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Columbia Chronicle (10/27/2003)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

Halloween in the city ...



Andy J. Scott/Chronicle

Children gather in "Pumpkin Plaza," aka the Daley Center, for the city's month long "Chicagoween" celebration on Oct. 24.

County building's management firm to run superdorm

○ No evidence company to blame for Oct. 17 blaze

By Chris Coates
Editor-in-Chief

One of the developers of the multi-million dollar University Center of Chicago said he is not alarmed that the property's management group also operates the downtown building where six people died in a fire on Oct. 17.

The deadly fire was inside the 35-story Cook County Administration Building, 69 N. Washington St., a property that is managed by U.S. Equities Realty. The same group signed a five-year contract earlier this month to operate the \$150 million University Center of Chicago at the corner of South State Street and East Congress Parkway.

Columbia plans to house 700 of its students in the building.

There is no evidence that the Chicago-based management company is at fault for the fire.

Ken McHugh, the president of the Educational Advancement Fund—the nonprofit group that developed the University Center of Chicago—said there are major differences between the state of the art student dormitory still in construction and the decades-old building that caught on fire. The 200-foot-tall dormitory is fully equipped with heat-activated sprinklers and clearly marked exit signs, McHugh said.

The building's three stairwells will also feature doors that automatically unlock when a fire alarm is tripped, according to Columbia's assistant vice president of marketing and communications, Mark Lloyd.

"As a brand new building, [the University Center of Chicago] has to conform to city codes for high-rise student housing," said Sharon L. Burge,

vice president of marketing for U.S. Equities. "And [the University Center] meets and even exceeds those codes."

Chicago fire code requires buildings more than 80 feet tall and built after 1975 to have a sprinkler system. The Cook County Administration Building was built in 1964. Many of the people who died in the blaze were trapped behind the building's locked stairwell doors.

More than 1,500 students from Columbia, DePaul and Roosevelt universities will live in the 18-story multi-use residence center when it's completed next fall. It will be the largest student dormitory in the country.

U.S. Equities manages more than 11 million square feet in properties around the world and locally, including the Harold Washington Library, the John Hancock Center and portions of Millennium Park. The company also oversaw the development of several city and county properties, including the \$550 million John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital on the near West Side. Stroger is the Cook County Board president.

U.S. Equities also developed the J. Ira and Nikki Harris Family Hostel at 24 E. Congress Parkway, where Columbia rents three floors to house more than 100 of its students.

At least two lawsuits have been filed against U.S. Equities, alleging it and the building's other management company are to blame for the Oct. 17 fire.

The first two lawsuits contend that the building violated a 2002 regulation by the Illinois State Fire Marshall which required all high-rises to have sprinklers.

For more information on Columbia's fire safety, see page 3.

Something 'supernatural' in the air

○ Past comes back to haunt the Windy City where folklore and history meet

By Matt Jaster
A & E Editor

Heard any good ghost stories lately? Halloween brings out the greatest tales of terror that celebrate the supernatural. It's the time of year when urban legends and historic events collide in a quest to understand the unknown.

Whether you believe the stories or not, Chicago is a city full of mystique. From the ghostly figure of John Dillinger in an alley beside the Biograph Theater to the Polish girl hitchhiking along Archer Avenue, the Windy City has a reputation for the inexplicable.

Jim Graczyk is a field investigator for the Ghost Research Society. He's written two books on the subject, including the *Field Guide to Chicago Hauntings* and *Field Guide to Illinois Hauntings*.

In a recent e-mail interview with The Chronicle, Graczyk discussed his first experience with the supernatural. "I believe when I was about eight years old, a few weeks had passed after my grandfather died. I was walking into the kitchen to get something to eat, I glanced into my grandparent's bedroom and I swear I saw my grandfather

sleeping on his bed," Graczyk said. "I immediately called for my mom and grandmother who came running. By the time they got to the kitchen by their bedroom, he had vanished. Even up to a few years ago, I would try my best to not look into their room."

The interest of the unexplained stuck with Graczyk. In addition to the books, he writes two regular columns for *Ghosts of the Prairie Magazine*. He usually helps conduct the Excursions into the Unknown tours here in Chicago.

The site that really gives Graczyk the creeps is Bachelor's Grove Cemetery because "it's off in the woods and secluded." Folklore suggests the run-down cemetery is home to a spectral farmer, a glowing yellow ghost man, and some monks just wandering about the grounds.

A pond at the edge of the cemetery was a popular place for gangsters to dump dead bodies. These days, the cemetery grounds are patrolled by police and are off limits after dark. Bachelor's Grove, however, is not the most popular haunted site in Chicago.

"Probably the most fascinating story in Chicago would have to be Resurrection Mary," Graczyk said. The

story involves a Polish girl who left a dance at the O'Henry Ballroom in the '30s after arguing with her boyfriend. While attempting to hitchhike along Archer Avenue, she was killed by a hit-and-run driver near Resurrection Cemetery.

Since that time, several witnesses have reported seeing a young girl in a white dress hitchhiking along Archer Avenue. Authorities received a phone call in 1977 claiming that a woman in a white dress was locked inside the cemetery gates.

If you don't want to stray too far from the city limits, there are plenty of haunted hot spots here in Chicago. A trip to the Biograph Theater or Chicago's Hull House might be enough to satisfy the "average ghost buster."

In July of 1934, John Dillinger was gunned down by FBI agents in an alley just south of the Biograph Theater on North Lincoln Avenue. According to www.prairieghosts.com, people passing by the theater years later spotted a figure running down the alley, falling down and then vanishing. Reports of unexplainable cool breezes and icy chills kept people from using the alley as a shortcut to Halsted Street.

See *Supernatural*, Page 26

College sings budget blues

With a 2 percent reduction in Columbia's operating budget and a loss of more than \$1 million in state funds, college officials are asking its administration and four schools to reduce expenses for the new fiscal year.

The unforeseen reductions stem from an overestimate of the college's revenue for the 2004 fiscal year.

Such reductions are partly attributed to an overestimate of the fall 2003 student body, which college officials pegged to increase 2 percent from last year. The actual number acquired this fall was a somewhat lower 1.1 percent. While a minute difference, the lower enrollment numbers spell a loss of thousands of dollars in revenue that the college was counting on.

The loss is compounded by the state's refusal of \$1.7 million in funding to private schools. Statewide, Illinois legislators have eliminated \$21 million in state funds meant for private colleges.

Columbia also did not budget for

the new pension plan that was approved last month. The college is experiencing another year of reduced endowments, as well.

The shortfall means the college must look within to trim costs.

The cuts are not being made in capital spending or full-time salaries.

Doreen Bartoni, dean of the School of Media Arts, said she is meeting with department chairs to determine where cuts that are not detrimental to the classroom can be made. Bartoni said she is working with departments to find out where they can combine resources.

Dean Leonard Lehrer of the School of Fine and Performing Arts and Keith Cleveland, acting dean of the college's Graduate School, said that they are talking with departments and there are no concrete plans yet.

Mike DeSalle, vice president of Finance, could not be reached for comment.

—Chris Coates

Inside this week



Campus RECEIVED

Albert "Bill" Williams makes his way into the Hall of Fame

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBRARY



A&E

Lost without a costume? The Chronicle can help

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City Beat

It's a bird, it's a plane ... it's ... another condo

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Calendar: Oct. 27 - 31

MONDAY

The Office of Latino Cultural Affairs is sponsoring a lecture and screening of the film *Y Tu Mama Tambien* at 7 p.m. in the Ferguson Theatre of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. For more information on the free event, call (312) 344-7812.

TUESDAY

"How to Find Money for College," a workshop outlining techniques for using electronic resources to find college scholarships, is at 2 p.m. in the library's third floor conference room in the South Campus Center, 624 S. Michigan Ave. from 2 to 4 p.m. College librarian Shirley Bennett and the library's head of collection management, Kimberly Hale, will instruct. For more information, call (312) 344-7153.

The Student Concert Series, featuring student musicians, is in the Concert Hall of the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave., at 7 p.m. For more information, call (312) 344-6300.

WEDNESDAY

"Rediscover Your Field," a workshop exploring the options and opportunities in the entertainment industry, is at 12:30 p.m. in Room 311 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Freshman Center adviser Bob Blinn will instruct the workshop. For more information, call (312) 344-7929.

Niki Patin, a performer known for her commentaries on body image, race and gender, discusses her work at 12:30 p.m. in Room 415 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. For more information, call (312) 344-8594.

Former Film and Video Department faculty member Jerry Courtland discusses his career as an actor, director, producer and songwriter at 6 p.m. in Room 302 of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. A screening of scary student films follows the free lecture.

THURSDAY

A Student Organization Fair is in the Hokin Annex at 623 S. Wabash Ave. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (312) 344-6791.

A Halloween Party is at 7 p.m. in the Hermann Conaway Center of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. For more information, call (312) 344-7188.

FRIDAY

The Ballet Nacional de Cuba is appearing at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Parkway, on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 2 at 2 p.m. For tickets, call (312) 902-1500 or visit the Auditorium Theatre Box Office and Ticketmaster centers or www.ticketmaster.com. Mention the code TLCC during ticket transaction and receive \$10 off top three price levels.

CORRECTION

In the Oct. 13 article "Red Line expansion in limbo," The Chronicle erroneously identified the breakdown of students commuting to Columbia's campus. According to data provided by the Office of Institutional Research, 78 percent of students commute to campus using some form of public transportation, not 55 percent.

The Chronicle regrets the error.

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



Chris Coates Editor-in-Chief

Paying For Peace

President Lyndon B. Johnson would be called a great president today if it weren't for Vietnam. Embroiled in a civil war a world away, Johnson's achievements—the Civil Rights Act, Medicare, The Great Society—couldn't save him from relentless opposition from the public. It got so bad, Johnson didn't bother to run for office in 1968. Too bad our current commander in chief doesn't pay such close attention to the polls.

Like Vietnam, President George W. Bush's policy experts say Iraq is in a teeter-totter position. If it remains war torn, Saddam Hussein's homeland will become a haven for terrorists—akin to post-Russia Afghanistan. If Iraq becomes a viable democracy, the neo-cons hope at least some of the Middle East will follow, mainly Kuwait, Sudan and Jordan. By rebuilding Iraq, Bush hopes it will trigger a domino effect of Western-style democracies—like a reverse Marshall Plan. It could happen.

"A free Iraq, a peaceful Iraq in the heart of the land of terror will change the world and make America and our friends more secure," Bush said at a Kentucky fund-raiser earlier this month. Oddly enough, Bush is asking for more than \$87 billion to rebuild Iraq, or about twice the gross state product of the entire state of Kentucky's property income.

Overlooking the motivation behind a U.S.-led war with Iraq (no weapons of mass destruction, no ties to Al Qaeda),

no matter what the U.S. does now, it cannot win. If troops pull out and the United States stops sending funds, Iraq is in bad shape. If the United States stays, the costs mount and the public gets upset.

Remember, it's costing about \$12,730 a second for the United States to be in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Plus, this is at a time when 68 percent of Americans are expecting a terrorist attack during the next year, according to an Oct. 10-12 CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll.

For Bush, on the eve of the election season, such lose-lose situations are translating to plummeting public support. A Sept. 19-21 Gallup poll showed Bush's approval at its lowest level ever, with almost half of those polled disapproving of the job he's doing. Since then, the numbers have rebounded, but Bush is still in perilous states of affairs.

And Iraq is at the top of the list for those upset at our president's job, the numbers show. In a Gallup survey released this month, 50 percent of those polled objected to the way Bush was handling the war. The numbers are almost as bad as those critical of Bush's economic management: 55 percent object.

Bush's accounting books show why some Americans are concerned—a \$455 billion deficit for 2003 and \$475 billion for 2004. That's nearly a half-trillion dollars in the red before the \$87 billion slated for rebuilding Iraq.

This comes within five years of the country's largest recorded surplus during the Clinton administration. And where did the surplus go? Even amid a clear economic slowdown, Bush induced massive tax cuts. He gave back \$350 billion in tax cuts, tax credits and state aid. The hope was people would pump that cash back into the foundering economy. They didn't. At the same time, Bush started spending more on the military, an area that Clinton ignored during his eight years in office.

Then there's job losses. Bush is the first president since Herbert Hoover to watch over a jobless economy. More than nine million Americans are out of work, a nine year high.

Now, with the U.S. military in two theaters of war without apparent endings, Bush is asking the American people to foot the increasing post-war bill. But what's aggravating about the scene is that we caused the destruction. Granted, Kabul and Baghdad weren't exactly the French Riviera, but we didn't help things.

Is that why last year's check to Afghanistan for \$10 billion in aid was widely panned as being too low? According to Bush, it's worth it.

"A peaceful Iraq in the heart of the Middle East," he said, "will change the habits of countries that have spawned terrorists."

Too bad the terrorists won't foot the bill—our children will.

Tuning the look and feel of Columbia

An institutional marketing plan unveiled last week shows the college is looking to attract money for scholarships and program activities through long-term fund raising.

The marketing plan calls for the college to strengthen its brand recognition among prospective donors. In an effort to target foundations, corporations and individual donors, the plan "identifies new opportunities for internal marketing and communication to the college's faculty, staff, and students. The campaign will take shape on radio, in print and on the web.

Can you hear me now?

The fourth volume of the Columbia Oral History Project is now complete. The project traces the college's development through the words of faculty and staff.

The fourth installment includes testimony from those who arrived in the '80s and '90s, like current Vice President of Finance Mike DeSalle, Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly, Director of Academic Advising Janet Talbot and instructors Rose Economou, Teresa Prados-Torreira and Joan Erdman. To read transcripts of the project, visit www.colum.edu/oralhistory/.

Fund your film through Columbia

The deadline to apply for funds for an advanced film and video project is Nov. 1.

The Production Fund, sponsored by the Film and Video Department, has awarded over \$100,000 to eligible undergraduate and graduate projects over the past decade.

Awards are for matching grants up to \$3,000, and there is a new Film Festival Print Grant, which can bring another \$3,000 to produce a print suitable for festival competition.

To learn more about the fund, contact the Advanced Production Center at (312) 344-6794.

Ask what your government can do for you

The Student Government Senate meets every Tuesday at 5 p.m. in "The Hub," located in the lower level of the

1104 Center at 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information on the Student Government Association, call (312) 344-6657.

Sketchy II

Running through Nov. 21 in the Hokin Gallery of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., "Sketchy II" presents the hand drawings of Columbia students, staff and faculty. For more information, call (312) 344-7663.

Waiting to elevate

Think there's a problem with the college's elevators? Tired of feeling like a number; just one of the herd that stands shuffling to class one car-load at a time. Wonder what the college is doing to ease the congestion? Next week's Chronicle has all the answers you're looking for.

Weather

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

Monday, Oct. 27	
A couple of showers possible	High 46° Low 32°
Tuesday, Oct. 28	
A chance for showers	High 44° Low 36°
Wednesday, Oct. 29	
Cold with partial sunshine	High 48° Low 36°
Thursday, Oct. 30	
Times of sun and sun	High 51° Low 39°
Friday, Oct. 31	
Times of sun and clouds	High 63° Low 48°
Saturday, Nov. 1	
Intervals of clouds and sunshine	High 64° Low 41°
Sunday, Nov. 2	
Partly sunny and cold	High 47° Low 38°

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2003

Announcements

Less room to play, more money to learn

The college's board of trustees decided last week that there will be changes to Columbia's student center planned for the corner of Ninth Street and South Wabash Avenue.

The proposed \$35 million structure will be scaled back from earlier plans.

College's future off to a rocky start

After 18 months, senior administrative officials have distilled the essence of a 37-page plan into five main objectives for Columbia's future. The goals will be presented to the board of trustees in December and build on initiatives the college already has.

The plan for the college includes making it an innovator in arts and media education practice, maintaining steady annual enrollment growth, building its reputation as a leader and creating a coherent, student-centered campus.

In the Chronicle ... 1986

"A few years ago, the South Loop, writes The Chronicle in the Oct. 27, 1986 edition, "was an area withering in the jaws of urban decay." It was an era before the rehab of Dearborn Station and when River City was still new. Seventeen years ago "what were once rusting railroad yards, and vacant deteriorating printing houses are now renovated homes of today's 'yuppies.'"

Also on the front page under the headline "Area enrollment rising," The Chronicle looks at the college's higher enrollment numbers, which then reached 5,549. Today, the college's numbers have nearly doubled.

October 27, 2003

Faculty member inducted into city's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame

○ Theater critic recognized for service to the city

By Jeff Danna
Staff Writer

Albert "Bill" Williams can trace nearly his entire life back to his father's death.

The Chicago Reader theater critic, Columbia musical theater teacher and sporadic city activist said that the majority of his life's milestones—from his early days as a member of the Chicago Free Theater to his reception of the George Jean Nathan Award for dramatic criticism in 2001—stem from this tragic event.

Coincidentally, most of these are the exact historic events that contributed to his recent induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame on Oct. 21.

"[My family and I] were going to move to Brooklyn," Williams said. "[My father] was looking at another job."

As a result of the tragic loss of Williams' father, the Williamses aborted their scheduled move to New York and relocated from Chicago to nearby Evanston.

"Here I was, a stage-struck kid. If I had gone to New York, it would have been a whole different world," Williams said.

Away from the glitz and glamour of New York's Broadway life, Williams expanded his passion for the theater by participating in Evanston Township High School's drama productions and attending the Harand Camp, a musical theater camp that Williams considered a "formative experience."

"The thing about Harand," Williams said, "was that it was not a training program. It was to have fun."

Eventually, Williams established a love affair with Chicago and its more progressive theater community, becoming a part of the off-Loop production company, the Chicago Free Theater in 1970.

There, under the direction of composer William Russo, Williams wrote and performed in various original multimedia rock operas until 1974. In addition to gaining theater experience, Williams also developed a strong personal camaraderie with Russo that would prove to be a key asset in Williams' future.

It was during this stint with the

Chicago Free Theater that Williams attended Columbia as a music major. Transferring from Indiana University after his freshman year, Williams found Columbia's specialized curriculum and exciting urban environment more suited to his area of interest and future goals than Indiana's "cut and dry" music program and traditional college atmosphere.

"Columbia was a really hip school," Williams said. "It was a very transitional period in culture, too, of course—1970 to 1973. It was when the counterculture was really expanding. So it was an interesting period in the whole country."

Following his graduation from Columbia in 1973, Williams' performance ambitions reached their fruition between 1976 and 1979 when he sang and toured with the rock band Freeze.

"We did okay," Williams said. "We never made it big."

The nonstop performing that came with touring in a band took its toll on Williams. He turned away from performing in front of a live audience after Freeze's demise and began focusing on his intellectual passion for theater, a quality that kick-started his journalism career.

Writing was a skill Williams picked up secondhand, working as a typist for the Village Voice during a brief stay in New York. By reading typed manuscripts of a wide variety of writers, Williams was able to learn the tricks of the trade.

As far as professional journalistic work goes, Williams' first published articles were written on a freelance basis for the underground newspaper the Chicago Seed, Chicago GayLife newspaper (now defunct), and the Illinois Entertainer.

When the editor of GayLife quit in 1981, Williams filled the position, where he remained for five years.

By 1985, Williams began to write regularly for the Chicago Reader and he has remained their chief theater critic ever since.

"He knows all there is to know about theater," said Alison True, editor of the Chicago Reader. "And he's a great mentor for newer writers."

However, this 18-year stint as the Chicago Reader's theater critic was briefly interrupted in 1987 when he



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley congratulates Columbia faculty member Albert "Bill" Williams on his induction into the City of Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame on Oct. 21.

stepped in as the editor of Windy City Times for half a year after the previous editor abruptly quit.

In 2001, Williams became the only Chicagoan ever to win the George Jean Nathan Award for dramatic criticism based on his work for the Chicago Reader.

The theater has not just been the basis for Williams' journalism career; it also serves as the basis for his position as a faculty member at Columbia.

Williams obtained his job in the Theater Department at Columbia in 1985 through Russo, who, in addition to directing the Chicago Free Theater, was also a composer-in-residence at Columbia.

"[Russo] asked me to come teach [at Columbia], because he wanted somebody to teach singing to people who didn't know how to sing," Williams said. "I was brought in to teach singing to actors."

In addition to giving voice lessons, Williams helps with Columbia's gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender initiatives and general student affairs.

Ashley Knight, coordinator of student relations at Columbia who works with Williams, said that he is a "tremendous advocate" in pointing students in the right direction during times of need, whether they be academic or personal.

"He's just a funny, fun, creative teacher," Knight said. "He solves old

problems in new ways."

Part of the enjoyment Williams receives from teaching, he said, is the thrill of seeing a former student become successful. In fact, Williams has reviewed plays for the Chicago Reader that feature former students.

To say that the theater provides the foundation for all areas of Williams' life would be a failure to acknowledge the key role he has played in shaping the city of Chicago that weighed heavily in his induction into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame.

Williams, an open homosexual, has played a pivotal role in shaping

See Bill Williams, Page 7

Columbia: no sprinklers, locked stairwell doors

Many of Columbia's dozen buildings bear a striking resemblance to the downtown building where six people died in an Oct. 17 fire. Nearly all of the stairwell doors in Columbia's buildings lock from the inside and only one building features a universal sprinkler system, according to Mike Debish, acting vice president of Facilities and Operations.

Debish said that the only Columbia structure that has a sprinkler system is the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court. All of Columbia's structures were built before 1975 and are exempt from city fire codes that require sprinkler systems above the first floor.

Many of the doorways leading to stairwells are locked for safety and security reasons. Debish said the locked doors are specialized, fire resistant doors that can withstand two hours of fire. In the event of fire, the locked doors create a safety corridor for people to escape to the ground floor. The locked doors also prevent people from re-entering onto floors that may be burning, Debish said.

In the case of the Cook County Administration Building, 69 W.

Washington St., most of the six people dead were found huddled in the building's stairwells, apparently trapped.

Less than a week after the fire, Columbia's Department of Campus Safety and Security released a memo outlining fire evacuation procedures. Martha Meegan, the college's director of Campus Security, said that the timing of the memo was not related to the Oct. 17 fire.

"Prior to the county building fire, what we decided we were going to do is have emergency fire evacuation drills planned," Meegan said.

According to Meegan, each of Columbia's buildings have fire evacuation drills and each floor has specific marshals.

Meegan said that in her 14 years at Columbia, there has never been a serious fire.

In May, a fire on the fifth floor of the Alexandroff Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave., forced the mandatory evacuation of the 15-story building. In 1999, welders installing a sign on the outside of the building ignited a piece of insulation, causing damage to portions of the building.

—Chris Coates

Library 'books' art for show

○ Faculty, staff and students' art exhibit to last through November

By Adam K. Zakroczymski III
Staff Writer

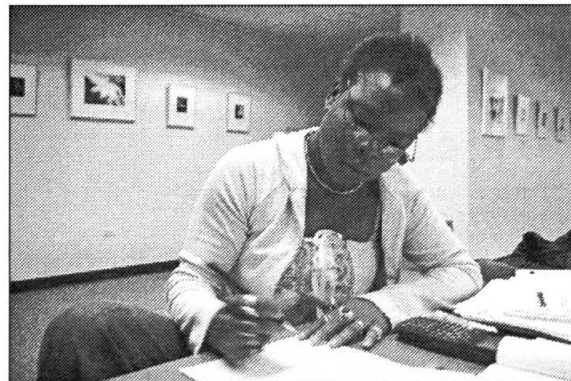
Columbia's library officially unveiled the "Art of the Library" exhibit on Oct. 16. The show features felt portraits, pop-up books in display cases, as well as various paintings and photographs on the walls.

The first "Art of the Library" exhibit premiered last fall, and the response was extremely positive, according to Larry Oberc, reference librarian and curator of the "Art of the Library." Oberc said that Jo Cates, the director of Columbia's library, knew the staff had talent and she wanted to show that.

"She realized that, while she was working here, there was a lot of creativity in the library," Oberc said. "A lot of artists, writers and musicians, so she decided to take advantage of that and show that people working here, for the most part, were not that much different from the departments on campus."

Initially, "Art of the Library" featured only pieces from the library staff. However, now the exhibit has combined art from the library workers with Columbia students, teachers and alumni.

"It's been very popular," Oberc said.



Joseph Kang/Chronicle

The work of Valerie Burke and Angela Chambers line the walls while media management major Lillian Bennet studies Oct. 23.

"In fact, it's grown."

Oberc said that there are about 50 pieces for this semester's exhibit. "This time we ended up even using a second floor," he said.

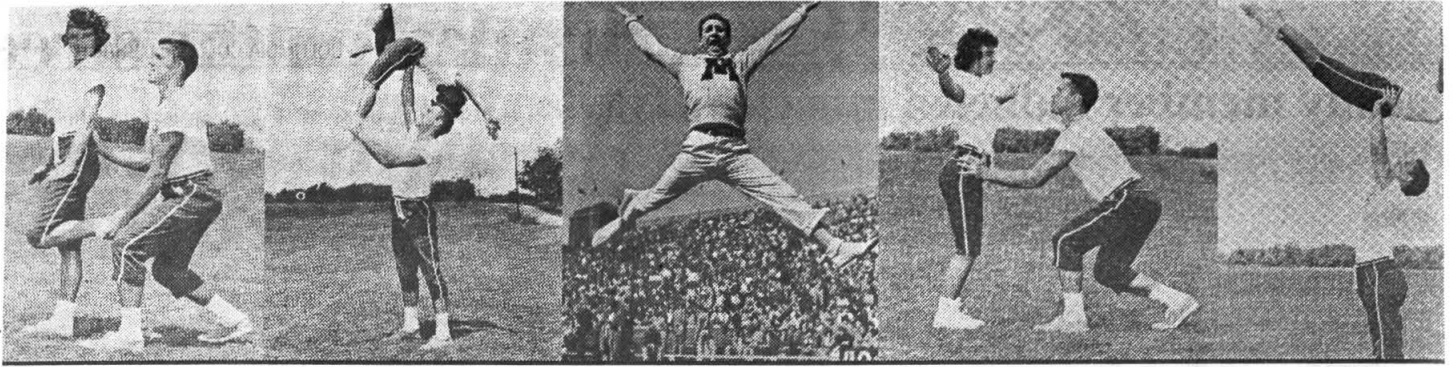
The work itself ranges from pinhole photography by Valerie Burke to 3-D pop-up books by Larry Oberc. There are also photographs by Lauren Swihart, a sophomore at Columbia, that are part of

her "I found God on a Billboard" photography book, as well as paintings by Gene Tanta, a teacher at Columbia.

So why use the library as the outlet for displaying this work?

"We got tired of the same old photographs year after year," said Roland Hansen, the head of access services and

See Library, Page 7



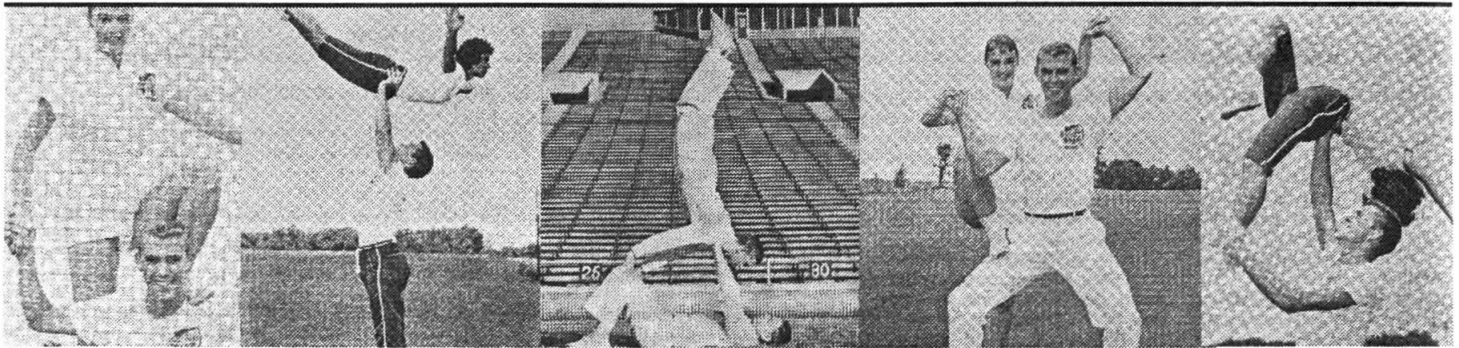
Show-Off

2003 Fall Review

Do you have a portfolio, reel, writing sample or other body of work? Want to show it off to an accomplished professional in your field? If so, contact your career advisor by visiting the Career Center for Arts & Media on-line or in person.

www.colum.edu/careers
623 S. Wabash, Suite 300

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The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago
1014 S. Michigan at 11th St.

Concert Hall Events:

Jazz Gallery

in the lobby every Monday at 12:30 pm

Tues. Oct. 28
Student Concert Series 7:00 PM
Students perform their favorites with a faculty trio

Wed. Oct. 29
Keith Eric & Waterhouse 12:30 PM
One of Chicago's most popular reggae bands

Thurs. Oct. 30
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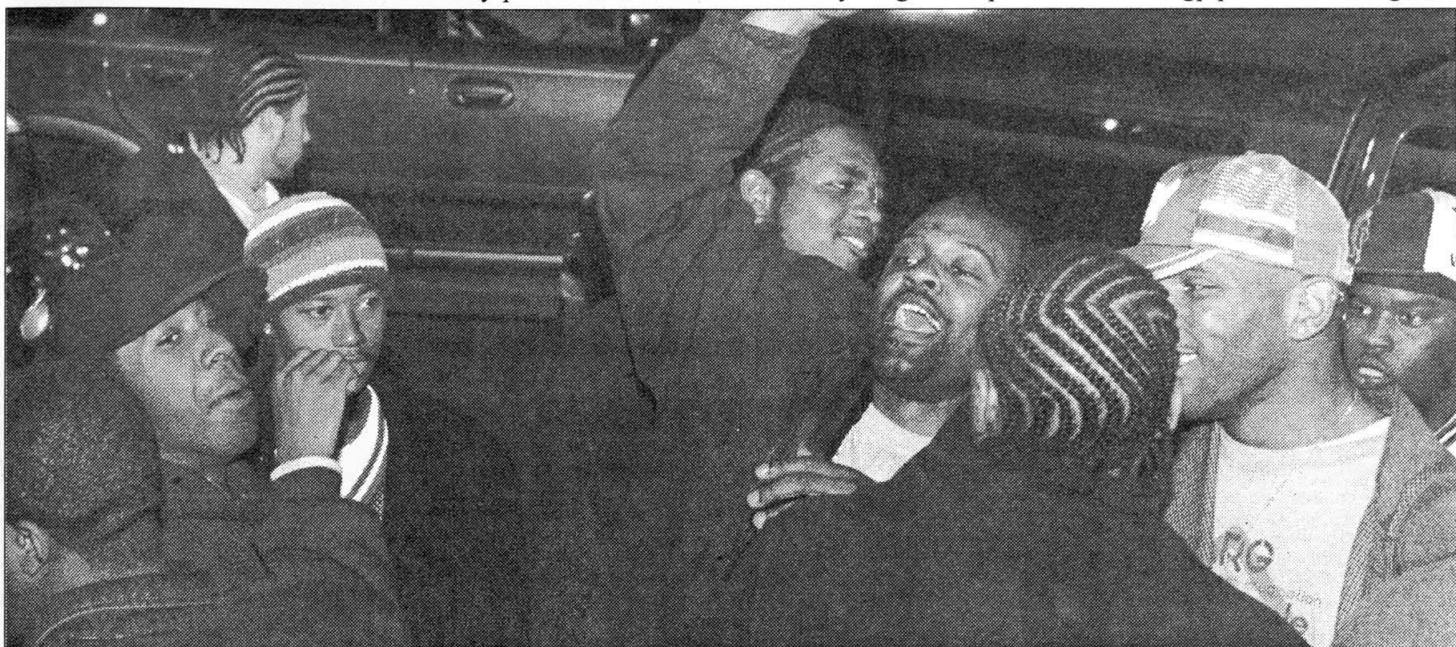
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until 11/1

Big Mouth gets bigger, 'battles' on the street

○ Students showcase their talent at monthly performance event where everything from spoken word to bagpipes take the stage



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

The crowd roars at the end of a 'rap battle' among artists that spilled onto South Wabash Avenue Oct. 23., after Big Mouth, a monthly open-mic night.

By Scott Carlson
Staff Writer

Some of the performers finished flawlessly; some stumbled over their words. Some could be heard perfectly and some were stricken with feedback.

But during the whole of Big Mouth, the stage in the Hokin Annex, of Wabash Campus Building at 623 S. Wabash Ave., became a great equalizer for all performers, where the unintended slip-ups were met with the same applause as the impeccable performances.

Big Mouth is a monthly open-mic night for Columbia students. Since its inception in 1999, the event, has been home to local rappers, hip-hop artists, spoken word artists, bands, emcees, dancers and even bagpipers.

The Oct. 23 Big Mouth featured Axkan, a disc jockey from Mexico who billed himself as a "Nopalbeat DJ Collective." Axkan's appearance was made possible by a collaboration with

Foco Festival, sponsored by Columbia's Office of Latino Affairs, which strives to bring cutting-edge Latino pop culture to the campus.

The backbone of the show, however, was the open-mic portion, which filled the first two and a half hours of the show.

Even as Axkan took the stage and began his performance, a great deal of the audience had already retreated outside to watch some of the evening's amateur rappers and poets compete in freestyle performances.

"When I go out there and read my poetry, I feel boosted," said student Chris Ellis, who performed poetry in the show under the name Cho'ce Wordz.

Ellis' performance was his first Big Mouth appearance. An illustration major, Ellis came to Columbia from Cincinnati because of the opportunity to pursue side interests, such as poetry.

The evening left a good impression on Ellis but left him feeling

something was lacking in the audience, which, according to people associated with the event, was uncharacteristically small.

"I would have liked the audience to have gotten a little more hyped," Ellis said. "I like getting my words out where they might mean something to somebody."

Columbia senior Aaron Robinson, another performer of the evening, also felt he affected the smaller-than-usual Big Mouth crowd.

"[The receptive shows] give you more practice, and they let you get into your act a little more," Robinson said. "It can really affect your performance, especially with the kinds of feedback you get."

Robinson, who has been writing and producing his own rapping for almost 10 years, started performing at Big Mouth last year. He has counted on the normally receptive Big Mouth crowds to polish his act.

"The feedback works tremendously," Robinson said. "Every time I

had new material and I wanted to get feedback, I'd get with the audience after the show, and I've never had that negative of a response yet."

Big Mouth was established in



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Big Wiz rocks the mic.

1999, the brainchild of Tanya Reed, then a Columbia sophomore who worked in the school's Hokin Annex.

Reed, who graduated in 2001, is now an administrative assistant with C-Spaces, Columbia's student centers and galleries, continues to coordinate the event.

According to Reed, the reason the show was created was so people like Robinson who wanted the opportunity to refine an act could have a place to do so comfortably.

"I just noticed there was a niche that needed to be filled," Reed said. "I think the audience is very supportive and conducive to the spectrum of artists [who come] and the levels they perform at."

In the past, Big Mouth has been privy to nationally known acts and speakers, including Stacyann Chin from HBO's Def Poetry series and

internationally known *I Was Born With Two Tongues*.

But despite the fact that the Hokin Annex has a Wall of Fame for the acts the event has drawn, Reed expressed that her main interest in planning the show was always to promote the local unknown artists.

"It's for people who have some experience of performing as well as people who have never done anything before and want to test it out," Reed said.

"It gives students the opportunity to test out their talents in a relatively professional environment, but it's still informal," she said.

The event has become such a campus favorite that a special finale might now be slated for the end of next spring's semester.

Tentatively titled "The Biggest Mouth," Reed said the Student Programming Board, a division of Student Affairs, has expressed interest in a Big Mouth competition for the final event in April. However, final details are unknown with the event so far away.

"We haven't come to a conclusion as to [how it would be judged]," Reed said. "Should a jazz guitarist compete with a ballerina, or should we section it off with a winner in each performance style? We don't know yet."

Next month's Big Mouth, scheduled for Nov. 20, will feature poets Reggie Gibson, Rachel Kann and George McKibbens from the performance poet group The Bullhorn Collective.

Sign of the times: ASL department turns 10

○ State's first degree-granting program grows as it reaches landmark

By Adam K. Zakroczymski III
Staff Writer

The American Sign Language-English Interpretation Department is celebrating its 10-year anniversary.

The program began in 1993 as a part of Columbia's English Department, according to Lynn Pena, chair of the ASL-English Interpretation Department.

The program was started from a 3-year grant given to the ASL by the Illinois Department of Human Services' Office of Rehabilitation Services. Dr. Phil Klukoff, chair of the English Department at the time, wanted to get a program in gear and be one of the first schools in the Chicago area to offer such an option.

Pena said that Klukoff didn't have as much experience with deaf studies but wanted to take a chance anyway. Pena said Klukoff's thought was "Nobody's doing it, so lets do it."

At the time, the college itself was also very supportive of the program and funded a portion of it as well.

The ASL-English Interpretation

Department broke away from the English Department in 1996 and now boasts an enrollment of more than 200 students.

"It was a natural and positive parting of ways," Pena said.

The change took place as Columbia was making general education requirements and going through a transition phase. Still, the college remained extremely supportive of the program. Because of its growth and the fact that ASL studies did not directly tie into the English Department or any other department, it made sense to make the department autonomous.

Columbia's ASL-English Interpretation Department was the first in Illinois to offer a Bachelor of Arts in ASL studies. Students can also minor in the program.

"ASL and deaf culture classes can be taken for humanities credits," said Lisa Butler, director of communication and research for the department.

The idea of a minor was actually brought to Pena by a former student. Lynn King was a film student who wanted to have something unique on

her résumé. Pena told her that if she could get other students interested, they would begin the program. King came back with an overwhelming amount of names and the minor in English Interpretation was created.

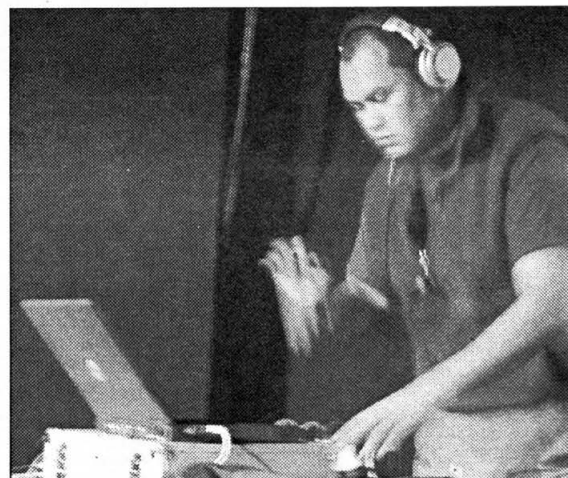
Students who enroll in the program are educated to interpret between sign language and spoken word. The program also has a required course in Multicultural Issues in Interpreting. According to Pena, there are not a lot of other programs that offer such a focus.

During the final year of ASL studies students will spend 90 hours per semester with a professional mentor getting hands-on training with interpreting throughout the area. Many other schools do not have this option available, Butler said. The ASL Department rigorously helps students find a mentor for the two final semesters and sets everything up.

"The [90 hour] practicum sets us above other programs," Pena said.

Another stronghold for the program

See ASL, Page 7



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Axkan, of the Nopalbeat DJ Collective, rounds out Big Mouth with one laptop and no microphone on Oct. 23 in the Hokin Annex.

Thursday, October 30

Student Organization Fair

Come out and get involved
in your student organization

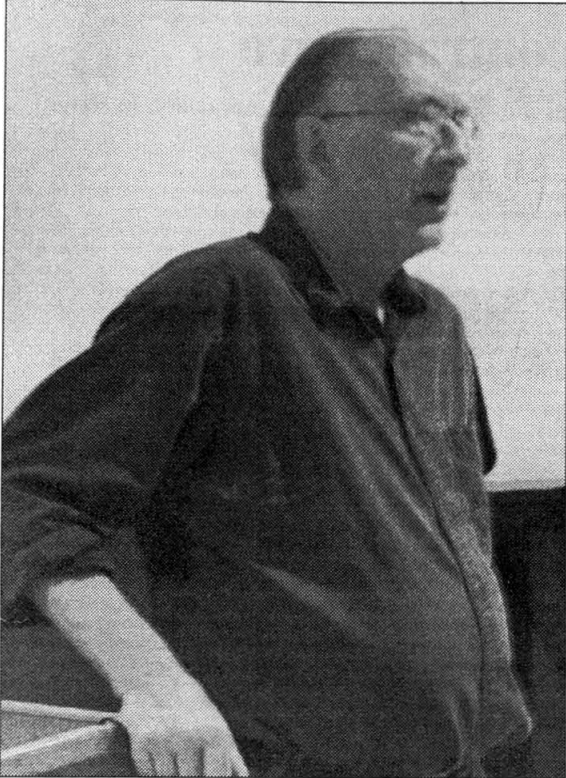
Columbia College

11am-3pm
Hokin Annex

Contact the Student Organization Council at 312.344.6656 and/or
the Office of Student Leadership at 312.244.6792 for more information.

Film alumni snag two awards at documentary festival

Michael Rabiger Center of Documentary hosts first international student documentary competition, Rabiger serves as judge



Virginia A. Coglianese/Chronicle

Michael Rabiger addresses award ceremony attendees at screening on Oct. 23.

By Jeff Danna
Staff Writer

A young dark-skinned boy with short black hair stands in front of a slightly dilapidated house surrounded by dirt fields with sparse trees and shrubs.

He's holding up a gray sweater with the number 12 printed on the front as he gives a half-hearted smile.

The boy is Roy Read, an elderly Aborigine man who, after being raised in orphanages since the age of two, sets out across Australia to reunite and reminisce with his peers from the Kinchela Boys' Home—the only family he's ever known.

There, the boys were, as just described, reduced to numbers rather than names and physically abused by the older residents.

This is a scene from *The Road Home*, a documentary film created by students Rob Nugent and Kelrick Martin from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School that was awarded the prize of Best Film in the First Annual International Student Documentary Competition.

Featuring 35 entries from students from 12 international schools, the competition yielded six awards plus the Best Film honor, with the winning films being screened to the public in Columbia's 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. on Oct. 23.

The awards categories included Best Social Issue Documentary, Best Personal Documentary, Best Biographical Documentary, Best Innovative Documentary, Most Technically Skilled Documentary and Best Documentary Addressing Issues Concerning Peace and Global Understanding.

According to ISDC coordinator and director of Columbia's Michael Rabiger Center for Documentary, Russell Porter, the competition was born out of the idea that great films are made throughout the world and students would have the opportunity, by submitting films, to learn more about other cultures and alternative filmmaking styles.

The ISDC, Porter said, would allow young filmmakers to show their work

and diversify their points of view by "break[ing] down international misunderstandings." This would be accomplished through the subject matter of the students' films, which revolve around world concerns.

Prior to the screening of the films, former chair of Columbia's Film and Video Department and ISDC coordinator, Michael Rabiger, emphasized the notion that the standards for student filmmaking have become more strict with the great number of advancements being made in the film industry.

Despite these advancements and higher standards, Rabiger said that it is still important that students strive to discover a unique and personal approach to filmmaking that goes beyond reproducing established ideas and techniques.

Two of the six ISDC award recipients are Columbia alumni and were students in the Film and Video Department when their documentaries were submitted.

The prize for Best Biographical Documentary was awarded to Sue-Yeon Jung, a South Korean film major who graduated from Columbia last semester, for her film *Waiting for Spring*.

"*Waiting for Spring* is a portrait of the lives of two elderly Korean sisters living on either side of the Pacific Ocean," Jung said. "This documentary is also a letter between the two sisters, who are uncertain of seeing each other again."

The two sisters the film focuses on are Jung's grandmother, who lives in South Korea, and great aunt, who lives in Los Angeles, reminiscing and communicating long distance.

They haven't seen each other in years and were uncertain whether or not they ever would again.

"I was honored to hear that I won an award, because I knew that the quality of the films submitted was very high," Jung said, "and I was very happy to be a part of the first year ISDC."

Joshua Hester, who graduated from the Film and Video Department with an open concentration in July, was awarded the prize of Documentary which Best Addresses Issues Concerning Peace and Global

Understanding for his film *Dear Mr. President*.

Hester's film, a visual letter to President Bush from a "concerned citizen" about war in the Middle East, was inspired by two actual letters Hester had written to the president in February of this year after his brother's military troop was deployed to Kuwait, asking Bush "to think very carefully about the decisions he was making."

"*Dear Mr. President* was included in a Best of Documentary screening at the [Documentary] Center in the spring, and I was encouraged to submit to the ISDC at that event," Hester said.

"In fact, I think I mailed the screener copy to the ISDC on the same trip to the post office in which I mailed a copy of the film to the White House."

Prior to the competition, a fundraiser was held at Chicago's HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Drive, to bring in prize money to be given out to the winning filmmakers. ISDC sponsors Focal Press and Home Vision Entertainment donated film textbooks and DVDs to be auctioned off at the event.

Porter said that for next year's competition, improvements will be made in promotion and regulations.

He hopes that the ISDC will be publicized more widely, a variety of judging categories will be established and the \$20 submission fee for participating filmmakers will be lowered to attract entries from students of less funded organizations.

"We want more submissions from the developing world," said Porter, expecting to gain more entries from locations such as Asia, Africa and Latin America. "We want more diverse nationalities."

While the diversity may not have been as strong as Porter had hoped, he hardly believed the competition was a disappointment. He measured the success of the ISDC from a strong turnout for the screening and positive audience response.

"I was very impressed with the films," said Kelly Taylor-Russell, a friend of Hester's who was in the audience. "It's tapped me into a

ASL *Continued from Page 5*

is the experienced professionals who run the department. They are all professional interpreters and some who teach the courses are deaf as well. Pena believes this shows the overall commitment of the faculty to both the hearing aspect and deaf aspect of the students and program.

According to Butler, people who complete the program have a relatively easy time finding a job and the ASL Department also helps graduates with job placement.

Typically, they are doing freelance interpretation at general events such as meetings, high schools, colleges or large companies. Butler said, "They can have a variety of jobs."

Columbia works with an agency that places people in full-time or freelance positions. According to Pena there is an 85 percent to 90 percent job placement rate for the program.

Pena adds that some graduates like to have a staff position that keeps them at a job from 9 to 5. Places like

Lucent Technologies, as well as hospitals and post offices, employ full-time staff interpreters because they are constantly needed.

Some graduates even work with current hearing-impaired students at Columbia.

There is more on the horizon for the ASL-English Interpretation Department.

Pena said that the department is in the process of putting together a program that works with the deaf and blind culture as well—something that is sorely lacking in the Chicago area.

The department is looking to have the program launched by the summer of 2005.

The ASL-English Interpretation Department will have an open house on Nov. 12 from noon until 6 p.m. at the Hokin Hall in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., with plenty of food and entertainment.

Library *Continued from Page 3*

planning at the library. Hansen said that it took a long time to figure out what went where and to make all the pieces fit in the space allotted to them. In the end, Hansen and the artists are very happy with the way it looks.

Angela Chambers, an alumna of Columbia who studied art, is very excited to have her work shown in a library setting. Her colorful felt banners and portraits stand out on the third floor of the library and are some of the more unique contributions to the program. Oberc said that her work caught him completely off guard and that he was excited to have it included.

Chambers sees her "Disney/portrait" cartoonlike work as great exposure. "I would like to have a gallery, and this setting allows me to see how it would look in an open area," she said.

Not only does she create large banners, which she sells at a starting price of \$400, but she also makes greeting cards and classic portraits. The classic portraits can be seen in the library as well.

Hansen said he would like to see more students displaying their work.

Lauren Swihart's "I found God on a billboard" is an example of a student's representation in the program.

Swihart, who also has some of her work displayed in the Hokin Gallery, said "Last semester I didn't have any of my work up, so it's nice, for no reason at all, just to have my work up."

Oberc said that he believes everybody can be an artist of some sort and such a program is a great way to illustrate that. "I think anybody can be creative," Oberc said. "I think people are [creative] and a lot of times they just don't realize it."

The library will run two shows per semester, Oberc said. The work will remain on display for five to six weeks before being replaced with new material. The next show will begin during the first week of December, and the staff has already begun getting things in place for it. They are really looking for work from a variety of all different mediums.

"You never know what you are going to get," Oberc said.

The contributions to "Art of the Library" can be seen on the first, second and third floors of the library in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., and the current material will be on display through the end of November.

Bill Williams *Continued from Page 3*

Chicago's GLBT society and civil rights legislation, according to Bill Greaves, Mayor Richard M. Daley's liaison to Chicago's GLBT communities.

Taking part early in the gay liberation movement, Williams participated in Chicago's first gay pride parade in 1970, which marked the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York.

After several years of writing activist articles, Williams started organizing meetings in 1986 for the purpose of working toward passing a human rights ordinance that would be inclusive of GLBT citizens.

These small get-togethers would eventually grow into a Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting. While the organization no longer exists, it was the primary group that successfully lobbied for what would become Chicago's Human Rights Ordinance in 1988.

Rick Garcia, founder and political director of Equality Illinois, one of the Midwest's largest GLBT civil rights organizations, and a close personal friend of Williams, recalled the first gathering of the Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting.

He remembers a group of five or six individuals coming together in Williams' living room, all enthusiastic about developing a strategy to help pass a new gay rights ordinance.

"I think [Williams] is brilliant," Garcia said. "He has a very keen political sense; he's very politically savvy. He helped raise issues, and he framed them in ways you could understand."

Williams said his activism was less direct than it was facilitative, but Greaves said that the decision to induct Williams into the Gay and Lesbian Hall

of Fame was also based on several other progressive events he participated in over the years.

These included being the only member of Chicago's GLBT press to cover the 1981 Washington, D.C., conference where the term Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome was coined, the organization of the first Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in Chicago in 1985, and the organization of Arts Against AIDS, Chicago's first AIDS fund-raiser.

According to Greaves, Williams' induction into the Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame was based on his ubiquity in both Chicago's gay and mainstream cultures, and the recognition, he said, is "well deserved and late in coming."

"[Being inducted is] a role model thing," Williams said. "It's not about being the best gay person. If someone says, 'How did you get in the Hall of Fame?' I say, 'Well, it wasn't my batting average.' It's about having served the city."

If 'all the world's a stage,' Williams is an avid player.

A life in art

1970

Williams participates in the first gay pride parade in Chicago. He joins Chicago's Free Theatre under the direction of composer William Russo where he stays until 1974. He enrolls at Columbia as a transfer student, graduating in 1973 with a music degree.

1985

The Chicago Reader hires Williams as a theatre critic; Williams is hired to Columbia's Theater Department.

1986

Williams helps create the Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting, a group of activists that pushed for a GLBT civil rights ordinance, which was eventually passed in Chicago in 1988.

1987

The editor of the Windy City Times resigns, and Williams takes a leave of absence from his job at Columbia to fill the position for half a year. He covers the famous March in Washington for GLBT rights while in this position.

1988

A multidisciplinary program at Columbia is co-created by Williams, which today serves as Columbia's musical theater performance major.

1991

Williams becomes the Chicago Reader's chief theater critic.

2001

The George Jean Nathan Award for Dramatic Criticism is given to Williams for his work as the Chicago Reader's theater critic.

Online sources: option for bargains on books

By Tara Kane
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

(KRT CAMPUS)—Worry not, oh seekers of a higher education. For the web-savvy, the credit-worthy and the just-plain-resourceful among you, there are lower-cost options.

The university bookstore charges just more than \$50 for a used version. But you can do a lot better than that.

The same textbook can be had online through a host of fee-based auction services for around \$40. And there's even a website that helps you identify someone at your school with whom to bargain directly, or perhaps arrange a swap.

William Paterson University student Marianna Proctor and her mother, Beatrice, were surprised to hear of cost-saving ways to buy the armful of books required of freshmen at the school.

They had just paid \$51.75 for a used version of *Understanding Psychology*.

But they had a question. Without the bookstore's handy required-reading list supplied by the professors, how would they have known what books to get?

Ah, the marvels of the digital age. Many college bookstores are linked to www.Efollett.com, where students with course numbers can find the books they need. The site lists the bookstore's prices for new and used books and offers shipping for a fee.

But as the Proctors learned, you can

do better than the bookstore, even for used books.

The same used textbook that Marianna bought costs \$36.95 on www.Amazon.com. Other websites—www.getcheapbooks.com, www.ecampus.com and www.directtextbook.com—also offer used texts for less.

How? Because there is no go-between. The bookstore buys its used texts from students, who will often happily accept any cash offer. That way, the store makes much of its profit off the sale of used books.

The online services make their money by charging a fee, usually between \$2 and \$5 over the sale price.

The downside to purchasing online is that it requires a credit card, and shipping fees can be costly. That's why, last year, college grad Ben Wilson founded www.screwthebookstore.com—a free, online book exchange that matches buyers and sellers from the same school. "It lets students directly negotiate a price and eliminate the bookstore," said Wilson, 24.

Most campus bookstores don't feel the online competition is hurting business. There are still plenty of students, such as WPU junior Lauren Marcianiak, who prefer the old-fashioned way.

"I don't have a credit card," Marcianiak said. "For me, the bookstore is just easier."

New hormone injection treatment acts as male contraceptive

○ Progestin injection reduces the sex drive and sperm production in some men's tests, according to study

By Christian Niedan
The Pitt News (U. Pittsburgh)

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH—Men may soon be an injection away from temporarily not having to worry about impregnating their partners during sex.

A recent study, conducted by the ANZAC Research Institute in Australia, found that an injection of the hormone depot medroxyprogesterone acetate, or DMPA, every three months inhibited male sperm production enough to qualify as reliable contraception.

The study—the results of which were published in the October issue of *The Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*—was conducted over five years and involved 55 couples, who experienced no pregnancies during the up-to-12-month period each man used the injection. Progestin is a synthetic form of the female sex hormone progesterone, which women produce to regulate their menstrual cycle.

While there were no major health side effects, according to study results, the progestin reduced the male sex drive along with sperm production, and testosterone had to be introduced into the body through hormone implants about once every four months to maintain previous libido.

After as much as a year of treatment, study participants stopped taking the injections and recovered previous sperm rates and sex drive.

ANZAC researchers said that, with the right hormonal balance, men taking such injections can achieve temporarily low sperm levels that are usually only possible through a vasectomy (the surgical form of male contraception that blocks sperm from reaching semen).

According to ANZAC, the

regions of Australia and New Zealand where the study was conducted, have the highest rate of vasectomy in the world.

ANZAC researchers say that by having an injection every few months, men can forget about the potential pregnancy hazard of their partners forgetting to take birth control pills. They added that it was up to pharmaceutical companies, who would pick up the results of the study, to decide which commercial form, pill or injection, the contraceptive would take.

A contraceptive injection for women using DMPA, called Depo-Provera and made by Pfizer, is already on the market.

According to www.plannedparenthood.org, the Depo-Provera shot is most commonly given in the arm or buttock and acts as a contraceptive in women by preventing the ovaries from releasing eggs and preventing sperm from joining those eggs.

According to the Emory University Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, a woman taking Depo-Provera every three months for a year has a 3 in 1000, or 0.3 percent, chance of becoming pregnant during unprotected sex.

Dr. Carla Fox, who is a clinical professor at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine and also works in private practice, thinks Depo-Provera could give men some insight into the advantages and disadvantages of such a form of contraception.

"It's convenient in the sense that you can take it every three months and forget about it, but it has been associated with side effects in women using it," Fox said.

According to www.depo-users.com, an information resource website for women using Depo-Provera, known side effects of

Depo-Provera include menstrual changes, weight gain, depression and hormonal fluctuation.

Oral contraceptives, or birth control pills, are still the most popular form of physical contraception for her female patients, according to Fox. She said of all the current options for male contraception—including condoms and vasectomy—there is no convenient male equivalent to "the pill."

Some male University of Pittsburgh students, who were asked if they would use such a contraceptive injection, aren't convinced the new form of birth control will become a more popular option for men than using condoms.

Mike Gillen, a freshman studying physical therapy, is concerned about a reduced libido and the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases.

"I wouldn't use it, because if you can't stay in 'working order' and you're not protected from STDs, it's really not worth using it," Gillen said. "Condoms work better anyway."

Aaron Bumbarger, a junior economics major, said he wouldn't use such an injection because he doesn't like the fact that he has to rely on artificially low sperm levels to ensure against pregnancy.

"Almost no sperm" isn't "no sperm," Bumbarger said. "What happens if you've got a couple of Olympic swimmers coming out of [you]?"

Justin Stone, a junior microbiology student, is wary of possible side effects and said he probably wouldn't use the injection until it had been on the market for a while.

"I'm happy with my libido now," Stone said, "so unless it lets you keep rolling for hours on end, I'm not all for it."

Parasitic STD thrives in women ages 16 to 35

By Sherry Anne Rubiano
Daily Trojan (U. Southern California)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES—

Two new studies report that the sexually transmitted disease trichomoniasis, one of the most common STDs affecting women ages 16 to 35, is more common than chlamydia or gonorrhea in college women and high school students.

Trichomoniasis is a parasitic infection that affects the urinary tract in men and the cervix and vagina in women.

Symptoms are more common in women. Compared to some other STDs, it causes less serious complications.

One study by Dr. Alice Thornton, assistant professor of infectious diseases from the University of Kentucky, finds that nearly 5 percent of sexually active college women, or seven in 145 students, has a trichomoniasis infection.

About 3 percent of this group has chlamydia, and 1.4 percent has gonorrhea.

A separate study by Dr. Charlotte Ann Gaydos from Johns Hopkins University has found that the trichomoniasis infection is the most common STD detected in more than 1,000 students from six high schools.

Nearly 200 students, or 16 percent, have tested positive for the infection.

Typical symptoms for women include a yellowish or greenish vaginal discharge and vaginal itching. The infection mainly affects the vagina and cervix. Other signs include painful sexual intercourse and the urge to urinate.

Pregnant women with trichomoniasis have a higher chance of delivering prematurely.

Common symptoms for men include pain during urination and discharge. Complications include an infected prostate gland.

An estimated five million women are infected with trichomoniasis each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"It is very common," said Dr.

Current Warf, a specialist in adolescent medicine at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. "Some people say it is the most sexually transmitted infection."

The prevalence rate, which shows how many people in a population are infected, is especially high for 16- to 25-year-old women, Warf added.

They are "least likely to be married and more likely to be exploring sexually," Warf said.

Health experts say the infection is not considered as big a threat as some other STDs.

"Chlamydia and gonorrhea can cause more complications," said Dr. Marvin Belzer, associate professor of pediatrics and medicine at the Keck School of Medicine. "It can cause pelvic inflammatory disease. It can cause infertility. People should know about ... trichomoniasis. At some level, they're lucky they didn't get some other disease."

"It serves as a marker for other infections," Warf said. "That is the most important thing about it."

People who are infected are at a higher risk for contracting other STDs.

"People frequently [spread the infection], not because they're bad people or irresponsible—they just don't know," Warf said.

More than 90 percent of infected men and up to 50 percent of infected women do not show symptoms, Warf said.

People with the infection can be treated with a single dose of oral antibiotics, which may cause an upset stomach.

People who take the antibiotic should avoid drinking alcohol, which can lead to nausea and vomiting.

Taking the antibiotics does not ensure that people are immune from contracting the infection again.

Experts advise students with symptoms to get examined at their student health center and to notify their partners if they are infected.

Another prevention technique is for sexually active people to use condoms.

Around the world...



Obed Zilwa/AP

A giant condom inflates over the exhibition stands at Nasrec Exhibition Center, Johannesburg, South Africa, August 2002. HIV/AIDS is a major handicap to development in Africa and one of the many subjects under discussion.

Do powders that pump you up really work?

○ Students believe protein supplements are healthy because they increase strength and muscle mass, nutritionists disagree

By Amanda Muñoz
Tufts Daily (Tufts U.)

(U-WIRE) MEDFORD, Mass.— It sounds like something from a fairy tale: powders that can make you stronger.

Between constant ads in men's magazines and spam e-mails promising bigger bodies, protein supplements seem like the easy way to grow from a scrawny freshman lightweight to a bulked up senior within four years. Sure, these supplements are popular, but how effective are they?

Tufts University junior Luke Snyder attributes his gain in muscle and increase in strength to the addition of protein supplements to his exercise routine.

"It definitely helped me gain muscle mass," he said.

Snyder explained that a change in lifestyle provoked him to look into the dietary supplements.

"I was pretty fat for awhile, and I decided to lose weight and get in shape," Snyder said. "I didn't know much about protein. I was eating a normal diet [and working out]... eventually I lost 70 lbs., but I lost a lot of muscle tissue—at that point I wanted to gain back muscle. So I looked on the Internet and found out [about] protein supplements."

Snyder uses two kinds of supplements: whey protein, a fast absorbing type that he takes right before and after working out, and calcium caseinate, made from milk, which takes longer to digest.

Snyder is just one of many male students at Tufts who take protein supplements that they found on the Internet. Finding them is easy:

according to the Whey Protein Institute, there are at least 73 different manufacturer websites for whey protein alone.

Snyder purchases his supplements for \$5 to \$6 a pound, but they can cost almost \$23 for a 2.1 lbs. canister, according to www.netrition.com, where Snyder purchases his powders. The powders last a while and are easy to use, said Snyder, who adds his chocolate or vanilla flavored protein powders to milk or water.

"It actually tastes good," he said.

Freshman Peter Orth added protein supplements in the form of powders or energy bars to his regimen before and during wrestling season in high school.

"I started off like maxing at 160 [lbs.] bench pressing, [then I was able to do] 200 and gained five pounds of muscle," Orth said. "It definitely worked. I got a lot stronger on it."

As a member of the Tufts cross-country team, Orth no longer takes protein because he does not want to gain more weight and does not lift enough to necessitate taking extra protein. He does, however, see the value of protein supplements.

"If you really want to get bigger, lift hard, [then] do more heavier weight, more repetitions, and [take] a lot of protein. The protein is really necessary if you want to gain muscles," Orth said.

Both Snyder and Orth said they do not see any major risks in taking the supplements.

"If you aren't dehydrated, it shouldn't be a problem," Snyder said. "As long as you are relatively careful and don't hurt yourself with

weights, I don't think [protein supplements] are a problem on their own."

The university's health services nutritionist Patti Engel, MRSD, strongly disagrees. Engel said that protein should be made a part of each meal or snack, not taken as a powder, which may not provide the same nutritional value as eating a variety of foods would.

"Putting whey powder in a shake, it's just whey protein; it's not the same thing as having a piece of meat," Engel said. "There's no iron [for example], unless the powder is supplemented with other minerals."

According to Engel, the heavy marketing of protein supplements is responsible for their popularity. That popularity, however, does not mean that protein supplements are essential to a good diet or exercise routine.

In fact, Engel said that protein supplements can cause undesired weight gain. A healthy diet is comprised of a certain percentage of protein, carbohydrates and fats. Protein should never make up more than 20 percent to 25 percent of a diet, Engel said. Unless a person lifts more to make up for it, increasing any one of those percentages will cause extra weight gain that will be stored as fat, she explained.

Protein has four calories per gram, which is the same amount as carbohydrates except that the sources are different; carbohydrates are broken into glucose, proteins into amino acid.

Student success from taking supplements is really due to a more rigorous fitness regimen, said Engel. She warns students not to equate

taking powder to bulking up.

"What's helping them getting more muscular is the work they're doing, lifting weights," she said.

Engel does admit that protein powders are highly convenient, which for many students is part of their appeal. Snyder takes slower absorbing protein powder when he can't find a meat he likes at the dining hall. For him, the powder is a cheap and easy alternative to other protein sources.

As far as health risks, taking protein supplements has not been proven to be dangerous. According to Engel, it is hard to say what the negative effects to protein supplements are, but "you can reach a level where it is too high when kidneys aren't able to get rid of the byproducts of protein metabolism as well," she said, adding that it is very individualized, so it is difficult to discern what a dangerous level of protein would be.

Director of the Center on Nutrition Communication Jeanne Goldberg, Ph.D., said that although the issue has been studied at length, it is still undetermined whether an excess of protein will wear out the kidney.

"The evidence has been inconsistent," she said. "I think the real issue here is that they really don't need them, the only benefit is psychological."

According to Goldberg, research from the Longitudinal Health Study and diaries from undergraduate students in nutrition classes indicate that protein intake for college males is very high. Goldberg said that in a typical college diet, male students receive enough protein: "As a gen-

eralization, they do not need protein supplements."

More serious health risks have been reported in the usage of the muscle enhancer Creatine, a synthetic protein, and the diet pill Xenadrine (containing caffeine and ephedra). Studies have shown that ephedra may have damaging side effects that include insomnia, high blood pressure and heart attacks. Neither Snyder nor Orth have used those enhancers because of those health concerns.

Engel suggests examining one's diet before taking any kind of dietary supplement.

"My recommendations would be ... look to see if there's balance in your diet, what your carbohydrate sources are, your fat sources, your protein sources. If you're maintaining your needs and maintaining your weight ... then it might not be necessary to take protein powders," she said. "You might be getting everything you need."

Other students remain skeptical about adding protein supplements to their diets. As an athlete, junior cross-country runner Mike Don doesn't believe in taking supplements.

"I don't take anything, ingest anything, that enhances performance, by rule of thumb," Don said.

Don echoed Engel in explaining his reasoning: "One, you can gain enough muscle and have enough energy in a well-balanced diet; it's the most natural way to be healthy. And two, I don't really trust them... I don't feel like I can use them to replace natural food," he said. "I just stay away from that stuff."

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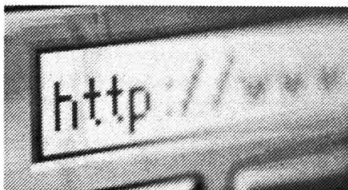
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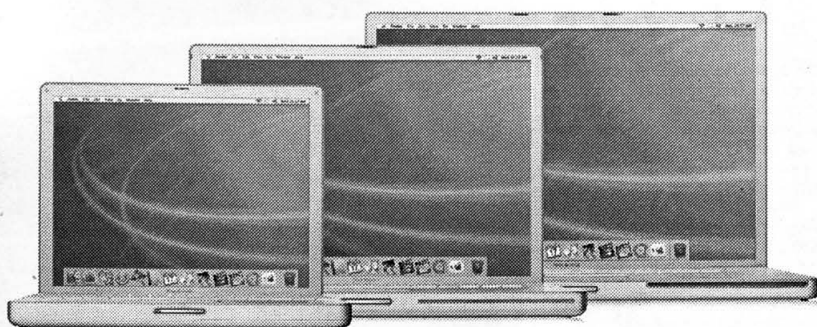
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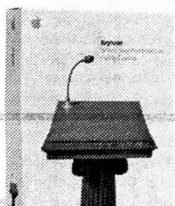
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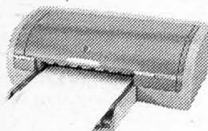
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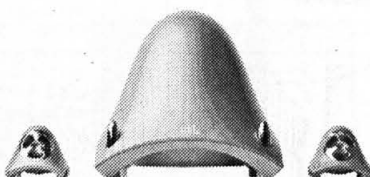
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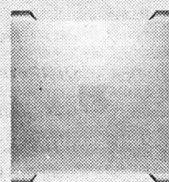
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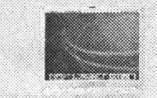


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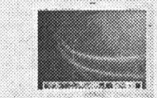
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Columbia Chronicle Editorials

Tragedy a result of negligence

All too often it takes calamity for us to realize what it is we're doing wrong. Humans are not proactive by nature; we root about for pieces of comfort, slide into routine and blanket ourselves with complacency to fight off the big, bad what-ifs? that swirl and pounce unexpectedly. But we don't challenge, don't always strive to fix things before they happen. And sometimes, it costs lives.

In the wake of the Oct. 17 fire that needlessly cost six people their lives, questions are swirling about like thick, black smoke, most conspicuously the query as to why half-a-dozen people were trapped in a high-rise stairwell, their bodies consumed by thick smoke.

An investigation has been called. People wanting answers to what should be an easy question: Why weren't these people told that the fire doors locked from the inside?

As far as avoidance and safety goes, this should be a no-brainer. The past three generations have grown to maturity with an extensive knowledge of fire prevention. Since kindergarten we learned how to "stop, drop and roll," stay low to the ground to avoid smoke and test doors to see if they're hot. So why is it that after a lifetime of education, six lives were undone by an act of utter criminal negligence?

Spokesmen for the building have said that "doors were locked as a security measure." As long as the door leading to the outside is the only one that remains fastened, the premises are still secure. Even a six-year-old can figure this out.

Here at Columbia, we take our stairwell freedom with a grain of salt. Aside from smokers, most people avoid them, but at least they know that they are readily accessible and safe should

the need arise. We are not suggesting that every building institute a smoking in the stairwell policy, but employees should be unmistakably informed as to what security measures are as well as procedures for evacuation should an emergency occur.

For the families of the victims of this tragedy, we are truly sorry. No one should have to lose a cherished member of their family before their time, and certainly not due to ignorance and sloth on the behalf of someone they have entrusted their safety to.

This is not over. There is still much to be done, much to weigh and change. But with any luck, this will create an awareness of policy, vigilance on the part of people to not take assumptions for granted. And, to the parties responsible, you'd best be shaking in your shoes, because you haven't heard the last of this.

Box cutters expose holes in security

The president of United States receives thousands of death threats every day. Nearly all are dealt with swiftly. Courts issue warrants. Police make arrests. For the president, one threat is too many. For the rest of us, one threat isn't enough.

More than a month ago, 20-year-old Nathaniel Heatwole sent a cryptic e-mail to the Transportation Security Administration telling them that he had placed bleach, matches, modeling clay and box cutters aboard two Southwest Airlines jets.

The big deal?

The sundry items were specifically banned in light of the 9/11 hijackings, along with gas powered chainsaws and knitting needles. Also included in the packages was a note that, according to a statement from Southwest, "indicated the items were intended to challenge the TSA checkpoint security procedures."

Nonetheless, the suspicious, attributed objects miraculously made it not only through the TSA's bolstered security checks, but also aboard two jets carrying hundreds of passengers. Worse yet, the possibly lethal items went undetected on the planes for more than a month.

Heatwole's e-mailed message—in which he outlined his every methodical step—was ignored by the alleged-

ly hypersensitive TSA, a group that is currently in the midst of screening every grandmother's tennis shoes for traces of TNT.

Instead, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said the TSA, which he oversees, determined that the Heatwole's e-mail "wasn't an imminent threat."

It wasn't until the items were discovered that the TSA searched for, and eventually forwarded, Heatwole's message to the FBI.

Quickly, Southwest's entire fleet was grounded, and the TSA was forced to come clean.

"Despite significant seizures of prohibited items from going through TSA checkpoints," said TSA administrator James Loy, "[these] events highlight possible weaknesses in the system that need to be addressed."

To say the least.

It was all thanks to a college junior hell-bent on shining light on the country's subpar aviation security. He showed that the nation's post-9/11 security matrix still has major gaps.

Such remaining gaps are surprising partly because Heatwole's scenario wasn't all that outrageous: It was something that's happened to us before. Box cutters should be on the top of the list for weary-eyed baggage scanners, seeing as they were the

weapons of choice in the largest terrorist attack in U.S. history.

In fact, compared to the TSA's internal investigators, Heatwole's scam is child's play. Investigators from the TSA's Inspector General's Office actually snuck knives, a gun and a bomb past security guards at Logan International Airport in Boston. But it wasn't the first time for security workers at Logan: They missed box cutters two autumns ago, too. The two planes that slammed into the World Trade Center originated from Logan.

The fact is, the problems from two years ago still exist.

Instead of worrying about scuba divers planting bombs on the underbellies of cruise ships or terrorists destroying the transatlantic oil pipeline, the federal government must insure our nation's airplanes—the very vessels that were turned into missiles not so long ago—aren't exposed to terrorists or the liked of crafty college kids.

We know terrorists are just as crafty, and we know they're desperately searching for our weaknesses. And while no security system is wholly impenetrable, the federal government must seal the gaps in the one area we saw firsthand has gone untouched—airline safety.

Exposure



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Off the beaten path

Views from campuses across the country

One nation under who?

Staff Editorial

Indiana Daily Student (Indiana U.)

(U-WIRE) BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to hear the controversial case regarding the inclusion of the phrase "one nation under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The words "under God" should be removed from the pledge on two grounds: 1) these words were avoided in the original version, and 2) Congress chose to add the words in 1954, without giving any substantive reason.

The Pledge of Allegiance, which was written in August of 1892 by Francis Bellamy, actually replaced the Balch Pledge, which was then the prevailing flag salute. Dr. John W. Baer, author of *The Pledge of Allegiance, A Centennial History, 1892-1992*, presents a fine historical timeline for the pledge on a website (www.pledgeqanda.com) that he created in response to the recent controversy.

According to Baer, Bellamy explicitly avoided using the word "God" in his pledge because he was aware of the wording of George Balch's pledge, "We give our heads and our hearts to God and our country." Being a Baptist and a Freemason, Bellamy valued the separation of church and state in American society, a belief accentuated by the exclusion of "God" in the pledge.

What's more, in 1954, a year of immense pressure from groups like the Knights of Columbus and the American Legion to add "under God" to the pledge, David Bellamy, Francis' son, sent a letter to Congress stating that the addendum would be against his father's wishes.

A recent article in the Taipei

Times stated, "The words were inserted into the pledge in 1954 as the U.S. was locked in the Cold War with the Soviet Union and the phrase 'Godless communism' was a staple of American political life." This puerile flex of the American political muscle may have been popular in 1954, but today, it is as weak as ever. Given the fact that every American is not theistic, it's about time that political leaders reverse the unflinching decision to include the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

So this isn't about political correctness. This isn't about trying not to step on too many people's toes. This is about the purity of the original text.

While all the pundits wax on about the pledge's historical significance—and furthermore, God's historical significance in the founding of this nation—they are pushing their own double standard when one understands the true history behind the pledge.

The McCarthy era isn't a history we particularly remember with reverence.

"Under God" is an issue that one can't deny frames this country's beginnings, but then again, there were many "shared beliefs" about ethnicity and gender that in modern times we have come to understand as needing some qualifications.

If we want to fight for "framers' intent," go right ahead, but it clearly wasn't the author's intent of the pledge to have it promote a certain belief agenda that perhaps not all Americans share.

So if you want to say the pledge, say it however you desire, but not with government sanction.

**IRONY
IS NOT
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**BY RYAN
DUGGAN**



"WHICH ONE SHOULD WE SMASH NEXT?"

Ryan Duggan/Chronicle

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Vatican Über Allies

Adam J. Ferington
Commentary Editor

On the eve of his 25th anniversary as pontiff of the new Holy Roman Empire, Pope John Paul II had offered an edict to people in countries ravaged by AIDS to avoid using condoms because "they have tiny holes in them through which HIV can pass—potentially exposing thousands of people to risk." The edict prompted incredulous outrage from the World Health Organization and questions from the rest of the world on the pope's tenuous grip on sanity, as well as the Catholic Church's relevance to a world painted not in bold strokes of black and white, but in subtle washes of gray.

To some this may seem trivial. To the faithful—many of whom filled St. Peter's square with a cacophonous babel of English, German, Polish and Cantonese (including Bernard Law, disgraced archbishop of Boston and filthy swine)—the Vatican's view of birth control has always been *verbotten*, an affront to the mechanical act of procreation that stocks their barracks with more acquiescent "Christian soldiers."

This latest statement calls into query the long uncoiling thread of the church's supposed moral authority, adhered to and unquestioned by some one billion people worldwide.

Following the horrific revelations of last year's pedophilia scandal, the latest offering of the church's arrogance has the potential to be far more damaging in the long run, in addition to answering the unsettling question as to whether priests use protection whilst buggering altar boys.

Developed nations have long had the advantage of a secular divide between health and civil liberties, and the overreaching malevolent authority of the Catholic Church's descending 15th-century policies. However, the Vatican's latest statement has far reaching consequences for people in Asia, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, where health care and reproductive information has been withheld and slandered by the church, particularly in areas where the number of people infected with HIV or AIDS is as high as 40 percent.

"AIDS ... has grown so fast because of the availability of condoms," said Raphael Ndingi Nzeki, archbishop of Nairobi.

In some places, such as the town of Lwak, near Lake Victoria, AIDS testing centers are forbidden from



Ryan Duggan/Chronicle

distributing prophylactics because of church opposition.

"Some priests have even been saying that condoms are laced with HIV/AIDS," said Gordon Wambi, director of the AIDS testing center.

Despite a strong consensus among the scientific community that condoms, when used effectively, may "reduce the risk of HIV infection by 90 percent, the Vatican refuses to alter its position.

"They are wrong about that ... this is an easily recognizable fact," stated the Vatican's Cardinal Trujillo.

The United Nation's World Health Organization has strongly condemned the church's views, stating that "These incorrect statements about condoms and HIV are dangerous when we are facing a global pandemic, which has already killed more than 20 million people, and currently affects at least 42 million."

No one views the Catholic Church and its missionaries as an occupational force, but their ideology and methods border on terrorist actions by preying on the unwilling ignorance of the people they claim to be helping "in the name of Christ." This country has had its fair share of Jesus freaks and nut jobs, both in and out of office, and it's always been an ongoing battle to keep them on the fringes of politics and society where they belong. The people on the receiving

end of the church's propaganda find themselves left with no alternative but to swallow the dogma shoved at them.

There is a cold gleam to truth that the Catholic Church has always strayed from; pragmatism and practicality grounded in reality have always been a threat to the romanticism warmed over by fires fed by heretics and roads paved with the bones of martyrs. Even 2,000 years since its unsightly inception, the new Holy Roman Empire has yet to relinquish the time honored tradition of the crusade, trading swords and armor for bread and promises of salvation; they don't burn astronomers anymore—that would be impolite.

There has been, and will continue to be, criticism for the short-sighted and ill-executed foreign policy on the part of our government. But there is little vocal condemnation for the Vatican's unchanged policies. Our country is helmed by a loser; a ridiculous, masturbating pimp whose incessant and enduring erections stem from his continuous and virtually unchallenged expansion of power. But his sins are small compared to the legacy of pain and deceit that the long line of pontiffs have wrought.

President Bush may come from a family of opportune cretins, but John Paul II is the latest in a long line of

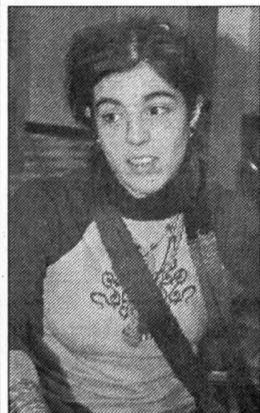
unjustly respected men whose ranks have been filled with murderers, thieves and genocidal conspirators. Our country wallows in a quagmire because we have poor guidance and have forsaken our vision, but we can and will regain our footing because our foundations are secure and just. The Vatican never will; they never had a sturdy leg to stand on, and they never will.

The faithful may turn their eyes and ears like primates to avert the searing gaze of the sun, claiming John Paul's innocence. Regardless of their blind devotion, the fact remains that he and his legions of lieutenants, filled out with the likes of Mother Theresa, are responsible for the secondary deaths of millions through ecclesiastical stubbornness and intellectual indifference, and all of his followers bear a degree of culpability.

So now, after a quarter century of lies, we come to it, as the drooling masses crowd the Golden City, begging the frail, old man who sits removed on his shining throne like a piece of dried meat for "inspiration" to strengthen their invisible crutches. These are the wails of a dying beast, a creature whose "usefulness" is revealed as nothing more than a convulsion of fear and mendacity. And if we turn our backs and walk, walk damn you, we may soon hear the pining keened of a death rattle.

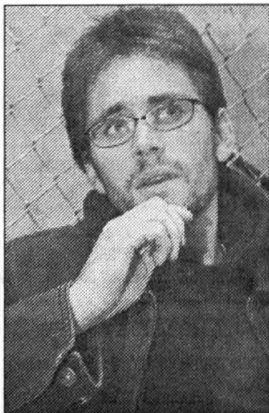
Face the public: The Chronicle photo poll

Question: What do you think of the recent Senate ban on Partial Birth Abortion?



"I don't think it's right... things could go back to the way they were before."

—Marissa Bonamer, 21
Senior, Fiction



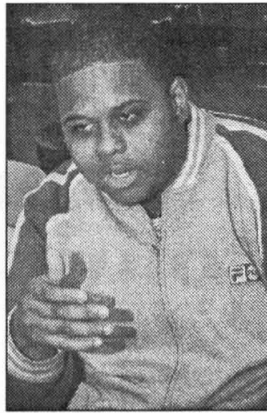
"[Partial Birth Abortion] seems pretty sick to me."

—Joe Benson, 23
Senior, Audio Arts



"I think they should've banned it. Amen."

—Nakia Lee, 21
Junior, Radio/Marketing



"[Partial Birth Abortion] should be abolished."

—Maurice Holmes, 21
Sophomore, Media Manag.

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Graduation, times two

Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

Sometimes less is more, and by the time commencement rolls around in June, a majority of grads and guests are looking to move on in the least amount of time possible.

It is, therefore, one of the best moves in Columbia history to split up graduation ceremonies between the college's three schools of study—one that may have been long over due.

There are few things in life more monotonous than listening to more than 1,200 names, usually mispronounced, as a procession of corresponding yet unrecognizable people pass over a ceremonial stage, while shaking hands with nearly a dozen more unrecognizable people who don't really look all that happy to be there.

(Props, by the way, must be given to the person who has the

courage to say each of those names as fast as possible, in front of thousands of people who can't wait to go home, without making anyone angry for saying their last name wrong).

The event becomes even more tedious when each of those 1,200-plus people feels as if they have to create some sort of ruckus in front of a strategically placed camera so everyone can see just how big of a crazy guy or gal they can be.

Perhaps in partial response to similar complaints, Columbia announced last week that the usual three to four hour graduation ceremony will be cut nearly in half, an effort that will go into effect this June.

The new and improved ceremony will split the School of Media Arts from the schools of Liberal Education and Performing Arts, creating two separate ceremonies and an output of only about 700 students

per event.

The plan also includes mandating that graduate students walk with their undergrad counterparts. In the past, all of Columbia's undergrad seniors graduated together in the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion. All graduate students walked together in a separate ceremony that took place at the Auditorium Theatre last year.

Maybe it was done to cut the cost of renting out the auditorium for the graduate students. Maybe it was done out of pure convenience for the college.

No matter what the reason, the ceremony shift comes just in time.

Last year, a space crunch caused the college to add two tents to University of Illinois at Chicago property in order to compensate for the large number of guests who wanted to attend Columbia's graduation. Sitting in a stuffy tent at the beginning

of a humid Chicago summer with a bunch of strangers wasn't something the masses were necessarily appreciative of, a twist of events that hardly counterbalanced tuition bills.

The 2003 graduation was successfully executed, but splitting the monster ceremony will make it easier to live through this June. It will not only alleviate length, but it will also allow everyone to actually sit in the pavilion, eliminating oppressive tents and angry parents.

Opposition to the idea might submit that it is unfair to break up interdepartmental friends from being together on one of the most important days of their lives.

To all those audio arts and acoustics majors who want to sit next to their theater pals on graduation day, please note that it is far more fulfilling to reminisce about college over a cup of tea after the fact instead of sitting

through over an hour of names.

But what about the graduate students? Don't they deserve a ceremony all to themselves after all their hard work?

They certainly do, and they shall. Rumor has it that graduate departments will be given funds to throw a separate bash for the post-undergrad grads.

The only concern about the ceremony split that comes to mind is the vision of herding in and out of the pavilion two large groups instead of one. This will certainly be more work than the college anticipated.

It will force Columbia to be more efficient and prepared than ever.

The students could be looking at a few more tickets to dole out to their families—at least that's the hope.

Should we tell full-time teachers now or later that they might have to sit through two ceremonies instead of one?

Columbia's Voices

Still waiting for his check

My name is Jason McCabe and I am a sophomore transfer student in my first semester here at Columbia. I am writing this letter to let you know of my disgust with both the Student Financial Services department and the financial aid system as a whole here at Columbia.

Being an independent student who only makes close to \$10,000 a year, you can understand how much I must depend on the financial aid system to help me pay for school. The definition of an independent student by the U.S. Department of Education's standards is one who is not dependent upon anyone else (i.e. parents, guardians, etc.) to help pay for school. The government gives independent students enough money to cover their educational expenses, plus extra to cover out-of-pocket expenses such as books and living expenses. I am letting you know this because it seems that not one person in any administrative department in this school, especially Student Financial Services, realizes these facts.

As I said before, I am writing a letter in disgust. The reason for this is that I have been waiting on receiving my refund check from my financial aid that is over and above my educational expenses. When I first inquired to the Student Financial Services office as to when

I would be receiving this check, I was told that refund checks were going out in week two of school. When I did not receive my check, I inquired again to the Student Financial Services office, and I was told that they would now be going out in week three.

When I did not receive my check this time, I went to the Student Financial Services office and inquired yet again. I was told by the receptionist that refund checks were supposed to go out that week, but "don't hold your breath."

I then spoke with both Niesha and with Peter Radke (who is the Quality Assurance Supervisor for Student Financial Services). They both told me that my loans were going to post on Saturday, Oct. 4, and that my check would be mailed to me on Friday, Oct. 10. It is now Thursday, Oct. 16, and I have still not received my check. I went to the SFS office again today and I was told that my loans have still not posted—12 days after the day I was told they would initially post. I was also told that somebody would investigate this and call me at a later date. This is a very frustrating situation and yet I still cannot get a straight answer from anyone in this school. This is where my level of disgust rises infinitely.

This entire situation has made me rethink my decision to come to the "nation's premier visual, perform-

ing, media and communications arts college" (quoted from the Columbia home page). At my previous university, the financial aid department catered to the student in need, which does not seem to be the case here at Columbia. I realize that no two schools are going to run the same department in the same way though. I also realize that this letter might not do anything for my current situation.

However, I truly hope that someone in this institution of higher learning can do something to change the procedures followed—and for that matter, not followed—within the Student Financial Services department, so that incoming students will not experience the troubles that I have.

Jason McCabe
Sophomore
AEMM—Music Business

Ethics and the editor-in-chief

I was outraged at the lead article in the Oct. 13 issue, "Student arrested in South Loop marijuana bust." When does it become the job of The Chronicle to invade the privacy of Columbia students? How dare you print the past police record of the student!

You may well argue that this was a "public event" and that you were merely reporting "facts" provided by the friendly police precinct. I contend that by "reporting" this event, you have shattered the tenuous shelter we provide Columbia students. They are here to learn. Learning involves making mistakes. This student may have made one. By printing this story, you have exposed this student to humiliation and served notice to all Columbia students that they had better be careful what they do or say. The Chronicle is out there to spy and inform on them. Who gave you that right?

This article hit close to home for me. More than 30 years ago, I was embroiled in an ethical discussion with the editors/faculty members of my student newspaper—a daily—when they published a similar story. I argued that exposing the arrested students went beyond their mission. They too relied on police reports—that later turned out to be distorted and false. As a result, I quit the newspaper and dropped out of journalism school.

If you are so hungry to do hard news or investigative reporting, there are plenty of stories floating around campus that would interest your readers: the chronic problems of Columbia's elevators; the crummy copy machine contract that continues to plague all departments; the

lack of a student cafeteria with healthy, affordable food that would benefit students, staff and faculty (Will there be one in the new "superdorm," or have contracts already been signed with the poisonous purveyors of fast food?); or the number of students who are "persuaded" to take out exorbitant student loans to pay tuition.

Mr. Coates, as the proud reporter of the article and editor-in-chief of The Chronicle, you have gone beyond the limits of good taste and ethics. I hope that you and your asleep-at-the-wheel faculty advisers are suspended and that the student's lawyer sues you and the newspaper.

But don't worry, Mr. Coates. Your future in journalism is assured. With your experience you should easily get a job with such stellar news organizations as Fox News, the National Enquirer or the Christian Broadcasting Network. Or perhaps you could be a press spokesman for some upstanding paragons of public virtue—Jerry Falwell, Oliver North, G. Gordon Liddy, Jerry Springer, John Ashcroft or Rush Limbaugh.

Do Columbia and the journalism profession a favor Mr. Coates. Before you graduate, take a class on ethics.

Michael Humphreys
Part-time Instructor
Film and Video Department

Look for more opinions
online at
www.ColumbiaChronicle.com

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Letters to the editor must include full name, year, major and a phone number. All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to a limited amount of space. Letters can be faxed to us at (312) 344-8032. E-mailed to Chronicle@colum.edu or mailed to the Columbia Chronicle c/o Letters to the Editor, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 205, Chicago, Ill. 60605.

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In recognition of Campus Equity Week
the **Associate Provost's Cabinet**
wishes to honor the **Adjunct Faculty Members**
of **Columbia College Chicago**

From **Jan Garfield, Associate Provost:**

Our renewed relationship with the P-Fac Association allows us to support and celebrate our adjunct faculty, who are, as ever, vital to teaching and learning at Columbia College Chicago. Many thanks to our adjunct faculty members for their continued dedication to our students.

From **David H. Krause, Director, Center for Teaching Excellence:**

We congratulate adjunct faculty who have received our **Excellence in Teaching Award**, including:

Bill Fisher (Marketing, 1995)
David Arieti (Science and Math, 1996)
Sanford Angelos (Science, Institute, 1998)
Phyllis Eisenstein (Fiction Writing, 1999)
Joan Dickinson (Interdisciplinary Arts, 2000)
Claire Shulman (Fiction Writing, 2001)
Brady Carey (English, 2002)

During 2003-2004, we will host a series of seminars conducted by ETA recipients during the past ten years. Please join David Arieti and Phyllis Eisenstein for the **Inspiring Learning** series:

David Arieti:

The Earth's "Being Problem"

Thursday, October 23, 4:00-6:00 (w/ refreshments)

Phyllis Eisenstein:

Introduction to Science Fiction Writing

Thursday, November 6, 12:00-2:00 (w/ lunch)

Seminars take place in the **Faculty Lounge, 624 S. Michigan, Room 1107**

For more information on these and other seminars, please visit our website: <http://cte.colum.edu>

From **Lona Livingston, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs:**

The OSP salutes our adjunct faculty.

Please take advantage of our services and access funding opportunities for individual research or artistic projects:

- ° Join the Community of Science (COS) at www.cos.com. COS is a search engine with over 400,000 funding resources in all areas of study. You are invited to attend a **COS workshop** to learn how to create your personal workbench of funding opportunities:
 - o **Monday, November 10, 12:30-2:00** (w/lunch) in the **Library Instruction Room, 2nd fl.**
 - o RSVP to Lona Livingston at x. 8552 or llivingston@colum.edu.
- ° Find funding anytime on the Faculty Development Opportunities website: <http://web2.colum.edu/sponsorship/>

From **Jackie Monahan, Information Services x. 7207:**

Thank you, Columbia College Chicago Adjunct Faculty!

Rookie or veteran – your dedication is deeply appreciated.

I'd like you all to have private offices, company cars and generous expense accounts....

Oops! Guess you'll have to settle for me!

Please keep me updated if changing your name, address or status!

From **Rebecca Courington, Director, Center for Instructional Technology:**

The CIT offers a variety of free workshops open to all faculty and staff.

Please check the website <http://cit.colum.edu> for a listing of topics and times.

For those of you who are too busy to attend a workshop, check out our online tutorials and help files!

All faculty are invited to the CIT's **online grading party**

January 23, 2004, 1:00-4:00, 623 S. Wabash, Room 416

Bring your grades, bring a friend, and we'll help you enter your grades using the new OASIS system.

Refreshments will be served, **party hats optional.**

From **Jo Cates, Library Director**

We would like to honor our adjunct faculty by offering you a

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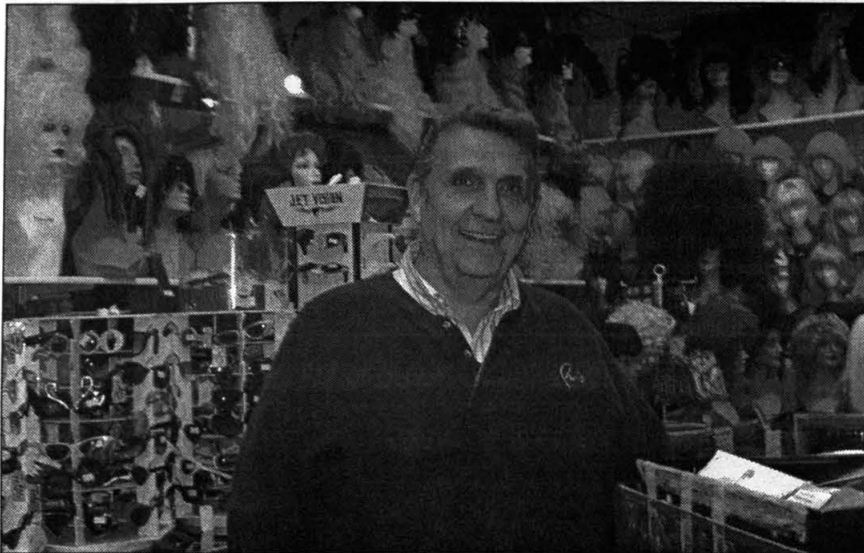
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3 rd	prize	\$100

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Heather Morrison/Chronicle

George Garcia (above) says that around the Halloween-time madness, about 20,000 visitors stop in to his Fantasy Costumes Headquarters shop, 4065 N. Milwaukee Ave.

One-stop costume shop

By Rachel Pulling
Staff Writer

Welcome to Fantasy Costumes Headquarters: It's so big, it takes up an entire city block.

"No one has our inventory anywhere," said George Garcia, the shop's owner. That inventory numbers in the millions and includes wigs, hats, makeup, masks, accessories (from earrings to pitchforks), props (such as a Michael Myers statue) and, of course, costumes.

The costumes come in pieces or as a whole set, are made for everyone and can be rented or purchased.

"What people like about this store is one-stop shopping," Garcia said.

Garcia began business in 1965, selling wigs out of his car. In 1969, his business was successful enough for him to buy a store.

Through the 1970s, he continued concentrating on wigs; it wasn't until 1980 that he began to sell costumes.

Over the past 20 years, his enterprise has expanded tremendously, and now the business that was once conducted out of a car currently takes up 18,000 square feet.

These days, the shop is open for business year-round. October is the busiest month, but there's plenty going on the other 11 months of the year to stay open.

"We get so many referrals here," Garcia said about the customer flow. According to Garcia, Fantasy

Costumes Headquarters, 4065 N. Milwaukee Ave., is a popular costume choice for Purim, Mardi Gras, Christmas Santas, church and theater plays, corporate skits, the Salvation Army, some Playboy shoots, and Columbia students. Garcia also said many people come to the costume shop for photo shoot props.

"Whenever they make movies, they come here for wigs," Garcia said.

The costume shop doesn't just have a wide selection of wigs, but they can also style wigs.

All you have to do is bring in a picture of what you want, and they'll do it for you, according to Garcia.

During October, the store keeps very busy. According to Garcia, there will be a line at the door, winding around the block, starting around the second week of the month.

On one of the slower days October days, Sweetest Day, 3,000 to 4,000 people still came to shop. The second half of the month typically sees 20,000 people visiting the store, according to Garcia, and every weekend sees a lot of business.

The little kids who go there like the superhero costumes, while the older customers, such as college students, "like to put things together," Garcia said.

The younger crowd chooses the

already made costumes, but the more mature people like to pick and choose and be creative with their costumes.

There are more than 700 styles for the children to choose from, including Spider-Man, the Hulk, cheerleaders, Dracula and monsters. The store carries around 30,000 masks.

Not only does Fantasy Costumes Headquarters sell all of their goodies, but they also help customers create their own costumes.

If you need help deciding how to accessorize, they'll help you choose.

If you can't figure out how to make that demon ear stay on, they'll show you how to apply the putty and makeup.

According to Garcia, they used to regularly help people apply their makeup during Halloween, but the store became too crowded, so they stopped.

"We're very service oriented," Garcia said of his employees. "We're always looking for new kids, makeup artists, you know?"

The store is open until 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, through Halloween and until 5 p.m. on Sunday. For anyone wanting to avoid the crowds, the company offers online shopping on their website, www.fantasycostumes.com.

Most orders are shipped the same day they're purchased, and orders can be tracked through UPS right on their website.

The freaks come out at night

By Doris Dadayan
A&E Editor

Halloween 2003 is the year for dressing up like disturbing creatures such as Demi and Ashton, Bennifer ("Ben?") Or maybe the "nifer?"), Dumbass and Nick Lachey, or MIA Steve Bartman, Cubs "fan."

But if these outfits end up being a little too difficult to pull off due to the high amount of intoxicating aerosol in J.Lo's hair products, Jessica's non-existent IQ, Ashton's collection of trucker hats or the problem of the Incredible Hulk's ripped purple pants being a tad too small, then why not try some of the alternative costumes ideas that The Chronicle has thrown together?

These costumes are cheaper than the price of Steve Bartman's life; a fact that is always important to Mr. Lachey as well.

The '80s: What a feeling!

We're talking multicolored hair accessories, slap-on wrist bands, buttoned-down shirts worn in layers, bright stilettos in red, yellow or green, off-the-shoulder slouchy sweaters, biker shorts under a short skirt, Jordache jeans with a flat-handle comb sticking out of the back pocket, pastels and linen blazers (guys included), neon glittery leg warmers, headbands, fluorescent pink ties, fishnet tights, big shoulder pads, colorful hoop earrings, polka dots, stripes, jelly bracelets, slouch socks, and puffy painted shirts. Purple, pink and blue eye shadow with heavy eyeliner is a must.

Note to self: In order to pull off this look, the hairstyle *must* defy gravity. Use Aqua-Net hairspray accordingly.

Hey, big spender: Think "I'm Gonna Get You Sucka!" and come with your "bling-bling." The word "pimp" has entered the slang lexicon as a synonym for the word "good," and this costume reeks of money and the high life. So bring out the cheap dollar-sign gold chains, rings, earrings, feather boas, zebra-print platform shoes, faux fur, money clips, gold teeth, crushed velvet suits, leather

pants, leather coat, funky animal-print trimmed hat and cane.

Both plays and playettes can complete the outfit with some pimp lingo using words such as "tight," "filthy," "phat," and "chillen'." Remember your smooth demeanor and walk in like you own the place. Your only threat at the Playas' Ball? Rival pimps, trying to be all up in your "biz-nass."

Holier than thou: So you've broken all Ten Commandments, and you already have your place in line at the gates of hell. Well, why not go out with a biblical bang? For the Devil's holiday this year, come religiously-dressed as a priest, nun, monk, Jesus Christ, Father Guiseppe, the Virgin Mary or the Pope.

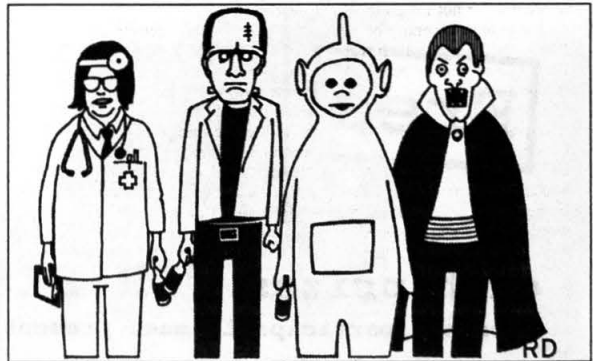
Make sure to bring along your wooden cross, the black robe with the clerical collar, your Bible and a rosary for this. Remember your stern look and your conscience, for you, oh holy one, would never think of giving in to sinful temptations. Oh, come on now, no need to worry. Lord knows there'll be plenty of time in the confessional for you, come Sunday morning.

C'mere me beauty. Wanna know why my Roger is so jolly?

Make no mistake about it: Pirates were bad people—their names forever linked with bloody battles, cold-heartedness, mercilessness and barbarity, which is exactly what makes this costume so appealing. With an eyepatch, a striped shirt (horizontal stripes in black and gray or black and red), black breeches, a parrot on the shoulder, black boots, a sword, and a full-sleeved, billowing frilled shirt, you have the right to tell 'em all to walk the plank.

For the bar wench look: fishnet stockings, a tight, off-the-shoulder corset top and a ripped, gathered skirt, as well as a jug of beer to comp the ensemble. In your pirate's booty should be Captain Morgan's Original Spiced Rum and some dried fish for snacking. Be sure to bust out with

See Costumes, Page 26



Ryan Duggan/Chronicle

THIS WEEK in arts & entertainment

Mon. 10/27	Tues. 10/28	Wed. 10/29	Thurs. 10/30	Friday 10/31	Sat. 11/1	Sun. 11/2
<p>Maniac Manor 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. Mann Park 2949 E. 131st St. Tickets \$3</p> <p>Jimmy Burns Hosts The Jam 9:30 p.m. Buddy Guy's Legends 754 S. Wabash Ave.</p> <p>Gay Alternative Night hosted by Mark Grant and DJ Lego 10:30 p.m. - 4 a.m. Red Dog Club 1958 W. North Ave.</p> <p>\$1.50 Miller Nite pints, Monday Night Football Fizz Bar & Grill 3220 N. Lincoln Ave.</p>	<p>Drum Circle 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Hokin Annex 623 S. Wabash Ave.</p> <p>"Faces, Places and Inner Spaces" 10:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Art Institute of Chicago 111 S. Michigan Ave. Free admission</p> <p>"Nancy Josephson" installation 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Judy A. Saslow Gallery 300 W. Superior St.</p> <p>Night of 100 Drag Queens 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Sidetrack 3349 N. Halsted St.</p>	<p>"Install Sketchy II" Hokin Annex Gallery 623 S. Wabash Ave.</p> <p>DJ Larissa and DJ Ruslan spin Berlin 954 W. Belmont Ave.</p> <p>"On Paper: New Acquisitions of American Art" 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Art Institute of Chicago 111 S. Michigan Ave.</p> <p>John Storrs sculptures 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. 875 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 2510</p> <p>Deejays Ed Vantage and Bliss spin, \$2 drinks Deja Vu 2624 N. Lincoln Ave.</p>	<p>Student Organization Fair 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash Ave.</p> <p>Halloween Party 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Conaway, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. free admission</p> <p>"Haunting History" 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Evanston Historical Society 225 Greenwood St. \$20</p> <p>"Crawl with the Creeps": Halloween Pub Crawl 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. McGee's 950 W. Webster Ave.</p>	<p>"The Great Society" 7:30 p.m. The Theatre Building Chicago 1225 W. Belmont Ave.</p> <p>Art to Fear Costume party 6 p.m. to midnight ARC Gallery 734 N. Milwaukee Ave. free admission</p> <p>"Rockstar Halloween" 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Bacchus 2242 N. Lincoln Ave. Dress like a rockstar \$5</p> <p>Cherry Red Halloween 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Cocktail reception 8 p.m. - 10 p.m. 2833 N. Sheffield Ave. \$10</p>	<p>Live Flesh, a group show 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. MG Gallery 676 N. Dearborn Ave.</p> <p>Headbanger's Ball 11 p.m. Joe's Bar 940 W. Weed St.</p> <p>Babalu 9 p.m. - 5 a.m. DJs spin merengue, house, disco 1645 W. Jackson St.</p> <p>"Live Flesh", a group show 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. MG Gallery 676 N. Dearborn St. Free admission</p> <p>DJs spin acid jazz, house Bar 3 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. 2138 N. Halsted St.</p>	<p>\$1 Bud and Bud Light drafts, live music 9:30 p.m. Famous Freddie's Roadhouse 1799 S. Busse Road</p> <p>DJs spin 80s, alternative, gothic, Bacchus 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. 2242 N. Lincoln Ave.</p> <p>\$3 you-call-it drink night Durkin's Tavern 810 W. Diversey Parkway</p> <p>Deejays Shon Dervis and DJ A+ spin downtempo house 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Bar Thirteen 1944 W. Division St.</p>

The Weekly Dish

By Doris Dadayan
A&E Editor



Around 11 p.m. three weeks ago, I was on a major caffeine high after drinking the highly addictive SoBe No Fear Super Energy Supplement. I was home alone on that rainy night and happened to turn on damned channel 564 instead of watching the usual reality TV show on Fox or MTV, or some other trashy show.

What I saw that night was something that I should have never seen. The bizarre, disturbing images that were on the TV screen had drugged me. And all I wanted was to see more, knowing that my life would probably go downhill from there.

When my body started twitching, my heart pounding like it would burst out of my chest, and I sat on the edge of my bed for about 15 minutes without moving, I knew I was in for it. I think I even started to sweat at one point.

Sure, I've seen my share of horror films that have scared the living s--- out of me, putting paranoid thoughts into my mind and forever scarring me. Linda Blair's backward spider walk down the stairs with her head twisted in *The Exorcist* (the new re-mastered version) and the scenes where they superimposed the devil statue, still torment me to this day.

Or in the *Exorcist III*, where the nurse walks down the hospital corridor, and the old possessed lady is following her with shears ... to cut her head off.

The legend of *Candyman*, *Candyman 2* and *Candyman 3* ... was the big deciding factor of whether or not I'd go to school at the University of Illinois at Chicago which was filmed on UIC's campus. The legend went that Candyman—who was rumored to have roamed the projects of Cabrini Green, right by the school—had a hook for a hand, and if you'd say his name five times in the mirror, he'd appear. The words "sweets to the sweet" were also rumored to appear.

Well, I ended up going to the school there for two years without having anyone lure me with sweets, although I did see some very suspicious-looking characters there.

Although he may be the butt of many jokes now, the moment I laid eyes on Mr. Freddy Krueger, back in 1984, and his glove with the knives on the end that he used to slash people, I absolutely refused to sleep with the lights turned off. The same goes for the time I first saw Leatherface from *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

But see, then I would remind myself that this was Hollywood, where, after shooting a bloody killing scene, the director would yell "Cut!" and the cast and crew would go have cupcakes and muffins, coffee, and bagels with cream cheese.

But three weeks ago, after I watched the movie *The Ring*, Hollywood seemed to have been in some other part of the universe.

For those who haven't seen the movie, let me give you a quick recap: The premise of

the movie is an urban legend about a videotape that, if watched, leaves the viewer with seven days to live. (*Glitter*, *Crossroads* and *On the Line* had me praying for death about seven minutes into the movie; seven seconds for *Glitter* ... but anyway).

Newspaper reporter Rachel Keller (Naomi Watts), skeptical of the story she heard, thought that it sounded like just another urban legend; the videotape being filled with disturbing images such as a glowing ring, a lighthouse and a long, thin ladder. But that was until four teenagers, including her niece, all died mysteriously exactly one week after watching the tape.

Allowing her investigative curiosity to get the better of her, she makes the trip alone to the mountain lodge where they stayed and finds the tape. After watching it she receives a creepy phone call telling her that she has seven days to live.

What made the movie so genuinely frightening and bone chilling, is that it all seemed to make sense. The characters are put in desperate situations knowing that they will die.

This movie works because it doesn't play into the traditional horror movie faux pas.

There is no usual helpless, scantily clad woman walking right into the killer's trap (which, of course, is always either in the kitchen with a butcher knife conveniently placed for whomever to use, or in some cabin in the dark woods in the middle of nowhere).

There's no one getting shot, stabbed, kicked or punched in the face by some character in some long puffy coat with a fur-trimmed hood or mask with a white face, that turns out to be either the victim's ex-boyfriend, best friend or boss.

The colors of the movie are bold, dark, and since it was shot in Seattle, every outdoor scene was either cloudy or rainy.

Just sitting here writing this makes me shoot furtive glances over my shoulder to make sure everything is safe in my room.

I mean, I have blank tapes everywhere in the house. I have an oval mirror in the basement. And my mom always falls asleep with the TV on, and it starts to make weird noises.

Also, a lady named Samara, the name of the little girl in the movie, sent me a press release a couple days after I watched the movie.

This movie has made me lose my mind.

Oh ... but wait a second. Hold on, hold on. I think that I may just have to take back everything I've just mentioned about the paranoia and torment that this movie has caused me.

The greatest horror arrived last Friday.

Michael Jackson's look alike plays Samara in *Scary Movie 3*.

Now there's a mental picture to keep you up at night.

Riding the 'Dead' Line



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

Performers from The Hypocrites entertain audiences with their off-beat comedy show. The free Haunted el ride is offered on a first-come, first-serve basis throughout October.

○ As if the el weren't scary enough, CTA offers family oriented 'ghost' train just in time for Halloween

By Jamie Murnane
Staff Writer

The Chicago Transit Authority and the Mayor's Office of Special Events have teamed up for the sixth year in a row to present the Haunted El.

One of the many free, family-oriented events that are part of the seventh annual Chicagoween, a month-long Halloween celebration, shows how kids of all ages can enjoy the fun of the season, Chicago-style.

The haunted Orange Line el is decorated to resemble a ghastly haunted mansion. As it speeds along the tracks, guests onboard are entertained by a variety of fairly tame ghost stories told by a local theater group, The Hypocrites.

The costumed troupe acts out the terrifying tales that were written by Chicago-area elementary school students, a perk that lures many of the children onboard to find out if any of their stories are read.

Since the rides are free, the CTA and the Mayor's Office of Special

Events make no profit off the Haunted El, despite final costs of \$50,000 to put it on.

"We're not in it to make money," Erin Bauer, Chicagoween coordinator of the Mayor's Office of Special Events said. "It's a great alternative. ... We feel that people are really glad to have something different than just trick or treating on Halloween."

Each participant's \$1.50 el fare, the theater group's cost and the overall operation and occupation of the Orange Line are included in the total bill.

Though they are no longer involved, the six-year old Haunted El, along with the other Chicagoween activities, continues to bring many people into the city, especially from the suburbs, Bauer said.

According to Bauer, local restaurants are especially prone to noticing an increase of business. Bauer, who took over the Haunted El project four years ago, believes the event gets better and better each year.

"It's just a positive thing all

around," she said.

Because no volunteers are involved with the Haunted El, people are needed not only to run the train and the show, but also to greet and guide the children and adults taking part in the event.

Free Haunted El tickets are distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis and can be obtained at the Visitor's Center of the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St. Ticket distribution begins at 6 p.m. on Thursdays and 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The rides take place only those days throughout October. Due to high demand of Haunted El tickets, families not wanting to wait in long lines are urged to show up early. The special Halloween el ride departs from the Randolph/Wabash el station.

Each trip takes approximately 25 minutes. Thursday evening trips start at 7 p.m., 7:25 p.m., 7:50 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. Saturday and Sunday trips begin at 11:40 a.m., 12:05 p.m., 12:30 p.m., 12:55 p.m. and 1:20 p.m.

Push play if you dare

○ Is it safe to celebrate Halloween in the comfort of your home?

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor

Ghouls, ghosts and goblins got you down? Does the thought of walking among the candy grabbing kids in Hulk costumes make you uncomfortable? If your idea of a great Halloween night consists of Blockbuster and Orville Redenbacher, you've come to the right place.

Here's a quick look at some of the best Halloween rents for those who refuse to get caught up in the holiday hype.

The Shining: Two creepy little girls in a hotel hallway + an old, naked, scabby woman in a tub + a knife-wielding Jack Nicholson = wholesome Halloween fun.

The Exorcist: One possessed demon child + pea soup + unique ways to render religious symbols =

social commentary on the current state of organized religion.

Friday the 13th: A group of horny teenage campers + obsessed mother with anger management issues + dead boy in lake = two good reasons to stay at a Motel 6.

The Birds: Town attacked by ill-tempered feathered vertebrates + chaos and disorder ensues = public service announcement for Ted Nugent.

Sleepy Hollow: One aggravated villain (headless) + schoolteacher magically transformed into medical examiner = very loose adaptation of classic novel.

Misery: One overbearing No. 1 fan + acclaimed author (hobbled) = first official episode of MTV's "Fanatic."

Halloween: One world-class scream + Captain Kirk mask + babysitter's worst nightmare = same

plot of 75 percent of horror films in Hollywood.

Evil Dead: One trip to a cabin in the woods + book of the dead + flesh-eating zombies = next exciting concept for "Survivor" on CBS.

Blair Witch Project: Independent film philosophy + terrifying folklore story = good excuse to use a tripod next time.

Silence of the Lambs: Cannibals + "it puts the lotion on" + chase scene in basement = one of the most terrifying films in the history of cinema.

Fatal Attraction: One sultry love affair + psychotic stalker + dead bunny = good reason to stay single.

Cujo: One not so friendly demon dog + nasty disposition = good argument for buying a cat.

Find these horror classics at any local video store.



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IN THEATERS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31ST!

Niffenegger's time traveler soars

○ Instructor enjoys success of debut novel on The New York Times Best Sellers list

By **Tawney Saylor**
Staff Writer

Audrey Niffenegger is everywhere these days.

Thanks to the best-selling success of her debut novel, *The Time Traveler's Wife*, Niffenegger has managed to squeeze in a guest spot on NBC's "Today" amid a national book tour and her work at Columbia's Center for Book and Paper Arts.

Niffenegger is the perfect example of life imitating art. She wrote the novel on her days off from working as a full-time instructor in the Interdisciplinary Book Arts MFA Program at Columbia, where she teaches writing, book production and letter press printing.

"It is really very nourishing to be at Columbia and work in my field," she said.

Jen Thomas, a graduate student in the Center for Book and Paper Arts, said Niffenegger shares a special relationship with her students.

"We swap ideas and projects a lot," Thomas said. "It is nice for her to see other perspectives and vice versa."

The novel was released last month and has been well-received by literary critics. It was chosen as a "Today" book club selection and is currently featured on The New York Times Best Sellers List.

Niffenegger classified the novel as "literary fiction." Essentially, it is the story of a married couple, Henry and Claire, who have a perfect union until Henry discovers a genetic defect that causes him to time travel, she said.

Although she was born in Michigan, Niffenegger spent most of her life in Chicago. Most of the locations in the book are based on real places in Chicago, such as the Newberry Library and the Art Institute of Chicago.

"The premise to this book was so preposterous, everything else needed to be realistic for it to work," she said. "Also, I wanted it to be a sort of homage to the city."

Even Hollywood seems to be paying attention. The film rights have been sold to Nick Weselek of New Line Cinema and Plan B Productions, the production company owned by Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt. The Hollywood power couple has also expressed interest in starring in the film.

"I think it would make a good film," Niffenegger said. "I am a very visual person, so when I was writing it, I was sort of running a mini-movie in my head."

Niffenegger is currently working on a new novel, *Her Fearful Symmetry*, which will be set in London. Niffenegger admits she is a big fan of 19th-century English novels and said the book will make use of common clichés, such as mistaken identity, twins and ghosts.

"I am trying to finish it, but I have had no time. It is hard to concentrate," she said.

Niffenegger definitely has plenty of things to keep her busy. In addition to being a writer and instructor, she is also an artist. Her work has been featured at the Printworks Gallery in River North for the past 17 years. To promote the book, Niffenegger has also traveled to bookstores across the country. Upcoming local appearances will include a book signing at the Barnes and Noble on 1441 W. Webster Ave. on Nov. 19 at 8:30 p.m.

Niffenegger said the best advice she can give to any aspiring novelist is to "persevere."

Also, she said writers should "finish the novel to the best possible state they can get it before they send it out to publishers."



Charles Kushner/Chronicle

Audrey Niffenegger is a full-time instructor in Columbia's Interdisciplinary Book Arts MFA Program.

Before her book was picked up by literary agent Joseph Regal, Niffenegger said she sent it out to more than 20 agents in nine months.

"But some people I know have been trying for years," she said.

Niffenegger said she never expected such success from her first novel.

"The chances of all of this happening are very slim," she said. "There was a lot of luck involved."

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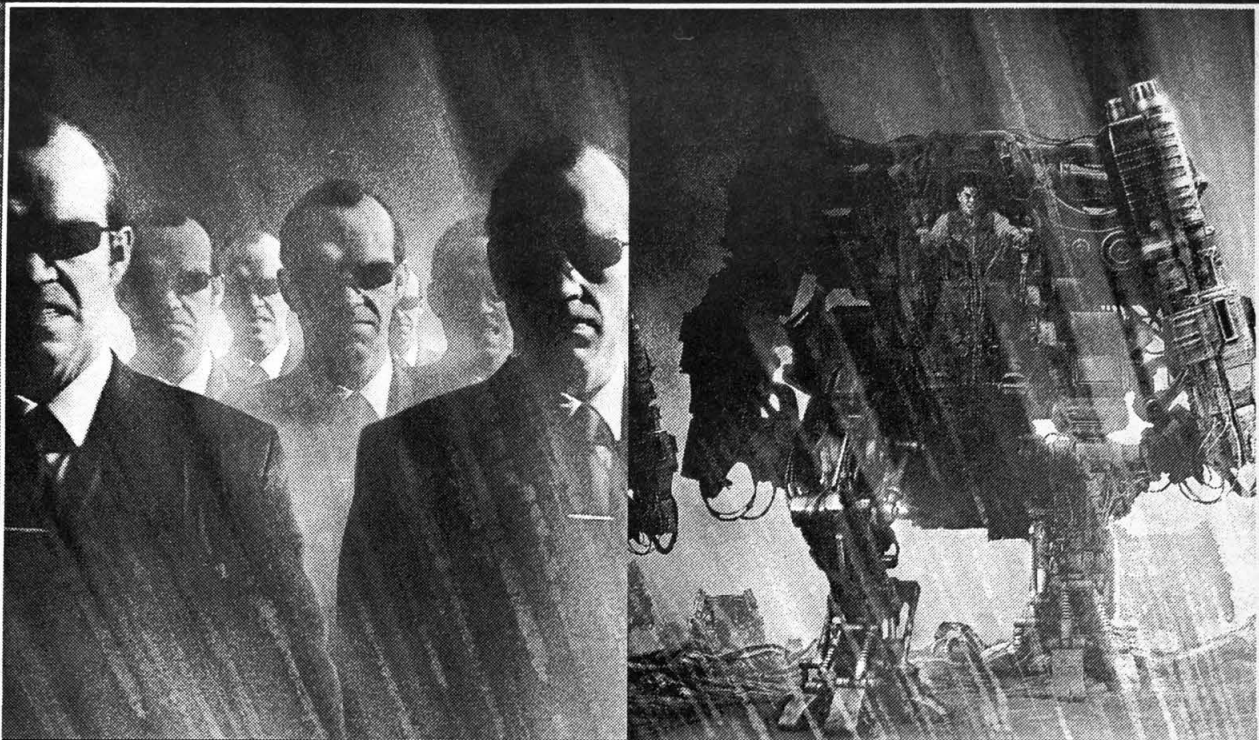


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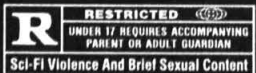
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IN THEATERS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

HORROR SCOPE

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

For the week of: Oct. 27 - Nov. 2

Aries (March 21-April 19) You are destined to be a ghoulish monster this week. Grab your George W. Bush mask and hit the streets.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) An unexplainable desire to eat mountains of chocolate and sweets will hit you. Keep it under control.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) If you and a friend can't decide what to be for Halloween, go for the classic two-person horse look. Avoid being the ass.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Weren't you that person swiping candy from little ghosts and goblins years ago? Aren't you still, metaphorically speaking, that same person?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Carefully examine all candy for drugs. Then, discard the candy.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) It is your job to scare the s--- out of kids this year. A chainsaw, hockey mask and garbage bag full of fake blood will be necessary. Or, just tell kids the truth about STDs.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Not going out this week? Rent some gory horror flicks and make a move on your crush during the token horror movie sex scene.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Smashing pumpkins is all in good fun. If you believe that, you are going to hell.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Be yourself for Halloween. You know what that means.

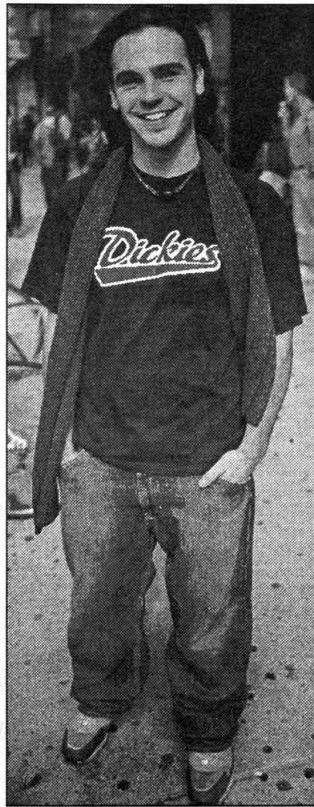
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Warning: Dressing up as a hooker doesn't work too well when you are hanging out on the South Side.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You will meet the love of your life at a Friday night costume party. They will be wearing a white sheet. You will be wearing nothing.

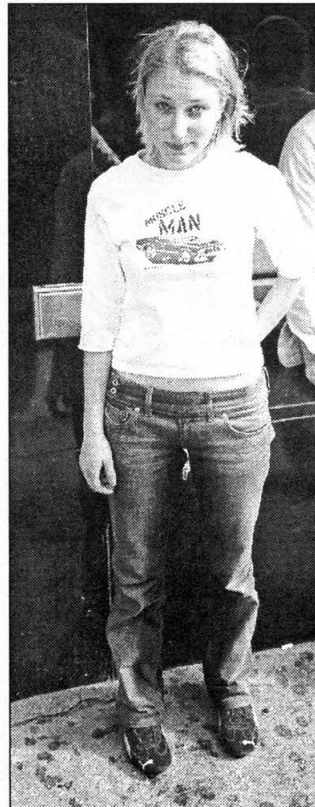
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Just because you're 25 doesn't mean you can't trick or treat anymore. Grab some booze and get going, spooky!

Street Wear

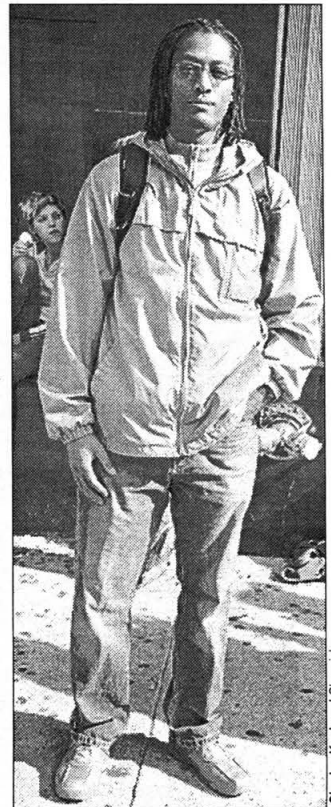
Every week, The Chronicle brings you fashion from fellow Columbia students.



Name: Keegan Lawless
Age: 21
Major: Photography
"If I want to wear my tight spandex, I do. You hear that?"



Name: Jordan Lilienfeld
Age: 23
Major: Broadcast Journalism
"This is a kid's shirt. I cut the sleeves off because they were too tight."



Name: Ezra Blackwell
Age: 29
Major: Acoustics
"My style is just blended in."

Charles Kushner/Chronicle

Under the influence:



By Matthew Jaster

OBSERVATIONS OF AN ENTERTAINING WORLD

● As a college student, I haven't had the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful new design of the \$20 bill. I'll have to wait until they redesign the one or the five.

● Halloween on a Friday: Drunk high school kids will be knocking at the door at 2 a.m. looking for Goobers.

● Scary: Blink-182 is offering fans a concert that only costs \$1. For a band with this much raw talent, I find the event highly overpriced.

● Really Scary: A movie will be made about Steve Bartman and the trials and tribulations of the "super fan." White Sox fans are calling it the feel good movie of the year.

● Super-Sized Scary: McDonald's and Best Buy have joined forces for the latest Monopoly game. Contestants can win 35 extra pounds, heart failure and a flat screen TV.

● Happiness equals one last shot at trick or treating in the neighborhood.

● Ed Wood was the best worst-director in the history of Hollywood.

● Better sugar buzz: Junior Mints or Butterfingers?

● Al Franken has more political clout than Bush/Cheney combined.

● Scary Spice: How long before the extremely talented Spice Girls have a reunion tour?

● Columbia Diet: Spend so much money on school you'll have nothing left for breakfast, lunch or dinner. (Works better than Atkins.)

● If you've never had an *Evil Dead* movie marathon, you're missing out.

● Can Tim Burton and Johnny Depp actually pull off a remake of *Willy Wonka*?

● Disgusted: The look on the faces of the European women when they found out the next *Joe Millionaire* is a cowboy. Priceless.

● God Bless Thanksgiving. I can almost smell the turkey and sweet potatoes.

Halloween Quick Pics at the Movies

☺ King on top of Hollywood horror

Dipping into the vault of scary Halloween movies, it seems as if there just aren't enough Stephen King classics mentioned. Sure, there's always room for the *Halloween* series, and for Freddy and Jason (skip the Freddy/Jason battle, though—unless you're in the mood for an overrated, overly cheesy knock off of the real thing).

I'd even throw in a little Leprechaun action with some Chucky on the side and be happy to include the entire Hitchcock collection with the *Exorcist* and the *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*... as long as Stephen King's *Sleepwalkers* makes it in.

Despite the reputation King has received in the past regarding his history of cookie-cutter plots and rushed character development, the fine people of Hollywood really know how to kick his novels into gear.

Sleepwalkers contains every element that should be spoken for at a Halloween bash—zombies, black cats and, of course, incest. (Please note the sarcasm on the last point, folks, even though the movie largely revolves around it.)

The devilishly hilarious flick is set in a small town, focusing on a big, dark castle of a house inhabited by a mother and her son who are sickly and, unfortunately, sexually attracted to each other—and a ton of freaking cats.

The dynamic duo largely feeds on the lives of young women, especially a hottie named Tanya, who only temporarily falls for the crazy kid who only has eyes for his mommy.

Mom and son do enjoy a few supplementary live cat dishes, though, while Tanya becomes difficult, and at points in the movie, they even turn into catlike creatures.

One of King's first movie collaborations, this is definitely one for the Halloween vault. At the very least, it'll make audiences laugh at how disturbing horror flicks can be.—Lisa Balde

☹ 'Chainsaw' is a massacre

In terms of horror films, Erica Leerhsen might be the death knell. Part of the stellar cast of *Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2*, Leerhsen joins another teenage cast in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, which stumbled into theaters Oct. 17.

Using the age-old triad of young, naive and utterly lost travelers in a Scooby Doosque van, *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* tells the allegedly true tale of five kids who are systematically stabbed, sliced, butchered, shot, tortured and eventually killed-in and around a dusty Texas hamlet circa 1974. And we know it's the '70s mainly due to the awkward marijuana references and era music blissfully peppered throughout the first scenes of the picture (before the massacres).

The film relies heavily on the gross-out factor, depicting some of the more unfortunate members of the group's tortures at the hands of the misunderstood Leatherface.

But what's really torturous is the plot's pace, which is all but nonexistent. Coupled with poor dialogue and terrible casting (principally, Leerhsen and "7th Heaven's" Jessica Biel) *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* is predictable and stale—in other words, an excellent inclusion into the genre of cheesy horror flicks.—Chris Coates

Rating System:

☺ = Sic Pic

☺ = Just Worth The Trip

☹ = Icky Flick

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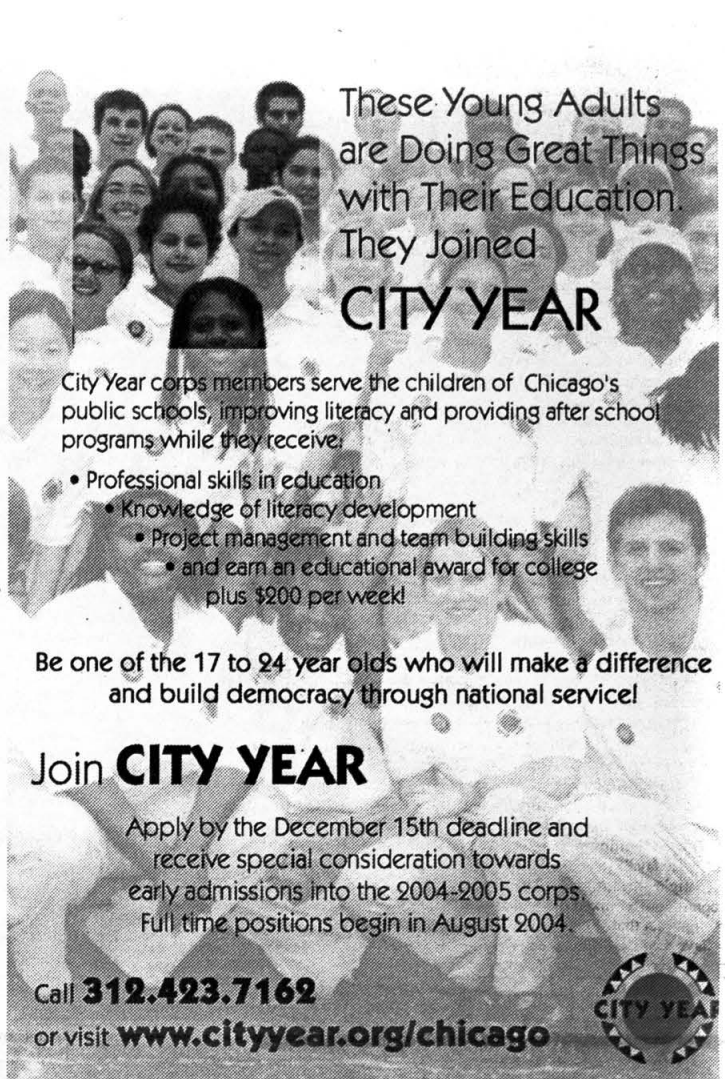
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Campus News Commentary Arts & Entertainment City Beat

The Strokes set 'room on fire'

Aragon performance promotes new album, proving huge success with fans

By **Kat Gresey**
A & E Assistant Editor

Take it or leave it, The Strokes show at the Aragon Ballroom this month was well received by fans.

Originally scheduled for Oct. 18 at the University of Illinois Chicago Pavilion, the show was pushed back a day after The Strokes were forced to switch venues when the alcohol-free pavilion became unavailable.

But for fans who like to drink, the wait was worth it. Plastic cups in hand, a predominately college-age crowd rocked to the beat from start to finish as The Strokes performed an outstanding set of both old and new material during the sixth stop of their U.S. tour for their new album, *Room on Fire*, which began Oct. 9.

Singer/songwriter Julian Casablancas greeted the audience warmly.

"Thank you for having us, Chicago," he said before diving into a 75-minute set kicked off with one of their new songs, which was met with cheers from the audience.

Casablancas wasted no time feeding fans material from the old album *Is This It*; smiling fans sang along to "Someday."

As the night progressed, The Strokes continuously mixed old and new, creating a set that sounded like it could have been an album cov-

ered from start to finish; the newer material sounding right on key with what the New York band has produced thus far.

Fans rocked the whole way through, though the indisputable highlight of the show was "Last Nite," during which every kid in the house belted out lyrics, bopping his or her head to The Strokes' most popular radio hit.

Drummer Fabrizio Moretti, guitarists Albert Hammond Jr. and Nick Valensi and bassist Nikolai Fraiture strengthened Casablancas' voice with strong, instrumental sound.

All band members donned clothes straight out of the '70s and '80s, looking like true rock 'n' rollers.

Making use of the Aragon's ability to strengthen a straight rock sound, the band played a clean sounding set on par with that of their album recordings, making sure to thank the crowd between every other song.

They ended the night with a two-song encore, concluding with "Is This It," a track off their first album bearing the same name.

It was a strong finish for the band, which left the stage with fans screaming in appreciation of a job well done.

The Strokes new album *Room on Fire* will be released Oct. 28.

Rev. Manson executes vaudeville extravaganza

By **Kat Gresey**
Assistant A & E Editor

In front of a dense, black sea of darkly painted faces and gothic-clad youth, shock-rocker Marilyn Manson performed at a sold-out Aragon Ballroom show earlier this month.

Descending from the sky in a gray throne bearing his initials, the always-energetic Manson immediately sent the crowd into a frantic mess of pulsating bodies as he played songs off his newest album, *The Golden Age of Grotesque*, released last May.

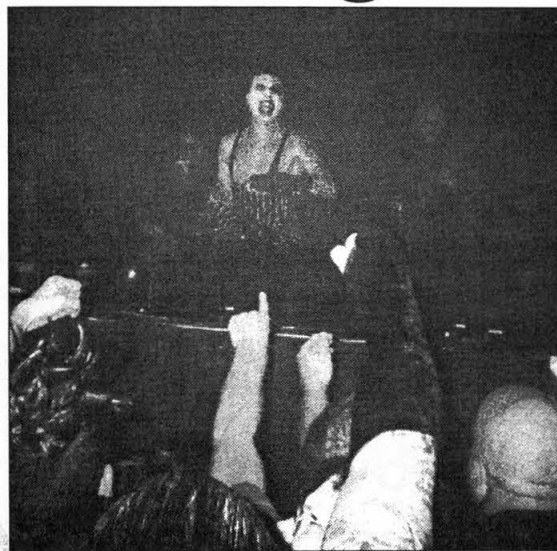
Dressed in a black suit that practically disappeared by the end of the set, a short-haired Manson belted out his newer songs, including "Doll-Dogga Buzz-Buzz," "Ziggity-Zag," "Mobscene," and "This is the New S--" while his side-show band members enthusiastically rocked behind him.

Always one to communicate with his fans, the singer instructed Chicago to belt out the "F"-word and toss up their middle fingers several times during his performance, and they readily complied, thrusting their arms into the air, cheering him on.

Manson supplied eye candy as well. The theme of the night was modeled after vaudevillian-era cabaret acts, a distinctive art form Manson calls "grotesque burlesque."

A pile of sparkly red confetti was dumped on the crowd during a nostalgic rendition of the radio hit "The Beautiful People," after which Manson brought two scantily-clad females on stage to play drums, dance and get smacked on the ass, drawing approval from both male and female fans.

A gigantic blown up Manson head donning Mickey Mouse ears mutated the



Kat Gresey/Chronicle

An always attractive Manson gets up close and personal with his fans at the Aragon Ballroom Oct. 17.

stage further, as a similar looking Manson popped back onstage to perform some of his older hits like "Sweet Dreams" and "The Dope Show."

Manson also performed his cover of "Tainted Love," with his fans singing along the way, proving once again that he has what it takes to successfully redo poppy dance hits.

Although the theatrical performer fared well on stage, his sound was overbearing and often hard to distinguish due to the poor acoustics that often plague the Aragon Ballroom. His utterances to the crowd between songs were even harder to decipher, though that could have been the fault of

Manson himself. At one point he asked if the fans were "dirty mice like me," garnering a rather pathetic response.

He did, however, manage to triumphantly orchestrate several eerie chants, including his infamous, "We hate love. We love hate," a phrase which adorned many of the Marilyn Manson T-shirt-wearing fans.

Closing the show with a one-song encore, the band left fans craving more.

Goth heads will just have to wait until the next time Manson creeps back into town to put on the vinyl and top hats.

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Supernatural Continued from Front Page

Chicago's Hull House is a historic landmark for social reform. Jane Addams spent years feeding and educating the needy that came to her door. One morning in 1913, a crying bundle was left on the front stoop.

After unwrapping the infant, the ladies of Hull House were horrified to discover a child with scales, pointed ears and hands and feet with a cloven appearance. The women kept the baby a secret, locking him in the attic for his own protection. The child was never seen outside the walls of the building.

Whether the child was just deformed or actually some kind of monster remains a mystery. There are still reports of people walking by the

Hull House and seeing a terrifying face staring down at them from the upper windows.

The popular television shows "Sightings" and "America's Most Haunted Places," consider the Excalibur nightclub one of the most haunted places in Chicago.

In the 19th century, a boat disaster claimed several lives when it capsized in the Chicago River. A makeshift morgue had been set up at the building where the nightclub now stands.

The club's employees have heard voices crying after closing time.

A bartender saw a white tuxedo figure with reddish hair glowing behind the bar. There was the disturbing smell

of rotting flesh throughout the club.

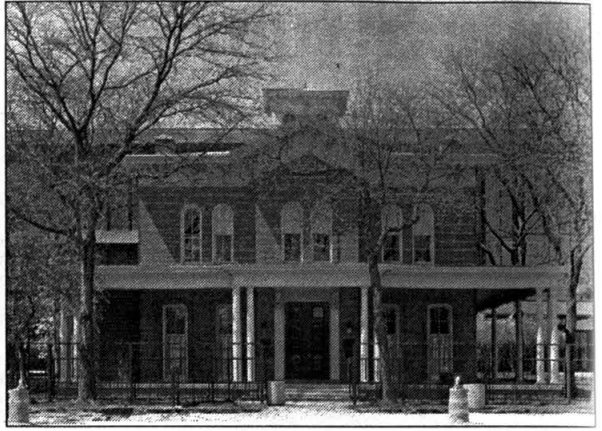
Katherine Harris, a public relations representative for Ala Carte Entertainment, handles inquiries on the haunted nightclub.

"There's been no reports of anything strange recently," Harris said, "but we're all very much aware of the history of the building and the stories that come along with it."

On Oct. 30 and 31, the Excalibur nightclub will be holding "The Houdini Séance." Presented by the Society of American Magicians, the event will let people experience the thrills of a traditional Victorian spirit circle. Tickets for the event cost \$13.

There are obviously enough haunts in Chicago to keep you busy until next Halloween. Before you jump into the Mystery Machine and seek out supernatural phenomena, Graczyk has some sound advice.

"Be patient, don't ever go alone, take a lot of pictures and video. Remember, the time recorded is also time needed for reviewing your tapes. Don't always expect to find something unusual, but keep an open mind," Graczyk said. "Make sure you get permission to be on private property and obey posted signs.



Jason Salerno/Chronicle

It's been rumored that the ghost of John Dillinger haunts the alley adjacent to the Biograph Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. (left). The Hull House, 800 S. Halsted St. (above) is known for the presence of the 'devil baby.'



Joseph Kang/Chronicle

Research the place before you go out to investigate."

For more information on haunted sites in Chicago, check out www.ghost-guides.com.

For information on "Excursions into the Unknown" tours, check out www.ghostresearch.org.

Costumes Continued from Page 18

some pirate slang and impress your friends by using "aye-aye!" "arr!" "avast!" (no way!) "grog" (an alcoholic rum drink), and "bilge rat" (a lowlife) in conversation.

Me want meat now, me not need meat now, but me want meat NOW! Paleolithic humans ate beasts and led a pretty healthy life—if an enormous wild animal didn't get to them first.

And around this time of year, the wild-animal eating barbarian is finally allowed out of his cave.

So don't hide the ravage-beast with an animal-print toga made of material with cheetah, zebra, leopard or tiger print.

You will need a bat, arm bands, a necklace made of animal teeth, raw meat and a limited vocabulary consisting of "oohh," "ahh," "ech," "haa," "oogga" and "err."

Stick a bone in your hair, throw some dirt on your face and you'll be ready for a night of attacking your prey. Note: Cleanliness is not an essential part of the outfit.

Pump 'em full of lead: Mafia, journalists in trench coats, mobsters, flappers, bootlegged whiskey and guys named Larry, Frank, Leo, Mickey, Tony and Roscoe, all conjure up nostalgia of Chi-town's past when gangsters ruled the streets.

Why not bring back the days of Al Capone with some Prohibition-era behavior?

With a shadow hat, cigar, a machine gun and pin-striped suit/skirt, both guys and gals can play into the city's notorious gangster past.

And for those not originally from "Chicaagho," make sure you use phrases like, "Yeah, so, how 'bout dat Mare Dalcy," or "Yeah, we got us some nice sports teams: da Bears, da Cobbs, da Saahhks," or "Dem gatholic churches we gat in da citay... nice, eh?" and, "So... what castume you sapposta be?"

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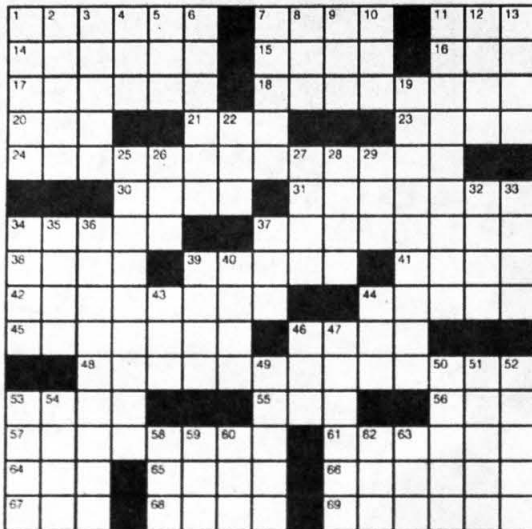
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- 1 News team leader
 - 7 Wound sign
 - 11 Bashful
 - 14 Jeanne of "Jules et Jim"
 - 15 Singer Falana
 - 16 Mad Hatter's beverage
 - 17 Happenings
 - 18 Voting sample
 - 20 Final profit
 - 21 Word ignored when alphabetizing
 - 23 Went by train
 - 24 Snooze soundly
 - 30 Lincoln and Fortas
 - 31 Tractor hitch
 - 34 Ancient Britons
 - 37 Feign
 - 38 Eden resident
 - 39 Epsom
 - 41 LummoX
 - 42 Short and plump
 - 44 Aromatic salves
 - 45 Trick pitches
 - 46 Docking place
 - 48 Keep mum
 - 53 Violent conflicts
 - 55 Harris and O'Neil
 - 56 Writer Levin
 - 57 Elaborate speeches
 - 61 Not quite a dozen
 - 64 Six months from Apr.
 - 65 Fissure
 - 66 Native skill
 - 67 H. Rider
 - Haggard novel
 - 68 Building wings
 - 69 Backbones
- DOWN**
- 1 Prayer endings
 - 2 Unique
 - 3 Center of Minoan culture
 - 4 Coop layer
 - 5 Type of grass
 - 6 Steal livestock
 - 7 Smooth and silky
 - 8 Courteney of "Friends"
 - 9 Boxing great
 - 10 Snitch
 - 11 Game played against steps
 - 12 Grasped
 - 13 Lock maker
 - 19 Police vehicles
 - 22 "Girl Friday"
 - 25 Catch me if you can!
 - 26 "Nova" network
 - 27 Correct copy
 - 28 Supplies with weapons
 - 29 Sigma follower
 - 32 Mote
 - 33 Cincinnati nine
 - 34 Golf standards
 - 35 Heartthrob
 - 36 Adjust against a standard
 - 37 Foxlike
 - 39 Do mailroom work
 - 40 Plus
 - 43 Favorite
 - 44 Buzzing insect
 - 46 Pea package?



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10/27/03

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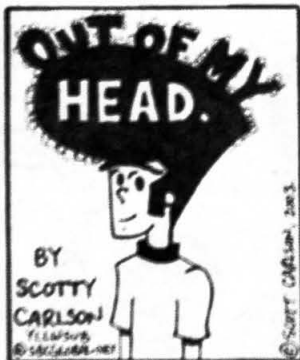
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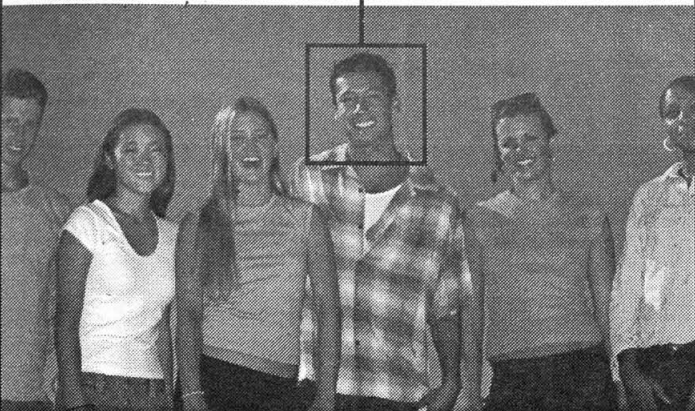
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Carless South Loopers can look to neighbors

○ For less than \$125 a year, residents and students can get a car of their own, if they don't mind a little sharing

By Angela Caputo
City Beat Editor

South Loop residents who fret about weekly runs to the supermarket can worry no longer, according to a local urban development organization. Car sharing is now available in two neighborhood locations.

In the South Loop, the two I-GO vehicles are located near Columbia student housing. One is at 711 S. Plymouth Court and the other is across campus at 1212 S. Michigan Ave.

A year and a half after I-GO—the first car-sharing program in Chicago—began, approximately 350 people have joined, according to Kathy Summers, vice president of marketing at the Center for Neighborhood Technology, the organization that oversees the program.

"What I-GO offers is freedom to explore the city and get to places not accessible by public transportation," Summers said. Most trips, she said, average 20 miles traveled within three hours. The primary destination is the grocery store or similar shopping spots.

Roughly 10 percent of I-GO's members are students, Summers said.

According to Summers, the non-profit program has been reaching out to colleges, including Columbia, to drum-up student membership in the program.

The University of Chicago campus also has an I-GO location. In response to student feedback in the Hyde Park neighborhood, Summers said expenses related to the program have been changed.

The previous \$20 per month membership fee has been dropped. The standard \$125 lifetime membership fee is only \$50 for students.

"It's very convenient and affordable for students," Summers said, "especially when [they] live in an urban downtown location where parking is very expensive."

All costs associated with having a car—like insurance, parking and gas—are all rolled into I-GO's membership charges. The company also charges a \$6 per hour usage fee plus 50 cents per mile traveled.

At the 711 S. Plymouth Court garage, parking alone would cost \$2,400 annually. The car share pro-

gram is presented as an affordable resource particularly in a dense urban environment.

Typically, between 15 and 18 people share a 2002 Honda Civic decorated with an I-GO logo. Vehicles are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and a reservation can be made in about 30 seconds over the phone.

The Center for Neighborhood Technology brought the car-sharing program to Chicago in partnership with the Seattle-based company Flexcar in March 2002.

The nonprofit program is based on other regional transportation and environmental planning issues as well.

Marjorie Isaacson, assistant manager for the Community Energy Cooperative at the Chicago-based group, said that their organization's initiative to develop the program was a natural.

"As an innovator in transportation, it was a perfect match for us," she said.

For more information about I-GO visit www.i-go-cars.org or call (773) 278-4800 x227.

Chicago cabbie finds jewels worth more than \$200,000

○ Driver receives pair of earrings for returning gems to owner

CHICAGO (AP) — Jewelry designer Anthony Camargo says he began chasing after the cab when he realized he had left a bag containing samples of his latest collection in its trunk.

But the cab and the \$230,000 worth of jewelry inside it was nowhere to be found.

Luckily, the bag was left in a cab being driven by 26-year-old Mohammed Hussain. On Oct. 22, Hussain returned the 42 ornate pieces of jewelry and received from Camargo an undisclosed monetary reward and a pair of sapphire earrings.

"What he did was so admirable," Camargo said.

Camargo is co-owner of Anthony-Nak Fine Jewelry, which is based in Austin, Texas. The list of celebrities that have worn his colorful jewelry includes Jennifer Lopez, first lady Laura Bush, Britney Spears and Cher.

Camargo left the bag in Hussain's cab on Saturday after a visit to Barney's New York in the ritzy Gold

Coast neighborhood. He reported the missing jewelry to police, but did not have the cab number or the name of the company.

"My whole staff of 40 people didn't sleep for two days," Camargo said.

Hussain, who came to the United States from India two and a half years ago, has been driving a cab for about a year.

He said he found the bag on Sunday morning, but did not open it right away.

"I didn't know there was jewelry there. I took it back to my apartment and just kept it," Hussain said. "The next morning I said 'let's see what's there,' and I found the jewelry."

He sent an e-mail to Camargo later that day.

"That sent a sigh of relief to all of us—we were very thrilled," Camargo said. "I have to tell you as somebody who deals with valuable gems ... it doesn't happen often that they get returned in this manner."

Murder *Continued from Back Page*

improve schools and jobs. That's all the city needs to do."

According to Bayless, Chicago has the highest concentration of drugs, homicides, guns, and gangs in the 7th District in the South Side's Englewood neighborhood and the 11th Harrison District on the West Side.

These two districts have a high concentration of low-income residents, according to Lurigio. The two neighborhoods are riddled with gang violence and have seen a steady decline in businesses and neighborhood rehabilitation services in the last 50 years. Englewood's homicide rate has only decreased 4 percent while Harrison's has dropped only 5 percent.

"Half of the city's murders occur in these districts each year," Bayless said. "There is an infestation of gangs and narcotics in those areas."

To reduce the crime within the areas, Bayless said the police have beefed up their street presence and have installed surveillance cameras in and around the areas.

Lurigio believes the police have always been reactive in Chicago "because that is their job," but they also need to take a proactive

approach toward the citizens of these districts. He said the citizens are the true police of their own neighborhoods and if the police would become partners with them, crime could be reduced. Lurigio also added that the police are not the cause of Englewood and Harrison's dilemma.

"Police are unfairly blamed when the numbers go up, and we probably give them more credit than they deserve when crime goes down. Crime is beyond their control," he said. "Crime is a social problem the whole city is responsible for."

In an effort to steer crime out of New York City in the 1990s, former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani implemented the Broken Windows Policy. It was a task force that he correlated with the belief that one broken window in a building presents neglect and leads to more broken windows.

Potential criminals saw areas with graffiti, open-air drug deals, prostitution and gangs as neighborhoods with no control. That caused fear for citizens, according to Lurigio.

Law abiding citizens would stay inside their homes and not interact with one another or the police. Giuliani's specifically targeted these

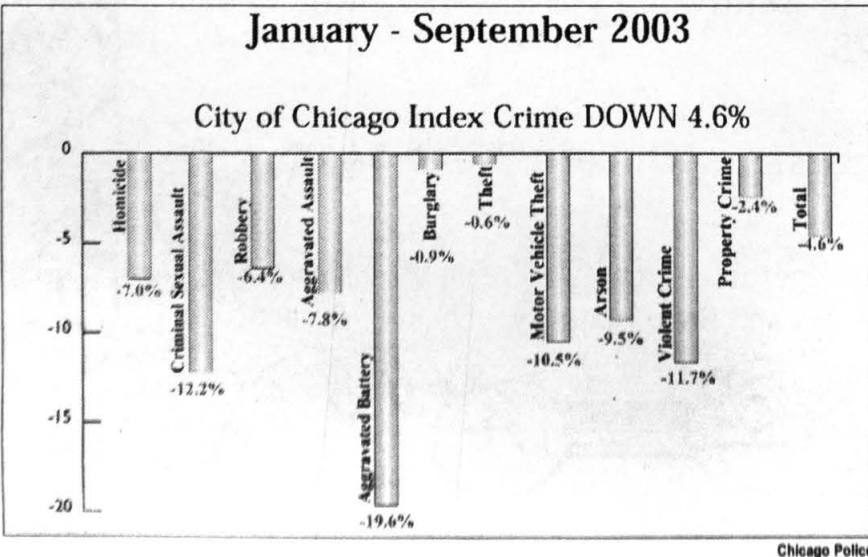
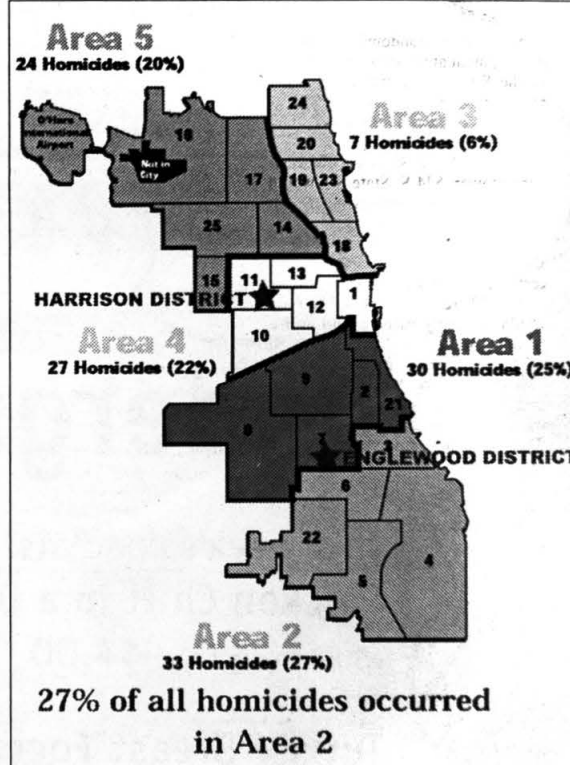
areas by tearing down buildings and implementing vigorous police enforcement.

Chicago designed its Community Alternative Policing Strategy in 1993 to simulate the Broken Window Policy.

But unlike New York, Chicago was hesitant to use the police force vigorously because they feared lawsuits over extreme police aggression toward nonwhite communities.

"There's a dark side to these policing programs, and the city is weary towards using them," Lurigio said. "Chicago has tried both sides, but to avoid police misconduct, they have backed down. Chicago, like New York, must find a way to use quality of life police enforcement, vigorous policing and at the same time, avoid police harassments."

But Bayless contends that Chicago's media too often forces people to feed into national numbers instead of focusing on Chicago. "Our job is to provide services for Chicago," Bayless said. "The media tends to get caught up in other cities' murder rates. We just want to be at the bottom, and that's every cities' goal."



Chicago Police
The 7th Englewood Police District on the South Side and the 11th Harrison Police District on the West Side have the highest concentrations of drugs, illegal firearms and gangs in Chicago, according to David Bayless, spokesman for the Chicago Police Department.

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Proposed condominium will rise above the rest

○ High-rise would become the South Loop's tallest building



Heather Morrison/Chronicle

The lot on the corner of South State Street and Congress Parkway has been earmarked for a 227-unit condominium. Neighbors from nearby Printers' Row are critical of the planned building's height.

By Angela Caputo
City Beat Editor

A proposed condominium tower development at the northern gateway of the South Loop has many local residents up in arms over a building that they say is far too tall for the planned location.

The projected site for the residence tower, 524 S. State St., would dwarf two focal points in the South Loop—the Harold Washington library to the north and the new University Center of Chicago to the east—residents say.

At 370 feet, the new building would be nearly twice as tall as the "superdorm."

The Historic Printers' Row Neighbors, a local civic organization, has taken an official position against the building that would add 227 condo units to the burgeoning neighborhood.

Members say that they reject the height of the project because it would compromise the historic integrity and quality of life for residents in the Printers' Row neighborhood.

"The height of the building will cast shadows on the historic districts of Michigan Avenue and Printer's Row," said HPRN member Leslie

Sturino.

The property, owned in part by the city, is in trust of LaSalle Bank and National Parking Corporation.

Suburban-based Concord Development Corporation Inc. is trying to acquire it, according to community leaders.

Representatives from Concord did not return phone calls from The Chronicle.

The development company applied for a zoning variance Aug. 29 to change the site's designation from commercial to residential. The transition would clear the way to move ahead with the plan.

Community activists are applying political pressure to gain momentum for a campaign against the Concord Place Tower. A petition drive, directed at city officials, started earlier in October.

"If the powers that be listen to the community, then the chances [for development] are zero," said Bonnie McGrath, an HPRN board member.

Initially the site was slated to be a park. However, city officials said they could not commit the \$5 million to \$10 million it would cost to redevelop it, according to neighborhood activists.

"It's a terrible shame that the city didn't follow through with the plan

to build a park," McGrath said.

Community members say that they feel misled by city officials including 2nd Ward Alderman Madeline Haitchcock who said they would consider their plans for a park or a recreation area only to later find out that Concord had an option to buy the land from the city.

Community members tried to rebound their chance to develop the site by working with local institutions to form a new plan.

Last year, the same designer of the University Center of Chicago, drew up plans for a community center at the location.

"Everyone liked the community center," McGrath said. The center was designed to fill the dearth of recreation facilities for students and residents in the Printers' Row area, she said.

Sturino said that at what she sees as a civic intersection—with Jones College Prep, the University Center of Chicago and the Harold Washington Library—a community center would become "a gateway to the education corridor."

Local colleges—projected to be the primary funders of the project—though, were unable to launch the plan during the current chilly economic climate.

Unemployment rate nears 7 percent in Chicago

○ Number slightly higher than national average; Daley cuts property taxes

By Hiroko Abe
Contributing Writer

An unstable recovery in the sluggish local economy has public officials and local business leaders brainstorming about what needs to be done to create a more viable market for job seekers such as college graduates.

The local economy in Chicago has been hit harder than the statewide average in terms of joblessness. The Chicago area unemployment rate in August was 6.8 percent, slightly higher than national average.

"We have gained fewer jobs over the last several years than almost of all our Midwestern neighbors," said Rob Nash, director of government relations at the Chicago Chamber of Commerce. "We are seeing signs of a turn around, however."

Along with a long-lasting jobless condition, college graduates are experiencing a heavier job-hunting burden each year.

Matthew Green, an employer outreach coordinator at Columbia, said the economy and full-time job opportunities are much worse than five years ago. He even described the situation as "bizarre."

Over the past five years, job postings at Columbia have shifted to freelance assignments, part-time positions and internships.

The latest economic condition summarized in the Federal Reserve's "Beige Book," shows temporary hiring increased significantly.

In order to fix the state economy, Gov. Rod Blagojevich announced the new economic plan last month, which will divide the state into 10 economic districts and take different plans depending on each of the

strengths and priorities.

Regarding the government actions, Nash said the best move the state could make to encourage development would be to reorganize the tax system.

"The most effective step would be to address the fundamentally flawed property tax system in Cook County, reduce the reliance on property taxes for education and create a more stable and predictable tax system for all Illinois businesses," he said.

Nash said the state should soften the tax burden faced by all property owners such as, "businesses and residents."

In fact, Mayor Richard M. Daley recently proposed the 2004 budget plan with a flat property tax rate at the budget meeting last Wednesday.

He also reported that the Ford Supplier Campus on the South Side has brought in 12 manufacturers, that Nanolink, a high technology company, was building a lab on the Near West Side, and Wrigley's Innovation Center will set up on Goose Island.

"This is just the tip of the iceberg in the Chicago economy," said Daley, "and each of these projects creates jobs and helps keep our city's economy diverse."

"Housing, jobs, education ... you name it. All these things are part of priorities this area," said Ross Harano, a managing director of the Illinois Trade office of the Department of Commerce and Economy Opportunity. Chicago seems to be struggling to generate more jobs for the better economy.

"Economy is still slow," Green said.

Although everything is not a full-time opening, Green added, "jobs are still there."

"It's really a matter of timing," Sturino said.

But local activists say that they are not giving up hope. They say that if the suburban developer gets the green light to move ahead with the development, they expect it to be

altered to be congruous with its surroundings.

If they are not willing to make changes to the design, said Sturino, "then they should find another place that's appropriate for the site."

OFF THE BLOTTER

◆ Oct. 16, at 12:10 a.m., a 28-year-old student from Ann Arbor, Mich., was approached by two unidentified men while walking at 430 S. Clark St. One offender threw the victim to the ground while another put a handgun to his head while rifling through his pockets, stealing \$60, a camera and a parking lot claim ticket.

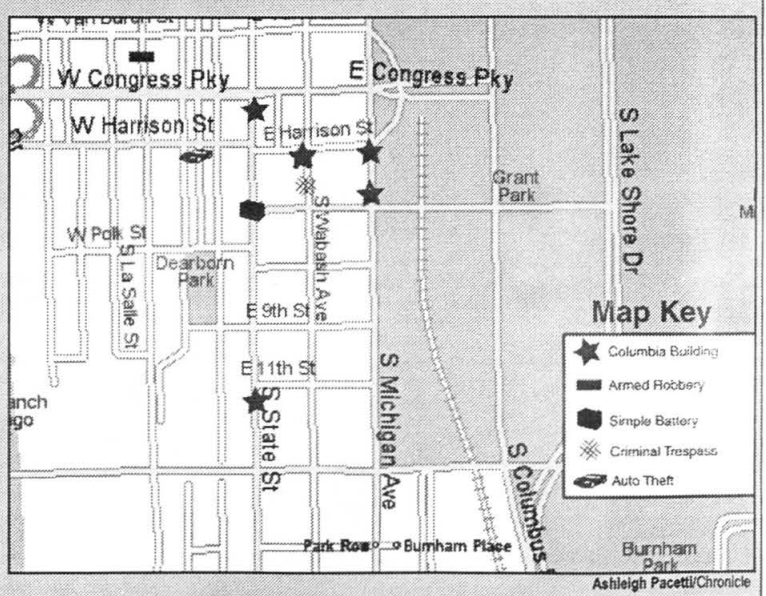
Less than 15 minutes later, police responded to an armed robbery at 360 S. Wabash Ave. The victim was a man from the 5200 block of North Winthrop Avenue. Police officers

called to the scene believed the incidents were connected.

◆ A 47-year-old man of the 3400 block of West Diversey Parkway was allegedly struck by a 30-year-old man of the 600 block of South State Street with a closed fist, Oct. 14. Police found the offender throwing trashcans into the street at 700 S. State St. at 9:25 p.m. and took him into custody charging him with simple battery.

◆ Two 20-something customers were taken into custody, Oct. 17, after a scuffle with the bar owner of George's Cocktail Lounge, 646 S. Wabash Ave. The owner said that the two ordered drinks but were unable to pay. When the customers did not leave at the owner's request, the police were called. They were charged with criminal trespass.

—Compiled by Angela Caputo



Ashleigh Pacetti/Chronicle

Chicagoween dresses up Pumpkin Plaza



Andrew J. Scott/Chronicle

The 'Chicagoween' pumpkin is one of many displayed at Daley Plaza during the 7th Annual 'Chicagoween event.' Festivities at 'Pumpkin Plaza' and 'Haunted Village' include daily story telling, pumpkin decorating, fortune telling and trick or treating through Oct. 31.

Chicago maintains 2003 per capita murder rate

○ City's murder rate drops, but experts say more can be done

By Kwame Abasi Patterson
Associate Editor

Chicago still outranks other major cities in homicides despite a 7 percent decrease in the city's murder rate during the first nine months of 2003, according to numbers released last week by the Chicago Police Department.

Police contend that its continued neighborhood actions have driven down murders and crimes in the city.

Last year, Chicago had the highest number of murders per capita in the country.

The latest numbers reflect a 30-year downward trend in Chicago's murder rate.

Chicago police reported 455 murders between January and September, the highest per capita in the entire country.

During the same period, Los Angeles—a city with more than 3.5 million people—reported 396 murders. New York City, with more than 8 million people, reported 450 murders.

"In what seems to be a national trend, other large cities have had significant decreases," said Dr. Author Lurigio, a professor and chair in the Department of Criminal Justice at Loyola University Chicago. "But we have more [murders] even though New York and L.A. have a much

larger population. That distinction is terrible for the city's image."

Nationally, data for 2002 released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting program indicate a 0.2 percent decrease from 2001. Overall, violent crime decreased 1.4 percent. Individual violent crimes, murder and forcible rape both showed increases of 0.8 percent and 4.0 percent, respectively. Robberies for 2002 decreased 1.2 percent, and the number of aggravated assaults declined 2.0 percent.

This year, overall violent crimes are down 11 percent, and property crimes are down 2 percent. Police officials said the city homicide rate is at its lowest in 10 years with an overall 35 percent decrease. In 1994, there were 708 murders between January and September.

According to David Bayless, director of news affairs for the Chicago Police Department, there is not one clear explanation behind the decline, but police are hoping their homicide reduction initiatives will continue to bring the numbers down.

"We have put up cameras in high crime areas, police surveillance of suspected criminal activity, increased police visibility and quicker data research in high crime areas," Bayless told *The Chronicle*. "But it is too early to determine if these ini-

tiatives are working."

The Chicago Police has also started Operation Double Play, a sting to take drug dealers off the streets by having undercover police officers pose as dealers.

Chicago has the most prominent open-air drug market in the nation, according to police. In an open-air drug deal, people can either drive or walk up to dealers to purchase drugs. Police officials say disrupting those markets is the one key to lowering the city's murder and violent crime rates.

Lurigio said he isn't convinced the police initiatives are behind the rate change. He believes people will only start to pay attention when the percentages are in the double digits within a single year.

City officials can do more to decrease the overall crime rate in Chicago, Lurigio said. He suggests police and city departments take individual maps of social inequities, such as multigenerational poverty, crime, unemployment and poor educational facilities to see their concentration only in certain areas of the city.

"The police can't do anything about social problems," he said. "What you need are several city agencies to invest in neighborhoods,

See **Murder**, Page 30

Grant Park goes green

○ Missing trees at the root of reforestation plan

By Angela Caputo
City Beat Editor

An ambitious reforestation plan continues to fill Grant Park with saplings that will become lush trees over coming decades. A new leg of the campaign was launched Oct. 21, with the planting of the first of 200 new elm trees beginning at Columbus Drive and Jackson Boulevard.

The replacement of nearly every missing tree in Grant Park is anticipated within the next two years, according to Grant Park Advisory Council President Bob O'Neill who likened the tree planting to creating "a perfect smile" for a person who before was missing teeth.

Elm trees are also being planted around Buckingham Fountain, east of Lake Shore Drive along Lake Michigan and south on Michigan Avenue.

In tandem the Chicago Department of Transportation is planting elm and hackberry trees along Columbus Drive from Balbo Drive to Roosevelt Road, according to O'Neill who said that "these trees never existed so they represent a net gain."

District Forester for the Chicago Park District Brian Williquette, the former operations supervisor in Grant Park in 1993, confirmed the park district is committed to the reforestation project.

Roughly 250 crab apple and Hawthorn trees are projected to be planted both this upcoming spring and again the following year.

He added that the number of trees anticipated to be planted is not set in stone. "We're committed to what we have money to do," Williquette said.

This year, roughly 10 percent of all the trees planted in the district

went to Grant Park, according to Williquette.

Park District spokeswoman Lydia Hall said the trees in Grant Park would cost \$78,000 to plant, which will account for 16 percent of the districtwide tree and landscaping budget.

"The districtwide budget of \$500,000 for forestation does not include additional trees planted in conjunction with capital construction projects such as Soldier Field," Hall said.

Although a new leg of the reforestation campaign is underway, the restoration of the foliage at Grant Park has been ongoing for nearly a decade. Between 1994 and 2001, roughly 700 trees were planted, according to the park district.

"The elm trees have helped to bring back sections of the park that looked more like ball parks," Williquette said.

Not all of those trees have survived though. Between 3 percent and 6 percent of the trees in the park die annually, foresters say.

Dutch elm disease has been a major killer of Grant Park's elms. Also, rabbits—said to be overrunning Grant Park—endanger the park's horticulture, ecologists say.

In a situation that O'Neill describes as "night of the living rabbits," the hares caused an estimated \$50,000 in damage last year.

Precautions, including wrapping the base of the trunks so they can't be gnawed, are being taken to improve the new trees, odds for survival.

The proposal is all part of the master plan to restore Grant Park to "the vision of perfection" it was intended to be in the original design, O'Neill said.



Charles Kushner/Chronicle

To start the reforestation of Grant Park, 200 sapling elm trees were planted at Columbus Drive and Jackson Boulevard.