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Columbia Chronicle (12/15/2003)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

Peeking behind the beard

○ Chicago's Santas give up the secrets about being the jolly old elf in red



Heather Morrison/The Chronicle

The Santa Claus in the Daley Center, who works up to of nine hours a night, said he's on the job as a favor to his bosses. His complaint? "The kids are fine, it's the parents that get a little goofy sometimes."

By Doris Dadayan
A & E Editor

With the advent of target-demographic tweens and their multibillion-dollar buying power, Santa knows that times have changed. Boys and girls are demanding designer products, the latest fashions and the newest version of *Grand Theft Auto*, and Santa and his elves at the North Pole are feeling overwhelmed. Santa's toyshop is open around the clock to keep up with the last-minute rush, so finding Santa in the city has become damn near impossible.

Santa himself has always been an elusive figure. There are even those who have their doubts about his existence.

And if in fact this man by the name of Claus does exist, it may just be that he's not in Chicago due to his own political views and personal issues that he's got with Mayor Richard M. Daley.

And so, with that in mind, The Chronicle takes a special look into the life, the pains and the thoughts of perhaps not the original guy, but the other blue-eyed men behind the red suit and white beard, who basically do a similar job as Claus, sans the chimney climbing, the cookie-eating and the winking, nodding and laughing.

They're the ones who, at the end of that merry, oh-so-jolly day, can barely get off the chair from the weight and pressure of all 12 'tweens' that sit on his lap, asking for

boyfriends and more Abercrombie & Fitch clothes. There is a long list of men who dutifully fill his place; some are freelance writers, some corporate trainers and some employees of Marshall Field's, who say they do this for fun, but perhaps are actually working undercover in their regular jobs throughout the year.

Santa, stationed at the Daley Plaza

A little background on the job:
"This is more of a favor to my boss. I have another job. But, my boss' wife runs this thing [Santa's House] and she was short one Santa, so I offered to do it. She thought I was nice to kids. I enjoy it, just, honestly, it's more frustrating the way the parents are sometimes. The kids are fine, it's the parents that get a little goofy sometimes, but that's OK."

How he feels working as Santa:

"People don't really appreciate what you do after you're sitting there with the kids all day working for eight, nine hours, you know."

—Daley Plaza Santa

"Unappreciated. People don't really appreciate what you do after you're sitting there with the kids all day working for eight, nine hours, you know. You're trying to be nice to everyone. You try to give them equal time. But you can't spend too much time with them, there's a lot of kids waiting out there on the weekends. But, you know, you don't want them to just sit there and take the picture and go. I feel bad charging kids just to see Santa and selling the pictures.

That's not Christmas spirit in my mind."

What he tells 'em:

"Santa says he'll do his best, he'll try very hard, he'll see what he can do. Santa's not supposed to make any promises, he just says he'll try and to make sure to be good. I wish I could give kids everything they ask for, but it doesn't work out that way."

Santa, stationed at Navy Pier

The perks of being Santa:
"Oh, it's the children who are so hopeful and excited about Christmas and about Santa Claus. It's my first time back since 1983, and I'm very excited to be back as Santa again."

The not-so-perks of being Santa:
"If you don't have your own beard, and you're wearing this beard, getting the white hairs in your mouth and nose is not very pleasant."

Some requests for this Christmas:
"Well, people are asking for ponies this year, ponies are very popular this year, for some reason, and I don't know how they're going to get them. I get the request for the house, for the car, and for money and boys."

Final thoughts from Navy Pier's St. Nick:

"I think everyone should be nice to everyone. That's the most important part of living and celebrating Christmas."

Santa, stationed at FAO SCHWARZ, Wabash Avenue

Decision on career:

"Well, it's the only thing there is. I don't see any other option, really. One is what one is. One does what one does."

See Santa, Page 22

Health Center flu shot supply runs empty

○ Health officials point to 'FluMist' as alternative

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

A potentially fatal strain of the common flu, which has already killed dozens across the country, has increased demand for its vaccine, forcing clinics and hospitals without it to turn patients away.

At least one college student, a freshman at Worcester State College in Massachusetts, has died as a result of the virus.

Columbia's Student Health Center ran out of the vaccine last week, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of student affairs. He described the lack of influenza vaccines as a "national emergency."

Before last week, the college was offering the vaccine to Columbia faculty, staff and students for \$17.

But the demand skyrocketed this month after a severe outbreak of influenza, also known as the common flu, in a handful of western states. Eleven people have died of influenza, up sharply from this time last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Annually, influenza kills 36,000 Americans, particularly the elderly and infants. Thousands are vaccinated annually to prevent the flu virus. But this year's bug is actually a hybrid from Asia. Thus, the vaccines do not temper it.

According to Tim Hadac, spokesman for the Chicago Department of Public Health, the best option is to invest in a vaccination alternative called FluMist.

See Flu, Page 4

Sign out of time

○ Torco sign's steel supports 'needed attention'

By Eric Alexy
Copy Editor

Often referred to as the Torco Building, Columbia's South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., is slated to have its namesake Torco sign removed in March or April of 2004.

"Inspection crews on the building's facade during the summer discovered that the steel holding the sign up needed attention," said Mike Debish, vice president of facilities and operations.

Torco Oil, which is now in bank-

ruptcy, had been renting the building space where the sign is located from Columbia, but stopped paying maintenance and repair fees around a year ago, leaving the responsibility of the sign in the school's hands, Debish said.

Torco had the sign attached with permission from a previous owner prior to Columbia's 1990 purchase of the property.

Of the sign, Debish added: "[It] really detracts from the ability to make this building part of Columbia's

See Torco, Page 4



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Columbia plans to remove the Torco sign from the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., by spring 2004.

Inside
this week



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Calendar: Dec. 15 - 19

MONDAY

The Campus As One Event is at 2:30 p.m. in the C33 Space, 33 E. Congress Parkway. The event features musical performances by DJ Bloom and Wes Clay.

Those interested in the Prague and/or Moscow Summer Abroad programs should attend the informational meeting at 12:30 p.m. in the 11th Floor Faculty Lounge, South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave.

Faculty members and former students will attend to discuss their experiences in the programs. For more information, call (312) 344-7611.

Sara K. Schneider, a candidate for the position of executive director of the new Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in Arts and Media, will give a presentation at 3 p.m. in Room 405 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

TUESDAY

Meet Charlie Pierce, commentator on National Public Radio's show "Only a Game" and on ESPN Sports Radio, in the 11th Floor Faculty Lounge of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., at 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Louis Silverstein, a faculty member in the Liberal Education Department, will discuss his book *Deep Spirit and Great Heart: Living in Marijuana Consciousness* on CAN-TV, Channel 21, at 10 p.m.

Ruthann Godolli, a candidate for the position of executive director of the new Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in Arts and Media, will give a presentation at 3 p.m. in Room 405 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

THURSDAY

The Columbia College Association of Black Journalists meets at 6 p.m. in the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court.

For more information, call (312) 344-7687.

The steering committee for the 2004 Raw Voices: Teens in the Media Arts conference and showcase meets at 4:30 p.m. in Room 311 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, call (312) 344-7284.

FRIDAY

The Theater Department's production of *The Pajama Game* is at 7:30 p.m. in the Getz Theater in the Theater Center, 72 E. 11th St.

The show is also at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 20 and at 3 p.m. on Dec. 21.

For more information, call (312) 344-6126.

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

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Dec. 8 - 12 user poll results

Do you agree with Rolling Stone's top 500 greatest albums list?

Yes: 17 percent No: 83 percent

Vote at ColumbiaChronicle.com



Chris Coates Editor-in-Chief

'Me and Santa'

I had my photo taken with Santa Claus last month.

Actually, it was a local high school kid dressed up like Santa, but the costume was very, very accurate. You can tell looking at the Polaroid in the "Me and Santa" frame in my mom's dining room.

While I was home for Thanksgiving, Mom thought it would be fun to get a photo of my brother, Colin, and me with Old St. Nick. It was just like old times.

I stopped trying to fight these things years ago. "Just humor Mom," I think. I do. Colin doesn't.

Ironically, for years my brother was consistently the biggest Santa supporter in the Coates household.

Colin was the one who left Mr. Claus his cookies on Christmas Eve. Colin was the one who would wake at 6 a.m. on Dec. 25. Colin was the one who discussed at length his Christmas list while he sat on Santa's lap.

What a strange holiday.

I've been thinking a lot lately about this Santa thing. I've been trying to rationalize being two-faced to innocuous kids. What are the merits of lying to your own children, telling them there's a man who lives on the tip of the earth with a band of elves who fashion toys for all the girls and boys? Even as a kid, it was a hard pill to swallow.

Why is it that we teach our children never to lie, but we secretly tell them fabricated stories year after year?

And these aren't just white lies to

protect them. These are massive, intricately orchestrated lies that involve months of planning, lots of backroom deals and dozens and dozens of deceptions.

Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy—they're all fictitious characters that scare children into being good little boys and girls during the year. What a concept.

Santa sees everything you do. If you act up, Santa won't bring you toys.

The Easter Bunny won't bring you candy.

Pull that loose tooth out. The Tooth Fairy will reward you.

Bizarre but effective.

We also tell our children never to interact with strangers, but then allow them to sit on an old, bearded man's lap to tell him what they want as gifts. Then he gives them candy. Hmm...

While I'm no child psychologist (they don't offer such a thing at Columbia), I would contend this is a bit confusing for the kinfolk.

I guess kids just expect their parents to contradict themselves.

Of course, I don't blame parents. Even mine. At least not for that.

Because, in reality, parents desperately want their children to experience the same things they experienced. The rush on Christmas morning. Waking before the sun rises. Rousing up mom and dad who, I now realize, need as much sleep as they can get because they've been up until 2 a.m. putting together Christmas toys.

Parents want their kids to remain kids. And a big part of childhood is innocence—exactly what Christmas is all about. Well, that and mass commercialism. And spiked eggnog.

The big fear of telling your kid the truth about Santa is that the tyke will run and tell all the kids in the second grade. Then those kids will spread the truth across the lunchroom and before long, the whole school population is in the know. It's like *Outbreak*—only with the truth. By destroying your child's innocence, you destroy dozens and dozens of other naive kids.

In fact, you might just destroy purity universally. Kids will come from the womb jaded and satirical. We'll have a bunch of Janeane Garofalos on our hands.

Or you could lie.

Lie through your teeth. Lies on top of lies on top of lies. And you have to make them really big lies, as if an obese man fitting down your family's chimney in the middle of winter to deliver a hand-crafted iPod while a sleigh pulled by magical reindeer waits on the roof wasn't a big enough lie for the kids.

Then, one day, they'll ask you.

"Is Santa real?"

And at that moment, before your eyes, you'll see the innocence fade away.

But don't worry. You can always force them to pose with Santa every Christmas.

—ccoates@chroniclemail.com

8 years ago in The Chronicle

"Registration goes computer" tops the front page of the Dec. 11, 1995 edition of The Chronicle.

Before the computerized process, students had to endure a 15-step registration system, complete with departmental advising, selection of classes and final payment. The new electronic system "trimmed hours" off the wait.

Today, students use another computerized system—OASIS, the college's new Internet portal—that allows instant registration from any Internet-connected computer in the world.

In the edition, The Chronicle also looks into the newly launched Columbia 2, the college's Continuing Education program.

"Our mission has been to train [students] in the areas of arts and communications," said Dr. Philip Klukoff, the college's associate provost and a key figure in the development of Columbia 2. "I believe that the continuing education division will be an extension of that."

Last year, the college announced it would be closing Columbia 2, less than a decade after it's founding. Unfortunately Klukoff died Dec. 7, 2003 (see related story page three).

Announcements

In memoriam

Leonard Karczewski, an adjunct faculty member in the college's Liberal Education Department, died Dec. 7 of an apparent heart attack. Most recently, Karczewski instructed Europe and the West: Ancient at Columbia.

An active member of the Beverly Morgan Park American Youth Soccer Organization for more than 20 years, Karczewski served as the group's commissioner, referee and coach trainer and coordinator of the annual AYSO summer league.

Karczewski previously taught courses

at St. Xavier University and Robert Morris College.

He graduated from Chicago State University and the University of Illinois.

Free for all

Completed Columbia Activity Track Cards are due to Student Activities, Room 313 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., by Jan. 17 to be entered into the drawing for \$500 in merchandise from the Columbia Bookstore.

To complete a CAT Card, attend eight events, each in a different category, designated by a paw on the Student Affairs Calendar (www.colum.edu/current/events) and have a staff member put a sticker on the card at the event.

Seniors online

Students in the Arts and Community Senior Seminar Class that meets each Monday at 2 p.m. has a website that features information about the projects the class has completed and the guest speakers they have heard.

Their mission is to "unify the Columbia College community in a social atmosphere to relax and meet others." The site can be found at www.geocities.com/campusasone.

Help the college

On Dec. 18, President Warrick L. Carter will join officers of the Student Government Association in a 12:15 p.m. broadcast on WCRX-FM in presenting a check for \$1,000 to a representative of the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Canned goods and other nonperishables can be dropped off to the trolley outside of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, 33 E. Congress Parkway, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hit the runway

The 2004 edition of *Fashion Careers: The Complete Job Search Workbook* is now available in the Career Corner on the 5th Floor of the college Library, 624 S. Michigan Ave.

The book's call number is 746.92023F248s.

Pay for a grade

The Foundations of Computer Applications Proficiency Exam will be

offered on additional dates due to high demand. It can be taken Dec. 16 at 12 p.m., Jan. 9 at 6 p.m. and Jan. 16 at 9 a.m.

To waive the required FOCA class, students must score at least 80 percent or better overall and at least 75 percent on each of the sections. Students who waive the class need to take another general education class to make up the credits. The test costs \$35.

For more information visit the Department of Academic Computing, Suite 400 in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Weather

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

Monday, Dec. 15	
Clouds and sunshine	High 38° Low 26°
Tuesday, Dec. 16	
Cloudy with rain or snow possible	High 38° Low 24°
Wednesday, Dec. 17	
Clouds and sun, flurries possible	High 34° Low 22°
Thursday, Dec. 18	
Partly sunny	High 34° Low 24°
Friday, Dec. 19	
Mostly sunny	High 36° Low 26°
Saturday, Dec. 20	
Increasing clouds	High 36° Low 26°
Sunday, Dec. 21	
Cloudy with snow possible	High 36° Low 22°

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2003

CAMPUS NEWS

December 15, 2003

ASL founder loses battle with cancer

○ Klukoff 'will be missed,' says college president



File

Dr. Philip J. Klukoff, who died Dec. 7, was behind many of Columbia's successful programs.

By Chris Coates
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Philip J. Klukoff, a renowned educator responsible for the creation of the college's Continuing Education program, died Dec. 7 of a form of leukemia at Hospice of the North Shore in Skokie, Ill. He was 65.

During his nearly two decades at Columbia, Klukoff served as chair of the college's English Department, associate provost of Columbia 2, associate vice president of Continuing Education, and instructor in the English and Education Studies departments. He also worked to establish the first American Sign Language interpreter training baccalaureate program in Illinois.

"Phil was a valued member of this community," said college President Warrick L. Carter, who described Klukoff as "a wonderful person."

"His death leaves a void at the institution," Carter said.

Klukoff was a key player in the creation of the college's ASL-English Interpretation and Continuing Education programs. He also helped establish the college's partnership with the University of Guadalajara in Mexico.

Klukoff was the author of three books and a prolific writer of studies related to Yiddish literature. He was also a member of the Shakespeare Association of America and worked closely with various urban education groups, including the Montgomery Ward tutoring program and the Washington Education Project.

"I always found him to be somebody who was an educator, an innovator, a builder," said Klukoff's oldest son, Seth. "Somebody who was always willing to try to improve the quality of education."

Klukoff, a graduate of Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich., arrived at Columbia in the mid-1980s after a string of teaching positions at the University of Cincinnati, Wayne State University in Detroit and the University of Maryland Baltimore. He spent more than 15 years at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, serving as the open admissions institution's first dean of Arts and Humanities.

In New Jersey, Klukoff raised his two sons, Seth and Robert.

In the fall of 1973, Klukoff was named a Fulbright Lecturer in American Literature. His young family moved to Romania as Klukoff lectured at the University of Bucharest. And although he could have lived in U.S. diplomatic housing, Klukoff elected to rent an apartment in the suburbs.

In 1986, Klukoff left his position at Stockton for a position as chair of the English Department at Columbia. The two colleges had ideological parallels—both were open admissions, advocated a strong education in the liberal arts and featured the open educational environment that Klukoff endorsed.

"I think he was very much into building institutions," Seth Klukoff said. "He was always looking to create a legacy not necessarily for himself, but for the academic institution he was working for."

While he was chair of the English Department in 1993, Klukoff spearheaded the creation of the ASL program, which was funded by a three-year grant from the state. The successful program was the first in the state to offer a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In 1996, the program became independent of the English Department.

But Klukoff's revolutionary thinking did not end there.

He was responsible for developing the college's first Writing Across The Curriculum Program, which linked cross-college faculty members through workshops focusing on methods of enhancing college writing.

Also in 1996, then-college President John B. Duff named Klukoff associate provost of the college's Continuing Education program, known as Columbia 2, giving him total power to develop the adult educational courses.

The concept allowed part-time adult students the chance to learn skills applicable in the real world, including website design and makeup art, taught by Columbia's cadre of part-time instructors.

"[Columbia 2] goes back to the mission of Columbia ... and how adult education fits in [it]," Klukoff told *The Chronicle* in 1998. "It's an extension of the undergraduate and graduate [schools'] mission."

The program proved initially successful, marking a continual increase in enrollment every year through the late 1990s. But, by its very design, it was not an economically viable program, offering students significantly reduced tuition and class fees.

Last May, college officials, citing sagging profits, decided to close Columbia 2 for at least two years.

Klukoff returned to teaching, instructing in the college's Education Studies Department until last year.

He died after a long battle with leukemia, which he had been diagnosed with in the early 1990s, according to Seth Klukoff.

Klukoff is survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Dolores, his two sons and two grandchildren.

Still not clear why \$400K went unspent

○ College may 'over award' scholarships to make up for underpayments

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

More than a week after Columbia's College Council announced that \$400,000 worth of scholarship money went unspent last year, school officials still cannot pin down the exact reason why the funds weren't used.

School officials said they plan to take "dramatic steps" to make sure scholarship money is spent, even if it means putting the school's budget into temporary debt to "over award" scholarships.

Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly told *The Chronicle* that it's important to note that the \$400,000 didn't disappear without any explanation.

"It's not money gone," he said. "It's just not money used in a budget year."

However, some students may not have received scholarship money because it was not known more was available.

Several components could be attributed to the lack of awarded money and none of those reasons can be easily accounted for, administrators said.

Every year, the school sets aside a certain amount of funds for scholarship awards based on the amount of tuition, as well as the increased amount of tuition from the previous year and the volume of incoming students.

If an award recipient decides not to use the award or if the student decides not to enroll at Columbia during the time when the scholarship is effective, the money isn't replaced in the school's scholarship budget—it is just considered unused.

The school cannot determine whether or not the scholarship went into effect until the start of each semester and after all students have registered for class.

"The awards are made fairly early in the process," said Provost Steven

Kapelke.

Once classes start, it's too late to re-award the scholarship money.

Although the unused \$400,000 is more money than the college has been left with in the past, Mike DeSalle, the vice president of finance, said leftover scholarship money is a common problem among colleges.

"I know in many colleges across the country, the budget for scholarships ... typically runs under budget for the year," he said.

Columbia awards more than 30 scholarships each year in a variety of categories, including departmental and schoolwide scholarships, as well as awards for transfer students and incoming freshmen.

Departmental-based scholarships and the requirements under which they're offered could provide another significant reason for leftover money, DeSalle said.

Offering awards within a specific major allows fewer people to apply for the award and even fewer people to qualify for it.

"If a student gets her grades, and she falls below a 2.0 GPA [required for the award], she's not eligible anymore," DeSalle said.

Michael Niederman, the chairman of the Television Department, said that only under rare circumstances do television scholarships go unawarded. A lack of applicants doesn't make it easy to offer the full amount of money.

"Students have to apply for [scholarships] in order to give them away," he said. "We have to encourage them to apply."

Niederman acknowledged, though, that despite the Television Department's efforts to distribute all of its scholarships, it isn't necessarily the college's fault for not spending all of its award money.

"When you break it down, it's more complicated than it looks," he said.

Hope Daniels, a full-time faculty member in the Radio Department, said she can remember only one time when a radio scholarship wasn't used.

"We don't want money to be the reason why [students] don't come back," she said.

Daniels said she is appalled that \$400,000 didn't get spent, as so many students need money to afford Columbia's rising tuition.

The Radio Department hands out literature about scholarships to every student in the department so they know exactly how to obtain the money they need, she said.

Money for department scholarships does roll over to the designated department's budget the following year. So, unused funds can be spent by the department the next year.

The school's general scholarships, such as the Academic Excellence Award and the David Rubin Scholarship, don't have that option.

Every year, Columbia gives away money to need-based students in order to help those students afford tuition. Distributed in increments between \$400 and \$500, DeSalle attributed this source of institutional scholarships as a big reason for the missing money.

If a student can't afford tuition and can't enroll, the promised money can't be used.

Columbia may consider "over awarding" scholarships in order to assure that all scholarship funds are spent, although administrators admitted that the plan is a dangerous one for a school with a tight budget.

"We truly believe we've awarded all the money," DeSalle said. "What we have to do ... is actually over award."

Kelly said he is in favor of awarding more money than the school has available in order for students to get what they deserve.

Columbia is devoted to using all available money to students who need it, he said.

Columbia looks to Printers' Row for more space

The college may consider renting space in Dearborn Station, 47 W. Polk St., after the School of Professional Psychology moves out of the space next year.

But the idea still exists only as a prospect and not a certainty, Michael Debish, the vice president of facilities and operations, told *The Chronicle*.

The possibly purchase could help alleviate the space crunch felt by the college within the past five years, and it could end the school's search for an appropriate student center, an idea touted by administrators for nearly five years.

"I walked in there, and the only thing I could think of is 'student center,'" Debish said. "I know it's off the beaten path ... but it would make one hell of a student center."

Dearborn Station, located one block south of the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, used to serve as the city's transportation hub during the book-publishing boom at the beginning of the 20th century.

If Columbia occupies part of the station, it will not only give the school more room, but also a chance to expand.

Debish said he viewed the space two weeks ago after the president of the Chicago School of

Professional Psychology informed him of the psychology school's decision to leave.

The Chicago School of Professional Psychology plans to move out in August 2004, Debish said, leaving Columbia with 23,000 square feet of space to look at.

Before Columbia can consider the space any further, the school has to contact Dearborn Station's owner and obtain possible lease rates in order to determine whether the property is the best investment for the college.

—Lisa Balde



File

Dearborn Station, at the corner of Polk and South Dearborn Streets, is being eyed by college administrators.

Proposed BFA reduces some literature class requirements

○ Lack of courses spurs controversy over proposed fiction writing program

By **Scotty Carlson**
Staff Writer

The specifics of a planned Bachelor of Fine Arts in Fiction Writing, which calls for a reduction in some of the college's general education requirements, has raised questions from the English Department.

Columbia College Council approved the new degree by a 28-7 vote on Dec. 5. College President Warrick L. Carter and Provost Steve Kapelke must next approve the proposal.

Opponents of the plan said they are concerned with the lack of literature requirements outlined in the proposed degree, an aspect that could make it harder for students who complete the BFA to enroll in a competitive creative writing graduate program.

Built on the Fiction Writing Department's 44-credit Bachelor of Arts, BFA students will need to complete all requirements for the Bachelor of Arts plus an extra upper-level writing workshop, a publishing course, a course in portfolio development and a 12-hour specialization in one of six areas: fiction writing, creative nonfiction, playwriting, publishing, teaching and electronic applications of fiction writing.

However, the proposed program will not force fiction writing majors to take literature classes in other Columbia departments beyond introductory level courses. Instead, the department's proposal for the BFA recommends students in the BFA program take many general education hours in upper-level literature courses as preparation for enrolling in creative writing graduate programs.

The decision not to require other literature courses has alarmed a number of Columbia faculty members, such as Jeff Schiff of the English Department who feels that the attitude toward literature courses is self-serving for the Fiction Writing Department.

"With a lot of universities, it's a matter of keeping business at home," Schiff said. "[Those universities] created courses to justify their existence and keep the department vibrant. We're supposed to be past those days."

Randall Albers, the Fiction Writing Department chairman, insisted that the BFA is sensitive to the needs of writers to be well versed in literature, and that the department worked carefully to incorporate that into the proposal.

"It's taken the whole fiction writing faculty over two years to put this together," Albers said. "I'm very happy the council saw fit to agree with us on it."

Contrary to the Fiction Writing Department's 44-credit Bachelor of Arts, the proposed BFA will require 72 credit hours.

"From the standpoint of the faculty, the tone seemed highly supportive of the program," said Shanita Akintonde, secretary of the council.

Others were not as inclined to be happy about the council's recommendation of the proposal.

"I was certainly surprised and disappointed," said English faculty member Mark Withrow. "From my understanding, it works only as a program to add an astronomical number of credits to the Fiction Writing Department."

The proposal has been a source of conflict between faculty members of

the Fiction Writing Department and other Columbia departments for some time.

Schiff and other members of the English faculty feel that the BFA, which does not require students to take any literature classes beyond the introduction level courses, is an inappropriate program to be offered to Columbia students.

"A program that does not require courses in literature study and criticism strikes me as out of balance," Withrow said.

Schiff feels that any program billed as a "fine arts" degree in fiction writing that does not require surveys of American and world literature as part of its course program is fundamentally flawed.

According to Withrow, the BFA program is especially inappropriate considering that most students in the BFA will afterward apply to graduate schools with considerably fewer literature courses.

Albers disagrees with the assessments, insisting that the fiction writing BFA is sensitive to the need of writers to be well-versed in literature.

"In my advanced fiction class this term, my students are reading three novels and 35 short stories," Albers said. "To portray us as not interested in having students exposed to as broad spectrums of reading as possible is wrong."

According to Albers, the way fiction courses are taught and the material they cover is more "progressive" than the English Department's literature classes.

English faculty members, however, pointed out that their classes are just as progressive as the Fiction Department's.

"There's a misconception that our literature classes are passé or are being taught by old gray-haired men," Withrow said. "That's simply not true."

The rest of the "literary holes" found in the average BFA student's education are intended to be filled by the BFA's 12-credit specialization, which will offer students the opportunity to take fiction writing courses, courses from other departments.

According to Albers, the specialization credits were designed to foster a freedom of choice in course selection at Columbia.

"We wanted, within the BFA, to have students thinking about the connections between fiction writing and other departments," Albers said.

However, the specialization credits have brought up another point of contention in the proposed BFA program. According to Andrew Causey, the term "specialization" became an issue because the phrase was not used in any other faculty proposal documents. "Concentrations" had been used, but the use of a new term created some concern over its definition.

"In these kinds of proposals, language concerns require a close attention to detail," Akintonde said. "One unclear or misplaced word can throw off a whole project."

Though the council has approved the BFA plan, it still has to be recommended by Carter and Kapelke. Depending on how long the approval process takes, students may not be able to apply for the BFA until sometime next fall.

Talking Art



Visiting artist-in-residence Adia Millett discusses her work at a Dec. 10 "Art Talks" event sponsored by Columbia's Art and Design program. Millett's presentation was the last in the Art and Design Department Lecture Series.

Flu *Continued from Front Page*

With FluMist, a mist of the live flu virus is sprayed into the nasal cavity. The system has been proven not as effective as the vaccination and, at a cost of more than \$50, is significantly more expensive.

And while Hadac acknowledges "sporadic shortages of the flu vaccine throughout the city," he pointed to the FluMist as the best alternative.

The overall best choice, of course, is to get a flu shot early in the year, before the rush.

"It's just human nature," Hadac said. "I think people don't respond to something unless there's a crisis."

Columbia's health center is not recommending the FluMist, according to Kelly.

It is, instead, referring students seeking a flu shot to a local health center called Passport Health at 30 S. Michigan Ave.

A representative from Passport Health told The Chronicle that

Passport's clinic is also out of flu shots. The clinic does carry FluMist, but the flu shot alternative can only be offered under certain criteria and if a patient makes an appointment to receive it, Passport's spokeswoman said.

If a patient is not eligible to receive FluMist, the clinic cannot administer it.

An alternative location available to receive a flu shot is the Jewel-Osco pharmacy at 111 W. Jackson Blvd., but a pharmacist from that location said it already gave out all of its flu shots, as well.

So far, Jewel-Osco pharmacies across the country administered 130,000 flu shots, according to Juanita Kocanda, the coordinator of public affairs for Jewel-Osco.

Kocanda said pharmacies that no longer carry the flu shot have been advised to refer patients to other Jewel-Osco pharmacies.

All pharmacies do have FluMist "readily available," she said. Stores charge \$60 for the mist and offer a \$25 manufacturer's rebate.

Meanwhile, Northwestern University's Health Center is already preparing for the increasing depletion of its flu shots.

"When we run out of vaccinations, assuming we do ... my guess is we'll move over to FluMist," said Donald Misch, the executive director of Northwestern University's health services.

Misch said that he feels comfortable with administering the mist to students, but that he is concerned about the high cost of the medication, which is more than \$60 at some locations.

"The bottom line is that most students won't die of the flu," he said. "But with finals coming up, can you afford to have a 104 degree temperature?"

Torco *Continued from Front Page*

environment. We need to get Columbia's image improved in this part of town and we're certainly not going to do it with humongous Torco advertising on the side of the building."

He said that the removal process will begin as soon as the weather improves, but "not until [the school has] complete assurance that we're going to satisfy all the letters of the law involved with regards to remov-

ing signs. ... It may take a few months to get legal loops and liabilities covered."

Prior to removing the sign, the school's demolition permit must be reviewed by the South Michigan Avenue Historical District, the Lakefront Commission and the Commission on Chicago Landmarks.

In addition, Debish said that while the building itself has national landmark status, it has not yet been deter-

mined if the sign is a part of that status. Debish said that he is "99 percent sure that it isn't."

The school initially considered using a crane for the job, but for financial reasons the sign will most likely now be taken down in pieces by ironworkers.

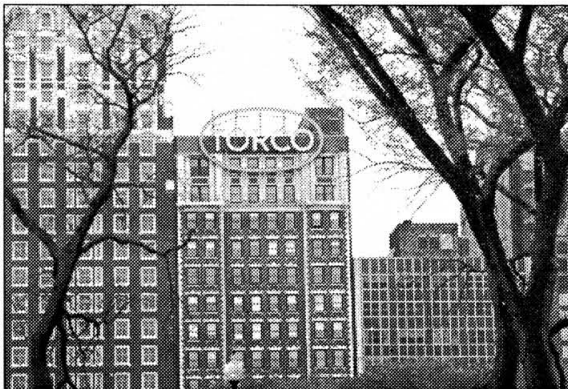
"We don't really have a definitive game plan for that yet," Debish said.

After completing the removal of the sign's structural pieces, Debish said some masonry work, tuck-pointing and roofing will be necessary. A canopy will be placed over the school's entrance during construction.

The removal process is expected to take no more than a couple of weeks, according to Debish. Repairing the building will take approximately a month.

In all, the removal is expected to cost approximately \$131,600, including \$68,550 for the removal of the sign, \$15,000 for tuck-pointing repair, \$4,000 for roofing and \$1,500 for sheet metal. The total cost also includes contract supervision, general conditions and contingency, according to Debish.

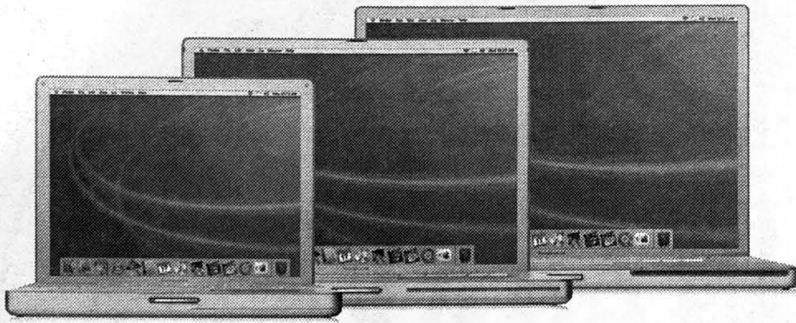
It has not yet been determined what company will handle the removal of the sign, though, according to Debish, the school has received several bid offers from possible contractors.



File

The removal of the Torco sign is estimated to cost more than \$130,000.

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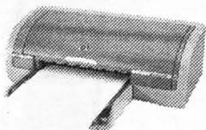
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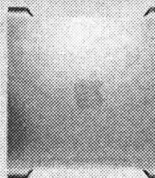
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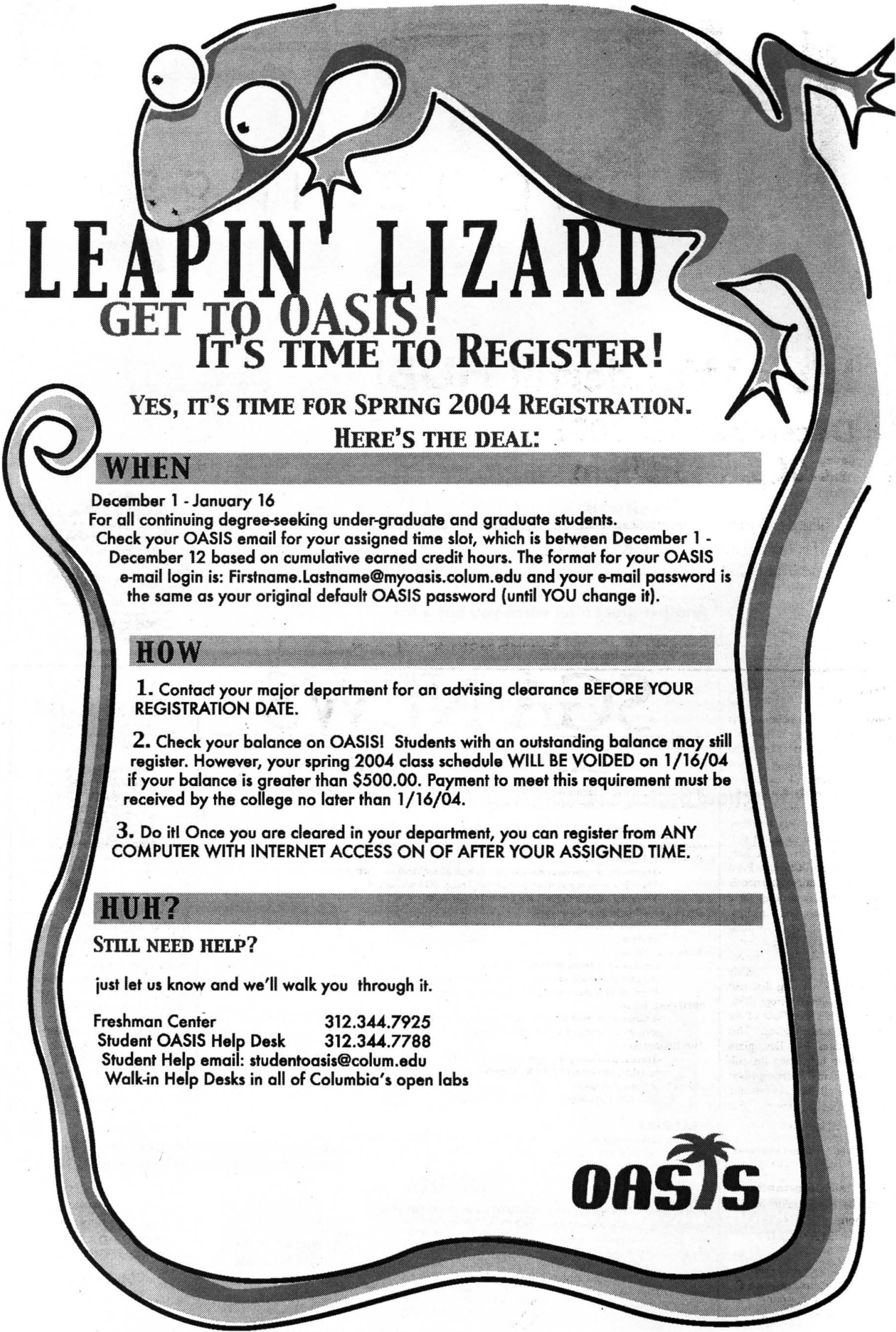
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December 18, 2003

12:00pm - 3:00pm

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

Contact the Student Organization HUB for more information:

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

Sponsored by the Office of Student Leadership

With the holidays just around the corner, your Student Government Association is doing its best to try to help out many organizations. The Radio Department is holding a food drive this Thursday from 7AM to 3PM in front of 33 E. Congress Parkway. SGA has pledged to give them \$1 for every item they collect up to one thousand dollars! The food drive is to help out the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Latino Alliance is also holding a fund-raiser for a children's house in Chicago. SGA has donated \$500 for their cause. In addition to these items, SGA has helped fund a Senior Seminar College Wide Community Gathering that will take place Monday from 2:30-4:30PM on the first floor of the 33 E. Congress Building. This event features live DJs, pizza and soda to help bring the college community closer together! Check out all these events and help Chicago know that Columbia cares!

-SGA 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

SGA NEWS

Last Week's Minutes

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

- Call to order 5:02PM
- Approval of minutes
- Presidential Report
 - There were several meetings attended to hear administration concerns with the school
 - There is a voter registration meeting this Friday SGA will attend
 - There is a College Council meeting SGA will attend
- Departmental Meetings and Forums
 - All reports on departmental forums were to be submitted by Friday to let Mark Kelly see them
- Radio Food Drive
 - Food drive is Thursday from 7am- 3pm
 - All members asked to bring in some non-perishable items next week for meeting
 - Noon on Thursday there will be the presentation of the \$1,000 contribution
- IBHE-SAC Recap
 - 4 members of SGA attended meeting and there were two grants voted on by the student advisory committee for Columbia College
- Hub Holiday party
 - There is a holiday party open to all students this Thursday (Dec. 18) from 12-3pm in the HUB, basement of 1104 S. Wabash
- State of the College Address
 - Will take place March 4

NEXT WEEK

5 p.m. in the basement of 1104 S. Wabash Ave. (The HUB)! Issues tentatively to be discussed are: Financial Aid, State of the College Address, school-wide meetings with the vice presidents

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: Which dept. is holding a food drive? (HINT: read articles)

COMING SOON FROM THE SGA!
This week Monday there is a Senior Seminar college-wide community gathering at 33 E. Congress Parkway from 2:30-4:30 on the first floor. Thursday there is the radio department food drive at 33 E. Congress from 7a.m. -3p.m. Bring a non-perishable item to help the greater Chicago food depository.

You want your concerns to be heard? Prove it!
GOVERNING ADVICE
"If at first you don't succeed, sky-diving is not for you."

SENATOR SPOTLIGHT



Ciao! My name is Justin Kulovsek, I am the SGA president and television senator. I am a senior this year (Amazing, I know). I have been at Columbia all four years except one semester that I studied in London. I got involved with SGA because I saw so many issues that weren't being tackled by the administration.

SGA isn't the only thing I do; I work in the Admissions Office as a tour guide and I am executive producer of CC.TV this semester. See, not everything I do is SGA but it is Columbia! One of my goals for SGA this year is to expand our committees. If you're interested in joining SGA you should contact us! SGA is one big happy family and our home is the Hub, so come on down and check us out!

GLOSSARY

BHE-SAC: Illinois Board of Higher Education - Student Advisory Committee.

WITH FINALS COMING UP, SHOULD THERE BE EXTENDED LAB AND LIBRARY HOURS?

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

The (real) cost of college is in campus living

○ Most students' college expenses go toward things that have nothing to do with higher learning

(KRT) SEATTLE—With one simple act, Danny Tremblay could cut the roughly \$17,000 tab for his first year at the University of Washington by several thousand dollars.

He'd rather not. It would mean giving up his dorm room and commuting from home in Issaquah, Wash.

"I really like living on campus and doing stuff in the city and making friends," said Tremblay, a ruddy-cheeked freshman with close-cropped hair and a football player's build.

He's certainly not alone.

About 69 percent of the 4,060 in-state freshmen at the UW come from homes within commuting distance—some within walking distance—of the university. Yet the majority of the students who live nearby prefer living on campus.

It's an expensive choice.

Although Tremblay will spend more than \$4,000 on tuition—money that pays for classrooms, libraries and professors' salaries—most of his expenses go to things that have little to do with learning.

He'll dole out more than \$7,000 this school year for shared space in a cramped dorm room, a meal plan that lets him eat on campus, and a host of other items such as a computer, bedding, lamps, posters and the ubiquitous cell phone.

Add up the expenses, in fact, and it turns out much of his money goes for the privilege of living on campus.

Why not cut costs and live at home?

Ask students and you'll likely hear them say they want the "college experience." There's something about living on campus with thousands of other students that makes college click.

At a time when families are increasingly worried about how much money they'll have to scrape together to put their kids through college, The Seattle Times followed Tremblay around campus to see where his money goes and what he gets in return.

The university has studied freshmen and concluded that those who live on campus seem to have a richer learning experience than students who commute.

They're more likely to form study groups, meet with professors to help with research and forge connections that last a lifetime.

Commuter students often "miss out on all that," said George Bridges, the UW's dean for undergraduate education.

Tremblay didn't make the choice to live on campus lightly.

He knows how much his education costs, almost down to the dollar. He had opportunities to attend out-of-state universities, but chose the UW because it would cost less. His mother works two jobs to put him and his sister through college. He works summers to help out.

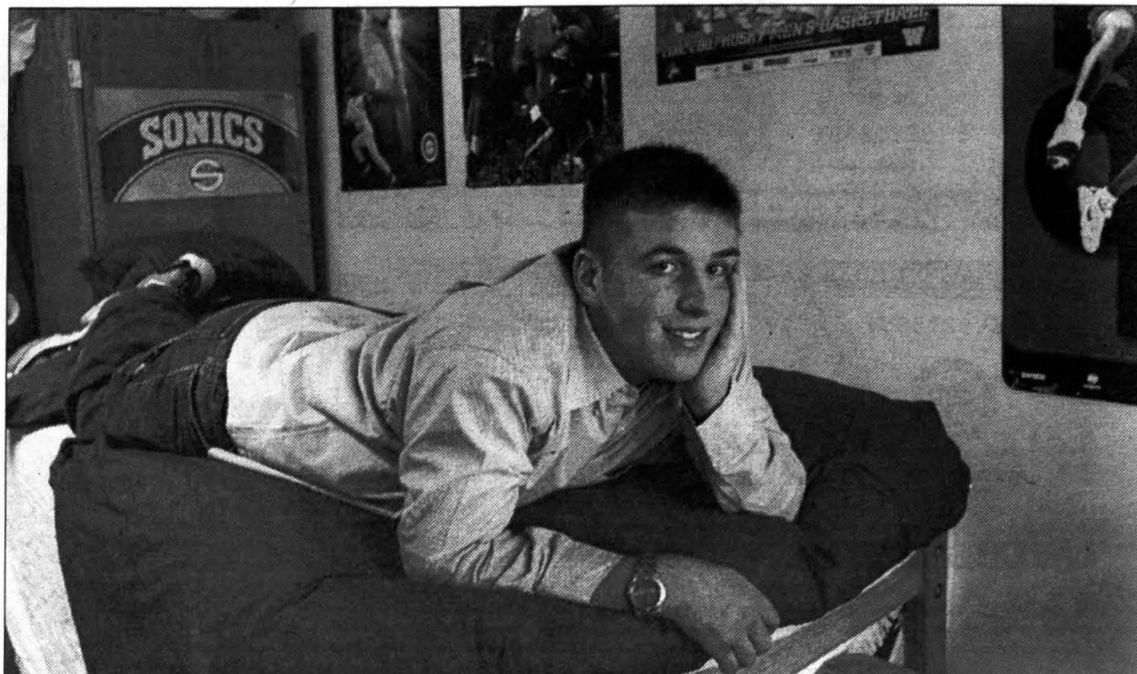
Yet Tremblay, like most students, believes living on campus enhances everything he does. "So far," he said, "I think it's worth it."

Tuition and books: \$4,923

His single biggest expense, and one he'd pay whether he lived in a dorm or at home, is the \$4,458 tuition. This is the money that pays for the nuts and bolts of a degree. He's paid an additional \$465 for books, so far, including \$120 for one math book.

About 40 percent of tuition goes to pay for faculty salaries and benefits at the university. The Seattle campus has about 1,700 full-time faculty members plus several hundred graduate teaching assistants.

Tremblay, who wants to be a dentist, is taking two tough classes in math and chemistry, what the UW calls gatekeeper courses. It's a big change from high school. Take his chemistry class: It is held in an auditorium that looks like it belongs in a multiplex theater instead of a classroom building. It even has movie



Mike Siegel

Danny Tremblay, a student at the University of Washington in Seattle, relaxes in his dorm room. The university has found students who live in the dorms have a significantly more enriched college experience than those who lived at home or off-campus.

creens. Tremblay files into the room at 9:30 a.m. and grabs a seat amid a sea of 520 students.

The professor, James Callis, does several experiments, plopping materials in water that fizzle and pop. He jokes with the audience over the loud-speaker system. "If you in the front row catch fire, remember to stop, drop and roll."

But the experiments lose some pizzazz magnified on movie screens with a black and white overhead projector. And the lecture isn't Shakespeare. "The cation is always named first and the anion second...."

Callis acknowledges the class is large but notes comparable universities have larger lecture classes. The course he teaches is also hard, he said: "We insist that students know their stuff. We grade typically harder than other departments."

Tremblay said he was a little shocked the first time he walked into the auditorium:

"There are so many students and the classes are so big."

At Mercer Island High School, he was able to become friends with his teachers; at the UW, he spends more time with graduate teaching assistants, or TAs, than the professors teaching the courses.

"It's not a bad thing," he said. "It's just different."

Callis said he'd like one-on-one time with students but doesn't have the time, given his other duties, such as research in molecular spectroscopy.

As a result, Callis said, he's more of a remote authority figure. "Most of them don't confide in me," he said. "They relate to the TAs."

Dorm life: \$3,887

This is where living on campus seems to play a key role, by providing students easy access to help and study partners.

"If you live off campus, you need to go home and it's going to take you an hour bus ride to get there. That means an hour later you start studying," said Harmony Schloer, a senior who lives on campus. "Here, you're surrounded by people who are doing the same thing as you."

The UW has 6,600 students living on campus, with about three-quarters of them in dorms and the rest in apartments. Costs range from about \$2,700 to \$4,500 a year, depending on where students live.

Tremblay paid \$3,387 for a cramped room that he shares with a roommate. It has a fake fur rug on the floor, basketball posters plastered above his bed and a window overlooking Lake Union. And \$500 went for personal items such as bedding and a lamp.

Tremblay spends most evenings, from 8 p.m. to midnight, in formal study groups organized by the university in which instructors help students with their homework. He also spends a lot of time studying with other students who take the same classes.

"I feel like I'm working a lot harder than I did in high school," he said. "I think part of that is that you have to. Some of the concepts are more advanced."

Living at the university, he said, makes it easier for him to put in the hours he needs to study and connect with the right people to help him with the work. A bulletin board in the dorm hallway, for example, lists every resident and what classes each is taking so students can study together. The evening help sessions with instructors are a short walk away.

Plus, Lander Hall, crammed with 795 freshmen, is essentially a self-contained city. Students don't need to leave.

The 46-year-old building has kitchens, a convenience store, a cafeteria that's open until 11 p.m., a coin-operated laundry room, a small gym, a computer lab and an arcade with pool tables and video games.

"I don't think I would be able to get enough studying done if I did not live on campus," Tremblay said.

He also sees life in the dorm as a transition into living on his own, teaching him responsibility because there's nobody there to make decisions for him.

"Living on your own you have to do your own laundry, decide whether to eat in or eat out," he said.

Food: \$2,994

Eating in, generally, means going to the cafeteria in the basement and grabbing a sandwich, Tremblay said.

But the university has 22 places to eat, serving tons of food each year, including 77,180 pounds of bananas, 68,846 pounds of rice, 45,716 pounds of turkey and 1,207 cases of ketchup.

Tremblay pays \$2,994 during the academic year for a "Husky card" that lets him eat anywhere on campus.

One of his favorite places is about a

10-minute walk from his dorm at McMahon Hall, which has a new \$10 million cafeteria designed by the same person who created the interiors for P.F. Chang's China Bistro, a national restaurant chain.

This isn't the cafeteria most people remember from college.

"They've got everything here," Tremblay said, wandering through the dimly lit restaurant with cushy booths and an open fireplace. There are even Ethernet ports where students can hook up their laptops.

The restaurant has eight "concept stations" ranging from a Mongolian grill and vegetarian fare to a Pagliacci Pizza franchise run by the university.

Items on the various menus include chicken enchiladas, shrimp quesadilla and a "seasonal bruschetta plate with curried shrimp and goat cheese." Only \$5.95.

One of the chefs, Tracey MacRae, said the cafeteria serves about 9,500 people a day. It may look like a restaurant, but "you see people in their pajamas and slippers" who come in from the dorm, she said.

The chefs also cater to student desires, cooking food they crave from home, MacRae said. "This girl came in today and said 'I want peas.'"

Tremblay said he likes to eat here with his buddies and watch sports on the big-screen televisions hanging from the ceiling.

For Tremblay, meeting people is almost as important as going to class. "These are friends I'm going to have for life."

Personal expenses and student fees: \$5,520

Ask students what they like most about living at the university, and meeting people often tops the list.

In 1999, the UW interviewed freshmen and asked what personal skills they wanted to develop while attending the university. "Make friends/be more outgoing" was mentioned most often.

"When you live on campus, you are constantly surrounded by people," said Kristan Lorraine, a sophomore. "You have so many opportunities to get involved and to experience so many other things. They're just in your face all the time."

Tremblay budgets \$1,750 a year for discretionary spending, such as going out to eat at inexpensive restaurants on University Avenue or seeing an occasional movie with friends. He spent

\$2,900 for a laptop computer, almost a prerequisite for students nowadays, and will spend \$360 during the school year for a cell phone to keep in touch with people he's met.

But most of Tremblay's social life is wrapped up in sports, playing on the intramural teams and using the newly remodeled sports facility on campus. All that is paid for as part of his student fees, which amount to \$510 this school year.

"I'm a big sports guy," said Tremblay, who played basketball for Stroum Jewish Community Center during high school. "I try to go down to the IMA [Intramural Activities Building] three days a week. It's really cool to go down there because they have four basketball courts there and there are always five-on-five games."

The IMA is an enormous sports complex—750,000 square feet—that's undergoing the finishing touches of a \$50 million expansion and renovation.

There's a running track on the third floor. The second floor has basketball and racquetball courts, a workout room with rows of weight machines, treadmills, stationary bikes and big-screen televisions, plus a rock-climbing room with 42-foot-high cliffs.

Tremblay mainly sticks to the basketball courts, charging onto the floor to see if he can squeeze into a game. "Hey, you need a player? You want a game?"

Within 15 minutes, he's often darting down the court, helping fill the gym with the sound of squeaking shoes.

Add up everything Tremblay is spending on his first year—\$3,387 for the dorm, \$2,994 for food and hundreds more for things like a cell phone—and it quickly becomes clear he's paying for more than learning to become a dentist.

Attending college, of course, is more than classes, dorm life, eating in a cafeteria and working out in the gym.

There are also the intangible things, such as protests in Red Square, animal-rights booths, Lyndon LaRouche supporters and the throaty sound of a cello filtering out of the School of Music.

Tremblay takes it all in with the wide eyes of a freshman. "It's a step closer to the real world," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION...



A new design of the United States \$20 bill, bottom, is seen with the old version at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia in a 1998 photo. Because of a string of counterfeits to the 1998 bill, another version was created in 2003, complete with new colors, a new number arrangement and a new background.

Students look north to Canada, where quality education costs less

○ U.S. enrollment up 86 percent in Canadian universities

By Patricia Alex
The Record (Bergen County, N.J.)

(KRT) HACKENSACK, N.J.—McGill University has been called “the Harvard of the North” and, indeed, the Montreal school has a reputation that ranks with the American Ivies.

Except for the price tag. The full freight at Harvard—tuition, room and board—is nearly \$38,000, compared with \$12,000 (U.S.) for McGill.

American student enrollment in Canadian universities is up about 86 percent in the past four years to more than 5,000 students, according to the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C.

It's not exactly a groundswell—the number pales compared with the 23,000 Canadians who study in the United States annually—but the word is out that there are good educational buys to be had north of the border.

“I'm very happy I made this choice,” said Sally Warner, an engineering student from South Orange, N.J., who attends McGill. “I didn't even apply to the Ivies because I didn't want to shell out \$40,000.”

Warner ranked second in her class and scored more than 1400 on her SATs—stats that would have put her on good footing at the best of American schools.

But McGill added up for her, in more ways than one. She loves the cosmopolitan flair of French-speaking Montreal, where housing prices are a fraction of those in the New York area. She pays about \$200 U.S. a month for a share in a modern, centrally-located apartment. Seven hours by car is not such a long schlep home, and the drinking age is 18 in Quebec.

Because she is a Canadian citizen by virtue of her mother's place of birth, Warner's resident tuition at McGill is about \$6,000 U.S. annually. “It was cheaper than going to Rutgers,” she said. “And I love it.”

The increase in American students attending college in Canada is fueled, in part, by aggressive recruiting campaigns by schools such as McGill. And, in fact, about a third of the American students in Canada are at McGill. About 1,500 of the 30,000 students at McGill are American.

The language is familiar, except at some predominantly French universities in Quebec, and student visa and entrance requirements generally aren't too burdensome. Coursework and scheduling are similar to universities in the United States and Canadian degrees are generally respected and portable.

“An undergraduate degree from our university is very competitive for admissions to graduate schools in the U.S.,” said Jo-Anne Brady, registrar at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario.

If anything, the large Canadian universities get a rap for larger class sizes, but generally they are academically rigorous and American students find themselves competing with Canadian counterparts who are often very well-prepared for college. Unlike American undergraduates, students at many large Canadian universities must declare majors as freshmen.

To be sure, Canadian recruiters are helped by the good academics that their publicly funded universities enjoy. And the relative strength of the U.S. dollar has worked in their favor when court-shiping American families.

“It's a great value,” said Eve Jacobs of Verona, whose daughter Rachel is a McGill graduate. “We have a kid now at Cornell, and I can't compare it moneywise.”

Michele Papavasiliou has also turned northward in search of a “good education for the dollar.” She traveled a month ago to check out universities in Canada with her son Jesse, a high school junior. Jesse plans to apply to both McGill and Queens.

“He is looking for a foreign experience,” Papavasiliou said. “The thing about Canada is, you can be in a foreign country and still take the bus home. ... To me, it's the best of both worlds.”

If you're into snow, that is. “You really have to like winter to go to school up there,” Papavasiliou allows.

COLLEGE IN CANADA: COLD FACTS

American enrollment in Canadian universities is up about 86 percent in the past four years to more than 5,000 students, according to the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., while about 23,000 Canadians study in the United States annually.

Relatively generous public funding of Canadian universities, plus the strength of the U.S. dollar, combine to make the schools a good buy for Americans.

While the Canadian dollar has gained a bit in recent months, the exchange rate is still \$1 U.S. to \$1.30 Canadian.

American students can get an Ivy League-caliber education in Canada for as little as a third of what they would pay at home.

U.S. residents studying at most of the major Canadian universities are eligible for U.S. federal loans and other financial assistance programs.

There are 93 universities and colleges in Canada, but most Americans choose to attend those in metropolitan areas close to the border.

Temperatures in Quebec range from seven degrees to 23 degrees Fahrenheit in January, although zero-degree temperatures are not uncommon.

To protect against the harsh winter, McGill University has a series of underground tunnels connecting many of the 70 buildings on its downtown Montreal campus.

Rhode Island students use their heads to make easy money

○ ‘Headvertisers’ look to expand services to other campuses

By Bryan O'Keefe
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

(KRT) PROVIDENCE, R.I.—Katie Yankura gets some weird stares from her classmates these days. Everything about this freshman at Johnson & Wales University seems normal—except, well, her forehead.

In one of the more unique advertising tricks to date, Yankura works for Headvertise, a new marketing company that pays college students to wear temporary tattooed advertising messages on their foreheads.

Yankura said the novel idea is turning heads on her Rhode Island campus. “People come up to me all the time and ask about it,” Yankura said. “Everyone is just amazed by it.”

For her first campaign, Yankura advertised www.Roommates.com, a website that specializes in matching people looking for roommates and living space. Yankura said she chose the roommate service over www.69-gear.com, an online clothing company.

Despite the weird stares and awkward looks, Yankura said she is eager to do it again. “It's a little embarrassing, but you get used to it,” she said, adding that www.Clubzelis.com, will be the next company featured on her face. The website Clubzelis bills itself as “irresistible clothes for irresistible women.”

Yankura said that she would be open to a lot of companies appearing on her body—within reason. “It really doesn't matter to me,” she said. “But I am at school, so obviously some stuff, like things of a direct sexual nature, wouldn't work.”

For years, college students have been known to engage in all sorts of offbeat employment in order to help make ends meet, including being used as guinea pigs for drug experiments and donating blood to laboratories.

But the idea of wearing temporary tattoos for cash is uncharted territory, according to Headvertise co-founder Justin Kapust. Also a Johnson & Wales student, Kapust said Headvertise combines the eternal need for money that college students encounter and regular brand marketing—with a twist.

“When you go to Abercrombie & Fitch, you are spending more money just because it has that brand. And then when you are walking around you're advertising their brand all the time without getting paid,” Kapust said. “With our company, people are finally getting paid for what they have always done.”

Students were paid \$70 a week for the first campaign. Kapust said that wage is comparable to what you would earn working in retail. “The only major difference is that you don't really have to do any work. It's just there,” Kapust hopes to increase the pay to more than \$100 for future campaigns.

Kapust acknowledges that being an employee of Headvertise forces a student to do more than just wear a brand. Since the tattoo cannot be removed for the duration of the campaign, the student is a walking advertisement morning, noon and night.

But Kapust said that students who have tried it so far adjusted quickly. “I know students feel awkward, but after the first day most of them are feeling okay about it,” he said.

However, students who work other jobs might find that other employers don't like Headvertise's style. “That's where it gets a bit iffy,” Kapust said.

Yankura said that in addition to Headvertise, she also works part time at Aeropostale, a clothing store at the local mall. Store management would not approve of the Headvertise tattoo.

“I would have to wear a hat or something to cover up,” Yankura said. Though Headvertise approved a covering, she lucked out and wasn't scheduled to work during the first campaign.

Work aside, Headvertise doesn't interfere too much with the rest of Yankura's daily activities.

“I'm usually lazy and just wear my hair up anyway so that's not a problem,” Yankura said, though she conceded that people who wear their hair down might look odd with the imprints. Yankura also said that the tattoos are resilient and don't fall off in the face of water bombardment. “You can still take a shower with it on. It will fade a little, but it's still okay.”

Kapust said the public's response to Headvertise has been mixed, making note of hate mail from people opposed to corporate America. “But I think at the same time a lot of students are starting to open up to this,” he said.

In the future, Kapust hopes students outside of Rhode Island open up to Headvertise too. A deal for a West Coast version of Headvertise is ready to go and that he hopes to expand to other cities as well.

“We have four or five more companies in the works,” Kapust said, mentioning that he hopes to bring Headvertise to the cities of Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, as well as California markets in the near future. “We are trying to keep it at big schools right now,” Kapust added.

But some business professionals think Headvertise has only limited potential for growth.

“This is fun, cute and novel, but over time it will run its course,” said Marlene Morris, an assistant professor of marketing at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

A small advertising base also hampers Headvertise. “For a particular audience and particular brands like Abercrombie this might work. But you can't advertise a doctor or an attorney on somebody's forehead,” Morris said.

Morris thinks that the market itself will eventually replace Headvertise with an even more innovative advertising gimmick. “Eventually, you'll have to move on to something else. There are endless ideas on how to grab attention,” Morris said.

For the immediate future however, Kapust is focused on making Headvertise a success. Working 60 to 70 hours a week, Kapust plans to take a year off from school to devote his full attention to the project.

“My father keeps pressing me to get a part-time job that pays real money, but I just don't have the time,” Kapust said. “It's hard to tell, but we sure hope this keeps growing in the future.”

One person sold on Headvertise's growth is Yankura. She said that if the company keeps moving at the same pace, it will only be a matter of time before the tattoos are popular on campuses across the nation.

“I told all of my friends when this got started that we would be on billboards everywhere,” Yankura said. “I can see it happening.”

[C] spaces Upcoming Events

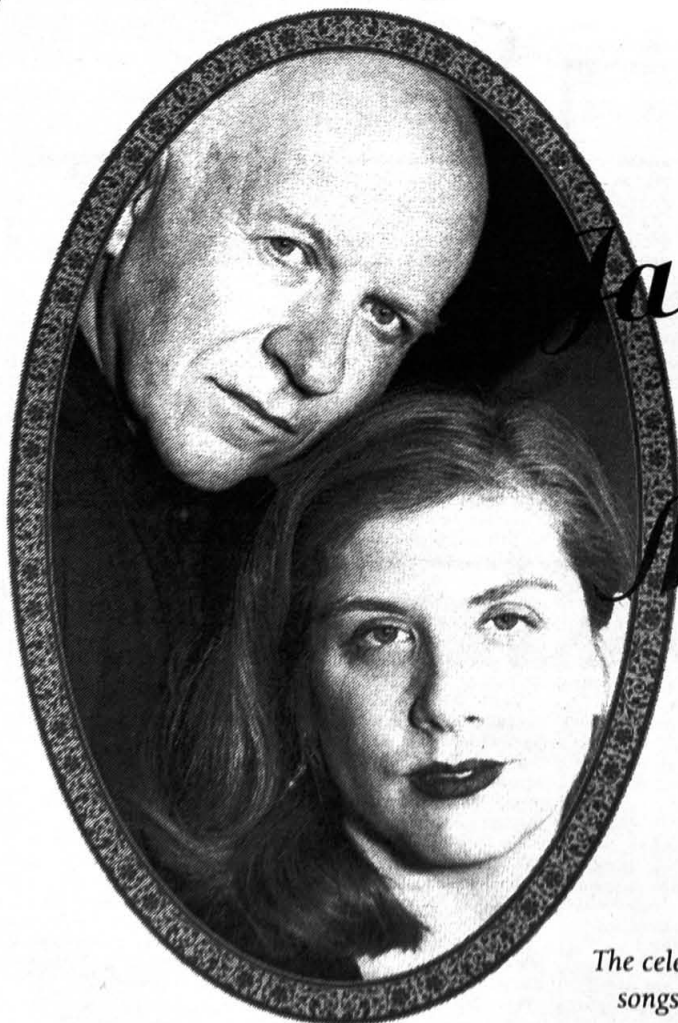
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stay warm...



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An Acoustic Music Series Yule concert with




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and
Michael Smith*

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623 S. Wabash Avenue
Wednesday, December 17
12:30-1:30

The celebrated musical team of Jamie O'Reilly & Michael Smith sing songs for the solstice, Yuletide and perform tunes from their new compact disc, "The Gift of the Magi."


[C] Fall '03 Current & Upcoming Exhibitions



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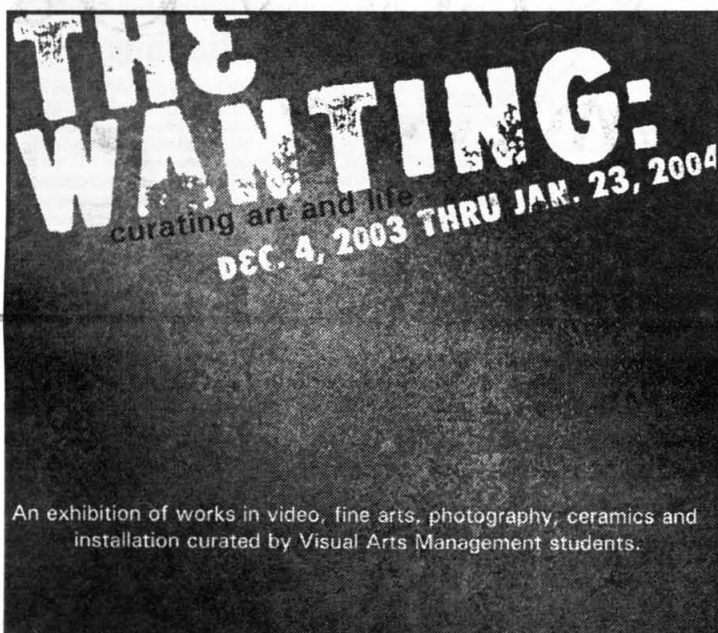


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photographic works in development
DEC. 4, 03 - JAN. 4, 04



[C] Spaces, English/Poetry, Fiction Writing, and Art & Design present:

Type/Writer

Celebrating the Union of Type and the Written Word

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 drop
fternoon. It is 8:15 now. W
aces the city tonight makes



DECEMBER 8, 2003 - JANUARY 23, 2004

Columbia Chronicle Editorials

Slumber will come soon

Holiday break. Two weeks for students to relax, spend time with family and friends, bask in the spirit of the season ... study for two grueling finals and write three 10-page papers.

Because of Columbia's unusual academic calendar, holiday break is not much of a break at all. Instead, it is a 14-day grace period on the due dates of the semester's most important and most arduous projects. Not to mention that the heavy dose of tryptophan from our Thanksgiving turkey dinner has scarcely worn off when the loads of books and paper start piling up. From the end of November until the middle of January, life is a whirl. There is time only for schoolwork and nothing else, including Christmas shopping and, more importantly, sleep.

Sure, we get to start school later in the fall than our friends at other colleges and universities, but at what cost? DePaul University began its winter break with Thanksgiving. Those students have completed their finals, papers and projects, and are sipping eggnog in front of the fire sighing with the relief that comes only when that last Christmas gift on the list has been purchased.

We, on the other hand, find ourselves weighted to the ground by our backpacks and snoozing through classes. We are tired and broken. It is not so much that we do not want to wait until January for a true break, but more that mentally and physically we are just not able to.

Only now can we fully appreciate the academic calendar changes that will take effect for

the fall 2005 semester. Some of us will still be here and some of us will not, but we can all take pleasure in knowing that Columbia officials have finally come to their senses by giving us a calendar that makes sense for everyone. It is sure to minimize the confusion and frustration of students and faculty during the chaotic end of the fall semester.

Sure, classes will start at the beginning of September instead of the end, but the semester will finish before Christmas and the spring semester will not begin until the middle of January. That means we will not only have a true two week break, but a full month before Christmas until after the New Year to do whatever we please.

But for now, all we really want to do is sleep.

Exposure



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Off the beaten path :

Views from campuses across the country
When media fails

Staff Editorial

Michigan Daily (U. Michigan)

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich.—

The comedian David Cross once remarked that our country must be in trouble because we have to read other countries' newspapers to find out what is going on in our own nation. On Dec. 6, community activists convened at a small house on the west side of Ann Arbor, Mich., to witness video footage compiled by independent journalists of the police brutality at the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas conference in Miami last month. The footage and the lack of media exposure of what actually happened, is living proof that our country's media is currently divorced from our Founding Fathers' vision of a scrutinizing press that would constantly keep the public informed about the imperfections of its leaders in order to keep democracy afloat.

Here are just a few crimes caught on video by journalists at the Independent Media Center that mainstream media completely ignored:

- A police barricade informed a crowd of protesters that if it did not disperse within two minutes, they would be arrested. The crowd, putting discretion before valor, complied by rotating 180 degrees and walking away chanting, "we are dispersing!" After a period blatantly under two minutes, the police tackled the protesters from behind and arrested them for failure to disperse.

- When police pinned down a non-violent protester with a broken hand, his fellow protesters tried to inform the police that he was injured.

Subsequently, the police used tasers to quell their message. The tasers shoot a cord with a pin that penetrates the victim's skin to employ a shock. The removal process is unbearably painful, and it is difficult to remove the pin without causing excessive bodily injury.

- A protester and self-described "Alcoholic against the FTAA" was pelted with 20 rubber bullets for flicking off a police barricade.

In addition, there are accusations of sexual harassment and assault by police against female and transgender protesters. This footage will most likely be used as court evidence in upcoming lawsuits against the Miami Police.

As someone who has witnessed the infamous clashes between Catholic civil rights activists and Ulster Unionist

paramilitary huns in Northern Ireland, I must say that the collective behavior of Miami's riot cops was relatively egregious, but undoubtedly beyond the legal framework.

In the interests of full disclosure, two university activists who were arrested while dispersing are close friends of mine, so my emotional investment in this matter leaves me with some bias, but that does not excuse the fact that their patriotic rights of dissent were trampled upon by employees of the state.

But what has most tragically been violated in this ordeal is our right to be informed about our government.

Mainstream television and newspaper coverage from that week was shallow and footage coming from the police perspective dwarfed any minuscule view that the police may have actually done something wrong. Since most Americans are divorced from the political process in America, it is their fundamental right to be informed about all aspects of their government, the good and the bad. It is essential to democracy that the media bring the problems of government to light. So when the media are biased in favor of the state and information about abuses of power are hidden from the populace, our democracy is in trouble.

What else didn't you hear? While Bush and his business partners were salivating over the potential profits their FTAA policies would yield, countries like Brazil took a hard stance against them and refused to back down fearing what the FTAA would do to them and their way of life. Bush's dream did not come to life in Miami that week. But you didn't hear about this because the only North American daily newspaper that reported this that I could find was the Toronto Globe and Mail. David Cross' humorous remark is tragically sad and true.

The debate surrounding our mainstream media should not revolve around accusations of them being liberal or conservative. Our media's duty, in the interests of the democratic process, is to hold our elected officials, regardless of party affiliations, and their policies accountable by proliferating access to all information. Our media are failing, the parameters of the First Amendment are becoming more and more meaningless and without change, our democracy will revert into the system our Founding Fathers fought against.

Just say 'no' to mandatory drug testing

There seems to be a divide when it comes to agreement over protecting children from drug use. Reasonable people would agree that youngsters should refrain from ingesting, smoking, snorting, injecting or anally absorbing substances that may unduly influence and damage their still developing bodies. Regardless of the debate over legalization and responsible drug use by mature adults, the paradigm has always held that kids keep away from it for their own good. The practical question, however, is whether testing should be forced upon them without their consent.

St. Patrick's High School at 5900 W. Belmont Ave. on the North Side announced Dec. 5 that starting next fall, it would be the first and only school in Illinois to require mandatory drug testing of all of its students. A Supreme Court ruling prevents public education institutions from administering compulsory drug tests of its students, save those engaged in extra-curricular activities. However, St. Patrick's, a private Catholic institution run by the Christian Brothers religious order in the Lasallian tradition is funded primarily by tuition payments, allowing them to deftly skirt the

Supreme Court's precedent.

Principal Joseph Schmidt has stated that he considers the school to be the "catalyst" for universal testing in Illinois. "The whole program has an emphasis of 'Don't do drugs. If you do drugs, stop,'" Schmidt said to WBBM - AM Newsradio.

Current plans include testing 10 to 20 per day. The cost for the procedure will be an additional \$60 per family, on top of the exorbitant tuition fees. In addition, one-quarter of the student body will be tested randomly throughout the year, to "assure enforcement."

If a student is caught using drugs, Schmidt said, "They have really 100 days, because that kid's going to get tested again. We'd better see some improvement, if not a total stop, in terms of what happens with that drug use."

Good intentions aside (and the road to Hell, as all good Catholics should know, is paved with them), St. Patrick's policies, while idealistic at their core, display an utter lack of pragmatism, as well as disrespect toward the students.

It is, first and foremost, the duty of parents to be aware of their children's illicit activities and deal with them in a way con-

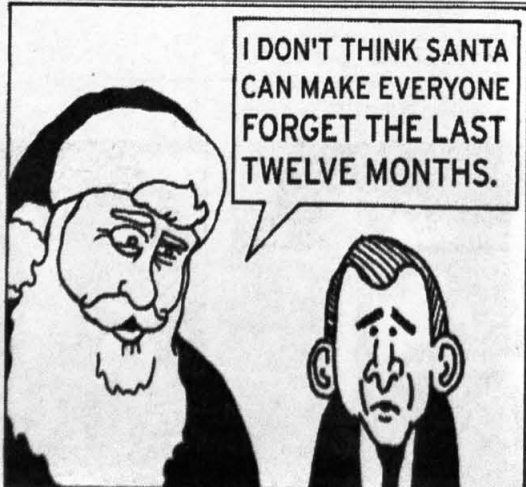
sistent with their own values and morals. The purpose of a school administration is to create trust and provide an atmosphere where students can excel in their academic endeavors. Despite the promise of a "safer" school environment, mandatory testing coupled with random examinations does nothing but give rise to a subtly hostile environment that erodes the students' trust and undermines any credibility and authority the school may have.

According to Schmidt, parents have been almost universally supportive of the measure since it was announced, which is sad, but not unexpected. Apparently, parents would rather defer an additional \$60 to make their job "easier," rather than become involved in their kid's lives.

It is a sad statement, but one that has become commonplace in society today, as parents mistakenly believe that spending more money and abjuring their duties to bumbling authority figures amends their own lack of involvement.

St. Patrick's measures may diminish the amount of drug use in their school, but the inevitable cost is not merely to the parent's pocket books, but to the students themselves.

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



Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

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9/11 not an excuse to pester protesters

Mark W. Anderson
Contributing Writer

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, police departments in Chicago, New York and other big cities had Red Squads to spy on left-wing political activists. These special departments within departments infiltrated anti-war protesters, civil rights activists and almost anybody else who wasn't completely satisfied with the direction the country was going, and tried to marginalize—and sometimes silence—peaceful, law-abiding citizens working to change American society.

And now, it looks like those days might be returning. Only this time, it's not only the local police who are doing the spying, it's the FBI, too.

This became clear after the recent release of an FBI memo that gives police detailed instructions on how to target and monitor lawful political demonstrations under the guise of fighting terrorism. The memo is part of U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft's plans to share more information collected by the FBI with state and local officials about such things as terrorist threats. The problem is that by targeting peaceful domestic protesters, Ashcroft and the FBI may be tipping their hand about exactly who they think is a threat to America.

The New York Times reported that the FBI has collected extensive information on the tactics, training and organization of anti-war demonstrators and has advised local law enforcement officials to report any suspicious activity at protests to its counterterrorism squads. The Times also reported that FBI officials have said that the intelligence-gathering effort detailed in the memo was aimed at "identifying anarchists and 'extremist elements' plotting violence, not at monitoring the political speech of law-abiding protesters."

But how can one be sure? Much has been made recently over the proposals to expand the USA Patriot Act, the catchall of antiterrorism measures passed by Congress in the days after the 9/11 attacks. Critics charge that the act does more to undermine civil rights than to identify potential terrorists by including such powers as the ability of the government to examine library records, tap telephone calls, search homes and examine personal information without telling anyone. Such charges are made infinitely more credible by



Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

the fact that Ashcroft recently went on a public relations tour to bolster support for the measure and didn't bother talking to the media about what he was doing.

Those who make it their business to keep tabs on the erosion of civil rights, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, are skeptical of the idea that local police should be used to monitor peaceful protests by Americans who don't agree with government policy, and have loudly decried the memo's tactics and intent. But more important, perhaps, is the window into the government's mindset that the memo affords us. By targeting protesters and activists, the FBI and the Department of Justice either completely misunderstand how terrorists work, or they are using the threat of terrorism to act out a

much darker, dangerous plan. Rarely do those who wish to terrorize a nation through acts of violence such as flying planes into the sides of buildings prepare by hand-painting a protest sign and shouting catchy slogans down by the local courthouse, nor do they hook up with such organizations as www.moveon.org or the Socialist Workers Party, who are often the kind of people who end up doing much of the grunt work when it comes to organizing protests. But it is exactly these people, and others like them, who are going to be the ones videotaped by the cops, rounded up and put in the back of squad cars and made the subject of secret files simply for showing up in the specially designated "free speech zones" out by the expressway whenever the president's

motorcade speeds past.

Over the past two years, many Columbia students have participated in rallies against the war in Iraq, and students here and across the city regularly participate in activities designed to protest such things as sweatshops, environmental crimes, human rights and the damaging effects of globalization. And for many of us, the truth is that we often do our bit when duty calls and then go peacefully on our way, not giving much thought to whether or not we are in danger of anything more than sore voices or tired feet.

But, judging from the FBI's plans, the next time we pin the button on our coat, paint our sign and chant our slogan, there just might be more than one injustice at a time we should keep in mind.

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Face the public: The Chronicle photo poll

Question: Will you be getting your seasonal flu shot?



"I haven't had one... I'm not planning to get one."

—Venessa Rodriguez
Freshman, Photography



"No. I don't think I want to get it."

—David Curto
Junior, Advertising



"Probably not."

—Karla Kampen
Freshman, Vocal Jazz



"Haven't had one, didn't seem necessary. I don't even know where to get one."

—Ken Kagawa
Senior, Fiction Writing

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A Film By
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Today, December 15th, during regular office hours, and pick up a complimentary pass to attend
a special advance screening of THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE on Thursday, December 18th.

Passes are available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. One pass per person.

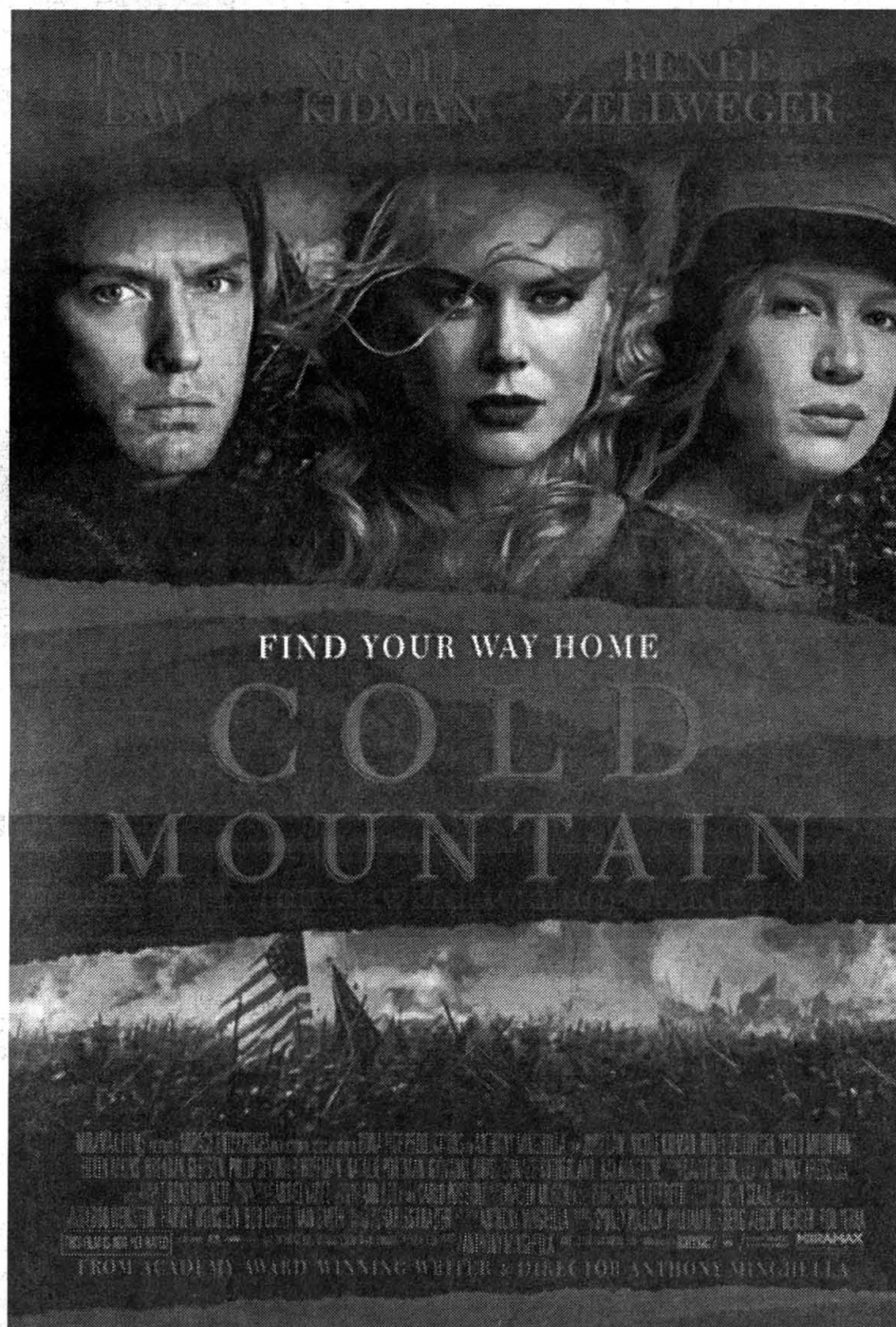
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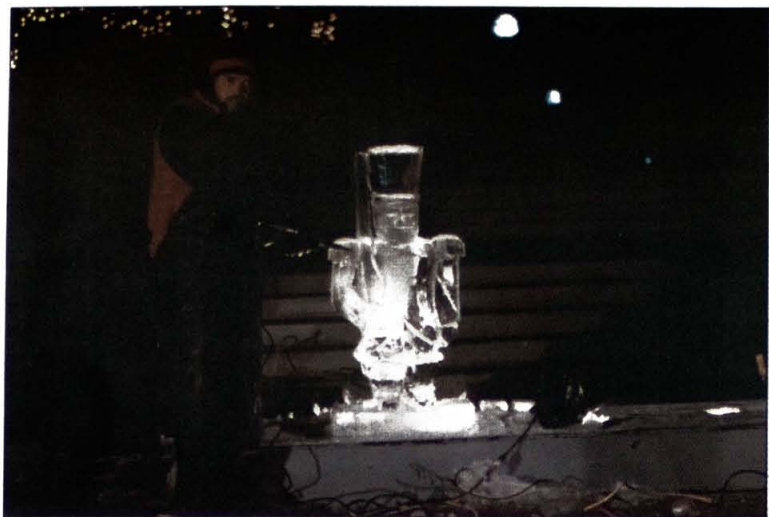
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One pass per person. While supplies last. No purchase necessary. Employees of all promotional partners, their agencies, and those who have received a pass within the last 90 days are not eligible.

OPENS IN THEATERS CHRISTMAS DAY!

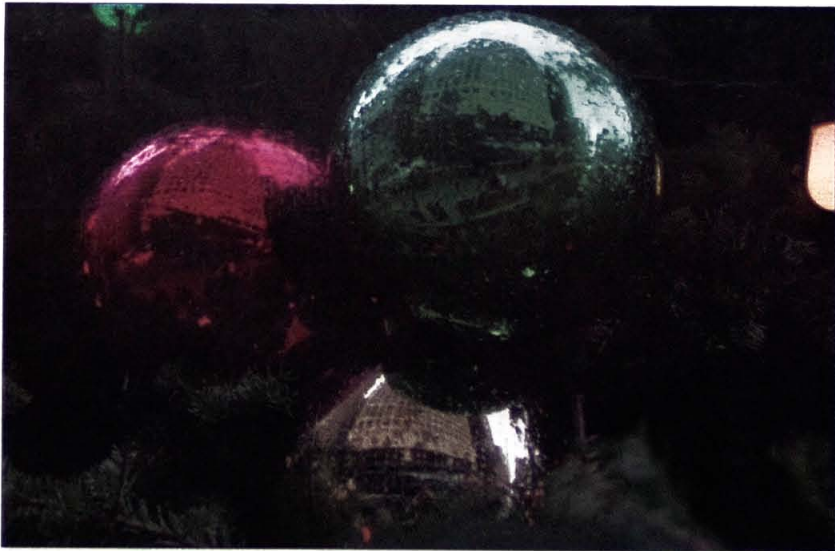


Jason Salerno/The Chronicle



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

It's Christmas Time in the city!



Heather Morrison/The Chronicle



Heather Morrison/The Chronicle



Heather Morrison/The Chronicle



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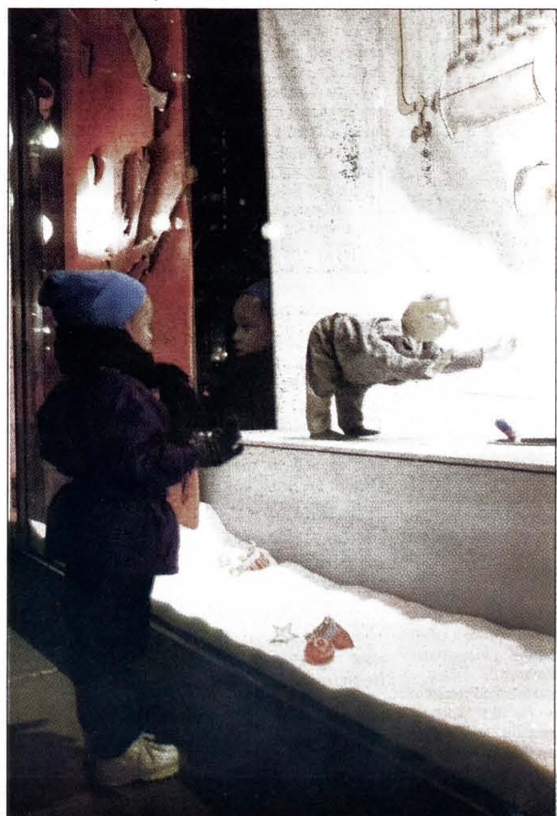
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Who's in town? Urinetown!



The cast of 'Urinetown' performs the final song of the production, 'I See a River,' during a performance at the Shubert Theatre, 22 W. Monroe St.

○ Mark Hollmann returns to Chicago with Tony Award-winning musical

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor

"Urinetown" is an awful name for a musical. Little Sally (Meghan Strange), one of the characters involved in the production, discusses this notion with Officer Lockstock (Tom Hewitt) toward the end of the show.

While the name is questionable, the story itself seems too ridiculous to even imagine. It's that age-old classic tale of two young lovers trying to survive in the middle of a water shortage.

Toss in a money hungry organization, a daring revolution, references to "Chicago," "West Side Story," "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Les Miserables," and you've got the most uniquely satisfying musical satire in town.

Mark Hollmann, a former composition instructor at Columbia, was approached by Greg Kotis in 1996 with the idea for "Urinetown."

"Greg was on a poorly budgeted trip to Paris when he started running out of money," Hollmann said. "He came up with this idea of living in a city where everyone had to pay to use the toilet. He claims the idea and the title for the musical came to him on his way to the pay-per-use toilets in Paris."

Returning to the United States, Kotis pitched the story to Hollmann in New York City.

"I actually thought it was a great idea," Hollmann said. "It was a very strong basis for a musical."

The two men had worked together on several plays for the Cardiff-Giant Theatre Company in Chicago in the late '80s, but this would be the first time they worked together on a project alone.

While Hollmann did everything from acting to directing during this time, he was mainly interested in

composing music.

"We worked on the music for the second song 'It's a Privilege to Pee,'" Hollmann said, "that demonstrated to Greg that we were on the same page."

Kotis and Hollmann began working on the musical in 1997. Kotis wrote the book, Hollmann wrote the music and the two collaborated on the lyrics.

"It took seven to eight months to get the score written," Hollmann said. "We sent a demo tape to over 50 producers and agents in New York City, and everyone said no."

This left Kotis and Hollmann with just one option. They submitted the script to the New York International Fringe Festival, which was actively seeking out musicals.

"Urinetown" premiered at the festival in August 1999 and drew interest from several production teams.

"I was just about ready to give it up," Hollmann said. "Greg and I had spent five to six years on this thing and I was getting too old."

By September of 2001, the show had opened at the Henry Miller Theatre on Broadway, proving once again that persistence can actually pay off.

A year later, "Urinetown" would win three trophies for Best Director of a Musical John Rando, Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Musical Score at the Tony Awards.

"I asked my parents to come into New York for the ceremony," Hollmann said. "The most nerve-racking thing was sitting next to our competitors from 'Thoroughly Modern Millie.' We kept congratulating each other all night."

"Urinetown" touches on a great many number of themes including greed, corruption, abuse of the poor, social consciousness and activism. Bobby Strong (Charlie Pollock)

and Hope Cladwell (Christiane Noll) meet each other during a desperate water shortage in the city. The public toilets are run by an organization called Urine Good Company. The organization is conserving water by making the general public pay to use the rest rooms.

People who attempt to step outside the laws of the city by going in the bushes are dragged to Urinetown, a mysterious place that offenders never return from.

Hope inadvertently inspires Bobby to fight against the evil corporation and start a revolution.

While balancing between real issues and ridiculous situations, "Urinetown" is full of belly laughs and perversity.

Just when you think the characters want to be taken seriously, they remind the audience that the main goal is to have a good time.

Not nearly as dramatic as "Les Miserables" or as self indulgent as "Phantom of the Opera," Kotis and Hollmann created a piece that mirrors the unsettling future this nation is quickly approaching.

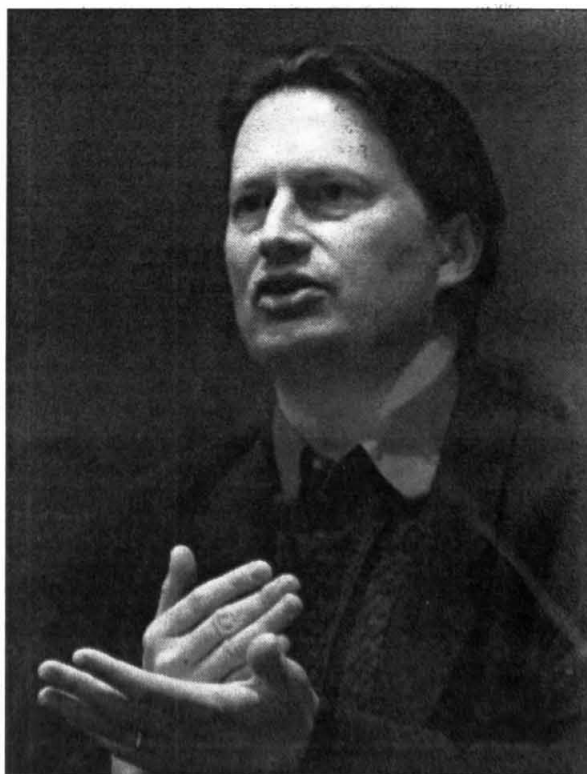
Although paying to use the bathroom seems like a ludicrous notion in the United States, there may actually come a time in this country when some mega-corporation actually considers the idea.

Hollmann, who grew up in Fairview Heights, Ill., is pleased that "Urinetown" is making a stop in Chicago.

"It's like a homecoming to me; the Shubert Theatre is where I went to see all the touring productions," Hollmann said.

While he's proud of the work he accomplished in Chicago, Hollmann realizes his success wouldn't have happened if he hadn't moved to New York.

"There's very good work in Chicago but not enough producing



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Mark Hollmann, a former composition instructor at Columbia College, discusses his work on 'Urinetown' during a lecture at the Getz Theater, 72 E. 11th St., on Dec. 11.

talent to get shows off the ground." Currently, Kotis and Hollmann are working on a stage adaptation of the Alec Guinness film, *The Man in the White Suit*.

In the future, he plans to stage musicals and possibly a ballet. "Directing and acting were always

just a means to an end," Hollmann said. "I've always wanted to be a composer and a lyricist." "Urinetown" is playing Dec. 9 - Dec. 21 at the Shubert Theatre, 22 W. Monroe St. Tickets range from \$22 - \$65.

The Weekly Dish



By **Matthew Jaster**
A&E Editor

Seen any good films lately? Whether it's a party, a dinner date or just hanging out with a couple of close friends, there's always somebody in the group who is the "film expert" telling everybody else what movie they should or should not see.

These backyard directors will rattle off every film that Philip Seymour Hoffman has appeared in and give you a 30-minute lecture on the political ramifications of the Ewok tribe in *Return of the Jedi*.

They'll back up every argument with gripping statistical information from Entertainment Weekly and People magazine, while reminding friends and family not to make any rash multiplex decisions until they've talked it over with a qualified Hollywood aficionado.

Hundreds of Eberts and Ropers are running around with their thumbs in the air making fun of you because you actually enjoyed *Mariah Carey in Glitter*. Simply type in the words "movie" and "critic" in Google and you'll be bombarded countless expert opinions.

Since these men and women have no other hobbies and plenty of free time, they study up on pop culture magazines and Internet sites just in case a debate on *The Godfather* might occur over dinner.

They've got a vast capacity for useless information and they're not afraid to bore you with quotes from the director's commentary on a DVD.

I, myself, am a recovering "film expert." There was a time when I thought that knowing the inside and out of a Bolex camera and having a wide variety of foreign films in my DVD collection gave me the right to ridicule people's film tastes.

Whether we'd like to admit it or not, we're all film critics. There are certain films that stay with us for years while others disappear before we get back to our car in the parking lot after the show.

The problem occurs when people start believing every word written by the so-called professionals. Just because Ebert and Roper know how to use a dictionary and thesaurus and can whip out 700 words about *Cold Mountain*, doesn't make them bona fide film experts.

The same goes for that family member that won't shut up about Indiana Jones or Frodo. Watching seven and a half hours of extra *Lord of the Rings* footage won't hide the fact that you still work in a shoe store. "Do you have these in a 10 and a half, Mr. Baggins?"

Until these experts get out there and shoot a two-hour epic, I'm not interested in what they have to say. If you haven't spent 15 hours in an editing room, you have no right to bore me with your opinions.

It's like an art critic who has never once picked up a paintbrush. They stand there sipping their white wine, telling everybody around them what's wrong with a painting, hoping every fur coat-wearing debutante in earshot is hanging on to their every word.

These were the kids in preschool that ate the finger paint instead of actually attempting to create something.

Although I've done many film reviews for *The Chronicle*, I'm never completely at ease critiquing someone else's work. It's pretty sad that I can slouch down in a chair for two hours and write a review about a project that took five years for someone to make.

Obviously, entertainment writers are in this field to express opinions and generate debates and I can live with that. But wouldn't it be fun just once to turn the tables on the all-important movie critic?

Can you imagine Peter Jackson kidnapping Ebert and Roper, as well as Jeffery Lyons, Leonard Maltin and Rex Reed for a 16-month shoot in New Zealand? If you put all those critics through filmmaking boot camp they might come out with a whole new perspective on the industry.

In between each take, they would probably discuss the finer points of their performances.

"Well, I was pretty impressed with my work in that last scene, Rex."

"Oh, I'm going to have to disagree with you Roger, I found your acting skills void of any real personality whatsoever."

"Lyons thought it was pretty good, but that what's he says about everything."

Where exactly do you draw the line between professional journalist and professional entertainer?

Harry Knowles spent weeks on the set of *Kill Bill* with Tarantino, and when his review of the film came out on www.Aintitcoolnews.com, it read like the second coming of *Citizen Kane*. (Big surprise.)

I say we send a couple of these guys behind the camera and see what they're really made of.

I shot my first epic when I was 16. It was a 90-minute piece of crap called *The Ultimate Plan*. The story, I'm honestly not making this up, was about a group of rock 'n' rollers trying to save some hostages from an egotistical crime lord.

Watching the 16-year-old version of myself running around the woods with a plastic gun and a samurai sword is almost unbearable. It did, however, prepare me for all the 16mm student films I would later create here at Columbia. Regardless of how pathetic *The Ultimate Plan* really was, it was a project that to this day I'm very fond of. Sure it was a piece of crap, but it was my piece of crap.

Before some of these big name critics start writing their next reviews, maybe they should head out to Grant Park with a Bolex camera and a five-minute shooting script and try making their own movie magic.

It's not hard to criticize a film in a newspaper; the real work comes when you're putting the final touches on a cinematic masterpiece.

—Mjaster@Chroniclemail.com

How Columbia kicks off the new year



Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

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

For many, New Year's Eve is the craziest night of the year. Columbia students, along with millions of others around the globe, have had their fair share of unforgettable encounters in the midst of ringing in the new year. Though their attempts have not always been successful, Columbia kids know how to start the year off right.

With the 'rents: One can't get into too much trouble with the folks nearby. But, sometimes it's best just to spend the evening with those closest to the heart—family.

"I spent New Year's in my hometown, Gloucester, Mass.," said Michelle Avila, a fashion retail management major. "I went to a club with my whole family and had a blast. I plan on doing the same this year!"

Chillin' outside: Hey, it may be cold around New Year's, but that doesn't mean that everyone should be huddled up inside. Some of the best midnight moments can be spent enjoying winter's snowy magic.

"At midnight [my friends and I] snowboarded off of our three-story Colorado hotel roof into a giant snow bank," said Jenica Elliot, a marketing communications major. "It was one of those spur-of-the-moment crazy ideas."

Anywhere but here: Yeah, good times can still be had at home with childhood friends, but leaving the country can be even better. Celebrating

the new year exotically is the ultimate adventure.

"I was on a gorgeous beach [at the Atlantis Hotel in the Bahamas] with beautiful people, drinking champagne when we entered the new millennium," said Abigail Watson, a fashion management major. "It can't get much better than that!"

With sexy strippers: It may not be for everyone, but New Year's Eve at the strip club is guaranteed to be a wild time. A word of caution: If this is where the party is at, you need to be ready for anything.

"I had just lost my girlfriend, so my friends took me out to [Club O]. I wound up spending the night with this group of women, drinking shots of bourbon and doing body shots after hours at my place," said Max Hanson, a sports management major. "At midnight, I was in a world of pure ecstasy, dancing through the devil's playground with my three vixens."

Dancing at the club: Chicago is notorious for its clubs, and New Year's Eve is the hottest night of the year. Those who want to have a really incredible time may have to drop a hefty wad of dough to hear the latest club hits and enjoy an unlimited supply of booze.

"The year was about to be 2003 and it was my first time out," said Tara Steward, broadcast journalism major. "Since it was my senior year, my mission was to have fun. I went to this hot club, [Club Liquid], with my two best friends and we got drunk. It was the wildest night of my life. On New

Year's Day I could barely walk."

With friends: When one is about to drink an asinine amount of alcohol, it's a good idea to have people around who can be trusted, and more importantly, those who will drag a passed out friend to a safe location.

"The moment the clock hit midnight in 2000, things went into total pandemonium," said Edwin Olivarez, a television major who celebrated at a friend's house. "A bunch of guys and women were turning over cars. The scene was a lot like a live filming of *Girls Gone Wild*. A dude all buck-naked was doing cartwheels. [It was] really nuts."

At the unexpected location: Things don't always work out the way we expect them to, and New Year's Eve is no exception. When the clock strikes midnight, you may find yourself in the strangest of locations—and not always by your own will.

"When I was in seventh grade, I was with two friends and we were supposed to meet up with several more," said Nicolas Gomez, a cultural studies major. "Our plans got all screwed up and we ended up being in a subway at midnight waiting for a taxi. We were so pissed off, we just went home and did nothing. I've been determined since then to make every New Year's lots of fun."

So this year, when the liquor is flowing and the fireworks are popping, remember to enjoy the moment, wherever you are and whatever you're doing.

Working in the boys' room

○ Bathroom humor at its finest as 'Downsize' opens its lavatory door to audiences

By **Crystal Malone**
Staff Writer

From the unidentified puddles on the floor to the possibly used pieces of tissue that seem to get stuck on the bottom of shoes, it's pretty difficult to find something artistic or appealing about a public restroom. The people at Walkabout Theater Co. not only found something artistic, they managed to find a new reason to stand in line for the bathroom.

"Downsize," a Walkabout production, brings new meaning to the term "site-specific theater." The play actually takes place in a lavatory. The audience stands only feet away from the cast during the performance. As the cast uses the sink and hand-dryer as props, the audience (which stands alongside the walls) has to move out of the way so as not to interrupt the flow of the show. The Restroom Tour has been performing in bathrooms around Chicago since mid-November.

"The bathroom is where I originally overheard conversations between various corporate executives of the nature that I dramatized in the play," said Chris

Welzenbach, the writer of the play. "It's kind of a place where guys will let their hair down and say things that they might not say in a normal context."

"Downsize" is Welzenbach's first play. He avoids political correctness in this production by displaying racism, sexism, homophobia, and discrimination against the disabled in its rawest form. "My original draft was much, much harsher. ... I wanted to show these guys how they really are," Welzenbach said. "One of the things that I wanted to dramatize was the fact that guys with advanced degrees, who hold decision-making positions are often bigoted, racist frat boys, and I think that's an appalling situation."

The 30-minute one-act play, is about five businessmen who are involved in an Enron-type scandal. As the truth begins to unfold and the men find themselves at risk of being caught, they retreat to the men's restroom to figure out how to get themselves out of their mess.

The cast consisted of Jerry Miller, Brad Walker, Jeff Grafton, and newcomers Jesse Walker and Winston

Evans. Evans is the second actor to play the role of Archie, a ruthless corporate conniver from England. Walker plays Jeff, the guy who probably didn't have much to do with the scandal but did enough to get into trouble. Bobby, played by Jesse Walker, is the most innocent of the bunch; he is a pushover in the workplace and at home. He seems to be thrown into the situation without realizing what he has gotten himself into.

Miller plays Harry, the old guy who probably did the most dirt, but is smart enough to get fingers pointing at the other guys. Grafton plays the most intriguing role in the play. Walter spends the entire 30 minutes on the toilet, declaring his monotone opinions through the stall.

Walkabout, a Chicago-based theater company has been performing its *Restroom Tour* since November and will continue through Dec. 20. Space is limited, so call (312) 458-0566 for reservations or visit www.walkabouttheater.org

visit us online at
www.columbiachronicle.com

Winter wonderland, Chicago style

○ The Chronicle highlights winter festivities and holiday events around town

By Jamie Murnane
Staff Writer

While the Magnificent Mile—along with all the other streets in Chicago—is flooded with suburbanite shoppers and tempted tourists, it may be hard to spot all the fun there is to be had this holiday season. Aside from the incessant shopping, there are many winterland wonders to take advantage of this year.

Ice Skating:

It's cold outside. Make the best of it. From Ackerman Park in Evanston to Winnetka Ice Arena, there are nearly 50 Chicago-area ice skating rinks to figure eight, triple axle or break a fall on. The newest spot in the city is the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink at Millennium Park, 55 N. Michigan Ave. Admission is free and skate rental is \$5. The rink will be open all winter.

The Nutcracker:

The holidays just wouldn't seem the same without shrinking children, giant toys and nutcracker princes.

Since 1988, Robert Joffrey's version of "The Nutcracker" has been performed for many delighted Chicagoans.

Breaking away from the traditions of Tchaikovsky's masterpiece rendition of the ballet set in Germany, Joffrey's is set in America.

To be whisked away to the Land of Snow and the Kingdom of Sweets, see "The Nutcracker" at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Parkway.

The famous ballet will run through Dec. 28 and tickets range from \$15 to \$90.

Zoo Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo:

For the ninth year in a row, the Lincoln Park Zoo has opened its gates late and strung lights and decorations around the grounds.

Animal and holiday lovers alike can expect astonishing animated light displays, laser light shows and live ice carving. And, the night just wouldn't be complete without spotting Penny, the 8-foot talking penguin. This year, for the first time since its inception, Zoo Lights, sponsored by ComEd, is free. Zoo Lights will run Thursday through Sunday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. until Jan. 4.

Kwanzaa, the exhibit:

The DuSable Museum of African-American History at 740 E. 56th Place is getting into the holiday spirit by presenting a special Kwanzaa exhibit.

The exhibit, which runs through Jan. 5, features paintings, sculptures and artifacts that celebrate and exemplify the African-American holiday and traditions. The seasonal exhibit is free with regular museum admission.

Something Else, A Hanukkah Festival:

The Spertus Museum, 618 S. Michigan Ave., is hosting a Hanukkah festival on Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will offer fun for all ages, including music from the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, a comedy show starring Bobby Hunt, arts and crafts and, of course, Kosher snacks.

Admission is free, though partici-



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Lori Knutson and her 3-year-old daughter enjoy a day of ice skating at Millennium Park downtown.

pants are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to donate to the EZRA food pantry.

Winter WonderFest at Navy Pier:

For the third year in a row, LaSalle Bank is decking the halls of Navy Pier for the Winter WonderFest. From Dec. 12 through Jan. 4 (excluding Christmas Day), pier visitors will

be surrounded by hundreds of decorated trees and enough sparkling and flashing lights to leave tan lines.

Whether you skate on or off the ice, there's something for you with the indoor Arctic Ice Rink and the inline skate track.

Take a ride on the mechanical bull-like reindeer rodeo and view the astonishing train display that runs on

nearly 1,000 feet of track. It's no wonder that the Winter WonderFest is becoming a tradition for many. All-day activity wristbands are available for \$12.

With all the city has to offer, don't let the cold keep you indoors. Get out there, spend a little money on yourself and have a little yuletide fun.



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IN THEATERS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

Santa

Continued from front page



Heather Morrison/The Chronicle

Santa Claus, stationed at FAO Schwarz on Wabash Avenue, speaks of hundreds of years of work, a freezing North Pole, and some rather old-fashioned gender roles back home.

Years of employment:
"Oh, I've worked for hundreds of years. Hundreds and hundreds of years, my dear."

Santa's favorite dish:
"Anything with sugar in it at all. Anything sweet is absolutely delightful."

On the lives of elves:
"Elves are a mysterious lot. Not much is known about elves actually, but I do know that elf families are quite closely knit, and produce very few offspring, each known to live a few hundred years."

Background on life in the North Pole:

"It's freezing. You freeze your ass off, I don't mind telling you. But it's all for a good cause, and we're not disturbed there. And not many people know how to find us so we're able to work in relative seclusion."

And the Mrs.:

"The Mrs. is quite helpful, absolutely. She keeps food on the table. It's rather sexist, I know, and the roles are rather rigid. But she keeps us happy with sugar and dough, and spice and everything nice."

Some final thoughts from Mr. Claus:

"Well, I suppose it would be if there is any magic at all to be wished for it would be for genuine peace on earth."

So, as Santa and his elves gear up for another holiday season full of designer labels and DVDs, remember that there is more behind the beard and the jolly belly than meets the eye. It seems as though Santa, even with all the demands from whiny children and tantrum-throwing 'tweens', is the only one who knows what the season is really about.

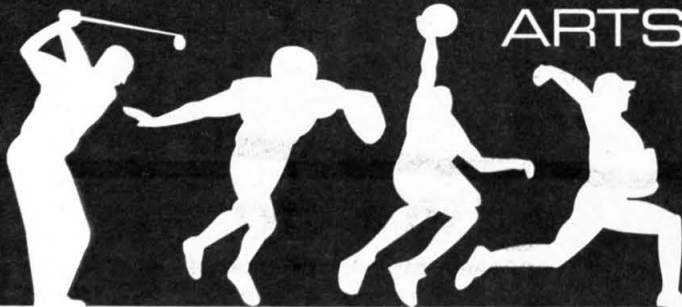


Heather Morrison/The Chronicle

Leggo Santa, stationed at the Nordstrom on Michigan Avenue, had absolutely nothing to say about the holiday season, good will or about the whole gift-giving process.

RMC Chicago Gallery Presents:

SPORTS seen through the ARTS



CALL FOR ENTRY

Artwork Deadline: **January 16, 2004**

Drop off @
Robert Morris College
401 South State St.
Chicago, IL 60605
(8th floor, Suite: 809)
9:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Notification of acceptance:
January 26, 2004

Showing @ RMC Gallery
401 South State St.
Chicago, IL 60605

Robert Morris College Gallery seeks submissions for an art show: *Sports seen through the Arts*, opening on (new date) February 20, 2004. The art show will feature artwork inspired by sports. Artists must be students enrolled in a Chicago area college or university. No more than three entries per artist may be submitted. There is no guarantee that all entries will be displayed. All entries should include name, home address, contact number, school, art title, year created, media, and size. Two-dimensional art should not exceed 60 inches in height and 30 inches in width. Artists working in oils, acrylics, watercolor, mixed media, and sculpture are eligible to submit. There is no entry fee. Artists selected for show will be awarded \$150. For further information contact: Marissa Likar at 312.935.6050



CALL FOR ENTRY

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

Concert Hall Events:

Tues. Dec. 16

Student Concert Series 7:00 PM

Music students perform with faculty trio: Doug Lofstrom, bass; Frank Donaldson, drums; Thomas Günther, piano

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Thurs. Dec. 18

Columbia College Jazz Ensemble 12:30 PM

Ellington's

Nutcracker
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Thurs. Dec. 18

Scott Hall Quintet 5:00 PM

Jazz trumpeter performs with his quintet
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All events are free. For more info: 312/344-6300
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Nintendo GameCube, not in 'control' of its competition

By Charles Kushner
Photo Editor

Nintendo dropped the price of its GameCube to \$99, but is it the best value for your dollar?

For \$99, consumers don't get any of the admirable features of the Xbox and the PlayStation 2. While these systems come equipped for online play, the GameCube needs an adaptor and a modem.

After all the extra spending, the price is closer to the other systems and you still need to buy a game, the cheapest of which costs \$20. Suddenly the value doesn't seem so great.

Now for the final blow, the GameCube does not double as a DVD player, it's not even large enough to hold a regular size CD.

Upon review, the GameCube seems less and less like a deal; it has no DVD, no memory card and no modem—no way this is a good deal. Nintendo has always survived on a few strong games and the GameCube is no exception to that rule.

With classics such as *Mario*, *Metroid* and *Zelda*, Nintendo proves it still has



Everyone has exclusives, but to bank only on those few games to attract an audience is a risky move for Nintendo. PlayStation 2 has more games, Xbox has better graphic rendering.

The GameCube just doesn't cut it when compared to these two. In all fairness though, the few games Nintendo offers exclusively are worth the frustration. *Zelda* uses cell-shaded animation to bring a whole new feel to the characters and game play. *Mario Kart* is just as fun this time around, offering more options than the earlier versions.

PlayStation 2 players will have no trouble switching between the system's controllers; Nintendo's design has the same feel of a PlayStation controller.

If you have the money

and desire to play the games you've played since you were a child, then GameCube is worth the money.

Players, however, will be missing out on all the additional options available from the Xbox or PlayStation 2.

the same old tricks up their sleeves.

With most popular titles being distributed to all the game systems, it's hard to choose a system for the exclusives alone, which is why the GameCube isn't at the top of the list this year.

Disc deals by developers

○ Music and games soon to be shared across different company technologies

By Gary Gentile
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A new group that includes Microsoft Corp. and Universal Music is hoping to make it easier to play music and videos across competing technologies.

The Content Reference Forum has published its first set of uniform standards for delivering music.

However, the goal is to allow consumers to get movies and other digital content as well, quickly and in any format they want in any country, while licensing fees and copyright protections are enforced.

For example, a consumer who wants to play a song encoded for, say, the Apple iTunes system cannot play it on a Windows Media Player on his computer.

Under the new standards, his song request would go to a clearinghouse device that would deliver the song in the proper format.

The music standards will be voted on by the group's members, then made available for licensing by mid-2004, the group said.

There is no guarantee the standards will be embraced.

Businesses may decide it makes better sense to push proprietary technologies that force consumers to buy their products rather than make their content playable on a competitor's product.

However, the companies behind the effort view interoperability as a foundation for new businesses.

"Sometime if you provide a technology, the business opportunity presents itself," said Alby Galuten, chairman of the new group and formerly senior vice president for advanced technology at Universal Music Group.

The companies behind the effort include ARM Ltd., ContentGuard Inc., Macrovision Corp., Microsoft Corp., Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., Universal Music Group and VeriSign Inc.

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For this holiday season

Aries (March 21-April 19) You have been very good this year. Look in your stocking for what you need most: money for school and booze.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Take it easy this week. Relax inside your house with a mug full of hot cocoa and watch your favorite holiday movie. Nothing beats watching *It's a Wonderful Life* for the millionth time.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Do not eat the yellow snow. I repeat: Do not eat the yellow snow.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) You will find yourself in the most romantic of places this holiday season—right under the mistletoe. Make sure your loved one is with you and go in for the kill.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Looking for extra holiday cash? Become one of Santa's helpers at your nearest mall. After all, dealing with snottosed, screaming children is great, right?

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Not sure what to buy your special friend for the holidays? Go for something original. Check out an adult bookshop. They have hundreds of gifts, and at the XXX shops, one size fits all.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Get outside this holiday season. Breathe the crisp winter air, stare in wonder at nature's mysterious snowflakes, stick your tongue to a frozen pole.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It is not fun to open presents if you already know what they are. Stop sneaking around the house and mind your own business.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Eggnog is good, but eggnog with rum is better. Get warm this holiday season by toasting your friends with a glass of milky-rum goodness.

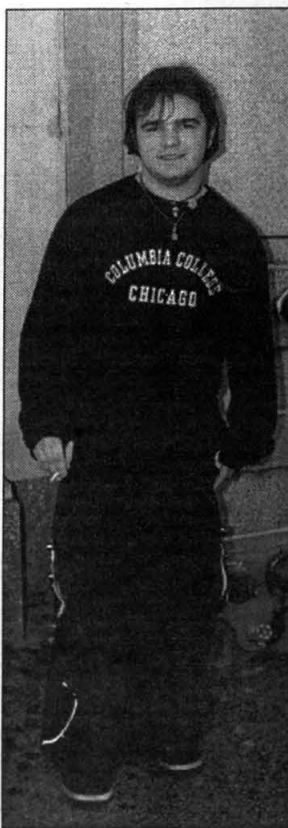
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Candy canes are for eating and decoration. Do not stick them in your orifices.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Do not even try to make a New Year's resolution. You never stick to them anyway.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You seem awfully sick of all the holiday cheer this season. Forget buying presents for friends and family. Spend some dough on yourself and get wasted.

Street Wear

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



Name: Mike McDonald

Age: 18

Major: Music

"[I wear] whatever is in the dryer and baggy."

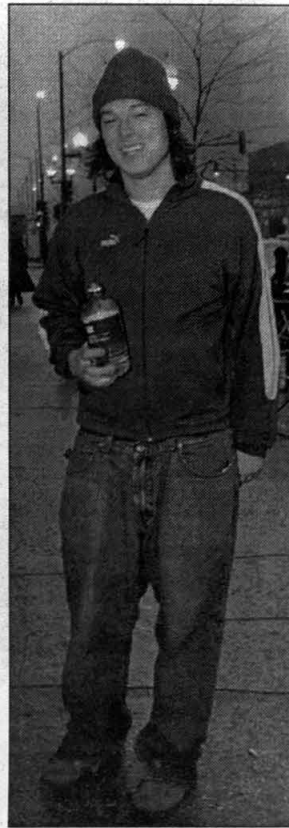


Name: Caitlin Arnold

Age: 18

Major: Photography

"I just like to shop at thrift stores."



Name: Chris Harney

Age: 20

Major: Music Business

"[I wear something] if it doesn't smell and it fits comfortably."

Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Under the influence:

OBSERVATIONS OF A MERRY WORLD

By Matthew Jaster

●**The Stress:** In preparation for a hectic Christmas Eve, Santa Claus is asking patrons to replace the typical cookies and milk offering with Jell-O shots and rumrunners.

●**Christmas Shopping Budget:** "It's a napkin holder, Mom. I made it myself. Merry Christmas."

●**Happiness equals the 24-hour *A Christmas Story* movie marathon.**

●**Rudolph:** With way more media attention than Dasher or Prancer, the red-nosed egomaniac needs to finally be put in his place.

●**New Year's Resolutions:** Just another "To Do List" that never seems to get done.

●**IKEA:** The Walt Disney World of furniture stores should be avoided at all costs from now until the end of January.

●**"A Kid Rock Christmas":** VH1 offers an in-depth look into Kid Rock's musical career, right before it magically disappears in 2004.

●**Happiness equals a drunken Billy Bob Thornton** asking kids what they want for Christmas.

●**The Christmas Sweater:** Everybody gets that one ugly sweater from some distant relative who still thinks it's 1985.

●**The Toys:** Strawberry Shortcake, My Little Pony, Transformers and G.I. Joe prove that the industry has officially run out of new ideas for dolls and action figures.

●**All I want for Christmas is:** Two minutes of peace and quiet. Peace on Earth would be lovely, but let's be realistic here.

●**Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah or Merry Christmas:** No matter what you're celebrating, celebrate in style.

THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE in arts & entertainment

Bands	Fireworks	Hotels	Restaurants	Clubs	Bars	Other
Local H with Electric Six 10 p.m. Double Door 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. \$55 Box office: (773) 489-3160	New Year's Eve fireworks at Buckingham Fountain midnight Buckingham Fountain 500 S. Lakeshore Drive Free Info: (312) 742-7529	New Year's Eve Hyatt Rock 'n' Jazz Party 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Hyatt Regency McCormick Place 2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive \$99 - \$119 Info: (312) 528-4137	New Year's Eve at Adobo Grill 9 p.m. Adobo Grill 1610 N. Wells St. \$90 Info: (312) 266-7999	Chromium New Year's Eve Party 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Chromium 817 W. Lake St. \$20 - \$25 Info: (312) 666-7230	Lincoln Station New Year's Eve Party 9 p.m. - 2 a.m. Lincoln Station 2432 N. Lincoln Ave. \$75 Info: (773) 472-8100	New Year's Eve Odyssey Cruise 9:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. Odyssey Cruises 600 E. Grand Ave. \$225 Info: (888) 957-2322
The String Cheese Incident 7 p.m. Auditorium Theatre 50 E. Congress Parkway \$70 Box office: (312) 922-2110	New Year's Eve fireworks at Century Park 7:30 p.m. Lakeview and Hawthorne Parkways, Vernon Hills Free Info: (847) 367-3700	Hyatt Regency Woodfield New Year's Eve Party 9 p.m. 1800 E. Golf Road, Schaumburg \$99 - \$399 Info: (847) 517-6996	New Year's Eve at Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba 5 p.m., 8 p.m. Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba 2024 N. Halsted St. \$10 cover after 8 p.m. Info: (773) 935-5000	New Year's Eve at Excaliber 7 p.m. Excaliber 632 N. Dearborn St. \$35 - \$125 Info: (312) 266-1944	Lion Head Pub/The Apartment New Year's Eve Party 7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Lion Head Pub/The Apartment 2251 N. Lincoln Ave. \$20 - \$45 Info: (773) 348-5100	7th Annual New Year's Eve Rock 'n' Roll Ball 8 p.m. - 2 a.m. Navy Pier Grand Ballroom 600 E. Grand Ave. \$98 - \$138 Box office: (312) 559-1212
Mr. Blotto 10 p.m. Abbey Pub and Restaurant 3420 W. Grace St. \$20 - \$25 Info: (773) 478-4408	New Year's Eve fireworks at Navy Pier midnight Navy Pier 600 E. Grand Ave. Free Info: (312) 595-7437	First Night Evanston 6 p.m. - midnight Davis Street and Orrington Ave., Evanston, Ill. \$8 - \$12 Info: (847) 289-4248	New Year's Eve at Cafe Matou 5 p.m. - 6 p.m., 9 p.m. Cafe Matou 1846 N. Milwaukee Ave. \$65 - \$80 Info: (773) 384-8911	New Year's Eve Extravaganza 8 p.m. - 4 a.m. Le Passage 937 N. Rush St. \$30 - \$125 Info: (312) 255-0022	New Year's Eve at Cubby Bear North 6 p.m. Cubby Bear, Lincolnshire 21661 N. Milwaukee Ave. Box office: (847) 541-4700	The Armageddon Radio Hour, New Year's Eve 9:30 p.m. WNEP Theater 3209 N. Halsted St. \$50 Box office: (773) 755-1693

'Something's Gotta Give' at the movies

By Christy Lemire
AP Entertainment Writer

So this is what would have happened to Annie Hall.

She would have turned into a divorced mother in her 50s with a celebrated career as a New York playwright, with a trace of the girlish skittishness that was her trademark in the '70s.

As Erica Barry in *Something's Gotta Give*, Diane Keaton recalls her most famous film role, but with an added warmth and wisdom that come with maturity.

She's positively radiant opposite Jack Nicholson, playing off his real-life reputation. He's Harry Sanborn, a playboy record mogul who's infamous for only dating women under 30.

His latest conquest is Erica's daughter, Marin (Amanda Peet).

Writer-director Nancy Meyers (*Private Benjamin*, *What Women Want*) gives them snappy, witty things to say to each other and the banter often seems to spring so organically, it's as if you're eavesdropping on two people who aren't even aware they're flirting with each other.

Even Keanu Reeves has an unexpected, laid-back sex appeal as a 30-something doctor who also flirts with Erica—or maybe it's just that he finally exited the matrix and allowed himself to smile for once.

But then Meyers destroys all that good will by dragging the film out through needless obstacles and endless false endings, until it culminates with a spectacularly feel-good finale that's cheesy even by Hollywood romantic-comedy standards.

As per the formula, Erica and Harry meet in an unusually cute way: Marin has brought him to her mother's

Hamptons beach house for the weekend, unaware that her mom and Aunt Zoe (an egregiously underused Frances McDormand) are there, too.

While Harry and Marin are giggling and rolling around in bed to the smooth sounds of Marvin Gaye—which horrifies Erica and Zoe—Harry has a Viagra-induced heart attack. The doctor who treats him (Reeves) insists that he stick around for a few days; thus he's stuck at Erica's beach house, where she's also stuck with writer's block.

Simply by walking past the poster for this movie at a bus stop you could figure out that Harry and Erica would eventually end up rolling around in bed, too.

Once they do get together, Keaton is nothing short of luminescent, capable of allowing myriad expressions to flash across her face—sometimes, seemingly all at once. It is, however, sort of archaic for Meyers to suggest that this bright, beautiful character is only capable of feeling like a natural woman when a man makes her feel that way.

And that man is pretty much a buffoon, despite his womanizing ways. Nicholson isn't afraid to look stupid to get the big laugh, even if it entails baring his backside in a hospital gown.

Unfortunately, he ends up in the hospital too many times toward the end. Meyers conjures up repeated heart problems for Harry to keep him and Erica apart before their inevitable reconciliation.

And yes, that's all part of the formula, too. But it's already a talky film, and once it starts pushing the two-hour mark—to quote the title—something's gotta ... oh, never mind.

Something's Gotta Give, a Columbia Pictures release, is rated PG-13 for sexual content, brief nudity and strong language. Running time: 123 minutes.

Movie Review

'The Reason' Hooba don't stank

By Doris Dadayan
A&E Editor

A band with the name of Hoobastank can easily conjure up some pretty raunchy thoughts, as well as raise doubts on the credibility of their music.

But Hoobastank bassist Markku "Hoobastank" Lappalainen's Scandinavian middle name may just be about the only thing that could draw some laughs about these guys.

Their flawless sound and energetic style, evident on their newly-released, heartpounding roller coaster album, *The Reason*, undoubtedly answers any questions about the seriousness and talent of this California-based band.

The reason Hoobastank's follow-up to their 2002 self-titled debut was released Dec. 9, and is a continuation of the punchy guitar-driven melodies and infectious raw energy sound that first made them popular.

The sound of *The Reason* doesn't stray too far away from that of Hoobastank.

The difference this time is the vocals are faster and the lyrics are more upbeat, showing off the band's sharpness, with songs that are honest and intense, but at the same time sweet, emotional and thoughtful—much of what's lacking in the music world today.

The album's stream of unsteady songs is like a roller coaster ride—some songs will take you through a two-and-a-half minute fast-paced ride, while others will bring you down to a slow, mesmerizing state.

Every song is full of emotion, their weight heavy as hell, with questions of trust, confusion, love, anger and pain. This is not really punk,

not really rock, more like a category of its own.

The band's unbelievable energy and style shows that they don't care much for complicated lyrics, metaphors and analogies. Instead, their lyrics are simple and they combine them with the right beats

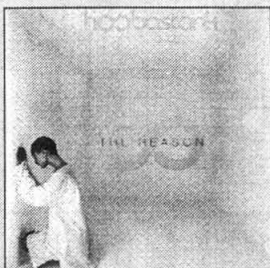
answers to the "endless mystery" that vocalist Doug Robb wonders about as he sings, or actually screams: "I'm spinning out of control/ I'm spinning out of control/ Where should I go? / What should I do? / I don't understand what you want from me/ 'cause I don't know/ If I can trust you/ or all of those things you've said to me."

Robb's voice is part of the natural high, the adrenaline rush of the roller coaster ride; he takes the listener along with him for the entire trip and then drops them off when the song, and the ride, ends. It's the kind of song that needs to be played a good four, maybe five times in order to fully digest and move on to the next track.

"The Reason," the eighth song off the album, is an absolutely beautiful story of lost love. It's so touching that it can bring listeners to tears.

About 100 times slower than "Out of Control," the song is a completely different emotional ride. It hooks the listener and leaves them wanting more. Absolutely flawless, the song is powerful and the lyrics are heart-wrenching: "I've found a reason for me, to change who I used to be/ a reason to start over new, and the reason is you/ I've found a reason to show a side of me you didn't know/ a reason for all that I do/ and the reason is you."

The Reason was produced and arranged in such an intelligent, thoughtful and tactful way, that not one member of the group seems to dominate over another. The lyrics, the choruses and the melodies are so beautifully written and produced that it's more like poetic bliss. After hearing this album, it's more than obvious "the reason" why Hoobastank will be sticking around for quite awhile.



CD Review

and instruments to create a visually striking emotions for listeners.

It's clear from the second track titled "Out of Control" that this quartet can deliver songs that can't even be put into words—they're just that good. "Out of Control" is like jumping into mass confusion, caught in the midst of some kind of worldly chaos.

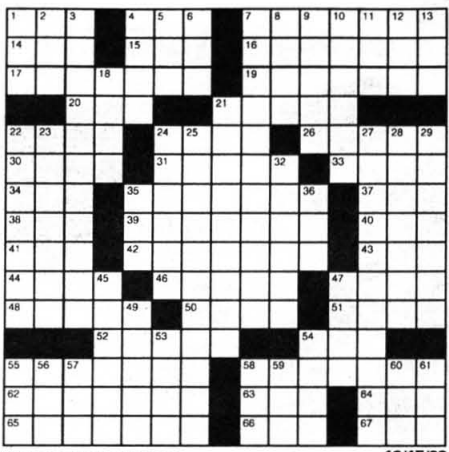
The song demands the listener's immediate attention and wants



Happy Holidays!
stay warm...
[C] spaces

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Behold
 - 4 Deuce
 - 7 Travel to work
 - 14 Mr. Baba
 - 15 Short trip
 - 16 Excitement
 - 17 Coloring substance
 - 19 Shreds
 - 20 Color property
 - 21 Indian city
 - 22 Dugout stack
 - 24 Gulp down
 - 26 Confused circumstances
 - 30 Appendages
 - 31 Pay tribute to
 - 33 Secluded valley
 - 34 Easy dessert?
 - 35 Ann-
 - 37 Directed
 - 38 Brown shade
 - 39 Painter Gorky
 - 40 Fuss
 - 41 Altar vow
 - 42 Appendix to a will
 - 43 U.K. channel
 - 44 Affront
 - 46 Pitcher Ryan
 - 47 Overcharge
 - 48 Doles (out)
 - 50 Cherbourg she
 - 51 Harbor craft
 - 52 Pundits
 - 54 Stool pigeon
 - 55 "Dear Me" writer
 - 58 Figurative language
 - 62 Swizzle stick
 - 63 Mahal
 - 64 Two-finger gesture
 - 65 Treading the boards
 - 66 Baltic or Barents
 - 67 Gabor sister
- DOWN
- 1 Tree fluid
 - 2 Whitney known for his gin
 - 3 1988 baseball film
 - 4 "Of ___ I Sing"
 - 5 Took top prize
 - 6 Decide
 - 7 Absolute
 - 8 Dental exam?
 - 9 Fluttery fliers
 - 10 Softening
 - 11 Manipulate
 - 12 Seafarer of old
 - 13 Woods rival
 - 18 Disarrange
 - 21 Mounds of manure
 - 22 Christian rite
 - 23 Daughter of King Minos
 - 24 Styx ferryman
 - 25 Appetizer
 - 27 Bette Davis classic
 - 28 Diner's put-on?
 - 29 Disconnects from the space shuttle
 - 32 Put in new padding
 - 35 Buddy
 - 36 ___ Aviv-Jaffa
 - 45 Enticement with a band
 - 47 Lone guy
 - 49 Composer of



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12/15/03

Solutions



- "The Nubians of Plutonia"
- 53 "Performance" director Nicolas
- 54 Rani's mate
- 55 B. Hope's venue, often
- 56 RR stop
- 57 "___ the wind and nothing more"
- 58 ___ in the bag!
- 59 West of filmdom
- 60 Excite
- 61 Affirmative vote

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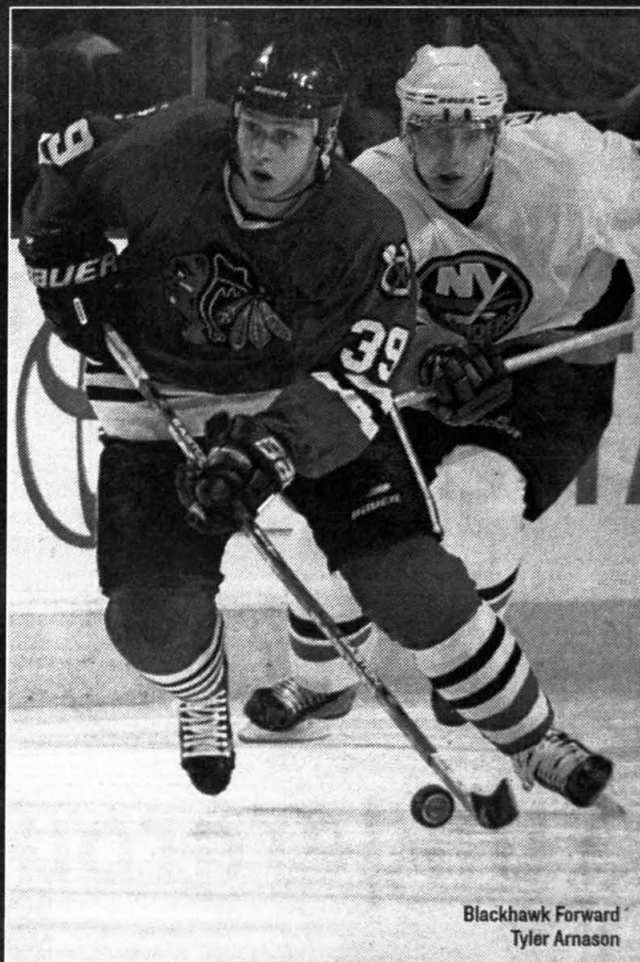
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	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 6:00 N.J.	22	23 7:30 STL	24	25	26 7:30 CBJ	27
28 6:00 DET	29	30	31 7:30 VAN			

JANUARY 2004

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



Blackhawk Hockey
LIVE FROM CHICAGO

Near South

Continued from Back Page

In the past five years, there has been a drastic reduction in small retail venues in the South Loop due to higher leasing rates and a lack of foot traffic. "Businesses have to adapt to cost of living expenses," he said. "We're hoping people traveling from the Loop will help businesses thrive in the Near South. But certain businesses will have problems. That's the nature of the beast."

Haller believes the Central Area Plan, which is a 20-year growth projection for the entire downtown district, will bring more jobs and residents to the area. Therefore, people traveling south after work will increase foot traffic in the South Loop. Additionally, Haller said the increase in populations and businesses within the Loop will force other commerce and residents into the southern part of the city.

City planners forecast more than 20,000 people will move into the South Loop by 2020, which would be a 211 percent population increase from the 2000 statistics. Additionally the area could see a 50 percent increase in educational facilities and retail developments.

"The Near South Community Plan projects an increase in the population of area universities, further expansion of McCormick Place and a residential boom," Haller said.

Highlights of the plan include improving and redeveloping the South Loop into a mixed-use urban neighborhood that will complement the nearby commercial, office and institutional developments of the Loop.

Its strategy is broken down into three themes; the first stage for the plan involves land use.

Haller said the city will negotiate with owners of planned development sites to lower building heights around historic districts. He also said the plan will require public funding for roads, bridges and additional transit structures.

The second theme within the plan is the expansion of open space amenities and the development of the Chicago River, including additional green way and bike paths for pedestrians.

"We want to ensure that there is never a more than three or four block walk from an open space. The parks come first," Texley said.

The second theme also features more east and west connections. According to Texley, the only connecting streets in the community run north to south, and the majority of the South Loop's east-west streets are closed off. The plan calls for the addition of an opening between Polk and Harrison streets, increased street signage and a cover ramp over Congress Parkway to connect South Loop foot traffic to the downtown area.

Theme three of the proposed plan is an increase in the public transit sector. Improvements include a new Circle Line on 18th and Clark streets that would connect both the Green and Orange lines as well as circle the South Loop. There is also a proposed bus hub along Congress Parkway and a bridge along Polk Street.

Texley believes the community welcomes a majority of the implementations and improvements to the South Loop. However, she is still open to input from the community.

"Anytime the community wants us to look at something in addition to what we already have, we will," Texley said. "The plan is only a guide and not 100 percent because markets will change."

The next phase for the proposal is more community meetings, according to Texley. After the public meetings, the draft will be revised based on community suggestions. Finally, the DPD will seek approval from the Planning Commission in February.

—Jennifer Goltz contributed to this report

Near South Community Plan recommendations

District 1 Franklin Point District

- Area is currently vacant and should be developed for commercial, residential and entertainment uses
- Development should enhance visibility to gateway locations
- Direct access to Chicago River

District 2 Wells Street District

- Improve residential and commercial uses
- Encourage the adaptation of reused and new infill construction
- Extend Wells Street and enhance as a "main street" for other districts

District 3 Clark Street District

- Upgraded for mixed use of office, service, retail and residential
- Encourage the adaptation of reused and new infill construction
- New retail, restaurants and entertainment venues on street levels along Clark and Polk streets

District 4 River City District

- Mix of new residential uses oriented to the Chicago River
- Public access to the Chicago River preservation
- More development at the south end of the district off Roosevelt Road

District 5 LaSalle Park District

- Developed for mixed commercial and residential uses consistent to the approved development plan

District 6 Dearborn Park I District

- Retained as site for town homes and mid-to high-rise condominiums
- New pedestrian connections to neighboring districts

District 7 Printers' Row District

- Historical structures should be maintained and improved
- Characterized by a mix of small stores, shops and commercial services
- The street wall on Dearborn Street should be protected
- New construction should match existing buildings

District 8 State Street District

- Add attractive new image and identity
- Redevelop surface parking lots along the east side of State Street for the redevelopment of commercial and residential uses
- Encourage use of educational and institutional uses near Congress Parkway and State Street

District 9 Wabash Avenue District

- Substantial improvements and revitalization of pedestrian-oriented commercial area
- Retail, commercial services, entertainment and educational uses should be promoted on street level
- Educational facilities, residential units and offices should be maintained on upper floors
- Redevelopment of underutilized properties

District 10 Michigan Avenue District

- Maintain institutional and residential uses
- Historic Michigan Avenue street wall should be preserved and enhanced
- Encourage improvements and developments that reflect the scale, placement character and height of existing buildings

*In addition to the districts, the front of properties along Congress Parkway and Roosevelt Road should be upgraded and correspond as an entryway into the downtown area and the South Loop.

Source: Near South Community Plan

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FACE HERE

Holiday shopping made simple 12 different ways

○ South Loop has a variety of stores all within walking distance from campus, for the hard-to-shop people on your gift list

By Mark W. Anderson
Contributing Writer

Holiday shopping got you down? It's no surprise—with classes, homework, jobs, and a full social life, it's not easy for college students to find the time to do all the gift-getting necessary to make everyone on their holiday list happy. But, fear not, even at this late date, all hope is not lost.

In fact, the South Loop is full of excellent places for holiday shopping, all of them within walking distance of campus. And not only is there shopping available right here, there are all kinds of overlooked specialty stores that just might go a long way toward making that hard-to-please friend or family member have the kind of holiday season they have always dreamed about.

The Savvy Traveller

No matter if you have a world traveler on your list or someone who simply dreams of faraway places, there's a good chance you'll find something for them at The Savvy Traveller. The store is well-stocked with everything a globe-trotting traveler needs: money belts, fanny packs, luggage and books of every type—picture books, destination guides, travel diaries and guide books galore. And then there are the practical things, like travel games, candles and geography calendars, along with whimsical items like "Picasso's Nose" eyeglass holders. "We're trying to offer things to broaden people beyond travel," said co-owner Iris Sachs.

310 S. Michigan Ave., (312) 913-9800, www.thesavvytraveller.com. Hours: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Crow's Nest on State

A cross between a corporate music chain and a college record store, Crow's Nest in the Chicago Music Mart is a quick and easy way to pick up that CD that everyone's been asking for. Like any self-respecting music store, they've got movies, games and accessories to go along with the thousands of music titles in stock. And, if they don't have it, it can be ordered.

333 S. State St., (312) 341-9196, www.crownsnestmusic.com. Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Rain Dog Books and Café

This coffee shop/bookstore/Internet café, just a couple of blocks from campus on Michigan Avenue, is one of the few independent coffee shops in the downtown area. The two stories of seating areas are lined with roughly 3,000 new and used books for sale, concentrating mostly on classics, art books and the modern giants of literature. You can sip coffee and munch on pastries while you shop, too.

408 S. Michigan Ave., (312) 922-1200. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

Carl Fischer Music

Got a musician on your gift-giving list? If you know someone who plays an instrument or can read music, then Carl Fischer may just be the place for them. Known primarily for their huge stock of printed sheet music, they also carry a large selection of musical essentials such as guitar picks, strings, and method and scale books. They also have one of the largest databases of printed music available anywhere. But store manager Jeff Hansel said not to be put off by the overwhelming number of choices. "This place is for everybody, not just musicians," he said.

333 S. State St., Lower Level, (312) 427-6652, www.chicagosheetmusic.com. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

The Museum Shop of the Art Institute of Chicago

If you're in the market for a Matisse book bag or a Salvador Dali umbrella, there's really only one place to go in Chicago: The Museum Shop of the Art Institute of Chicago. Almost everything here has an art-related theme, from the "American Gothic" refrigerator magnets to the Frank Lloyd Wright-styled floor lamp, not to mention entire rooms devoted to calendars, Christmas orna-

ments and discounted art books. If you're stuck for an idea, a membership to the Art Institute of Chicago itself is a unique gift—\$70 a year for individuals and \$90 for families.

111 S. Michigan Ave., (312) 443-3600, www.artinstituteshop.org. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Kozy's Cyclery

If you know anyone who's a committed bicyclist, you know how difficult they can be to shop for, but the downtown branch of Kozy's Cyclery can help you figure out what's what. From toe clamps to helmets and bikes themselves, Kozy's got it all.

601 S. LaSalle St., (312) 360-0020, www.kozy.com. Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Ragstock Clothing

Store-bought fashions too much for you or those you love? Then Ragstock's your answer. Specializing in "new and used vintage and retro men's and women's clothing," Ragstock, in the words of manager Ali Phillips, "is always having a sale." Vintage dresses, sweaters, 1970s leather, men's suits—you name it, Ragstock has it, and most of it is marked down. The weirdest thing for sale in the store? Phillips thinks it would have to be either the gas masks that line the wall behind the counter or the Mr. T Soap-on-a-Rope.

226 S. Wabash Ave., 2nd Floor, (312) 692-1778, www.ragstock.com. Hours:

10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

Redoor Pet Salon

"A lot of people are more finicky about their pets than they know," said Redoor Pet Salon owner Toby Bolton. And she's built a pet salon in the South Loop to prove it: Redoor Pet Salon on South Dearborn. Here, cats and dogs (or "kids on four feet" as Bolton likes to call them), can get everything from basic grooming packages to an extensive shampoo, blow-dry, cut, style and pedicure. Redoor also serves as a spa for man's best friends, with whirlpool, aromatherapy, and massages along with accessories such as real cologne lines direct from Paris.

724 S. Dearborn, (312) 957-0340, www.redoorpetsalon.com. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday and Monday.

The downtown mega-mall

Can't get out to the mall in the suburbs like you planned? Chicago has its own version right downtown on State Street, made up of Carson Pirie Scott, Marshall Field's and now Sears, returning to State Street for the first time in nearly 20 years. All three of them are within a two-block radius, and offer everything from haute perfume to washing machines, not to mention clothes, tools and home furnishings.

Carson Pirie Scott - 1 S. State St., (312) 641-7000, www.carsonsc.com. Hours: 9:45 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:45 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Marshall Field's - 111 N. State St., (312) 781-1000, www.marshallfields.com. Hours: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Sears - 2 N. State St., (312) 373-6000, www.sears.com. Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Of course, not everybody celebrates Christmas. For those of us preparing for Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, there are also gift-shopping choices nearby:

Afrocentric Bookstore

Located in the Chicago Music Mart building, Afrocentric specializes in items celebrating African-American culture and achievement. The store offers books, greeting cards, posters, music and what appears to be a healthy sense of community.

333 S. State St., (312) 939-1956. Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Closed Sunday.

The Bariff Shop for Judaica

The Bariff Shop, located in the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, is more than just a bookstore—it also offers Jewish art, ceremonial necessities, jewelry and music. Bariff also offers items for children, exhibition guides, and items for the home.

618 S. Michigan Ave., (312) 322-1740, www.spertus.edu/bariff. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday. Closed Saturday.

Exploring Madagascar

○ Field Museum brings South American wildlife to the city through art

By Andrew Greiner
Staff Writer

The Field Museum debuted its new exhibit, "The Natural Wonders of Madagascar: Photographs by Harald Schütz," Dec. 5 as part of its Year of Biodiversity and Conservation Program. The exhibit features full-color photographs of the unique wildlife from the island taken from the Field Museum-sponsored book *The Natural History of Madagascar*.

Field Museum scientist Dr. Steve Goodman has worked in Madagascar for nearly 15 years, discovering species and trying to protect the irreplaceable habitats on the island. Harald Schütz is a freelance photographer from Germany. The photos are a product of the collaboration between Schütz and Goodman for the book.

Museum president, John McCarter, said the exhibit opening is exciting for two reasons: the beautiful pictures hanging on the museum wall and the release of Goodman's book.

The island of Madagascar is situated off the southeastern coast of Africa. The 1,000 mile-long island separated from the Indian subcontinent 88 million years ago, since then its species have been isolated, giving the island an astounding number of animals only found there. According to Goodman, the island's habitats are not protected and are being threatened by the country's political instability. He hopes the wealth of knowledge in the book may affect some social and economic change.

"There were 300 contributors from 19 different countries. That means over 2,000 pages of manuscript are translated. We tried to synthesize what we know between two covers," Goodman said. "We would like to build a complete catalogue that would help in setting new conservation priorities."

The exhibit and the book feature 40 color photographs by Schütz, but represent only a fraction of the species native to the island. Of the island's bird population, 51 percent are only found there and 90 percent of the species in its Spiny Forest are endemic.



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Harald Schütz is a freelance photographer from Germany whose work appears in The Field Museum's new exhibit that runs until July 2004.

"There are an incredible number of new things to discover. For instance, just recently we discovered three new species and that was in only 10 days," Goodman said.

Goodman and Schütz were at the Field Museum to deliver a brief lecture on Saturday, Dec. 5. The 30-minute delivery included highlights from the book, as well as discussion on biodiversity and the need for stability in Madagascar.

"This event was sort of hard to organize, with Harald traveling between Kenya, Madagascar and Germany, and me working in Madagascar we barely had time to change our socks," Goodman said.

Both Schütz and Goodman agreed the time away from home is trying.

"I don't really like public events, I try to avoid talking. I would rather be in the field," Schütz said, in his thick German accent.

Schütz is done in Madagascar for the time being. He is working in Kenya now, photographing wildlife there, but he may return to Madagascar for more work later on. For Goodman, it is back

to Madagascar where he lives and works.

He is moving on to study the town of Andriafina Meana, an area with very little information known about it.

The Field Museum is featuring Schütz's photographs for the month of December as part of its nine month biodiversity program. The program is designed to sponsor awareness for world ecological dilemmas. Next month's feature will be "Biodiversity in the Neotropics," a study of South American plant life.

The exhibit is free with the museum admission fee.

The 1,700-page book, which comes out in January, will be available for purchase on www.amazon.com for \$85 through the University Press of Chicago. It was co-edited by Goodman and Jonathan P. Benstead.

"Because the book was produced by nonprofit organizations, like the museum and the World Wildlife Foundation, we were able to keep the price relatively low," Schütz said.

CTA prepares for the winter

By Jessica M. Diehl
Contributing Writer

As the holiday season approaches, the Chicago Transit Authority is gearing up to fight severe weather and provide service to Chicago commuters.

Last year, the CTA extended service hours on 13 bus routes near shopping centers to help deal with the holiday rush. According to CTA spokeswoman Anne McCarthy, extended service will not be offered on many routes this year. In fact, the only route with extended hours will be the No. 54B South Cicero bus, which serves the Ford City Shopping Center on the South Side.

On actual holidays, trains and buses will operate on a regular Sunday schedule, which has not changed since 2002. The holidays that the buses operate on a Sunday schedule throughout the year include New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. CTA buses and trains will operate under the regular weekday schedule on Christmas Eve.

Some Columbia students feel choosing the CTA may be safer than fighting traffic on a holiday.

"You can't really trust anyone on the road during a holiday," said Gina Cella, a Columbia sophomore photography major. Cella said that choosing to ride the CTA might be a better option because of the safety it offers.

Although many have not yet made plans for New Year's Eve, the CTA will continue to offer penny ride services for commuters between the hours

of 8 p.m. New Year's Eve and 6 a.m. New Year's Day. Riders will be expected to pay a penny for both bus and train rides during scheduled hours. On New Year's Eve 2002, about 188,203 people utilized the penny ride program, according to a manual CTA count.

In order to keep trains and buses running smoothly, the CTA is attempting to complete all of its winter preparations before any severe weather strikes.

The CTA Bus Operations team is currently conducting its annual 30-point winter inspection checklist to prepare the fleet for cold weather operation. The list includes various maintenance checks on thermostats, batteries and heaters. The team will check to make sure windows, roof hatches and doors close securely on its 2,000 buses.

Checks are also being conducted on el train platforms and equipment. Included in routine weather preparations are the testing of overhead heating fixtures and the replacement of shovels, scrapers and blowers.

According to Robyn Ziegler, CTA media relations manager, the CTA outfits rail cars with sleet scrapers, snowplow blades and has 182 cars equipped to spread deicer fluid onto the track. As needed, the CTA also uses modular units to spread deicer onto the power rails and throughout the track.

Ziegler said train service will not be increased to accommodate the greater number of commuters during severe weather. Instead, the level of service is maximized during morning and evening rush periods, she said.

Chicagoans reach out to help those in need

○ Children's charities brings hope for the holidays to local families

By Tawney Saylor
Staff Writer

With Christmas just weeks away, there have been numerous philanthropic efforts throughout the Chicago area designed to help underprivileged children.

Mayor Richard M. Daley personified the season of giving when he presented a check to the Greater Chicago Food Depository for \$65,526 on Dec. 3 at City Hall as part of his annual Sharing It Program. A sizable amount of this donation will go to children, who account for 37 percent of those served by the GCFD and its member agencies.

"I ask all of you to remember to make an extra effort to those who are less fortunate," Daley said. "A child is counting on you."

Disadvantaged children are the focus of the Holiday Angels Toy Drive at Starbucks Coffee, who teamed up with the Starlight Children's Foundation for the third consecutive year to bring presents to seriously ill children across the country.

From now until Dec. 25, customers can bring a new, unwrapped toy to any Starbucks location and it will be delivered to local hospitals in the Chicago area. This year, the goal is set at 330,000 toys, up from 274,000 toys collected in 2002.

"All toy drives are wonderful," said Jenny Isaacson, director of marketing at the Starlight Children's Foundation. "One thing that makes us unique is our partnership with Starbucks. With 4,100 stores across the country, there is a place to drop off toys on almost every corner."

Isaacson said that changes have been made based on customer feedback so far, particularly from those looking to help who were short on time but abundant in resources.

For the first time, monetary donations can be made this year to the foundation using prepaid envelopes available at any Starbucks location, or online at www.starbucks.com.

Another nationwide organization, giving back to children this season is the 56th annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which runs through Dec. 22.

Members of the community can drop off new, unwrapped toys at collection boxes set up in businesses throughout the Chicago area, including Harris Bank, Bank One and Best Buy.

Major Brian Murray, a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, has been involved with the program for seven years, and said it has enabled him to "stay in touch with Marines and reach out to the community at the same time."

"The purpose of this program is to give a child a sense of hope for the future," Murray said. "And hopefully they will become patriotic and contributing members of society."

Last year, Marines collected more than 12 million toys that were given to 5.7 million children across the nation. Murray said he hopes this year's drive will prove even more successful.

Corporal Brian Owens, a reservist in the Chicago chapter of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, said it is especially important this year to reach out to children in need because of a weakening economy and dismal job market.

"There are numerous families that are trying their hardest to make ends meet, and the money they make is not enough to cover their expenses and allow for extras," he said. "Children need to know that people are willing to help."

The nation's largest contributor to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is the annual Chicago Motorcycle Parade.

On Dec. 7, more than 30,000 motorcyclists met at the Dan Ryan Woods on 83rd Street and Western Avenue armed with a new toy to bring to the Marine Corps Reserve Training Center on Foster Avenue.

The event began at 9:30 a.m. and lasted nearly five hours.

The first parade started in 1978, when six bikers joined together to aid the reserves in bringing toys to needy children. Now, the event has expanded to become the largest motorcycle run in the country.

Corey Beck, a River Grove, Ill. resi-

dent, has been riding in the parade for 15 years and said each year is more rewarding than the last.

"After you see these children year after year and watch their faces light up, you realize how much they appreciate your time and effort," he said.

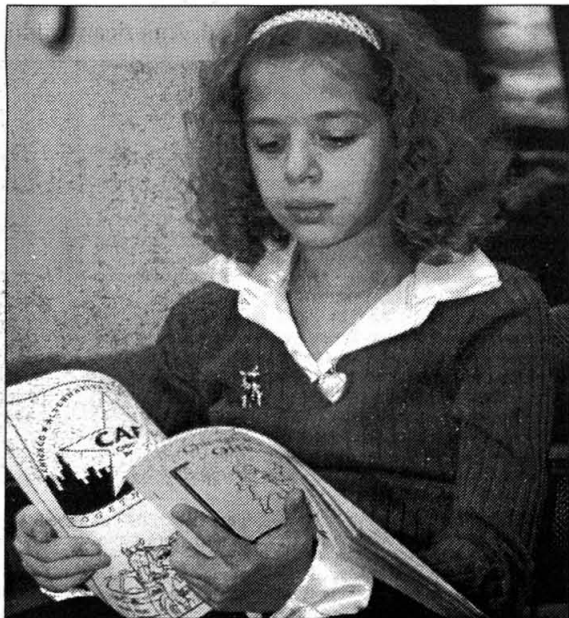
Universities across the area are also joining in the holiday spirit by organizing their own toy drives on campus to donate to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

The University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business helped needy children by hosting a skating party at the University of Chicago Ice Rink on Dec. 4 as part of their annual Giving Something Back Program, and all admission money went to the Toys for Tots foundation.

Also, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, members of the Alpha Tau Omega-Gamma Zeta fraternity made their contribution this year by collecting toys in place of monetary admission tickets for their annual semi-formal event held Dec. 6.

Nearly 100 toys were collected, which will go to serve underprivileged children in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

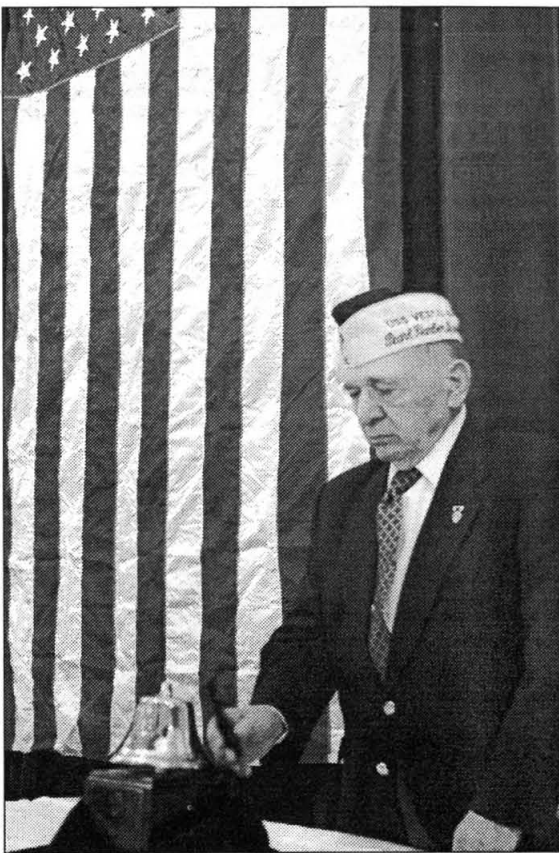
"Every child should be given a gift at Christmas time," said Philip Coover, senior Alpha Tau Omega-Gamma Zeta fraternity member. "I think it's important to share some of the ideals of Christmas that a lot of people take for granted."



Ten-year-old Katarina checks out her new coloring book she received at the Operation Shining Star toy drive, hosted by the Chicago Police Department.

Pearl Harbor

Continued from Back Page



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Pearl Harbor survivor Ambrose Ferri participates in the Two Bell Ceremony during Chicago's 7th Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony at Navy Pier, Dec. 6.

then and will be victorious now."

Debbink closed by acknowledging the courageous Pearl Harbor and World War II survivors who sat before him.

"You saved the world. You have truly earned the title of the Greatest Generation," Rear Adm. Debbink said.

Pearl Harbor survivors John R. Barry and Ambrose Ferri performed a Two Bell Ceremony. At Pearl Harbor, more than 2,300 people were killed. Of those, 125 were from Illinois and seven were from Chicago. The first bell sounded for each Chicagoan who perished in the attack; the second bell was to honor those members of the armed forces who lost their lives.

Flanked by the Navy Firing Detail, two rounds were unleashed into the air as Daley and his fellow speakers gave a final salute to the fallen soldiers. Two wreaths were tossed into the waters of Lake Michigan, one to memorialize the soldiers who died in Pearl Harbor; the other to pay tribute to the late Irv Kupcinet and his Purple Heart Cruise for Veterans, putting an end to the morning's ceremonies.

Many Pearl Harbor survivors were present at the ceremony, along with current members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves and Marine Corps.

Each of the speakers expressed their gratitude to service members for

continuing to devote their lives to saving others.

Chicagoan Mitchell Skrzypek, 82, now a resident of Downer's Grove, served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. He survived the Pearl Harbor strike and recalled the conflict.

"I was stationed at William's Field, a base in Arizona, when the attack happened," Skrzypek said. "We had to be ready; I knew the war was beginning. My squadron was sent off base to fight the battle in the air simultaneously with the attack [on the harbor]."

Daley said the heroism of World War II soldiers is something he vows to keep in the minds of future generations of Chicagoans. According to Daley, next June a World War II Dauntless Diver Plane will be placed on permanent display at Midway International Airport to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Midway.

The mayor, who took a moment to honor and support those stationed overseas, also addressed the current confrontation in Iraq. Daley said today's soldiers are facing a different kind of war than the World War II veterans.

"We have to remain vigilant at all times and be willing to fight, when necessary, to protect our freedoms," Daley said. "That's as true today as it was 62 years ago."

OFF THE BLOTTER

◆ Two 14-year-old males were taken into custody Dec. 2 at 10:41 p.m. for the unlawful possession of a handgun. The incident occurred on a CTA platform at 328 S. Dearborn St.

◆ A simple battery occurred on the street at 300 S. State St. on Dec. 3 at 3:49 a.m. No one has been taken into custody with this incident.

◆ A theft of more than \$300 occurred on the street at 333 S. Dearborn St. on Dec. 6 at 8:25 a.m. No one has been taken into custody.

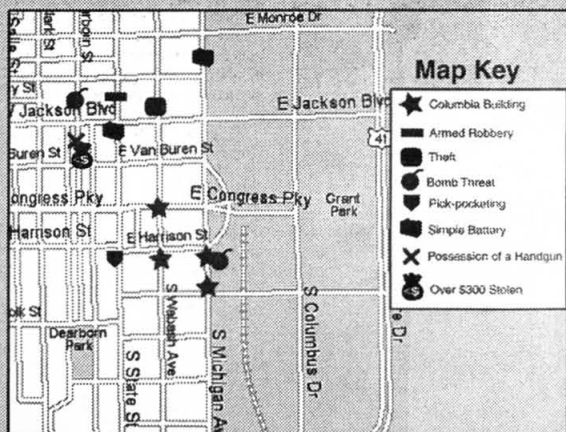
◆ A pickpocketing incident occurred Dec. 6 at 10:45 a.m. on the CTA Red Line platform at 600 S. State St. No one has been taken into custody in connection with this incident.

◆ A 25-year-old unidentified male was taken into custody Dec. 7 at 10 p.m. after an armed robbery with a firearm occurred on the street at 232 S. State St.

◆ A theft occurred Dec. 8 at 7:56 p.m. at the Wabash Food and Liquor, 234 S. Wabash Ave. No one was taken into custody in connection with this incident.

◆ A 47-year-old male of the \$200 block of South Drexel Avenue was taken into custody Dec. 1 at 7:51 p.m. for simple battery at 150 S. Michigan Ave.

—Compiled by Jennifer Golz



Ashleigh Pacetti/The Chronicle



Overflowing with toys



Joseph Kang/The Chronicle

Volunteers provided toys for the needy children of Chicago in the 26th Annual Chicagoland Toys for Tots Motorcycle Parade Dec. 7. The motorcade began at the Dan Ryan Forest Preserve and ended at the Marine Corps Reserve Center on Foster Avenue. Toys collected are distributed to hospitals, orphanages and schools where the need is the greatest.

Chicago remembers Pearl Harbor attacks

By Dominick Basta
Staff Writer

On a cold gray morning outside Navy Pier, a large crowd gathered in the rain to honor those who lost their lives 62 years earlier during the attack at Pearl Harbor. It was a solemn and respectful ceremony commemorating the brave men and women who gave their lives for the sake of the nation's, as well as the world's, freedom on Dec. 7, 1941.

The 7th Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony was held Dec. 6 at Navy Pier and was hosted by Mayor Richard M. Daley. The ceremony featured speakers Daley, Rear Adm. Dirk Debbink of the U.S. Naval Reserve, O.W. Foster, national president of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, David Kupcinet, grandson of the late Chicago Sun-Times columnist Irv Kupcinet, and Sidney Bick, a World War II U.S. Navy Veteran.

According to the Mayor's Office of Special Events and Jack Berry of the Pearl Harbor Association, organizers

of the event, the occasion demonstrates to Chicagoans the extent of what our nation's soldiers have forfeited for the sake of freedom.

A breakfast for veterans and their families was held prior to the ceremony.

The agenda opened with an invocation prayer and a posting of colors by U.S. Navy and Chicago Public Schools JROTC. Alderman James Balcer welcomed attendees and singled out the present servicemen and women for appreciation.

"The heroes of Pearl Harbor make us proud to be Americans," Balcer said.

Daley spoke about the importance of having such a day not only to remember those lives lost, but also to pass on direct, firsthand memories of the era. In addition, Daley said that honor and loyalty to our veterans shouldn't be limited by geography.

"Chicago is one of the few cities with a remembrance day for Pearl Harbor," Daley said. "I think every city in this country should have one to

stress the importance of what men and women have sacrificed for freedom and democracy."

Speaker O.W. Foster presented the mayor with a medallion for "continued loyalty and commitment to patriotism and veterans throughout Chicago."

"Pearl Harbor was the battle cry that awakened our nation," Foster said. "Today we bring back the honor to our comrades."

Keynote speaker Debbink, who has served in units all over the world and has received numerous honors, including the National Defense Medal and the Defense Superior Service Medal, addressed the veterans in attendance by applauding and thanking them for their courage at Pearl Harbor and in the war that followed. Debbink also described the parallels between Pearl Harbor and 9/11.

"Both Dec. 7, 1941 and Sept. 11, 2001 were cowardly attacks meant to snuff out our life and our freedoms," Debbink said. "We were victorious

See Pearl Harbor, Page 31

Near South plans for next 20 years

By Kwame Abasi Patterson
Associate Editor

Mixed feelings for the development of the proposed Near South Community Plan loomed over a Dec. 10 community meeting as residents became faced with the possibility of seeing high-rise buildings taller than 20 floors.

Hosted by the Historic Printers' Row Neighbors, the Chicago Department of Planning and Development presented a draft of the city's vision for the South Loop development over a 20-year period.

After a series of presentations throughout the Near South communities, the DPD hopes to solicit feedback from residents before the proposal is submitted for final approval in February 2004.

The Near South Community Plan suggests boosting residential housing, additional parks and green space, the expansion of retail and transit services, and according to some residents, the development of towering structures that will ultimately destroy historic neighborhoods.

Chicago currently has no limitation on the height of buildings according to Benet Haller, project manager for the DPD. However, in the plan, officials are hoping to put taller developments more northern and eastern of the Near South and shorter developments more south and west.

"Historic districts will remain as is with no tall buildings under city regulations, but we can't regulate parcels outside of historic districts," Haller said.

Buildings in Area 1 of the plan will range from one and two-story structures to 25-story buildings and higher. Additionally, the plan calls for taller buildings to run along Michigan Avenue, State Street between Balbo Avenue and 9th Street, Dearborn Street between Harrison and Polk streets, and parts of Congress Parkway.

"The further north you get [in the South Loop] we hope it mirrors the downtown area," Haller said.

HPRN President Leslie Gryce Sturino said residents are concerned

about "sandwiching" parcels for taller buildings between two historic districts, Printers' Row and Motors Row. However, the city and community must figure out a way to maintain the uniqueness of the districts while encouraging retail and residential growth in the community.

"You don't destroy one for the other, and you don't exclude one to keep the other," Sturino said.

Residents of Printers' Row have complained in the past that the 370-foot condominium development on South State Street will cover their vantage points of the Harold Washington Library and the rest of the Loop.

"The city wants to lower the height of the development and move it closer to the University Center, but it's not the city's property," said Terri Texley, deputy commissioner of the Central District of the DPD. "We tried to accomplish balance, but it's a struggle with developers in deciding height legislation."

Curtis Bolden, who has lived in the South Loop since 1991, believes some of his neighbors are not willing to accept growth and change, but growth in a city is unavoidable.

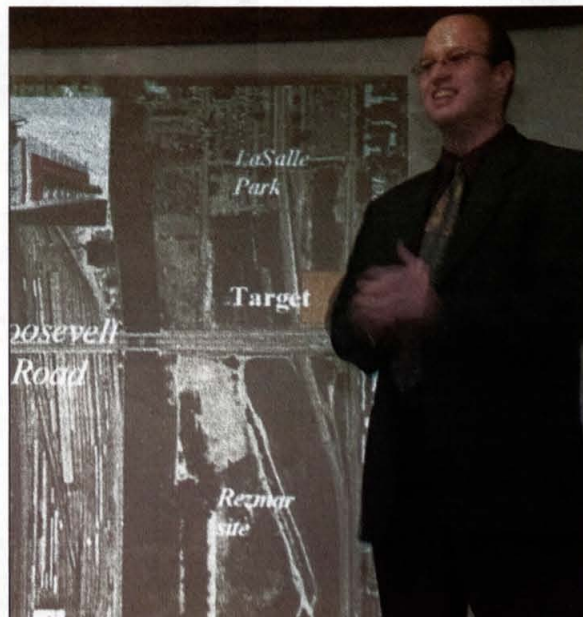
"I think the plan is super, even if a lot of people have problems with development. They have to realize this is a city not a suburb," Bolden said.

But the arrival of "big box" retail such as the future development of Target on Roosevelt Road concerns some residents. Marion Carow, who lives on Wells Street along River City, believes "big box" retail creates too much traffic for residents of the area.

"Target is a drive-to retail, not a walk-to. It's going to bring out hundreds of cars that won't have any parking lots," Carow said. "Where do you think these people will park?"

The South Loop residents still believe their neighborhood needs more retail and daytime foot traffic, according to Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson, president and executive Board.

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Joseph Kang/The Chronicle

Benet Haller helped develop the new draft of the Near South Community Plan which is designed to create growth with the South Loop.