

10-13-2003

## Columbia Chronicle (10/13/2003)

Columbia College Chicago

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## Student arrested in South Loop marijuana bust

Arrested music business major had criminal record, just moved in to building

By Chris Coates  
Editor-in-Chief

Police found nearly a half million dollars worth of marijuana in a Columbia student's high-rise South Loop apartment Oct. 5.

Acting on an anonymous tip, two officers from the First District Police headquarters were called to No. 1108 in the apartment building at 2 E. 8th St.

"As soon as we stepped off the elevator, you could smell the narcotics," said Central District Tactical Sgt. James Lavoy, who was at the weekend bust.

The officers followed the scent to a one-bedroom apartment that belonged to 21-year-old Justin M. Damion, a Columbia music business major. Inside, the officers found six college-age males and 170 pounds of marijuana spread across the floor in the kitchen and living room. The dried marijuana reached 6 inches high, Lavoy said.

In the bedroom, officers found approximately 20 pounds of wrapped blocks of marijuana, Lavoy said.

The total amount of marijuana has an estimated street value of \$462,000.

Along with Damion, five other men were arrested, according to an officer in the news affairs office. They are: Blake Edwards, 21, and Matthew Wilson, 20, both of the 4400 block of North Ashland Street; Aaron Sayad, 21, of the 3200 block of North Cleveland Avenue; Andrew Tinich, 21, of 5707 North Kilbourn Avenue; and Eric Sheinkop of the 2300 block of North Cleveland Avenue.

According to records, Damion has been arrested at least three times. In

2001, Damion was arrested and charged with retail theft in Logan County, Ill. According to the State's Attorneys Office, Damion was convicted on the charges. Damion has also been charged twice with underage drinking, records show.

The rest of the men have no criminal records, according to an officer in the Chicago Police News Affairs Department.

Each of the six men were charged with one felony count of criminal possession of cannabis, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years and a \$25,000 fine for the first offense.

According to an official with the apartment building's management, Damion "just checked in" to the apartment a few months ago.

The 2 E. 8th St. apartment complex is home to an increasing number of college-age residents. The building was purchased this year by Pennsylvania-based College Park Communities and is now marketed to area college students. The private company owns similar buildings near colleges in 10 states.

According to Kathy Grim, CPC's vice president of marketing and public relations, the building has a strict no drug policy. The building's management is considering stepping up the policy in the wake of the arrests, Grim said.

Most arrests of this scale are the product of sting operations by Chicago Police, although the Oct. 5 bust came from an anonymous felony narcotics tip, according to an officer in the News Affairs Department.

The six men are scheduled for arraignment on Nov. 8.

None of the men could be reached for comment.

## Convocation Circus see Page 3



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

## Report: Campus crime still low

Official credits safe area to police patrols, Mayor Daley

By Lisa Balde  
Managing Editor

Columbia is still one of the safest colleges in Chicago, according to a safety and security report published by the college in accordance to federal mandates.

The report, which numerically displays the number of reported crimes on and off the school's campus, showed zero instances in the areas of murder, forcible sexual offense and hate crimes for the second consecutive year as of Dec. 31, 2002.

Recorded on-campus burglaries decreased from seven to two last year, and drug law violations in the residence centers shrank from 19 to six.

Accounts of robbery and aggravated assault are up by nine and four, respectively, as reported to the Chicago Police Department.

Area motor vehicle theft rose from 12 to 17.

"I think that this is a good judge of where we stand," said Director of

Campus Safety Martha Meegan, "especially in comparison with other educational institutions in urban areas."

Columbia's crime was slightly higher than that of surrounding schools, such as Roosevelt University and Robert Morris College, according to accounts from the school safety report.

According to Roosevelt University Campus and Security Director Robert Fitzpatrick, a similar report published by Roosevelt said that three burglaries occurred on that campus for 2002.

Two burglaries were reported at Roosevelt's Herman Crown Residence Hall, 425 S. Wabash Ave.

Robert Morris accounted for no crime at their downtown campus, 401 S. State St.

"[These numbers] pretty much back up the numbers the Chicago Police Department reports," Fitzpatrick said, "that the downtown area is one of the safest ... in the city."

"We are one of the three safest districts in the city of Chicago," Meegan said, admitting that Mayor Richard M.

Daley and the presence of the First District Police Department play a large role in keeping the neighborhood's crime to a minimum.

Columbia's crime pales in comparison to the immediate surrounding area of University of Illinois at Chicago, which reported 22 robberies and 37 motor vehicle thefts in 2001.

Compared to 61 liquor law violations recorded at Columbia's Residence Center, DePaul University accounted for 271 at its Lincoln Park campus. DePaul's undergraduate population in 2002 was 14,343, according to its website. Columbia recorded 9,257 as of this fall.

None of the mandated reports require that theft be listed as an item of examination for the schools.

According to Meegan, Columbia's most prominent months for theft are October and May.

"A lot of this theft is a theft of opportunity," she said. "[Students] leave

See Safety, Page 5

## College 'interested' in property

The college is interested in purchasing the soon-to-be-vacated Michigan Avenue building now occupied by the Spertus Institute, an official with Columbia said.

The 75,000-square-foot building sits directly north of Columbia's South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., and houses the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies.

The building will be vacated once the institute builds and moves into a new, \$55 million building which is set for construction in fall 2004 on the empty lot at 612 S. Michigan Ave., just south of Columbia's Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

According to Mark Lloyd, Columbia's assistant vice president of communications and marketing, the administration has been interested in the building since at least the early 1990s, though he said the college "has

not purchased that building."

Lloyd said that in the past there have been negotiations to acquire the building.

The interest in the building raised eyebrows after several sources who attended this month's open departmental meetings with college President Warrick L. Carter told the Chronicle that Carter said the college already had purchased the building at 618 S. Michigan Ave.

Administration officials are denying the president made those comments.

"If people in the [meetings with Carter] believed they heard that, they were in error," Lloyd said.

Carter told the Chronicle the college was only looking into the possibility of acquiring the Spertus property.

See Spertus, Page 5



## Commentary

'Rush'-ing to judgment and the ESPN connection

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Dancing all the way from Africa

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What the hell is that? Millennium Park's bandshell takes shape

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## Calendar: Oct. 13 - 17

## MONDAY

DanceAfrica presents "Hip-Hop to Kwaito: Beats that link Rebellion" in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The discussion will be led by members of South African hip-hop crew Prophets of da City and will focus on hip-hop as a means of social commentary and change. For more information on this free event, call (312) 344-8866.

## TUESDAY

As part of the DanceAfrica humanities series, several panelists will discuss the high percentage of African-Americans infected with AIDS in Chicago at the Chicago Cultural Center's Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington St., from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The southern region of African currently has the largest concentration of individuals infected with AIDS in the world. For more information on this free event, call (312) 344-7070.

## WEDNESDAY

The Interactive Multimedia Department is hosting workshops on the 6th floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., throughout the semester. Wednesday's workshop, "Creating a photomontage," will introduce participants to Adobe Photoshop and how to manipulate photographs to create a digital collage. The workshop will be hosted by IM tutors Emre Biberoglu and Robyn Martin. For more information on this free event, call (312) 344-7751.

## THURSDAY

*I Was a Mathlete Until I Met Margo Marris*, a film by Joe Denk and written by Fiction Writing Department faculty member Joe Meno, has been called a "punk-rock love story" will have its final screening as part of the 39th Chicago International Film Festival at Landmark's Century Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St., on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. For more information, call (312) 344-8866.

## FRIDAY

Today is the last opportunity to drop classes with a "W," for withdrawal, to be recorded for a course. After today, dropping a class due to disinterest or poor performance will not be possible without receiving an "F" for the semester. No refund is possible.

The artist formerly hunted as Arnold Mesches will hold a discussion and lecture surrounding the exhibition of his work, "Arnold Mesches: FBI Files" in the Glass Curtain Gallery of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The work on display is comprised of the artist's use of documents that were gathered by the FBI from the end of World War II through 1972, incorporated with paintings, drawings, and handwritten texts.

The 13th Annual DanceAfrica, a 10-day event, which is themed around "freedom" will feature artists from three continents to illustrate issues related to the African diaspora, cultural expression and the struggle for freedom. The event runs from Oct. 17 to 19 at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St. Showtimes are 8 p.m. on Oct. 17 and Oct. 18. On Oct. 19, there will be a show at 2 p.m. The artists expected to perform include Prophets of da City from Cape Town, South Africa; Coyaba Dance Theater, from Washington, D.C.; and Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti, from Port Au Prince, among others. Students can expect to save about \$6 per ticket. Tickets at full price are between \$24 and \$36.

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



## Chris Coates Editor-in-Chief

### This column's headed for the dumpster

As a kid, it was "Mount Trashmore"—a massive hill of rotting garbage dotted with plunging seagulls from Lake Erie.

The folks with the city of Riverview, Mich., however, were pretty smart. They covered the hill with earth, planted grass seed, and called the place "Riverview Highlands," a place for kids to toboggan and ski. I never liked it all that much, seeing as it smelled like several hundred tons of imported, decaying trash. In fact, it smelled a bit like Chicago did last week.

In the days since tens of thousands of private trash haulers (the P.C. term for garbage men) walked off the job, Chicago started to smell, well, like Chicago used to smell before Mayor Daley started his "green space" initiative and all that fresh oxygen filled our lungs.

It was nine days plus of packed trash cans and dumpsters. Alleys across the city stank like a Red Line platform after a Cubs game. After years of trying to reduce the city's rat population, Chicago's sewers and alleys are turning into vermin buffets.

And the trash kept coming. At the House of Blues, management started stuffing trash in the basement. Here at Columbia, we hid it in the loading docks. It was a mess all over the place, except at Wrigley Field.

In preparation of a continued penant race, Daley ordered the city's trash

haulers to pick up the slack around the friendly confines. He wouldn't want the national media to see the "city that works" with brimful dumpsters. It's bad public relations.

I don't blame him. Plus, rowdy Cubs fans need empty trash cans to throw through store windows if they lose.

My favorite part of the garbage strike was the fact particularly cunning residents simply placed their trash in the alley instead of in trash cans. That way, the trash became litter. And the city was forced to pick it up. Genius. (It shows how some bit of City Hall minutia can affect millions of people.)

When I was in Toronto two summers ago, the city was facing a similar trash hauling walkout. That time, however, those doing the walking were city workers. They demanded better benefits and better pay. In Canada, people not doing what they're supposed to be doing is a big deal. The strike was resolved in two weeks.

It was resolved in Chicago a bit quicker—a town with notorious union ties. People were willing to put up with the tons of garbage in their alleys if it didn't mean crossing the picket line.

In fact, the garbage debacle Y2K3 was resolved pretty quickly. In Chicago, strikes tend to be long affairs. Just take a walk down Michigan Avenue to the Congress Plaza Hotel,

where 150 union workers have been protesting their cut wages since June. There they walk, back and forth, into the wee hours of the night. Even after several rallies (and an appearance by Studs Terkel), the foreign-owned hotel hasn't budged.

But the strikers have clearly not gone unnoticed. Columbia, for example, pulled out of holding its annual New Student Convocation at the hotel, where it's been for the past five years. (Instead, the convocation was in several big-top tents set up on the corner of Wabash Avenue and Harrison Street. Hooray for sword swallowers!)

Like the chanting hotel workers, the garbage strike worked in a similar, annoying way. Tapping into our olfactory senses, the filled trash cans mocked us, telling us to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Example: Last weekend, when my girlfriend and I trekked to Wisconsin for pumpkin picking, I couldn't help but feel guilty that those very pumpkins will eventually fill up a tiny portion of some landfill. I'm developing a complex, damn it.

So here's my advice to Chicagoans with all that backed up trash: Get a box, fill it up and ship it to Mount Trashmore. That's what the Canadians did after their strike.

Or better yet, just recycle.

## In the Chronicle ... 1996

On page 3 of the Oct. 14, 1996 edition, the Chronicle writes about the fate of the lot between Columbia's Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., and the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. "The property has been barren for at least 10 years," the Chronicle writes. The piece of land was one of the few vacant lots along Michigan Avenue.

Today, the institute plans to build its new, \$55 million center on the lot, which is directly south of its old location at 618 S. Michigan Ave. The fate of that building is unknown.

Under the front page headline "Columbia hosts Lester Holt," the Chronicle covers an on-campus appearance by the then-WBBM-TV anchor. Today, Holt is the primary anchor for MSNBC, hosts his own live show and is the weekend co-host of NBC's "Today."

## Announcements

### Please won't you be our neighbor?

The college has no definite plans for the building at 619 S. Wabash Ave., which it purchased last month for \$1.15 million, according to Mark Lloyd, Columbia's assistant vice president of communications and marketing.

"Our intent would be to probably tear down that facility and build something new," Lloyd said, who said the new structure will likely be more than one story, though no plans have been finalized yet.

The windows of the building, which sits directly north of Columbia's Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., have been painted over.

### Dollars and cents

Columbia's board of trustees executive committee has approved a new

bond, which will bring in as much as \$13 million. The bonds, which have an AA rating from Standard and Poors, are valued at more than \$23 million and have a 4.67 percent interest rate.

### Queen of the Book Clubs

Interdisciplinary Arts Department faculty member Audrey Niffenegger is caught in a whirlwind of interest over her debut novel, *The Time Traveler's Wife*, which has rocketed into The New York Times and Amazon.com best-seller lists.

Her novel was optioned for a film by New Line Cinema before it hit the shelves on Sept. 9.

### Not Greek to him

Following the award of a 2003-2005 Fulbright Senior Scholar Grant, Leonard Lehrer, dean of the School of Fine Arts, will work with the Athens School of Fine Arts to develop a Contemporary Collaborative Arts Center in Greece. The program will also involve Bob Thall, chair of the Photography Department, and Jay Wolke, chair of the Art and Design Department.

### Art attacks

Through Oct. 22, the Hokin Gallery and Annex, Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., will house work by fine arts and photography majors.

### Aliens attack

WCRX, 88.1 FM, the college's radio station has decided to start Halloween festivities early this year. Through the month of October the station will continue to air special programming for this frightful month.

On Oct. 13, at 9 a.m., Dale Kaczmarek, president of the Ghost Research Society, will join the Ranger Morning Crew to talk about some of Chicago's famous phantoms. Listen to find out if any haunt the halls of Columbia.

Other programming will include the famous Orson Welles classic "War of the Worlds," at 8 a.m., which originally aired in 1938 and sent the East Coast into a panic believing that Earth was the site of an alien invasion.

Segments from Ray Bradbury and Vincent Price are also on the schedule. For more information, call (312) 344-8163.

### An OASIS of good news

OASIS administrators have asked that faculty and staff who use the online portal "to get a handle on how the OASIS LMS is being used with [their] classes" now that the system has gone live. At the bottom of the survey form, which is not on the portal, is a box that asks for "student's response to the OASIS LMS and Portal." No word yet on whether there are plans to administer a survey through OASIS for students.

### Ring around the festivals

Film and Video Department faculty member Wenhwa Ts'ao has been selected to screen her personal experimental/documentary film *Exercise with Ching Yung* at the High Falls Film Festival in Rochester, N.Y. Nov. 5 to 9, at the Seventh Annual Madcat Women's

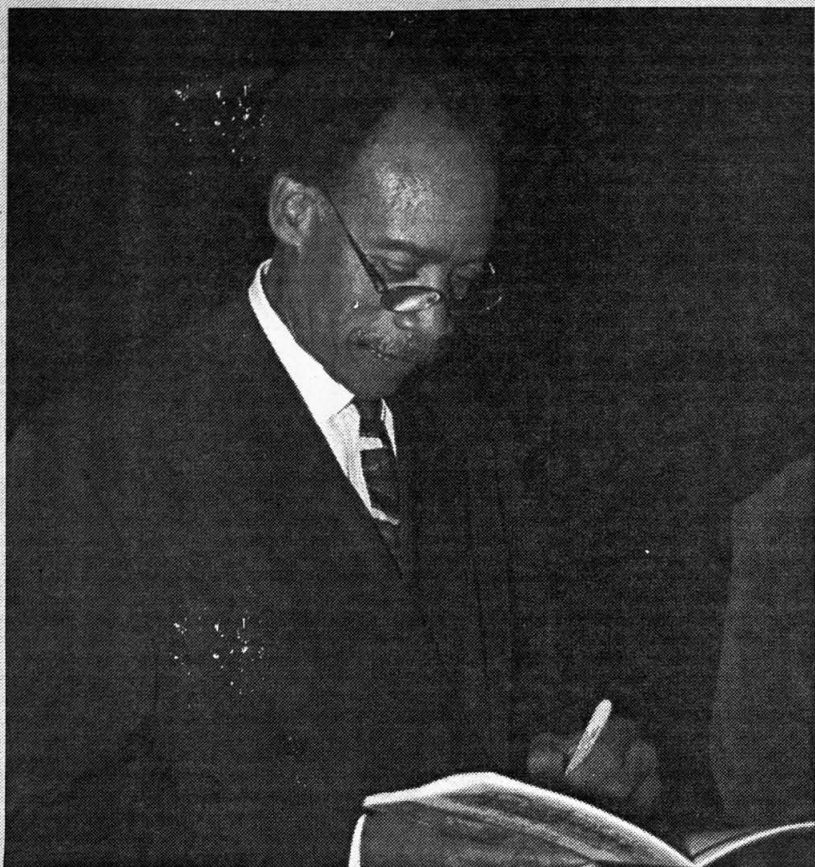
## Weather

### AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

Monday, Oct. 13		
	Times of sun and clouds	High 68° Low 48°
Tuesday, Oct. 14		
	Windy with showers possible	High 64° Low 47°
Wednesday, Oct. 15		
	Partly sunny	High 60° Low 44°
Thursday, Oct. 16		
	Sunny	High 58° Low 36°
Friday, Oct. 17		
	Cloudy with rain	High 55° Low 38°
Saturday, Oct. 18		
	Mostly cloudy	High 54° Low 32°
Sunday, Oct. 19		
	Cloudy with showers possible	High 51° Low 31°

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2003

## John White takes flight



Amy Opoka/Chronicle

Columbia photography instructor, Chicago Sun-Times photographer and Pulitzer-prize winner John White accepts the Chicago Headline Club's Lifetime Achievement Award Oct. 3.

## Columbia not likely to go Greek

○ IIT student death casts shadow on issue of fraternities, sororities

By Tawney Saylor  
Staff Writer

Greek Life has been a part of higher education since the first Greek organization was founded at The College of William and Mary in 1776. Since then, sororities and fraternities nationwide have continued to add new chapters and members, garnering a reputation for deadly hazing rituals and alcohol abuse along the way. Now, in the shadow of a recent fraternity-related death, Greek life opens its doors to Columbia.

On Oct. 5, a formal rush event was held in the White Oak Room of the University of Illinois at Chicago by the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Beta Chapter.

One of four Greek organizations that have a citywide Chicago chapter, the sorority is open to students from Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul, Loyola and Roosevelt universities, University of Chicago and Columbia.

Director Ernita Cooper said this was the last open event for students interested in becoming members. More than 20 hopefuls showed up to express their interest, including a few Columbia students. In order to be considered a pledge, all of the girls were required to have a C+ GPA, an official college transcript and a letter of interest.

The Chronicle was originally invited to attend the event but was later denied access due to what Cooper called "circumstances that occurred over the weekend that could not be discussed."

At 2 a.m. on Oct. 5, 18-year-old Amy Wiese, a freshman at the Illinois Institute of Technology, died

shortly after she was found unconscious at a gathering in the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity house on the 3300 block of South Wabash Avenue. Dominic Cottone, director of Student Leadership at Columbia, said the college does not officially recognize fraternities or sororities, but students are allowed to be involved in these organizations at their own will.

"I think what every institution fears is the legality of it all," Cottone said. "News articles on hazing and different things such as this make the college liable to be sued if the college name is attached."

Alpha Kappa Alpha is one of the sororities that has been linked to hazing incidents in the past.

In September 2002, a wrongful death lawsuit named the nation's oldest African-American sorority in an alleged hazing incident that resulted in the death of two students at California State University in Los Angeles.

Kristin High, 22, and Kenitha Saafir, 24, drowned after reportedly performing a pledging ritual for a citywide chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Alpha Kappa Alpha is one of nine African-American Greek-letter societies that belong to the National Pan-Hellenic Council. After several deaths related to hazing in the 1980s, the council officially banned hazing practices in 1990.

Earlier this year new legislation was introduced that would "withhold federal student financial assistance from students who have engaged in hazing," according to the council's official website.

"Alpha Kappa Alpha has a sub-zero tolerance for hazing," Cooper

said. "It is not allowed and it will not be tolerated."

Cooper insists that sororities are different from any other student organization because they offer "service to the community and a network of women that will encourage undergraduate students far beyond their college experience."

Numerous community service projects have been completed by members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Beta Chapter, including the Y-Me Breast Cancer Walk, inner-city youth projects and various health fairs and workshops promoting academic excellence.

Cottone said that while Greek organizations may have advantages, such as "the opportunity to meet new people and network for life," at this time "there are no legal safeguards or policies in place at Columbia regarding fraternities and sororities, and as of now there have been no talks to create any."

Cottone said that in the past two or three years, many Columbia students have expressed interest in starting a Greek system at Columbia, but a majority of students still do not want to see this system in place.

"The way the college is structured, Columbia does have a unique flair," he said. "A lot of students don't want a traditional institution, and I don't see us ever becoming that institutionalized."

"Alpha Kappa Alpha recognizes Columbia although I understand the school does not sanction fraternities and sororities," Cooper said.

"As long as Alpha Kappa Alpha recognizes Columbia as one of its members, Alpha Kappa Alpha will continue to be there."

## Circus on the corner was convocation

○ Weather holds up for event's first time outdoors

By Eric Alexy and Jennifer Golz  
Copy Editors

Mark Kelly, vice president of student affairs and ringmaster of Columbia's 5th annual New Student Convocation, opened the Oct. 10 event with "Boys and girls, let the show begin."

This year's circus-themed event, which took place in the parking lot at Harrison Street and South Wabash Avenue, marked the first time Columbia's convocation was not held at the Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave.

"There has been an ongoing strike at the hotel, and we would not feel comfortable crossing a picket line to have an event," said Warrick L. Carter, Columbia's president.

Carter added that despite all of the rental items necessary for this year's convocation, it was still less expensive than last year's.

Kelly said once the decision to use tents was made, the circus theme "just came naturally."

"You have high expectations for us, and we have high expectations for you," Kelly said during his opening remarks to students seated under the first of two big top tents.

Complete with trapeze artists, contortionists, a stilt walker, a fire-eater, henna tattoo artists and a fortuneteller, the event also included performances from the Columbia College Jazz Ensemble and speeches from Columbia alumni.

Justin Kulovsek, president of the Student Government Association, and Lori Bieniek, co-chair of the Student Organization Council introduced *Eleven*, a film produced by current Columbia students to introduce new students to the school.

"Our common goal is to act as a bridge between the student, faculty, staff and administration at Columbia," Kulovsek said.

"New students in a new year, new expectations, new doubts, new ideas, new ideals," said Brian Shaw, assistant to the chair of the Theater Department and valedictorian of Columbia's class of 1986. "We need you and your newness."

After a brief set by the jazz ensemble, Kelly introduced Carter, calling him a "cool kat." Following a failed juggling attempt, Carter said, "I may

be cool, but I'm not quite that cool."

"Today is the second most important thing that will happen to you at Columbia College—the first most important thing [is] the completion [of your degree]," Carter said during his presidential address. "There are resources to use long after you leave the college."

Serving as keynote speaker, Columbia alumnus and Pulitzer prize-winning photojournalist for The New York Times, Ozier Muhammad spoke of the experiences Columbia has afforded him.

"I've always had lots of respect for the liberal environment fostered and the enlightened attitude of the college for racial differences, [as well as] the enlightened attitude of sexual orientation of the faculty and staff," Muhammad said.

After the speeches concluded, students were asked to visit the student organizations and resources expo, which took place under a second big top tent.

Some of the participating tables included the college library, the student chapter of the Chicago Headline Club and OASIS, the college's Internet portal. At this time students dined on picnic-style fare as the first tent was prepared for the much-anticipated trapeze act.

Reactions to the outdoor event's theme, speakers and organization were mixed among students, faculty and staff.

Dean of Students Sharon Wilson-Taylor said, "I hope the students will become better connected to the college community [and] resources and [will have] a chance to meet the faculty and the administration."

Brian Costello, part-time film instructor and graduate student majoring in feature writing, said he was disappointed that the college's offices were closed during convocation. After driving to Columbia with the purpose of rectifying his financial aid records, he discovered all financial aid employees were attending the convocation.

"Somebody should be manning the storefront," Costello said.

"I think it's really well done," said fine art transfer student Brian Groendyk. "The circus theme ... gives it another element."

Administrators have yet to decide the location of next year's event.



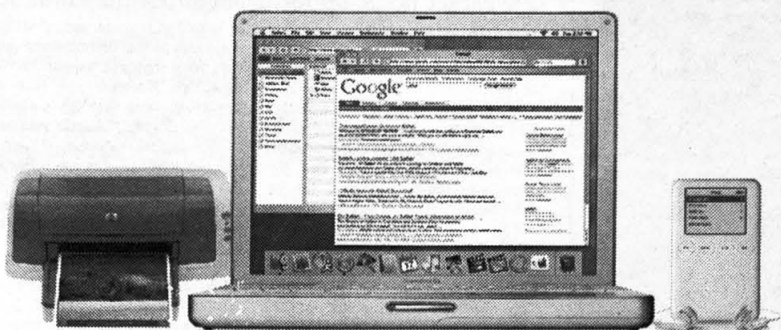
Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Brandon Lewis, student government secretary and a theater major, takes a pie in the face during the 5th annual new student convocation.



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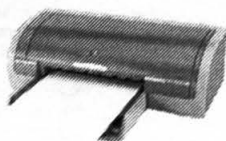
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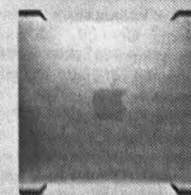
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## Film experiences bring staffer's job to centerstage

○ Watts is Jill of all trades; runs casting company

By Crystal Malone  
Staff Writer

Draped in turquoise garb and garnished with silver jewelry, Donna Watts, a test proctor in the Freshman Center, lets you know from first impression that there's more to her than meets the eye. From modeling and catering to selling cars, bras and shoes, Watts is now pursuing a career in the film industry and has proven to be a "jack of all trades."

Watts, originally from Milwaukee, moved to Chicago after getting married in 1996 and began studying at Columbia a year later.

"I came in as a film major first. I wanted to learn and grow in that whole arena of filmmaking," Watts said. "Through a lot of networking and researching, I found my niche. My niche was casting."

Watts worked several jobs in the film industry before finding that niche. She served meals to film crews through Kraft Services and even worked on the set construction of the motion picture *Road to Perdition*.

"It gave me an opportunity to get my face out there ... my business philosophy is if you're not networking, you're not working."

On the set of Forrest Whitaker's *Light It Up*, Watts was a set dresser, and she also landed a role as an extra in the film. "I got to meet a lot of wonderful people like Forrest Whitaker, Vanessa Williams and Usher."

"She's dedicated to students, she's committed to being a success at whatever she does, whether that's working in the Freshman Center or if it's with her own career with the film industry," said Brian Marth, assistant director of the Freshman Center in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Watts runs her own casting company, Diversity Casting Co., from her home.

"Casting is in my blood, it's my passion ... I found out I have a gift for it; it isn't something that anyone can teach, you either have it or you don't."

Watts' company is not to be confused with a talent agency; it is a casting planning and coordinating company. Ninety percent of its business comes from producers and directors.

"Casting takes a lot of energy, so they [directors] would rather hire a casting director to plan it out and bring up the audition," Watts said.

Before she holds the auditions she has a "concept meeting" with the film-

makers to discuss what they are looking for in each character.

Watts is an independent casting agent so she works with independent films, many of which have won awards. A short film, *12 Minutes*, by Raymond Thomas won awards at the Hollywood Black Film Festival, Urban World, Pan-African Film Festival and the Chicago International Film Festival. The short film *Special Delivery*, by Denise Williams, was successful as well.

"I love working with independent filmmakers. They're hungry. They're open. They are receptive to new ideas



Donna Watts juggles a busy schedule.

and your creativity and your involvement," Watts said. "They definitely understand the collaborative effort it takes to get the whole project going. I will seek out independent filmmakers."

Since May, Watts has been working in the Freshman Center as a proctor for the freshman assessment tests. "We're like the very first people they see connected with Columbia College. We want to make it a positive experience for them. That's the easiest part of my job because I love people."

Watts said that her casting company was coined "Diversity" for a specific reason.

"We've got a long way to go in terms of proper representation for diverse talent, there's a lot of work that needs to be done," Watts said.

"When I look at television shows or go to the theater, or watch a film, I want to see faces that look like mine—that are playing positive roles."

"I told my daughters that 'your mom is working on a legacy for you.'"

## FOCO blends activism, art

○ Workshops help students eliminate the box and push boundaries

By Rachel Pulling  
Staff Writer

You may have seen those colorful posters hanging in the hall, telling you to come to FOCO: The Cutting Edge of Latino Pop Culture.

Topics include wrestling, graphics, music and homoeroticism. What exactly is this festival, though? And what does the name mean?

"Foco means light bulb. Also, that's how you say it in Spanish. And, also, foco means focus," said Reynaldo Román, a film major and one of the two student creators of the festival.

The semester-long festival is the brainchild of Román and Gabriel Feijoo and the result of years of waiting. No one was ever interested in having the two showcased artists come over until now, despite three years of trying, according to Román.

"This is the first time it's been done in Columbia College," Román said.

Román and Feijoo met a year ago when they had a class together.

"I met Gabriel first when we were at a scholarship dinner," Román said, "and actually, we didn't like each other." After the two ended up in class together, they realized they had a lot in common and that they should work together. It turned out to be a great combination, Román said.

The festival began Sept. 22 with the work of one artist and of a collective from Mexico known as Colectivo Hematoma. Carlos Aponte, a New York-based Puerto Rican animator and the author of the book *Icons of the Popular Culture of Puerto Rico and Other Stereotypes* was exhibiting work from that book. Aponte is behind many ads and commercials for companies that range from Vibe magazine to Coca-Cola. He is currently working on a pilot for a Nickelodeon cartoon.

"[The cartoon] was a whole concept. It was my concept," Aponte said. "The cartoon is already developed. We have the pilots, we have the story, we have the mini-bible." The mini-bible is the background stories on the characters and places.

In addition to the exhibit, two workshops were held during the second week of the festival. The first was Oct. 2, led by Sergio Gonzalez, one of 17 graphic designers from Colectivo Hematoma, which was formed two years ago and is funded through private resources and a small newspaper. The collective, as they are often referred to, uses posters as their medium, and seek to mirror the reality we encounter in the every day with the one that lurks



Joe Kang/Chronicle

Sergio Gonzalez, and Lenin Alavarez, members of Colectivo Hematoma, at the FOCO's first opening night at C33 Spaces.

behind us. Several of the posters from a project that was initiated as a response to the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and the media coverage that followed were displayed along with Aponte's icons in C33 Spaces Gallery in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, 33 E. Congress Parkway. At the workshop, Gonzalez introduced each member of the collective through a slide presentation and more examples of their work.

Gonzalez talked Justice Project, which came from a 1992 gas pipe explosion that in the collective's hometown of Guadalajara. He told the story of how on April 22, 1992, gas pipes exploded underneath a downtown area in the city and killed around 3,000 people. The residents never knew about it, and afterward, many blocks and neighborhoods just disappeared, according to Gonzalez. When the group was banned from putting the Justice Posters up on the street, they put them on gas tanks in the center of the site.

"After completing the Justice Project [with lots of stress], they decided to create a project that would make them laugh a little," Myriam Mercado, Gonzalez's translator said. That project was inspired by what Gonzalez described as "cheesy songs."

Students who attended the workshop got the chance to create their own

poster. After being shown many examples, they were asked to think of their own ideas of justice.

They chose five of those ideas and made them into posters on computers, which they printed out on tabloid-size paper, according to Columbia senior Fernando Flores.

Eventually, one of those ideas will be made into a poster and distributed just as they were in Guadalajara, for the public, Mercado said.

"I liked [the workshop]," Flores said, "but I thought it was too focused on a political perspective. I wanted it a little more culture-oriented, since they're coming from Mexico."

The second workshop was held on Oct. 4, with Aponte leading and spending more time on classroom-style instruction.

"Today we're going to hate Hallmark card drawing," Aponte said.

Ten students, who varied in ages and races, spent their time busily following Aponte's drawing instructions. For each individual assignment, they had to sketch what was before them. They started with their hands, then moved on to still objects, then onto Román, their model.

"This is the light version of Latin-American culture," Román said.

### Safety *Continued from Page 1*

things in restrooms, classrooms, dance rooms ... and teachers leave [classroom] doors unlocked."

As of now, though, one of Columbia's biggest concerns is capping the amount of indecent exposure going on around the school's buildings.

Since last year, according to Meegan, the same "professional looking" person has been hanging around the main campus, exposing himself to passers-by. "We're just dying to get this guy," she said.

The low amount of crime, especially in a section of the city that used to be categorized as being dangerous, is a relief to Meegan and the Columbia community.

Despite off-campus crime, crime that occurred adjacent to any of

Columbia's buildings, doesn't necessarily represent crime rates for the rest of the area. Meegan asks students to remember that the First District is one of the safest in the city.

As the founder of the Security Council of Professional Educators, a neighborhood coalition to share in the effort to keep crime low, Meegan has no doubts that the safety status of the school will remain consistent, even as the college expands.

"It's like having an additional security force around you," she said of the coalition that includes representatives from Roosevelt and DePaul universities.

The Safety and Security report was mailed to all Columbia faculty, staff and students on Sept. 29.

## College Council looks at OASIS

○ Official says 800 students asked for help when system was down

By Renee Edlund  
Contributing Writer

The preliminary results of Columbia's online portal, OASIS, were announced at College Council on Oct. 10.

The fall 2003 registration process tested the capability of the school's newest software. The system was installed in part to reduce the amount of time it takes students and faculty to register for classes.

Bernadette McMahon, Columbia's chief information officer, described OASIS as a work in progress.

"With every new system there are going to be challenges, and it's going to continue to evolve," she said.

The early use of the collegewide computer system demonstrated errors in the new registration process.

"I want to acknowledge the issue of speed," McMahon said. "I saw how slow the system performed during registration. We need to continue on improving our network and infrastructure."

An unexpected virus attack on the OASIS system occurred on Sept. 11, the second day of open registration, delaying students from scheduling classes. The virus is said to have come

from an internal computer, possibly a laptop brought into the school and connected into the system.

McMahon explained that academic advisers and the system's administrators acted quickly to control the situation.

"Within two hours we helped students to register over the phone," McMahon said. "We answered questions from over 800 students."

Rebecca Courington, director for the Center for Instructional Technology and a system administrator mentioned the notable successes of OASIS.

"The students had the at-home advantage of being able to view their schedule [from the computer]. Also, students were able to see whether or not classes were canceled without receiving a letter by mail and before school resumed," Courington said.

Courington defended the defects produced at the start of the semester.

"A lot of things that happened in the beginning [have] to do with the infrastructure," she said.

The website's online tutorial help page offers students and faculty assistance with the system.

The next steps in OASIS development are to continue support of an

online community of 12,000 users, offer more training for students and faculty, implement changes to the search criteria for registration, replace the web server to improve performance of the its applications and increase intrusion detection for viruses.

In other council news, Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, announced Columbia's newest recruiting tool for minority students.

"The Open Door Scholarship aimed at Chicago's public high school is the first time we have ever had a minority scholarship," Kelly said.

The scholarship will be funded annually by five events held at Columbia. Approximately 40 students will receive from \$4,000 to \$5,000 in financial aid. Kelly explained that the students eligible for the scholarship must have an above average GPA and be willing to do college level work.

The council also heard reports from Renee Hansen, Columbia College Faculty Organization president, on a needed updated proposal for the faculty workload issue. "The workload committee met with the Provost, who will not commit to a workload reduction without a new outlined proposal," Hansen said.

### Spertus *Continued from Page 1*

"What I said in the meeting [is that] as opportunities present themselves, we will investigate them," Carter said.

Lloyd said the college is always looking to purchase buildings that are adjacent to properties it already owns.

In August, the college purchased the building at 619 S. Wabash Ave., which sits directly north of Columbia's Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., exactly for that reason, Lloyd said.

Yet in the case of the Spertus building, there have been only "preliminary discussions" between Columbia and

the Spertus Institute, according to the organization's director of communications, Ellie Sandler.

"I know Columbia's been talking to a lot of the folks who have buildings in the neighborhood, so we're just one of many," Sandler said. "Right now, we're looking at it as a possibility, but that's it."

"We remained interested in it, and I think that's what the president was saying," Lloyd said.

—Chris Coates



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## Colleges alter funding tactics

○ Facing deficits, states start cutting corners in higher education

By Lynn Franey  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

(KRT CAMPUS) KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Large tuition increases. Unprecedented fund-raising campaigns. Aggressive efforts to garner bigger-than-ever federal research grants.

Recent undertakings at public colleges across Missouri, Kansas and the nation, illustrate a fundamental shift in how America pays for public higher education.

Time was, state taxpayers supplied the bulk of public colleges' academic budgets. Tuition was low, college officials didn't do much fund raising and only the biggest and best public colleges applied for federal research grants.

That has all changed.

Tuition is beginning to supplant state aid as the biggest part of public colleges' academic budgets. And college officials are ramping up their grant applications and hitting the road to sweet-talk alumni, foundations and corporations into giving them financial help.

Nationally, state government revenue per student grew only 13 percent at public colleges between 1980 and 1998, according to a study last year by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

Meanwhile, tuition revenue per student increased 107 percent.

Revenue from private gifts, grants and contracts rose 159 percent.

And revenue from the federal government grew 53 percent.

State appropriations and tuition are public colleges' two biggest revenue sources for covering academic costs.

Most state higher education appropriations rose annually during the 1990s before falling in the last couple of years.

But the increases did not keep up with public colleges' growing costs for technology and employee health care benefits, as well as mushrooming enrollments.

So the colleges—loath to trim budgets through layoffs or closing programs—increasingly require students to carry more of the cost burden.

"[State] funding for education is probably going to continue falling," said Carl Krueger, policy analyst for the Education Commission of the States in Denver. "One of the prime ways [public colleges] can make up that loss of funding is to raise tuition; students are paying a higher percentage."

In Missouri between 1998 and 2003, tuition collected by four-year universities grew 37 percent, while state appropriations lost 15 percent. The Missouri auditor's office used 2003 estimates in its analysis for a report released in May.

In 1993, tuition and fees constituted about 34 percent of operation funds at the four-campus University of Missouri system. By last school year, it had risen 40 percent, said Nikki Krawitz, system vice president for finance and administration.

At the same time, state appropriations' share of operating funds fell from about 59 percent to 47 percent, Krawitz said.

At the University of Kansas, tuition and fees covered about 30 percent of the academic budget in the mid-'90s, said Lindy Eakin, KU's vice provost for administration and finance.

Two years ago, KU initiated a five-year plan that eventually will double tuition. Tuition rose 25 percent in fall 2002 and almost 21 percent this fall.

Now tuition and fees make up 48 percent of the academic budget, Eakin said.

"And next year we're going to be—if we have year three of the tuition increase and the state appropriation is fairly small—we'll probably be 50-50, pennies one way or the other," he said. "So at the end of the five years, we will end up with more tuition than state funds, easily."

For some fiscal conservatives, the trend makes sense. The person getting the benefit—a college degree, which results in a lifetime of increased earnings—should pay for it.

But America's low-cost public higher education system grew from the belief that anyone who was qualified and motivated should be able to go to college, not just those who could afford private colleges' high tuition.

have fewer teachers or fewer classes, the college is still there. If you look at mental health or prisons, what do you do? People in mental hospitals, do you put them on the street? Do you turn the prisoners loose?"

Fund-raising efforts also are kicking into high gear at public colleges.

The University of Missouri-Columbia recently announced a \$600 million fund-raising campaign, and the University of Kansas is trying to raise \$500 million.

Public colleges want donors to provide scholarships to help students afford the rising tuition.

They also want donors to help with faculty support that limited state aid can't provide. For example, the College of Business at MU is using donations to create specialized "endowment professorships" with salary stipends and professional development funds. They are intended to help retain top-notch professors who are being recruited elsewhere in a time of very small salary increases.

The University of Missouri system is even using private donations to add to the salaries of the four campus chancellors. The University of Kansas and Kansas State University also supplement their top leaders' salaries with private donations.

Linda L'Hote, MU's senior executive director of advancement, said the chancellor and a "For All We Call Mizzou Campaign" student choir will visit MU alumni chapters around the state and nationally to try to persuade them to donate.

Such aggressive fund raising has long been done by private colleges.

"If we want to start matching the private school endowments, then we have to act like they do," L'Hote said.

Public colleges also now focus more seriously on winning multimillion-dollar research grants from federal agencies.

KU just announced receiving a \$17 million grant for environmental research, and MU said it received three grants totaling \$17 million for biodefense and animal cloning research.

At the University of Missouri-Kansas City, John Baumann was hired two years ago as associate vice provost for research support. He leads UMKC's newly expanded program that gives professors advice on turning in the best grant applications.

"When times were a bit more flush, I don't know that they [public colleges] were as hungry and aggressive in looking for external research grants," Baumann said. "It is very clear to me that given the economic difficulties that many institutions are having, they are turning more aggressively to external sources."

**"If you have fewer teachers or fewer classes, the college is still there. If you look at mental health or prisons, what do you do? People in mental hospitals, do you put them on the street?"**

—Sen. Ken Jacob, Missouri

Also, public higher education leaders point to the economic and social benefits of having college available to many. Companies locate in states with an educated work force. College-educated people earn more, so they pay more state income taxes. And they are more likely to vote.

Missouri Sen. John Russell, a Republican who leads the Senate Appropriations Committee, said his legislative colleagues had not lost sight of the public higher education ideals. He worries that state higher education cuts may hurt poor people's ability to go to college.

But with money tight, higher education funding is an easier place to cut than others.

"Legislators will say, 'Don't you think we could do better with higher ed?'" said Russell, of Lebanon, Mo. "The answer is, 'Yes, but we don't have the money.' Then someone on the committee or wherever will say, 'But they can raise tuition.'"

Another Missouri senator, Ken Jacob, has witnessed how declining state appropriations lead to colleges' increased dependence on tuition dollars.

With his son's senior-year tuition at MU jumping almost 20 percent, Jacob had to take out loans to help him through school.

Yet the Columbia Democrat understands those who don't support increasing higher education appropriations.

"In many ways, it's able to absorb a cut far more easily than other branches of government," Jacob said. "If you

## Balancing acts: full-time workers, students

○ Growing number of adults working while pursuing degree

By Harry Wessel  
The Orlando Sentinel

(KRT CAMPUS) ORLANDO, Fla.—Two afternoons a week, weather permitting, Karen Bowden walks off the job, dons a bike helmet and pedals over to nearby University of Central Florida.

As a wife, mother and full-time senior quality technician at Siemens Westinghouse, Bowden already has a tough balancing act. She makes it tougher by also pursuing a four-year college degree.

"If I can maintain two classes per semester at UCF, I can finish by spring 2005," said Bowden, 39, who began her quest for a bachelor's degree in liberal studies in 1999. "Without a bachelor's degree, there's a certain limit to how far you can go" in a career.

Bowden, who has worked at Siemens for eight years, finds time to study before work ("between 5 and 6 in the morning, when it's quiet"), during lunch breaks and at night. Morning study works best, she said, because at night, "I get sleepy."

She is among a growing legion of sleep-deprived adults pursuing advanced degrees while holding full-time jobs. About two out of five current U.S. college students are at least 25 years old, with most of these "nontraditional" students working full time.

Between 1996 to 2000, the latest year for which U.S. Department of Education statistics are available, the percentage of 25-and-older college students working full time rose from 56 percent to 62 percent. The trend shows no signs of slowing and may be picking up.

"When the economy is weak, employees see the need for advanced degrees to move on with their careers," said Lynn Mulherin, vice president and director of Florida campuses for the University of Phoenix.

The private university, founded in 1976 to cater strictly to working adults, has more than 130 locations nationwide.

The school's success isn't just

due to workers responding to economic forces, Mulherin said. "9/11 triggered people to think about their lifelong goals, about wanting to pursue an advanced degree for themselves personally."

The University of Phoenix is among a number of schools catering to degree-seeking workers. Many of these older, working students have advantages that younger, straight-out-of-high-school students don't.

Older students are more likely to be financially independent, to be more mature and skilled at time management, and, for workers such as Karen Bowden, to have a support network.

They're also more likely to reap direct payoffs from the classes they take.

Bowden, whose son is 12, said she received support from her employer through tuition reimbursement and a flexible schedule that allows her to take off for afternoon classes as long as she makes up the time.

In addition, she said, classes in graphic design and technical writing help her on the job.

Equally important, she said, is the support she receives from her husband, who helps with the household, and her mother, who lives nearby and is always "there when I need her."

Zoraida Renta has a tougher challenge when it comes to family support. An Orlando single parent whose relatives live in or near Brooklyn, N.Y., she is a full-time marketing assistant for Trusco Capital, a SunTrust subsidiary that sells 401(k) products and services.

Throughout her 14-year career with SunTrust, Renta has wanted a bachelor's degree. Neither of her parents graduated from college, and she wanted to set an example for her own two daughters, who are now 21 and 16. But "obstacles kept getting in the way," she said.

In 2001, Mom enrolled at the Maitland (Fla.) Center campus of the University of Phoenix, and is scheduled to receive her degree before her oldest daughter.

## Professor's comments on 'gays' in university blog attract controversy

○ He wrote: gay male teachers are predators of male students

By Maureen Ryan  
Chicago Tribune

(KRT CAMPUS) CHICAGO—Should homosexuals be hired as teachers? One outspoken Internet pundit says no. But his opinion has fueled a controversy over academic freedom of expression, because it is posted on a site maintained by the writer's employer, a state university.

Hiring gay teachers "puts the fox into the chicken coop," Eric Rasmusen wrote on his weblog, or "blog," in August. "Male homosexuals, at least, like boys and are generally promiscuous," he continued. "They should not be given the opportunity to satisfy their desires."

Rasmusen's blog resides on the server of Indiana University, where he is a professor in the business school. His posted musings on whether homosexuals should be allowed to be teachers, pastors or other kinds of "moral exemplars" have caused a major campus uproar in the past few weeks.

"It's almost impossible to keep up with the reaction—it's been as strong from the faculty and staff as it has been from students," said Doug Bauder, the university's coordinator of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender

student support services.

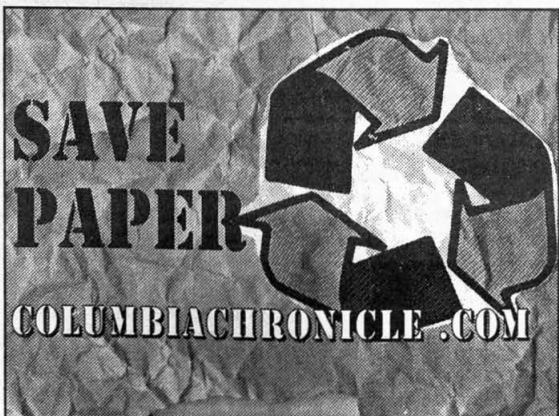
Writing a blog for public perusal has become the latest fad on the Internet. Students and professors across the country are taking advantage of the trend and the free webpages provided by many universities.

Rasmusen's web writings would probably have remained obscure had Eugene Volokh, a University of California, Los Angeles law professor who runs a popular group blog called The Volokh Conspiracy, not posted a link to the writings on Rasmusen's site in September.

Officials were alerted to the content of Rasmusen's site, Dan Dalton, the dean of the IU's Kelley School of Business, had a meeting with Rasmusen, who offered to temporarily transfer his blog to a private server while university lawyers evaluated whether his writings violated school policy regarding information posted on personal webpages.

IU policy says the university doesn't monitor content unless someone files a complaint that a webpage "contains material that violates the law or university policy."

"Free expression of ideas is a central value within the academy," the written policy states.





## Young smokers playing with fire

○ Cigarette companies aim toward part-time smokers

By Tom Majeski  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

(KRT CAMPUS) ST. PAUL, Minn.—Alexis McKinnis began smoking in high school. By the time she quit three years ago, she was smoking between 10 and 20 cigarettes a day. One night about a year ago, she resumed smoking after a two-year hiatus because she wanted to taste a cigarette again.

But this time it's different, McKinnis said. Rather than smoke every day, the 25-year-old Minneapolis resident only smokes three or four cigarettes when she's at a bar, having a few drinks with friends. On rare occasions, she might smoke a cigarette while driving or step outside at home and light up—if it's not too cold.

"As an occasional smoker, I don't have any of the problems that I had before," McKinnis said. "It's an indulgence now, not an addiction."

The concept of part-time smokers defies the traditional belief that people either smoke or they don't. But a recent survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta found that part-time smokers represent a fast-growing segment of the 23 percent of American adults who smoke.

Many of those are young adults, people in their 20s and 30s, who believe a cigarette now and then won't necessarily lead to a lifelong habit.

The trend, which worries anti-tobacco advocates, has not been missed by the tobacco industry. R.J. Reynolds, the company that makes Camels, has introduced a line of flavored cigarettes—vanilla, chocolate mint and citrus, for instance—some say is aimed at consumers who only smoke occasionally, such as following a meal.

Company spokeswoman Ellen Matthews said the Camel Exotic Blends come in tin packs, carry premium prices and are designed for adult Camel smokers who "want a little bit of variety on occasion."

But Randy Segal, owner of Segal Wholesale, a Minneapolis tobacco distributor, said the flavored cigarettes are marketed to college students, primarily women.

"[R.J. Reynolds] won't say that, but that seems to be the target," Segal said.

Segal said the flavored Camels sell

a little better in urban areas and are popular at coffee shops and sidewalk cafes. Sales were brisk when the cigarettes were first introduced a year or so ago but have since tapered off a bit, he said.

According to the CDC survey, the percentage of adult smokers changed little between 1996 and 2001. But 38 states and the District of Columbia showed increases in "someday smokers"—people like McKinnis who said they smoked, but not every day.

The biggest gains in part-time smokers were in the District of Columbia (from 26.8 percent in 1996 to 41.2 percent in 2001), Utah (from 16.4 percent to 31.2 percent), Oregon (18.5 percent to 26.8 percent) and North Dakota (from 16.5 percent to 29.2 percent).

The trend toward social smoking concerns anti-tobacco advocates because smoking at any level carries with it potentially deadly health risks. Furthermore, many of these part-time smokers eventually will discover that they have become addicted to nicotine.

"The whole phenomenon does worry me," said Dr. Marc Manley, executive director for the Center for Tobacco Reduction and Health Improvement at Eagan-based Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

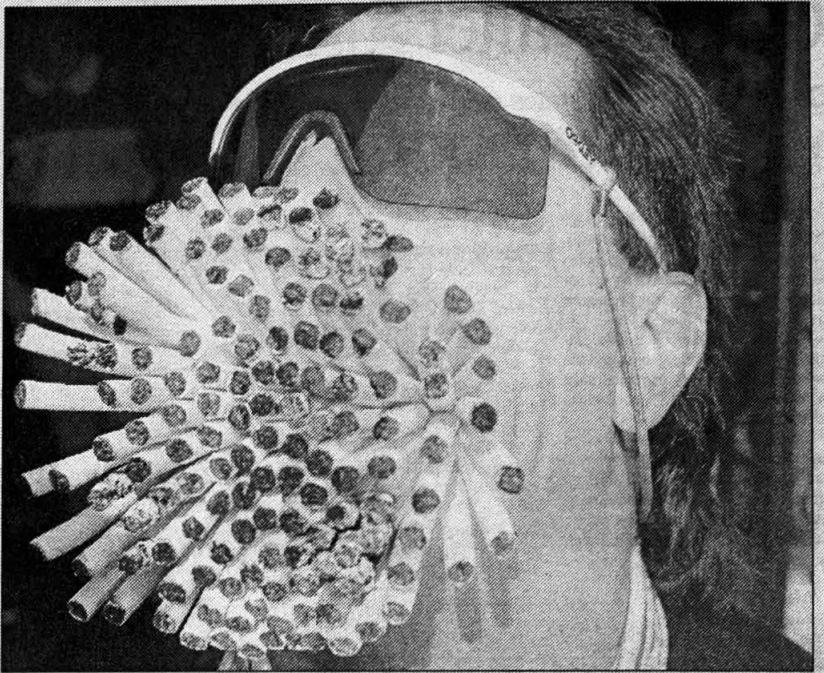
"Everyone who becomes addicted does so because it sneaks up on them," he said. There are a lot of people who don't consider themselves smokers because they only smoke on weekends. But many of them will wake up someday and realize that they want a daily cigarette. People are playing with fire when they take risks with nicotine. It's not something you want to be hooked on."

Manley said part-time smoking is a phenomenon of teenagers and people in their 20s. "You don't see many 50-year-old social smokers," he said.

In an attempt to counteract the alarming trend, Manley and his colleagues at the Center for Tobacco Reduction and Health Improvement have teamed with the American Cancer Society in an effort to find out what messages resonate with young people. The goal will be to encourage them to face the possibility that they might be addicted to nicotine when they think they are not, he said.

Social smoking represents a classic example of how addiction works, Manley said. "You do a little at a time until you become addicted."

## Across the nation ...



Bob Galdbraith/AP

James Puro, also known as "Jim the Mouth," stuffs 153 cigarettes into his mouth in Hollywood, Calif. Puro, a non-smoker, adds a cigarette to his feat each year to demonstrate the absurd side of smoking.

## Freshmen stress, freedom and snacks pack on pounds

○ College habits could lead to bulimia or anorexia, experts say

By Geoffrey A. Campbell  
Knight Ridder Newspapers

(KRT CAMPUS) FORT WORTH, TEXAS—Yolanda Davis heard about the dreaded phenomenon before heading off to New Orleans for her freshman year at Xavier University and wanted no part of it.

Wendy Moses had likewise heard the tales before settling in as a freshman at Emory University in Atlanta but never imagined it would happen to her.

The two Fort Worth, Texas, women found themselves face to face with the so-called Freshman 15, the alleged propensity of students to put on up to 15 pounds when they first go off to college. Whether fact or national folklore remains an open question, but for many of the roughly 1.5 million young people who enter college each fall, the Freshman 15 becomes a living, breathing reality.

As a scientifically proven phenomenon, the Freshman 15 has taken its lumps in recent years. "It depends on the school and individual," said Kelly Simonson, a licensed psychologist at the counseling center at Texas Woman's University in Denton. "An equal number of people lose weight."

According to Simonson, a school's culture can be a factor in whether students will gain weight.

"At TWU, you'll see every size and shape of woman on the planet," she said. "But at a place like Southern Methodist University in Dallas, there are more social pressures to be thin."

Jeanne Goldberg, a professor at Tufts University's Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy in Boston, said, "It's a catchphrase—nice alliteration. But it's not true."

Goldberg said she looked at the issue 15 years ago and found that freshmen did gain a few pounds. At the end of four years, however, those same students had lost weight and weighed roughly the same as when they started college.

More recently, researchers at Tufts conducted another study. They found that freshmen women gained an average of four pounds their first year in school, while freshmen men gained

an average of six.

"The reason I'm concerned about the four pounds of weight for women is that, in the context of the national obesity epidemic, will they lose those four pounds or will it be a trajectory?" Goldberg said. She added that researchers will continue to track the weight of study subjects. Tufts recently sent out its first alumni weight survey.

Whether it is four, six or 15 pounds, people on college campuses say it is not uncommon for some students to gain considerable weight during their first year. Reggie Bond, executive director of the Health and Wellness Center at the University of North Texas in Denton, said he has heard about the fabled Freshman 15 since he first entered the college environment. However, he said he doubts that it happens to most students.

"You do have a few students who gain a lot of weight," he said. "But this does not seem to be true for a majority of students."

Benita Jacobs, vice president of student development at UNT, concurs.

"We joke about it a lot, and, anecdotally, you see a lot of kids who put on weight because they eat more and they eat differently than they did at home," she said. "If I had to guess, I'd say a number of students do put on weight after they first go to college. But whether it is as many as in the past, I doubt it because people are so much more health-conscious today."

Monica Kintigh, a licensed professional counselor with mental health services at Fort Worth's Texas Christian University, said a constellation of factors contribute to freshman weight gain.

"It's a transition time," she said. "It's not just the stress of college. Now, for the first time, they have to do their own laundry and get their own meals."

In addition, some students fret about the financial burden their families. Others worry about their social lives, wondering who their new friends will be and how they will fit in on campus. Such radical changes can lead

some students to feel blue.

"When we feel bad, we go for comfort foods," Kintigh said, foods often laden with fat and calories.

Food at college residence halls has also been fingered as a culprit in freshman weight gain. However, colleges and universities have become increasingly sophisticated in the fare they offer.

"Now there is such a variety of food offered at each of the residence halls," said UNT's Bond, ranging from sub sandwiches to vegetarian dishes.

Counselors and nutrition experts caution that, while college weight gain can be a problem, a number of people develop serious eating disorders as they attempt to avoid gaining weight.

"Some people are so afraid of gaining the Freshman 15 that they become bulimic or anorexic," said Kintigh of TCU.

Bulimics follow periods of excessive overeating with self-induced vomiting, while anorexia is an obsession with losing weight by refusing to eat. The numbers can be staggering. Simonson said that up to 20 percent of all women on college campuses exhibit some sort of eating disorder behavior.

Goldberg, the Tufts professor, said bulimia is the most common eating disorder at colleges and is the more easily treatable of disorders. But that does not mean that it is not unsettling.

"What I'm concerned about is bulimia as a communicable idea on college campuses," she said. "It's not that so many people become bulimic, it's that there is a lot of imitation. Students say, 'Oh, my God, I just overate and this is my weight control.'"

Whether the problem is gaining weight or losing too much, Kintigh said it is essential that students find a balance between nutrition, sleep and exercise as they navigate their way through the college experience.

"We want students to find that balance and feel good about themselves," she said. "All foods can be good foods, but they shouldn't be used as a drug."

## Counting those college calories vs. fighting the fat

(KRT CAMPUS) FORT WORTH, TEXAS—Just how many calories are lurking in those meals commonly scarfed down by hungry college students? The following calorie and fat values, posted on the fast food and calorie page at [www.chowbaby.com](http://www.chowbaby.com), offer some food for thought:

- Two slices of a large, hand-tossed pepperoni pizza from Domino's contain 614 calories and 24 grams of fat.

- One glazed yeast doughnut from Krispy Kreme packs 200 calories and 12 grams of fat.

- A grande coffee frappuccino from Starbucks has 270 calories and four grams of fat.

- A Big Mac from McDonald's provides a whopping 530 calories and 33 grams of fat. A super-size order of fries adds 610 calories and 29 grams of fat.

- A taco from Jack-in-the-Box contains 170 calories and nine grams of fat.

- A 6-inch Southwest steak-and-cheese sandwich, from

Subway provides 412 calories and 18 grams of fat.

- The Grand Slam breakfast from Denny's has 795 calories and 50 grams of fat.

Counselors and nutrition experts say freshmen weight gain need not be inevitable. Some dos and don'ts:

- Exercise regularly. Many schools have sophisticated recreation centers that include swimming pools, tracks, exercise equipment and fitness classes.

- Avoid snacking on fatty foods. Stock up on fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy alternatives.

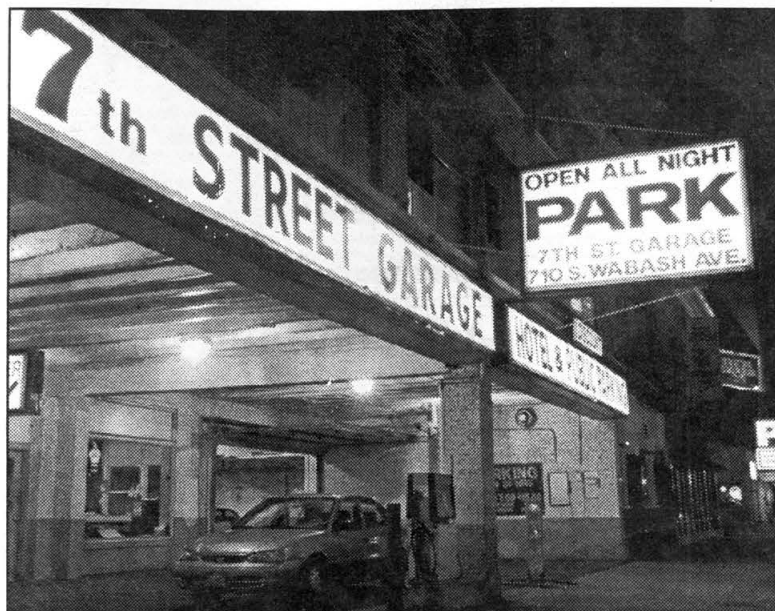
- Monitor food consumption. Many school-food programs allow students unlimited portions, but the food will still be there tomorrow.

- Seek out nutrition counselors and personal trainers.

- Limit alcohol intake.

- Get enough sleep.

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## Columbia Chronicle Editorials

### Keeping Graduate school not an option but a must

It doesn't take a master's degree to realize when the economy is bad, students are less than excited to test the market's stagnant waters. An increasing number of undergraduate students decide the best option is to return to class and wait for an economic upturn. At Columbia—which feels every economic wax and wane—the graduate school has received a healthy boost in attendance despite moves to reorganize its structure.

Numbers released last week by the college show an increase of nearly 20 percent in the number of graduate students enrolled at Columbia for the fall semester. This number becomes even more impressive when compared to the undergraduate numbers, which actually dropped nearly a full percent this year.

The figures show Columbia's graduate program is in demand. More grad students than ever picked Columbia over other, more prominent graduate schools in the area.

And it's not because Columbia is cheap either.

Last year, the college hiked tuition almost 14 percent. Even so, the graduate school brought in 219 new full- and part-time graduate students for the fall term.

Even with its apparent appeal, the graduate school's fate is unclear.

This week, Columbia's Graduate Policy Council met to discuss a possible reorganization of the graduate school. They are not alone: Across

the country, many graduate schools, large and small, are faced with similar changes. At Columbia, the council has at least two main options or a hybrid of both.

The first option is to retain the current system, under which the graduate school operates as a detached, independent entity from the rest of the college. It has its own dean, Keith Cleveland, and a small staff dedicated to the growing number of graduate students, which number 650 for the fall term.

Graduate students study under faculty members from their department of major. Because of this, much of the actual educational values originate from the various academic departments. The graduate school serves as a personal resource, dealing either with the barrage of paperwork or educational counseling.

The downside to a central graduate school is that it focuses all of its emphasis on one place. A graduate school dean has to pay close attention to a wide range of majors and the hundreds of students studying in them. From a management standpoint, it is a difficult system to operate. While hardly perfect, this centralized system, if governed and funded effectively, can be extremely efficient.

The second option is to eliminate the graduate school in favor of a locally supervised graduate program. Under this concept, the con-

trol of the program falls under the dean of the school or the department head. Thus, the authority and responsibility are kept at the lowest possible point, slicing through what can be Columbia's notorious bureaucracy.

But the decentralized model has its flaws. With a half dozen satellite grad programs working in separate departments, the decentralization could be overwhelming, disorganized and ineffective. The programs are prone to redundancy, repeating steps that could be centralized, as in the first option.

It is an option we cannot risk taking. In the interest of Columbia's graduates and the legacy of this college, we strongly advocate to the council to retain the current system—at least until a less flawed alternative can be produced.

We realize the locally governed graduate program seems effective, but not at a private college as unique as Columbia, where capital is always the issue. Because of this—plus the fact that the locally managed concept is very cost effective—we fear the graduate school is in danger.

Instead of ending it, the college should invest in the graduate school—a program that has seen double-digit percentage increases in enrollment for the past two years. Instead of waiting, the college should formulate a plan to encourage and develop that growth for many years to come.

## Exposure



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

## Abortion bill off target

Staff Editorial  
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas—The U.S. House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly, 281-142, to ban so-called "partial-birth abortions" on Oct. 2.

The measure is expected to sail through the Senate, reaching President Bush's desk soon, and the president has stated that he would have no qualms about signing the bill into law. But before he does, the bill needs some reworking.

First of all, the term, "partial-birth abortion," is vague. Not an officially recognized medical term, it usually refers to a procedure called Dilation and Extraction, or D and X performed during the third-trimester, in which the fetus, through induced labor, is delivered feet first up to the head. Scissors are then inserted into the base of the skull, puncturing it while a suction catheter is then inserted and the brains removed, killing the fetus and making it safer to remove from the mother's cervix.

According to the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, third-trimester abortions such as D and X can only be performed out of medical necessity. However, by the bill's loose definition of "partial-birth abortion," the ban extends beyond D and X procedures.

As written now, the ban does not specify a particular stage of pregnancy and uses language that criminalizes all abortions in which the fetus is aborted outside or partially outside of the womb. This language encompasses a common method of second-trimester abortion—saline abortion. In this method, injected saline

replaces some amniotic fluid, killing the fetus inside the womb. Usually, a dead fetus is delivered. However, a complication of this procedure is that a fetus can be delivered alive. This bill would make it illegal for the fetus to be killed outside the mother's womb in any case, meaning that doctors and mothers would be discouraged from what are now perfectly legal second-trimester abortions.

Furthermore, the authors of the bill have deemed "partial-birth abortions" "never medically necessary," and have refused to include a health exemption in the bill.

A health exemption is needed for this bill to be constitutional. In 2000, the Supreme Court struck down with a 5-4 vote Nebraska's "partial-birth abortion" ban in Stenberg v. Carhart because the law failed to include a provision providing for protection of the mother's health. The Supreme Court deemed that even "partial-birth abortion," aimed solely at D and X procedures, was "a statute that ... creates a significant health risk." They based their opinion on findings from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, which reveal that a D and X procedure "may be the best or most appropriate abortion procedure in a particular circumstance to save the life or preserve the health of a woman."

In short, the Senate needs to review the bill before passing it on to the president. It should clarify the language of "partial-birth abortions" to include only D and X procedures, as well as provide a medical exemption in certain cases. Otherwise, the bill will undermine the precedent set by Roe v. Wade in 1973.

## Clarett needs to carry a Buckeye for good luck

There has been a lot of hoopla as of late regarding Ohio State University's star running back Maurice Clarett's decision to sue the NFL after the organization denied him the chance to play in the pros. The NFL has a stipulation stating that any prospective player must be at least three years out of high school before they are eligible for the draft.

However, Clarett, the young pup who has turned so many heads and raised many eyebrows due to his stellar, almost freakishly unreal performance as a true freshman with OSU's football program, has not played a single game this season. Yet he remains incensed, convinced that he is entitled to a spot with the big boys.

Clarett's sidelining isn't due to a drop in performance or a drug violation but rather a case of "disingenuous" reporting. Earlier this year, when a Chevrolet Monte Carlo he claimed to be driving (claimed being the operative word—it was later revealed that it was borrowed from a dealership) was broken into, Clarett took the liberty of reporting the pilfering of several fictitious items, and greatly exaggerated the value of the

actual items taken in excess of \$10,000. Although no criminal charges were filed, OSU suspended Clarett from the field for a year, leaving the golden boy plenty of time to work on his studies.

It is not presumptuous to say that an individual of Clarett's talent and mindset is attending college not for a well-rounded education but to play football. Specifically with the hopes of going professional.

Clarett is representative of the highest pantheon of athletes; breaking 1,237 yards rushing in a single season with 18 touchdowns despite his absence from several games due to numerous injuries. Clarett possesses an animal presence on the field, putting the fear of God into everyone he faces down. He helped OSU put the University of Michigan over their knee, spanking them with 119 yards rushing, going hard, fire in his eyes.

But is he good enough to play pro? Most would say yes.

Clarett, who is 6 feet tall and 230 pounds, is an absolute bull, utilizing speed and skill in an eerie accord that any team would jump at the chance to enlist. However, the NFL, as much as

they recognize Clarett's skill and devotion to the game, are wary of the OSU sophomore. As of Sept. 23, Clarett has asked a judge to throw out the league rule preventing players from entering the draft until they have been out of high school for three years.

Despite his best intentions to dig himself out of the hole he's put himself in, Clarett's lawsuit against the NFL will certainly not endear him to his prospective employer.

In the end, the future of Clarett's career rests on his own shoulders. Should he truly wish to play professionally, Clarett needs to take steps toward cleansing his image; showing that he is contrite for his mistakes and ensuring that he stays that way. In addition, he should dismiss the lawsuit against the NFL and concentrate on donning the Buckeyes' silver helmet before he thinks about stepping into the big leagues.

Clarett may be exceptionally talented, may live and breathe the game he loves, but he's young. He still has a lot to learn and not just about football, but about life.

Look for more opinions  
online at  
**www.ColumbiaChronicle.com**

Well Connie, what Arnold did last week showed me you don't have to possess all the qualities of a normal human to win an election.



RECENTLY FREED FROM ROY HORN'S STERN RULE, MONTECORE THE TIGER CONSIDERS A CAREER IN POLITICS.

Ryan Duggan/Chronicle

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# Hard luck, bad choices on Limbaugh's account

By Adam J. Ferington  
Commentary Editor

I like my entertainment; I like it good and bloody with just a pinch of perversion under the surface. Which is why I usually stray away from football—too wholesome for its own good, what with large herds of men trampling up and down the field like cattle, bashing madly into one another. Everything interesting about football—the drugs, assaults, murders and theft—happens off the field. But sometimes it all winds together to create a truly unique viewing experience.

If you must watch football, watch it without the sound. It makes the viewing experience that much more challenging. Turn on the sound, and you risk having your mind poisoned by the likes of Rush Limbaugh; you'd be better off filling your head with kerosene and tossing matches into your ears.

Rush is, as of this writing, his usual and pompous self. His comments on Sept. 28 on ESPN about Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback Donovan McNabb reverberated strong and loud.

"I think what we've had here is a little social concern in the NFL. The media has been very desirous that a black quarterback do well," Limbaugh said. "There is a little hope invested in McNabb, and he got a lot of credit for the performance of this team that he didn't deserve. The defense carried this team." Of course, this shouldn't be surprising. Rush has always been a half-witted mutant whose voice is stronger than his ideas. He knows bol-



Ryan Duggan/Chronicle

locks about football—couch surfing every Sunday does not make one an expert on the game, nor does it qualify them as a commentator. And it was always clear from the beginning that he wouldn't be able to restrain himself for very long. It's bad enough that he has his own filthy bully pulpit on the radio where he can parade his crude rhetoric, but we didn't need him opening his mouth like a cretin on national television. This is football, dammit: a sacred American pastime.

Keep your white robe agenda consigned to the backwoods airways where sweaty, unshaven men can

stroke their  
guns in their  
cloistered shacks.

Rush's remarks were smothered with bad taste, like guests at an Arkansas wedding. And if that weren't enough, allegations have surfaced about his abuse of prescription medication, leading some to speculate about his much publicized bout of deafness last year.

On Oct. 10, Limbaugh made this statement on his radio show,

"You know I have always tried to be honest with you and open about my life. So I need to tell you today that

part of what you have heard and read is correct. I am addicted to prescription pain medication."

Where as previous controversies were met with a bellowing rebuttal and trademark idiom, he has offered little reaction to the charges, adding only this portentous statement:

"At the present time, the authorities are conducting an investigation, and I have been asked to limit my public comments until this investigation is complete. So I will only say that the stories you have read and heard contain inaccuracies and distortions, which I will clear up when I am free to speak about them."

At least Clinton, the man who fueled Rush's meteoric rise to popularity back in the '90s, had something to say, even if it was bogged down with semantics about sexual congress and fuzzy words.

Rush is in the hole at this point, and he has no one to blame but himself. If I was a betting man, I'd wager that he tries to blame some nefarious undercurrent of the "liberal media" for his downfall, rather than accept responsibility like the steadfast conservative he claims to be, regardless of his blubbery entreatment claiming "I am no victim and do not portray myself as such."

As it is, the blood is draining from his career very quickly now. After he begins to decompose, there won't be much left to pick at. As it is, I've become bored with it already.

I'm off to a cockfight.

## Columbia's Voices

### Outraged by protesters

When we protest war are we protesting violence or are we protesting defending the Constitution?

I am outraged by the ignorance of Columbia College protesters. Today in my Philosophy class I was given a flier inviting me to the 4:30 Federal Plaza, Dearborn & Adams Protest. It reads "No to War! No to Occupation! Yes to Justice!" What is this implying, no to violence or no to defending the Constitution?

The Constitution has been and forever will be a document, a way of life, a culture defended in blood. How can we, Americans, protest an act that protects the very purpose of protesting? Are we protesting against our right to protest?

It is almost impossible to imagine democracy not being the American way of life. Our government is taken

for granted. So much that when terrorism comes knocking on our front door the way it did on Sept. 11, 2001, we are not even aware that it is a direct threat to our America, a direct cause of war.

We can continue to be idealistic Americans: Deny the threat of empowerment from terrorism, protect our ideas while we project our fears, but is fighting for a state of mind ever going to be a solution to the constant struggle of world conflict?

No, too many bodies have fallen victims to the propaganda of terrorism for us to come home and "declare" peace. The organization of government is so that we can examine problems and produce solutions. There is no mystery to why there is "tens of billions spent on death and destruction in both countries." We are doing everything possible to physically act with a solution to protect us from this threat. If we do not spend our tax dollars on overcoming this threat in its entirety what is the point in paying for anything

else with taxpayers' money. The ends justify the means.

Before the communist regime, women were allowed to attend school and pursue a career as sophisticated as law or medicine. They had music and dance as part of their life. Women were allowed to leave their homes without the presence of a male. "No to Occupation!" is a statement that is naive to the living conditions, or "culture" as some people have come to call the treatment of Afghanistan women and children.

For more than a decade the people of Afghanistan have lived under the unjust Taliban rule. The KhAD, or secret police, captured 35,000 or more people that were never seen again. Married women were to block out windows of their homes. Young women were sexually mutilated so that they could not enjoy sex—but were raped so that the men could. Female children were not allowed to attend school.

This ended when we took the

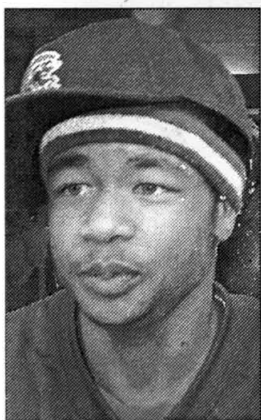
regime out of power. We are occupying their land now in order to protect the people of Afghanistan from the very terrorism that we protect ourselves from. How could we have not intervened in a world conflict that foreshadowed the nightmare of The Holocaust when we were taught not to let history repeat itself? Is this "Yes to Justice"?

We are spoiled hypocrites hiding from a problem while we are offering no solution. The mere idea of peace did not relieve the suffering in Afghanistan, the action did. Protecting the war did not end the terrorist threat, the action did. Tons of gallons of blood was not spilled for the Columbia College community to protest against defending the Constitution. The First Amendment is worth fighting for, wouldn't you say?

—Laura Fandl  
Columbia sophomore

## Face the public: the Chronicle photo poll

Question: Who has the bigger curse: Cubs or Red Sox?



"I think the Red Sox do."

—Anthony Lighthall, 19  
Freshman, Audio Arts



"The Cubs."

—Christian Norcross, 21  
Senior, Illustration



"Cubs, hands down."

—Pam Robison, 21  
Junior, Film



"Probably the Red Sox."

—Alicia Gwinn, 24  
Junior, Interior Architecture

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# Art of the Library



The Columbia College Chicago Library is proud to announce the fall opening of Art of the Library.

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author of *Half a Life* and *Teeth of the Dog*

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Of *Teeth of the Dog*, *Bold Type* says, "*Ciment is an extraordinarily tactile and visual writer—you can feel the oppressive heat, the jangled energy, the clamor, tumult and lust of the hungry sad tropics on every page.*"

"In a market flooded with memoirs of depression and dysfunction, Jill Ciment's *Half a Life* stands out as a lively, life-affirming remembrance of a slightly warped girlhood. After her father loses the last vestiges of his sanity, the family finally throws him out. Forced to fend for herself throughout a fatherless childhood, Ciment endures heroically. By turns comic, tragic, and heart-rending, *Half a Life* artfully avoids recrimination and sentimentality. Jill Ciment is the most likable autobiographer around—brutally honest, delightfully mischievous and most importantly, big-hearted." —*Bold Type*

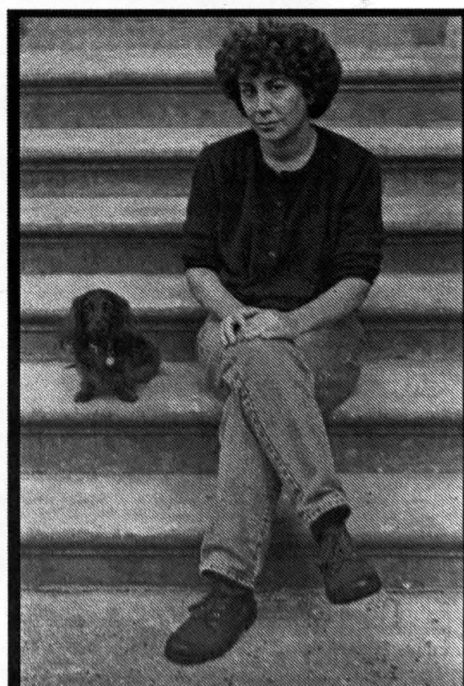
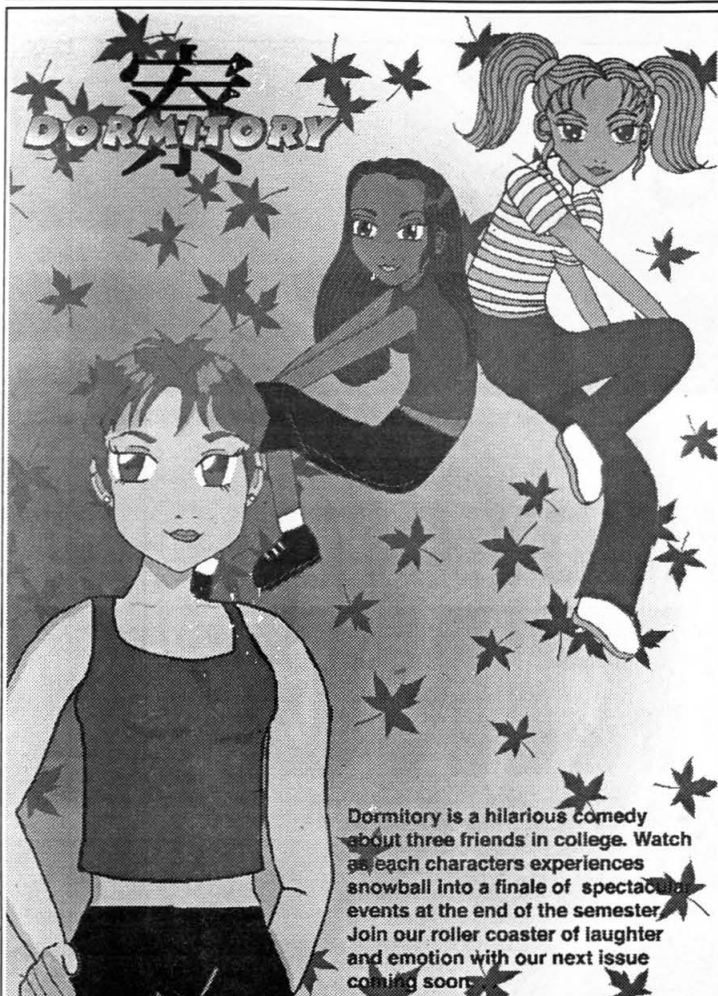


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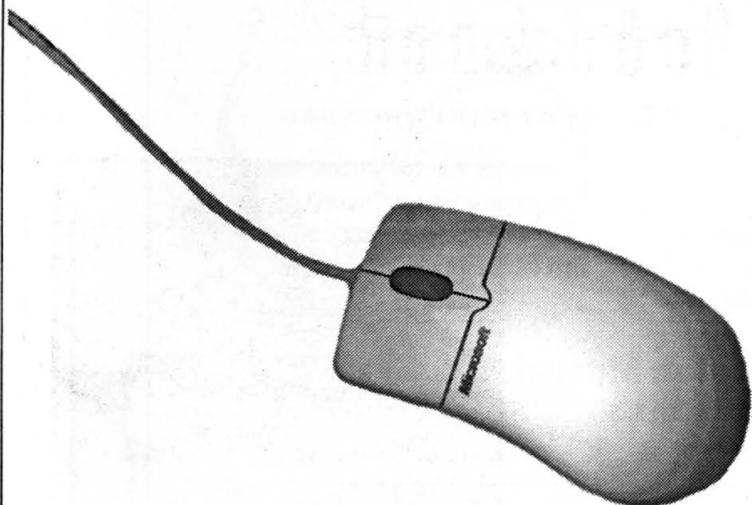
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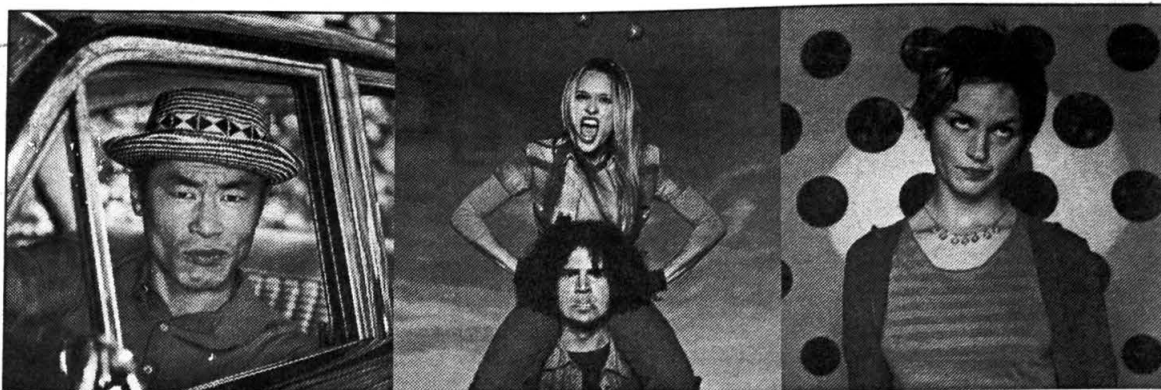
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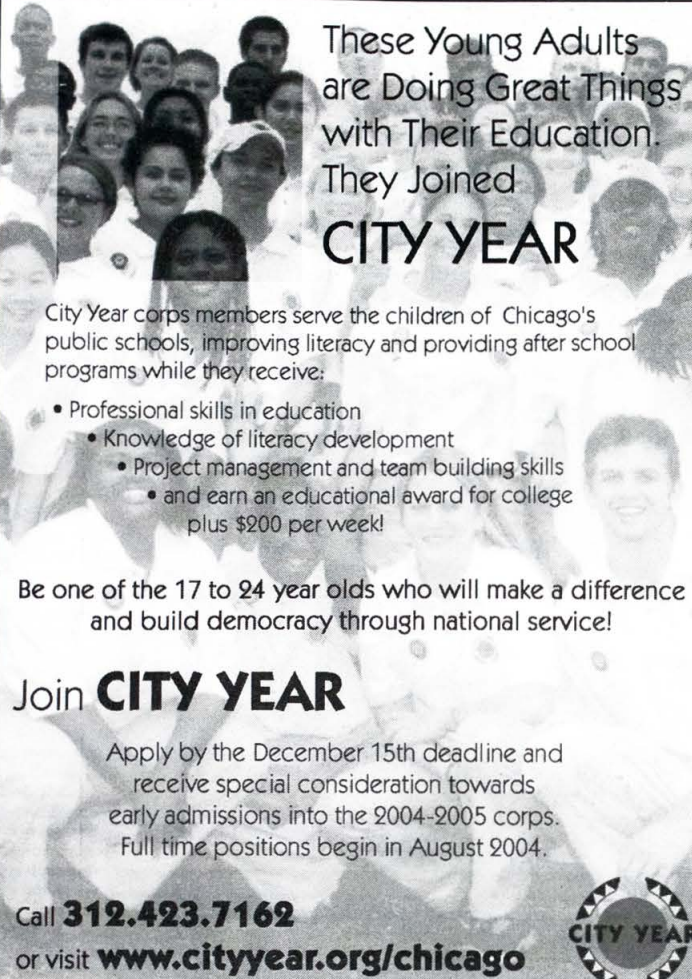
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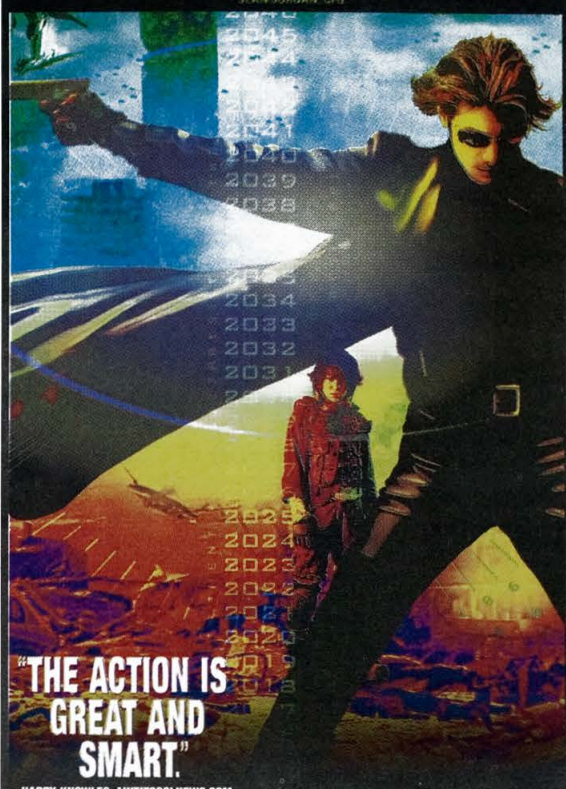
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# Artists move souls in 'Freedom!'

○ DanceAfrica Chicago returns, celebrating with beats, rhythm, poetry

By Doris Dadayan  
A&E Editor

**D**anceAfrica Chicago kicks off its 13th annual main performance honoring the beauty and richness of African culture Oct. 17 at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St.

Titled "Freedom!," this year's program celebrates the bicentennial anniversary of Haiti's freedom from colonial rule.

"We refer to [the idea behind 'Freedom!'] as the role that dance and music play in the global movement for cultural expression, for the race of human rights and dignity.

"These are all issues that are critical both to African people and to Africans around the world," said Michael Warr, producing director for DanceAfrica Chicago.

Sponsored by Columbia, this year's lineup includes five internationally acclaimed artists for the mainstage performances from South Africa, Haiti, New York, Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

Their performances focus on communicating their message of peace and liberation through the art of dance and music.

A hip-hop/breakdance group from Cape Town, South Africa, is the Prophets of da City, a breakdance/hip-hop group that blends their perspectives on controversial issues dealing with politics and the government of South Africa with

the rhythms of African music, dance and sound.

"I think that this is going to be such a unique festival," Warr said. "The fact that we have the Prophets of da City here in Chicago is a really special occurrence."

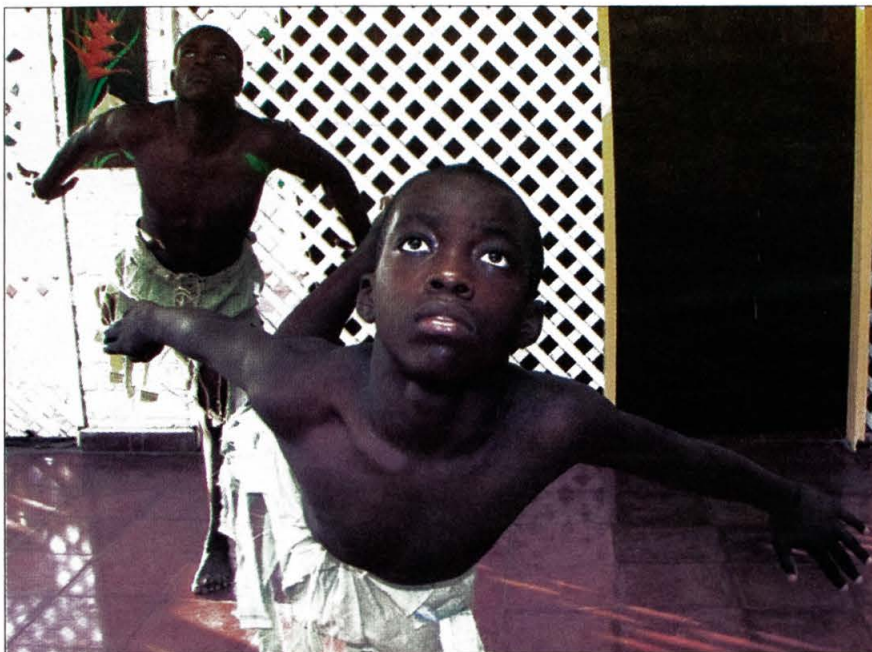
"Because while they have appeared outside of South Africa before, you know, in 17 different countries, this is the first time as a group they are in the United States. It's a rare opportunity," he said.

Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti, a group of 12 male members ranging in age from 8 to 18, from Port au Prince, Haiti, will be performing a dance piece titled "Neg Mawon," based on an African statue that stands for independence for Haiti.

Through songs and dances, the group "resurrects" the lives of kids living on the streets through dance and gives them a home," according to the press release for Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti.

Poet Staceyann Chin, who is originally from Jamaica but now lives in New York, will be performing a poetry/dance piece on the crisis of HIV/AIDS with the Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre. Chin is known for her poems which deal with her homosexuality, race and stormy childhood.

Artists from Chicago's Deeply Rooted Dance Theatre will convey through their performances the modern life of African-Americans,



Renee Dietrich/Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti

Two of 12 performers from the Resurrection Dance Theater of Haiti express through their performance both the joy and sadness of life in Haiti.

and Washington, D.C.'s, Coyaba Dance Theater will concentrate on the various ethnic groups in West Africa, educating audience members about the different groups through their song and dance pieces.

A series of free public preview events, including workshops and lecture demonstrations, culminating in to the main "Freedom!" performance are going on now through Oct. 15.

One of the events, "Hip-Hop to Kwaito: Beats that Link Rebellion," will be held at the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.

The panel, consisting of artists and scholars, will discuss the evolution of hip-hop and its relationship to American and African culture.

"I really want to encourage the students of Columbia to come not only to get a preview of what's going to be happening on the stage," Warr said, "but also to participate in a discussion that looks beneath the surface, you know, that looks at the relationship between the art and the social conditions of which the art

emerges."

"That's one of the things about Columbia College. It really is kind of a safe haven for many arts organizations because of the connection it has with the community outside of the college," Warr said.

"It's so many artists at the college, both as students and teachers and administrators that are linked into both the local, and the nation and the international arts community."

"This is not a rare story at Columbia for DanceAfrica Chicago to have found a home there," he said.

DanceAfrica has three different organizations in the United States, the oldest in New York, followed by Washington, D.C.

Chicago is the youngest but is by far the biggest organization, according to Warr.

All three of the DanceAfricas have been founded by Baba Chuck Davis, the program's artistic director.

Although the festival officially kicks off in October, DanceAfrica's

year-long program called DanceAfrica Chicago Connections, works throughout the entire year in communities, schools and dance organizations, using arts as a means for transforming the community.

The program reaches up to 100,000 people a year, according to Warr.

"What you'll see during the period of the DanceAfrica festival is really exemplary of what DanceAfrica does throughout the year," Warr said.

*DanceAfrica will be at the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., from Oct. 17-19. Show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.*

*Tickets are \$18, \$21 and \$30 with a student ID and can be purchased at the Chicago Theatre's box office, at Ticketmaster (312) 902-1500 or online at ticketmaster.com.*

*For more information on DanceAfrica or the pre-show events, visit [www.danceafricachicago.com](http://www.danceafricachicago.com) or call (312) 344-7070.*



Photo Courtesy of Coyaba Dance Theater

This is the first year that Coyaba Dance Theater will be performing at DanceAfrica.

## THIS WEEK in arts & entertainment

Mon. 10/13	Tues. 10/14	Wed. 10/15	Thurs. 10/16	Friday 10/17	Sat. 10/18	Sun. 10/19
"Sound Art: Just Don't Call it Music" 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. 623 S. Wabash Ave. Rm. 71	Gravel Records presents 9 p.m. HotHouse 31 E. Balbo Drive	Conjunto 8 p.m. HotHouse 31 E. Balbo Drive	Big Screen Re-Screen 8 p.m. 1104 S. Wabash Ave. Rm. 302	DanceAfrica Chicago presents: "Freedom!" 8 p.m. Chicago Theatre 175 N. State St.	DanceAfrica Chicago presents: "Freedom!" 8 p.m. Chicago Theatre 175 N. State St.	DanceAfrica Chicago presents: "Freedom!" 3 p.m. Chicago Theatre 175 N. State St.
Yoko Noge's Jazz me Blues 8 p.m. HotHouse 31 E. Balbo Drive	2 For Tuesdays \$2 Drafts, Kamikazes, and Tequila shots/ live DJ Bar Thirteen 1944 W. Division St.	Jeff Parker Organ Quartet 9 p.m. The Green Mill 4802 N. Broadway St.	Jeff Parker Organ Quartet 9 p.m. The Green Mill 4802 N. Broadway St.	Lennie Neuhaus 8 p.m. Beverly Arts Center Chicago	Haunted Trails' Nightmare 1 p.m. - 11 p.m. Haunted Trails Family Amusement Center 7759 S. Harlem Ave. Burbank	Pharaoh's Daughter 8:30 p.m. HotHouse 31 E. Balbo Drive
Papa G & Reggae 8 p.m. Darkroom 2210 W. Chicago Ave.	DJ Katz 9 10 p.m. - 4 a.m. Dragonfly Mandarin Lounge	Dia De Los Muertos: Reflections of the Soul 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum 1852 W. 19th St.	Dia De Los Muertos: Reflections of the Soul 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum 1852 W. 19th St.	Burchan Ocal and the Istanbul Oriental Ensemble 8 p.m. HotHouse 31 E. Balbo Drive	"In Situ" 6:30 p.m. The Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St.	\$2 Bloody Marys SoPo 3418 N. Southport Ave.
50 cent wings Cactus 404 S. Wells St.	Dave Tamkin acoustic rock 9:30 p.m. - 12 a.m. Copa, 1637 N. Clybourn Ave.	Available Jelly 9:30 p.m. Empty Bottle 1035 N. Western Ave.	DJ Rythm spins Alumni Club Gold Coast 15 W. Division St. Lennie Neuhaus 7:30 p.m. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Skokie	"A Beau O'Reilly Curatorial" 7 p.m. The Chicago Cultural Center 77 E. Washington St.	The Edge Comedy Club 9 p.m. Chase Cafe 7301 N. Sheridan Rd.	Mermaid 2 p.m. The Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St.
Argentinian Tango Night 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. Cousin's Turkish Fine Dining 3038 W. Irving Park Road	Techno Tuesdays with DJ Sinjin Big Wig 1551 W. Division St.	Ayaan Moore silk-screen prints 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. Anchor Graphics				Jason Morgan and the Bandwagon 9 p.m. HotHouse 31 E. Balbo Drive





## The Weekly Dish

By Matthew Jaster  
A&E Editor

A disturbing trend in the entertainment industry is artists who branch off from their designated area of expertise to pursue other creative endeavors. Celebrities are taking on side projects to show their fans how truly diverse they are.

Whether it's films, books, music or art, entertainers seem unsatisfied with a single occupation. These narcissistic bastards want the \$20 million film deal, the three-year record contract, and an art studio in Manhattan to display all the pretty pictures they paint with all that free time they have. (One creative outlet per person please.)

A few weeks after sucking on Britney Spears' lips, Madonna released her very first children's book called *The English Roses*. Hasn't the Material Girl done enough damage with her fairly pathetic attempt at an acting career?

Sure she won a Golden Globe for *Evita*, but was that really enough to make us forget *Body of Evidence*, *Who's that Girl*, or *Swept Away*? Now with the quick swirl of her magic wand and Poof!—a respectable children's author! Am I the only one irritated by this?

Next time you stop in to Borders or Barnes and Noble for a cup of coffee, take a few minutes to peruse Madonna's new book. *The English Roses* is a very quick read thanks in part to its complete lack of imagination. If any other author on the planet attempted to get this book published, they would be banned from the literature community for life.

But let's not take all our aggression out on Madonna. For every bad move she makes, there's a perfect pop song that follows. The real problem is the consumers who go out and purchase this drivel.

Let the saturation begin! Jennifer Lopez can't act or sing; yet she seems to be doing both on a fairly regular basis. Kevin Bacon splits his time between a rock band with his brother, and being the main focus of an annoying Hollywood who's who game. Ozzy Osbourne and Jessica Simpson are certified television stars. Somebody stop the madness!

Columbia students pay attention. For every aspiring actor, director, musician, artist and dancer at our fine educational establishment, there's someone

already famous who thinks they've got what it takes to multi-task.

The credit cards come out when people hear that Russell Crowe has a CD. They'll go see a movie starring Snoop Dogg. They'll purchase several children's books written by Jamie Lee Curtis. I applaud their enthusiasm, but come on, let's get some fresh faces into the mix.

Before we know it, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck could be the next acoustic folk duo, Mandy Moore could write a political memoir, and the Food Network might premiere a new program called, "Cooking with Coolio."

This is the name game, ladies and gentlemen. Why risk putting out products without a celebrity already attached to it? This makes it easier for Mr. and Mrs. Tabloid to keep their paychecks coming.

So what can be done to solve this growing epidemic? You can start by putting an end to all that unnecessary impulse shopping. These are economically challenged times, pay attention to your financial situation before you blow your paycheck on films starring Mariah Carey or Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen.

No matter how bad your aunt wants a copy of Jewel's poetry book, substitute it with some Maya Angelou. If your brother wants a book written by David Hasselhoff, get a book written by David Sedaris instead. With positive reinforcement, we can get through this together.

The consumers have the final say on what happens in the entertainment industry. They need our money, they need our time, and they need our support. If we're not willing to give it to them, then it's back to the drawing board.

There are exceptions to the rule, of course. Jack Black can make movies and rock out with Tenacious D, Ice Cube can work in Hollywood, and Henry Rollins can do whatever the hell he feels like doing because he's Henry Rollins.

For the rest of you out there, every Dixie Chick considering a television series next fall, I ask that you stick with the program. Play your music, direct your films, or paint your pretty pictures, but keep the side projects to yourself. There's an awful lot of talent at a school like Columbia and I want to make sure everybody gets 15 minutes. Heck, I'd settle for five.

# Olé! Red hot salsa auditions

Students spice it up for Dance Chicago's Jazz Rhythm Project



Photo Courtesy of Bridget Kerwin

Students gather at Columbia's Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., to audition for a spot with Dance Chicago's Jazz Rhythm Project.

By Dominick Basta  
Staff Writer

Almost 40 eager Columbia students auditioned for nearly every department Oct. 4 for the Dance Center's salsa performance, a part of Dance Chicago's Jazz Rhythm Project, to be held Nov. 28 and 29 at Navy Pier.

According to Maurice Coleman, 20, choreographer/director at Dance Chicago, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. and television major at Columbia, the auditions held Saturday morning were intense and challenging.

"I am looking for dedicated, disciplined people for this salsa piece," Coleman told students at the start of Saturday's tryouts. "This is a very expressive, fast-paced piece, which infuses Latin and samba elements, jazz, hip-hop and funk styles. This is a very demanding piece that will showcase the best Columbia's Dance Center has to offer."

The students chosen for this year's salsa piece at Dance Chicago are Scott

Stewart, sound recording, Fatima Raul and Jay Sanghvi,

musical theater, Megan Howell, undeclared, Ed Jones, broadcast journalism, and Anais Baretta, dance.

This is the second year the popular and well-accomplished salsa piece has been displayed as a part of student performance night at Dance Chicago.

Those who auditioned were shown a piece and expected to learn it within 15 minutes; both single and partner pieces were taught.

After learning each piece, a five-minute break was given. Students reviewed the piece again before being divided into smaller groups to audition for a part.

During the breaks, many students seemed nervous and jittery, milling about in the halls and frantically reviewing their steps.

Most students, though, just looked beat from the lightning-fast pace of the pieces.

"This piece is, wow. It's electrifying," said Dan Smith, 20, the assistant choreographer. "Especially after going over it all morning, I'm about ready to fall down."

Coleman said he was looking to fill five female and two to

three male slots for his salsa piece.

"Stress just [comes] with auditioning," said dance major Sheen Baskerville. "I guess I've auditioned so many times, I'm just not as worried about being chosen."

Other students were more interested in branching out into something outside their field.

"The student performance night gives everyone, not just dance majors, a great opportunity," said dance major Bridget Kerwin, 25, who along with Coleman, performs in this year's salsa showcase. "Many students will benefit from this show and continue on with Dance Chicago."

Coleman screened a video of the auditions as well as taking into account availability, time commitment and personal flavor—those who shone through beyond the moves and really energized the piece.

"The piece is sexy, hot, and fun, and I needed people who would best put that across," Coleman said. "The final decision was tough, but I am comfortable with who we went with."

## Film Center celebrates latino heritage month

Hour-long video series, 'Aurora del Video en Argentina,' commemorates South American history

By Adam K. Zakroczyński III  
Staff Writer

As part of the celebration of Latino Heritage Month, the Film Center hosted the "Aurora del Video en Argentina," an hour-long film series, which featured abstract music videos, video essays, humor and cultural metaphors on Oct. 2.

The "Aurora del Video en Argentina (Dawn of Video in Argentina)" is a series of short, documentary-like films that illustrate the technological growth and ability of South American filmmakers. About 40 people attended the program, which included 15 different videos that ranged from one to six minutes

in length.

Anna Marie Soto, Director of Latino Cultural Affairs at Columbia, brought Gabriela Taquini, the curator of the Modern Art Museum in Buenos Aires, to Columbia as part of its FOCO Festival for the month of October, which highlights trends in Latino pop culture.

Taquini put these films together with hopes to "show Argentina in a panoramic form."

"The work is inspirational," Soto said. "[It] highlights how with very little resources, you can continue to inspire students."

Taquini, who has a degree in Art History from the University of Buenos Aires, said that the series is split into two sections.

"The first part is designed to illustrate the weight of history and how video makers understand the subject," she said. The second part, she said is "more political."

According to Taquini, the films are extremely low budget and are produced with a digital camera and a computer.

The films show how people can make art with a video and have it be as abstract as a painting. "It's very direct and very superficial and very profound," Taquini said.

One short film titled *20/12* or (*Dec. 20*), features a middle-class family learning how to use a Sony Handicam for the first time.

They fumble with the controls and experiment with the camera's fea-

tures, while in the background, the television is blaring a news story about the fall of the Argentinean President Fernando de la Rúa.

The video was designed to be a metaphor, showing how South American people are consumed with technology and are sometimes blind to the important social and political events of their time.

Other videos feature film and digital animations of cows, which are significant icons in Argentinean culture. "These films have a great consciousness of aesthetics," Taquini said.

The filmmakers are well known in their niche and have been recognized for various achievements.

Federico Mercuri, for example,

the maker of the film *Hagalo UD. Mismo*, won first prize in the Video Competition of the Centro Cultural Iberoamericano in 2001 for his work.

Taquini highlighted the fact that films such as the ones featured in *Aurora del Video en Argentina* are meant to open people's minds in the way that they are used to music or Hollywood movies opening their minds. The films are indeed inspirational and show how one doesn't need a lot of resources to make a significant artistic statement.

FOCO Festival runs through the month of October at Columbia and features various movie showings, lectures and art exhibits. For more information, visit [www.focofest.com](http://www.focofest.com)

# McCarthy on track in film debut

○With a little help from his friends, writer/director Tom McCarthy pulls off movie magic with 'The Station Agent'

By Matthew Jaster  
A&E Editor

Tom McCarthy, writer and director of *The Station Agent*, has some sound advice for future screenwriters and filmmakers.

"Keep it simple, don't overcomplicate it," McCarthy said. "I'm a believer in simple stories. You have to get writing, don't make anything too precious."

McCarthy is still learning a great deal about the process himself. *The Station Agent* marked the first time the stage and screen actor stood behind the camera as a director.

"I didn't go to film school and I didn't make a short [film]. You really don't understand filmmaking until you make that feature film. Every day is a new evolution in the process," McCarthy said.

The process began in New Jersey when he came across an abandoned train depot near his hometown. After some conversations with the owner, McCarthy began researching the American railroad subculture.

"I spent an inordinate amount of time, probably about three months, I don't know what was wrong with my life at that point. I was sort of locked into going to the library and reading about trains," McCarthy said.

In his research, McCarthy was fascinated by the history behind the train depots.

"Towns would literally build a depot and wait for the railroad. Wherever they built a depot, a town would spring up," McCarthy said. "I was really into this whole notion of the station agents. They were kind of the gatekeepers of hope and excitement. It was almost like a mythic American icon."

*The Station Agent* is the story of a dwarf named Finbar McBride (Peter Dinklage) who disappears into a rural town in New Jersey searching for isolation and solitude. Instead, he forms a strange kinship with a hot dog vendor named Joe (Bobby Cannavale) and an artist named Olivia (Patricia Clarkston).

McCarthy took everything he learned on railroads and transformed



Photo Courtesy of Miramaxpublicity.com

(From left to right) Peter Dinklage, Patricia Clarkston, and Bobby Cannavale walk the rails in 'The Station Agent'.



Photo Courtesy of Miramaxpublicity.com

Tom McCarthy (above) on the set of 'The Station Agent.'

it into an amazing character study on isolation and the importance of relationships. Although he wrote the story himself, McCarthy gives a great deal of credit to his cast for bringing these characters to life.

"My favorite moments in the film are how specific the performances are," McCarthy said. Although the actors brought their own personalities to each character, they all have certain qualities of the writer/director.

"Joe and I share the same sense of humor and I come from the same New Jersey world as Olivia. At times, I'm very much like Fin. I can be very social but man I like to be left alone sometimes," McCarthy said.

Since the strong reception for *The Station Agent* earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival, it doesn't look like McCarthy is ever going to be left alone again.

"I think after this press tour I'll lie for the rest of my life. I don't want to talk about myself or my film ever again," McCarthy said jokingly.

The film won the Dramatic Audience Award and the Waldo Scott Screenwriting Award at Sundance, an experience that McCarthy called "real mayhem."

"I hadn't screened the completed film before that premiere, it was horrifying. The show was sold out, it was industry people, my family was there. It was a recipe for disaster," McCarthy said.

McCarthy and his cast stood and watched the line of people waiting to get into the theater.

"We were out there taking pictures of the line," McCarthy said. "Keep in mind, Bobby, Peter and Patty are very good friends of mine. Three years ago we were reading the script in my living room and here we are now at this great film festival."

McCarthy was thrilled about the reception of the film. He isn't, however, ready to give up the job that got him started.

"I love acting," he said. "I think there's no better way to continue to write and learn about filmmaking than being on the set as an actor."

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# Dance Center turns 30



Photo courtesy of Jill Chukerman

This October Columbia's Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., celebrates its 30th birthday.

By **Jamie Mernane**  
Staff Writer

Columbia's Dance Center kicked off its 30th Anniversary Season Oct. 2 with two Susan Marshall and Company world premieres, "Sleeping Beauty" and "Other Stories." Marshall, who The New York Times dubs as "one of the most significant choreographers working today," not only jumpstarted the new season but also celebrated the 20th anniversary of her company.

Bonnie Brooks, chair of the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., started off the event by reflecting on the last 30 years of astonishing contemporary dance at Columbia. Brooks announced that a portrait of the Dance Center founder Shirley Mordine would be permanently displayed at the center, along with a plaque of acknowledgement.

Mordine took the floor to show her appreciation for every dancer, student, teacher and audience member involved in making the center the success that it is today. After enormous applause, Mordine

left the floor and the theater went dark.

There didn't seem to be an open seat in the Dance Center's 272-capacity performance theater. As progressive music began to play over the booming sound system, the dancers came to life before everyone's eyes.

There were no outlandish fairy costumes in Marshall's rendition of "Sleeping Beauty," and the constant gestulation and momentum of the performers, one wonders what sleeping has to do with anything. Nonetheless, Marshall's choreography gave all in attendance a new insight into this old fairy tale, including an introduction of sensual and, at times, erotic interactions.

During intermission, the stage crew worked effortlessly to rearrange the state-of-the-art set, which was designed by Douglas Stein specifically for the event. As soon as the crowd filed back into the theater, it was show time once again.

"Other Stories" was an innovative take on social interaction and how people's lives are interwoven. Unlike "Sleeping Beauty," props were incorporated into the

second dance; they included a narrow white table, a chair, a pulsing lamp and headsets to give the impression that a pair of dancers is having a conversation through them.

In this particular dance, the music was more upbeat and cutting edge, the actions were livelier, and the overall atmosphere exemplified what contemporary dance has become.

The two pieces, as Brooks stated in the program notes, "unleash [Marshall's] sophisticated mastery in revealing human nature through movement."

The dance aficionados who filled the center's theater seemed to agree with Brooks.

"It's a great feeling to be a part of the Dance Center's 30th anniversary. Susan Marshall's company was absolutely amazing," said Meghan Dewar who attended the show.

"I especially enjoyed 'Other Stories.' It was one of those pieces you wished would never end."

## From the mouths of stars

"We had enchiladas and ham, chicken breast—you know, the regular Iowa meals."—*Ashton Kutcher's mother, Diane Portwood, after her son brought girlfriend Demi Moore home for a visit.*

"I've done my fair share of [expletive] in my nine-year acting career, and I've never read anything like what Oliver wrote."—*Colin Farrell, who's playing Alexander the Great in Oliver Stone's biopic, full of praise (we think) for Stone's screenplay during an Associated Press Television News interview.*

"Ben and Jen."—*George Clooney, to AP Radio, joking about the model for his and Catherine Zeta-Jones' movie couple in Intolerable Cruelty. Zeta-Jones immediately responded: "Who were you playing?"*

"Michelle Kwan and Kermit the Frog provide a unique opportunity to inspire young people with great role models."—*Nancy Fletcher, chief executive of the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, on a new billboard campaign for positive values.*

"I'm famous, but I'm not famous like freaking Brad Pitt or Jennifer Aniston."—*Britney Spears.*

"A woman naked is like a beautiful object, but a guy naked is just an idiot with his pants off."—*Rider Strong, on why Jerry Hall shows more skin than he does in the touring production of "The Graduate," to AP Radio.*

"The fact is, men are dogs. If we took all the dogs out of jobs of importance, we'd have a lot of empty offices."—*Twisted Sister frontman Dee Snider, whose "We're Not Gonna Take It" was the theme song for Arnold Schwarzenegger's campaign, on the sexual harassment allegations against the governor-elect.*

"This is me; I'm speaking to you from the afterlife!"—*Hoobastank singer Doug Robb, on an Internet report claiming he was killed in a plane crash, to AP Radio.*

"I'm not scared of any aliens. If there are aliens, I think they'll be friendly."—*wannabe astronaut and 'N Sync singer Lance Bass, when asked during a talk with middle school students about whether he feared being abducted by aliens.*

—Associated Press



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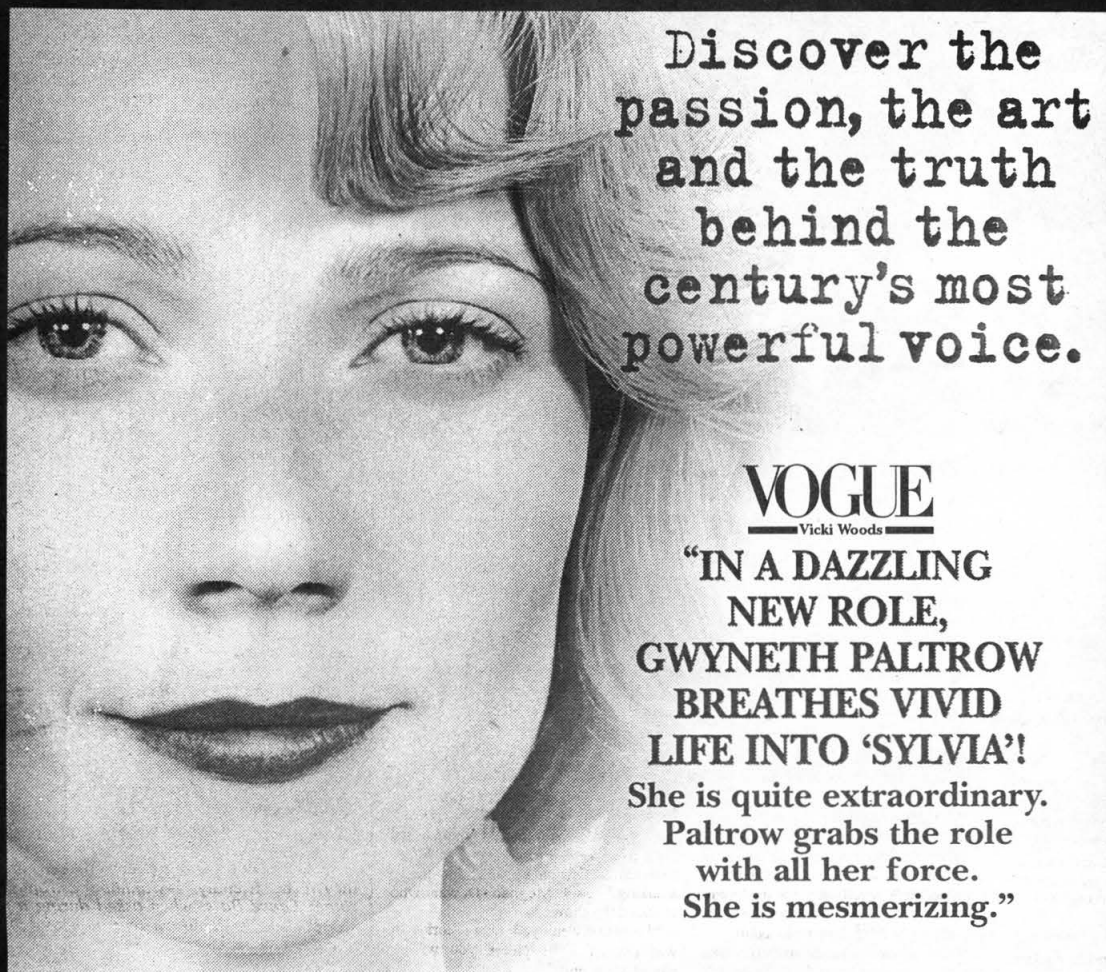
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# HORROR SCOPE

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

For the week of: Oct. 13 - Oct. 19

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) The light finally goes on in your head. Careful now, your family and friends may not like the new, intelligent you.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) There'll be a great deal of joy for you this week. Oh wait, that's supposed to be for Leo.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) Ah, yes, an excellent week to begin talking to that exciting and mysterious stranger. Chances are good that your love's life will soon take a turn for the better. Or for the worse.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) Your usual grumpy and irritated attitude can now be explained; you've been using the wrong toothpaste and deodorant combination this whole time! Good thing you now know!

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) It's definitely a good week to learn to laugh at yourself. That way you won't feel like they're laughing at you but that they're laughing with you, which is really quite the opposite.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Your job is like crack. You know it might kill you, but you keep coming back to it. What's the deal?

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) People with four-letter names will irritate you this week. Ignore all Alexs, Danas, Tonys, Jills and everyone else who falls into this dreaded category.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're kind of like a Hot Pocket this week, walking around all hot and flaky. Be careful with that attitude, or you just might get freezer burn.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Mostly everything you want to do is going to be a complete waste of time this week, so just don't do anything at all. You'll be more productive that way.

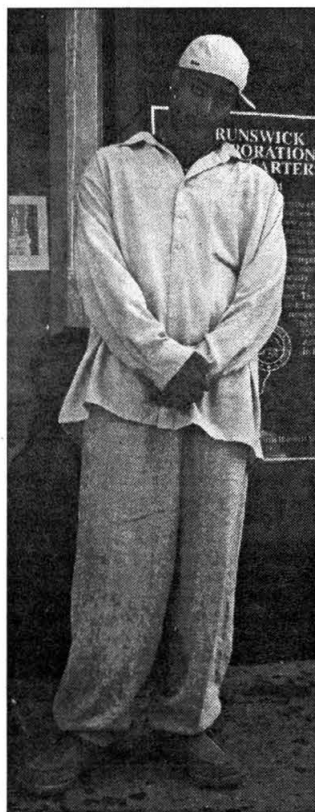
**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Thought you'd find yourself a little horoscope to read, did ya? Ha! That's what you get for taking the stars, and your life, for granted.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Be aware that there are people out there who want your shoes. Oh, you know which ones we're talking about here. Tightly tape them to your ankles.

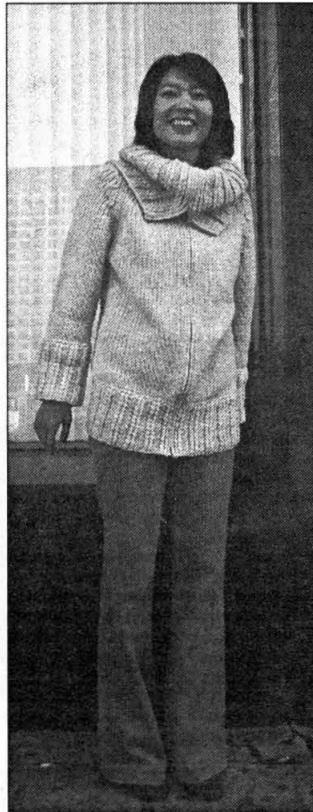
**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) Express your feelings of anger and rage in an artistic way. Interpretive dance is always a pleasure to see.

# Street Wear

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



**Name:** Imarue Tolliver  
**Age:** 21  
**Major:** Poetry  
**"I try just to have my own casual, how can I say, laid-back persona."**



**Name:** Kana Yamamoto  
**Age:** 24  
**Major:** Graphic Design  
**"I'll wear any kinds of style."**



**Name:** Autumn Shaal  
**Age:** 19  
**Major:** Theater  
**"My favorite store is Arden Beat."**

Heather Morris/Chronicle

## Under the influence:



By Matthew Jaster

## OBSERVATIONS OF AN ENTERTAINING WORLD

●Due to the recent garbage strike, Chi-town has been officially dubbed "The Big Apple of the Midwest."

●For the record, I missed three classes on Tuesday because of faulty elevators, not my seven hour drinking binge in Wrigleyville the night before.

●Cross your fingers: Cubbies and Red Sox facing off in the World Series.

●The solar system: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, and California.

●An "edited" version of HBO's smash hit "Sex and the City" will run on basic cable next year. The program is scheduled to run for three and a half minutes.

●The Edge is sick and tired of Bono's endless political quests. He'd like him to get back to writing the same songs over and over again.

●Happiness equals a Saturday afternoon nap after the Friday night bar scene.

●Renée Zellweger is beefing up for the sequel to *Bridget Jones Diary* by paying a nutritionist to help pack on the pounds.

●It's a sad world when you need a nutritionist to help "pack on the pounds." I do a pretty good job myself with Hot Pockets, Columbia vending machines and Big Gulps.

●I'm going to be Keith Richards for Halloween. I started making the costume three years ago in a bar in Amsterdam.

●If your grandma is missing in action this week, it's because Regis Philbin is in town.

●Country music and hip-hop collide with the new Bubba Sparxxx album. What's next, a Garth Brooks tribute by The Neptunes?

●*Kill Bill*: Edgy action thriller by Quentin Tarantino or Hillary Clinton's secret fantasy?

●How many months before Fred Durst appears on VH1's "Where Are They Now?"

## Quick Pics at the Movies

### Kung Fu classic or blades of 'steal'?

Whether you consider Quentin Tarantino's films as cinematic plagiarism or innovative works of pure genius, you can't deny that the man has style. From the soundtrack to the cinematography, *Kill Bill* tosses the best of Tarantino into a blender, creating the most realistic live action homage to Japanimation ever to grace the big screen.

The Bride (Uma Thurman) is left for dead on her wedding day by her former lover and boss Bill (David Carradine). When she wakes up from a coma four years later, she sets off on a brutal mission to kill everyone involved in the wedding day massacre.

If you're looking for more plot than the above paragraph, then you've come to the wrong place. *Kill Bill* is a tribute to the spaghetti westerns and martial arts films that Tarantino has absorbed over the years.

It's not as clever as *Pulp Fiction* or *Reservoir Dogs*, but it doesn't look like that was ever his intention. Tarantino simply wanted to make a "collage" of all his favorite action films. The director has successfully done exactly what he set out to do and entertained the audience along the way.

The two most satisfying moments in the film include an animated sequence and the fight scene at the House of Blue Leaves. Tarantino skips basic scene development by getting the audience right into the action sequences.

Tarantino promises more character development and a few surprises when *Kill Bill: Volume 2* is released in February 2004. He justifies splitting the film in two by suggesting that a three-hour grindhouse movie would seem pretentious. Then again, who wouldn't have enjoyed three hours of good ole fashioned ass-kicking fun? —Matthew Jaster

### A 'mighty' fun mockumentary

The folk music scene was ripe for parody, and who better to pull it off than the boys from Spinal Tap? Older, wiser and more prolific than ever, Christopher Guest brings back cast members from *Waiting for Guffman* and *Best in Show* for his latest ensemble piece, *A Mighty Wind*.

After a major figure in the folk world dies, his son brings the greatest music acts to New York City for a tribute concert.

Eugene Levy and Catherine O'Hara play Mitch and Mickey, a folk duo much like Sonny and Cher, who have not performed together since the demise of their relationship.

Michael McKean, Harry Shearer and Christopher Guest (of *This is Spinal Tap* fame), are now in the successful trio known as The Folksmen. They smile and tell tidbits between songs in an attempt to entertain the restless crowd.

The most peculiar group is the New Main Street Singers, led by John Michael Higgins and Jane Lynch, a family-type act that participates in a strange cult when they're not making music.

Parker Posey and Jennifer Coolidge help supply some of the most entertaining moments in the film. The humor comes from the characters themselves more than the situation they're put in.

The soundtrack might be the greatest achievement of them all. If not for the ridiculous lyrics, the songs might have been successful in folk music circles.

Guest and Levy turned the mockumentary film into an art form. If you enjoyed the satire of *Waiting for Guffman* or *Best in Show*, *A Mighty Wind* will not disappoint.

*A Mighty Wind* has very subtle humor—more giggles than laugh out loud fun. *A Mighty Wind* is available now on DVD. —Matthew Jaster

## Rating System:

☺ = Sic Pic

☹ = Just Worth The Trip

☹ = Icky Flick



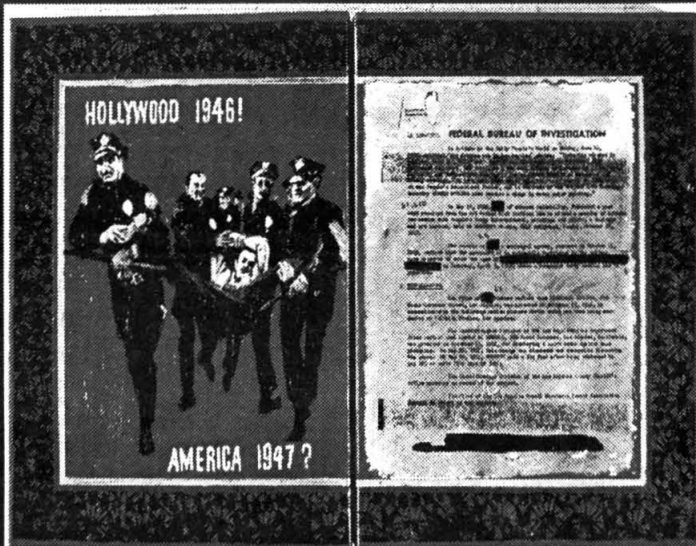
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Arnold Mesches: FBI Files was organized by P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York, an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art. The Exhibition is curated by Daniel Marzona, P.S.1 Associate Curator.

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# Diversity is key for dark duo

**Kat Gresey**  
Assistant A&E Editor

Industrial metal is a term not nearly broad enough to describe the music of Tenebrion.

"We are a genre as ourselves," said vocalist Bridget Kuenstler. "Why would we want a label when we could be more open and free?"

Kuenstler and fellow band member Greg Mizula use a mix of synthetic sounds, drum programming and guitar atop direct and powerful lyrics.

"It's a reflection of our own self, our emotions," Mizula said.

The name signifies the nature of the band itself.

"It has a nice, deep meaning to me," Mizula said. "It really describes us as a whole. We get asked about it a lot."

Having played in several bands prior to Tenebrion, 18-year-old

Mizula believes creating music has always been a means of release. The duo began playing together after Mizula met 16-year-old Kuenstler at an el stop. They now consider their work some of the best ever.

Recently, they put together a rough three-song demo. Two of the songs, "Precious Youth" and "The Original" were written using a certain method-

audiences often become intimidated having seen a rocking female perform on stage. She said sometimes people won't even talk to her.

When they last played at the tiny Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., however, the band couldn't avoid the attention of new fans.

Before rocking their set, Kuenstler demanded that everyone "stand up and give it to the music," at which point the floor filled up, and people started dancing.

"We had a strong connection with the fans," Kuenstler said. "[After the show,] we could not escape the people."

Kuenstler said she loves the attention. She said there are a lot of female artists out there but that she can count on one hand the number of female musicians who have succeeded in the rock world.

"I'm pursuing this as a way of life," she said.

The biggest challenge the band faces right now is finding new members. They lost their previous bassist, and they want to find a bassist and drummer who are determined and committed.

"Instead of a band, we want a family," Kuenstler said.

According to Mizula, the next step is hooking up with other bands for a tour.

"We'll play with anyone really. We're open to all types of music," said Mizula, adding that he wouldn't mind "cross-pollinating some genres."

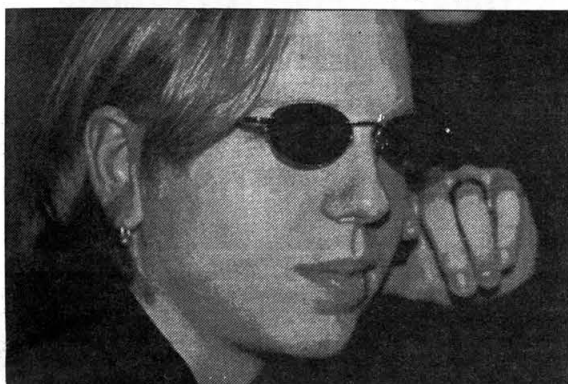
Mizula said next month they could be working on an entirely different sound. The duo is also working on advertising. They currently rely on

Chicago  
Music Scene

ology. "Lies of Truth," a song they consider to be their best, was created on the spur of the moment.

"I just started free styling. Later on, I actually wrote down the lyrics," Kuenstler said. "The best music is created on accident."

After playing live, Kuenstler said



Electronic wizard Greg Mizula.

Photos courtesy of Tenebrion



Lead singer Bridget Kuenstler believes in the power of musical connection.

word of mouth and fliers for publicity. But they don't just talk to people to promote shows, they also poll their audiences on what they did or didn't like about the performance or the demo.

"We're still growing with our music as songwriters," Mizula said. "We're not going to stop."

For more information about Tenebrion, e-mail them at [Tenebrion\\_music@hotmail.com](mailto:Tenebrion_music@hotmail.com).



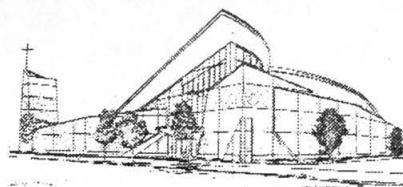
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# Sting: Still buzzing after all these years

o Social causes, corporate shilling saturate Sting concert at Grant Park

By Kristen Menke  
Copy Chief

As part of a massive marketing campaign for Blue Cash from American Express, the aging rock star Sting performed a free concert in Chicago's Grant Park Oct. 7 for more than 40,000 fans.

Dubbed "Sting Live at the Blue Five," the concert raised \$300,000 for the Save the Music program, which will go to 12 Chicago area public schools.

From the outset, the audience was inundated by American Express Blue.

First it was the giant signs along the fence on Columbus Drive, then it was a helicopter pulling a giant "Live at the Blue Five" banner. Continuous commercials played on two giant screens on both sides of the stage.

Before each performance, WXRT's Bobby Skafish did a little song and dance and shameless shilling of American Express Blue that was overdone and old before the first note of the evening was played.

But in the first pleasant surprise of the evening, blues musician Keb' Mo' played a short but sweet six song set. He played blues with a more traditional bent, armed only with his guitar and his resonant voice.

The highlight of his set came with "More Than One Way Home," which had a rich and aching tone that was the perfect compliment to his masterful slide guitar.

Next, the true opening act of

the show, Jonny Lang—a musician who burst onto the scene in his teens playing a blues and rock hybrid—demonstrated both his mastery of the guitar and his lack of lyrical substance.

On board for the evening to hype his upcoming album *Long Time Coming*, the Prince William look-a-like with the Michael Bolton voice would have been better off had he let his guitar do all the talking.

Unfortunately for Lang, interaction with a concert audience is not his strong suit.

For the most part, his set fell victim to apathetic fans more interested in the score of the game in Wrigleyville, than his "talking guitar" (think Eddie Van Halen of Van Halen fame).

The one high note in Lang's set came with his final song of the evening, "Lie to Me," which he played with incredible energy.

His anxiousness to get off the stage and out of Chicago may have helped push him through that last rousing song.

So, after more American Express hawking by Skafish and a brief introduction by actor-turned-director Gary Sinise, Sting finally took the stage.

Walking confidently, dressed in a pinstriped suit, Sting immediately took command of the stage, launching into "Walkin' on the Moon."

Much to the delight of the audience, Sting reached back into his past to play hits like "Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic," "All This Time," "Synchronicity II," "If You Love

Someone Set Them Free" and "Roxanne," a rarity in a Sting performance.

But it was "Message In a Bottle" that had fans singing the chorus loudly, introducing a frenzied energy present throughout the remainder of the show.

The songs from Sting's 10th album, *Sacred Love*, are a bit edgier and did not transition from studio to stage seamlessly.

The vocals were drowned out completely by the overwhelming percussion—not a good beginning for his new material.

The title song off the album came across flat, with a funky beat that just didn't jive with Sting's vocal stylings.

Most of the new songs were overdone and stood out in stark contrast to the simplicity and freshness of some of Sting's oldest material.

The two standouts among the new collection were "Whenever I Say Your Name," a ballad featuring a rare treat for fans—a duet (the album features the vocal rhythm and blues talent of Mary J. Blige), with tight harmonies and a gentle, almost delicate sound; and "Inside" a song chock full of Sting's social conscience.

The song features an angry, mantralike rant. He sings: "Annihilate me / infiltrate me / incinerate me / accelerate me / mutilate me / inundate me / violate me / implicate me / vindicate me / devastate me."

But, it was fan favorites that saved the day. The highlight of the show was "Desert Rose" a

beautiful piece, which lost none of its powerful effect with a stripped-down version, featuring a prerecorded Cheb Mami and a 10 second snippet of Arabic from Sting. The song is still as fresh and dazzling as it was when it was first released.

Sting saved the best for last, singing two encores with gusto and strength. His first encore featured "If I Ever Lose My Faith In You" followed immediately by "Every Breath You Take."

With every pulsing beat of these two songs, fans were singing along and screaming for

more.

For his last encore, Sting played "Fragile," a poignant and powerful song that featured his signature vocal crooning and provided the perfect end to the concert.

Even with the mass media attack of American Express, Sting still "saved the music."

A beautiful night, beautiful music and the best part—the concert ended early enough for fans to catch the end of the Cubs game. What more could you ask for? (Except for maybe a Cubs win.)

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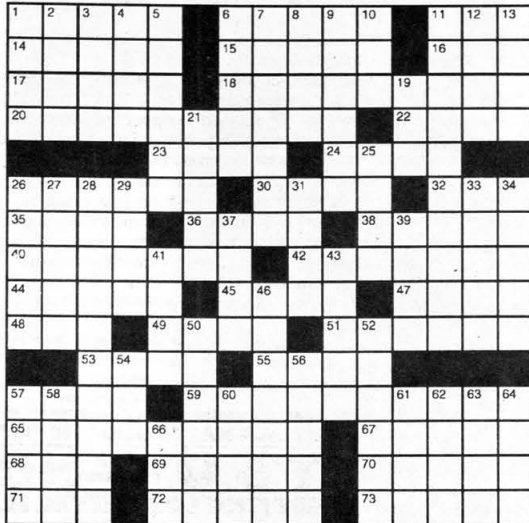
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Surpasses
  - 6 Trunk item
  - 11 Natl. network
  - 14 Consume with relish
  - 15 Bopes in forearms
  - 16 Tilling tool
  - 17 Field of activity
  - 18 Smooth, musically
  - 20 Aristocracy
  - 22 Harbinger
  - 23 Litigated
  - 24 PDQ relative
  - 26 Planner
  - 30 Say it \_\_\_ so!
  - 32 Suitable
  - 35 Clair or Coty
  - 36 Adam's third
  - 38 Palmer of golf
  - 40 Whole number
  - 42 Particle charger
  - 44 Conductor Zubin
  - 45 Party letters
  - 47 Snares
  - 48 Celtic Neptune
  - 49 Misplaced
  - 51 Overnight flight
  - 53 Industrious insects
  - 55 "The Owl and the Pussycat" poet
  - 57 To \_\_\_ his own
  - 59 Spoke
  - 65 Postman's carry
  - 67 Stringed instrument
  - 68 A-Team guy
  - 69 Actor Davis
  - 70 Prepare to advance on a fly ball
  - 71 Simian
  - 72 Flower part
  - 73 Thick slices



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10/13/03

- DOWN**
- 1 Actor Bridges
  - 2 Lawman Wyatt
  - 3 Dance movement
  - 4 Dancer Tommy
  - 5 Meager
  - 6 Bolivian capital
  - 7 Enthusiastic approval
  - 8 Blyth and Miller
  - 9 Cane palm
  - 10 Continental NASA equivalent
  - 11 Arboreal ape
  - 12 Tree trunk
  - 13 Witnessed
  - 19 Fluffy scarf
  - 21 Evil spell
  - 25 Comic Laurel
  - 26 "The Firefly" composer
  - 27 Zellweger of "Jerry Maguire"
  - 28 Kind of coal
  - 29 Track gathering
  - 31 Prison knife
  - 33 Reverence
  - 34 Concise
  - 37 Mistypes
  - 39 Lemon peel
  - 41 "Hair" composer MacDermot
  - 43 Ms. Winfrey
  - 46 Neighbor of Martinique
  - 50 Pass through a membrane

## Solutions



- 52 Puts up
- 54 Org. of Flames and Lightning
- 56 One Barrymore
- 57 Austen novel
- 58 Senior citizens' grp.
- 60 Force out
- 61 Arrangement
- 62 Russian saint
- 63 Goof up
- 64 Dandies
- 66 \_\_\_ the question

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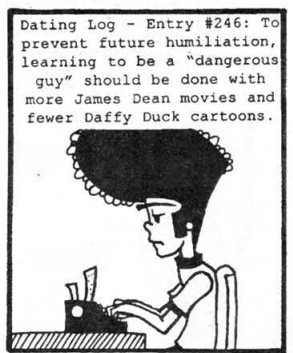
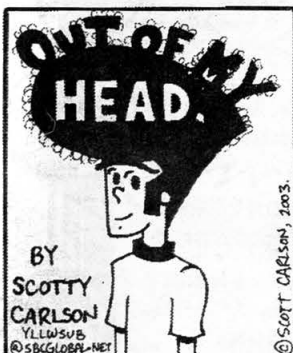
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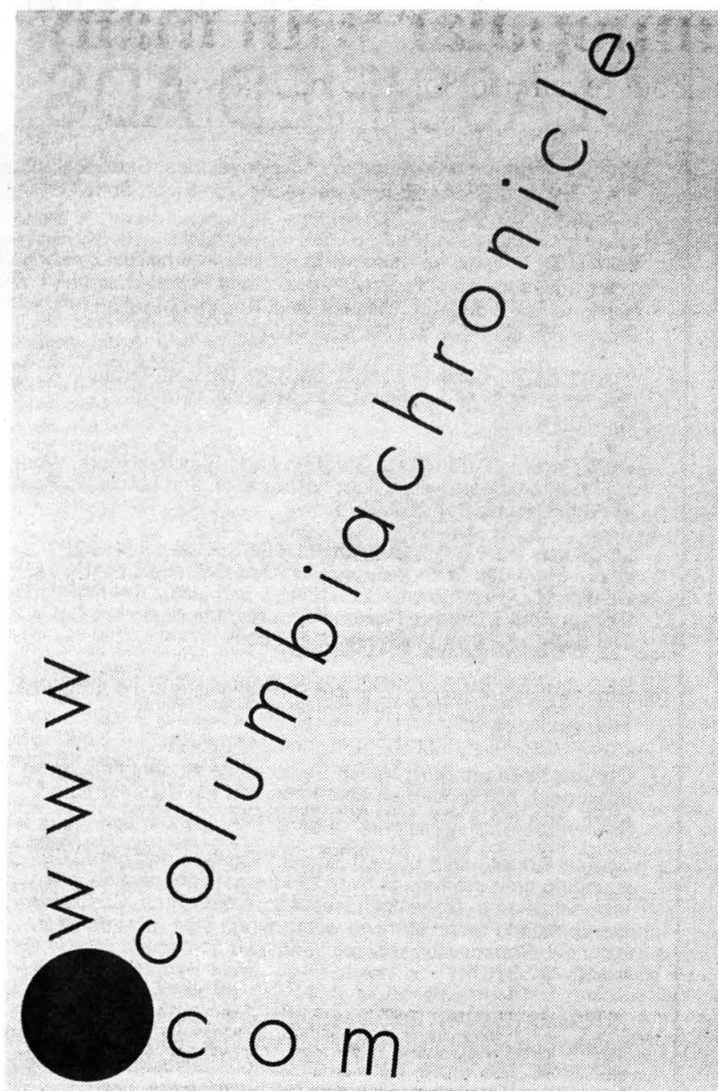
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# New Columbus Drive unpopular with many

○ Bus stop placement among commuter complaints about revamped South Loop roadway

By Jeff Danna  
Staff Writer

As construction nears completion along Columbus Drive near the Museum Campus, Chicago Transit Authority buses have resumed operation along their original routes, after being rerouted for nearly a year.

Commuters say, however, they have mixed feelings about the outcome of the project.

Construction in the Museum Campus began Jan. 19, detouring eight bus routes that normally travel along Columbus Drive—between Balbo Drive and Roosevelt Road—one street east of Michigan Avenue.

The bus routes and stops returned to normal operation on Sept. 28.

Chicago Department of Transportation spokeswoman Maria Castaneda said that the return of these bus routes came with the completion of an overpass between Michigan Avenue and Columbus Drive and an underpass for pedestrians beneath Columbus Drive.

Although Castaneda said she has not received any complaints about construction-related traffic or bus route adjustments, rider responses have been mixed.

Melissah Rowe, 30, who takes a CTA bus daily to her job at The Field Museum, said she never experiences any troubles. The detour, coincidentally, was closer in proximity to her

residence.

However, Chicago resident Anita Anderson, 48, a user of the bus stop located on Columbus Drive near Roosevelt Road, deemed the reopening of Columbus Drive to CTA buses "an inconvenience" and "misguided."

There is only one stop in the four-block stretch between Balbo Drive and Roosevelt Road.

"[The bus stop] is supposed to be at the corner of Roosevelt," Anderson said, referring to the bus stop's almost equidistant location between Balbo Drive and Roosevelt Road. "How was I supposed to know they moved it down here?"

Commuters also said they are less than enthusiastic about the 11th Street projects, which include the paving of a pedestrian and cyclist underpass through the southern end of Grant Park, providing easier access to the Museum Campus, Grant Park and its immediate vicinity.

Rowe said she questions the necessity of the project. Rowe believes that while the new Grant Park path will definitely provide easier access to the Museum Campus, accessing the museums never proved to be a difficulty in the first place.

"I think that all of this area here, the South Loop, is all getting done-up, which is kind of cool," Rowe said, "but it also seems a bit unnecessary when you could just cross the road at the light."



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Commuters became concerned with the revamped Columbus Drive after they couldn't find their old bus stop locations.

Anderson said she is disappointed with the financial aspect of the project.

"There [are] other things the money could be [used for]," Anderson commented, "such as ... paying the teachers, taking care of the people that

are homeless and the families that need help ..."

Castaneda said the combination of the new walkways and landscaping is designed to give the Grant Park area a more "plaza-like" atmosphere that will reflect the expanding South Loop

neighborhoods. She said she also believes that the beautification process will provide a safer feel for residents and tourists.

The renovation process is expected to be complete by the end of 2003.

## Red Line *Continued from Back Page*

hand is washing the other in the political bathtubs of road construction.

"The road builders provide campaign money to politicians because they keep the industry well fed by placing road and rail projects in rural areas," she said.

A revamp or extension of the Red Line has been an issue since 1973, four years after the 95th/Dan Ryan station's completion in 1969, but it has never received the political backing necessary to make it happen.

But this year, DCP, along with other political watchdogs have rallied with a number of South Side and south suburban mayors, senators, aldermen and constituents to support the extension project.

Evans said he has met with aldermen whose wards would be affected by a proposed CTA extension. He has asked them to contact Secretary of Illinois Department of Transportation and CATS Policy Committee

Chairman Timothy Martin.

In a May 2003 letter to Martin from Illinois Senate President Emil Jones, Jones said the extension is a "win-win proposition."

He also wrote that far too often inner city communities have historically been victims of mass transit projects that displace residents or cut through their communities, "leaving them to wither on the vine."

Furthermore, Evans plans on eliciting the help of Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-2nd District) and Bill Lipinski (D-3rd District) to add political assistance.

"We are following the line, putting people in the right places. So far, so good. We haven't hit any major snags yet," he said.

But if the extension is passed up again, Evans said the DCP would resort to more protestlike measures. He also said that with over 600,000 people living on Chicago's South Side, congestion at the stop is the most

pressing obstacle South Side residents have to deal with. Other problems occur when patrons must arrive at the 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line hub hours before their scheduled destinations.

"Imagine 50,000 people meeting at one place, at the same time, all in a hurry, everyday," Evans said.

While many Columbia students are still sound asleep, sophomore Terrance Huff's weekly schedule forces him to wake up at 5 a.m. in order to make his 9 a.m. class.

"I get up too early to go from the South Side to school. It's a three hour commute. I'd rather take Metra but it's too expensive," he said.

Huff is out of the house by 6:20 a.m. in order to catch the 6:30 a.m. No. 352 Chicago Heights Express bus. After an hour of bus stops and morning traffic, Huff's bus arrives at the 95th/Dan Ryan Red Line el stop. From there, it takes an additional 30 minutes for him to arrive at his final destination, the north-bound Harrison stop.

According to Elizabeth Silk, Columbia's director of Institutional Research, 55 percent of the student body commutes to school. Of those, 46 percent take the el, 23 percent rely on Metra trains and 9 percent take buses.

According to the CTA, a large portion of the city south of 95th Street is under-served by CTA rail, making Huff's situation "common place" for many South Side Chicago commuters.

Under a proposal by the CTA, transit officials are asking the Policy Committee to extend the Red Line from 95th Street south to 130th Street and Stony Island. Their proposal provides an additional 6.1 miles to the Red Line, four new el stops and a storage yard, according to CTA media relations spokeswoman, Anne McCarthy.

"We are backing the Red Line extension and we know where we want to put it," she said.

However, McCarthy also said the Chicago Department of Transportation, which is the Red Line extension sponsor, has developed two proposals that have to "go through a lot of hoops" before ultimate funding is considered.

"We prefer neighborhood routing, where the Red Line will run inside the communities instead of along major highways," she said.

The Department of Transportation's other proposal consists of running the Red Line through the Bishop Ford Freeway, similarly to the current Red

Line/Dan Ryan Expressway.

Metzger believes CTA is stuck deciding whether or not they want to put the Red Line extension directly through the community in effort to promote economic opportunities in the area or conveniently run it along the freeway.

"It's a known fact that businesses and developments surround themselves around el stops. That would open up many economic opportunities in communities that really need them," she said.

Additionally, Evans said the extension would create hundreds of construction and permanent job opportunities in the city along with new company locations.

Even if the CTA decided where they wanted the extension, it is still in competition with several other projects. Some competitors include the Route 53 extension—which was first introduced in CATS Metropolitan 2020 plan—and the Circle Line extension of the Orange Line from Midway to Ford City, according to Evans.

"We only have a small window of opportunity and we have to jump on this money now because we are also competing with Joliet, and that place is blowing up," he said. "It's sad though, we are also competing

against bike paths and walkways."

But Allen said if the CTA could just decide where they want to put the tracks for the Red Line extension, the project would be put in the city's priority category.

"If they decided tomorrow they wanted to run the line down Bishop Ford, it would go to the TIP and the city could start working on it," he said. "They are holding themselves up."

But CTA officials keep changing the plan and going back to the drawing board because of money issues, McCarthy said.

"We have to keep reshaping the plan because of funding. Just because we're Chicago, doesn't mean we're going to get top funding from the state and federal government. So no, we don't have a definite date to break ground," she said.

Now that the Policy Committee has approved the 2030 plan, it will be sent to the U.S. Department of Transportation for final approval. Meanwhile, the plan will be edited and looked over by each committee member and then published for public viewing.

Kermit Wies, director of Plan Development for CATS said the approval from the federal government should be back within a month.



Ashleigh Pacetti/Chronicle

The proposed Red Line expansion project includes plans to extend the train route south of 95th Street.

## Anthrax *Continued from Page 31*

of anthrax and fight the resulting infections in humans.

This drug, once developed and tested for side effects, would hopefully gain the approval of the Food and Drug Administration and be made available to the public through marketing or government agencies.

In order to achieve this goal, a team of 10 researchers will attempt to identify the proteins in anthrax that are presently antibiotic targets, then identify proteins that are not already targets for antibiotics and design a treatment that, when administered to an infected person, can specifically attack such proteins.

Those involved with researching anthrax are divided into two separate parts of the overall study—supportive activities, or cores, and concept-based projects that will test therapeutic agents—each of which is broken

down further into five specialized tasks.

Loyola University at Chicago will collaborate with UIC on the anthrax research program with structural analysis of anthrax proteins being conducted at Loyola's lakefront campus.

"Loyola is known for these measurements," said core leader and LUC professor of chemistry Dr. Leslie Fung, "and we've had previous collaborations with UIC."

According to Cook, the research being conducted will hopefully fend off and diminish any terrorist threats directed towards the United States.

"[The research] will give more options to physicians in prescribing antibiotics," Cook said. He said he also hopes that by conducting this research, terrorists' scare tactics that threaten the United States with biological attacks will no longer be effective.



# Millennium Park ready to open to public

o \$270 million project to feature a dozen attractions along city lakefront

By Angela Caputo  
City Beat Editor

One of Chicago's most ambitious park redevelopment projects, Millennium Park, is nearing completion. What was once a blueprint is now becoming reality to pedestrians

who are increasingly interacting with the 25-acre site.

Millennium Park—which stretches between Randolph and Monroe streets, Columbus Drive and Michigan Avenue—is coming together, park advocates say. A fountain, Greek columns (replicating the

original ones stationed in Grant Park near Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street until 1953), and an open public square are now accessible to the public.

"After it's [completely] open, people will say 'I can't believe we didn't have this before,'" said president of the Grant Park Advisory Council, Bob O'Neill.

Although the Music Pavilion and Great Lawn project—the massive structure designed by the internationally renowned Frank O. Gehry on the northeastern stretch of the park—has become a major focal point; 12 individual projects make up the overall development.

O'Neill said the band shell has been a catalyst for other developments but it's all of the projects combined that make the area "a destination spot," which he said is already pulling in people and resources from around the city.

A music and dance theater, an ice-skating rink, gardens, bridges and a bike garage complete with showers and storage lockers are also in the works.

Public funds are footing a majority of the estimated \$400 million bill for the project, according to the Public Building Commission, the public body overseeing the overall project. According to the commission, \$270 million of public money will go toward the project.

Money from a neighboring tax increment financing district, commonly known as TIF, will be used to pay for part of the project. TIF is the result of a ruling by city officials to freeze money generated over the initial property tax rate at designation for 23 years to spur capital development.

The Millennium Park parking garage is also expected to raise revenue, advocates say. And overall, the Public Building Commission esti-

mates that the park will generate up to \$150 million in additional tourist revenues per year.

According to a Public Building Commission statement, neighborhood property tax dollars are not being used for the project; a statement that the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group's TIF Community Task Force, a Chicago-based TIF watchdog, counters as misleading.

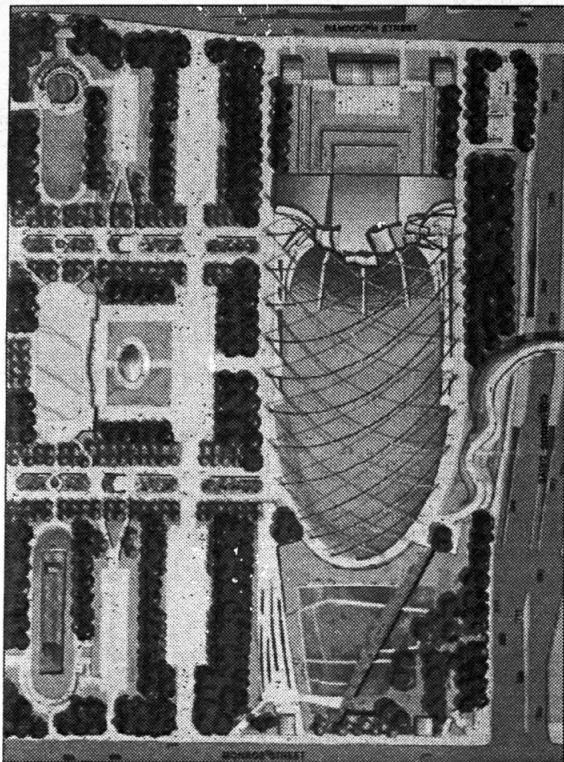
According to a statement on the watchdog's website, it is "concerned that diverting Central Loop TIF funds to Millennium Park seriously reduces the potential amount of surplus money that will be in the fund when it expires in 2007."

Publicly funded programs including education, policing and the park district can suffer under TIFs,

according to the group, especially when the projected surplus is tied up in bond repayment, as will be the case in the Central Loop TIF, according to the watchdog group.

O'Neill said that he is not at all concerned that financing Millennium Park will cut into his park's future funds. In fact, he said, he sees the new development as potentially appealing to funders who may pledge money to spruce up the adjoining Grant Park area.

Private donors have already committed a total of \$130 million to the free attractions at the park, according to the commission. O'Neill said this is a positive philanthropic shift because "before there wasn't private funding for parks, this is really progress."



Courtesy of the City of Chicago

Millennium Park is envisioned to include 12 major attractions, including a new band shell, a dance center and an ice skating rink.

## Outdoor Music Pavilion: Fast Facts

◆ World-renowned architect Frank O. Gehry, the winner of the Pritzker Prize in Architecture and the National Medal of Art, designed the Music Pavilion band shell with a special sound system that will stretch across the audience.

◆ The band shell will be able to accommodate an orchestra of 120 musicians and a chorus of 150 singers on an elevated terrace. Fixed seating will be available for 4,000 people, and the 95,000-square-foot lawn area will serve a combined audience of more than 11,000.

◆ The state-of-the-art trellis network of speakers will be the first of its kind in the world.

◆ The band shell itself will be about 60 feet high and will be decorated with steel ribbons that burst outward like flower petals another 35 to 40 feet.

Source: The Public Building Commission of Chicago

# New Grant Park band shells get double takes

o \$63 million band shell set to open by summer 2004, officials say

By Robert Wildebore  
Contributing Writer

The much-anticipated Music Pavilion and Great Lawn project at Millennium Park is nearing completion and public reaction is mixed on the eye-catching, stainless steel structure that looms over the lakefront.

"It's kind of a monstrosity. I'm interested in it. It's huge! It's taken forever to develop it," said Ross Kwasteniet, a lawyer at Kirkland & Ellis whose office is on the 65th floor of the Aon Center, 200 E. Randolph Drive, overlooks Millennium Park. In a more lawyer-like tone he added, "I'm reserving judgment."

His confused assessment of the \$63 million project at the corner of Randolph Street and Columbus Drive is not uncommon. Most buildings are easily visualized when they are partially constructed. Not so with the Frank O. Gehry designed band shell in Millennium Park. Steel beams are attached in a seemingly arbitrary design leaving viewers confused.

"I noticed it but I had no idea what it was," said James Spielmar, a San Francisco resident visiting Chicago. His wife, Marika, asked, "Is it a work in progress? Is it finished?"

When it is finished in the summer of 2004, it will resemble Gehry's other well-known projects such as the Experience Music Project in Seattle and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain.

The metal skeleton that is still being constructed at Millennium Park will be covered in stainless

steel panels. The panels will undulate out from the stage and resemble huge flower petals.

Eleanor Roemer, General Counsel for the Friends of the Parks, pointed out that the Gehry designed portions of the stage are not buildings, but rather art. The steel furls protruding from the stage are being added to an already designed building.

Roemer has been to the Experience Music Project in Seattle and emphasized how well Gehry is respected by art and architecture critics. Yet, she admitted it remains to be seen how well Gehry's art works in Grant Park. "It's modern," she said.

Gehry also designed a trellis that will span the audience area which consists of 4,000 seats and 95,000 square feet of grass to accommodate an additional 6,000 who want to picnic while they listen.

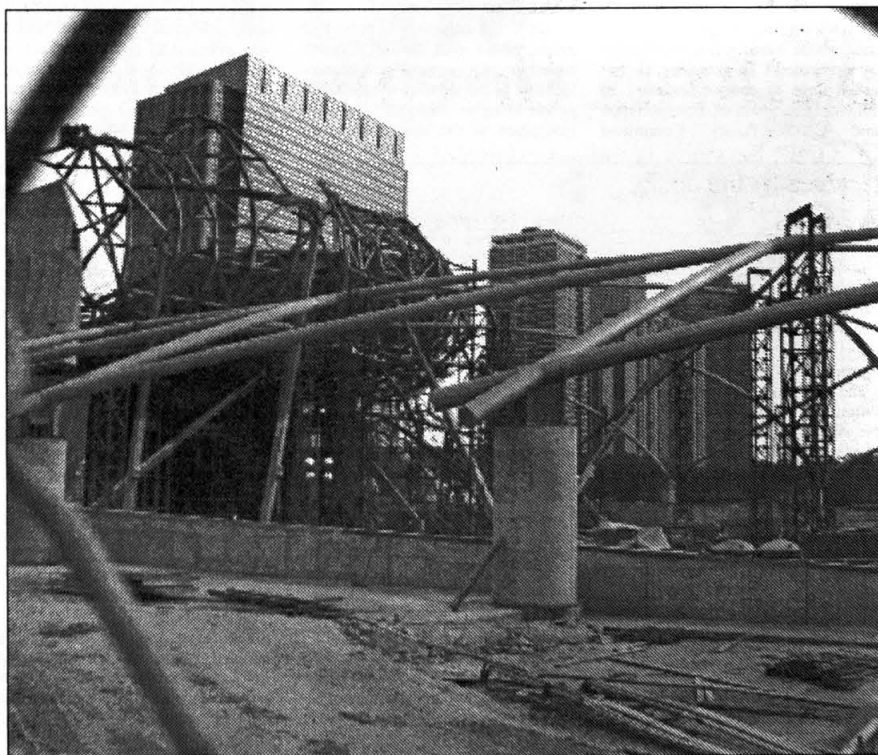
The trellis will house a sound system that will distribute sound more evenly than the system at the Petrillo Music Shell.

Roemer complained that if she sits too far away from a speaker at Petrillo she can't hear the music, and if she sits close to a speaker, the music "blares in her ear."

However, the improvement in sound quality afforded by the trellis threatens the entire experience, according to Doug Hoogstra, a LaGrange, Ill. resident.

"The cool part of Grant Park is that it is a park," Hoogstra said. He likes Petrillo because he can "sit in the shade of the trees and still listen to the music." The new area, from what he can tell, is more developed, and less like a park, he said.

Gehry also designed a stainless



Heather Morrison/Chronicle

The Petrillo Music Shell at the corner of Randolph Street and Columbus Drive, one of the attractions for Millennium Park, is slated for completion next summer.

steel bridge that will snake from the band shell over Columbus Drive to the Daley Bicentennial Plaza. In addition to allowing pedestrians easier access between Michigan

Avenue and the lakefront, it will enhance acoustics at the venue by blocking out road noise from Columbus and Lakeshore drives.

The curving bridge is as daring as

the band shell and will likely elicit some of the same reactions. Whatever reaction people have, it will be strong.



# Coalition blends coffee, community activism

○ Rain Dog Books is among 15 locations selling java beans to help homeless

By **Scott Carlson**  
Staff Writer

In an effort to take some of the sting out of Chicago's frigid economic climate and coming season's relentlessness on the homeless, a local advocacy group has devised a new business plan to help put people to work.

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless—a nonprofit agency based in the South Loop—has been selling gourmet coffee to raise money to build a cafe, where homeless people will be trained and employed as managers.

Coffee sales to support the project, named the Coalition Cafe, have been in full swing for over a year, but last March the coalition chose a unique avenue to further help the people the cafe will eventually benefit.

"At that time, the coalition opted to employ the homeless as part of [the] fund-raising process," said Andrew Haas-Roche, the Coalition Cafe coordinator.

The coalition spent most of last summer selling the coffee at local farmer's markets.

At each of the markets, a coalition volunteer and a "homeless leader" were responsible for selling the organic, fair market rate beans.

The coalition paid each homeless leader a salary of \$10 per hour to sell the coffee. Over the summer, nearly 30 homeless individuals were put to work.

"During the summer, sales went really well," Haas-Roche said. "Being at the farmers market really got our message out and we had a lot of people coming back for more of our coffee."

To supplement the funds for the cafe, the coalition has also offered the coffee over the group's website and recruited Chicago area coffeehouses and bookstores, including cafes at DePaul University and the University of Chicago.

"With the cost of the farmer's

markets, the insurance involved, paying the homeless and other kinds of little fees, it hasn't been a big source of money," Haas-Roche said. "The money really comes from selling it at cafes and selling it over the Internet."

Rain Dog Books and Café, 408 S. Michigan Ave., is among the 15 different locations selling the beans.

For Rick Vokoun, owner of Rain Dog, the decision to carry the coffee was an easy choice to make.

"We handle [the coffee] basically because we thought it would be a good thing to do," Vokoun said.

Rain Dog has been selling the coalition's coffee for six months, and according to Vokoun, the shop has seen an increase in the coffee's popularity since sales began.

"We advertise the coffee and let people know what it is, so people know what they're supporting," Vokoun said. "Then again, some people who come in here just say it's the best coffee they've ever had."

According to Haas-Roche, the coffee's popularity also stems from its socially conscious roots.

The three coffee blends offered by the coalition are purchased from developing countries at fair trade prices, instead of at free trade prices, which the coalition says ensures the farmers have been paid fairly.

The coffees are also completely organic and matured under canopies of the rain forest without the use of chemicals, thus preventing the deforestation of the pristine jungle to grow the product, according to the coalition.

Despite the rise in popularity and public awareness surrounding the advocacy group's efforts, fans of the coffee will have to wait, possibly for another two years, to buy their drinks from the workforce at the cafe.

"For now, the farmer's markets are a way to get the homeless leaders involved right now and pay



Joe Kang/Chronicle

Coffee beans line the counter at Rain Dog Books and Cafe to raise money for the Coalition Cafe, a coffee shop geared to train and employ the homeless.

them, but we still have an awful lot of money to raise," Haas-Roche said. "We need to raise money even to find a location for the cafe."

The coalition is also currently struggling with the logistics of the proposed cafe.

Among the problems posed by the plans is the number of staff members the cafe will be able to employ.

"I think we've all agreed we'd like to train a few number of people in order to train them better so that they can then get a job anywhere, not just with us," Haas-

Roche said. "But [the project] is an employment thing, and if we get good workers, we're going to want to keep those workers."

One of the logistics also of concern has been how much to pay the homeless leaders.

According to Haas-Roche, the focus of the program, as well as the coalition itself, has been creating jobs that will pay people enough to live on.

"I'd like to have the revenue to pay people a living wage," Haas-Roche said. "I think we'll be able to do it. We are a nonprofit agency, so

the bottom line is not as rigid as it is other places."

In the meantime, the coalition will continue to sell the coffee while trying to garner the necessary funds to get their cafe project rolling.

"We've never really had serious funding for the project," Haas-Roche said. "We're currently trying to get a grant for the project."

Those looking for information on the coalition, the Coalition Cafe project or the coffee can visit the coalition's headquarters at 1325 S. Wabash Ave. or the group's website [www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org).

## UIC tackles anthrax threats

○ Grant for study is the largest award ever received by university

By **Jeff Danna**  
Staff Writer

In reaction to ongoing threats of bioterrorist attacks on the United States, researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago have started a major study to investigate bioengineered forms of anthrax.

The \$15.7 million granted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, currently holds the record as the largest grant ever received by a research group in the school's history.

"[The grant award] is simply the amount of money that's needed," said Michael Johnson, professor and director of UIC College of Pharmacy's Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and project leader for the anthrax program. "It had nothing to do with receiving the biggest grant."

Johnson and fellow colleagues compiled and submitted a 500-page application for the grant a year ago. According to Johnson, UIC was selected over a large number of other submissions.

"Currently, we're in the ramp-up phase," said Johnson, who compared this formative phase of the project to building a house: A foundation must be developed that can support the rest of the program. In this case, the building of that foundation involves the estab-

lishing of laboratories to house experiments and hiring additional staff to help carry out the five related research projects.

Johnson said that the reason biologically engineered anthrax poses such a threat is an issue of surprise. Symptoms of exposure to anthrax are initially similar to those of the flu or a common cold. But by the time anthrax is detected, treatment is nearly impossible.

In fact, an anthrax infection is not what leads to death, but rather the toxins produced by the strain of anthrax in the body that are synthesized and hasten the infection process.

At the present time, unadjusted anthrax strains, like those that made headlines in the fall of 2001, are readily susceptible to antibiotics, typically the drug ciprofloxacin.

According to Dr. James Cook, chief of infectious diseases at UIC and anthrax program project leader, results of an anthrax attack in Chicago without proper preparations would be a number of deaths proportionate to the amount of anthrax used.

Ultimately, the goal among the study's researchers is to develop a drug that can target uninhibited toxic proteins produced by bioengineered strains

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### OFF THE BLOTTER

◆ At the White Hen Pantry, 600 S. Dearborn St., a 31-year-old man of the 600 block of South State Street was arrested Sept. 29 on a charge of criminal damage. He was held in police custody connection with the incident.

◆ Following a scuffle on Oct. 3 at 12:45 p.m. on the street in front of the Pacific Garden Mission, 646 S. State St., a mission employee was charged with simple battery. He was not taken into custody.

◆ A tan, 1999 Taurus was stolen off the street at 1400 S. Wabash Ave., Sept. 29 at 10 p.m. No one has been arrested in connection with the theft.

◆ On the CTA platform at the Roosevelt el stop, 50 E. Roosevelt Road, a 32-year-old male was arrested for publicly soliciting narcotics. The offender, who lives on the 600 block of South State Street, was taken into police custody.

◆ Two unidentified men—estimated to be 19 and 20 years old—are wanted in connection with a strong-arm robbery on a Red Line CTA train at the Harrison stop, 608 S. State St. The incident occurred at 1:10 p.m. Police have been unable to identify the suspects.

—Compiled by Angela Caputo

Ashleigh Pacott/Chronicle



## Feeling the Fire



Charles Kushner/Chronicle

Chicago Fire player Damani Ralph practices on the new turf inside Soldier Field.

## Bill to aid undocumented students draws support

◦ Dream Act bolstered by Chicago students

By Eva Green  
Contributing Writer

Chicago students have joined a national effort to push through a piece of U.S. Senate legislation that would open-up financial aid opportunities to undocumented people, increasing their chances of attending college.

To date, 5,000 signatures have been compiled by a group of Chicago youth who support the Dream Act 2003 (Senate bill No. 1545). If the bill is passed, undocumented students currently living in the United States would be temporarily granted legal immigration status.

This would make them eligible to apply for financial aid through the U.S. Department of Education.

Petitioning began earlier in the year as a group of youth from around the city began gathering signatures at various events around the city including carnivals, festivals and the Mexican Independence Day Parade. Local churches and schools, including Columbia, have also pledged support.

Highly Empowered Youth United, known as HEY-U, which led the signature campaign, announced their

accomplishments at an Oct. 2 press conference held at Our Lady of Tepeyac High School in Little Village.

Petitions will be delivered to Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R-Ill.) urging him to join Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) in supporting the Dream Act 2003, according to members of the youth-led group.

Other area politicians have also pledged their support. Alderman Ricardo Muñoz (22nd Ward) and Alderman Manny Flores (1st Ward) demonstrated their commitment by attending the press conference along with more than a hundred Chicago-area students.

"We need to make some noise with these 5,000 signatures!" Muñoz told the crowd, which responded with shrieks and applause that echoed throughout the room.

"Make some noise, tell people that we also have a dream! We have a dream that these kids can go to college," he said.

To qualify for the conditional residency status that would be awarded under the Dream Act, students must have entered the United States before they were 16 years old and at least five years prior to the date of enactment of the bill.

For six years, students would have the same rights as a lawful permanent resident under the legislation. During this time they would be required to study at the college level for at least one year, serve in the U.S. Armed Forces for two years or complete 910 hours of community service. Additionally, the bill states that these requirements would have to be met while maintaining good moral character and avoiding traveling out of the country for long amounts of time.

The act would reverse a 1996 federal law that denies states rights to determine who qualifies for in-state tuition, and in some situations, protect students from deportation.

As part of collaboration with several nonprofit organizations from around the city, HEY-U has teamed up with Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development, Latinos Progresando and West Town Leadership United; collectively known as Chicago Youth Empowerment Strategies.

"When you give students the opportunity to educate themselves, you build a foundation for positive change in their communities," said Luis Gutierrez, executive director of Latinos Progresando.

## Red Line expansion in limbo

◦ Budget, politics prevent extending of busy line farther on city's South Side

By Kwame Abasi Patterson  
Associate Editor

For more than 30 years, an extension of the Chicago Transit Authority's Red Line beyond 95th Street has been put on the backburner of the city's development funding agenda. More than 50,000 South Siders use the Red Line's 95th/Dan Ryan station daily, making it the busiest in the entire system.

Despite the demand, every attempt has been sidelined by political infighting, budgetary cutbacks and changing priorities, critics say.

The plan's latest incarnation came on Oct. 9, when the Policy Committee of the Chicago Area Transportation Study passed the Shared Path 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. The plan provides \$9 billion in funding to area projects such as a possible extension on the Red Line.

The committee consists of 20 representatives of major transportation providers in northeast Illinois. They are responsible for deciding what transportation projects receive state and federal funding in the region.

CATS and the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission study transportation needs and developments that will have a positive, cost-friendly impact on transportation in Cook, Kane, Will, DuPage and McHenry counties over the next 30 years. The committee then bases its decisions on the results of the CATS and the NIPC two-year study.

"If a development is on our list, then it has a very good chance of being built," said John Allen, manager of Public Involvement for CATS. "But if it isn't, then it won't even be considered and it'll have to wait another 10 years to be considered."

However, according to Rev. Michael Evans, associate director of

Developing Communities Project, a nonprofit community development organization that serves the greater Roseland area, the Oct. 9 vote is not something new to the extension proposal.

"It has been on the list for over 30 years, the 2000, 2010, 2020 and now the 2030 plan. Just because it's on the list of things to do, doesn't mean it will get funded," he said.

Every 10-year plan consists of major and minor priority transportation projects. The major projects are put into a Transportation Improvement Program. Therefore, projects will be built within five to seven years instead of 30 years.

The 2030 plan currently has 1,200 TIP projects that total more than \$11 billion in funding. However, there is only \$9 billion to spread among them. As a result of the lack of funds, projects with strong political ties will be chosen over others, Allen said.

"A lot of this stuff has to get political championing—senators and mayors—to get built," Allen said. "Let's say for example, Mayor Daley doesn't want a Red Line extension, then it doesn't happen. But if he does want it, it could happen in the next two years."

Because of a shortage in political backing, other projects have always been considered a higher priority than the extension, according to Janice Metzger, co-director of Chicagoland Transportation and Air Quality Commission.

"The Red Line was on the books way before a number of other projects, but the political powers have other priorities," she said. "New projects are always being put in places nobody lives, with population densities of 2,000 people or less."

Additionally, Metzger believes one

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Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Passengers board the Red Line el train traveling southbound to 95th Street. The project to expand the line farther south is still being evaluated.