds of thousands of visitors, many of them Civil War veterans living in Chicago. Of course, the 1893 Columbian World's Exposition—the namesake of Columbia, the college—helped too. Although it was miles from the exhibits, crowds flocked to the South Loop to peek at the bed President Lincoln died in, the former president's stove top hat and a chair supposedly from the viewing box of the Ford Theatre. There was the table where Robert E. Lee penned the Appomattox Court House surrender and one of the first documents, with the date 1507, suggesting the country name of America.

Sensing yet another trend, Gunther again capitalized on the intangible: his image. Using his popularity, he became the alderman for the city's 2nd Ward, the plot Columbia remains in today, and later Chicago's treasurer in 1901.

According to Gunther's biographers, he soon gained distaste for Civil War veterans, the waning group that made the museum so popular. As a Democrat, he despised moves by Republicans to bolster veteran benefits by raising tariffs on refined sugar, the main ingredient of his prized candies.

Anticipating the end, Gunther moved to tear down the museum, giving some of the collection to the newly founded Chicago Historical Society. According to the text *Libby Prison and Beyond* by Thomas M. Boaz, much of the wooden interior of the structure was given to a farmer in La Porte County, Ind. to build a barn.

In its place, Gunther formed the Coliseum Company, which elected to keep Libby's exterior walls and construct a massive edifice meant as a political hall in 1899.

• • •

In the aftermath of the Columbian World's Exposition, the so-called "White City," the South Loop was a seedy, crime-ridden stretch. The Levee District, as it was known, was a place of transients, brothels and shakedowns. Years before Alfonse Capone set up shop at 21st Street and Michigan Avenue, Mafioso called the shots on "Murderer's Row." Popular lore credits the neighborhood with the creation of Mickey Finns, named after a pub owner bent on exploiting out-of-towners. Two colorful characters, Michael "Hinky Dink" Kenna and "Bathhouse" John Caoughlin, controlled the ward. Starting in 1907, the bosses held their annual 1st Ward Ball at the new Coliseum, where they recorded 15,000 aldermen, police officers, politicians and a peppering of criminals. It would become a fund-raiser that greased the city's persona as a mob-controlled and cash-connected town. A century later, the image still exists.

With such zealous political machines primed, it's no surprise that Chicago became a favorite site for Presidential National Conventions, hosting 14 Republican and 11 Democratic conventions. The 1904, 1908, 1916 and 1920 Republican National Conventions were held in the revamped coliseum. At the coliseum's 1912 convention, the Republicans historically split into two parties, with the future president Teddy Roosevelt forming the Progressive Party.

In a marked deference from its political roots, the Coliseum was briefly home to the Chicago Blackhawks between 1926 and 1929 and later the Chicago Bulls in 1967. In 1930, it received the inauspicious title of the world's first roller derby venue. For the majority of its life, the coliseum stepped away from its political past. That was until the summer of 1968.

On Aug. 27, 1968, the coliseum became the starting point to one of the most pivotal moments in the 1960s anti-Vietnam War movement. With the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, 4,000 protesters gathered at the coliseum for President Lyndon Johnson's birthday—an event activist called "L.B.J.'s un-birthday." Afterward, the group flooded into Grant Park, the first peaceful step in a week of divisive protests and demonstrations.

In a way, the return of politics and over the top antics to the coliseum was something of a return to its history. Charles Gunther used his sharp marketing to lure tourists inside his historical circus; a kind of Ripley's Believe It Or Not meets National Archives. With their support, Gunther moved up in the world.

• • •

As for Gunther's post-Libby days, all of his many attempts at Chicago mayor failed. He lost to former Vice President Adlai Stevenson in the 1908 election for Illinois governor and died in 1920.

The coliseum fell 62 years later.

Today, the site of Libby War Prison Museum and Chicago Coliseum is a modest playground behind a black fence and tall colonnades that imply a Roman connection that never existed. A towering condominium stands beside the park. A few blocks away, students from Columbia's Theatre/Film Annex hurry the other way. The politicos, tourists and Mafioso are gone. Left behind are a few laughing children, a shoddy dog run and the name "Coliseum Park." Today, there is no historical marker. There's no mention of the corner's secret past.

OFF THE BLOTTER

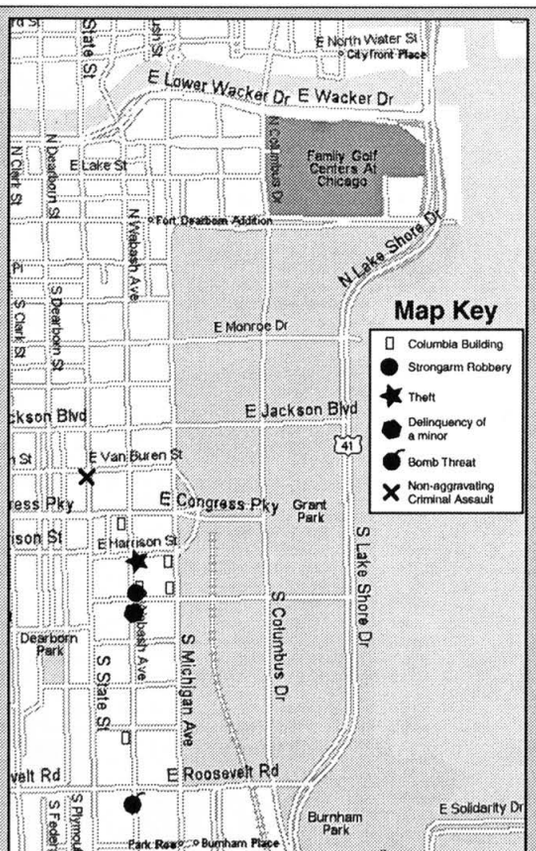
A cell phone was stolen, Sept. 8, at 12:26p.m.out of a White 2002 Ford Victoria parked on the street at 55 E. Harrison, in front of Columbia's Alexandroff Campus Center. A 15-year-old male of the 600 block of E. 50th Place was taken into custody in connection with the theft.

A strongarm robbery occurred on the sidewalk at 50 E. Harrison, near the corner of Wabash Avenue in front of the parking lot, Sept. 11th, 1:00a.m. The robber, described as a 5' 5" 130 lbs. male and 20 years old, fled the scene and the police have yet to identify him.

The local restaurant Charming Wok, 601 S. Wabash Ave., was charged with selling liquor to a minor Aug. 20 at 8:50a.m. A 23-year-old male of the 2800 block of South Princeton was charged in the incident.

A non-aggravated criminal sexual assault occurred at 400 S. State St., the Harold Washington Library, at 11:38p.m. The offender was described as an 18-year-old male who resides in the 600 block of South State Street is in police custody.

A bomb threat was called in to the TCF bank, 1224 S. Wabash Ave., on Sept. 8 at 6:07p.m. The person who placed the threat is unknown.



Angela Caputo and Ashleigh Pacetti/Chronicle

Former NBA star adds 'Magic' to South Loop

❍ Walgreens, bank, health club part of condominium's plans

By Kwame Abasi Patterson
Associate Editor

Earvin "Magic" Johnson expanded his real estate portfolio with the announcement of a development in the South Loop.

NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson recently teamed with Chicago developers to construct a 243-unit condominium complex. The $100 million State Place project will sit on the corner of Roosevelt Road and State Street, which was formerly occupied by the Chicago Police Department headquarters building.

The plans are already receiving praise from the community.

"We welcome the project as well as the future residents and businesses. We can't wait until it starts thriving," said Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson, president and executive director of the Near South Planning Board.

Johnson and his investment partners at the Beverly Hills, Calif.-based Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund became part of the State Place development in the spring. It's an effort to promote retail and residential growth in the South Loop, according to Ken Lombard, president of Development Corp. and Co-Managing Partner of the Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund.

"We want to give the community a shot in the arm," Lombard said.

Johnson and company appeared at a groundbreaking ceremony on Sept. 4 to publicly announce their partnership in State Place.

The Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund is a "closed-end" real estate fund managed by Canyon-Johnson Realty Advisors in partnership with Canyon Capital Realty Advisors and Johnson Development Corporation. The group is responsible for other real estate ventures, including Magic Johnson Theaters, Magic Johnson's T.G.I. Friday's restaurants and Urban Coffee Opportunities in association with Starbucks coffee shops.

The Canyon-Johnson Urban Fund searches for urban real estate markets throughout the country that are "underserved," Lombard said. The fund then attempts to strengthen and re-build cap-

See **State Place**, Page 35

Where Abbie Hoffman and Abe's bed meet

❍ The park that was the Coliseum

By Chris Coates
Editor-in-Chief

Amid this summer's heated dialogues of a proposed dog park in the South Loop, residents pointed to the southwest corner of 14th Street and South Wabash Avenue as a prime example of what they don't want to happen. Coliseum Park, 1466 S. Wabash Ave., the city's 100-yard-long fenced-in area beneath the el tracks that serves as a safe romping ground for canines.

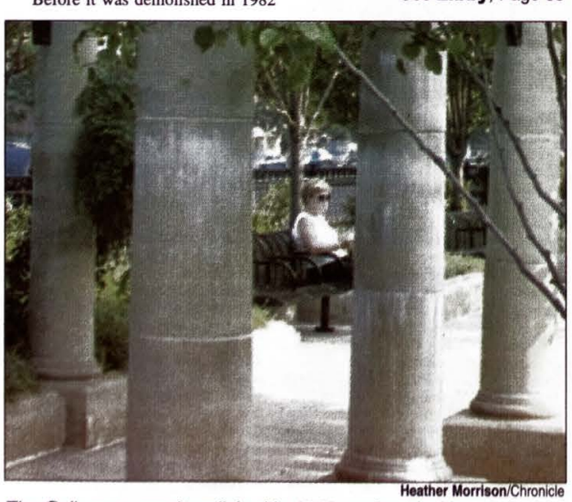
It was the latest reincarnation of a site that had alternatively served as a P.T. Barnumlike Civil War museum in the late 1800s, the scene of Teddy Roosevelt's Bull Moose convention in 1912 and a venue for the likes of Jimi Hendrix and the Doors in the 1960s.

Before it was demolished in 1982 and replaced with what has now been deemed a substandard dog park, the Chicago Coliseum—the shell of the Libby Prison War Museum—was arguably the city's most historic site, if it weren't for O'Leary's Barn on the West Side, of course.

About the same time Mrs. O'Leary's cow supposedly panicked and started the Great Chicago Fire in 1870, a German-born confectioner named Charles Gunther opened a six-story candy factory on a plot that's now occupied by Foot Locker, 219 S. State St. Gunther's store catered to the city's privileged with offerings of foreign chocolates.

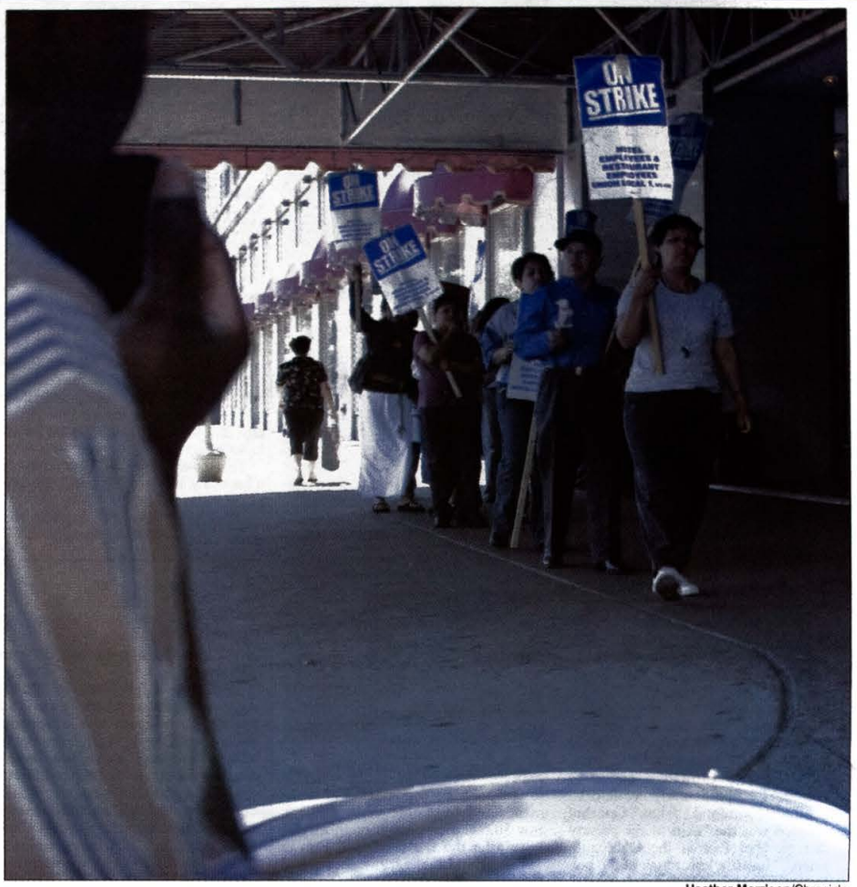
In keeping with the time's fascination with the Civil War, Gunther kept a diminutive assortment of

See **Libby**, Page 35



Heather Morrison/Chronicle

The Coliseum was demolished in 1982; replaced with a park.



Heather Morrison/Chronicle

On the picket line since June, workers circle in front of the historic Congress Plaza Hotel. More than 100 workers walked off the job in protest of what they say are subpar wages.

Congress Plaza Hotel strike reaches four month mark

❍ Union officials post gripes on hotel Internet sites

By Eva Green
Contributing Writer

Four months after more than 100 service employees walked off the job at a historic South Loop hotel in protest of wage cuts and health benefits, workers continue to tote strike signs and the message that they are holding out for a fair contract.

Last spring, management of the foreign owned Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., sliced room attendant employees' wages from $8.83 to $8.21 an hour, a wage that workers advocacy groups and workers say is far too low to support a family and meet market rate rents in Chicago. Additionally, it is well below the $10 an hour wage at other Chicago union hotels.

"People have rent to pay, kids to send to school. We live paycheck-to-paycheck, after 20 years I have to do what's right for me," said Danny Sirnash, a Jamaican native and striker. "It's what we believe is right and we are going to stand out here as long as it takes."

On Labor Day, the ongoing protest came to a head when nearly 20 picketers were arrested for slowing traffic by sitting in the middle of the busy, rain-slicked Michigan Avenue thoroughfare.

Amid chants of "Don't check in, check out!" hotel guests peered out their windows to watch Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 1—representing 130 of the 300 hotel employees—members and supporters march.

The protests have grabbed attention from local media outlets and national leaders, including Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich, a Democratic candidate for president, and Studs Terkel, the Chicago author and broadcaster known for his documentation of union employees.

"God may be on our side at this moment as the sun appears to be seeping through," Terkel said amid the pelting of rain. "That's symbolic, even when it rains heavily at the moment."

According to Peter Andjelkovich, the hotel's attorney, the independently owned Congress Plaza Hotel cannot compete against international hotels.

In a written statement, Andjelkovich said that reduced occupancy rates are the contributing factor to reduced wages—the Congress Plaza Hotel's occupancy rates are down 30 percent this year. Hotels must maintain a 70 percent rate to break even, the statement said.

The shortfall has forced the hotel to hire temporary workers.

"Scab worker! Working for nothing!" rang out from a hotel striker, directed at a replacement worker assisting several guests with their luggage outside the hotel.

Guests at the hotel have had a mixed reaction to the picket line.

Upon departure, Andrea Nicholson, who stayed at the hotel for two nights, said the strikers were "annoying."

"It's stupid, they're never going to work here," she said. "They need to find new jobs and get over it."

Others were more sympathetic to the plight of the struggling workers.

"I think it's B.S., what the hotels done," said Brad Gorman of St. Louis. "I can see why [strikers are] doing it, I am not going to stay here again." Gorman said he was unaware of the strike when he booked a room via the Internet.

In fact, that's exactly where union officials hope to protest next.

The union is currently working to place warning ads on Internet sites that alert customers of the strikes before they make reservations. According to union officials, they have helped hundreds of guests who have arrived at the Congress Plaza Hotel find new accommodations.

Lars Negstad, Local 1's Research Director, said it would be "a tragedy if it closed, but strikers are prepared to see the hotel close rather than return and work for 'slave wages.'"

"The union is on record stating that they don't care if they close the Congress [Plaza] Hotel," Andjelkovich said.

As the streets of downtown Chicago dried and the local news cameras have dispersed since Labor Day, union chants continue to be heard and picket signs have yet to be lowered. In a whirlwind of resentment and hope, the strikers march on, proudly wearing their shirts that read: "I stand for justice at the Congress Hotel."

"Labor Day was born to celebrate the working men and women of this country," Terkel said on the celebratory day of American workers. "Your hands built these skyscrapers. Your hands kept these streets clean. Your hands built these hotels … the fight you represent is the fight of all of the working men and women of Chicago."