

11-24-2003

Columbia Chronicle (11/24/2003)

Columbia College Chicago

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Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (11/24/2003)" (November 24, 2003). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/589

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

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International students feast like pilgrims



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Turkey and stuffing brought international students and faculty together at the fifth annual Thanksgiving Celebration for International Students in the Hokin Annex on Nov. 20. at a luncheon meant to introduce them to the holiday. The celebration featured the traditional smorgasbord along with an explanation of the significance of the holiday, speeches from faculty and a skit performed by On The Ground, a student activist group. —Jody Richardson

Look ma, Columbia is on TV

College expects to capitalize on Thanksgiving parade as marketing opportunity

By Jamie Murnane
Staff Writer

While many area colleges have turned to television commercials to advertise their institutions, Columbia officials chose a less conventional way to spread the word. This holiday season, the college will be one of the many sponsors of the 70th Annual State Street Thanksgiving Parade.

Last year, the college sponsored the parade as a one-time experience, said Mark Lloyd, Columbia's assistant vice president of communications and marketing. However, this year Columbia signed an exclusive sponsorship contract with the Chicago Festivals Association through 2006.

Lloyd said the contract will cost the college between \$50,000 and \$60,000 every year.

"We are one of the largest sponsors of this year's parade," Lloyd said.

The sponsorship means that the college is sponsoring the nearly 30 marching bands hailing from Chicago to Mississippi that perform throughout the parade, according to Kari Sommers, Columbia's director of marketing.

The college also sponsors the Band Bash, a pre-parade party for the band members at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Sommers said Columbia's sponsorship is a way to get the students in the bands interested in the college.

The Band Bash is also meant to give executive college staff members a chance to speak. Mark Kelly, vice president of student affairs, and Murphy Monroe, director of admissions, are scheduled to address those in attendance at the Band Bash.

The parade coverage will be nationally syndicated and as of last week, nearly 120 other stations in the country have decided to run the footage.

More may decide to run it as well.

Columbia's presence in the 2003 parade helps to increase national awareness of the establishment, Sommers said.

The parade will broadcast live Thanksgiving morning, again on Nov. 30 and finally on Christmas Day. The price of the possible national exposure, Sommers believes, is "such a drop in the bucket" compared to what it would cost to do actual commercials.

"Since we don't have a football team and we don't want a football team, we don't get the national television coverage most colleges and universities get," Sommers said. "The parade gives us a chance to stand out in a crowd."

The parade not only allows Columbia to be seen by millions of people, but the sponsorship also guarantees the college an ad and a feature story in the Chicago Tribune.

Coincidentally, the parade will kick-off right in front of the new University Center of Chicago. The building—when it's completed next fall—will house nearly 700 Columbia students. Sommers said WLS-TV, which is televising the parade, has been urged to mention the new "superdorm."

Organizers said the Columbia logo will be seen by an estimated 1.5 million people, including the 300,000 expected on State Street.

Sommers said that, as the Columbia float and Jazz Ensemble appear on camera, a ticker will scroll across the bottom of the screen informing viewers of things Columbia has accomplished.

For example, viewers may learn that Columbia's Museum of Contemporary Photography is the only Midwestern museum dedicated solely to photography; that Columbia alumni include Grammy, Emmy, Oscar, Tony, Pulitzer and Jeff award

winners; and Barbershop producers George Tillman and Bob Teitel met while attending classes in Columbia's Film and Video Department.

Columbia was the first Chicago area college to sponsor the event, and the three-year contract gives the college exclusive rights, Sommers said. The stipulation allows Columbia to be the one and only college sponsor. However, when Harold Washington College asked to have a balloon in this year's parade, Columbia was consulted. Harold Washington was granted permission because, as Sommers said, "We have so many different partnerships with other schools, we need to be good neighbors."

In addition to the college sponsoring the marching bands, it will also have a float featuring the Columbia Jazz Ensemble, directed by Scott Hall. The approximately 20 students who comprise the Jazz Ensemble are scheduled to perform Duke Ellington's version of the "Nutcracker Suite" while riding along the State Street parade route from Congress Parkway to Randolph Street.

Hall said that when Columbia decided to get involved with the parade last year, he was asked to have the Jazz Ensemble play.

"It was great but very cold," Hall said of last year's experience. "We're more prepared this year; we're not just wearing our tuxedos." According to Hall, the college is providing the ensemble with uniform coats to use for the next three years. The purchase of those coats, Sommers said, will be the only additional costs the college will face concerning the parade.

The State Street Thanksgiving Parade is on Nov. 27 at 8:30 a.m., along State Street, from Congress Parkway to Randolph Street.

The parade will be broadcast on WLS-TV at 9 a.m.

Director hired to clean up Student Financial Services

College pledges to clean up 'mess' for students

By Chris Coates and Lisa Balde
Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Tackling mounting student criticism about the college's student financial aid, Columbia has secured a new executive director of Student Financial Services and implemented changes that officials contend will be beneficial for students.

Some students contend the department is continually afflicted with massive problems. Loan applications are lost. Students are billed twice. Telephone calls are missed.

"It's a mess," said Chris Mullins, a junior theater major who was waiting inside the Student Financial Services Office on the 3rd floor of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. A transfer student in 2002, Mullins said the department has mishandled his loans every semester.

"Unless I physically come in here and fight with them, they'd just let it go," he said.

It is a point echoed by many in line in the financial aid office.

Anna Livermore, a senior fashion design major, said the office has lost her loan application in the past.

"I just couldn't get a hold of anyone," she said. "[My financial aid officer] was never in the office."

Another student, senior radio major Toyar Graham, said she was being forced to prove that she paid her last loan so that she could receive another.

But with an increase in financial aid criticism, the college has made several

steps to improve the department, including the appointment of a new director.

"I'm looking to eliminate lines. I hate lines," said Timothy Bauhs, a former associate comptroller and bursar at the Illinois Institute of Technology and the college's pick for its new executive director of Student Financial Services.

Bauhs comes to Columbia with more than 10 years in educational finance. In past jobs, Bauhs has arrived in struggling financial aid departments, quickly implemented beneficial changes and moved on within several years. Bauhs admits he has an impressive batting average.

"I have a strong history in taking [financial aid] operations and improving them," he said.

Bauhs spent time at National Louis University in Evanston, North Park University and six years at IIT.

When he arrived at IIT in 1997 as a bursar, Bauhs said the financial aid office dealt with long lines and many complaints. He said students were sometimes billed the wrong amount—a mistake faced by many Columbia students.

At North Park University—a private Christian college on the city's northwest side—Bauhs confronted similar problems. Serving as the college's director of student accounts, Bauhs held informational seminars and took solid steps to lessen the department's bureaucracy, he said.

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Student Health Center sponsors wellness fair

Cornucopia of services and information to be offered

By Jordan Troka
Assistant News Editor

With the stress of the holidays fast approaching and final exams on the horizon, the Student Health Center is sponsoring a fair to educate students about the importance of total body health and wellness.

The event, to be held on Dec. 3 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., will feature a array of health and wellness information for interested students.

"We tried to offer a variety; things people would relate to in regards to their health," said Gina Consolino, a nurse practitioner in the Student Health Center and the primary coordinator of the event.

The Chicago Department of Public Health and Better Existence with HIV are two organizations scheduled to attend the event and provide free, confidential HIV testing. Other organizations scheduled to attend include Planned Parenthood, Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and representatives from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office, who will

speak with students about the importance of organ donation.

Columbia's Counseling Services will offer screenings for depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety disorder and posttraumatic stress disorder. Interested students will fill out a survey created, in part, by the Harvard University Department of Psychiatry and then a staff counselor will review and score the survey and speak with the students. Marsha Morris, a therapist in Counseling Services, said this screening is important because there are so many people who suspect they are depressed and the survey will provide them with an answer.

"When we speak with a student who appears to have some problem, we will offer them resources either within Columbia or outside," Morris said.

Rape Victim Advocates will also have a table. Consolino said that on average, one in three women will be raped or sexually assaulted in their lifetime.

Dearborn Dental, 539 S. Dearborn St., will be present to speak about dental health. An eye care professional will

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Inside
this week



Campus

Aaron Williamson's art is a process not a final product

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A&E

This holiday season enter turtles in a half-shell and a not-so-jolly green giant

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City Beat

How much is that banner on the auction block?

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Calendar: Nov. 24 - 28

MONDAY

A screening of the documentary *Unprecedented: The 2000 Presidential Election* will take place at 1:30 p.m. in Room 602 of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave. Filmmaker Richard Perez will be present for the screening. For more information, call (312) 344-7185.

Jazz Gallery is at 12:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Concert Hall in the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave. For more information, call (312) 344-6179. This weekly jazz concert features students from the Jazz Studies Program.

TUESDAY

Columbia is hosting a conversation with alumnus Robert Teitel at 7:30 p.m. in the Merle Reskin Theater, 60 E. Balbo Drive. The event is free to Columbia students, faculty and alumni and \$5 for everyone else. Teitel co-produced *Barbershop*, *Men of Honor* and *Soul Food*. For more information, call (312) 344-7280.

Drum Circle is at 1 p.m. in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. For more information, call (312) 344-7188.

WEDNESDAY

The Best of the Tuesday Night Student Concert Series is at 12:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave. The best musicians in this series return for an encore performance. For more information, call (312) 344-6179.

THURSDAY

Christkindlmarket is at 11 a.m. in Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., and runs through Dec. 22. The annual marketplace features a variety of food and shopping booths. Visitors can purchase food items like homemade soup and European chocolate and buy goods like candles, jewelry and nutcrackers. For more information, call the Mayor's Office of Special events at (312) 744-3315.

Chicago's Thanksgiving Day Parade is at 8:30 a.m. and runs on State Street between Congress Parkway and Randolph Street. Several performances will take place at the grandstand between Randolph and Washington streets. For more information, call (312) 781-5681.

The 26th Annual Turkey Trot is at 9 a.m. in Lincoln Park. The event, sponsored by Vertel's is an 8K run, walk and junior dash. The Turkey Trot will attract more than 4,800 runners and prizes will be awarded. For more information, call CAPRI Events at (773) 404-2281 or register online at www.caprievents.com.

FRIDAY

The 90th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony begins at 4:30 p.m. in Daley Plaza. Traditionally, the mayor lights the tree, which stands 85 feet this year, to mark the beginning of the holiday season. For more information, call the Mayor's Office of Special events at (312) 744-3315.

The Adler Danztheatre Company presents "How We Grew Breasts Without Really Trying" at 8 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling (773) 486-8261. The show runs through Dec. 20.

If you have an upcoming event or announcement, call The Chronicle's news desk at (312) 344-7254.



Chris Coates Editor-in-Chief

I re-wrote this column four times

Eight times. That's the record for the number of times I checked my car doors to make sure they were locked. Eight times. Eight minutes that I could have spent doing anything but succumbing to my outright stupid compulsion. It runs in the family.

On nearly every family vacation, just as the car was backing out of the driveway, my mother went through the memorized checklist. "Did you unplug the iron?" she would ask to no one in particular. Yep. "Did you check the back door?" Yep. "Did you blow out the candles?" Uh huh. "What about the stove?" We hadn't baked any pound cakes that morning, so the question was moot.

In fact, the Coates family has experienced many a u-turn to check if the candles were out, the doors were locked, the front light was on...

This wasn't just safe checking. This was a compulsion. It took me a few years to realize the difference.

Safe checking involves inspecting something very thoroughly. For example, the candle issue. Look at the candle? Is there a flame? If there is, extinguish it. Now, tell yourself the candle is out. No need to check again, right?

Not so. With an apartment of my own, I've found myself creating a very thorough mental checklist that I—almost subconsciously—follow every morning. It goes something like this:

1. Check the stove. Even if I haven't cooked in a week, I still verify that the burners and oven are in the off positions. I usually confirm three times, but sometimes more if I just cooked something.

Yet, after separate checks, I still have fears that the place will be burned to the ground when I drive up at night.

Arriving one evening from a long road

trip, a Chicago police officer—with flashing blue lights atop his or her car—was pulling someone over in front of my apartment. "This is it," I thought as I pulled onto the street. "I didn't turn the burner off, a stray napkin caught on fire and now my apartment building is all but ashes." Crazy stuff.

2. Check that the candles are thoroughly extinguished. Obviously, this is another fire fear.

3. Check that all the doors in the apartment are closed before leaving. I can't figure out where this came from, but it's one of the strongest of my rituals.

5. Make sure the toilet seat and lid are down. This is not a typical male trait, but I got it, probably from my mom. In fact, I yelled at my girlfriend for leaving the toilet lid up one weekend. She should know better.

6. Check that the heater is off. Why heat the place when you're not there? I usually check this twice.

7. Check that the front and rear doors are locked. This is by far the biggest part of my morning ceremony. I check countless times. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night to confirm the back door. I don't have a fear of an intruder, at least I don't think so. Still, I have to check again and again.

I do the same thing with my car doors. A couple weeks ago, I drove a classmate to a project and he forgot to lock the door. I couldn't believe it. Now, I check it one more time, just in case.

Now, I know what you're thinking. He's crazy. But, obsessive-compulsive disorder—which I diagnosed myself—is not all that uncommon. One in 50 adults has an obsessive-compulsive disorder, according to the Obsessive-Compulsive Foundation, a Connecticut-based group. The disorder is significant-

ly more ordinary than schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or panic disorders, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. Well, that's a relief.

My strain of obsession—the "oh, God, I have to check the (insert item here)" variety—is actually pretty normal and on the lower end of the OCD scale. In fact, the OCF's own online test actually says I don't have OCD at all.

The real OCD is stereotypical: washing hands over and over, avoiding walking on cracks because they allegedly break your mother's back, etc. Like Jack Nicholson's character in *As Good as It Gets*.

Apparently, I have the "obsessive" part of OCD down pat, but not so much of the "compulsive." I should really work on that.

And although there's no solid proof OCD is genetic, my brother told me he has a checklist too. Colin, a freshman at Defiance College in Ohio, said he checks to make sure, for example, his desk light is off.

He was a bit hesitant to blame it all on Mom. But Mom fully admits, Colin's and my paranoia is probably a learned response.

"How many times did we turn around?" she asked rhetorically about the countless "I wonder if" moments of our childhood. Mom told me she's been a bit on edge ever since she watched the house across the street from a family friend burn to the ground because the homeowners left their dryer on when they were gone. Since then, my mom makes sure our dryer is firmly in the "off" position.

That explains it. "Is this going to make me look like a lunatic?" she asked. No, Mom. If I had a dryer, I would check it too. Twice. —ccoates@chroniclemail.com

11 years ago in The Chronicle

In the Nov. 22, 1992, edition, The Chronicle leads with an analysis of the college's endowment funds, which then reached \$11 million. According to the front-page article, Columbia did without a serious endowment fund for 85 years before adopting a plan in 1975. Five years later, the fund reached an astounding \$2,500.

Today, records show Columbia's endowment fund totals approximately \$46 million, down from an all-time high in 2000 of nearly \$60 million.

Meanwhile, Northwestern University's 2002 endowment fund totaled \$3.5 billion.

Announcements

Kick the habit

The Student Health Center's six-week Freedom From Smoking program will start anew at the beginning of the spring semester.

The current program began Oct. 7 and is wrapping up, a center employee said.

With the band

Columbia graduate Neil Bergman traveled to the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan last spring with the rock band Mink.

The band also entertained troops in Afghanistan six months after 9/11. His last gig was in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in July.

Why didn't we think of that?

Columbia graduate Karyn Bosnak released a book in September and is currently working on a screenplay that

chronicles the story of how her website, www.savekaryn.com, got her out of a \$20,000 credit card debt.

When Bosnak found herself unemployed and up to her ears in bills in June 2002, she created the low-budget website to ask people worldwide to send her money and help pay off her shopping debt.

The plan worked and was featured in The New York Times, People and Time.

Premiums stand still

Employee premiums for the Columbia College Comprehensive Health Plan and for HMO Illinois will remain stagnant for 2004, despite increases in health care costs.

Columbia employees will pay \$300 annually for single coverage under the Comprehensive Health Plan and \$600 annually for family coverage. Dental and vision are also covered.

While other employees in the country pay about 25 percent of the costs of their insurance coverage, Columbia employees pay less than 6 percent.

Gallery talk

Christopher Lynn is the new gallery coordinator for the Center for Book and Paper Arts. Lynn received his Master's of Fine Arts Degree in painting from Ohio State University.

He worked for the West Palm Beach Museum of Contemporary Photography and the Brigham Young University Museum of Art before coming to Columbia.

We hope it works

Early online registration for the spring 2004 semester begins Dec. 1. Students wishing to participate must meet with a faculty adviser to get registration clearance.

Students will be able to register from any computers with an Internet connection.

For more information, contact the Oasis

Student Help Desk at (312) 344-7788.

FOCO wrapping up

The three-month long FOCO Festival, a celebration of Latino pop culture, wraps up on Dec. 4 and 5 with a concert at HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Drive, featuring cutting edge alternative Latin music.

The festival was entirely student-run and student-produced and was also funded by Latino Cultural Affairs.

Weather

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

Monday, Nov. 24	
Cloudy with snow showers	High 36° Low 24°
Tuesday, Nov. 25	
Mostly cloudy, windy and cold	High 38° Low 26°
Wednesday, Nov. 26	
Times of sun and clouds	High 40° Low 30°
Thursday, Nov. 27	
Partly sunny	High 43° Low 32°
Friday, Nov. 28	
Mostly cloudy with a shower	High 48° Low 33°
Saturday, Nov. 29	
A snow shower	High 36° Low 26°
Sunday, Nov. 30	
Cold with times of sun and clouds	High 34° Low 27°

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2003

Alumni give back with scholarships

○ Students receive total of \$20,000 in fund's first year

By Adam Zakroczymski III
Staff Writer

If there is anyone that knows how hard it can be to pay for school, it's students.

In an effort to help them achieve their goals and make it through college, Columbia's Alumni Relations Department has set up the Alumni Scholarship to keep students at Columbia.

According to Jeryl Levin, director of alumni relations, a total of \$20,000 was awarded to eight students this year. Six students were given \$3,000 for their tuition and two were given \$1,000 for their semester in Los Angeles.

Eric Wolfram, a junior majoring in audio arts and acoustics, said he was "excited and shocked" when he found out he won the award. "This [scholarship] was the first award I've won from a school and not the government," Wolfram said.

For the past 15 years, the Alumni department has been collecting money for such a scholarship.

Last year the Alumni Advisory Council was set up to oversee the disbursement of these funds.

According to Levin, the AAC is made up of nearly 40 Columbia alumni from a variety of backgrounds. Like the students who receive the scholarship, the alumni are also in diverse fields such as photo, film, writing and management, Levin said.

"The students are nominated for academic and creative excellence," Levin said. After being nominated for the scholarship by the chair of their department, students must fill out an application and submit an essay to begin the

consideration process.

For the students, the process is relatively simple. Wolfram said he wrote his essay about why he chose his particular field of study at Columbia.

For the AAC to decide who gets the money, the process is a little more grueling. They spend eight months deciding who the recipients of the scholarship will be, Levin said.

The AAC has discussions with the admissions office, all chairs in their respective departments and the provost in order to determine the best way to structure the money.

The alumni involved are very enthusiastic about the program. "They met probably 15 times," Levin said.

Recipients must have at least a 3.0 GPA and demonstrate financial need in order to obtain the scholarship.

"It's a merit scholarship, but priority is given to need," Levin said.

Like many Columbia students, Wolfram pays his own tuition but finds it difficult to obtain assistance because of his parents' income. For Wolfram, every little bit helps.

In a similar situation, Christine Hernandez-Tevenal, a senior in the Early Childhood Education program, said she was excited to receive the scholarship.

"It eased the financial pressure," she said. The Alumni Scholarship program "will be an annual award and is currently set up for continuing students only. The winners must be in their third or fourth year.

"Our goal is to help students stay [at] Columbia," Levin said. "We felt our efforts were best spent creating alumni."

Peace Corps wants you

○ Three Columbia grads serve on three continents

By Jamie Murnane
Staff Writer

While the economy takes its toll on thousands of jobs, fewer college students are finding jobs after graduation. According to Steve Roskelley, public affairs specialist of the Chicago Peace Corps office, more of those students are now "considering the Peace Corps as a post-graduation option."

Individuals who choose to postpone their careers to join the Peace Corps are in for a 27-month commitment, Roskelley said. They first go through a three-month training program to get accustomed to their duties and the country in which they will be residing. There, Roskelley said, they'll actually serve for the remaining 24 months.

According to Roskelley, three former Columbia students are currently serving their 27-month Peace Corps terms.

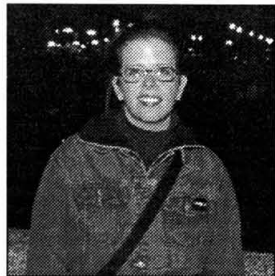
Christy Ehrmann, class of 2001, is in Turkmenistan working as a health educator. Cornelia Goddard, class of 1996, is working in environmental education in Bulgaria, and Angela Ratkowski, who graduated in 2002 and worked in Columbia's Writing Center, is working as an English teacher in Benin.

The former students could not be reached for comments since they are in such isolated locations.

However, Derek Boczkowski, assistant director of the Writing Center, worked with Ratkowski and was not surprised by her decision to join the Peace Corps.

"She was a very caring and helpful person. She always gave her undivided attention and best efforts to those she tutored in the center," he said.

In addition to the three currently involved with the Peace Corps, there is one other student who graduated in



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Margaret Kizior, 29, class of 2003, ships out in March.

June 2003 who is in the final stages of Peace Corps processing. Margaret Kizior, 29, who was a radio broadcast major at Columbia, is preparing to go to Eastern Europe to teach the English language to secondary school students.

She also plans to help establish an after-school program at the school in which she'll be teaching.

Kizior acknowledged that many of her friends who had gone through the radio broadcast program were not yet working in their desired field.

Discouraged by the possibilities in radio, Kizior said, "I knew I wasn't going to work in some cubicle from 9 to 5. If I couldn't work in my field, I at least wanted to go out and do something to help other people."

After learning about one of her close friend's experiences in the corps, Kizior's interest grew.

"Just hearing about the work she was able to do [in Africa] and the changes she made in people's lives made me really want to get involved," she said.

Kizior believes her time with the corps will help her to feel better about

See Peace Corps, Page 6

Sound performance delivers

○ Aaron Williamson performed with student workshops after week-long residency



Julian Siddens Ku/The Chronicle

London-based artist Aaron Williamson lectures Nov. 10. He performed in the Glass Curtain Gallery.

By Dominick Basta
Staff Writer

Wearily and breathing heavily on the evening his solo performance and residency ended at Columbia, Aaron Williamson was ready to return home.

"I'm exhausted," Williamson said after the performance. "My experience here has been totally fantastic."

The 42-year-old British artist, who is deaf, exerted a wild, spontaneous energy during his week-long residency at Columbia, a part of the ongoing Tic-Toc performance series.

Williamson came to present two highly-anticipated performances at Columbia: a collaborative work with students, Nov. 14, and a presentation of a solo piece, Nov. 15. Both events were held at the Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., of the 1104 Center.

"It was very enjoyable to be here," Williamson said. "It's not very often that I get to perform in America, let alone with American students. I found [them] great to work with."

Williamson's solo performance, "Rollin," was a multimedia exhibit which involved Williamson interpreting several themes in front of a screen, which played footage of falling rock debris. Each segment started with Williamson shouting, "Rollin!" which led into his innovative combinations of objects to evoke different reactions from the audience.

Mei Wong, a sophomore dance major who also participated in the student performance the night before, was speechless at the close of the show.

"I'm too surprised to speak," Wong said. "All I can say is that it was truly wonderful."

Williamson is an interdisciplinary artist who incorporates performance, objects, language and space.

His performances often utilize various strong visual elements to exemplify the theme of his work. All of this is transformed through the experience of

becoming completely deaf over the course of 20 years.

Art and Design Department faculty member Matthew Wilson, curator of the event, said this presentation was typical of Williamson's performances.

"Aaron uses lots of humor in his work and takes a very nontheatrical approach," Wilson said. "This was different from some of his shows in London in that he engaged the audience to participate."

At various points during his performance, Williamson selected volunteers to join him in acting out his pieces. Whether he was exchanging shoes with an audience member or passing out cups of whiskey, Williamson was always very aware he was performing for an audience and, as a result, developed a good rapport with them.

"Aaron works with people and the space around him as well as using [common] objects in unusual ways," Wilson said. "People who work with Aaron are allowed to see his approach firsthand. If Aaron was just deaf, he would not be here. He is also a very talented artist."

Julie Caffey, assistant director of C-Spaces, said she did not know what to expect from Williamson but was excited and honored to have him at Columbia. Six students from various departments signed up to work with Williamson during his residency, which included a week of workshops each night leading up to the performance. Students were unsure of the specifics of the event until the night of the presentation.

"We did not know what we were going to do," said Paula Thumb, an art and media graduate student. "Some of the objects we used were predetermined, but when it came time to do the actual performance, what we did was very nonconventional, structural and based a lot on chance."

Many of the students used the assort-

ed objects in the gallery, such as lamps, Post-it notes, paint brushes, duct tape and bubble wrap in very nontraditional ways, while others just fed off the spontaneity of their collaborators.

"It was great," said Lauren Hamilton, a sophomore ASL major in the performance. "By the night of the performance, we all worked really well together, and I think that made it all the more interesting. I'd never done anything like this, and it was very liberating to do so."

Rather than make his work autobiographical, Williamson tries to tailor his performances to the sites in which he performs, allowing the context of space to shape his art. This approach, Williamson said, places his work in the post avant-garde movement.

He prefers to use video, calling it "low tech," saying it is simple in its visual aesthetic and that the video speaks for itself. There is no agenda; it is merely a documentation of his art.

Regarding the nature of his handicap, Williamson said it was just another circumstance for his development as an artist.

"I haven't always been deaf. I became deaf over a period of 20 years," Williamson said. "It was a process of transformation. I come from a working-class English background. People thought something awful was happening to me."

In 1997, Williamson completed a doctoral thesis on performance, writing and bodily identity at the University of Sussex. Some of his acclaimed performances include: 'Lives of the Saints', in which Williamson explores acts of certain renowned saints as performances, connecting them with performance art imagery; and the 'Five Smokin' Televisions' video installation at the Ferens Art Gallery in England (May-June 2001).

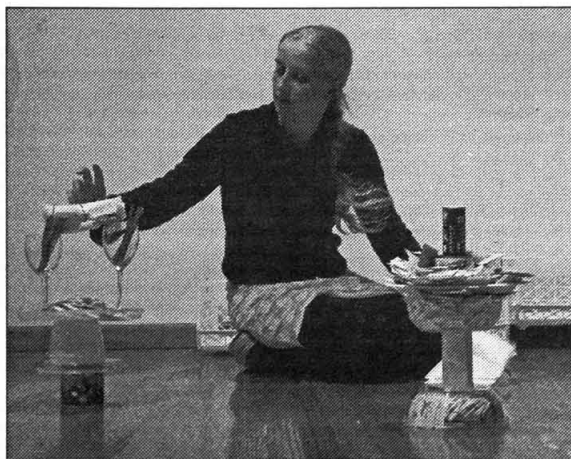
Williamson, who lives in London, has had exhibits and performances around the world, most notably in Great Britain, Japan and North America. He is the author of several books, including *Hearing Things* (2001) and *A Holythroat Symposium* (1995).

Influenced by theater and fine arts, Williamson has explored working with performance, installation, photography, sculpture, text, video, choreography, digital arts, and new media.

His main emphasis is on disability rather than on praising ability as a traditional artist. By mixing the human with the digital, the normal relations between body and technology are broken down, according to a statement on Williamson's website.

"It is not a huge theatrical dimension, what I do. I work with children and ask, 'How did you make this painting?' which is really more interesting than the actual work," Williamson said. "My emphasis is not on a completed work but my participation in making it."

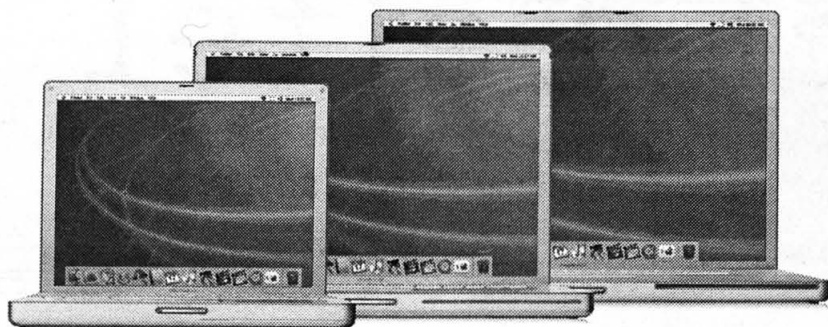
- Jody Richardson contributed to this article.



Courtesy of Glass Curtain Gallery

Anni Holm, International Student Organization president and photography major, performs on Nov. 14 with students and Williamson.

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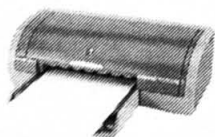
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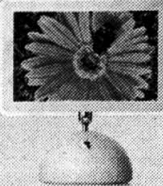
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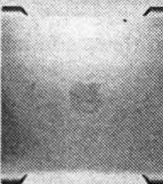
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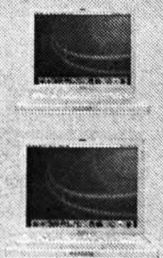
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a conversation with columbia alumnus

Robert Teitel

producer of Barbershop I and II, Soul Food, and Men of Honor
moderated by Bruce Sheridan, Film/Video Chairman7:30pm, Tuesday, November 25, 2003
Merle Reskin Theatre, 60 E. Balbo Ave.for more info, call the career center for the arts & media: 312-344-7280.
free to all Columbia students, staff, faculty, and alumni; general admission, \$5.
sponsored by the Film/Video Department at Columbia College Chicago.proceeds to benefit the open doors scholarship
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COLLEGE CHICAGO

Science Institute head wins award for service

○ Lerman wins society 'life-time achievement' award

By Andrew Greiner
Staff Writer

The head of Columbia's Institute for Science Education and Science Communication, Dr. Zafra Lerman, has received another award to add to her already impressive résumé.

Lerman won the 2003 American Chemical Society's Charles Lathrop Parsons Award, which is given every two years to a member of the ACS to recognize contributions to society. ACS is a nonprofit organization for the promotion of science with 160,000 members.

Her list of awards, citations and community recognitions is three pages long and includes a 1999 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Mentoring.

"I think of all my awards, this one, the Parsons, is No. 1. This award is not for an achievement in chemistry, anybody can do that. This award is for public service through chemistry. It is better to be recognized for how you help people," she said.

This year's Parsons Award had 13 nominees. Winners were selected through a balloting process, and each round of ballots contained five candidates and a selection board chose one candidate. After a series of votes, Lerman emerged as the winner.

ACS spokeswoman Alicia Harris said Lerman was not chosen for one specific accomplishment.

"This is more of a lifetime achievement award than anything. Dr. Lerman was chosen because of all of her accomplishments and her level of public service," Harris said. "She has done so much."

The presentation ceremony was held March 25, in New Orleans. Lerman dedicated her award and her ensuing speech to two men: Her mentor Franklin A. Long and Columbia founder and former president Miron "Mike" Alexandroff.

It was at Cornell University, where Lerman performed research on secondary isotope effects, that Long influenced her to use her talents in chemistry for the good of humanity. "He received the Parsons Award in 1985 and it was his dream that I would someday receive it. So it has double meaning for me," Lerman said in her award address.

Lerman met Alexandroff in 1977. In her award address, published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, she said her first interview with Alexandroff gave her the impression she was joining a cult.

Her first impression of Alexandroff was that he looked like Moses "with long flowing white hair, a long beard and bushy eyebrows."

She joined the "cult" school and started a "long, long love affair with Columbia," she said.

Columbia gave Lerman the opportunity to pursue alternative methods of teaching. In 1981, Lerman created the Department of Science and Mathematics at Columbia; the



File Photo

department's offices are located on the 14th floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave.

With Alexandroff's support, Lerman came up with inventive ways to teach chemistry. Because Columbia is an art school, Lerman adapted chemistry into a language that art students could relate to.

Her first class started at a bar. In an effort to bribe students into taking her class, she rounded up some prospects and took them for drinks. Before long she was discussing the chemical makeup of alcohol, she explained in her award address.

She encourages her students to use chemistry in inventive ways. Some of her students make short films and cartoons with chemistry themes.

In one of her inventive approaches, Lerman devised a way to teach chemistry through dance. She also extends her teaching techniques to Chicago Public School teachers each year during a summer workshop.

To prove that her art school science programs don't play second fiddle to anyone, she pairs her programs with Ivy League schools.

Every year Lerman flies a group of her students to Princeton University for a joint science symposium where students from both schools share their research findings.

"Everyone thinks that Yale, Princeton and Harvard are the best institutions. So, I take my students there to prove we do just as well," Lerman said.

Scholastic endeavors are not Lerman's only field of contribution. Her influence is felt throughout the world due to her human rights work.

She has helped oppressed scientists in China and the former Soviet Union, and she has chaired an ACS subcommittee for scientific freedom and human rights.

"Zafra is known the world over as a superb educator, and her activities related to the advancement of scientific freedom and human rights are legendary," said Nina I. McClelland, chair of the ACS board, in a statement to Chemical and Engineering News.

Lerman is the second woman to ever win the Parsons Award. Dr. Mary L. Good, a Donaghey University professor at University of Arkansas, Little Rock, won the award in 1991.

J-Dept. chair thinks big

○ Nancy Day is taking first semester to get settled, boosting program is next

By Jody Richardson
Staff Writer

After a five-year search and several acting and interim chairs, the Journalism Department has landed a new chair, Nancy Day, a Harvard Nieman Fellow and Stanford graduate.

At a Nieman Fellowship Narrative Conference last fall, journalism faculty member Rose Economou, who was on the search committee for a new chair, met Nancy Day and gave her a flier describing the open position at Columbia. The college had previously placed ads in newspapers and journalism publications.

Instructor Norma Green, who served as head of the journalism chair search committee, said: "We really wanted permanent leadership in place. Those who served as acting head know nobody takes you serious."

Of Day's arrival, Green said: "I am thrilled to hear laughter coming from her end of the hall. It is not all paperwork. Nancy has a good attitude about the challenges she is facing."

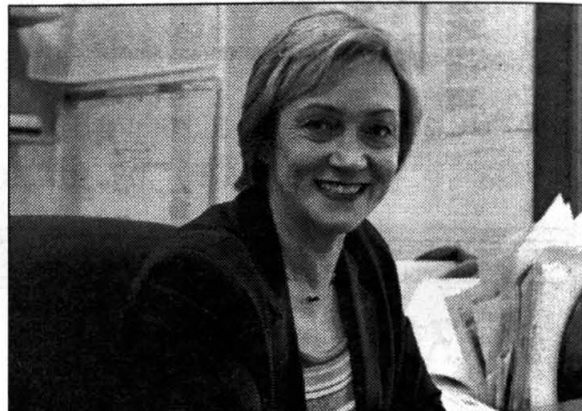
Although the faculty handbook states that chairs of departments are required to teach at least two courses per year, Day is exempt from teaching this semester. She began her time at Columbia by learning about the faculty's needs and concerns as well as working to prepare tenure packages for the three faculty members up for tenure.

"The first thing Nancy did was make appointments with all of us to discuss our ideas and where there are problems," said Barry Rice, the department's director of the Magazine Program. "I think it is especially hard to come in as a new boss to an existing group of people. I've been so impressed with her approach in dealing with personnel and students. She is a very good manager."

Next semester, Day will be teaching a Magazine Journalism II class for graduate students. During this time, she plans to spend more time with the students, understanding their concerns and observing other ways to improve the journalism curriculum.

Day's agenda also includes improving the journalism presence on the Columbia website.

"We have a lot of good student work here, and I would like the website to showcase students' work," Day said. "We have a recent addition to the



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Nancy Day brings a world of experience to Columbia as the first permanent chair for the Journalism Department in five years.

Journalism Department, David Fish, who has a lot of production and design experience. He can help us improve the website and hopefully design a logo for the Journalism Department."

Along with that, Day will be heading the search for two new tenure track faculty members. The department has two tenure track openings in September: a public affairs instructor and a broadcast journalism instructor.

Day graduated from University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, cum laude with a bachelor's degree of science and from Stanford University with a Master of Arts in communication.

Day was an associate professor of journalism at Boston University's College of Communication for 19 years. While at Boston University, Day was the director of advanced journalism studies for three and a half years and the co-director of the print and online journalism program for two years.

Day was also a consulting editor to Nieman Reports, the quarterly magazine of the Nieman Fellowship, for four years.

She has served as a freelancer for numerous magazines including *The American Editor*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Family Circle*, *Harvard Business School Bulletin*, *Health Digest*, *Lawyers Monthly*, *People*, *Redbook*, *Revolution*, *Rolling Stone*, *Stanford*, *Teen People*,

Women's Enews, *Workforce*, *Working Mother* and *Working Woman*.

Day's newspaper background includes being a reporter for *The Palo Alto Times*, the *Illinois State Register*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Associated Press* and the *Anchorage Daily News*. She also served as an editor for the *San Francisco Examiner*. Additionally, Day freelanced for the *Boston Globe*, the *Boston Herald* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

A recipient of the Associated Press Managing Editor Award, Day also received the American Bar Association Gavel Award, United Press International Spot News Award and the Copley Ring of Truth and University of Illinois Journalism Alumni Award.

Day is a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, a program in which 12 journalists are selected each year to attend Harvard and receive a stipend for their studies. Day attended Harvard at the age of 30.

Doreen Bartoni, dean of Columbia's School of Media Arts, interviewed Day in Chicago for the chair position.

"She seemed to be a natural fit," Bartoni said. "She's a noted scholar and practitioner. She has strong administrative experience at Boston. What impressed me about her is her understanding of our mission and her ideas on how to raise [the] Journalism Department to the next level."

SFS Continued from Front Page

Bauhs, tactics at other schools are likely a forecast of his plans for Columbia.

In an interview with *The Chronicle* Nov. 14, college President Warrick L. Carter acknowledged problems in the department. Carter credited some of the setbacks concerning loan checks to an implementation of new software, which he said is not totally compatible with the federal government's software.

The lack of compatibility means some students are lost in the shuffle and receive no checks. Meanwhile, others receive more than one loan check he said.

Carter also addressed charges of

excessive waits in the department—especially over the telephone. He said the college has been advised by an outside consultant group that is working to remedy the problem. Bauhs is apparently aware of Columbia's dilemmas.

"It seems like there's a lot of problems in that area, and I'm not big on problems," he said. "My goal is to make those problems go away."

While he doesn't want to specify any plans for Columbia just yet, Bauhs did point to OASIS, the college's Internet portal, as one device that could expedite and improve the financial aid process if it is "used properly," he said.

He also said the much-criticized cus-

tomers service aspect of the department will improve.

"There's going to be a lot of changes and improvements," Bauhs said of his future at Columbia, which starts Dec. 1.

Mike DeSalle, vice president of finance, did not return phone calls from *The Chronicle*.

Bauhs is 36 with a four-year-old daughter and lives in Oak Park, Ill. He received his undergraduate degree in political science at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's in higher education administration at Northwestern University. He's currently working on his certified public accounting credentials.

Peace Corps Continued from Page 3

herself by making a difference.

Since she was adopted, Kizior has the need to "give something back."

"It definitely has to do with how my parents raised me ... they're both really happy about my decision," she said.

As of now, Kizior is unaware of where she'll be stationed. She won't find out those details until approximately two months before her departure on March 20.

"First, I'll be sent to D.C. for even more paperwork ... then I'll go to the country I'll serve in and live with a host family for the first three months for cultural training," Kizior said. "I'll learn the language, religion and what the acceptable behavior in the country is. I'll be able to fully immerse myself in

the surroundings."

Roskelley noted that aside from having a college degree, applicants should have "a strong desire to serve, previous volunteer experience, and intercultural sensitivity."

Students interested in traveling to distant countries and serving others with the Peace Corps should apply soon—especially if they wish to depart in the summer.

It may take five months to a year for one to actually leave the country after applying, Roskelley said.

To apply, visit the Chicago Peace Corps office at 55 W. Monroe St., Suite 450. More information can be found on the corps website, www.peacecorps.gov.

Health Fair Continued from Front Page

also be present to provide care information to students. A chiropractic group will provide neck and back pain screenings and provide information for methods to stop the pain.

A variety of alternative medicine practitioners will also attend this year's health fair.

A yoga master will demonstrate techniques and talk about the health values of regular yoga practice.

An acupuncturist from Green Bamboo Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, 151 N. Michigan Ave., is scheduled to attend, but Consolino said she was not sure whether or not students would be able to receive soothing needle treatment on-site.

"The marriage of East and West

medicine could lead to greater wellness in the future," Consolino said.

For those students looking to relax, a massage therapist will be giving massages but most likely. Also, a nutritionist will discuss eating concerns and provide guidance for healthy eating.

A physical therapist from AthletiCo Rehabilitation, which has several offices in Chicago, including one at 20 N. Michigan Ave., will talk about injury prevention.

Consolino said this table is geared toward Columbia's performing arts students, due to the fact that the organization works with Hubbard Street Dance and the Joffrey Ballet.

"It should be a very good time. It's free information, free stuff," said

Consolino, who added that there may be health-related giveaways during the course of the day.

Consolino said she hoped students would come away from the event with a greater knowledge of health information and resources.

She added that those who cannot attend the annual health fair can visit the Student Health Center in the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, and access a private computer to search for any health or wellness information they might need.

"I want students to learn something," Consolino said. "I want them to have fun."

For more information about the health fair, call (312) 344-6830.

TO: Columbia College Students

FROM: Office of Student Financial Service

Currently enrolled students who have an unpaid Fall 2003 balance **will not be restricted** from participation in Spring 2004 continuing student registration. Additionally, the college will not assess late payment fees for the Fall 2003 semester.

There is a CLASS SCHEDULE VOID DATE ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2004, for students who participated in continuing student registration and owe Columbia a Fall 2003 balance greater than \$500. Payment to meet this requirement must be received by the college no later than Friday, January 16, 2004.

CHECK YOUR CURRENT BALANCE ON YOUR OASIS COURSE AND FEE STATEMENT.

If your Spring 2004 courses are voided, your next opportunity to register for Spring 2004 classes will be during the Spring 2004 open registration period beginning January 28, 2004. Please keep your courses by meeting the payment requirement no later than Friday, January 16, 2004.

We hope this arrangement benefits currently enrolled students by assisting them to obtain the courses they need. However, it remains the student's responsibility to meet the payment requirements prior to the void date of Friday, January 16, 2004.

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SGA NEWS

Last Week's Minutes

The following is a brief representation of what was discussed at the last Student Government Association meeting of Columbia College Chicago.

- Meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m.
- Senators talked about open forums
 - Next week, Senators asked to bring in written report of forums available to public
 - There was a board of trustees Meeting the Executive board attended to address three major student concerns
- Tuition
 - Columbia cannot raise tuition the way it did last year.
 - If we do that again, we are above the average of a private school.
- Student Center
 - The super dorm took three years from imagination to completion.
 - We have talked about the Student Center for five years.
- Space
 - We have outdated rooms that are too overcrowded.
 - We need more space for academic and non academic gatherings.
- Academic Concerns is meeting with the provost to discuss the Interactive Multimedia Program, Academic Scholarships and Library hours.
- Chavis Harrison was appointed and approved as the new At-Large Senator for SGA.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

NEXT WEEK:

Tuesday 5:00 p.m. in the basement of 1104 S. Wabash Ave. (THE HUB)!

Issues tentatively to be discussed are:

STUDENT CENTER
OPEN FORUMS

Tidbits

Want to win a cool prize? Answer the following question and turn the answer into the SGA office. Only the first 10 people will win!

Q: Who do holidays celebrate?
(HINT: read articles)

COMING SOON FROM THE SGA! Student Affairs Committee of Student Government Association is having an open meeting Dec. 2 from 12-1 in the Hokin Annex.

You want your concerns to be heard? Prove it!
GOVERNING ADVICE

"If you want to know more about paranoids, follow them around."

SENATOR SPOTLIGHT



Hi, my name is Lucas Skorczeski. I am your standard every day student here at Columbia. I am just your normal 6 foot 4 inch, vegetarian, ex-sailing instructor, who went to an all male, Catholic, military, college prep high school before coming to Columbia in order to major in Early-Childhood Education with a focus in Asian Language and Culture, only to become involved in the Student Government Association as an At-Large Senator and wind up on the Public Relations Committee, all while in a civil suit against the mayor and chief of police in Chicago. Really, I don't think I do anything very unique. However, I do like art and music. Wait, I reversed those, I really like music and art. I hold the record in Student Government here at Columbia for giving away the most free stuff. What better way to celebrate Thanksgiving than with a cornucopia filled with water bottles, staplers, pens, sunglasses, and Frisbees? What can I say; I don't celebrate the holidays as much the holidays celebrate me.

GLOSSARY

AT-LARGE SENATOR: This is a senator who doesn't represent a certain department. They are the senators who help give a broader view of what students want.

DO YOU THINK THERE SHOULD BE SMOKING LOUNGES ANYWHERE ON CAMPUS?

YES ☐ NO ☐

Turn into any of the "Tell It To The Box" Locations (1104, 623 S. Wabash, 600 S. Michigan) or return to the SGA Office

As posted last week, this is a general description of what each committee does for SGA. Student Affairs: responsible for hearing and evaluating issues that are nonacademic as well as student life and student services. Academic Concerns: hears and evaluates any academic issue. Student Facilities: responsible for evaluating concerns on matters of residence life, student committees, campus facilities, and general safety and comfort. Graduate affairs: hears and evaluates graduate student concerns. Financial Affairs: reviews the SGA budget and determine the amount of money given to student organizations and college events. Public Relations: prepares and disseminates information on SGA activities, amendments to the constitution, and any other pertinent information on a regular basis. Election and Rules: decides rules and regulations for elections held at Columbia College. If you are interested in letting your voice be directly about an issue come to a meeting. Everyone is free to come to committee meetings and even vote on what is being discussed. Contact your SGA for more information on times and locations.

-Public Relations Committee

Contact Information

E-mail: sga@colum.edu
Phone: 312-344-6657
Fax: 312-344-8423

1104 S. Wabash Ave.
Student Org. HUB/Office C
Chicago, IL 60605
Open: M-Th 10-4

New houses strengthen bonds in sorority life

By Sarah Sabalos
Knight Ridder Newspapers

COLUMBIA, S.C.—“Are we seriously watching this?” Katrina Sorensen asks as she sinks onto a pile of pillows beside a squishy red couch holding a half-dozen other Delta Zetas. The big-screen television is tuned to the daytime soap “General Hospital.”

“Yes,” said a sister lying on the soft-checkered rug, “because Carly’s in a coma. And Sonny’s wife blew up.”

It’s a typical weekday afternoon in the 101-year-old sorority’s new Greek Village house. Women wander in and out of the room, exchanging familiar greetings and discussing the day. Their conversations melt into one another:

“I wore my ‘Jesus Is My Homeboy’ T-shirt home and my mom asked what a homeboy was, so I told her.”

“...that we sent Melissa’s date flying through the window.”

“...because there were bugs in the punch bowl.”

“...and I have to say, if the engagement ring was less than two carats, I honestly think I’d say no.”

The gathering includes freshmen who still live in dorms, as well as seniors housed off campus. All seem thrilled with the new house and with the proximity to other sororities and fraternities. It’s the new hub for many of the 2,000 University of South Carolina undergraduate students in 12 sororities and 17 fraternities.

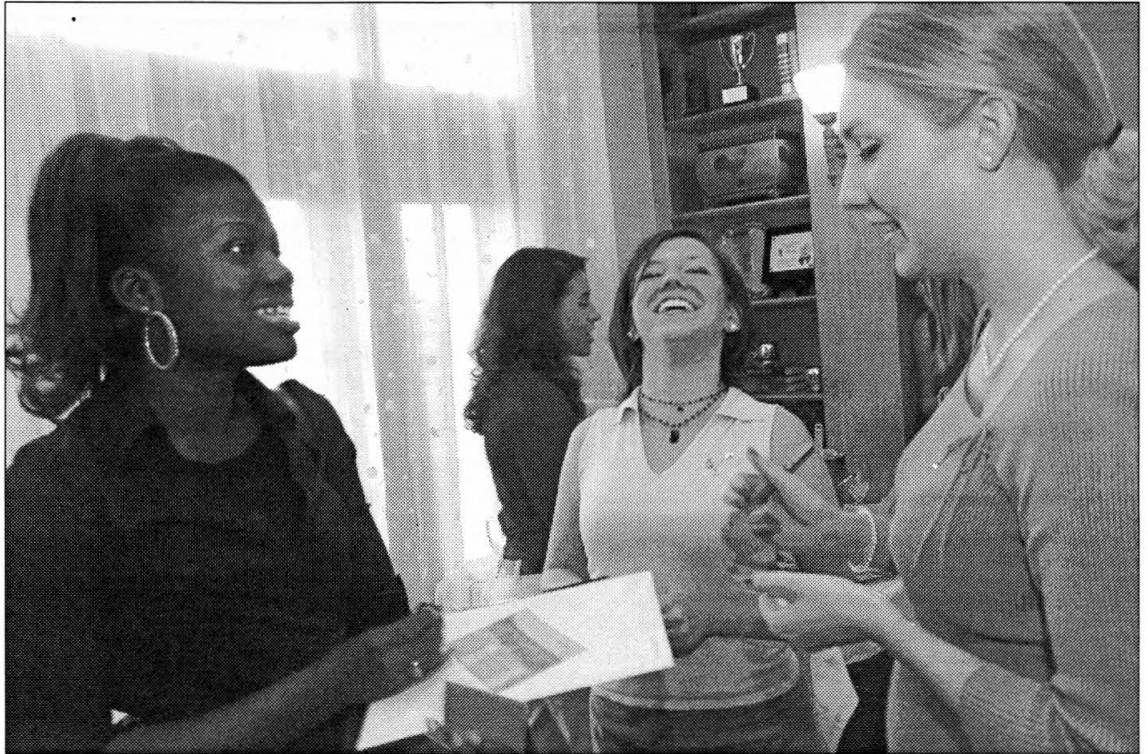
“Greek life is growing just like the village is,” said Delta Zeta President Amanda Ingran. “The village has changed everything for the better... relationships between Greeks are stronger.”

Before their houses were built, many Greeks lived in the famed-for-its-mold South Tower.

“There’s no comparison,” said Kathryn Harper of Chi Omega (her sorority stayed at the Holiday Inn for two months while waiting for their house to be finished). “We’re in the lap of luxury now. I feel like a Beverly Hillsbilly.”

All this comfort, however, requires true commitment. Rules, responsibility and cooperation are a way of life here.

“It’s about respecting your letters,” said Katie Page, Delta Zeta’s vice president for new member education. She added that there are four things sisters shouldn’t do while wearing them: drink, swear, smoke or spit.



Renee Ittner-McManus/Knight-Ridder

Ebony J. Woods, left, president of Zeta Phi Beta, talks with Kendall Robinson and Brittney MacDougall of Alpha Chi Omega at a sorority council meeting in Columbia, S.C., on Nov. 3. After years of living together on designated floors in dorms, USC’s Greeks finally have their Greek Village, built next to the Strom Thurmond Wellness Center.

“Our sorority was founded on being a classy lady; being true to the ideals of womanhood.”

At that, Sorensen—a striking, graceful brunette—lets a crust of bread dangle precariously off her lower lip. Everyone cracks up.

Across the street at Kappa Alpha fraternity, some of the 34 residents are playing pool and watching an even bigger television.

“The only rules are, clean up after yourself and don’t burn the place down,” said chapter President Heath Stewart, a senior majoring in English.

He points out the group picture of Kappa Alpha in 1954 hanging near the dining room and said he recently met some of the men.

“They came for a reunion—that’s the good thing about having the house instead of renting somewhere out; you can invite people over anytime—and

they told stories about lighting the homecoming float on fire,” Stewart said.

“They pointed to the pictures and said, ‘I know him’—‘I saw him last week’—‘Oh, that’s so-and-so; he’s dead.’ It was sort of frightening. But when they looked at it, their faces got all happy.”

Some members said they feel a strong bond with the alumni of their houses. Often, those alumni come back to offer mentoring and services. The Delta Zeta’s decorator is a member.

“She helped us make the house functional yet attractive,” Page said. “And she has a terrier named Jefferson dressed to match her outfits. He wears a little bow tie.”

Their housemothers and chefs also make the students’ lives easier. (“Chef Doug’s chili’s the bomb,” Sorensen

said.) The Delta Zetas’ housemother, Barbara Hermes, makes sure the residence is clean, orderly and well maintained. The women call her Mama Barb.

“It’s like managing a hotel, except that the guests stay, and we don’t have a reception desk,” Hermes said.

Before dinner, there’s a parliamentary-style council meeting in Delta Zeta’s library, attended by sorority officers and representatives. Issues include late dues (“You know who you are”) the upcoming blood drive (“Get excited, y’all!”) and why Katie Page has worn the same red Dance Marathon T-shirt for three weeks (“I’ve entered a bet.”)

After a dinner of turkey, homemade macaroni and cheese, fresh asparagus, rolls, key lime pie and sweet tea, the women set up for another meeting; this one just for Delta Zetas.

When the gavel drops, they nominate next year’s candidates for president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and public relations officer. They discuss T-shirts for an upcoming mixer (“Does anyone have a problem with shirts that say ‘Golf pros and tennis hos?’”)

When they begin to discuss Lamplighting, the busy pledge-initiation weekend, one woman raises her hand.

“It’s going to be three straight days of activities,” she said, “and I can’t afford to take that much time off work.”

“Then,” said Jaylene Braxton, collegiate chapter director and adviser, “I suggest you write an excuse.”

After the meeting, the women settle in for another night at home. For those just coming in, a tape of “General Hospital” awaits.

Anti-war protester may get reprieve

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif.—University of California at Berkeley officials softened the recommended sentence for one of three students convicted last month of disturbing the peace during a March anti-war protest.

Rachel Odes, Snehal Shingavi and Michael Smith were found guilty last month of failing to comply with an official and disturbing the peace in a sit-in last spring to protest the start of the U.S. bombing in Iraq.

Smith was also convicted of restricting and resisting a university official.

A university panel recommended granting a stay of the one semester suspension for Smith proposed by campus officials during last month’s sanction hearing if Smith seeks anger management services, according to a Nov. 7 letter from Student Judicial Affairs.

The suspension had been proposed for what Smith planned as his last semester.

He also faces 30 hours of community service—10 hours more than Odes and Shingavi.

All three will also receive warning letters in their student conduct files.

Although Smith said he was pleased that his sanction recommendation was lessened, he said the changes were not a major breakthrough.

“I don’t want to give the impression that the hearing panel vindicated us,” he said.

Smith’s harsher recommended sanctions stemmed partly from an earlier code violation—a brawl with a group of students two years ago.

“I think it really goes to show... the university’s motivation is to silence dissent on campus and attack anti-war organizers by any means they can think of,” Smith said.

Dean of Students Karen Kenney has not made a statement as to when she will come to a final decision regarding the students’ punishment.

University officials said Odes, Shingavi and Smith were singled out from the 119 students arrested at the protest because of their previous disciplinary records.

Shingavi and Odes both had records of arrest for similar offenses during protests, but this was Smith’s first on-campus arrest.

—Lindsey Meisel

‘Simpsons’ has religious values, says minister

By Christopher Jones
Cavalier Daily (U. Virginia)

(U-WIRE) CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—Are “The Simpsons” one of the most Christian families on television? Does the Springfield of Ned Flanders and Apu provide an example of different religions and spiritualities?

Shawn Galyen, a minister working with the Georgetown chapter of the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship, offered his answers to these questions during “The Gospel According to the Simpsons,” a discussion sponsored by the University of Virginia Chapter of the Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship.

Speaking before a large audience, Galyen used author Mark Pinsky’s book *The Gospel According to the Simpsons* as a basis for a discussion about the role religion and spirituality play in the FOX television series and the ideas embodied by various Simpsons characters.

“I think that ‘The Simpsons’ is the most spiritual, religious show on television today,” Galyen said at the beginning of his lecture.

Galyen is one of several minis-

ters who use “The Simpsons” status in popular culture as a way to reach out to students and involve them in religious discussion.

“The goal is to get the discussion to a broader audience,” Galyen said.

Pete Bullette, a minister involved with the university’s chapter of Chi Alpha, invited Galyen to speak at the university.

“‘The Simpsons’ is a common ground people could use and understand to begin a dialogue,” Bullette said.

Galyen said several different ministers have held similar discussions at universities in states ranging from Massachusetts to Iowa, and that Reform Jewish and Episcopalian groups have also asked him to speak.

Galyen noted, however, that he and other ministers have used Pinsky’s book only as a foundation for discussion on various topics. Galyen’s speech focused on the religious and spiritual ideas embodied by various characters ranging from Bart and Homer to Reverend Lovejoy and Ned Flanders, whereas Pinsky’s book discusses specific

aspects of religion such as prayer and heaven and hell.

“I want to discuss what the different characters represent as options in a multireligious world,” Galyen said.

When first aired, “The Simpsons” was criticized for its rebellious attitude and satire. Pinsky, however, embraced the show’s humor, pointing out that the show parodies all aspects of American life and treats religious faith with a high level of respect.

“The gift of ‘The Simpsons’ is that the characters’ fundamental beliefs are animated, but not caricatured,” Pinsky wrote. “God is not mocked, nor is His existence questioned.”

Bullette agreed, noting that “‘The Simpsons’ communicates its values using humor.”

Galyen said that just as the show leaves many religious ideas up for interpretation, viewers can interpret for themselves what each character represents and how that relates to their daily lives.

“If ‘The Simpsons’ can help you, use it,” Galyen said.

November 24, 2003

Native American chief remains U. of Illinois mascot ... for now

○ 'He's not on death row,' says chief supporter

By Anne Gleason and Mary Elizabeth Tallon
Daily Illini (U. Illinois)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill.— Chief Illiniwek will remain the symbol of the University of Illinois—at least for a little while longer—as a result of the Nov. 13 board of trustees meeting.

Trustee Frances Carroll withdrew her resolution to retire Chief Illiniwek at the beginning of the meeting and said she didn't think she had enough votes for the measure to pass and wanted more time to persuade fellow trustees to agree to it.

Carroll said when she joined the board in May she felt the majority of trustees were in favor of retiring the mascot, but last Wednesday she became uncertain if she would have the six votes needed for a majority.

"It's just too important an issue to have it get out there and voted down," Carroll said. "It would serve no purpose to have it defeated. They'd still have the Chief."

Her decision to withdraw the item set off protests from Chief opponents and was seen as an encouraging sign to Chief supporters. Both opponents and supporters attended the morning session of the meeting in large numbers.

Prior to the meeting, members of Students for Chief Illiniwek and other Chief supporters banded together to sing Illinois loyalty songs and at one point chanted "Keep the Chief" for several minutes.

After Carroll's withdrawal of the resolution, anti-Chief protesters, many from the Progressive Resource/Action Cooperative, shouted "BOT, Shame on you!" and approached the front of the meeting room with a large sign reading "Racist legacy continues."

The resolution, which proposed to retire Chief Illiniwek as the university symbol but retain the name Fighting Illini, was added suddenly to the agenda Nov. 10.

Carroll initially said she would refile the resolution for the board's July meeting but later said she would like to see it on the agenda for the March 11 meeting because more students would be on campus then. Student Trustee Nate Allen also expressed support for bringing back the resolution at the board's

March meeting in Urbana, Ill.

Visibly upset by the board's decision, Chancellor Nancy Cantor walked out of the room after Carroll's announcement into an Illini Union hallway, stared out a window and started crying as friends and colleagues consoled her.

"I really believe that we needed to move forward on this," she said. "I really believe that today is really problematic for this institution. We do not need to be embroiled in divisiveness."

Later Cantor said she would like to see a vote on the Chief as soon as possible.

Board Chairman Lawrence Eppley said that the withdrawal of the resolution reaffirmed the board's previous decision to retain the Chief until the issue is reconsidered. The board last voted on the Chief issue in 1990 when it voted to keep the Chief as the university symbol.

"There is a standing resolution in support of the Chief, and until that's overturned, that is the position of the board," Eppley said.

Eppley said he felt people on both sides of the issue should do a better job of understanding the other side's perspective. He said the passion shown by both sides was an indication of just how divisive the Chief issue is on campus, and the board needed more time to consider the resolution.

"It's not so much [that] the board is concerned about taking heat on this," Eppley said. "It's just trying to figure out what we're supposed to do."

But he said he was ready to vote against Carroll's resolution had it come to a vote.

"I like the Chief," Eppley said. "I would have voted no."

Although trustee Kenneth Schmidt said he also had made up his mind on the Chief, he refused to disclose whether he would have supported retiring or retaining it. He said that before the meeting there was "not a clear enough majority in either direction to make a very firm statement" on the Chief.

Allen said he did not know the resolution was going to be with-

drawn until shortly before the meeting and had he known he would have tried to alert students. Despite earlier statements that he would vote for retiring the Chief, Allen thanked the Chief supporters for giving him their opinions and said he's always willing to listen to their concerns.

Some supporters as well as opponents of the Chief said they were disappointed by Carroll's decision to withdraw the resolution. But Dan Bolin, president of Students for Chief Illiniwek, said he saw the move as a sign that the board was prepared to vote in support of the Chief.

Roger Huddleston, founder of the Honor the Chief Society, said he was encouraged by Eppley's statement that until overturned, the board would stick to its current stance on the Chief.

"[The Chief] is still the symbol of the university," Huddleston said. "He's not on death row."

However, Demian Kogan, president of Progressive Resource/Action Cooperative, said his organization will continue to attend board meetings and argue its opinion until a decision is made.

"We felt they had an opportunity to put this issue to rest," Kogan said. "It is unfortunate that they decided not to vote. ... We decided that we will not let that go."

Carroll said she hopes, in March, to have at least eight votes to retire the Chief so the board can take a more definitive stance against it.

"I'm going to be working on it," she said. "At least the resolution is out there."

—Matt Stensland contributed to this report.

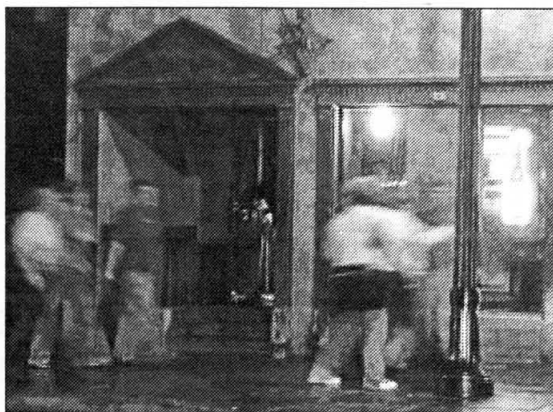
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should the U. of Illinois change its mascot?

E-mail us:
Chronicle@colum.edu

Illinois college towns push for later bar hours

○ Bar hours could be extended to 2 a.m.



Jonathan Witten/Daily Illini

Students approach The Clybourne bar late in the night on Nov. 11. Other Illinois campuses are now considering extending bar hours to 2 a.m., like those in Champaign and Urbana, Ill.

By Craig Colbrook
Daily Illini (U. Illinois)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill.— Two college towns in the state could join Urbana-Champaign, Ill., home of the University of Illinois, in extending bar hours.

DeKalb, Ill., the home of Northern Illinois University, and Charleston, Ill., the home of Eastern Illinois University, have both taken action this month to try to extend their bar hours to 2 a.m., mirroring action taken by Champaign in August.

"Champaign is the case we've looked at," said Adam Howell, member of the Eastern Illinois Student Senate. "It's also the place a lot of students go to on the weekends for later bars. It's almost an indirect effect of Champaign's later hours that we're trying to extend ours."

Howell said the proposal began out of student desire and concerns for student safety. Students asked for extended bar hours, especially after Champaign and Urbana extended their hours, and city and university officials thought students would be safer drinking in a controlled environment. Officials were also concerned that many Eastern students were leaving Charleston to go to other bars, especially in Urbana-Champaign.

The proposal could extend hours from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays but would only be valid for a limited time. Roger Cunningham, the assistant chief of police in Charleston, said this is so the city can evaluate the new system after a certain period of time.

Cunningham also said that even if the measure passes, he doesn't think it

will change police procedure much.

"There will be increases in vehicle and pedestrian traffic and all the activities that go along with that, but I don't see any changes in police operations," he said.

Kyle Donah, the external affairs chairman for the Eastern Student Senate, said the council will probably make the measure valid for the spring semester of 2004 if it passes.

DeKalb's proposal for extended bar hours, on the other hand, has little to do with actions in Urbana-Champaign, city officials said.

"Actually, I didn't even know you guys extended your hours," said DeKalb Mayor Greg Sparrow. "We've had an extra bar hour on Fridays and Saturdays for years, so I don't see how it's much of a big deal."

Sparrow said that the DeKalb bars are already allowed to stay open until 2 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and 1 a.m. the rest of the week. A recent proposal to the DeKalb City Council would allow the bars to stay open until 2 a.m. on Thursdays as well.

Sparrow said the proposal was created out of concerns for student safety, as well as increased revenue for local bars.

Lt. Carl Leoni, the operations commander of the DeKalb Police Department, said that although the measure would not change police tactics, police are concerned about the change.

"In general, we've never supported longer liquor hours, mainly because most of our problems are alcohol related," said Lt. Jim Kayes. "Ninety-nine percent of people drink responsibly but the ones who don't cause a lot of problems."

Briefly ... news from college campuses across the country

● UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT LAS VEGAS

Student activists are asking the college's administration to remove one of the most popular restaurants on campus—Taco Bell. Student activists contend the company exploits its workers. Meanwhile, other students are fretting over the move because they say the fast food restaurant provides low prices and convenience. "I think the issue should be confronted, but I don't think Taco Bell should be taken away just because of some tomatoes," said Bojan Hrpka, a third-year microbiology, immunology and molecular genetics student. A decision could be made within weeks.

● COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and Columbia Vegan and Vegetarian Action staged a demonstration Nov. 10 protesting improper animal research that they say is being conducted by the Columbia University Health Sciences medical center.

The first and most controversial is the stroke research experiments conducted by associate professor of Neurological Surgery E. Sander Connolly. His experiments use baboons to test various stroke drugs by clamping the nerves exposed upon the removal of their left eye.

● UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Old-school rock 'n' roll raised more than \$5,000 for charity at the Battle of the Bands, this year's second Greek Week event at University of Pittsburgh.

"We wanted to have an event that was really different," said Rebecca Daley, the Battle of the Bands chair. Open to the public, the event showcased five local bands and all proceeds benefited the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

● UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

When the idea came up, it was a joke. Members of Kansas Anarchist thought it would be funny to get naked for a calendar. The joke turned serious when the anarchists realized it would be a way to raise funds for their cause.

Now the Kansas Anarchist group has a 2004 calendar filled with photos of members doing everything from leaning over a dumpster to welding—all while partially or fully nude.

"We're a group of people who are really comfortable with ourselves and each other," said Vanessa Hays, a junior at the University of Kansas from Topeka, Kan. —From Chronicle wire reports



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A slow, long, tired mass of
ish street that leads toward
ampion lights because of the
undred of us tonight. Chil
rms under the warm layers
. Almost everyone carries a
me to go back home to dro
fternoon. It is 8:15 now. W
aces the city tonight makes



DECEMBER 8, 2003 – JANUARY 23, 2004

Columbia Chronicle Editorials

The Chronicle finally gives thanks

The Chronicle knows it's tough to be thankful. At a time when our troops are stationed around the world, the country's economy—though steadily improving—is still in the red and thousands of Americans are out of work; things are pretty gloomy. Sometimes, one feels guilty to look on the bright side of life.

But, as we know, there are always prosperous times ahead. And Columbia is one place where we'd like to think students should be particularly grateful for what they have. While we admit The Chronicle is usually a negative sort, we also know Columbia has a lot going for it.

So, The Chronicle presents the top 10 items to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

10. The deans. With budget cuts on the horizon, they could have really hurt our education. Instead, they reduced departmental budgets wisely and saved all of us from a lot of suffering. Thanks!

9. OASIS. We're thankful for the much-criticized college Internet portal, OASIS? Yep. You can check

your grades, tuition charges and even e-mail. The kinks are still there, but we see improvements. Thank you!

8. The "superdorm." What's not to like about the University Center of Chicago? Columbia art students intermingling with DePaul University law students and Roosevelt University communications majors. Plus, we hear the view is stunning. And there's a food court! We just can't wait until Harrison Street reopens.

7. The presidential residence. Actually, we're willing to bet the college is thankful to get rid of the thing.

6. The new, traditional Columbia academic year. We all know Columbia likes to march to its own beat, but The Chronicle is happy with the college's move to start the academic year in August and wrap it up by May. It's easier to land internships, and it means we don't have to worry about finals over Christmas break. Of course, the new calendar doesn't start until 2005, but thanks in advance.

5. Fire drills. Everybody needs a

break occasionally, especially in the middle of an important lecture. It's nice to know the college has our safety in mind, too.

4. Mayfest/Manifest. They've changed the name, but the idea's the same—a whole day in the park to listen to music and pick up freebies. The Chronicle's already looking forward to it. Thanks, Columbia!

3. The elevators. Nah.

2. The new sidewalk. No matter how much Columbia spends on pensions, scholarships and capital improvements, the best way to make a college student's life a little easier is to make sure they don't trip every day. That's exactly what the college did with the treacherous patch of sidewalk in front of the building at 619 S. Wabash Ave., which Columbia purchased this summer. Granted, we know the college replaced it to avoid a lawsuit, but it's the thought that counts. Thank you!

1. Thanksgiving break. What's not to be thankful for? We all need a weekend off. But next year, why not add the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to the long weekend? We'd be really thankful then.

Parade promotion a true turkey

If a picture is worth a thousand words, imagine this. On Thursday, the Columbia Jazz Ensemble will whiz through the 70th Annual State Street Thanksgiving Parade at a blistering four mph. All it cost was a cool \$50,000.

In the latest chapter of the college's saga to increase its exposure, it has sponsored the parade and signed a binding contract for the next two years. You may not know the college has a habit of sponsoring parades, like the Tinsel Town debacle in 2001, or that it sank \$25,000 into the Michiana Arts Festival. Attempts to reach prospective students in the past have also taken place on Univision, Exito, La Raza and yearly during Manifest, the festival formerly known as Mayfest/Manifest.

The college expects to pick up six hours of coverage, two of them on turkey day and another four split between rebroadcasts on Nov. 30 and Dec. 25. The December slot is scheduled for 5 a.m. through 7 a.m., in case you need something to watch while you're waiting up for the fat man in the red suit.

For the meager fee, Columbia officials expect to net millions of viewers, with a national broadcast, getting optimum placement in the telecast and coveted screen time. Some 300,000 people are expected to converge on the four downtown blocks to watch the procession.

At issue, though, is whether the expense justifies the limited possibility of netting the proper demographic. Are prospective Columbia students the type of people who watch Thanksgiving Day parades? Would they choose a college based on seeing its name advertised in said type of event?

Administration officials argue the low cost and possible high exposure is worth the gamble. The Chronicle is offering a bet with better odds. It's a chance to effectively market Columbia to the world that doesn't involve a holiday, but instead making its first impression a lasting one.

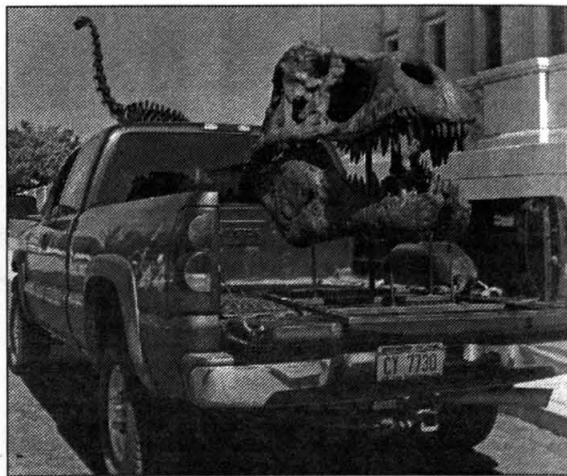
An honest effort to redesign the college's website, grounded in the skills that Columbia's best and brightest learned here would cost well below \$50,000 and would be

there for the world to see, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The current site's saving grace is the nonattributed work of former students. Otherwise, it is a mess.

Rather than bargain shop for rock bottom prices, Columbia should be investing in its most valuable resources, its students. We could support more groups like FOCO that bring internationally renowned artists to the college and make city headlines and newscasts. We could paint the Torco sign purple and change the letters to read something that resembles the word "Columbia." We could fund a student-produced feature film and title it *If you go to Columbia, this is what you'll learn how to do* and submit it to every film festival under the sun. We could even post it on the website.

The next time we have \$50,000 to play with, let's spend it on developing our identity as an exercise in authoring the culture of our time, something we already do for free. We supposedly have some creative types here, about 10,000 of them. Let's place a bet on them.

Exposure



Charles Kushner/The Chronicle

Off the beaten path : Views from campuses across the country America's waistline goes global

Staff Editorial

Iowa State Daily (Iowa State U.)

(U-WIRE) AMES, Iowa — The United States has taken its share of lumps from Europeans who dislike various aspects of this country, yet freely partake of its cultural exports. Now they have decided to blame another thing on us. According to a Nov. 18 article in USA Today, Europeans are blaming Americans for making them fat.

The article focused on Italy, where "the classic regimen of fresh fish, fruits and vegetables, pasta and olive oil is losing out to American-style eating habits. The result: rapidly increasing levels of American-style obesity."

Yes, not only are Americans responsible when they eat vast amounts of fast and junk food, neither are Europeans.

News stories about the obesity "epidemic" have jumped in the past few years. This is, in part, due to a change in standards of "overweight" and "obese" in June 1998, which according to an article at cnn.com made 25 million Americans overweight overnight. However, the main concern is that Americans are not eating right—and, as the USA Today article shows, causing Europeans to do the same—and so "we," that is, the government, must engage in actions to save people from themselves.

Europe already has some draconian ideas in hand. Sweden has voluntary restrictions on television ads for soft drinks and junk food aimed at kids. The British Medical Association has called for a 17.5 percent "fat tax" on junk foods—more than a sixth of their total cost!

Calls for regulation abound, but on the list of things the government should not be regulating, what we eat should be pretty high up. This is not alcohol or drugs we are talking about. In cases like that, regulation is justified. But this is food, in all its forms, that we're talking about here, something necessary to continue existence. Whether the food is good for us, or at least should be, is irrelevant from a regulation standpoint.

The line between food and currently regulated items is easy to find. My consumption of a cheeseburger or a pack of M&Ms does not adversely affect the environment or health of the person sitting next to me. I am not more likely to run a red light and plow into someone's car because I drank four Pepsis.

Regulating advertising, even among kids, is not the answer. In the 1960s and

1970s, even cereals were not afraid to trumpet the word "sugar" in their titles; Tony the Tiger once hawked Sugar Frosted Flakes. Those kids grew up just fine among sugary foods without regulation. Ban advertising of candy to kids? We might as well ban birthday cakes and trick or treating on Halloween.

Personal responsibility, the ability to discern what should be eaten in moderation, and good parenting are the elements lacking in these "solutions," and as a result the mantra becomes "Please, government, save me—the food companies made me do it!"

Instead of banning things outright, common sense and creativity should be used. Schools are attacked for having pop and candy vending machines, but Nashua-Plainfield High School took a creative approach in offering alternatives. According to the Oct. 13 Waterloo Courier, the school installed a milk vending machine, which shares space with the pop and snacks.

Milk machines notwithstanding, students aren't being dealt many favors when it comes to the other half of the health equation: physical activity. Some schools have cut recess out of elementary school days. An editorial in Saturday's Duluth News Tribune said the Minnesota State Legislature removed physical education as a requirement in high school, allowing districts to make it an elective. The News Tribune urged the Duluth district to keep P.E. a requirement and that's the right thing to do. Doesn't anyone at the administrative level, either as administrators of schools or legislative districts, notice the irony of cutting out recess and P.E. from students' schedules when those very things could help stave off dire predictions of obesity?

Another problem with regulation lies in who calls what junk. A Big Mac might be junk food, but what about a Subway sandwich touted as having very little fat? The door could even be opened for food extremists to slap regulations or taxes on everything from ice cream to red meat. Perhaps they will mandate a label like on cigarettes, saying "Warning: Eating food is hazardous to your health."

If Europeans are complaining about American food ruining their lives, their point is only valid to an extent: It only got so bad because people aren't making the right decisions. When it comes to food, heavy regulations and "Twinkie taxes" should be intolerable. Now, if you don't mind, I'd like to finish my super-sized double cheeseburger extra value meal in peace.

**IRONY
IS NOT
HUMOR**

**BY RYAN
DUGGAN**



What's in a name? Everything.

Adam J. Ferington
Commentary Editor

There's something about a bad name that makes people squirm; maybe we just feel sorry for the poor SOB who was unlucky enough to have parents who named him Stanley or Wayne (never mind nicknames like "Dick"), or the daughter of misguided romantics who christen their child Gertrude or Edna. If it were up to me, I'd introduce legislation that would make bestowing children with such grotesque monikers punishable by severe whippings and a stint cleaning chimneys.

Last week a report was released stating that American parents are increasingly naming their children after "premium goods" in the hopes that it will somehow steer them toward a future rich with material bounty. Gone are the grammatical horrors of Ashleigh, Nikki, Dakota, Brendan, Savannah and Monika, supplanted with imbecilities like Armani, Celica, Denim, Courvoisier and inexplicably, ESPN. I can only imagine what my kids' class lists will look like in a scant 10 years; rows of names patterned after overpriced clothing, luxury cars and cable television networks. The inanity of it scrapes at the mind, but I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that this is what we get from a generation of mall rats and television junkies who've decided to breed.

Despite the collective groan from the rest of the country, this "trend" is being embraced and justified by cultural scholars. "It is no different from the 19th century when parents named their children Ruby or Opal ... it reflects their aspirations," stated Cleveland Evans, professor of psychology at Bellevue University, Neb.

Aspirations? Aspirations for what? A meaningless, materialistically driven life where the only satisfaction is garnered from an accumulation of more and more useless crap manufac-

tured in sweatshops overseas by children with missing limbs and whooping cough who make 23 cents a day? If anything, these rattlebrained mutants should be naming children after their realistic future positions of employment. "Hi, these are our sons Sheet-metal Cutter and Gas Station Attendant, and our daughter Wal-Mart Cashier. Our other son Aggravated Sexual Assault is serving 15 years upstate." Charming, isn't it?

If that carries too much of the cold sting of reality, why not name your children after products you can afford, like Kraft, Tampax, Marlboro and Mad Dog 20/20? Or failing that, just name them after the brand of condom that broke and resulted in their inadvertent conception. My guess is that there'd be a lot of children named Durex walking around. Comprehensive quality control, my ass.

This isn't to say that we

should return to the monstrous names of yesteryear like Irene, Earsworth, Eustace, Pervius, Sugarbelle and Cadwalader, but yuppie names comparable to Jeremy, Tyler, Corey, Peyton, Sidney, Kieran, Bailey and Tristan are equally ghastly. Enough is enough. Names should be used to reflect reverence for familiar history, convey ideas and values and instill self-esteem. No child with the name Chevrolet will be anything more than a punching bag and aspiring alcoholic. Let's not forget about the massive psychological damage imposed on the children as well. Kids are cruel; they're disgusting little beasts who feed off of pain and misery. They love to torment each other, and they do it incessantly. Think about the 18 years of constant anguish that no amount of counseling or teacher intervention can prevent. Constant jives of "Hey man, I'm

gonna ride Ducatti hard" and "Have you seen the ass on Celica?" will strip away any dignity and effectively reduce the child to what the parents intended: A product to be measured and judged. By the time graduation comes around, the only present they'll want is a revolver with a single bullet in the chamber.

So bloody cut it out. Just because you're a poor bastard with limited skills and no spelling ability doesn't mean your children have to suffer as well. If you want them to do well in life, read to them, become active in their education and pay attention to them for Christ's sake. The sins of the father do visit themselves on the children. And so help me, if anyone named L'Oreal Maseratti Timberland ever gets elected to public office, I'll sterilize him or her myself.



"Hello, I'm Panasonic Johnson. My parents are insane."

Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

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623 S. Wabash Ave.
Suite 205
Chicago, Ill. 60605-1996

Main line: (312) 344-7253
Advertising Fax: (312) 344-8032
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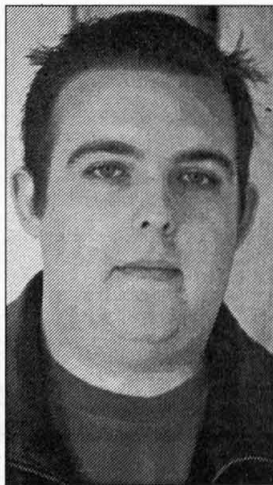
Face the public: The Chronicle photo poll

Question: What's your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?



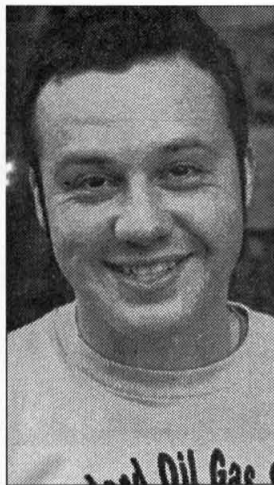
"Being with my family."

—Jasmine McDuffie
Freshman, Dance



"The leftovers."

—Aaron Thomas
Junior, Film



"I don't really celebrate Thanksgiving. I usually just go out with friends."

—Joshua Peterson
Senior, Fine Arts



"The food, seeing family and friends."

—Katie Fowler
Sophomore, Television



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Tuesday, Dec. 2nd

AIDS Video Marathon!

4:30-10pm, Hokin Hall

Wednesday, Dec. 3rd

All-College Health Fair

A Sexual Health Task Force production
Noon-4pm, Hokin Annex

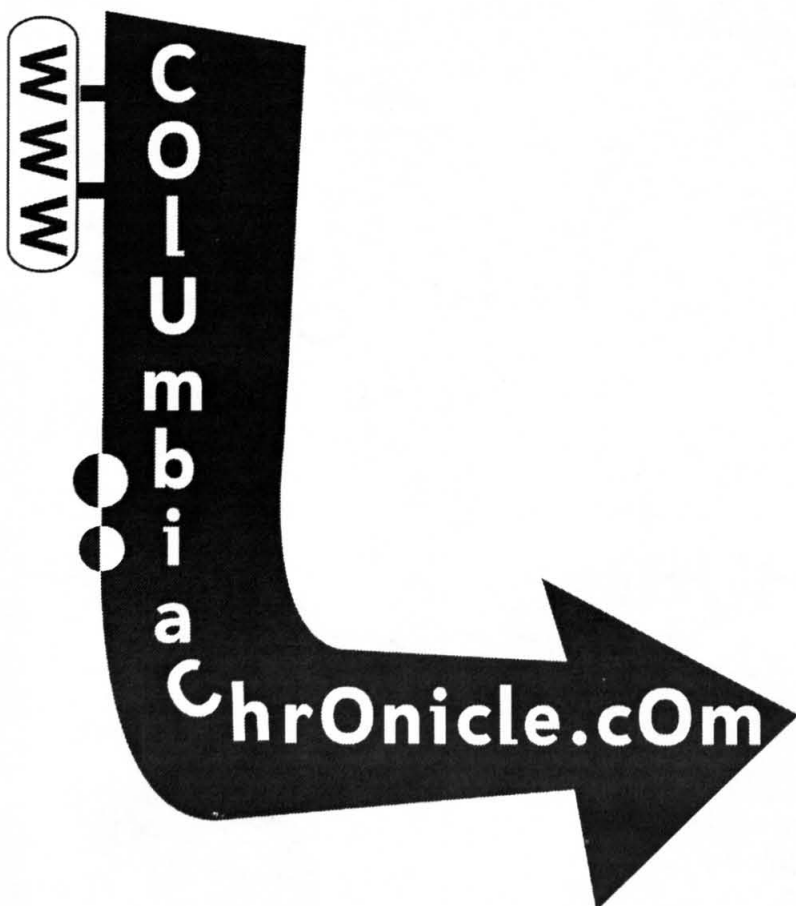
Thursday, Dec. 4th

Hot 'n' Heavy Workshop: Eroticizing Safer Sex
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Well, hello dolly! Retro toys return

○ Retro meets contemporary in this holiday season; introducing forgotten cartoon characters to the kids of today

By Doris Dadayan
A&E Editor

In a world where everything seems to go to hell faster than you can say "Whoa! I'm Neo!" you can always count on the Care Bears to be there for you to keep on caring. Rainbow Brite? Oh, she'll always be full of color. Transformers will always stay transformed. And My Little Ponies will always have a pretty ribbon on their tail and a symbol stamped on their rumps.

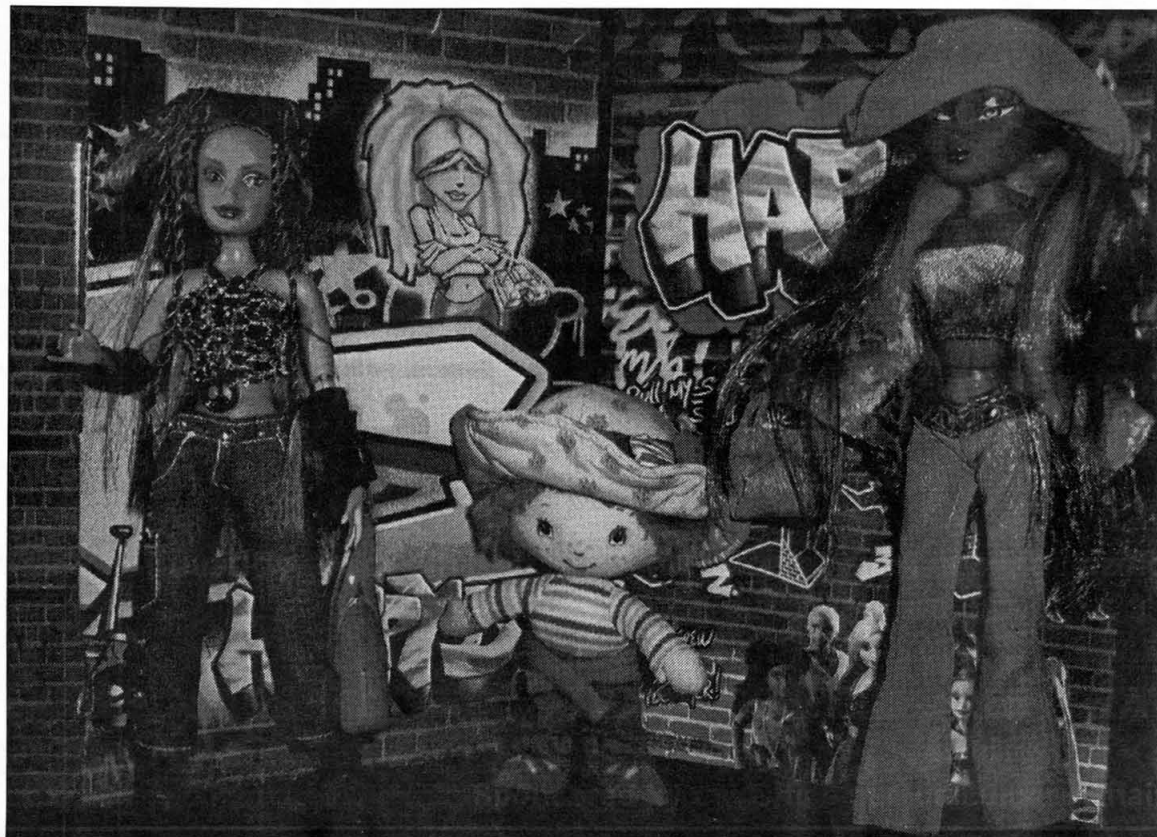
With "history repeating itself" as the theme of this year's holiday season, some of the hottest toys have resurfaced from as far back as 20 years ago. Along with some of the more modern toys, retro toys that were popular in the early '80s have made it big again, bringing back childhood toy nostalgia for the '80s generation and introducing the kids of today to some of the best toys ever made.

Here are just a few of the hottest retro and modern toys for the 2003 holiday season that The Chronicle has compiled (no assembly required):

Go retro:

Strawberry Shortcake—So you say Strawberry Shortcake looks a bit slimmer than she did circa 1980, huh? Well, you're right. This year, the first fruity, sweet-smelling doll ever made, decided to drop a few dress sizes and get a more modern look with some tight flare jeans, an updated cropped 'do, some multicolored striped tops, a floppy hat that J.Lo might want to consider and some type of Birkenstock-looking shoes.

Apparently, she grew tired of her bloomers and got rid of the striped green and white stockings. She's still hanging with Custard, but she's also made some new berry, berry best friends along the way—Angel Cake and Vanilla Icing. And she doesn't seem to hang out much in Strawberryland anymore; it's more like the local Target and Gap. For those who remember the original Strawberry Shortcake, the new elf-looking, big-headed, anorexic doll might seem to be a bit scary. Then again, maybe that's not so different from the other toys now on the market.



Doris Dadayan/The Chronicle

Back from the '80s, the new, revamped Strawberry Shortcake is hip enough to hang with Happy D from the Flavas collection and Toya from the Off the Hook line.

The Incredible Hulk—So there's been some speculation about him being on steroids for some time now. Well, with a body like that, who wouldn't be gossiped about? The experiment that went haywire for Bruce Banner gave us quite the eligible bachelor. Tall, green and handsome, with a bitchin' hairstyle, he's the most powerful beast on the planet. And who can argue with that? He goes on rampages, bending traffic lights, picking up cars and trapping villains, all while making some very incredible roars.

Sure he's got his share of anxieties, pains and insecurities. But don't we all? Really, he's just a gentle giant. He struggles everyday with the savage beast that lives inside him. But he's humble and never asks for any gear from TOY BIZ. No swords, guns or high-tech equipment. All he needs is his ripped Capri pants, the only pair that still fit him nicely.

Care Bears—Ah, the Care Bears, such a solid group of likeable characters. They were once the preachers of love

and peace who could emit laser beams from their chest to shoot the "bad guys" with some "love" and "caring." Symbolizing messages of good triumphing over evil, they were the symbol of the highest morals of all the cartoon characters of the '80s.

And now, Tenderheart, Good-luck and the rest of the bear crew from the land of Care-A-Lot who taught us to just "be yourself" are back in stores to bring us some much-needed cheer for the holidays.

Sappy? Yes. **Corny?** Oh, hell yeah. But they've come this year for a reason, you see. They're here to teach us values. They're trying to say that we need to live a simpler, more innocent life. They believe that we need to learn to love for love's sake, damn it. Those bears are really quite the blessing in disguise.

Ninja Turtles—Coming straight out of the sewage system, these pepperoni-pizza-addict heroes in a half shell (turtle power!) guys did some major ass kicking in the alleys and streets of muggy New York City. Back in the early '90s, they were some pretty tough reptiles with California-surfer-dude accents. And though they may have aged a bit with time, they're still the same fearsome, fearless fighters who look as buff and mean as ever. These big green guys are definitely not ones to mess with. Michaelangelo, Leonardo, Raphael and Donatello, along with their master, Splinter, use their martial arts skills to crush, flip, kick and spin.

New kids on the block:

StinkBlasters—From the land of Smellville to Chicagoland, Tony Anchovy, Manny Manure, Dog-Breath Danny, Barfin' Ben, Sweat Sox Sammy and Cow-Pie Pete have decided to grace us with their smells. The 24 Stink Blasters characters come in six categories: Gasser Guys, B.O. Boys, Breathers, Veggies, Nature Crew and

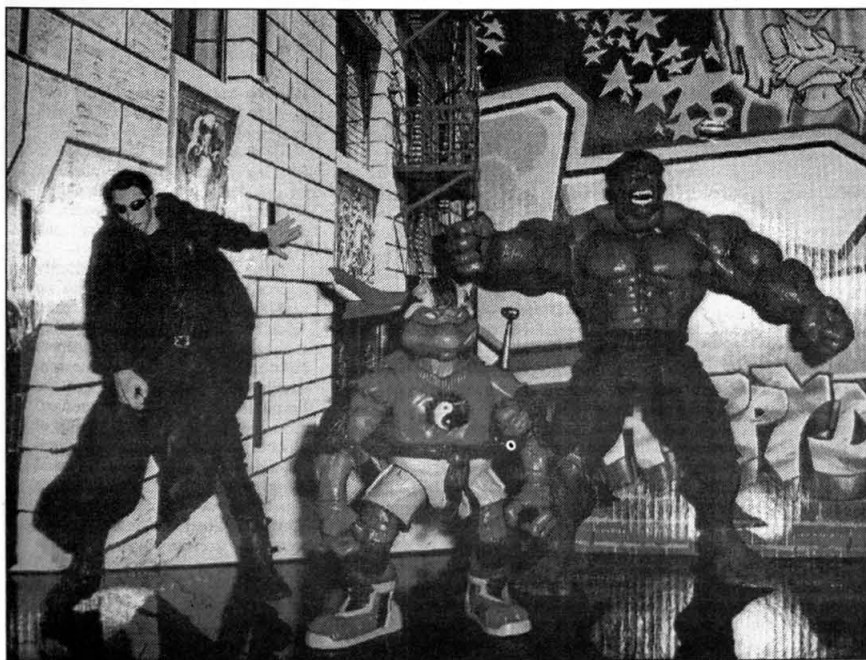
the Stench Brothers. Each of the guys comes with their own storyline on a trading card and their own personalized, disgusting scent, perfect for holiday dinner with the family. And no, you didn't go to school with Garlic Gus.

Flavas—You want to talk street style? Ask Street Happy D. She'll tell you all about it. At about 12 inches tall, she practically rules the street. She's got her name in graffiti on the wall, listens to only the cutting edge of hip-hop and wears the latest Adidas gear. She hangs with her girls Kiyoni Brown and Tika.

Every now and then, Street P.Bo and Street Liam come by, their pants sagging low, their boxers showing, sporting the bling-bling. They're just trying to keep it real with the girls. The crew drives around in the trendiest ride in the city, hoping to find the hottest party around. That is of course, until they spot the Bratz [dolls] on the other side of the street with their big heads and big lips. And that's when the s--- hits the fan.

Off The Hook—Girlfriend, let me tell you something: These dolls won't be caught dead hanging out in the streets. With 5-inch heels on, they say that there's just too much filth and nature to deal with out there. And Integrity Toys knows that, which is why they don't bother to provide them with any type of urban, cityesque scenery.

Claiming they can wear any 11.5 inch doll outfit and still strike a pose, these girls would put J.Lo to shame. Dressed in only the latest styles; leather, pleather, faux fur, snake-skin and gold, Neve, Toya, Dayle and Reese are hot, and hell yeah, they know it. Now, if only they could find themselves a man who'd realize that and appreciate them for the time they put in to looking that good.



Doris Dadayan/The Chronicle

Neo, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Raphael and The Incredible Hulk bridge the generation gap for kids of all ages this holiday season.



The Weekly Dish

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor

Disclaimer: The following road trip may or may not have occurred, depending primarily on the strength of the source material.

We were 45 minutes outside of Chicago when the drugs began to take hold. I was feeling a bit under the weather and thought someone else could drive. It was Jayson Blair, Stephen Glass and myself driving across Michigan on our way to the Motor City for a Thanksgiving feast.

We had two bags of Rolands, 75 Flintstone vitamins, five pounds of chocolate, a salt shaker full of tic-tacs, 12 cans of Red Bull, a quart of Jell-O and some Children's Tylenol. (There's nothing more dangerous than a journalist on Red Bull and tic-tacs.)

Although my peers had recently worked for The New York Times and The New Republic, they had never had the opportunity to work for a solid news organization like the Red Eye or Red Streak. (I'm sure we were working for one of them, just look over my notes.)

The assignment was fairly simple, take an SUV with two of the most controversial journalists in the world and spend the weekend with relatives in the Motor City. I packed a suitcase full of drugs, the only reasonable way to deal with three straight days of Uncle Burt and Grandma Rosalynn upon my Detroit arrival. (I've got the phone numbers if you need them.)

My editors were skeptical. Apparently Glass and Blair had a reputation for fabricating news stories, an accusation I thought was completely irrational. How could such flawlessly run organizations like The New York Times or The New Republic let something like that happen?

By mid-afternoon we slid off the highway into Kalamazoo. Glass wanted eggs. The guy whines like a 3-year-old, so I decided breakfast was a pretty good idea. Five minutes later, we were sucking down biscuits and gravy at a Cracker Barrel. (Maybe it was Steak N' Shake—I'll check my notes.)

Blair was quietly content most of the time. He occasionally got on his cell phone to tell his photographers to meet him in Los Angeles, Miami, Fargo, St. Louis or Boston in 20 minutes. I found his behavior slightly peculiar.

Glass just kept staring at me, smiling and sweating, sweating and smiling. "Are you mad at me?" he'd ask every five minutes. I ignored him, turning my attention back to my breakfast.

Was a five-hour car ride with these journalistic invalids actually worth anything? All the turkey, potatoes, stuffing, cran-

berries and pumpkin pie in the world wasn't enough to justify a road trip with these scurvy bastards.

Of course, working with Glass and Blair would set me apart from my colleagues. This was a simple recipe for success. As long as I reported the facts, I was unstoppable. I imagined accepting my very first Tony Award or whatever it is journalists win for being exceptional journalists. (Check my notes.)

Turkey day in Detroit was uneventful. My relatives argued about the same issues they always argue about, my aunt wanted to know why I wasn't married and some kid showed up after dinner claiming I was his father. (Whatever.)

A few hours later, we were back on the road toward the Windy City. Blair and Glass didn't have any notes for the Thanksgiving story. They said there comes a point in your career as a journalist when you've got to go purely on instinct. (The editors will always back you up on this.)

They began discussing the events of the day that I missed during a three-hour game of Scrabble with Cousin Eddie. (He's not listed in the phone book, but I've got an e-mail address.)

Glass started rambling on about my family's involvement in the JFK assassination. Apparently some Warren Commission files had ended up at the bottom of my father's sock drawer. Blair confirmed these allegations.

Then came some new information on Uncle Burt and the War with Iraq. According to Blair's notes, Uncle Burt was hiding weapons of mass destruction in his basement between an air hockey table and a bowling trophy. He had 14 pages of information on this stuff, and it all seemed to check out.

The Red Eye or Red Streak, maybe it was both, had a problem with the information the three of us had collected. I guess stories about J.Lo and Ben are more important than hard news these days. They scrapped the project and told me it was in my best interest to avoid hanging out with these two clowns.

We brought it to The Chronicle, hoping that somebody would recognize the sheer impact and strength of a story like this. The A&E Section looked it over and accepted the article. (Those A&E editors will take anything.)

The Thanksgiving story was a huge success. It won thousands of awards, generated hundreds of film and book deals and established Glass, Blair, and myself as journalistic giants. (It's all there in my notes; I just don't know what I did with them.)

Now guess who's coming to dinner?

○ Turkey, table manners and a tasty feast

REMEMBER, YOUR SALAD FORK GOES ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE PLATE.



Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

By Doris Dadayan
A&E Editor

Good times, good friends, good food. That's really what the Thanksgiving holiday is all about. It's a time to give thanks to the fact that good ol' Uncle Jimmy hasn't been thrown into prison yet for his "ya, know, business," that Grandpa Earl is able to smoke more than a pack a day and still have the energy of a 10-year-old, that Little Timmy hasn't blown up the house with the suspicious-looking device that he's been working on in the basement for the past year, that cousin Vicky hasn't been arrested for "giving thanks" on the of North Avenue Bridge and that Aunt Helen is still suspiciously able to support her gambling addiction without turning to anyone for money.

Yes, friends, it's the time to reflect back on the past year, to take some time out to count your blessings, to thank the Lord for all that he and your ex have done to and for you, to be grateful for the friends we've been blessed with and the staggering health that we still have. It's a time to be grateful for weblogs and their inventors, to Starbucks for being on every block in the city and to Potbelly for finally arriving in Chicago. And last but not least, there's also being thankful for the fact that, had Ben Franklin gotten his way hundreds of years ago, we would've had the turkey as our national bird. Thankfully, he didn't.

This year, The Chronicle has put together two very simple rules to go by to make sure that everyone's Turkey Day goes about productively, all the while reminding us that the

most important thing to be thankful for this year is the fact that we are not the turkey dinner. Amen.

Rule #1: Make sure that your guests are comfortable.—Do a little research before inviting a guest list of everyone and their mother. Think about the cornucopia of guests you've chosen. Who's a slut? Who hates who? Who's on Prozac? Who's obsessive-compulsive? Who is whose ex? Who's a thief? Who's still in rehab? Who is really a Mormon? All of these things are important to take into consideration, so your guests can feel more at ease in your home.

Your job as the host is to make sure everyone feels OK within larger groups. Some people tend to get lost and don't know how to mingle and communicate as well as others do. It is your responsibility to help them integrate; one of the key elements to having a successful holiday party.

If the party is a large one, make sure that some of the more shady, suspicious-looking, antisocial guests sit next to someone they know pretty well at the party so that they won't feel left out, pissed off and, later on, suicidal. Make sure that the guests have something in common with each other, such as obsessions, interests and similar views on politics, so that the transition from stranger to acquaintance, to friend, to one-night stand can go smoothly.

Rule #2: When preparing mass quantities of food, always take safety and guests into careful consideration.—Whether you decide to prepare the feast yourself or have guests bring their own dish, always

keep in mind our foodborne illness friends. Yes, salmonella likes the Thanksgiving holiday too. Make sure that the turkey is cooked at the proper temperature and that no cross-contamination is being done in the kitchen. And no, I'm not talking about why guests Tony and Penelope have been gone for the past two hours.

But anyway, when choosing a turkey, make sure it's a big one so that you can give some of the leftovers to neighbor Tom to take with him on his yearly hunting trip.

It's also important to think about how many guests you are planning to feed. Do you have enough plates, tequila, utensils, shot glasses, a working fire extinguisher and enough seating space?

Sure, everyone in the family knows that cousin Freddie has no problem with eating on the floor since he's already used to sleeping in the doorway of random apartment buildings. But this holiday season, shouldn't Freddie finally get the hospitality and respect he deserves? Also, be sure that there's plenty of alcohol flowing, for 'tis the season to discover some very unusual things about Thanksgiving and to finally hear about Uncle Marty's big "secret." When the feast is over, remember to clean out your fridge to make room for the leftovers. Recruit friends who owe you big time to help out, if need be.

Overall, if everyone behaves at the table and a fire isn't started in the kitchen, the holiday should go pretty well. That is, of course, until next year when certain people won't be invited back again.

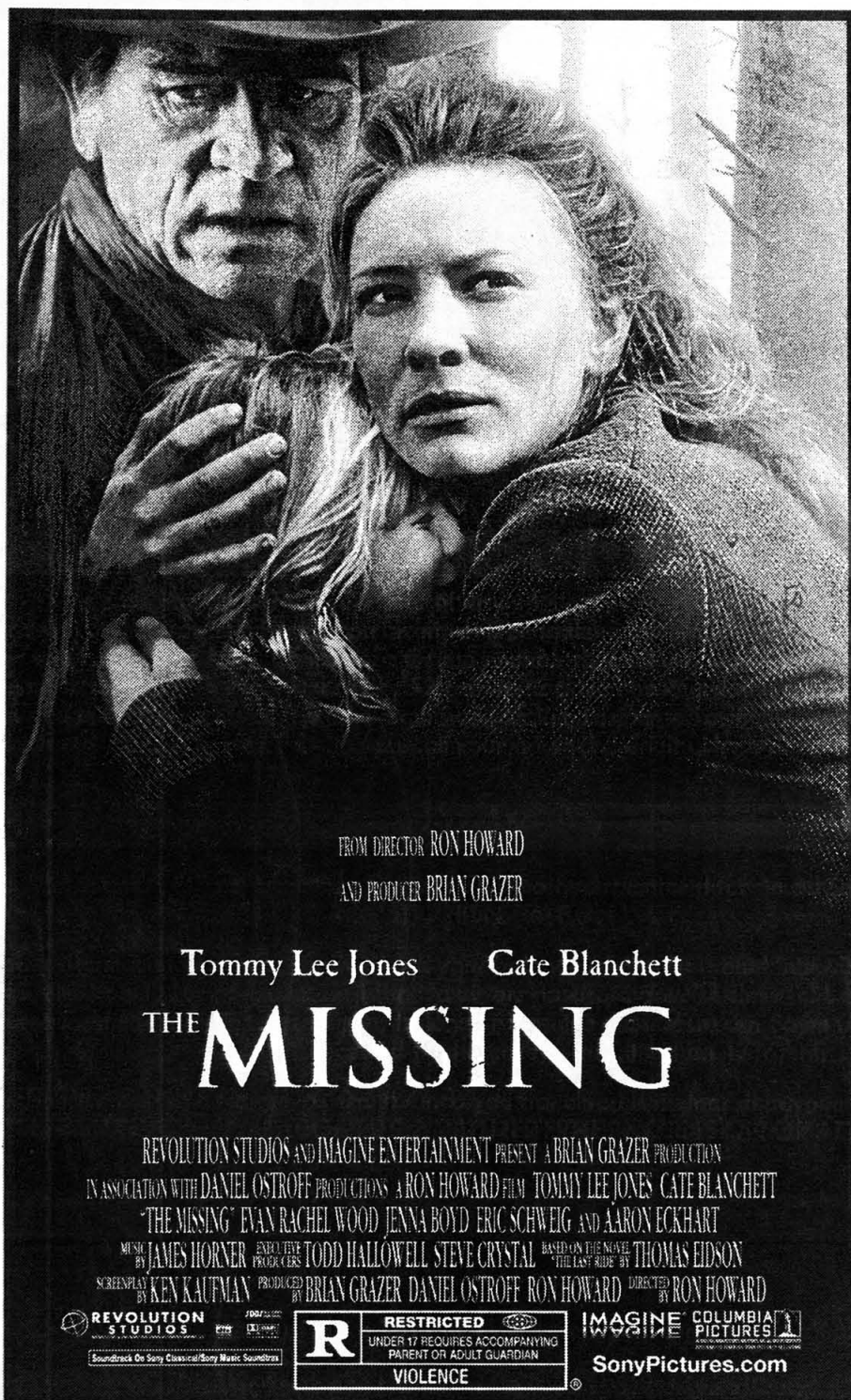
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OPENS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH!

Nix capitalize on contrast

○ Combination of heavy sounds and mellow melodies characterize new album

By Kat Gresey
Assistant A&E Editor

Having recently re-established their original lineup, Nix are ready to take on the world, and they don't care if listeners are ready.

They have a 16-song, full-length CD in the works and have released several demos, yet are unable and unwilling to categorize themselves into one specific musical genre.

"I like to hit a wide spectrum when playing music," said 20-year-old singer and guitarist Brian Nielsen, an interactive multimedia major at Columbia. "I'm very happy with the music we're playing. I don't care if people like it, and I don't care if we're signed, as long as I play music I like."

Formed in the late 1990s after several unsuccessful stints with other musicians, Nix became a group during high school.

Drummer Tony Mecca, 19, and bassist Andrew O'Connell, 20, teamed up with Nielsen and 19-year-old lead guitarist J.R. Wydra and began the working struggle that accompanies being a musical artist.

Nielsen said the band's first music was awful and that they have progressed considerably.

"To be blatantly honest, we were embarrassed at how bad our old music was," Nielsen said, admitting that he is still not the greatest singer. "I may be a little flat on one of our current songs. I'll have to redo that," he said.

Since high school, all Nix lyrics have been revised, and only one or two songs remain a part of the current Nix set. Nielsen cited several reasons for reworking the lyrics



Photo Courtesy of Maureen Zana

On stage, Nix members (from left to right) Brian Nielsen, Tony Mecca, Andrew O'Connell and J.R. Wydra rock hard while playing a show at the Fireside Bowl, 2648 W. Fullerton Ave.

, including that a former member had written some of the material and that their high school work is outdated.

While Nix songs may not fit collectively into a genre, many of them do follow the same style of quiet melodic parts paired with

dominant heavy sounds. Contrast for Nix is key.

Their upcoming album, *Notes from a 21st Century Alchemist*, follows this formula. Melodies are often bleak or heavy driven through-out the album.

The last song on the album, which includes a lot of "rising and falling," according to Nielsen, is about 30 minutes long and is described as the "epic-ending soundtrack."

Another song of the album "The Cancer in Your Eyes" rocks hard as well. Nielsen wrote the song about how he witnessed one of his friends hurting themselves and how difficult it was to watch.

"I decided to write a song whose lyrics were so vague so that the person would never know the song was about them," Nielsen said, adding that the person still hasn't found out.

One of the band's more recent shows was on Halloween at the University of Illinois, Champaign.

Following their own tradition of dressing up as famous rockers and playing covers for Halloween (last year they were Green Day), the band disguised themselves this year as the Smashing Pumpkins.

They played six songs dressed up in black and purple garb and scraped up "Pumpkin-looking" instruments for the show. They also managed to play half of one of their own songs during the set.

A DVD of the band's performance—at the Fireside Bowl, 2648 W. Fullerton Ave.—will be released in the future.

Besides making merchandise in Nielsen's basement, the band is slowly but surely staying focused on their upcoming album, which they would tentatively like to follow with an EP.

"We don't like to set deadlines with our stuff," Nielsen said. "If we rush it, it will sound bad."

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Rock bassist Krist Novoselic considers major career change

○ Smells like political spirit for former member of Nirvana, who's expressing interests outside of saturated music industry

SEATTLE (AP) — Nirvana co-founder and bassist Krist Novoselic, who announced in August that he was fed up with the music industry, says he may run for Washington state lieutenant governor.

Already active in Democratic Party circles, Novoselic indicated he was wary about challenging two-term Lt. Gov. Brad Owen, also a Democrat and occasional rock musician, but does not want to remain on the sidelines in 2004 and has been talking to party leaders.

"I've been really contemplating how I want to get involved next year and make a contribution," Novoselic told The Seattle Times. "It's going to be a big year, and I'm trying to find a way to fit into it."

The largely ceremonial position has few duties other than presiding over the state Senate and being ready to fill in when the governor is out of the state or incapacitated, and it has been filled by celebrities in the past.

John A. Cherberg, a former University of Washington football coach, held the post from 1957 to 1989.

A colorful band leader, Victor A. Meyers, was lieutenant governor from 1933-53 and also later was Washington secretary of state for eight years.

Owen, a former state senator and convenience store owner, has campaigned against drug abuse and performed at schools in a rock 'n' roll band.

He was out of town and unavailable for comment Nov. 20, but his chief of staff, Glenn Dunnam, said Owen will soon announce his bid for a third term.

"I don't go around encouraging primaries against incumbents," state Democratic Party chairman Paul Berendt said, "but we've had a big-band leader and a University of Washington coach in that job. What's to say that a member of Nirvana wouldn't fit right in?"

Novoselic, 38, and Kurt Cobain were living in Aberdeen in the late 1980s when

they formed Nirvana, which led the way in defining the sound known as grunge and was one of the country's most popular rock groups until Cobain committed suicide in 1994.

Since then Novoselic has had several music projects, including his band Sweet 75.

"Nirvana was a political band," he said, "and we were the prophets of the disenfranchised. We spoke to the disenfranchised because we ourselves felt that way."

Some Democrats have suggested he run instead for secretary of state—the incumbent is a Republican, Sam Reed, and the responsibilities include overseeing elections statewide—but Novoselic said the lieutenant governor job would give him more of a bully pulpit.

He became active in politics in recent years after working to stop state legislation that would have restricted minors' access to some music and led the Joint Artists and Music Promotions Political Action Committee.

More recently, Novoselic created a website, www.fixour.us, to promote "Super Districts," part of a campaign for changes he believes would improve citizen interest in state government.

Under the Super District plan, House members would be elected from nine districts with 11 seats each rather than from the current 49 legislative districts, which each have two seats.

Ballots would list party slates rather than individual House candidates, and seats would be apportioned according to each party's percentage of the total.

The state Senate would remain as is with one member from each of the 49 districts.

Novoselic said the change would provide more opportunity for minor party representation in the Legislature.

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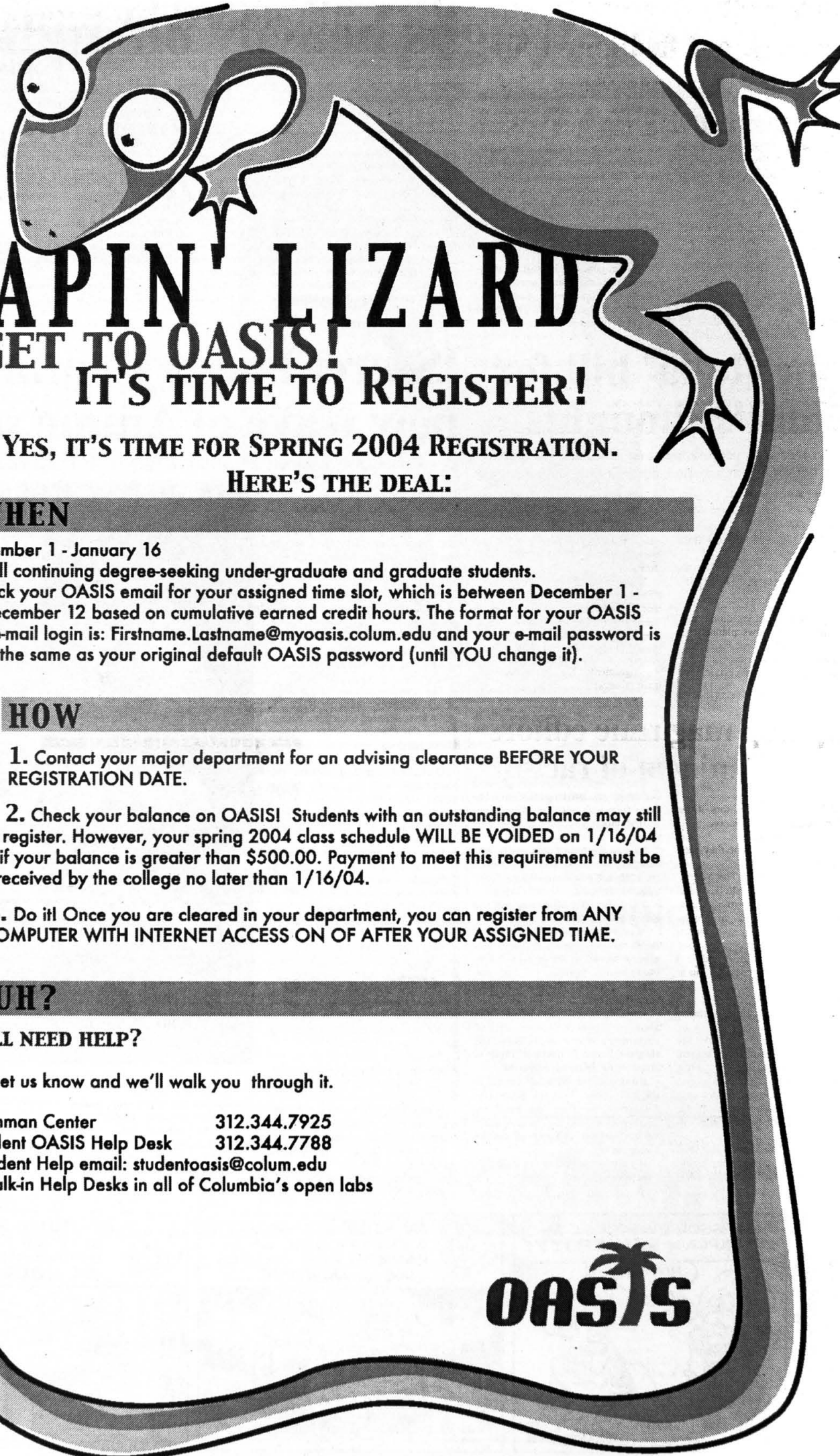
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OASIS

Turkeyville draws visitors for food, old fashioned fun

MARSHALL, Mich. (AP)—In Turkeyville, every day is Thanksgiving Day.

Cornwell's Turkeyville USA is a tourist attraction just north of Marshall, Mich., 115 miles west of Detroit. It's a collection of shops and a restaurant featuring a wide variety of turkey dishes.

"We're not interested in any other meat," co-owner Al Cornwell, 69, told *The Detroit News* for a Nov. 20 story. "Even the hot dogs are turkey."

Turkey wraps. Turkey salad. Turkey Reubens. Turkey and noodles. Barbecued turkey. Char-grilled turkey. Turkey franks. Turkey stir-fry. Turkey chow mein.

Not a bad place to get ideas for what to do with Thanksgiving leftovers.

The business attracts 300,000 people a year, many of them senior citizens arriving on tour buses.

But in an ironic twist, the business is closed on the actual Thanksgiving Day so the Cornwells can celebrate it together.

While turkey is the only meat it serves, Turkeyville also sells the good old days of America.

Its shops are named Country Junction, Grandpa's General Store and the Sweet Shoppe.

Old farm tools and other antiques line the dark cedar walls of the restaurant.

The facade of the L-shaped building, which holds all the shops, resembles a farmhouse.

Turkeyville also offers dinner theater. Among the shows planned for next year is "Swing Time Canteen," about an all-female troupe performing for American soldiers during World War II.

But not everything is what it

appears in Turkeyville.

Take the birds that gambol across the grounds every summer. They give the impression that the Cornwells still raise future Butterballs. But that's not true, the birds are just there for show.

The family stopped raising turkeys in the 1970s because of encroaching government regulations. The turkeys now come from a farm in nearby Middleville.

One might think Turkeyville's busiest season is autumn, but it's summer.

"We get good tourist traffic during the summer," said Patti Cornwell, 42, who is Al Cornwell's daughter-in-law and director of the company's publicity and advertising.

"It's a good in-between destination."

The story of Turkeyville begins at the county fair.

In 1967, Marjorie Cornwell made sandwiches from the birds raised by her late husband, Wayne.

The items were so popular at the Calhoun County Fair that the Cornwells opened a small eatery on their turkey farm.

As the restaurant's popularity grew, they added on to their building. It now houses a deli, bakery, gift shop, craft store and arcade.

Turkeyville also hosts flea markets, doll shows and arts-and-crafts fairs.

The once-tiny eatery now seats 350 people and rings up sales of \$2.5 million a year.

It even has its own copyrighted sandwich: the Sloppy Tom, which is slivers of turkey served with barbecue sauce made with Marjorie's special ingredients (Tom is the name of male turkeys).

Hip-hop magazine editors accuse Eminem of racism

NEW YORK (AP)—Editors of the hip-hop magazine *The Source* have accused the rapper Eminem of racism because of lyrics on a tape they said date from 1993.

The recording, which *The Source* co-owners, David Mays and Raymond Scott, played Nov. 18 at a press conference in midtown Manhattan, allegedly features Eminem who is white, rapping about a breakup with a black girlfriend.

The rapper says in one part, "Black girls are dumb, and white girls are good chicks."

The *Source* said in a press release that the tape was provided to the magazine by "three white hip-hop fans from Detroit who were peers of Eminem in the early '90s, at the time of the recording."

Eminem acknowledged on Nov. 18 that he was the rapper on the tape.

"The tape they played today was something I made out of anger, stupidity and frustration when I was a teenager," Eminem said in a statement through a spokesman.

"I'd just broken up with my girlfriend, who was African-American, and I reacted like the angry, stupid kid I was. I hope people will take it for the foolishness that it was, not for what somebody is trying to make it into today."

In his Nov. 18 statement, Eminem said editors Mays and Scott "have had a vendetta" against him "for a long time."

Eminem, whose legal name is Marshall Bruce Mathers III, won a Grammy for best rap album for *The Slim Shady LP* in 2000.

'Best of' guided by mediocrity

By Scotty Carlson
Staff Writer

Robert Pollard, compassionate tyrant of the band Guided By Voices, is legendary for not knowing which of his songs deserve album treatment and which are better left to the demo tapes. So it's not surprising that roughly a third of the band's latest "best of" album is devoted to the "best" of their arguably worst work.

The band emerged from Ohio in 1985, releasing albums on their own for nearly a decade until 1994's *Bee Thousand* garnered much critical acclaim. With that album, the band steadily built a cult like fanbase with its distinct sound: pop-rock with the quality of a Six Flags karaoke recording booth.

As their fanbase grew, so did Pollard's stockpile of songs. After 17 years of recording, the band has released 16 studio albums, 19 EPs, 24 singles and two box sets offering more than 150 of previously unreleased songs, none of which include various members' solo releases.

This time Pollard chose *Human Amusement at Hourly Rates*, a 32-song road map of Guided By Voices' best material, chosen by the man himself.

To many, the album is long overdue. More often than not, Pollard and his army of musicians have churned out some of the catchiest pop and charging rock in a long time, injecting their songs with equal doses of deadpan wit, psychedelia and surrealistic lyrics.

Some of Pollard's selections are questionable—the inclusion of the demo for "Teenage FBI" instead of the Ric Ocasek-produced version from "Do the Collapse" is his biggest folly—many of the selections highlight the band's finest points.

Long-time fan favorites, including "I am a Tree" and "Bulldog Skin," make appearances, but thankfully, so do relatively newer selections from last August's *Earthquake Glue*, giving the head-bobber "My Kind of Soldier" and the beautiful "Best of Jill Hives" the chance to

CD Review

become the standards they deserve to be.

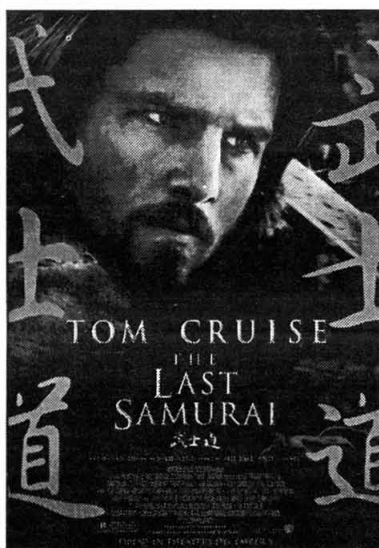
Despite the virtuosity of many selections on the record, Pollard's inability to differentiate his truly great material from his weaker material still shines through, making the album as spotty and uneven as a regular GBV album.

Most of the weaker tracks, all of which clock in under 90 seconds, tend to be rambling, poorly recorded and nowhere near as engaging as the rest of the album, owing more to art rock than the pop that inspired the rest of the record.

This raises an obvious question: if Pollard were to delete 10 songs from the lineup, would the album be perfect? Maybe.

It probably wouldn't feel so bloated, but on the other hand, it wouldn't paint an accurate family picture of Guided By Voices.

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Smith shines in all walks of life

○ Anne Deavere Smith inspires audiences in "The Human Stain"

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor

Anna Deavere Smith is an educator. Sure, you can add titles like actress, playwright, mother and performance artist to the list, but she's most comfortable in her role as teacher.

This was apparent during a recent teleconference with college journalists when Smith asked just as many questions as she answered. Talking with The New York University instructor, you discover a woman with an endless amount of integrity, charm and class who enjoys being in front of a classroom.

"The people around me inspire me," Smith said. "I love teaching freshmen. The exercises they do in class are beautiful, complicated and imaginative. I'm inspired by their vision."

Recent movie audiences were inspired by Smith's performance as Mrs. Silk in *The Human Stain*. Although the film revolves mostly around the strange relationship between Coleman Silk (Anthony Hopkins) and Faunia Farley (Nicole Kidman), Smith's character plays an important role in Coleman's past.

In the film, Mrs. Silk has to come to terms with her son Coleman Silk putting his past behind him. Although Coleman was born an African-American, he looks like a white man, juggling issues of race and culture during a controversial time in America.

In the end, his fears and doubts get the best of him, and Coleman decides to pretend his real family doesn't exist.

Mrs. Silk is involved in a heart-breaking scene where she talks to Coleman for the last time. Preparing for the scene, Smith called her friends and asked them what she's lost in her life.

"After thinking about some of these things, I felt sore all over my body," Smith said. "When painful things happen, the job is to illuminate those things. I had to reflect on my own life and my own complicated experiences."

She credits director Robert Benton for making the emotional impact of the scene work.

"Benton spends a lot of time with every take," Smith said. "He wanted me to find a way to express what I was feeling without adding lines."

Benton, who directed *Kramer vs. Kramer* and *Places in the Heart*, was one of the main reasons Smith wanted to be part of the project.

"He's so smart and so absolutely amazing with actors," Smith said. "I felt like I was working with a poet, and it's not an everyday occurrence to work with someone like that."



AP Photo

Anna Deavere Smith at the New York premiere of 'The Human Stain'.

Smith wasn't all that concerned with the individual performances of the cast, as much as the choices they made as actors.

"Nicole Kidman had an internal dilemma, the loss of her children, the trouble with her husband. I found her choices very interesting," Smith said. "I also loved watching Anthony Hopkins taking roll in class."

Overall, Smith said she was extremely proud of the finished product.

"We have to look at this film as a historic moment," Smith said. "Was what Coleman did the right thing to do? *The Human Stain* is about choices that people make, it's sensitive and complicated. It looks carefully at relationships and what they mean."

Smith herself knows a thing or two about relationships. For more than 10 years, she's worked on a series titled "On the Road: A Search for American Character." The project allows her to roam across the country to interview people from different backgrounds to tell their stories.

When she's not on television or in films, Smith is a prominent figure in theater.

Her play, "Twilight Los Angeles, 1992," dealt with the controversy surrounding the Rodney King beating and the trial that followed.

"I love theater and film for differ-

ent reasons," Smith said. "Theater lets me be an anthropologist, while film is this intense collaboration between so many creative forces."

No matter what creative outlet Smith is involved in, she'll continue to inspire students, colleagues and audiences with her genuine enthusiasm for life and the people around her.

It's in teaching that Smith feels she can make the most impact.

"The classroom is an exciting place," Smith said. "I can invite a new generation to look at certain situations a different way. Teaching is like a laboratory—it's challenging, but it's an important part of my professional career."

Before ending the interview, Smith reminded college journalists of the important part they play in today's society.

"The idea of race, culture and education—you can do things as a member of the press to make things happen, embrace the opportunity to work and be inspired by the people around you," she said.

Though it's sometimes hard to find inspiration in these challenging times, it's nice to know there are people out there who are still trying.

The Human Stain is currently playing in theaters nationwide. Check listings for show times.

Ad aims to bash Bush policies

○ Website urges filmmakers across the country to voice frustration with current administration

By Scotty Carlson
Staff Writer

Moveon.org, a political organization, has launched a national contest called "Bush in 30 Seconds" aimed at re-communicating President Bush's policies. The contest will run from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5.

The incoming advertisements will be posted on the group's website, where MoveOn's 1.7 million members will rate them individually.

The finalist's will be passed along to an all-star panel, including musical artist Moby, political activist/filmmaker Michael Moore, actor Jack Black, comedian Janeane Garofalo, singer/songwriter Michael Stipe and filmmaker Gus Van Sant, for final selection.

The winning advertisement will air during the week of President Bush's State of the Union Address next year.

According to Eli Pariser, the international campaign director of MoveOn.org, the contest is a chance not only for the public to voice concerns about the current administration, but also for unknowns to get their feet in the door of a profession usually left to ad companies.

"The talent pool [for making political advertisements] is far too small," Pariser said. "Usually, campaign ads are done by political advertising firms in Washington, D.C., and [the ads] are just awful."

While the contest is open to anyone willing to put in the work to make an ad, the contest already has a built-in contestant pool: college students at campuses like Columbia.

"A lot more college students are realizing that [Bush] is full of it, and they're angry, but now they can try to do something about it," Pariser said.

But Robert Arnoldt, a faculty member at Columbia, feels there is more to students entering the contest than just anger.

Arnoldt, who teaches History of the 1960s, sees a legacy of protest inherited in today's students, not just from the dissent of universities in the 1960s, but from the very history of the United States.

"Students today are looking at a 220-year history of our country protesting something, so we shouldn't be surprised," Arnoldt said.

While Arnoldt doesn't necessarily agree with MoveOn's agenda to oust Bush, he commends the group's efforts to get more people involved

in politics, especially students.

"Most students today are very aware of entertainment and sexual issues, but they're naïve politically," Arnoldt said. "At that age [in the 1960s], I was not hip on the pleasures, but I certainly understood the basics of political thought and the things I was in the middle of."

A number of Columbia students, such as Allison Tomkevicius, have acknowledged that political interest has a varying rate at the school.

"It's anybody's guess when you meet people," Tomkevicius said. "I've met people who will talk your ear off about the government and I've met people who probably don't even know who our president is."

Some students are quick to point out they would enter MoveOn's contest, but lack confidence over their knowledge of today's politics.

"The commercial sounds like a good chance to make a difference, but I'd rather leave [the contest] open to people who know more than I do about the way the country is being run," said Maxwell Cuprys, a sophomore film major.

Even if students from Columbia and other campuses were to enter the contest, Arnoldt said there's still work to do.

Students interested in making a difference need to be engaged in their work, take risks and be consistent with their actions, a few of the reasons he feels many of the watershed protests of the 1960s failed.

"It's not something that can be done after school on Thursdays," Arnoldt said. "It has to be a full-time flow of events to be effective or successful."

For MoveOn.org and its members, the support from students and citizens alike from across the country is still something of a question mark, and that, they say, is just part of the ride.

"We have no idea what the ads are going to be about or where they'll come from, but that's the most exciting thing about the contest," Pariser said.

MoveOn is an organization working to bring people back into politics. The international network includes nearly 2 million online activists.

Submissions for the "Bush in 30 seconds" video contest will be accepted from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5.

For more information log on to www.MoveOn.org.

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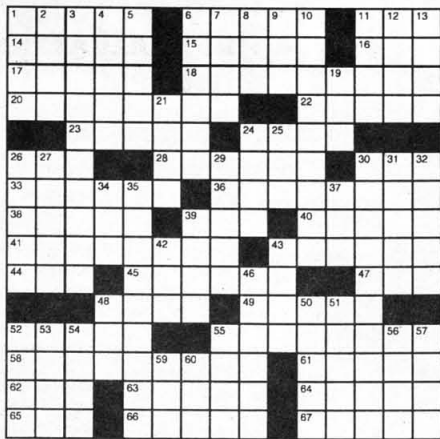
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 - 11 Vigoda or Burrows
 - 14 Big
 - 15 "and
 - 16 Prejudice"
 - 17 Wile inlet
 - 18 Bitterly pungent
 - 20 Unspecified place
 - 22 Shipping routes
 - 23 Parts of shoes
 - 24 Religious belief
 - 26 Kind
 - 28 Schuss
 - 29 Paler
 - 30 Can material
 - 33 Settle down!
 - 36 Daughter of Oedipus
 - 38 Kapt talking
 - 39 Half a bikini
 - 40 Opposite of everybody
 - 41 "Gilligan's Island" co-star
 - 43 Fed a furnace
 - 44 Guy's date
 - 45 Female grad
 - 47 Make an effort
 - 48 Stanley Gardner
 - 49 Type of setter or stew
 - 52 Ross or Mulroney
 - 55 Born losers
 - 58 Netherlands port
 - 61 Hawk's home
 - 62 Had a meal
 - 63 Talia of "Rocky"
 - 64 Video-game pioneer
 - 65 Precious stone
 - 66 Cher's ex
 - 67 Perseveres
- DOWN**
- 1 Exclamation of resignation
 - 2 Tatted material
 - 3 Unreasonable
 - 4 Limber
 - 5 Car choice
 - 6 Underdog wins
 - 7 Paid players
 - 8 Allen or Curry
 - 9 Keatsian work
 - 10 Pulp paper
 - 11 Cain's victim
 - 12 Unadorned
 - 13 Scopes out
 - 19 Garden implement
 - 21 Clean and tidy
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 - 25 To this day
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 - 27 Arboreal marsupial
 - 29 Seraglio
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 - 32 In want
 - 34 Nol of Cambodia
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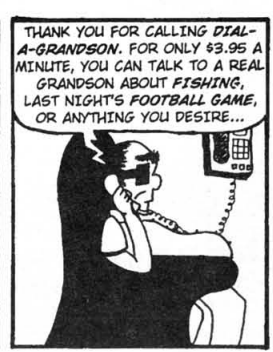
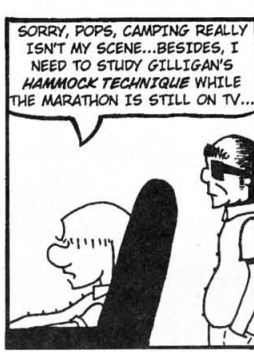
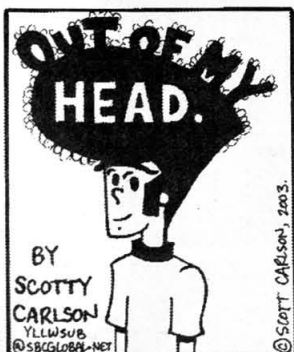
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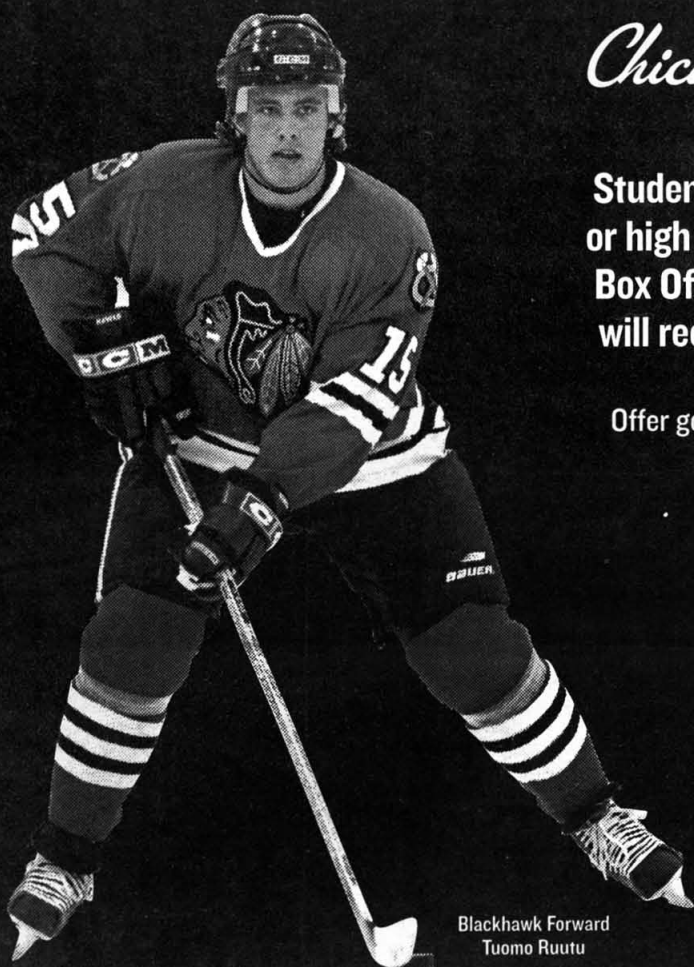
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UPCOMING HOME GAMES

DECEMBER 2003

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 7:30	4	5
				BUF		6
7 6:00	8	9	10	11 8:00	12	13
PHX				DET		
14 6:00	15	16	17	18	19	20
DAL						
21 6:00	22	23 7:30	24	25	26 7:30	27
N.J.		STL			CBJ	
28 6:00	29	30	31 7:30			
DET			VAN			

JANUARY 2004

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2 7:30	3
					S.J.	
4 6:00	5	6	7	8 7:30	9	10
EDM				CGY		
11 7:00	12	13	14	15	16	17
COL						
18 6:00	19	20	21	22 7:30	23	24
L.A.				CBJ		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2004

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 7:30	12	13	14 2:00
			NSH			BOS
15 2:00	16	17	18	19 7:00	20	21
WSH				S.J.		
22 2:00	23	24	25	26	27 7:30	28
STL					CBJ	
29 2:00						
FLA						

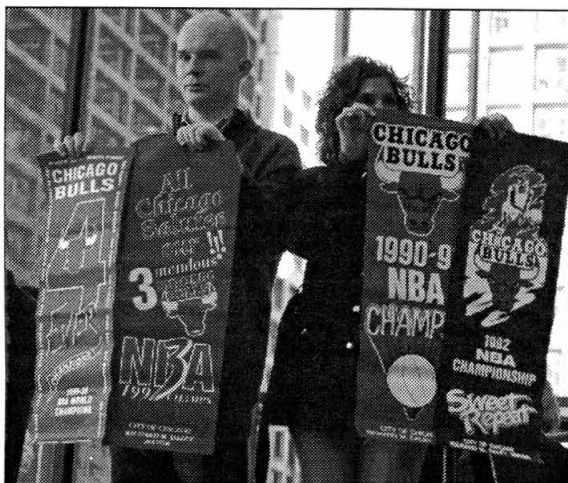


Blackhawk Hockey

LIVE FROM CHICAGO

Auction has 'banner' year

○ City plans for proceeds to benefit Chicago food charities, winning bidders take home a piece of city's history



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Sports memorabilia continue to be favorite of Chicagoans; winning bids were in the high hundreds for Cubs and Bulls banners.

By Brin Quick
Staff Writer

Chicagoans reached deep into their pockets in the name of charity last week for the "Sharing It" banner auction. The auction, which took place Nov. 19 and 20 in the lobby of the Daley Center, put pieces of the city's history on the auction block for public purchase. The artifacts auctioned off were commemorative banners with sports or special event themes.

Participants paid anywhere from \$25 to nearly \$1,000 for the banners—showing that no price was too high for the chance to own a piece of Chicago history and support a good cause. Among the various charities, the banner program raised funds for the Chicago Anti-Hunger Foundation and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

"It's for a good cause," said Larry R. Rogers Jr., an attorney with the law firm Power Rogers and Smith. Rogers spent several thousand dollars at the auction and took home more than half a dozen banners.

"[The banners] are really a different way to decorate your home," Rogers said, adding that he has

attended the banner auction for the past few years. Most of the banners Rogers purchased were sports-related, although he did buy a Brookfield Zoo: Primate's Journey banner for \$200, which he said he will give to his daughter.

"The rest are going in my sports room," he said. Indeed, sports-related banners were among the top sellers at this year's auction. A Chicago Cubs NL Division Championship banner sold for \$800, while a Chicago Salutes Walter Payton banner went for \$600.

However, not all the banners being auctioned off were quite so popular. A Chicago Transit Authority banner commemorating the expansion of the Green Line sold for \$25, considerably less than the opening bid.

"I know there are a lot of sports fans here, but is anyone a fan of the CTA?" asked auctioneer Gary Metzner. A few people laughed and others rolled their eyes. Metzner opened the bidding on the CTA banner at \$50, but still no one wanted it.

"It'll look really interesting on your wall," Metzner pleaded with the crowd. "Come on now, this is for

charity!" Finally a man offered to pay \$25 for the banner and Metzner accepted.

In fact, many of the banners that depicted cultural events or exhibits sold for much less than the sports banners.

A Gospel Music Festival banner sold for \$100, which was the opening bid, and a two-banner set commemorating the Chicago Film Festival went for \$275.

While most of the people packed into the Daley Center lobby were there to bid on specific items, others just showed up to watch. Victor Adams, a student at the Illinois Institute of Technology, said he saw an ad for the banner auction on television and decided to go "check it out."

"I've never been to anything like this, and it sounded interesting," Adams said. He wanted to bid on one of the Cubs banners but said that they were a little bit out of his price range.

"They're all going for like \$700," he said, "and I'm just a broke college student." Adams also wanted to bid on a Putting the Go in Chicago banner that celebrated the CTA's 100th anniversary, but it wasn't up for bidding that day.

"Maybe I'll come back tomorrow and see how much it's selling for," he said.

According to Blythe Modrowski, a public relations official for the Mayor's Office of Special Events, the event didn't raise nearly as much money on the second day.

"All the banners went for a lot more money [on Nov. 19] than they did today," she said. A Chicago Salutes Walter Payton banner that sold for \$600 on Wednesday went for only \$425 on Thursday, Modrowski said.

The LaSalle Bank Presents the Chicago Marathon banner sold for \$600 on Wednesday but only brought in \$225 on Thursday. The Cubs Division Championship banner, however, sold for \$800 on both days.

Modrowski said the auction was not as well attended on the second day, which could have contributed to the decline in selling prices.

"It's all in the timing," she said,

adding that people generally come to an event on the first day it opens. Modrowski also said that the average selling prices this year were generally high, possibly because this was the first year that credit cards were accepted as a form of payment.

The total amount of money raised at the auction was not available at press time.

"Our finance people are still totaling up the sales," Modrowski said. She declined to speculate on how

much money may have been raised, stating that she would rather wait for the final total to come in, which may take several days.

One thing is certain, though; raising money for charity is one of the reasons why people like Rogers will continue to attend.

"I don't go to any auctions other than this one," he said. "The money goes to charity, so it's a good thing to be part of."



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Proceeds from the banner auction will be donated to the Chicago Anti-Hunger Foundation and the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Health care *Continued from Back Page*

rate twice as much as somebody covered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield."

According to a study by the Americans for Healthcare—an advocacy group promoting affordable, quality and universal health care for all—the most common combination resulting in bankruptcy filings were uninsured individuals who became sick.

Tiffany Montgomery, 26, had been to Advocate Bethany Hospital in Chicago for the delivery of her first daughter in 1995. At the time, Montgomery was under the assumption she was covered by her parents' health insurance because she was 18 years old and enrolled in college.

"Apparently I wasn't covered, because they sued me," Montgomery said.

According to the lawsuit, a judgment was issued against Montgomery for more than \$3,300, which includes interest and fees.

Fifteen percent of Montgomery's monthly wages were garnished. She left her studies at Northwestern Business College to go to work full time to repay the debt.

"That's \$165 every two weeks," Montgomery said. "And my car note was \$320 per month, but once the garnishments started, that was the \$320 for my car."

"I surrendered my car, so now I don't have a car for me and my three

children," said Montgomery, who now lives paycheck to paycheck.

Montgomery's third child was born in 2002 at Bethany Hospital. The hospital sent her a bill for \$4,900, unaware she had insurance coverage. However, Montgomery's insurance did cover the birth with an allowable of \$2,100 and a co-pay of \$500 from Montgomery.

The amount Montgomery was sued for was approximately 28 percent more than the combined payments Advocate received from her and the insurance company for the same procedure.

Montgomery, along with the other plaintiffs in the case, was unaware of the Charity Care program through Advocate Health Care.

According to Ed Domansky, director of media relations for Advocate Health Care, Advocate's 2003 budget allowed \$220 million for uncompensated care, \$51 million of which is solely for Charity Care.

"Not-for-profit doesn't mean we offer [free health care] to anyone who walks in the door and asks," Domansky said. He added that 98.7 percent of all completed Charity Care applications are approved, and in 2001 uninsured Charity Care patients only paid 13.4 percent of their total

charges, on average.

"Statements have been redesigned to make Charity Care more clear," Domansky said. "And [we] have now posted multilingual signage in emergency rooms, admittance area and such that mentions bills, financial counseling and charity care."

But Geoghegan believes this is too little, too late. "Actions against our plaintiffs and other uninsured are continuing," he said.

"Not-for-profit doesn't mean we offer [free health care] to anyone who walks in the door and asks."

—Ed Domansky, director of media relations for Advocate Health Care

Curtis Moore, 26, is a student at Chicago State University and a plaintiff in the lawsuit as well. Moore was in between schools in the summer of 1998 when he was in an automobile accident. Kept overnight for observation, Moore advised the business office at his time of discharge that he was uninsured.

The staff at Christ Hospital informed Moore that he would receive documents to be filled out for finan-

cial assistance but that is not what he received in the mail.

"Instead of documents, I got the bill," Moore said. "I thought the amount I was being charged must've been in error—for a night—I don't even understand it."

Moore disregarded the bill, he was a full-time college student with no expendable income, and he figured he could make the payments when he had a job.

But his parents started to receive calls in the end of 2000 looking for Moore to settle his unpaid hospital bill.

"They were calling my parents house, threatening [to put a] lien on the house," Moore said. "I didn't even live there!"

Like Montgomery, Moore was also sued. According to the lawsuit, Moore had arranged to pay \$260 per month. Unfortunately, the fees became too burdensome and he fell behind in payments.

"The economy went south and my hours were slashed, so the \$260 a month plus my books and clothes, taking care of my car and other expenses were too much," Moore explained.

After facing litigation from Advocate a second time, Moore was able to negotiate his payments down to \$160 a month.

"The issues are real, we don't dispute that," Domansky said. "But the bigger picture is that it is a national issue and Advocate alone cannot solve this problem."

Domansky said because Advocate has not yet seen the lawsuit, he could not comment on any specific allegations.

"As gregarious as the practices may sound, they are legal and the truth is Advocate is doing nothing different than what any other hospital in the country does."

"Uninsured patients who go to Advocate don't sign anything that says they will pay, there is no written agreements specifying what the prices will be," Geoghegan said. "You cannot charge people more than the clear and reasonable value of the services rendered. The vast majority of people who use Advocate pay much lower rates."

But the damage has been done. In a statement released by the plaintiffs' attorneys, repayment of overcharged fees is expected to be in the millions of dollars.

"I find myself asking, even when I'm looking for a doctor, 'Please tell me you're not a part of Advocate.' I don't want to be involved with Advocate whatsoever," Moore said.

Not your everyday taxi

○ World-class cabs could be next British invasion

By Jennifer Goltz
City Beat Editor

Had it not been for city officials' concerns over regulation and safety, Chicago could have been the first to welcome the London Taxi.

Instead the Blue Cab Company of River Forest expects to introduce five London Taxis to its suburban-based fleet by Christmas, according to Jim Bennett, vice president of Blue Cab.

Currently there are 25 London taxis throughout Chicago acting as rolling banners for Marshall Field's and American Express Blue Cards. Marc Klein, president and CEO of London Fleet, said the cabs have been federally approved and are waiting on individual city approval before the cabs will begin to service customers.

Klein said the London Taxi will be the first of its kind, allowing handicapped persons, such as those with wheelchairs, to hail a cab, then enter and exit it without any assistance. London Taxis will be equipped with a ramp for wheelchairs, a wheelchair seatbelt and a swivel seat.

According to Connie Buscemi, spokeswoman for the Chicago Consumer Services Department, there are concerns about the unique handicap accessible features.

"We must be assured they are traveling safely," Buscemi said. She said there are concerns with the handicap accessible features such as the ramp and seatbelt.

According to the London Taxis of North America's website, London Taxis have completed and passed all tests through the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards, which included 10 separate crash tests at

various speeds, as well as unbelted driver and passenger, air bag and roof crushability rates.

"I was told they passed federal safety standards and do not have any concerns," Bennett said. "In fact I would like to have a larger fleet of them."

The London Taxi's price tag is approximately twice that of its American counterpart, the Crown Victoria. To help offset the price differential, London Fleet, the sole distributor of London Taxis in Illinois, has partnered with Clear Channel Taxi Media to provide wrap advertising on the cabs.

According to John Reed, North American sales executive for LTNA, the taxis have more room, comfort and longevity.

"The life span is three years for most conventional taxis," Reed said. "The London Taxi has a life span of seven years."

The London Taxi looks like a larger version of its British counterpart, the Mini Cooper, with raised headlights and contoured sides. However, London Taxis have small tires and a small trunk, giving passengers more leg room. They also have a large windshield for greater driver visibility.

London Taxis will also offer rider comforts such as Internet hook-ups, driver-to-passenger intercoms and independent heating and air-conditioning systems.

The vehicles are powered by a Ford 2.4-liter turbo diesel engine that uses 20 percent to 25 percent less fuel than its gasoline competitor, according to the LTNA website. The London Taxis get 25 to 27 miles per gallon in the city, versus a tradi-

tional taxi, which only gets slightly more than half of that.

According to Reed, the cars had to be retrofitted with smog devices and airbags, things that are not required in the United Kingdom. To comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's standards, LTNA has designed the vehicles to be more fuel-efficient.

It was mainly emissions and safety issues that needed to be rectified in order for the London Taxi to be allowed on the streets of America, said Reed.

The longevity of the vehicle was a selling point for Blue Cab. "The vehicle comes with a 200,000 mile warranty," Bennett said. "We think we can have [the taxis] for quite a few years."

Reed said the typical Crown Victoria, when maintained properly, will run for about 200,000 miles, but the London Taxi is made to last from 500,000 to 700,000 miles.

"It's made to stand up to everyday use," Reed said. "Fords get squishy and have no leg room."

London Taxis are manufactured in London, where anyone can purchase one. Reed said they retail around \$44,800. LTNA can manufacture 30 to 35 cars per week, which equals approximately 3,500 per year.

While city officials have concerns, Buscemi said that the CCSD has been working with London Fleet and LTNA for months now.

"We would like to have seen these issues resolved by now," she said.

For more information about the London Taxi visit www.londonfleet.com or www.londontaxisna.com.

—Adam Zakroczymski III contributed to this report.

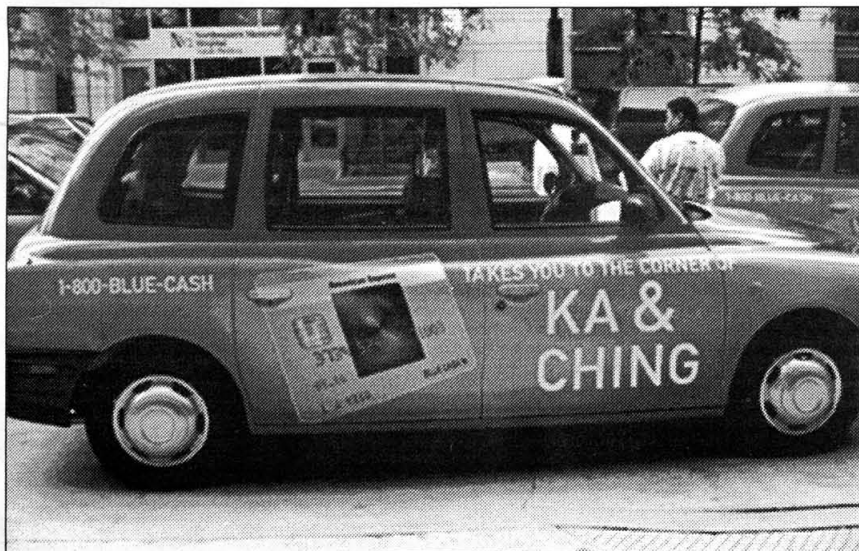


Photo Courtesy London Fleet

Wrap advertising, such as the American Express London Taxi above, appears on all 25 of the London Taxis in Chicago. The Marshall Field's London Taxis can be seen throughout the city as well.

Guns, police raids at local speakeasy club



Heather Morisson/The Chronicle

Dinner theater guests of Tommy Gun's Garage enter around the corner through the alley, if they have the right password.

By Brin Quick
Staff Writer

A man enters a dark, deserted alley at South State Street and heads toward the large metal door under the el tracks. He opens the door and gives the bouncer, Gloves, the password. Gloves checks to make sure the alley is deserted, then stands back and ushers the man inside.

In the 1920s, this was common practice for anyone who wished to enter a speakeasy (an illegal drinking establishment). Run mainly by gangsters, speakeasies were hidden in garages and basements all over Chicago. To get in, you had to know the right people and there was always the threat of a police raid.

When the Prohibition era came to an end in the mid-1930s, most of the speakeasies in Chicago were shut down for good. There is, however, one place where Chicagoans can still go to have some authentic, 1920s-style fun. That place is Tommy Gun's Garage.

Tommy Gun's Garage, located at 1239 S. State St., is a speakeasy dinner theater in where audience members will feel as though they have been transported back to the 1920s.

"We try to make it as authentic as possible," she said. Audience members enter through the alley and give Gloves the password, because that's what they would have done at a real speakeasy.

The password is given out when the customer places the reservation, and most reservations need to be made weeks or even months in advance. In fact, said manager Kris Adams, "everything is pretty much full from now until Thanksgiving."

Tommy Gun's wasn't always so successful. When it first opened in the early 1970s, Mergen said, it was little more than a pizza place with a bar and jazz band.

"The menu was horrible," she said. "There were over a hundred items on it, and taking people's orders took a very long time with such a large menu." Little time was left for the diners to enjoy the performance.

At that time, Mergen was a performer in the show, acting the part of a 1920s-era flapper, but soon she became much more interested in the

business aspect of Tommy Gun's. After performing in the show for a little over a year, she quit and became a bookkeeper for Tommy Gun's original owner, Robert Sanfratello.

"I was actually thinking about starting up a place of my own, similar to Tommy Gun's," she said. After Sanfratello retired in 1989, he sold the business to Mergen, who immediately made sweeping changes to the structure of Tommy Gun's.

"The menu is now cut down to six items, a meat [dish], a poultry, a pasta—just something from each group so there's some variety," Mergen said. She also increased the number of cast members, going from about a dozen actors and musicians to the current total of about 30. The actors also double as waiters and stay in character the entire time.

"Before it was basically just a restaurant with a jazz band and a couple of skits," she said. Now, Tommy Gun's is a full interactive experience and audience members are encouraged to participate in the fun.

"We want them to feel like they're in a real speakeasy," Mergen said. Periodically, the place will be "raided" by the police and audience members will have to get up on stage and perform hilarious sobriety tests in front of everyone. Tommy Gun's is intended, Mergen said, to be a fun, family-oriented experience.

Today, tour groups, especially international ones, constitute the majority of the business at Tommy Gun's.

"We actually do more business internationally and nationally than we do locally," she said. "When people think of Chicago, they think of Al Capone, and some of them think that's the way Chicago still is."

The show runs Thursday through Sunday, and admission prices range from \$45 on Thursdays and Sundays to \$60 on Saturday nights. The price includes dinner, the show and a non-alcoholic beverage. Liquor (or "hooch," as the gangsters call it) costs extra. A typical performance, including dinner, usually lasts around three hours.

For more information about Tommy Gun's Garage, visit www.tommygunsgarage.com or call (773) RAT-A-TAT.

OFF THE BLOTTER

- A projector was stolen from the Graphic Arts Department at the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Nov. 11 at 4:30 p.m. No one has been taken into custody in connection with this incident.
- A simple assault occurred Nov. 12 at 11:06 a.m. on the CTA platform at 500 S. State St. No one has been taken into custody in connection with this incident.

- A bomb threat was called into the First District Police Headquarters Nov. 13 at 11:02 p.m. The anonymous caller stated a bomb was placed under a tree at 680 S. Michigan Ave. But after a thorough search by the Chicago Police Department Bomb Squad, no threat of a bomb was detected.
- A pickpocketing theft occurred Nov. 18 at 5:45 p.m. at the bar of the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave. No one has been taken into custody in connection with this incident.
- A 33-year-old male of the 600 block of South State Street was taken into custody Nov. 12 at 11:51 a.m., after attempting a retail theft at Tower Records, 214 S. Wabash Ave.

—Compiled by Jennifer Goltz

Map Key

- ★ Columbia Building
- Theft
- Bomb Threat
- Simple Assault
- Pick-pocketing
- Simple Battery
- Auto Theft

Map showing streets: E Jackson Blvd, E Van Buren St, E Congress Pkwy, E Harrison St, S Wabash Ave, S Michigan Ave, S Columbus Dr, S State St, S Dearborn St, S Halsted St, S Madison St, S La Salle St, S Jackson St, S Franklin St, S Van Buren St, S Congress Pkwy, S Harrison St, S Wabash Ave, S Michigan Ave, S Columbus Dr, S State St, S Dearborn St, S Halsted St, S Madison St, S La Salle St, S Jackson St, S Franklin St, S Van Buren St.

Photo Courtesy: Ashleigh Pacetti/The Chronicle

'Greatest Show on Earth'



Amma Siddiqui/The Chronicle

Ringling Bros. and Barnum Bailey Circus returns for its 133rd year in Chicago. The circus elephants made their way down Kinzie Avenue Nov. 17 to the United Center where they will perform through Nov. 30. Elephants are the largest living land animal and can weight up to six tons, consuming between 150 to 250 pounds of hay, grains, fruits and vegetables per day.

Hospital not a very good 'Advocate'

○ Class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of uninsured patients of Advocate Health Care

By Jennifer Golz
City Beat Editor

A class-action lawsuit was filed Nov. 19, against the largest nonprofit hospital system in Illinois. The Oak Brook-based Advocate Health Care faces allegations of price fixing and consumer fraud.

The lawsuit was filed on behalf of seven plaintiffs without insurance who have been treated at one of Advocate's eight Chicagoland hospitals. Thomas Geoghegan and Scott Frankel, attorneys for the plaintiffs, are seeking the return of excess sums paid by the uninsured.

Uninsured patients of the Advocate hospitals have been charged in some cases more than two times the allowable fees of insurance companies and government care such as Medicaid. Because Advocate is a nonprofit healthcare provider, Geoghegan said, the hospital network receives large tax exemptions to provide free or below cost healthcare to those who cannot afford to pay otherwise.

"[Advocate] is taking this extremely valuable tax exemption that we the tax payers give to provide care to our community to those in need of it, and then they go out and charge these people ... the very highest rates," Geoghegan said at a press conference. "And not only [do they] charge them these rates, but [they] go after them with lawsuits, garnishments and outside collections."

The practice of charging uninsured patients up to two times or more than an insurance company's allowable amount is a violation of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act, the lawsuit alleges.

"Instead of providing these people with free and below cost medical care, they are pushed into bankruptcy," Geoghegan said. "And the irony of this is that in many cases these are the people out there who go to hell and back to pay off the whole bill at a

See **Health care**, Page 30

Meigs Field to reopen, but not as airport

○ Controversy continues as park district officials work on building a new park at Meigs Field

By Tawney Saylor
Staff Writer

Despite mounting budget concerns, the Chicago Park District denied a proposal presented earlier this month by the Friends of Meigs Field, which pledged nearly \$140 million to reopen the former airfield as a combined airport and park.

Instead, park district officials said the lakefront property that once housed a single runway airport will be converted into a large park filled with grass and shrubs. To confront a \$30 million deficit for the year, officials said they will look within their own organization to reduce expenditures across the board.

"By law we have to have a balanced budget," said Chicago Park District spokesman Julian Green. "But we are not looking for outside funding to close our budget gap."

Green said the park district plans to reduce spending in advertising and operating budgets, reduce health care costs, offer employees an early retirement package and reduce management contracts, all in an attempt to balance budget totals before next year.

During three budget forums held this month, the Friends of Meigs Field, a nonprofit agency with more than 6,800 members, appealed to park district officials to reopen Meigs Field and gain an estimated \$139 million from federal aviation funds before the budget plan is released on Nov. 21.

Steve Whitney, president of Friends of Meigs Field, said he has seen the field reopen twice in the past eight years, and hopes that "the third time will be a charm."

Whitney said that Meigs was an integral part of the airport operating system in Chicago.

"Every plane that landed at Meigs was another one being taken from Midway and O'Hare," he said.

Kevin Rojek, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association at Midway, said that air traffic at Midway has been in record numbers this year, and part of that growth can be attributed to the closing of Meigs field in March.

"There is a combination of things going on," he said. "Southwest Airlines and ATA have expanded their flights and more people are flying. But the closure of Meigs Field has definitely contributed to the overall traffic volume, especially to corporate traffic numbers."

In their proposal, "Parks and Planes for Meigs Field and Northerly Island," the Friends of Meigs Field introduced a plan for the 76-acre space that would incorporate an operating airport, as well as a lakefront park and various public attractions, including a new museum and picnic area.

"Our organization is dedicated to the preservation of Meigs Field, and our interest is in having open air space," Whitney said. "But that is not to say we are against parks."

Whitney said that if the park district considered selling the land back to the city of Chicago, who owned the property for more than 50 years, they would be eligible for federal funding, have an opportunity to close their looming budget gap, and even "spin off money for neighborhood parks, which are in desperate

need of rehabilitation."

"Particularly in low-income neighborhoods there is a shortage of parks, and the parks that are there suffer from poor maintenance conditions," Whitney said.

Adelle Dixon, a resident of the Pullman Park District for 19 years, said she would rather see funding go toward her local park as opposed to a lakefront park property, where she said there are already a number of quality parks.

"Most children in poorer neighborhoods are deprived of nice park facilities," Dixon said. "The inner city has enough deprived children, and any money that can be used to help them should not be wasted or put in an area that does not really need help."

Erma Tranter, president of the nonprofit agency Friends of the Parks, agrees that more park space is needed in Chicago, but said that the best place to put it is near the lakefront at Meigs Field.

"We have the opportunity to take the best piece of land in the city and put it to good use," Tranter said. "The city desperately needs park space, and that amount of quality land is priceless."

Green said the park plan is "not just for the lakefront," but is "one part of a program to improve the overall quality of life in Chicago."

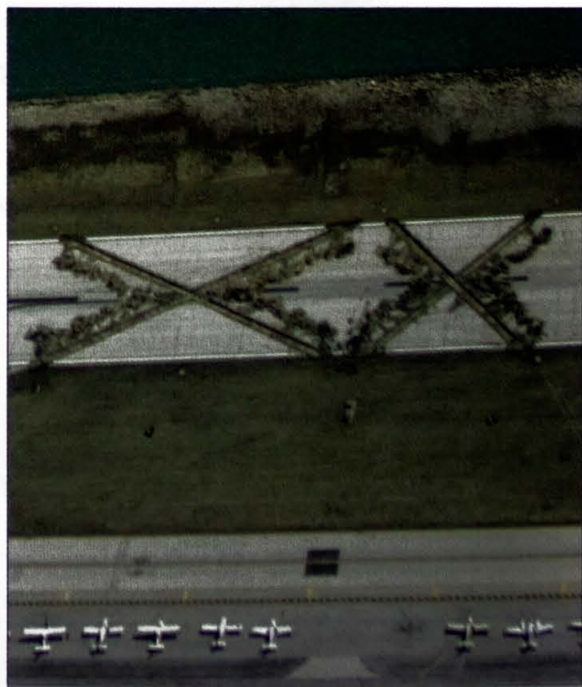
"Chicago is one of a few cities with a massive lakefront property," he said. "The Park District, along with the city of Chicago, has taken on a plan that will increase accessibility of this space for all of its residents."

The park district unveiled their

plan for a park in July, but Green said the plan is still in the first phase of development and there is no estimated date of completion.

"We are moving forward to devel-

op a park, but we will not even entertain the idea to develop the park into airport," he said. "The Chicago Park District is in the recreation department, not the aviation department."



Brian Kerezy/AP

The runway of Meigs Field was destroyed by construction crews in the middle of the night last spring. Friends of Meigs Field is hoping to turn the unused space into a lakefront park for residents.