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Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

Tight Columbia budget rules out tuition discount

○ Budget cuts, admission numbers make tuition discounting 'risky' for Columbia, officials say

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

When Becky Jans, a freshman photography student, decided to attend Columbia this fall, she knew going to a private arts school would be expensive. What she didn't realize was that once she came to Columbia, she wouldn't get any monetary assistance from the school to make it more affordable.

"They didn't give me any financial aid," she said. "It would have helped a lot with worrying about making bills."

Unlike students at many other private schools, Jans cannot take advantage of a financial aid option known as tuition discounting, which currently isn't offered at Columbia.

Although its definition varies among schools, tuition discounting usually results in a percentage of money subtracted from tuition for students with considerable financial need or merit.

Higher priced private schools use this institutional aid to ensure diversity on campus and to continue to make education affordable for as many people as possible.

Jans' parents are divorced, and she relies on her mom's income alone to help pay tuition. But in order to make ends meet, her mom has to take out loans in addition to those that remain outstanding from sending her other daughter to college.

If Columbia raises the cost of school anymore, Jans could have a harder time finding ways to stay at the school.

As tuition continues to rise beyond affordability for many students, administrators are questioning whether or not tuition discounting could help make college more affordable for students such as Jans.

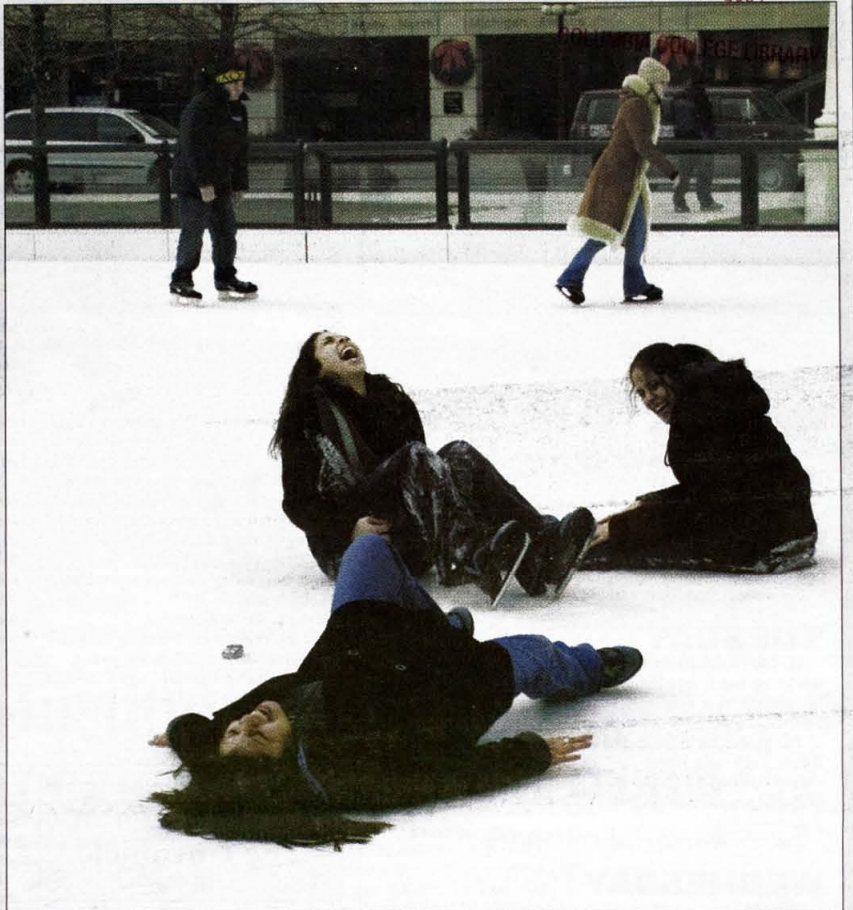
Last year, Columbia asked the College Council Budget and Priorities Committee to explore

See Tuition, Page 4

And they all fall down ...

RECEIVED

JAN 07 2004



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Three friends, Samantha (left to right), Christine and Amana, laugh at their spill on the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink at Millenium Park, 55 N. Michigan Ave. The rink will remain open through March 15. During the off season, the 15,910 square foot skating area is turned into an outdoor restaurant and activity area.

Columbia alumnus missing in Hawaii since November

○ Grad worked at college until early last year

By Chris Coates
Editor-in-Chief

A 2000 Columbia graduate and former associate director of the college's Science Visualization Lab is missing and feared dead after he disappeared off the coast of Hawaii in November.

Todd Ripplinger, 25, lived in Kihei, Hawaii and worked as an editor at a post-production house on the island state.

Ripplinger has been missing since Nov. 21, when he told his father he was planning to spend the morning surfing. However, the unexpected stormy conditions that Ripplinger faced were too advanced for his amateur skills, according to a friend.

He has not been heard from since. Police found Ripplinger's Volkswagen convertible in a parking lot in Lahaina, Hawaii—which sits along the beach. A day after he disappeared, Ripplinger's white long-board surfboard was discovered floating some 1,000 yards downstream of Lahaina.

Foul play is not suspected, according to a family member of Ripplinger's.

Until a body is recovered, the case is considered a missing persons investigation for up to seven years. Investigators suspect Ripplinger drowned.

A native of Rockford, Ill., Ripplinger left for Hawaii in February 2003 to work at a friend's start-up editing company, ProLook Productions.

Three weeks before his disappearance, Ripplinger started working at another post-production house about 40 miles from his home, according to his stepmother, Kathleen Ripplinger.

"We think he was probably [videotaping the ocean] when he decided to go surfing," Kathleen Ripplinger said.

The family has organized two memorials—one in Hawaii and one in Rockford—for their missing son. According to Kathleen Ripplinger, the family has come to terms with Todd's presumed death.

"They probably will not produce a body because he was swept away in the ocean," she said. "So there's nothing else we can do. We can presume."

But there is still hope, at least in Hawaii.

"I would like to think he is alive," said Matt Imhoff, a close friend and business partner of Ripplinger. "But without a body, there is no closure."

According to Imhoff, who calls himself an "avid surfer," he was the one who taught Ripplinger to surf soon after he arrived in Hawaii.

On Nov. 21, Imhoff said Lahaina experienced "one of the biggest storms we've had in 30 years"—conditions that were not conducive for surfing, especially for a beginner like Ripplinger.

"Todd had no right being in the water with his learning skills," he said.

See Hawaii, Page 3

You've got mail ... maybe

○ Columbia students living in college dormitory report missing letters

By Eric W. Alexy
Copy Editor

It was shortly after Halloween when David Ross, a Columbia freshman and resident of the 18 E. Congress Parkway Building, was expecting a check from his mother and a postcard from a friend back home in Tucson, Ariz. Ross, 18, a music composition major, never received either.

About a month later, Ross finally got an explanation.

"I misplaced my mail key," he said, "so I asked the guard at the front desk to open my [mailbox] for me, and I was told that my mailbox was one of the mailboxes that 'he' had gotten into." Ross added that he was later told by a security guard that his mail was among a large amount found opened and discarded in dumpsters located behind the building. At this time, Ross was told the discarded mail would be returned to him, if possible; it never was.

According to Thomas J.

Applegate, Hostelling International-Chicago executive director, Hostel employees don't have access to Columbia students' mail. The building's resident assistants are the only ones with such access, he said.

On Nov. 15, Hostel security officer Donald Dukes was arrested for stealing a package that was sent directly to the hostel, not to any Columbia student, said Applegate.

Brian Sturgulewski, an RA in the building, estimated that around half of the residents in the building have complained of mail problems. Still students are very vocal about it.

"It's just simply my understanding that we wouldn't have access to [student's postal mail]," Applegate said. "To make the assumption that this individual was stealing mail seems to be beyond at least what the procedures are. ... I'm concerned that there's a leap being made that can't be substantiated."

"The only mail that we receive is packages. We have a sign-in procedure, so we document the package

coming in and going out, and I guess that's why he went after one of our packages, because there's a paper trail for the Columbia College packages."

According to Chicago Police Department News Affair Sgt. Edward Alonzo, Dukes has been charged with the theft of a package containing a telephone. The investigation is ongoing, and Dukes will appear in court on Jan. 20.

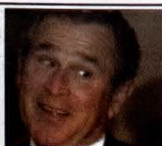
Building security officers and Jessica Trippy, a building RA and head of the building's mailroom, declined to comment on the issue.

Freshman Kyle Witt, a vocal performance major, said that after complaining to RAs about not receiving money from his mother, he was eventually told by them that the mail in question was most likely stolen and would not be returned.

"I was really mad about it," Witt said, "because I really needed the money at the time. There wasn't any-

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Inside this week



Commentary

Hey GWB, there's WMD in your old backyard ...

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A&E

Lordy, Lordy, Lordy The Rings times three

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City Beat

City comes down hard on Columbia neighbor

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Calendar: Jan. 5 - 9

MONDAY

"Consuming Nature" is in the Museum of Contemporary Photography in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The free exhibit examines the relationship between nature and man. It continues through Feb. 19.

For more information, call (312) 344-7104.

TUESDAY

The second installment of *A Room With a Skew*, three weeks of video installations created by Sculptural Media Images graduate students, begins today and runs through Thursday.

The videos included in this installment can be viewed in Room 1309 and Room 727 of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., and in Room 107 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Each exhibit opens at 4 p.m.

For more information, call (312) 344-7199.

WEDNESDAY

Jerri Allyn, 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 2 p.m. in Room 405 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Jane Canepa's Special Events class is sponsoring a silent auction to raise money for Hands, a not-for-profit deaf and hard of hearing advocacy organization.

The goal is to raise \$2,000 to be used toward Hands' first walk next year. The event is at 7 p.m. at Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. The event costs \$10 and includes food and drink specials.

For more information, call (312) 217-5263.

THURSDAY

An exhibition of work created by students in the Visual Environments class, a first semester core class of the Book and Paper Arts MFA program, opens in the C33 Space in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, 33 E. Congress Parkway.

The course examines the parallels in environments in book and other art forms including performance and costume.

The exhibit runs through Jan. 15.

FRIDAY

The proficiency exam that allows student to test out of the required Foundations of Computer Applications class is at 6 p.m. The test costs \$35 and students must score 80 percent or better overall and at least 75 percent on each of the sections.

Those students who pass the test and have the class waived are required to take another general education course to make up the credits.

For more information, call (312) 344-7526.

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

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Dec. 15 - 19 user poll results

Did you get your flu shot yet?
Yes: 29 percent No: 71 percent

Vote at ColumbiaChronicle.com



Chris Coates Editor-in-Chief

Stupid laws and shoveling snow

Don't even think about bowling in Evanston.

It's illegal. So is humming on Cicero's streets on Sundays.

Pronouncing Joliet "Jolly-ette" brings a \$5 fine.

And in Chicago, spitting on the ground is strictly prohibited. So is giving a dog a drink of whiskey.

Such are the ways of the legal system, where the books are revised at a slower pace than even the cogs of justice move.

To wit: until a few years ago, flying a kite in Chicago was technically illegal.

But more bizarre than unknown laws are legal loopholes that people erroneously think exist.

Such is the case with shoveling snow. Or not shoveling snow, for that matter.

For one, I've slipped on many a slick sidewalk. Most have been operator's error—I was walking too fast; I was carrying too many groceries; I was talking on the phone.

There's also a handful of cases when I was truly being cautious and the party to blame was clearly the owner of the sidewalk. Or so I contend.

In my experience, the most dangerous sidewalks crop up in the weeks after a massive snowfall, when the thin layers of flakes turn Chicago into a vast skating rink.

Other than old man winter, I can

only blame one entity: sidewalk owners.

In the case of most sidewalks, the city is the owner. If a crack develops, the city fixes it. If a tree uproots it, the city fixes it. If a water main breaks down the street and they have to dig, it's the city that fixes the sidewalk.

The city takes care of pretty much everything when it comes to sidewalks. Except shoveling.

That's when it's up to the homeowners to dig, shovel and salt the ice, sleet and snow away. It's backbreaking work.

According to an October study published in *The American Journal of Cardiology*, cases of sudden cardiac death increase in the weeks immediately following major snowstorms.

Then again, if you decide not to shovel the walk, falling down can cause some pretty serious injuries, too. And the falling party can sue.

It's a key reason—actually, the only reason—the state requires property owners to shovel their walkways. In some places with a lot of annual snow, folks who don't shovel can get sued.

Olga Friesen, a 69-year-old Edmonton, Alberta, resident, refused to shovel her walk and went to jail. She said the law was unfair.

I can almost respect that.

But it's still a law.

Apparently, that's not ringing true with some property owners, some of whom wrongfully believe that shovel-

ing snow off the front stoop opens up the possibility of a lawsuit if someone were to fall.

If you do a bad job shoveling, you can be sued, pretty much.

It's a farce.

In 1999, the Illinois House of Representatives amended a bill that granted immunity for any property owner that at least tried to shovel some snow.

Contrary to popular lore, such shoveling didn't make the shoveler a willing participant. In fact, if a homeowner makes an attempt to shovel, they are actually less likely to get sued.

"The General Assembly," read House Bill No. 2465, "therefore, determines that it is undesirable for any person to be found liable for damages due to his or her efforts in the removal of snow or ice from such property for acts which amount to clear wrongdoing."

But still, it seems most neighborhood sidewalks go unswep.

Where did common courtesy go? Maybe it's the season.

In Chicago—which is akin to the arctic tundra during the winter months—every man and woman is apparently on his or her own.

This must be the same mentality of the people who "save" parking spots on Chicago's streets with lawn furniture when it snows.

They should really make a law against that.

—ccoates@chroniclemail.com

14 years ago in The Chronicle

"Book saga continues" tops the front page of the Jan. 9, 1989 edition of *The Chronicle*. The article raises questions about how the college's bookstore determines which books receive which rebates.

Some students reported a 90 percent depreciation rate for books purchased from Columbia's bookstore, which was then housed in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

"I never have and never will sell my books back to the bookstore," said one student.

Today, the bookstore is located on the first floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave.

Announcements

Can we have time off, too?

■ Sabbatical Policies and Procedures: Recommendations from the 2003-2004 Sabbatical Committee document is available on the College Council website.

To view the document visit <http://webx.colum.edu>.

Students win scholarships

■ Two Columbia students garnered scholarships at the Chicago Emmy Awards held Dec. 1.

Matthew Till, a senior television student, won the John and Ann Drury Scholarship.

Till is an executive producer of Frequency TV and a recipient of Columbia's Senior Showcase Award.

Wen Tung, a broadcast journalism graduate student, won the Tom Skilling Scholarship.

She is a member of the Graduate Student Advisory Board and received Columbia's Dwight Follett Fellowship.

All A's please

■ An online grading party is on Jan.

23 at 1 p.m. for faculty and staff members unfamiliar with OASIS' online grading tools. Refreshments will be served.

For those who cannot make this workshop, two others are scheduled: one on Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. and another on Jan. 14 at 10 a.m.

All workshops are held in Room 416 of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Calling all alumni

■ A survey sponsored by the school for Columbia alumni is available to take online at www.onlinewithtmp.com/surveys/28X6ER.

The college is looking for opinions about experiences at Columbia.

Those who respond will be entered into a raffle to win prizes such as dinner at the opera, Columbia gear, personalized wine bottles and a copy of *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Columbia's own Audrey Niffenegger.

Curl up with a book

■ *Hidden Place*, a new novel by Fiction Writing Department faculty member Shawn Shiflett will be in bookstores in January.

It can currently be ordered from Akashic Books for \$14.95 at www.akashicbooks.com.

The first chapter is available for reading on the website.

Thanks for the help

■ The Alumni Scholarship Fund Campaign 2004 has raised \$22,900 to date.

The goal for the fiscal year is \$100,000.

All of the money raised goes to students.

Exhibit opening

■ Part-time instructor Jesus Macarena-Avila's new exhibit opens at Polvo Art Studio, 1458 W. 18th St., on Jan. 9 at 6 p.m.

The installation examines race and class and uses nontraditional materials such as bubble wrap and vinyl.

In addition, a panel discussion titled "Formal Concerns?: Dealing With Race and Class in Contemporary Art Practice" is scheduled for Jan. 10 at 3 p.m.

The exhibit runs through Feb. 6.

Just a friendly reminder

■ Early registration for the spring 2004 semester ends Jan. 16.

Students must receive faculty clearance before registering.

All students may register, but those with a negative account balance of more than \$500 will have their classes voided on Jan. 16.

News from South America

■ RoseAnna Mueller, a Liberal Education Department faculty member living in Venezuela on a Fulbright Fellowship, posted a new message concerning pensions on the Center for Teaching Excellence website at <http://cte.colum.edu>.

Be in pictures

■ The Television Department is looking for former or current students in the Los Angeles area to be in promotional photographs for a February 2004 brochure. The photo shoot is scheduled for the morning of Jan. 14.

For more information, e-mail aprijatel@colum.edu.

Alumnus note

■ Columbia College alumnus Brian Kalata is scheduled to work on the new film *Monster-in-Law* starring Jennifer Lopez and Jane Fonda.

Kalata wrote the indie flick *Dinner Rush*, starring Danny Aiello.

Submission call

■ Submissions are needed for a new exhibit in the Robert Morris College Gallery, 401 S. State St.

"Sports Seen Through the Arts" is scheduled to open Feb. 20, 2004. The show will feature artwork inspired by sports.

All artists must be students enrolled in a Chicago area college or university and no artist can submit more than three entries.

There is no entry fee and artist selected will be awarded \$150. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 16.

For more information, call (312) 935-6050.

College hopes to cash in on rooftop renters

○ TV, cell phone towers top campus buildings

By Kwame Abasi Patterson
Associate Editor

Money doesn't grow on trees, but apparently it grows on rooftops. In an effort to increase school funding, Columbia offers commercial communication companies rental space atop its tallest building, the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. Currently the only taker is T-Mobile Communications, as its equipment has remained alone on top of the center for the last six months.

Columbia charges the cellular phone company \$1,800 a month to rent space for its antenna, and according to school officials, the money goes toward general funds at the school, such as repairs and upkeep.

AT&T used to rent rooftop space from Columbia, but in June 2003, it left for a better location. Torco Oil also used Columbia's rooftop as advertisement space. However, the company went bankrupt two years ago and can no longer pay the \$575 a month charge for the display.

Vice President of Facilities and Operations Michael Debish said even though companies don't pay large amounts of money for space, the school would still like to see more of them utilizing the rooftops.

Columbia, however, has no control over soliciting its real estate to this industry, according to Debish.

"It's because of a 'we'll call you; don't call us' relationship with companies," he said. Communication companies tend to use technical engineers to find the best locations to place their antennas. Unfortunately for Columbia, Michigan Avenue rooftops are no longer viewed as a prime location.

"Our rooftops aren't that attractive [to cellular companies] anymore," Debish said.

Since Columbia's tallest building is located on Michigan Avenue, a service antenna would not be able to reach 360 degrees of communication

customers.

To the north of the Alexandroff Campus Center are taller buildings that could block signals. And to the east of the center, signals flow over Lake Michigan. Additionally, recent technology has made it cheaper for companies to erect a single antenna on top of the city's tallest buildings, such as the Sears Tower or the John Hancock.

Since the creation of digital service, many communication companies no longer resort to scattering antennas throughout city rooftops. Instead they use one antenna that sends signals out over thousands of miles.

"In the old days, rooftops were at a premium for these companies," Debish said. "They don't need us middle guys now."

As for billboard advertisements, Debish said the school isn't out to sell space on the top or sides of buildings to private advertisers. He said any signage located on school property would be dedicated only to school advertisements. However, Debish said he wouldn't do that because billboards become an eyesore for the neighborhood.

Surprisingly, Columbia does not have any jurisdiction over the billboard on the south side of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The previous owners of the Wabash Campus Building still have a standing rental agreement with the billboard owners. Therefore, Columbia does not make any profits from the ads, according to Debish.

In an effort to provide wireless Internet service to residents at 2 E. 8th St., an Internet service provider approached Columbia in October in hopes of placing an antenna on top of the Residence Center, 731 Plymouth Court. However, owners of 2 E. 8th St. elected not to purchase the service. Meanwhile, Columbia officials said they still hope others will request use of their rooftops in the future.

Checks for charity



The Student Government Association presents a \$1,000 check to the Greater Chicago Food Depository during a food drive sponsored by WCRX-FM and the radio department.

Charles Kushner/The Chronicle

Institutional health care costs peak with national trend

By Jeff Dana and Scotty Carlson
Staff Writers

The costs of the college's new employee health insurance plan for 2004 has been passed on to Columbia's students, according to college officials.

Following a national trend, the cost of insurance at Columbia has increased by approximately 12 percent, or \$200,000, for the new year.

An annual increase in health insurance costs is typical, yet a larger-than-average increase was anticipated in September, which is the beginning of Columbia's 2003-2004 fiscal year, according to Mark Lloyd, Columbia's assistant vice president of communication and marketing.

These rising health insurance costs were covered at the beginning of the current fiscal year, thanks to a tuition increase.

As a result, health insurance premiums will not increase for faculty and staff, Lloyd said.

"To ask people to pay more for health insurance when we, in fact, reduced the quality of our retirement benefit was perceived as being too much to do in one year," Lloyd said, referring to the college's new pension plan.

In September, Columbia developed the retirement plan after the original was frozen due to a \$9 million deficit in the pension fund.

○ Faculty health care plan

Currently, Columbia offers two health care plans for full-time faculty and staff. The Columbia College Comprehensive Health Plan, a preferred provider organization, allows employees to pay premiums of \$300 per year for single coverage and \$600 per year for family coverage, while Columbia's Blue Cross/Blue Shield HMO plan offers single coverage for \$99 per month and family coverage for \$260 per month.

Comparatively, the University of

Illinois at Chicago, a public institution, offers employees a health care plan that offers single coverage for \$150 per month and coverage for two or more dependents for \$180 per month, and several HMO and open access plans for \$62 to \$87 per month for single coverage, and \$93 to \$132 per month for multiple dependent coverage.

Lloyd attributes the health insurance increase to a national "macro-economic phenomenon."

"Labor costs in [the] health care industry are going up and hospitals, doctors and medical professionals are passing along those costs through

Department, agrees with Shaw. She said Columbia is a "very tuition-driven school" and she said she can see why the insurance costs were passed on to students, but she still questions the decision.

"I don't know if it's a good thing," McDonald-Badger said. "But students should be made more aware [of the costs]."

○ Student health care

Meanwhile, health care costs for students at area colleges and universities are also increasing, officials said.

Officials from DePaul and Roosevelt universities, which contract insurance from the same provider, confirmed that the premiums of both of their voluntary student health care plans have increased for the new year.

"We go through a renewal process annually and try to find the best rates for students with adequate coverage," said Tanya Woltmann, assistant vice president of the office of registrar at Roosevelt. "We try to keep our increases to no more than 10 percent, but it is a challenge."

Since most students are already covered by their parents' policies, university health plans in schools across the nation often have extremely low enrollment, and South Loop area schools are no exception. The number of students annually enrolled in DePaul's health plan is fewer than 1,000. For Roosevelt, the numbers are even less: 100 domestic students and 200 international students annually. Continued low enrollments in the health plans could spell the end for student coverage.

"It's not something I have to concern myself with," said Columbia junior Maxwell Cuprys. "Whether it's there or not, I'll more than likely have it from my family."

Other students hold that the insurance plan does not fit their needs. Freshman Dana Pikowitz receives

"I don't know if it's a good thing—but students should be made more aware [of the costs]."

—Mary McDonald-Badger,
producing director at Columbia

Hawaii *Continued from Front Page*

As for now, Imhoff said he would continue assisting police in helping look for his friend.

Imhoff said he has scoured the Lahaina coastline, diving deep into the ocean looking for any sign of Ripplinger.

"I'm just trying to find a friend," he said.

At Columbia, Ripplinger worked as a tutor at the Science Institute's Science Visualization Lab, eventually grabbing awards for his animation projects that focused on science and math.

He graduated in 2000 from Columbia with a degree in television before moving to Japan to teach English to elementary school children.

According to his stepmother, Ripplinger recently became engaged to a native Japanese woman.

In May 2002, he returned to the United States and became assistant director of Science Visualization Lab, where he networked the computers, authored DVDs and worked closely to link student media with science and math.

"He was always dependable," said David Morton, the director of the lab. Morton, who knew Ripplinger as a student, said he heard of the disappearance in early December.

"He was the one guy I never thought anything would happen to," he said.

city beat
a&e
commentary
campus

Radio station slam dunks with Flames broadcasts

By Dominick Basta
Staff Writer

Columbia's campus radio station, WCRX-FM, has had a laundry list of successful, award-winning programs, from news to music to talk.

But until this fall, it was missing a staple of the radio airwaves: live sports.

Cheryl Morton-Langston, the campus radio station's director, wanted to develop a play-by-play sportscast by Columbia's students.

"It was an absolutely great idea for us," Morton-Langston said. "[The department] envisioned it as an up close and personal event with real-world, on-air and technical experience[s]."

However, Columbia has only a handful of teams, none of which play in the arenas that offer the experience of a real-world professional sports game.

The solution, it turned out, was just down the street from Columbia.

Since November, WCRX-FM has broadcast select University of Illinois at Chicago Flames men's and women's basketball games from the Pavilion arena, less than five miles up Harrison Street from Columbia's campus.

The college plans to air eight UIC games through February.

All of the broadcasts include pre-game and post-game shows, along with play-by-play by two color commentators from Columbia.

Along with the on-air talent, the broadcast team is made up of a handful of students, who rotate jobs for each

game.

"Everyone uses the equipment and gets a crack at everything," said Phil Zuber, a junior radio student and one of nine Flames' commentators. Tasks include interviewing coaches and players, coordinating highlight footage and producing the entire broadcast, according to Zuber.

"It's definitely a great experience."

That experience—according to senior radio major Dan Levy—is part of the appeal of the station's new program.

"It's one thing when someone tells you in a class how to do play-by-play," said Levy. "But when you do it for real and you do it right ... it really opens up the idea that, well, maybe this is what I was meant to pursue."

Along with the live broadcast, Scott Baumgartner hosts "Sports Underground" from WCRX-FM's studios in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, 33 E. Congress Parkway, on Wednesday nights.

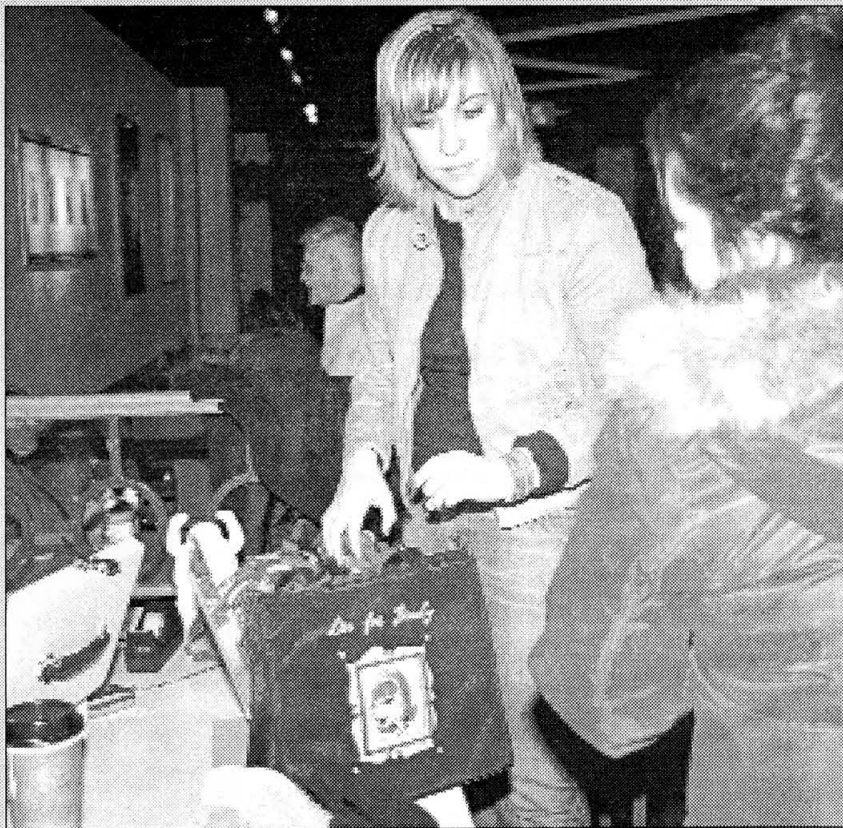
According to Morton-Langston, the show has a strong UIC and Columbia following.

As for next year, Morton-Langston said she'd like to see Columbia expand its coverage to baseball and hockey games. She's also looking for some diversity in the all-male announcers' booth.

"There are lots of women who are interested," she said. "We'll find them next year."

—Chris Coates contributed to this report

The gift of fashion ...



Heather Morrison/The Chronicle

Senior Christy Gomez buys a gift from Shelby Kimlick during the Columbia College Fashion Association's fund-raiser Dec. 16 in the Hokin Annex.

Mail *Continued from Front Page*

thing I could do about it."

Although Laurie Hartung, sophomore music major, only lost a card from a friend, she said she was "really pissed. Someone sends you a card—you want to read it."

Janel Benisch, a 19-year-old sophomore theater major, said that she and all three of her roommates reported missing mail, including one roommate who lost a \$350 check. A cable bill, two bank statements and three cards, which included \$50 in cash, also never arrived, she reported. The incidents took place in October.

"Because my bank is [out of state]," Benisch said, "I rely on getting money sent to me ... so then I didn't have any cash and I could only write a check for something, and some places don't take checks."

Benisch said that after receiving no from Residence Life, the building's RAs eventually came to her room and informed her that one of the building's security guards had been stealing students' mail, and that he was looking for "packages and cards that were from mom ... hand-

written, stickers, something like that."

She said she hasn't noticed any additional mail problems recently.

Sturgulewski confirmed that, during room inspections, another RA told some students that "somebody in the building" might have stolen their mail. He added that "nobody higher up" has told him anything regarding the mail situation.

Kelli Collins, associate director of Residence Life, was unaware of such a problem in the building. She said that if RAs had passed such information on to students, they were not told to do so by Residence Life staff.

"My information is that we had one package [stolen]," Applegate explained. "It was on [video] tape, and we took action immediately. It doesn't make sense, because he wouldn't have access to the mail."

"I wonder if some of the answers to the questions by the security staff have maybe not been entirely accurate and may have caused some more concern than was warranted."

Of the incident, which Ross deemed an invasion of privacy, he said, "I was shocked to find out that someone I had put my trust in would take advantage of me like that."

"I know [the security guard] lost his job. I think that's the only way you can handle it. ... I hope that security guards in the future are more responsible and more trustworthy."

Mary Oakes, director of Residence Life, said that Columbia currently has no plans to change the mailroom setup in the hostel, and that the current investigation is not in Columbia's hands.

Of Dukes' apprehension, Applegate said that they checked the building's security cameras after a package they were awaiting never arrived.

"We saw him on tape pulling apart a package that was addressed to the hostel," he added.

Dukes was employed at the Hostel "for a couple of months," according to Applegate. He said that to his knowledge there had been no previous problems with Dukes.

Tuition *Continued from Front Page*

tuition discounting. The committee reported back through an interim report that the school's tight budget and shaky admission numbers make this option unrealistic for Columbia right now.

"As a tuition-driven institution, we are already walking a fine line between fiscal stability and vulnerability to current market forces," the report, presented in December to the College Council, read.

The committee said its initial research showed that tuition discounting is not only a risky endeavor for Columbia, but also that it monetarily hurts other institutions that provided this type of aid.

Although tuition discounting helped the colleges to effectively attract new, first-year students, the schools couldn't retain those students who used the aid until graduation.

"Affordability is the main subject under which all this falls," said Peter Hartel, a full-time Film Department faculty member at Columbia and the chair of the Budget and Priorities Committee. "And it is of utmost concern to the committee and to the administration."

Hartel told The Chronicle that the committee's recommendation not to implement tuition discounting was only the first part of research regarding the matter.

He said the college sympathizes with the student body about tuition costs and Columbia's need for diversity. Hartel is a Columbia alumnus.

Due to a slight drop in enrollment this year, Columbia is vulnerable, and it just isn't ready to cut down tuition costs for some students, he said.

"What we're looking at now is other ways of being able to offer affordability to students," he said.

Justin Kulovsek, Columbia's Student Government Association president, said that he's ready to see an institutional solution to affordability now.

Kulovsek said that during his time at the school, he has seen a decrease

in diversity, an element of the institution that Columbia continues to take pride in.

"It has always been part of our mission to create a completely diverse campus," he said. "But with rising tuition, we're losing that part of our mission. We might as well get rid of it."

According to Columbia's Office of Institutional Planning and Research, the number of minority students decreased since 1999.

During the 1999 fall semester, African American and Hispanic students respectively made up 20 and 11 percent of Columbia's population.

This past fall, although the number of Hispanic students remained stagnant, the percentage of African-Americans dropped to 16 percent.

"It troubles me to know that many schools are offering tuition discounting and Columbia is not," Kulovsek said. "It's unacceptable for us not to offer students some sort of institutional aid."

According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, tuition discounting for nonprofit, private colleges like Columbia rose to 29 percent in 2000, up from 21 percent in 1999.

Tuition discounting is a touchy issue for a lot of schools, according to Ronald Gage Allan, the assistant

to the dean for research and data services at Georgetown University.

"Although it is more properly viewed as a tool for enrollment planning and financial management, many are reluctant to discuss openly the subject and its impact on higher education," Allan wrote in a 2002 article called "A Background Briefing on Tuition Discounting."

In the report, he stressed that no difference exists among financial aid, tuition discounting and institutional aid because they're all the same.

Allan told The Chronicle that in recent years, colleges throughout the United States have been competing with one another in terms of how many discounts they offer.

The two major problems with tuition discounting, he said, are how school and university financial aid departments describe discounting and how much money is actually "being given away" to students.

Both of those things remain to be issues of concern for Columbia administrators, as they continue to worry about the affordability of education for their students.

Hartel said his committee hopes to submit a revised version of its tuition discounting report to the school by spring.

Health *Continued from Page 3*

military insurance through her father, and said that Columbia's plan would have been a giant step down for her.

"We looked into it, and I didn't really like what I saw," said Pikowitz. "Under mine, I don't have to pay for much of anything."

Cindy Summers of DePaul University's Student Affairs office said an insurance carrier would have foreseen such a low turnout, especially at colleges and would compensate not by denying coverage but by raising the premiums.

At some point in that situation, however, it is possible that the insur-

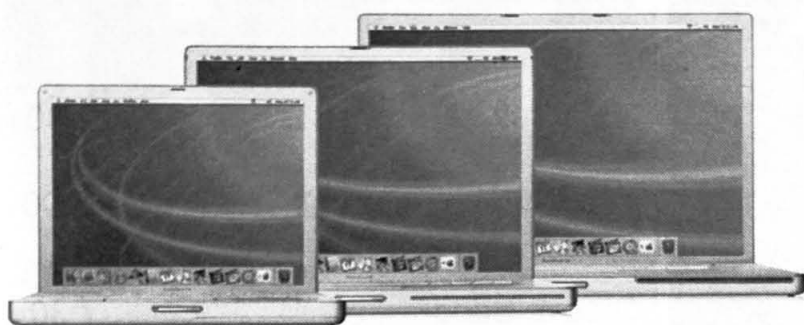
ance carrier could raise costs so high that they would be an exorbitant price, Summers said.

According to Woltmann, those scenarios are possible, but not probable.

"There is always a chance that an insurance carrier won't offer coverage to an institution with low enrollment," Woltmann said. "Like any business, if the insurance carrier is paying claim amounts that are higher than the premiums they receive, then they could not operate, which is why policy rates are increasing across the country."



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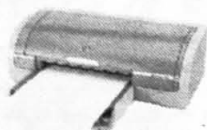
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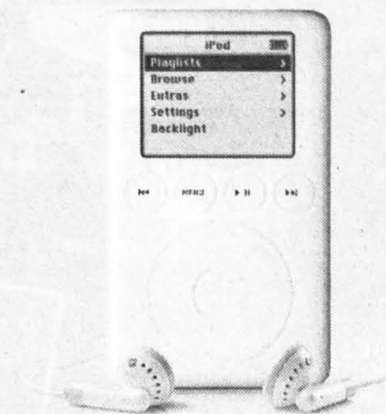
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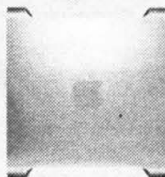
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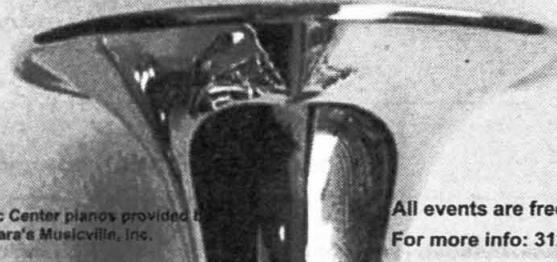
Jazz Combo Fest  3:00 PM
Student chamber jazz ensembles perform classic transcriptions and jazz standards

Groove Band 7:30 PM
Student rock/fusion ensemble performs eclectic selections

Wed. Jan. 7
Classical Guitar Concert  12:30 PM
Students perform solo and duet works for classical guitar

Columbia College Jazz Ensemble 7:30 PM
Student jazz ensemble performs big band music

Thurs. Jan. 8
New Music Ensemble  3:00 PM
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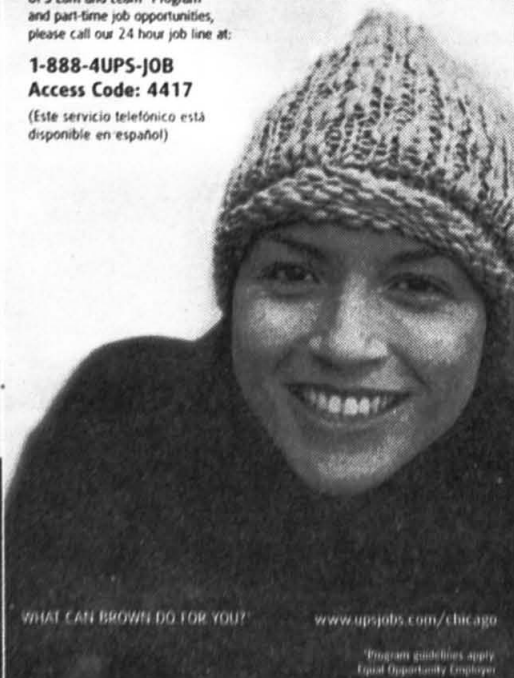
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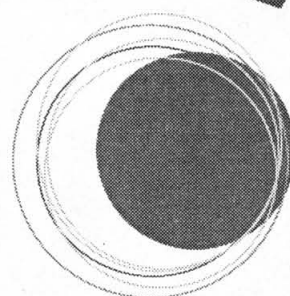
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Sponsored by the Office of Student Leadership

With the Fall semester almost over and a new semester about to begin, Student Government is going to be more active in the Columbia community. Now that the balls are rolling and the committees have been meeting, expect to see a bigger SGA presence around campus. We are here to help the community and affect as many students in a positive way as we can. A few things SGA is working on right now include: a Community Celebration with a Mardi Gras theme taking place on Fat Tuesday (in conjunction with Student Organizations Council), the start of a shuttle service for Columbia students only, working with C-Spot, a new office in charge of beautifying the school (mainly in the form of murals), as well as pushing to get the items on our Amenities Proposal from paper to reality. SGA is committed to helping our school, and our biggest goal for the Spring semester is to prove it.

-SGA Public Relations Committee

Contact Information

E-mail: sga@colum.edu
 Phone: 312-344-6657
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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
- Committee meeting and times
 - o Senators must find out when and where their committees will be meeting next semester
 - o Public Relations needs to know ASAP to help get the word out so other students can come
- Radio Food Drive
 - o As a reminder, we are presenting the Greater Chicago Food Depository with \$1000 at noon on Dec. 18
 - o The President of the College will be there as well at noon
- State of the College Address
 - o President of SGA, Justin Kulovsek, has a meeting with Dr. Carter right after break to talk about the address as well as Vice President open forums following
- IBHE-SAC Report
 - o Mike Gallo, Art and Design Senator has written a report on what was talked about at the last IBHE-SAC meeting, it was approved by the Senate to give to the Administration

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

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR NEW SGA INITIATIVES AROUND SCHOOL

WANT TO GET INVOLVED? LOOK FOR POSTERS AND FLIERS ABOUT JOINING AN SGA COMMITTEE!!! ALL STUDENTS ARE WELCOME!

GOVERNING ADVICE
 "Pa Rum Pum Pum Pum"

SENATOR SPOTLIGHT



Hey Guys! My name is Maggie Ness and I am Broadcast Journalism major. I am a sophomore representing Student Government Association as a Residence Hall Association senator. I have been a resident here at Columbia College Chicago for the past two years and this year have taken on the position of RHA President. I am excited to be joining SGA and am looking forward to a great year!

Thanks!
 Maggie Ness

GLOSSARY

RHA: Residence Hall Association

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, 800 S. Michigan) or return to the SGA Office

The dark side of college life

○ Students cope with academic pressure, depression and suicide



C.W. Griffith/Miami Herald

Psychologist Veronica Dumas, left, on staff at the University of Miami's Counseling Center, sits with COPE members Peter Maki and Ashley Tift in Miami last month. The center organizes events to bridge the gap between students and counselors at the university as the number of students dealing with mental health issues increases.

By Daniela Lamas
Knight Ridder Newspapers

MIAMI—Caitlin Stork tried to kill herself the first time when she was 15. She was hospitalized, discharged and attempted suicide again.

The doctors diagnosed depression and put her on Paxil. It wasn't until the drug drove her into a manic state that she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder, and prescribed lithium.

Stork is now a senior at Harvard University, still taking the mood-stabilizing lithium and the anti-psychotic Seroquel.

"You would never believe how much I can hide from you," Stork wrote for a campus display on mental health. "I'm a Harvard student like any other; I take notes during lecture, goof off ... but I never let on how much I hurt."

Stork is one of a growing number of college students coping with mental illness. More students with more serious problems are using campus mental health centers than ever

before. The number of depressed students seeking help doubled from 1989 to 2001, according to one study, and those with suicidal tendencies tripled during the same period.

Suicide is the second leading killer of college students—with an estimated 7.5 deaths per 100,000 students every year, according to a study of Big 10 campuses from 1980 to 1990. Three New York University undergrads died in three separate apparent suicides this fall.

It's a complicated landscape, where it's easier to find blame than answers. Doctors and students point to increased academic pressure, starting at a much earlier age. In addition, there's easy access to drugs and alcohol in a culture where stress is the norm and sleepless nights a badge of honor.

Students with serious mental illness also are getting diagnosed and medicated earlier. As such, some young adults like Stork, can make it to college, while they might not have years earlier.

Colleges acknowledge this is a hot issue. With limited funds, they've hired more psychiatrists, stepped up hours at counseling centers, instituted outreach programs throughout the campus and instructed teachers to watch students during exam times.

"Around this time, it's very, very hard, but we don't turn people away," said Florida State University's counseling center director, Dr. Anika Fields, who called the weeks before first-semester exams "crunch period."

But critics say colleges need to do more. There's little evidence of which interventions work best, stigma still surrounds mental illness, and students describe a disconnect between counseling centers and the campus population.

Many schools simply aren't ready, Stork said: "The science is advancing faster than the universities."

For students without diagnosed mental illness, it's still hard to recognize whether problems exist, and to ask for help. Having more counselors

See **Mental Health**, Page 9

Big bucks for campus books

○ Some students pay upward of \$500 for books

By Jessie Bonner
Idaho Argonaut (U. Idaho)

(U-WIRE) MOSCOW, Idaho—University of Idaho students might find themselves in shorter lines at the UI Bookstore next semester following the launch of several local websites dedicated to selling textbooks at lower rates.

One particular website, www.moscowbooks.com, is growing in popularity. The student-run website currently lists more than 300 textbooks for sale by local UI students in Moscow, Idaho.

UI Bookstore officials, however, say the sites are not necessarily the best way for students to save money.

Manager Peg Godwin said students are at greater risk of losing money when they use these sites to buy books from other students.

"If you're not careful, [you] could be buying the wrong edition," Godwin said.

Although UI students have been buying textbooks online for years, Godwin said employees working at the UI Bookstore became concerned when an e-mail announcing the launch of www.moscowbooks.com was recently sent to UI students.

Godwin said student employees did not agree with how the bookstore was portrayed in the e-mail.

"The tone was not particularly nice," Godwin said.

The e-mail referred to the UI Bookstore as an unnecessary "middleman," and urged students to sell their books directly to each other by listing them on the site.

Ironically, Godwin said the site was made possible because of textbook information provided on the UI Bookstore site.

Amaia Kirtland, a junior majoring in political science, pays nearly \$600 each semester at the UI Bookstore. Kirtland said she would like to see more student organizations take part in helping students find cheaper textbooks.

"There's no reason why we shouldn't have a giant book swap," Kirtland said.

See **Books**, Page 9

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

How does Columbia's bookstore stack up against other campuses?

E-mail us:
Chronicle@colum.edu

Survey says: looks matter

By Gwenn Miller
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Question No. 1: On a scale of one to 10, how effective was your professor?

Question No. 2: On a scale of one to 10, how would you rate your professor's looks?

Think the second question is outrageous? Well, it is. It would never appear on a student evaluation of a professor.

But that doesn't mean it's not a factor worth considering as Pennsylvania State University students fill out Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness forms this week.

In a recent study, two researchers at the University of Texas at Austin concluded that more attractive professors outscored their more homely colleagues on teaching evaluations.

Daniel Hamermesh, professor of economics, and one of his students, Amy Parker, asked students to look at photographs of 94 professors and rate their looks. They compared the ratings with average student evaluation scores for the courses those professors taught.

The researchers found that the professors who rated high in the looks category were also rated better teachers than less-attractive professors, by almost a point. According to an October article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, that's a substantial difference.

Reviews of the study are mixed. Robert Secor, vice provost for academic affairs at Penn State, said the university's own research found that the biggest indicator of student evaluations was how much they learned from the course.

"The more the students felt they learned, the higher the scores," Secor said.

Susan Basow, the Charles A. Dana professor of psychology at Lafayette College, said non-traditional professors—women, minorities—are judged more critically.

"The findings don't surprise me in

the sense that there's a long psychological history of attractiveness mattering in lots of things," Basow said.

It matters so much that entire websites are devoted to evaluating professors. RateMyProfessor.com allows students to rate teaching effectiveness and professor's looks (depicted by a chili pepper if they are deemed "hot").

Kimberly Rodgers, a Penn State assistant professor of finance, was one professor whose name appeared on the site. She said reasonable people will reject Internet-posted evaluations.

"The notion of correlating instructor appearance with effective teaching strikes me as nonsensical," Rodgers said.

As superficial as the study (and the website) might sound, student evaluations can have serious implications for faculty. Tenure-track faculty at Penn State are ultimately judged in three categories to get tenure—research, service and teaching. In other words, student ratings count.

Secor said the university wants to make the right promotion and tenure decisions. And to do that, Penn State must get student input as a measurement.

Basow said biases do affect evaluations and aren't pure measures of teaching effectiveness or competence.

"It's not that students' opinions aren't useful, but they shouldn't be the sole measures of teaching effectiveness," Basow said.

Senior Melissa DiCarlo said it matters whether a professor can keep her awake in class, not their looks.

Other students agree. Senior Maria Sansone said it's important that professors care about what they teach.

Nick Magnini, a senior, said first impressions are big, but only at first.

"If your teacher's a slob, you'll be like, 'What's going on here?'" Magnini said. "In the end, after a few weeks, it comes down to what you learn. Looks only go so far, like everything else in life."

Briefly ... news from college campuses across the country

● UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

University of Colorado-area police are becoming concerned that violent behavior at local gatherings is becoming a trend in Boulder, Colo. Police point to a shooting Dec. 13 at a Boulder party that injured CU basketball player Chris Copeland.

The alleged shooters, who witnesses described as "unwanted guests," fired 15 shots into a Boulder apartment early Dec. 7 after residents asked some of the 100-plus party guests to leave.

In September, an unwanted guest at a CU fraternity house party reportedly brandished a silver gun and threatened attendees. On Nov. 27, an unwanted guest allegedly threw a man down a flight of stairs at another CU-area party.

● UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Freshmen applying to the University of Texas at Austin as early as fall 2005 will be evaluated under new criteria including race and ethnicity, UT administrators said Dec. 8.

UT System officials told Provost Sheldon Ekland-Olson on Dec. 8 that he could announce that race will be a factor in applicant evaluations next year, said UT President Larry Faulkner.

"They have not yet approved the details of the proposals," Ekland-Olson said. "They have approved the announcement that race will be taken into account in holistic and individualistic assessments of filings."

A provision in the Texas Education Code requires universities to publicize changes to admissions criteria a year before they can be implemented.

● MINOT STATE

A weekend brawl may have ended the hockey rivalry between Minot State and Minot State University-Bottineau.

The Minot State Beavers and the MSU-Bottineau Lumberjacks have had confrontational outings before. On Dec. 13, the bad blood boiled over into a game-ending skirmish.

As many as 13 players were on the ice exchanging punches in the second period with Minot State holding a 4-0 lead.

The scuffle started when a Minot player was dumped into the Lumberjacks' net and got tangled up with Bottineau goalie Rob Hrabec.

Twenty-seven penalties were handed out, including 18 for the brawl. Twelve disqualifications were ordered, and MSU-Bottineau forfeited the game.

"It's definitely a black eye for college hockey in North Dakota," MSU-Bottineau coach Travis Rybchinski said. "I can't say either team is really to blame. It's just a sad day for hockey in North Dakota and between MSUs."

—From *Chronicle* wire reports

Supreme court case hits home at one Washington state college

○ Religious schools feel pinch as top court limits federal funding

By Nick Perry
The Seattle Times

Nestled on a grassy slope in a quiet Kirkland, Wash. neighborhood, Northwest College makes the modest claim to being the "most exciting Christian college on the east side of Seattle" on its website.

But right now the 70-year-old private college of 1,200 students may well be the most talked-about school in the nation, as the U.S. Supreme Court wrestles with the case brought by former student Joshua Davey of Spokane.

Davey sued the state of Washington when it rescinded a \$2,800 merit scholarship after he declared theology as his major. Since then, the lower courts have reached conflicting decisions on the church-state case known as *Locke v. Davey*, and the Supreme Court reportedly also is divided on the issue.

But while others argue, students at Davey's alma mater are one-sided in their support of him. During chapel, they hear regular updates on his case, then they pray for him. Davey himself called faculty members Dec. 2 to give a blow-by-blow account of the court process. Staff have also been preparing students for media interviews as the school has its moment in the limelight.

About 30 students who are studying for the ministry and who receive state scholarships have a direct financial stake in the outcome of the case.

David Conners, 20, a freshman studying pastoral ministries, said he receives about \$2,200 from a state need-based scholarship, helping toward his \$23,000 annual tuition-and-board cost. If Davey loses the case, Conners said, he'll lose the scholarship, but will find another way to finance his studies.

"I'm majoring in helping people

and helping the community," he said. "People pay counselors hundreds of dollars an hour, but I want to do something free of charge. I don't see why I shouldn't receive funds when I feel a calling to do that."

Sarah Kelly, 18, another freshman who receives a need-based scholarship, said, "I think they should treat all students the same, religion or not."

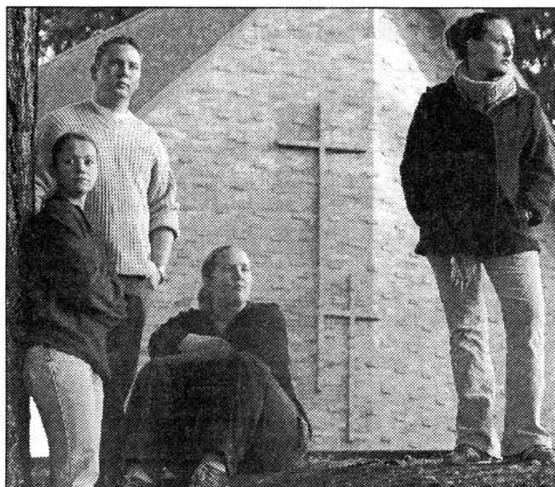
Davey enrolled at Northwest College, which is affiliated with the Assemblies of God, in 1999. The state granted him a two-year Promise Scholarship, awarded to low- and middle-income students with good grades, but later rescinded it. Davey sued and has pursued the case despite

abandoning his initial career choice in favor of Harvard Law School.

Like 36 other states, Washington bans government funding of religious instruction. Opponents of the case argue funding students such as Davey violates state law.

But to Christianna Woods, an 18-year-old freshman who also gets a state need-based scholarship, the case is a lesson for life. Davey is pursuing the matter not to benefit himself, but for the larger good of society, she said.

"I would never be able to do something like that. He has a lot of courage," Woods said. "I think he's pretty cool for doing this."



Jimi Lott/The Seattle Times

Northwest College students, from left, Karen Thomas, David Conners, Christianna Woods and Sarah Kelly, stand near the school's chapel in Kirkland, Wash. These students could be affected by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the *Locke v. Davey* case.

Heads up!



KRT

Katie Yankura and Ed Bellefond show off their newly-tattooed foreheads for Headvertise's first campus campaign. The company pays clients, particularly college students, to wear temporary tattoos for a week.

Books *Continued from Page 8*

Kirtland recently registered with www.Underground.org, another textbook exchange site organized by UI students from the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. After paying \$2, students receive the contact information of the person listing the textbook they would like to buy.

Despite informative table discussions held by the fraternity in front of the UI Commons and advertisement through word of mouth, Kirtland was recently notified the site will be shut down due to lack of support.

As the cost of textbooks continues to rise, the buyback held at the end of each semester at UI is also a source of frustration for many students.

The UI Bookstore is limited in the number of books it can buy back, and only 33 percent of books currently being used will be accepted. "We can only buy back as many as we're going to sell," Godwin said.

Godwin said she understands the frustration of students who spend a considerable amount of money at the UI Bookstore every six months and only receive a small percentage of their investment back when they sell their books at the end of the semester.

Kirtland said the buyback could be improved.

"When I pay \$500 for books and get back \$50, there's something wrong," Kirtland said. "I know what I pay for and what I get back is definitely not the same thing."

Although the number of students exchanging books online has not hurt the sale of books at the UI Bookstore, Godwin said the anger is misplaced.

"Students have to understand we're not choosing the books; the decision is up to faculty," Godwin said.

In October, UI faculty submitted a list of textbooks to order for the spring semester.

Students say professors should take the cost of textbooks into consideration when choosing course materials.

"I've had professors complain

about the cost of textbooks," Kirtland said. "I find it interesting because they're the ones selecting them."

Godwin said professors have little input in the price of a textbook, which is set by the book's publisher.

A significant number of textbooks are also turned away at each buyback because a newer edition has been released for the next semester. Godwin said professors are choosing the newer editions in order to keep the material in their courses updated. After working in the book business for 25 years, Godwin said publishers are releasing new editions of textbooks more frequently than ever.

Jamie Carmon, a UI senior, said she has been buying her books for the past two years through BookPeople, a local bookstore in Moscow. Carmon said she has saved a considerable amount of money by having the store order her books for her.

As students continue to look for outside sources to save money on textbooks, some have found a different solution.

Verity Lectka, a junior majoring in fish and wildlife resources, took 18 credits this semester without buying any textbooks.

By sharing textbooks with a roommate and paying a small fee to borrow a friend's, Lectka's only purchase at the UI Bookstore was a \$20 lab manual.

Whether choosing to buy online or not to buy at all, Godwin said there is one place where she has seen textbook prices drop consistently.

In the United Kingdom, students can save up to 50 percent on their books for next semester. Godwin said she has seen textbooks on www.amazon.uk listed at lower prices, including shipping costs.

Godwin said UI Bookstore officials have begun to discuss the possibility of purchasing textbooks overseas in order to save students money.

"That's the only place I've seen with consistent price drops," Godwin said.

Mental health *Continued from Page 8*

helps, they say, but it's not enough.

"A lot of students aren't that comfortable going up to a psychiatrist, and saying, 'Hey, I need some help,'" said Peter Maki, a University of Miami student and member of the group Counseling, Outreach, Peer Education.

Maki, a psychobiology major, is one of a group of students trying to turn COPE from a group that does "secretarial work" to a link between the counseling center and the student body.

"There's definitely a gap," said Ashley Tift, a University of Miami senior who chairs COPE. She referred a friend to the counseling center who was depressed and drinking too much. It helped, but she wouldn't have known where to turn if she weren't involved with COPE.

At Harvard, Stork heads a student group, the Mental Health Awareness

and Advocacy Group. At a conference last year, members learned that personal contact has proved the best way to reduce stigma—better than education.

They created an annual mental health awareness week, with panels, relaxation techniques and prominently-displayed student narratives on bulletin boards in a heavily-trafficked campus area. An undergrad with obsessive-compulsive disorder wrote about her need to wash her hands 50 times per day. A depressed freshman considered taking too many pills, lying in bed while everyone else seemed to welcome the new opportunities and activities.

With these and her own experiences in mind, Stork urges Harvard's resident advisers to "err on the side of nosiness" rather than risk missing a student in trouble.

When all safety nets fail, there's

the threat of suicide.

In a nationwide study, 9 percent of college students admitted to "seriously considering attempting suicide" between one and 10 times in the 2002-2003 school year and just over 1 percent actually tried to kill themselves.

Jed Satow was a sophomore at the University of Arizona when he committed suicide in 1998. He was impulsive, acted without thinking of the consequences, but neither his friends, professors or parents recognized his actions as signs of depression, said his father, Phil Satow.

"People don't know when their roommate or friend has crossed the line. This sort of thing is not generally talked about," said Satow, president and founder of The Jed Foundation, a nonprofit organization that aims to decrease the youth suicide rate. "The reality is that there needs to be cultural changes on college campuses to deal with stress and depression."

The Jed Foundation launched a free website this fall, www.Ulifeline.org, which links students to mental health centers, information and anonymous screening for issues including depression, eating disorders and suicide. Colleges can subscribe, enabling students to avail themselves of all the services.

"This allows students on their own, without stigma, to be screened 24 hours a day," Satow said. "If you take a public health approach, alerting the whole campus in what to look for, in all probability more kids like my son will come in. It's a real communal problem."

SOME SYMPTOMS OF DEPRESSION

Think your friend or child might have a problem? The following are some symptoms of depression, from the National Institute of Mental Health. Not everyone who is depressed experiences every symptom.

- Persistent sad, anxious or "empty" mood
- Feelings of hopelessness, pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, helplessness
- Loss of interest or pleasure in hobbies and activities, including sex
- Decreased energy, fatigue, being "slowed down"
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions
- Insomnia, early-morning awakening or oversleeping
- Appetite and/or weight loss or overeating and weight gain
- Thoughts of death or suicide; suicide attempts
- Restlessness, irritability
- Persistent physical symptoms that do not respond to treatment, such as headaches, digestive disorders and chronic pain

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aces the city tonight makes



DECEMBER 8, 2003 – JANUARY 23, 2004

Columbia Chronicle Editorial

Room for improvement in the new year

The new year is here. Hooray! And with the passing of an old year comes the perfect chance to make big changes. It is a time for resolutions and at Columbia things are no different. The Chronicle's staffers are already implementing their own plans for personal improvement: quitting smoking, losing weight and for one employee, growing a beard.

But we can't let ourselves have all the fun. Therefore, we've compiled a short list of resolution suggestions for Columbia (in the event that President Carter forgot to make one himself). It is a list of just a few things we think could make our school even better. After all, nobody and nothing is perfect.

1. Create more space. It doesn't take a genius to realize that many of Columbia's South Loop facilities are maxed out. Much of the college's space simply cannot hold all of the students that want and need to use it. There should be more meeting rooms, more exhibition areas and a day care center—things that would allow students to reach their full potential as artists and as human beings. All of these things would fit nicely into some sort of student center (hint, hint).

2. Amend teacher workload. Not only do the fine professors of Columbia teach us on a weekly basis, they also act as counselors and work full- or part-time jobs. They are expected to be creative in the classroom and at work with little time to breathe in between. If more teachers were hired, the quality of teaching overall would undoubtedly be improved. Teachers would have the opportunity to focus more on individual students, and students would have more teachers and class sections to choose from—a win-win situation for all.

3. Get new, anything-but-what-we-have-now elevators. Students, faculty and administrators are all sick of waiting for Columbia's old, cramped elevators to come pick them up and drag them to their offices and classrooms. Although this is not the type of situation that can be fixed overnight, the beginning of the process would give people hope that one day, Columbia will no longer have an elevator problem. We just want to get to class and learn.

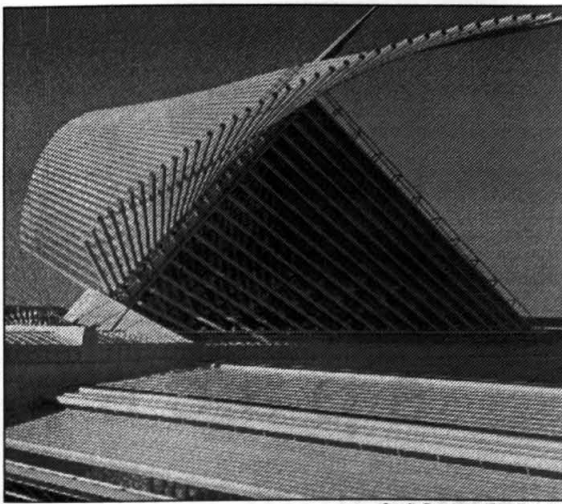
4. Lower tuition. Why is it that tuition never goes down? The price to attend school here continues to

skyrocket. Once a college that almost anyone could afford (which makes sense because open enrollment allows almost anyone to attend), Columbia is now on track to become a school that only the affluent and wealthy demographic can attend. It's time to lower tuition and attract a more diverse body of artists that makes this school unique.

5. Give Student Financial Services an overhaul. Those students fortunate enough to be able to afford this school are constantly struggling to get their loan money from the Student Financial Services department. With the recent appointment of a new director, The Chronicle is optimistic that the department will finally become the well-running office that it should be. The new year should be a year without unreturned phone calls or lost loan applications. There should be no more students shouting, "Show me the money!"

Though just suggestions, The Chronicle truly believes these resolutions could make the college a more marvelous place and, if implemented soon, could make for one hell of a nice year.

Exposure



Carrie Bergagna/The Chronicle

Columbia's Voices

There's more to mainstream music than MTV

In response to Adam Ferington's Dec. 8 article "Music industry a wasteland," I'd like to offer a few challenges and perhaps some better advice.

First of all, you say that "music is crap." Could you be a little more vague? This isn't an attack on writing skill, but if there's a point to be made, perhaps a little specificity would strengthen your argument. You also claim that "everybody wants 'the next big thing'... pop scrubbed clean [for] the masses." Personally, I most certainly don't fit into that category and I would imagine that many people at Columbia also do not. I found myself insulted that your article was extremely over-generalized, but of course it's your own flaunted voluntary ignorance that made it so. You don't know me or a vast majority of Columbia students I would assume, so please don't elevate yourself and call everyone else's music "garbage" and then have the audacity to think you're not wrong. Especially when a good portion of your audience at this school has rooted their lives in studying music and educating themselves about more than Rolling Stone, "American Idol" and MTV. You do a great injustice to their intelligence by making generalizations, and we're part of the problem?

While I may agree that music played on most popular radio stations isn't exactly on the top of the talent scale, I also realize that category of music is only a very small portion of what's actually out there. Did you ever think that artists could choose not to present themselves in media spotlight? And please don't propel the stereotype that all talent is the result of starving artists and basement recording studios. There are plenty of talented artists out there who have been just as successful in the business of making good music, not just money. Not all albums you find at bigger stores are crap, you can find plenty of "mainstream" talent out there if you understand what you're looking for.

Which brings me to another point: Through reading the article, I found absolutely no evidence or support for your argument, only wordy insults that had absolutely no relevance to the point of the article. Do you really know what musical talent is? Do you play any instruments yourself?

While I'm not a music major and not an expert, I've at least spent the last 12 years studying orchestral percussion, marching percussion and piano, and I know what it is to make music and to work at it. But my point isn't to make myself sound holier than thou and to sound like I know what's good for everybody.

Frankly, I really don't care what Mr. Ferington listens to and I don't intend to change his attitude. But unlike the attitude portrayed in the article, I do believe that there are intelligent music listeners out there and they deserve some credit for their tastes without criticism or unolicited insult.

Erin Baugher
Junior
Animation

"Old habits die hard," even in America

I am writing in response to Adam J. Ferington's remarkably one-sided indictment of the general continent of Europe ("Old habits die hard," 11/10/03). First of all, although I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Ferington that, especially as of late in some European countries, acts of unforgivable anti-Semitic violence have occurred, there is no basis in his argument that Europe is the sole creator and perpetrator of racist dogma.

First of all, Mr. Ferington, have you ever even been to Europe? Because it's an entire continent full of different countries and individuals, not all of which (even in the scandalous land of Germany) have always, as you state, taken their genocide seriously. Having lived in Germany and made the effort to ask actual Germans about the Holocaust, I can safely tell you that, at least among the people I met, all of them strongly condemned it and were deeply concerned by the rising Neo-Nazi groups within their country. Not only that, it was my European friends who were the most disturbed and saddened by American military dominance in the Middle East, worrying that such "might makes right" stoicism sounded ironically akin to the propagandistic dogma of, hmmm, certain anti-Semitic, nationalist groups from their own country's past.

Second, I would like to remind

See Voices, Page 13

Dean, Dean the political machine

Joseph Lieberman got a shot in the teeth Dec. 9 when his old buddy and former presidential trail runner Al Gore endorsed former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in next fall's impending steel cage match against incumbent George W. Bush.

People are bound to ask why Lieberman, who stood shoulder to, uh, forehead with Gore in 2000, is ditching his formal Democratic running mate for the snarling, lean beast from New England. The simplest answer is because they have nothing in common anymore.

Dean is the most likely hope for the party; he draws a fine line wherever he goes, brilliant platinum smile and mane, prowling like a tiger in a cage. Lieberman has none of his verve or wit, is too tentative in his decisions and lacks the charisma and anger that draws voters and spotlights into his aura. Never mind that his conservative politics are just a hair's length away from making him a lap dog fit to warm the cushions at a Republican fund-raising dinner.

As of the most recent polls, Dean has pulled ahead of the pack, outpacing his fellow Democratic nominees by almost 15 points. Despite his outspoken opposition to the Iraqi war, Dean has maintained a steady lead that didn't even seem to falter when deposed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was found squatting in a hole in the ground, picking the lice from his beard for nourishment.

While echoing the consensus that the capture of Saddam was indeed, a good thing, Dean reiterated his previously stated views, saying, "The capture of Saddam has not made America safer," decrying critics on both sides for their "Washington politics." Lieberman meanwhile has been hiding behind the Bush administration's skirt by attacking Dean. "He thinks we're not safer by removing a homicidal maniac," Lieberman said during a press conference following Saddam's capture. "The fact is that Gov. Dean has made a series of dubious judgments and irresponsi-

ble statements in this campaign that together signal that he would take us back to the days when we Democrats were not trusted to defend our security."

Lieberman has effectively crystallized his position in this race, betraying his cowardice and lack of ideas by tacking his moderate stance on social issues onto the Republicans' hard-line stance on the War on Terror.

Dean may not have a policy on national security that resonates with voters—not yet anyway—but at least he refuses to follow his fellow candidates by tacking broad and detailed issues onto his platform too early in the game.

Combined with his single-handed break from the pack and his successful fund-raising efforts, Dean has proven himself the most competent member of the party. Lieberman should step aside; let someone who has a chance step up to the plate. Otherwise they'll end up in the same place they are now—at the bottom.

IRONY IS NOT HUMOR
BY RYAN DUGGAN



Ryan Duggan/Chronicle

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Mainstream media misses the story

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Adam J. Ferington
Commentary Editor

There seems to be a lack of parity in the Bush administration's policy on terrorism, regardless of all the hard speech and cowboy posturing that George W. Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft enjoy throwing about.

When embarrassing events, such as the discovery of a white supremacist terrorist cell on American soil are exposed, particularly in Bush's good 'ole home state of Texas, the administration is surprisingly silent.

In November, a 62-year-old Tyler, Texas, man William Krar pleaded guilty to possession of a chemical weapon. Krar had an accumulation of "weapons of mass destruction" that would make U.N. Weapon's Inspector Hans Blix spontaneously burst into flames.

Krar, with ties to numerous white supremacist movements, had effectively built himself a sodium cyanide bomb similar to the one Timothy McVeigh used to destroy the Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995.

Following the 9/11 attacks, the Justice Department altered its guidelines, lumping the production of bathtub methamphetamines and pipe bomb manufacturing as "chemical agents" and "weapons of mass destruction," respectively. In the eyes of Ashcroft and the law, Mr. Krar has effectively built a chemical weapon that would make a religious zealot proud.

In addition to the bomb, Mr. Krar and his girlfriend Judith

Bruey had an arsenal consisting of numerous military issue weapons and more than 500,000 rounds of ammunition, as well as an implicit number of forged identities and the names of numerous conspirators across the country. Surprisingly, however, the media outside of the Lonestar State has been eerily quiet. Apparently, lunatics who wear white sheets on their heads and kill "whitey" are naughty, but wearing white over your face and killing "darkie" bears no recrimination whatsoever.

Unfortunately, this seems to be the latest example of the media's quiet double standard when it comes to reporting on the neo-conservative agenda.

In tandem with the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI, the Secret Service has begun monitoring protest groups with a keenly unethical eye that echoes former FBI director Herbert Hoover's perverted politics. Despite what people may think, it isn't just the unshowered weirdos and hippies who have been placed on the government's watch list, but legitimate organizations such as Greenpeace and select chapters of Amnesty International. The government, however, is managing to keep their hands clean by deferring all action to local police, letting each city's assortment of Keystone Cops deal with the "threats" as they see fit, often with excessive force and trumped-up charges, while they run an interference play to successfully divert the media's attention away from such events and reassure us with a steady stream of



rhetoric.

There has been a subtle shift away from fair and balanced news, despite what the Fox News Channel may claim. Gatekeepers to information are required to be impartial in their dissemination of the facts. Instead, they conduct themselves like leprosy sewer workers, redirecting the filth and sluicing it into our homes. This does not bode well for the country, particularly with an election year coming up.

There is an unadulterated agen-

da being pursued by the Bush administration, the edges of what we see—the observations, trumped-up charges, altered guidelines and hard line approaches—are merely the angles of a much larger shape that carry with it a vast and immeasurably dense shadow. We must keep our eyes keen and our wits sharp, because determining what is the truth and what is silently being swept past our eyes will be a sport all its own in the coming year.

Voices *Continued from Page 12*

you that you can easily find good ol' anti-Semitism not only in the America that has, as you insist, "made great strides toward tolerance and acceptance," not only just in the Confederate flag-happy Deep South where Jews and other minorities are still excluded from certain country clubs, Mardi Gras Carnival krewes and other social cliques, but right here in Illinois.

Anti-Semitism may have started in Europe, but America has certainly added plenty of fuel to the burning crosses.

I would also like to point out that it is European countries that have paved the way for global civil rights by legitimizing same-sex unions

(Germany, Amsterdam, Denmark), as well as domestic benefits and adoption rights for homosexuals—something America, even with all this "learned from our mistakes," has not yet been able to do. (Nor will do, I daresay, with a Bush-backed administration propelling us "the only way to go ... forward.")

I do not disagree with your statement that rising anti-Semitism in some areas of particular European countries is a troubling sign. But I object to your lambasting an entire continent, your blatant disregard for the fact that, just as all Americans do not think alike, neither do all Europeans, much less all Germans, French, or Italians.

You argue that Americans should not be held accountable indefinitely

for their past of slavery, even in light of the fact that minorities still have not achieved equal status here, even though hate crimes are still rampant and often go unpunished. If that is so, then why should all of Europe be held permanently accountable for the legacy of World War II and global racism?

I just don't understand the purpose of your article: to galvanize Americans into resenting and fearing Europe? So we can pat ourselves on the back, forgetting that many strides still need to be taken before we can truly be the "land of the free"?

Though your essay makes some cogent points and references factual incidents, it neglects to present the full picture.

I would never attempt to naively

proclaim that the whole continent of Europe is free of racists, anti-Semites, fascists, etc. But I also cannot accept your implication that America is somehow exempt from these same blights on human history. Blaming Europe is an excuse, deflecting away from the all-too-present reality that exists right under our noses. Anti-Semitism, racism against other and all minorities, homophobia, misogyny—these are all major issues that plague our oh-so-enlightened nation. And I can only hope that one day we will have, as you maintain, "learned from our mistakes."

Rebecca Gordon
Senior
Film/Video

Face the public: The Chronicle photo poll

Question: Who did you want to unwrap this Christmas?



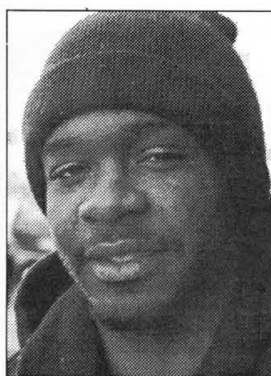
"My girlfriend."

—Peter Delacruz
Senior, Graphic Design



"Jude Law. He's hot and English."

—Aliza Ramirez
Freshman, Fashion Retail Management



"[Tennis star] Serena Williams."

—Dominique Vernard
Freshman, Sound Recording



"My boyfriend."

—Heather Stuck
Sophomore, Musical Theater

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January 5, 2004

From awful to Oscar in 2003

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor

From hobbits to headbangers, clown fish to comic books, 2003 offered yet another year of cinematic pleasures and multiplex pain. It was a year where performances from Bill Murray, Naomi Watts, Sean Penn and Nicole Kidman tried to play hardball with *The Matrix: Revolutions* and *Return of the King*.

Top 10 films of 2003:

10. *School of Rock*: Jack Black can be annoying, juvenile, obnoxious, repulsive, cheap and shameless better than any actor in Hollywood. Outshining the likes of Adam Sandler, Jim Carrey and Will Ferrell, Black created Dewey Finn to preach the good word of rock 'n' roll to kids sheltered from the constructive power of guitar solos and gargantuan drum beats. With Richard Linklater in the director's chair for some respectability, *School of Rock* became an anthem for everything that's right and wrong in the world.

9. *Bad Santa*: A holiday film on a top 10 list? This anti-holiday film stuck its middle finger in the air toward yuletide cheer and Christmas carols by centering the story around a drunk, horny Santa Claus, who robs shopping malls across America. Billy Bob Thornton managed to bring perversity and disgust to an entirely new level, dragging the audience around on a foul language sleigh ride that ends with Santa Claus taking bullets in the back.

8. *American Splendor*: A movie based on a comic book based on the life of a Cleveland native. *American Splendor* juggles fantasy and reality with the help of Paul Giamatti and Hope Davis in the leading roles as

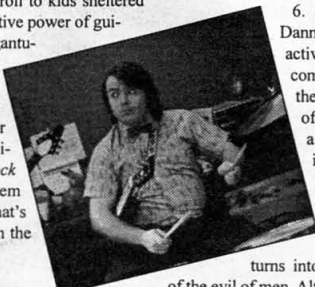
Harvey Pekar and Joyce Brabner. Pekar, who collaborated on the comic book of the same name with legendary artist Robert



Crumb, is a strange, misunderstood man perfect for cinematic digestion.

7. 21 Grams:

While the story and the cinematography attack audiences with a nervous frenzy, it's the performances of Sean Penn, Naomi Watts and Benicio Del Toro that truly cannot be ignored. Emotionally bleak and hard to swallow, it's a story about life and death and the struggle to deal with our own mortality.



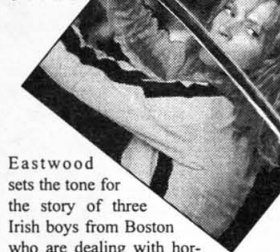
6. 28 Days Later:

Danny Boyle's hyperactive monster movie combines some of the best elements of horror to create a suspenseful and intriguing character study. What appears to be standard apocalyptic nonsense turns into an examination of the evil of men. Although the ending doesn't live up to the rest of the film, this was still one of the most entertaining thrillers of the year.

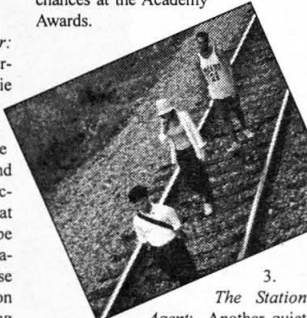
5. *Kill Bill*: What Quentin Tarantino lacks in substance, he quickly makes up for in style with the kinetic wrath of his pop culture princess "The Bride." Uma Thurman hunts down the men and women responsible for her near-death experience in the first volume of this samurai revenge flick. What plays to some as a blood-induced slasher film, comes across to others as a highly entertaining homage to Japanimation and spaghetti Westerns.

4. Mystic River:

While most films this year concentrate on fast editing techniques and computer animation, *Mystic River* is strictly about storytelling.



Eastwood sets the tone for the story of three Irish boys from Boston who are dealing with horrific events from their past and their present. Having Tim Robbins, Sean Penn and Kevin Bacon in the cast probably won't hurt Eastwood's chances at the Academy Awards.



3. The Station Agent:

Another quiet film of 2003, the story offers an in-depth look at the life of a dwarf named Finbar McBride. (Peter Dinklage). *The Station Agent* works on so many different levels, gaining most of its momentum from the brilliant work of Patricia Clarkson, who is easily one of the most underrated actresses working in the business. *The Station Agent* is simply a story about the importance of relationships, a rare gem in an industry of special effects and ridiculous one-liners.

2. *Lost in Translation*: God bless Bill Murray. The man has managed to sneak into some of my favorite films of all time, including *The Royal*

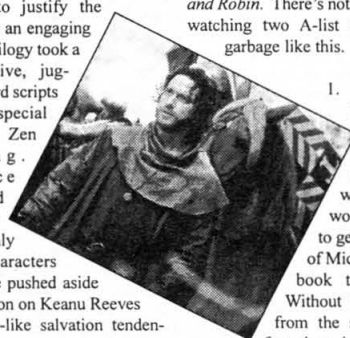
Tenebaums, *Rushmore* and now *Lost in Translation*. This subtle film on loneliness wouldn't work without the chemistry between Murray and Scarlett Johansson. Sofia Coppola has created a masterpiece, touching, yet incredibly funny, that leaves the audience completely satisfied.

1. Return of the King:

Peter Jackson spent seven years adapting the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy for the big screen. It was seven years well spent, bound to go down in history as one of the greatest trilogies of all time. (return of the king, indeed.)

The worst films of 2003:

5. *The Matrix: Revolutions*: There are plenty of films that deserve to be on this list more than *The Matrix: Revolutions*, but the disappointment was enough to justify the selection. After an engaging first film, the trilogy took a serious nosedive, juggling two absurd scripts with flashy special effects and Zen babbling. Laurence Fishburne and Jada Pinkett-Smith, the only interesting characters in the film, are pushed aside to focus attention on Keanu Reeves and his Christ-like salvation tendencies.



4. *S.W.A.T.*: Colin Farrell is a good actor when he's given the chance to act. *S.W.A.T.* never gave him the opportunity. What should have been an entertaining action adventure flick turned out to be just another plot driven waste of time. The real culprit here is the poorly written script that reads like a cross between "Hill Street Blues" and "Cop Rock."

3. *From Justin to Kelly*: You didn't have to see the film to know this was one of the worst ideas Hollywood has

ever come up with. Sitting through five minutes of "American Idol" is enough to know this wasn't going to work and the box office numbers backed it up.

2. Gigli:

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck started their obnoxious relationship during the filming of this monumental disaster. Just 20 minutes into the film, audiences were reminded of the quality of productions like *Ishtar*, *Battlefield Earth* and *Batman and Robin*. There's nothing better than watching two A-list actors put out garbage like this.

1. Timeline:

Richard Donner caught a tough break with this one, working five years to get the adaptation of Michael Crichton's book to the screen. Without proper support from the studio, he was forced to improvise along the way. The result is a two-hour yawn fest that lacks any imagination and proves that Paul Walker deserves to work in a gas station.

Overall, it was another entertaining year at the box office. There was a wide variety of choices for people interested in different types of films. If the independent scene gets completely wiped out by summer blockbusters in the near future, it might be time to panic. For now, there's enough variety for every film fanatic.

Praise the 'Lord,' the 'King' has finally arrived

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor

The journey has come to an end. After waiting impatiently since last Christmas to witness the final film in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, the

time has come to catch the last three-plus hours of cinematic brilliance.

Three hours can be hard to take in for the average film audience, but Peter Jackson has created a world so unique and convincing that time isn't even a factor.

Return of the King wraps up the epic adventures of Frodo, Aragorn, Gandalf and the rest of the fellowship, as they fight the decisive battle for Middle Earth.

Not since the original *Star Wars* trilogy have three films garnered so much media attention or incited such a gigantic fan following. Jackson, who once directed films like *The Frighteners*, *Heavenly Creatures* and *Bad Taste*, has watched his career catapult to ridiculous proportions with *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

In his next directorial assignment, Jackson will put together a *King Kong* remake and get more than \$20 million to try to pull it off. It's unheard of for a director to bring in that kind of money, but Jackson isn't the typical Hollywood filmmaker.

While plenty of movie studios have tried to bring *The Lord of the Rings* to the big screen in the past, it was the tenacity and stubbornness of Jackson that brought the project from the page to the screen.

The computer animated effects, which work better here than in *The Matrix* or *Star Wars* films, do not distract the audience from the task at hand. Behind all the epic battles

and devastating loss of life, it's really just about a single hobbit and his quest to destroy a ring.

The most magical aspects of the final film are the performances of the actors who spent almost two years on the project.

Ian McKellen (Gandalf), Viggo Mortensen (Aragorn), Orlando Bloom (Legolas), Miranda Otto (Eowyn) and John Rhys-Davies (Gimli) should be commended for taking characters from a novel and making them their very own.

An hour into the film, it's obvious that the actors share a certain kinship, which translates onto the screen. Regardless of how you may feel about the fantasy genre, there is no denying the strength and power of these characters.

At the heart of the story is the relationship between Frodo (Elijah Wood) and Sam (Sean Astin). Here are two lost souls who want nothing more than to be back in their hometown enjoying food and drink and telling stories to each other.

Instead, they're climbing a mountain with the entire fate of the world in their tiny, broken hands.

The burden is too great for Frodo alone. If not for his faithful companion, the quest would most likely

have ended long ago.

If the combination of performances and special effects is the reason the trilogy has done so well, then Andy Serkis (Gollum) has played the most important part.

Gollum, voiced and animated after Serkis himself, steals the show with his ominous presence in *Return of the King*.

Easily the greatest computer-animated character in the history of film, Gollum battles his inner demons throughout the story.

Fighting between his loyalty to Frodo and his personal desire for the ring, Gollum is a sinister obstacle at the conclusion of the quest.

Calling *Return of the King* an epic film might not be giving enough credit to the cast and crew that helped put it together.

It's more than an epic film; it's the end of a tormented journey, the dawning of a new day for a popular fantasy world and proof that movie magic is alive and well, at least in New Zealand.

For now, diehard fans will have to wait until Jackson inks that multi-million-dollar deal for the screen adaptation of *The Hobbit*, a deal that will undoubtedly bring millions back to Middle Earth once more.



New Line Cinema

Viggo Mortensen (Aragorn) and Ian McKellen (Gandalf) prepare for the final battle to save Middle Earth in 'Return of the King'.

The Weekly Dish



By Kat Gresey
Assistant A&E Editor

Isn't it funny how every year people come up with the most horribly impossible New Year's resolutions? As if starting a new year would make the oh-so-fun struggles of quitting smoking or losing 10 pounds any easier.

These are the types of resolutions that only a very few, and I must say, very strong group of individuals are able to complete, and we as a society should look up to them for beating the odds and making good on their pledges.

But what about the rest of us? There has got to be a way to make a solemn pledge and commit to it for at least one year, and I believe I have discovered a way to do it.

To make good on a resolution, one must really want to do it. There must be an inner passion driving that resolution straight to the finish line. I don't know about you, but as much as I want to lose weight, I am not thrilled with the prospect of dieting and exercising to accomplish this. On the other hand, I am all about doing things that are totally awesome and easy-as-hell to accomplish, even if that means doing them for a year straight.

So, I have come up with my own list of resolutions. And for the first time in my life, I am proud to say I should have no problem accomplishing them all. My suggestion to others is to follow suit. (Once you read the list below, you'll understand.)

1. Go to more concerts. During any given year, I attend approximately 20 musical performances. I'm all about the live music. I have yet to attend a single concert I didn't like. The best shows I have seen made for some of the best days of my life. So, why not go to more? There are kids going to 100 concerts a year, while I'm at home listening to lame CDs. I'm capable of going to double the amount of concerts I'm going to now. Let's see, three shows or more a month for the next year... that's something I can definitely handle.

2. Go to more bars. People are always asking me if I have been to this bar or that club, and though I have been of legal age to drink for more than a year now, I am still fairly ignorant of the Chicago drinking scene. I need to start checking out the city's hot spots instead of going to South Loop Club because it's so annoyingly close. Bar Chicago, White Star and North Beach are not that far away and once there, the entire world of good times begins. DJs, karaoke and dollar-you-call-its have my name written all over them. I need to get my ass out of the 'burbs and start partying

Chicago-style ASAP. All I need is a designated driver.

3. Sleep. Forget regular food diets, it's time to start an eight-hour sleep diet. As a college student taking five classes, working three jobs and commuting more than 15 hours a week, I get very little rest. And with all the extra stuff I'm going to be doing this year, it is vital for me to catch some extra z's.

This does not mean that I'll be going to bed early. In fact, I will most likely be staying up later than ever before. This is because my daily schedule will be radically changed. I've already traded in all my 9 a.m. classes next semester for ones that start during the p.m. hours of the day. Not only can I sleep later this way, but I can also party 'til the sun comes up, which will be freakin' incredible.

4. Work less. For the past year, I have had at least two jobs and at times as many as four. What the hell am I thinking? Right now, I have this newspaper gig, an internship and a part-time job at what is known as, a "rock 'n' roll" White Hen in the 'burbs. That is far too many, and I believe the stress of it all is doing some serious damage to my health. I have made the decision to leave the internship this month, which was due to expire soon anyway, but on top of that, I have decided not to get another one. That'll leave me with two jobs, which won't be bad at all considering they are two of the most kick-ass jobs in the entire world. In fact, as part two of this resolution, I would like to try to make the time I am spending at these jobs even better.

5. Shop more. Lately, I have been spending more money than usual at retail stores, which is all well and good, but I can go to the thrift store and get so much more. When I wasn't working so much, my good friends and I would hit up a couple of thrift stores almost every week. Times were good, and I was always psyched to get up in the morning because I'd always have some new tripped out '70s shirt to wear in the morning. It's time to get back to the Salvation Army and do it up. I can start out the new year by buying some new old clothes.

Five resolutions. That may seem like a lot, but these things are important to me. After all, the whole point of making resolutions is so that people can be happier with themselves and their quality of life, right? I plan on taking these five on like a champ, and if anyone wants to help me out, well, that would be just swell.

New music mag on the right track

○ Publication offers insight to an established artists' world

By Doris Dadayan
A & E Editor

Britney's wide-eyed "Oh, my God am-I-a-girl or-am-I-woman?" pseudo innocence won't fly with these editors. Justin shouldn't expect to be "justified" on these pages. Hilary Duff won't be given the time to give her perspective on today's music business. And Beyonce? Well, her collection of wigs ranging in various styles from straight to curly to half straight with no bangs, would probably look a lot more "bootylicious" when featured on the cover of Spin.

Yes, it's 52-year-old Sting who grabbed the front cover photo of the premiere issue of Tracks magazine. And he didn't even have to be tan and oiled up for it. Sure, the cover boy could've used a good shave and should've had an outfit that didn't show the stitches for the photo shoot. But hey, those electric-blue eyes matched perfectly with the serene-colored masthead and golden backdrop of the magazine, which was designed as a way to defy all other music publications.

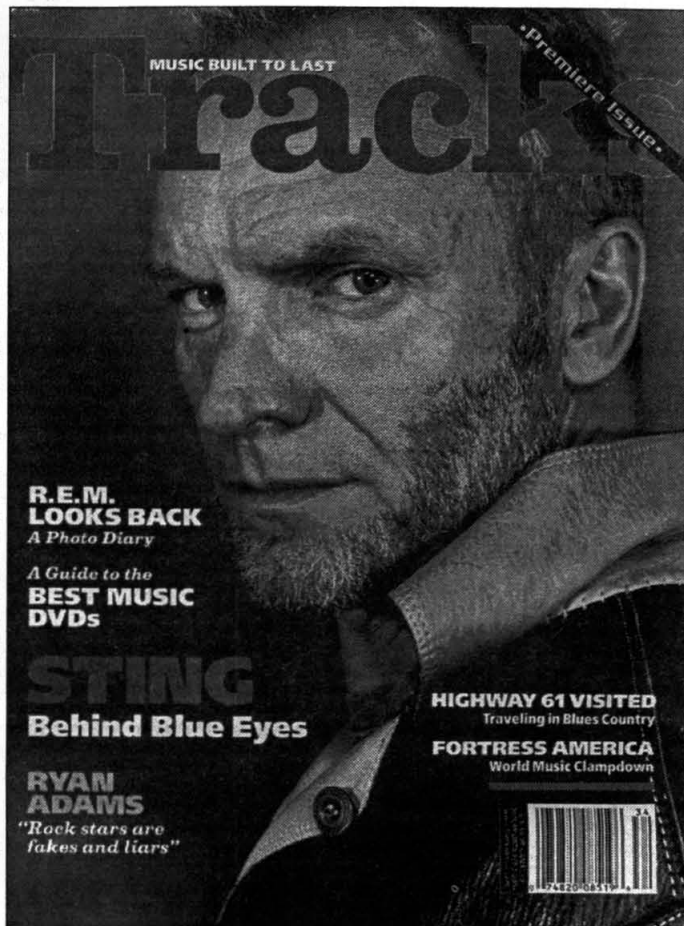
Sting may have been chosen for the front cover thanks to his incredible voice, talent, charisma and the individuality that he possesses—it is certain that cover boy Sting sums up this new magazine's mission.

"A music magazine for adults" is how CEO and publisher of Tracks magazine, John Rollins, the founding publisher of Spin and Vibe, describes the idea behind the magazine.

Tracks, the new glossy-covered, 150-page music magazine designed for the passionate music fan, premiered Nov. 18. It was designed as a way to accommodate the 30 and older group of music lovers and as, Alan Light's (former editor-in-chief of Spin and Vibe) letter to Track readers states: "[It's] a music magazine for real music fans—meaning fans of real music, looking for something other than what the ultrabrite pop outlets are hawking 24/7. Not just the flashy video, the hot remix, the flavor of the moment, but something more substantial, the stuff that we call 'music built to last.'"

The slick design of the quarterly published magazine covers a wide array of music, with genres that range from rock and country to roots and jazz. Along with profiling unique artists who actually write their own songs and play their own instruments, Tracks takes a more sophisticated approach to its writing style than Rolling Stone, Spin and Vibe.

Rather than covering the mainstream music world, Tracks' writers seem to recognize the true talent, disregarding fads and the flavors of the week. The magazine makes use of simple photography, depicting black-and-white photos of artists from years ago, along with the more modern full-color photos, thereby



giving an essence to the story without taking away from the content with loud, overwhelming graphics.

With stories and photos that take the reader through a '60s and '70s kind of joy ride, the editors seem to have pulled off the impossible:

They've taken artists such as Dolly Parton and included them in the same issue as some of today's hottest bands, like The Strokes and The White Stripes, all without batting an eyelash. Stories of no-talent artists withheld, the staff of writers and editors, all with background experience in big name magazines, avoid covering the so-called "artists" that receive MTV's airplay today.

Besides music reviews, Tracks has feature stories that are written in a tasteful, clever manner, such as the finely-written "Fear of Music" article which talks about the post-9/11 difficulty and issues foreign musicians experience under the new immigration policies in America.

According to the Recording Industry Association of America, 56 percent of people who buy music CDs are over the age of 30. And according to Dean Turcol, spokesman for Tracks magazine, with Rolling Stone, Spin and Vibe changing their age demographics to the 18 to 24 target group, a very important demographic of music lovers is not being served.

"We're not competitors with Spin and Rolling Stone. What we're going after is the over 30 crowd, the baby boomers and the generation Xers—people who don't want to read about Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake," Turcol said.

"We're competitors [with Rolling Stone, Vibe and Spin] in the sense that we are a music magazine, but we're not going after the same peo-

ple. There's really no magazine out there anymore for that generation."

Tracks cannot be categorized as just an eclectic underground or alternative publication. Rather, it's more of a music magazine that caters to a wide range of musical tastes.

Tracks covers the artists with substance and depth, its pages laid out in a clean, simple style that isn't bogged down by loud, obnoxious, in-your-face illustrations, advertisements and photography.

"These are the best of the best writers, basically. Because these writers are the same writers that, you know, fit into that 30-and-up age demographic, who grew up with this music, way back when Rolling Stone was the magazine to buy," Turcol said.

Tracks magazine's "Jukebox" section's "Guide to the music that matters" gives music reviews on everything from "Kids Music That Doesn't Suck," to The String Cheese Incident, to a look into Outkast's *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below* album.

In their "My Back Page" section, which in the premier issue features Ryan Adams' "Performance Anxiety" piece, readers get a first-person look into the mind of an artist.

It seems as though it was allowed to run the way in which Adams initially wrote it, like a rough draft. The punctuation is off; some letters aren't capitalized, the apostrophes aren't included and some sentences are awkwardly worded.

Definitely one of the best gifts that a music magazine like Tracks, with its first-hand access to artists, can give to a real music fan.

visit us online at
www.columbiachronicle.com

Look great when you're running late

○ Columbia students offer advice on how to look good in the morning without sacrificing their style

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

It's 6:30 a.m. Sunlight has not yet crept over the horizon, and the air is silent. Until—BAM!—your alarm clock goes off, and you, the weary, hung-over college student, happily leap out of bed and get ready for another fascinating day of school.

Right? Wrong.
The last thing you want to do is exchange your pillow and blankets for grueling tests and homework. You want more sleep and you want it now.

To make that dream a reality, simply cut a few corners out of your morning routine. Here are a few tips from Columbia students who have mastered the art of taking that grim first step into the day without totally sacrificing their looks.

Wear what works: Everyone has that outfit they just know looks good on them. When rushing out the door, just grab that faithful frock and smile. You know you look great.

"By wearing clothes that fit me right and are clean, I develop a positive attitude for the remainder of the day. It also saves me the time of preparing and ironing my clothes in the morning," said Javier Barboza, an 18-year-old graphic design major. "Wearing something that works for you definitely works for me all the time."

Minimize: Earrings, bracelets and pins, oh my! Is there any significant reason to wear 12 varied accessories? Save yourself some precious seconds and leave the jewels behind.

"The only accessory I wear is a watch," said 20-year-old graphic design major Stephanie Czaja. "That's the most important for me."

Then I don't have to worry about something to match."

The comfort zone: As long as you're not going to a mega-important job interview after class, there is really no reason to force yourself into uncomfortable, stuffy clothes. Pick out something cozy and get going.

"I don't spend an enormous amount of time getting ready in the morning as it is, yet sometimes I find myself rushed," said 18-year-old broadcast journalism major Annie Kelly. "On those days, I just throw on big jeans and a T-shirt and label it a 'grub day.'"

Recycle: You're in college, and not only do you not have time, you have no money either. Cut corners by re-wearing your clothes and then washing them later. Just don't do this with your underwear.

"I have no money for laundry," said 22-year-old broadcast journalism major Erin Caffrey. "So each day I try not to spill on myself, and I recycle my wardrobe."

Makeup on the go: Whether you could spend five minutes or half an hour putting your face on in the morning, that time could be donated to sleeping if you encounter a long commute each day. Next time you are running late, simply pack up your products, grab a mirror and get going.

"I'm stuck in traffic for an hour, and it should only be a 20-minute drive," said 19-year-old broadcast major Jessica Perez. "I use the time I am stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic to make my face look halfway decent and presentable."

Just drive carefully.

Grab a cap: Guys and gals will forever be plagued with the notorious bad

hair day. The tried and true remedy is tossing a hat on top of the old noggin, instantly allowing one to forget about the mess underneath. It's easy, quick and a sure-fire way to save a lot of time.

"Nothing is better than just throwing a hat on over some nappy hair in the morning," said 20-year-old audio arts and acoustics major Brad Showalter. "It used to be, 'look good wherever you go.' Forget that. When you are waking up at 6:30 a.m. to catch an hour-long train into the city, there is no way I am waking up earlier than I need."

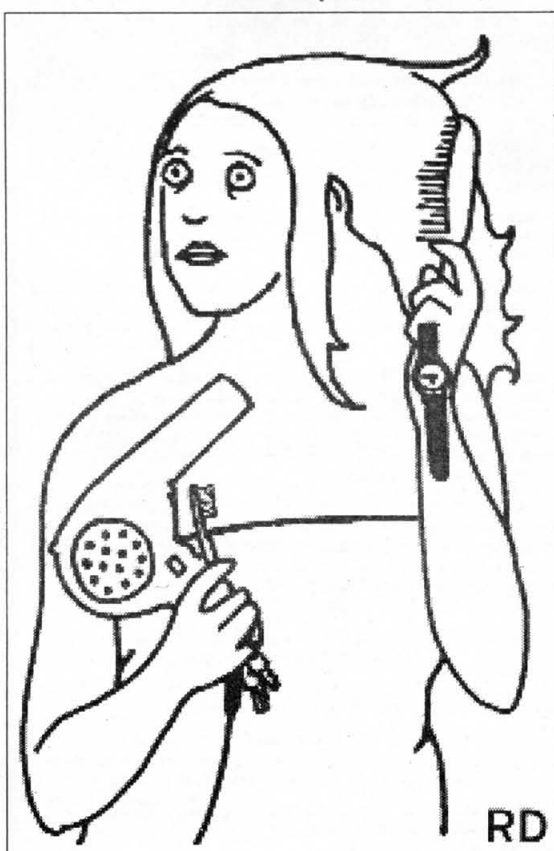
Glasses anyone?: Maybe you only wear them in the confines of your home, but putting on glasses takes only a fraction of the time it takes to shove two teeny, tiny lenses into your eyes. Next time you're running late, ditch the contacts and throw on your spectacles.

"I have to catch the Metra train, so I wear glasses when I'm running late," said 21-year-old James Sears, a broadcast journalism major. "I bring contacts to school and put them in there."

Au naturale: Hell, if you just don't care how you look, flaunt your natural beauty and head out as is. Doing virtually nothing in the morning will provide a tired student with a treasure chest of time. So, rock that natural look, hippie.

"Man, I don't care about superficial things or what people look like, including myself," said music business major Brad Danielson, 24. "Getting ready for me is patting down my dreads and sticking a toothbrush in my mouth. If I stink, I throw in a shot of cologne. Max time getting ready equals 10 minutes."


Whatever it takes: For those who truly love to save time, combinations of timesaving techniques are best. Just make sure you put your safety



first. "I take a shower the night before and wash up in the morning," said 22-year-old music business management major Evita Jones.

"Then I put my makeup on while

I drive to school. Yes, I put my makeup on while I am driving at every stoplight, stop sign and stalled car," Jones said. "Disclaimer: 'I am an excellent driver.'"




Do you have the balls?

for
John Moore's 3rd Annual

"Final Strike"

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sponsored by:  The Columbia Chronicle

Sunday, January 11 3-6p.m.

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\$15 - Bowling, Shoes, & Food

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HORROR SCOPE

Hey, it's a gruesome world out there, we're just trying to help you out.
For the week of: Jan. 5 - Jan. 11

Aries (March 21 - April 19) The stars are not aligning in your favor. This week will be fierce. Stay away from class, work and anything else that requires you to be productive.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) Now, now, Chicken Little—the sky is not falling. Although, you might want to stay indoors this week, just in case of, um, some type of natural disaster.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) Your peaceful inner self will be tested this week when you begin to find everything in the office irritating—the microwave, the fax machine, the printer and oh yes, the selection of holiday leftovers.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) Well, the stars are debating over what you should do with the extra cash you got from the ATM. Half of them say to spend it wisely. The other half say you're a horrible, unethical beast with absolutely no idea about what it means to be a decent, wholesome human being. Ultimately, it's up to you to decide what you want to do with the cash that isn't yours.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) You discover the true homeboy in you when you decide to drop your fiction writing major and instead major in Chingyology and Nellyology. You practice saying to your boys from the block, "Is it hot in here?" and "You see dat fine girl right thur?" The boys say they love the new and improved you and want to party at the Holiday Inn. The shorties will be thurr in a minute.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) Please, one little request from the powers that be: Begin taking showers again for the new year.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) Finally, a date with that hot girl from the chat room you like to hang out at. Oh, s---! It's Aunt Faye!

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Yes, the stars have met and discussed it thoroughly, trying to figure out how to say it in the most diplomatic way possible. And here it goes: No, it doesn't happen to all guys. Sorry.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) After reading your horoscope, everything starts to look a bit distorted to you—heaskdjoajd, tohe, tjhslarnc edfjslmld, no?

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) You really don't have much sex appeal, my friend. So why not become a bus driver? It's really the only job that'll have people happily waiting on the corner for you.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Talking to yourself again at work? Do you understand that no one wants to hear about how you play leapfrog with the coyote in the field behind your house?

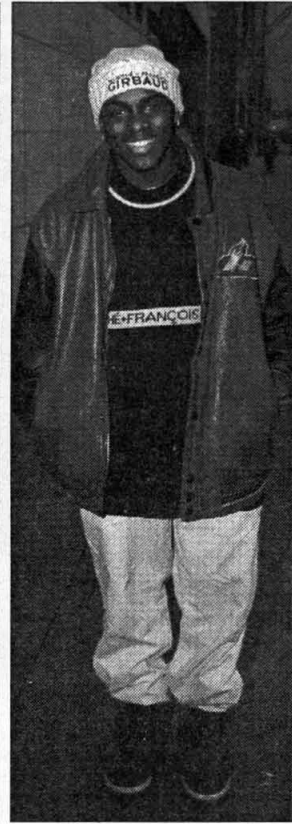
Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 20) Very few people actually admit to being a Pisces. Usually they have to lie and say they are the ever-so sexy Aquarius or the exciting, popular and witty Scorpio. Because all in all, you're kinda dull, Pisces. Stop with the fantasy already.

Street Wear

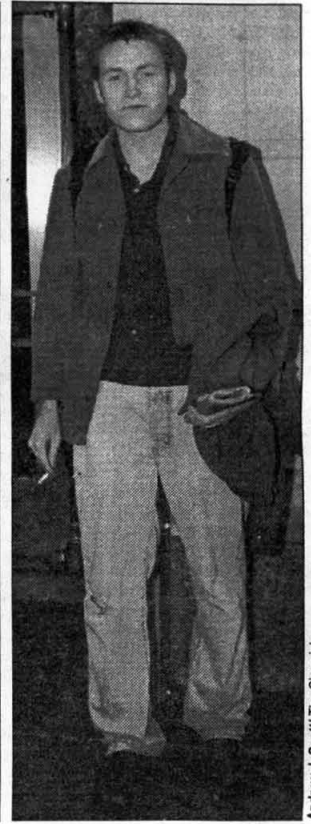
Every week, The Chronicle brings you fashion from fellow Columbia students.



Name: Mike Elias
Age: 21
Major: Graphic Design
"I've never really thought about it [fashion]."



Name: Alverne Ball
Age: 23
Major: Fiction Writing
"[My style is] unconventional."



Name: Devlin McCluskey
Age: 19
Major: Film
"[I wear clothes from] thrift stores and whatever I steal from friends."

Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Under the influence:



By Matthew Jaster

OBSERVATIONS OF AN ENTERTAINING WORLD

●The One Ring: With the *Lord of the Rings* finally reaching its conclusion, Internet geeks and honorary hobbits can finally get back to a life of chat rooms and role-playing games.

●Happiness equals a \$2 bottle of wine to celebrate the new year.

●Return/Exchange: The two most obnoxious words in the English language for anyone working in retail during January and February.

●Osama bin Laden: Rumored to be moving from his nice one-bedroom hole in Shir Khan to a spacious three-bedroom hole in Kondoz.

●College Football Bowl Games: As if millions of frat boys need an excuse to drink vats of beer and punch each other in the face.

●The Metrosexual: The new millennium man who's interested in fashion, manicures, spa treatments and sharing his feelings, but who still forgets to mention the fact that he's married and has two kids.

●The Captured Saddam Doll: Pull the string and hear the insightful former dictator explain how he just won George Dubya another four years in office.

●Winter in Chicago: Pretty much the same as spring and fall in Chicago.

●Trump International Hotel & Tower: Construction begins in 2004 followed by work on the Chicago Trump Freeway, Chicago Cubs Trump Field and The Donald Trump Art Institute.

●Prewrapped sausages: Is it meat or isn't it? Inquiring cardiac patients want to know.

THIS WEEK in arts & entertainment

Mon. 1/5
Eugene Leroy paintings 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Alan Koppel Gallery 210 W. Chicago Ave. Free
Fanny's First Play 7 p.m. Ruth Page Center Theater 1016 N. Dearborn St. Free, but reservations required
Free pool 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Corner Pocket 2610 N. Halsted St.
Gay Alternative Night DJ Flipside Midnight - 4 a.m. Red Dog Club 1958 W. North Ave. \$5

Tues. 1/6
Al Keeler 8 p.m. C.J. Arthur's 1168 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette \$5 minimum
Bernice Ficek-Swenson intaglio prints Noon - 5 p.m. Anchor Graphics 119 W. Hubbard St. Free
Home of the Free: A Student Photojournalism Project 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Chicago Historical Society 1601 N. Clark St.
DJ Flipside Midnight - 4 a.m. The Buzz 308 W. Erie St.

Wed. 1/7
Doors Open on the Right 8:30 p.m. Second City 1616 N. Wells St. \$17 - \$19
Aberdeen City 9 p.m. Schubas Tavern and the Harmony Grill 3159 N. Southport Ave. \$7
The Harold 8 p.m. ImprovOlympic 3541 N. Clark St. Free
Acoustic open mic, \$3 microbrewed pints and Pilsner Urquell bottles Crush 2843 N. Halsted St.

Thurs. 1/8
"Annie Get Your Gun" 8 p.m. Marriott Theatre 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire \$35 - \$50
"All's Well That Ends Well" 8 p.m. The Viaduct 3111 N. Western Ave. \$5 - \$15
Beyond Blond 8:30 p.m. C.J. Arthur's 1168 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette \$5 minimum
Blues Open Mic Jam 8:30 p.m. Harlem Avenue Lounge 3701 S. Harlem Ave., Berwyn

Friday 1/9
Detroit Jr. 8 p.m. Kingston Mines 2548 N. Halsted St.
Facing Angela 8:30 p.m. Raven Theatre 6157 N. Clark St. \$15
Ben Rudolph 5 p.m. The Green Mill 4802 N. Broadway Ave. Free
Big D and the Kids Table 6 p.m. Fireside Bowl 2646 W. Fullerton Ave.
Black Milk 8 p.m. Antheneum Theatre 2936 N. Southport Ave.

Sat. 1/10
Buddy Guy 9:30 p.m. Buddy Guy's Legends 754 S. Wabash Ave. \$30
The Best of Second City 7 p.m., 10 p.m. Metropolis Performing Arts Centre 111 W. Campbell St., Arlington Heights \$12 - \$25
Chris Walsh spins house 9 p.m. Xippo 3759 N. Damen Ave.
ComedySportz 8 p.m., 10:30 p.m. ComedySportz Theatre 2851 N. Halsted St. \$17

Sun. 1/11
Spoken word open mic 9 p.m. Sinibar 1540 N. Milwaukee Ave. No cover
Orange Lemon Egg Canary 3 p.m. Chopin Theatre 1543 W. Division St. \$15 - \$26
Rock en Espanol Rancho Luna del caribe 2554 W. Diversey Parkway. \$5
Karaoke 10:30 p.m. - 2:30 a.m. The Uptown Lounge 1136 W. Lawrence Ave.

Bring on the 'Payne'

By Adam J. Ferington
Commentary Editor

Max Payne, released in 2001, was a blistering tour de force for action gamers, blending the noirish atmosphere of seminal crime writer Raymond Chandler with the operatic violence of Hong Kong film legend John Woo into a compelling tragedy of betrayal, death and revenge.

Now, after just a scant two years, Rockstar Games (the lovable sociopaths who let us cut a murderous swath through *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*) have released a sequel to the detective's bullet-laden exploits, keeping him as close to our hearts as a hollow point slug.

The original found Payne exacting bloody revenge on a cabal of corrupt corporate officials for the slaying of his wife and infant child. Exonerated of his acts by the powerful, yet enigmatic Sen. Alfred Woden, Payne was given a shard of closure as the last game closed, with Payne atop a towering skyscraper littered with corpses in the driving snow, a broken man with an empty gun.

Max Payne 2, a direct sequel to the original, picks up almost immediately where the last game left off. Detective Payne is living in a ratty apartment, still haunted by the cold-blooded murder of his wife and child. He finds himself embroiled in a doomed love affair with the sultry Mona Sax, a murder suspect whose involvement in a sinister conspiracy may tie in with Payne's own bitter past. There are numerous references to the original; the clamorous, pitched gun battles in New York's Bowery District, the disconcerting dream and flashback sequences straight out of a David Lynch film and, of course, the return of foul mouthed Mafioso l'enfant terrible Vinnie Gognitti. As before, much of

the game's story plays out with a graphic novel narration beautifully rendered in gray hues and stark line work, narrated with gravely and commanding assurance by Payne and the rest of the cast. Technically, the game is a noticeable step above the last; the colors are varied and vivid, replacing the noticeably grimy palate that permeated the look of the last game.

Graphic models are a stride up as well; characters jump, roll and shoot with an immense amount of fluidity, their faces and motions successfully carrying the nuances that elevate the game's story over standard action fare.

In addition, the physics engine has been completely overhauled; boxes, chairs and ladders can be knocked down or blown apart, leaving bullet holes of varied size and debris if the latter is chosen.

There is nothing quite so rewarding as seeing an opponent's head snap back after burying half a dozen bullets in his chest and watching the blood arc in slow motion as he tumbles to the ground.

Fans of the first one will be particularly happy to know that the combat system has been improved as well. The "bullet time" function has been improved, giving the player a greater degree of mobility and more options for in the manner in which to dispatch their enemies.

Whereas "bullet time" previously only slowed down the world around them, *Max Payne 2* allows players to increase their speed based on how many enemies they kill. As Max successfully dispatches enemies, his "bullet time" meter increases with each kill, allowing him to move faster than his opponents and keep his meter filled. With a bit of luck and a lot of practice, it's possible to enter a room filled with almost a dozen enemies and messily dispense



of them in as many seconds or less. The grace of the combat system cannot be stressed enough; never before has executing mobsters, hit men and corrupt policemen been equivalent to a night at "Swan Lake."

Buyers should beware, though. *Max Payne 2* requires a fairly meaty system to get the best out of the game.

When it was run on a machine with a 2.8-GHz processor, 256 MB of system RAM and 128 MB video card, it still experienced comparatively long load times and slowdown in certain parts. Anyone who didn't like the first one probably won't find anything new here to capture his or her attention.

For everyone else, this game is a must have, regardless of whether you've experienced the first one or not. A handy recap serves as a primer to fill in any questions so you can start blasting away in almost no time at all.

'Diary' a dark treat

By Doris Dadayan
A & E Editor

With his use of second-person narration and raw, dark storytelling techniques, Chuck Palahniuk, author of *Lullaby*, *Invisible Monsters*, *Fight Club* and *Choke*, brings us yet another 260-page, psychological, cryptic journey into a dark story full of insane twists and turns.

Inside the blood-red title of the front cover of *Diary: A Novel*, the latest release by Palahniuk, there is a sense of horror, a feeling of psychological accusations that seems to be thrown at the reader—his signature style. His wordplay is ingenious; a simple sentence leaves you feeling chilled: "By the time you read this, you'll be older than you remember," and "The weather today is increasing concern followed by full-blown dread." Palahniuk has the ability to take common words and turn them into powerful sentences that can leave readers stumped for minutes.

Diary unlocks the story, the "coma diary," of Misty Tracy Wilmot, an aspiring painter who grew up in a trailer park. She goes on to marry wealthy Peter Wilmot after getting pregnant. Using up the money from the family trust, she, her daughter and her mother-in-law must move out of their mansion.

So, Misty begins working as a hotel maid on the island of Waytanssea, where her husband and his family originated, in order to support herself, her mother-in-law and her 12-year-old daughter. Her husband, Peter, has left her in a horrible situation that she struggles with throughout most of the novel. Misty's husband attempts to commit suicide by gassing himself in the garage, but ends up in a coma at

the hospital. Throughout the story, we get chilling accounts of summer vacation homeowners from the island that Peter, who is a carpenter, had "remodeled" and would then vandalize before leaving. Bone-chilling messages are left on his answering machine from owners who say their rooms have "disappeared"—a woman calling from Seaview says her linen closet is missing, a man calling from Long Beach says his bathroom is missing.

In an act of protest, Peter seals off various parts of these homes, hiding them from owners, leaving behind cryptic, hateful messages in graffiti on the walls and the furniture, which his wife Misty later discovers and decipher with the help of graphologist Angel Delaporte. She is then left to deal with lawsuits from the homeowners, which she tries to avoid dealing with by locking herself in her room.

As the plot unfolds, Misty begins to suffer from chronic headaches that go away only when she paints. People around her aren't concerned about her complaints of physical suffering. Everyone, including her mother-in-law, her doctor and her daughter, keeps encouraging her to continue painting.

Diary is a pretty easy read but isn't so easy to digest. It's a twisted story that is written for the reader who can't help but get caught in the whirlwind of terror, horror and chaos. Palahniuk's shock-value style hits hard: Right when you think you've figured out exactly what's happening in the story, he goes and drops another bomb.

With bizarre situations full of intense storytelling, he manages to keep a pulsating rhythm to his work. This is one diary that should be read.



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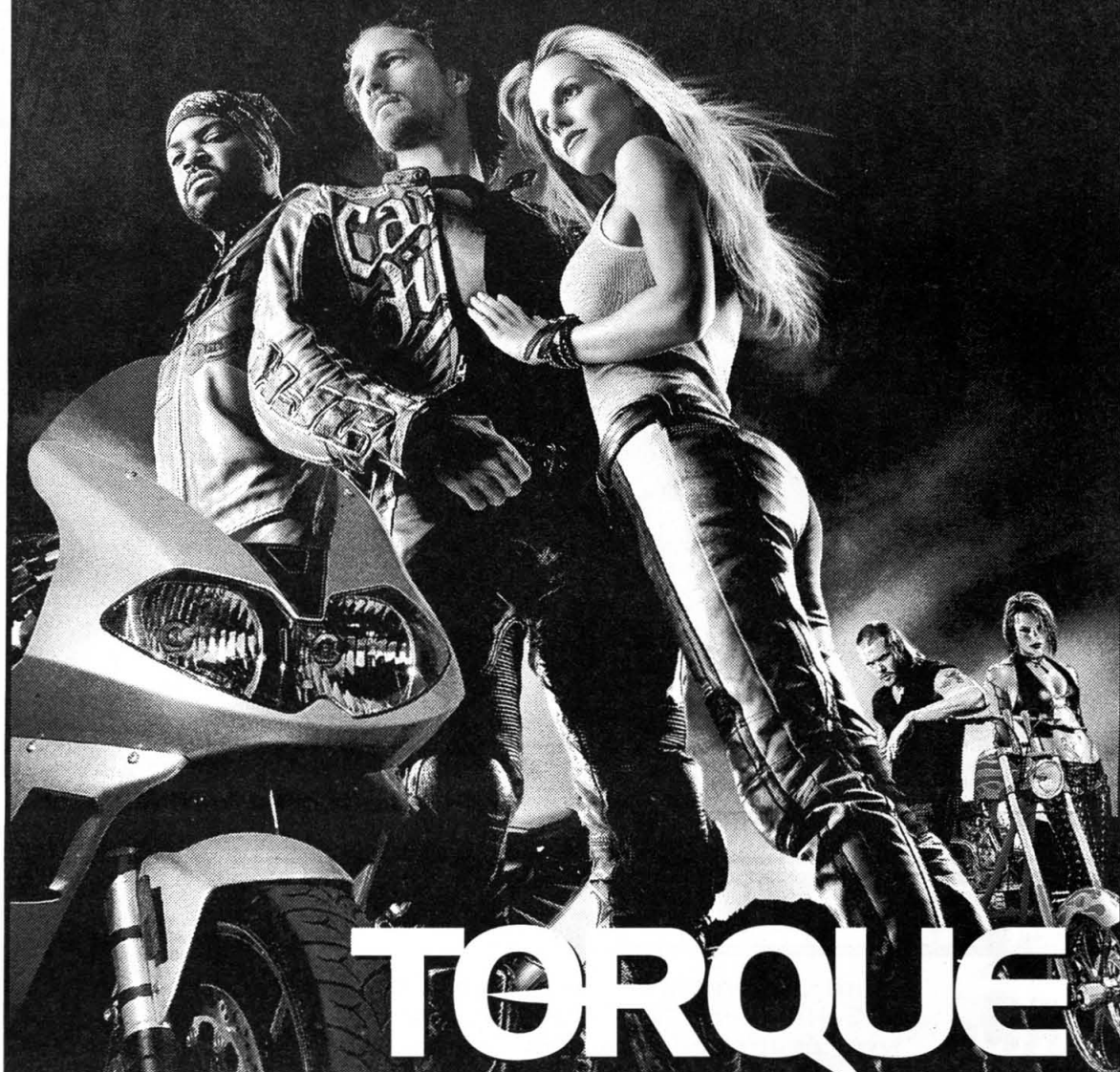
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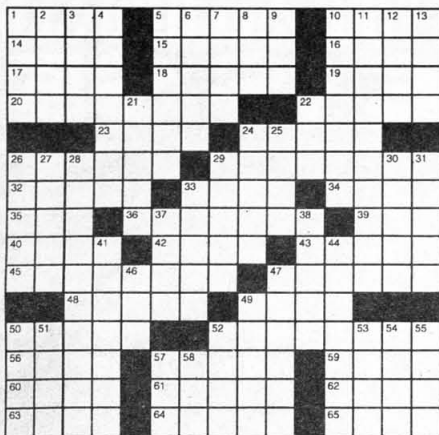
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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, JANUARY 16TH!

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Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Blueprint
 - Band
 - Pierce
 - Estevez movie, "___ Man"
 - Lotion botanicals
 - Motley ___
 - Persons
 - Essential
 - McNally's partner
 - Battlefield pits
 - Baseball plays
 - Black in poems
 - Witty remarks
 - Comedy club franchise
 - Moving with purpose
 - Computer accessory
 - Smile broadly
 - Jacob's twin
 - Eyeball
 - Impassive
 - Boob tubes
 - FDR's pooch
 - Goose cry
 - German sub
 - Acting a bit amorously
 - Without bias
 - Hag
 - Stopper
 - Of bees
 - Airplane control lever
 - Obscured by air pollution
 - Single step
 - Brainstorm
 - Three-sided rapier
 - In what way?
 - Shed, as feathers
 - DWI deplorers
 - Watered, as a lawn
 - So what ___ is new?
- DOWN**
- Coll. employee
 - Carson's successor
 - Highest point
 - Fridge raiders
 - Man with salivating dogs
 - Foreign
 - Decomposes
 - Pekoe, e.g.
 - High-fashion monogram
 - Ethical principle
 - Circuit switch
 - Bee of Mayberry
 - Flower plots
 - Double-reed instruments
 - Bride part.
 - Sham doctor
 - West Point inst.
 - See-ya!
 - Tag line from Aesop
 - Brought to the attention of all
 - In existence
 - Sea-going
 - Blowing
 - American frontiersman
 - Dilute
 - Hawaiian feasts
 - Placed on display
 - Major
 - 2,000 pounds
 - Angler's choice
 - Composure
 - Hey!
 - Herningway's nickname
 - Chews the fat
 - Object of devotion
 - Cartoon frames
 - Model Moss
 - Quiet down!
 - Also



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01/03/04

Solutions



- 44 Major
46 2,000 pounds
47 Angler's choice
49 Composure
50 Hey!
51 Hemingway's nickname
- 52 Chews the fat
53 Object of devotion
54 Cartoon frames
55 Model Moss
57 Quiet down!
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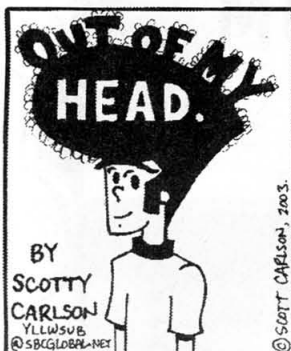
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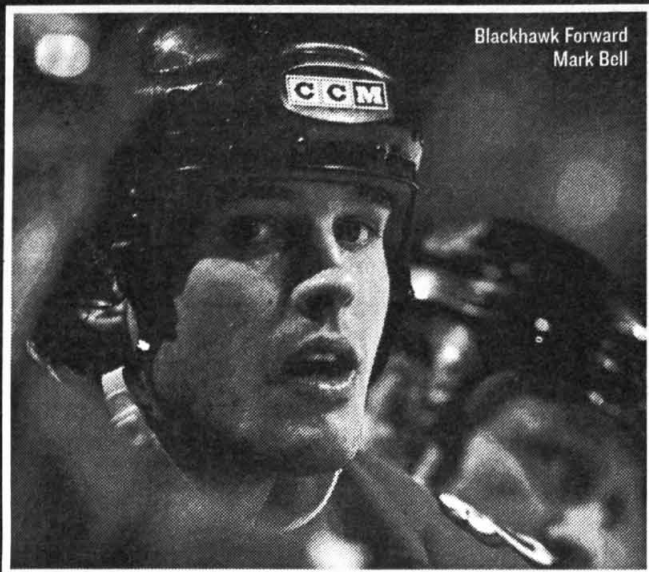
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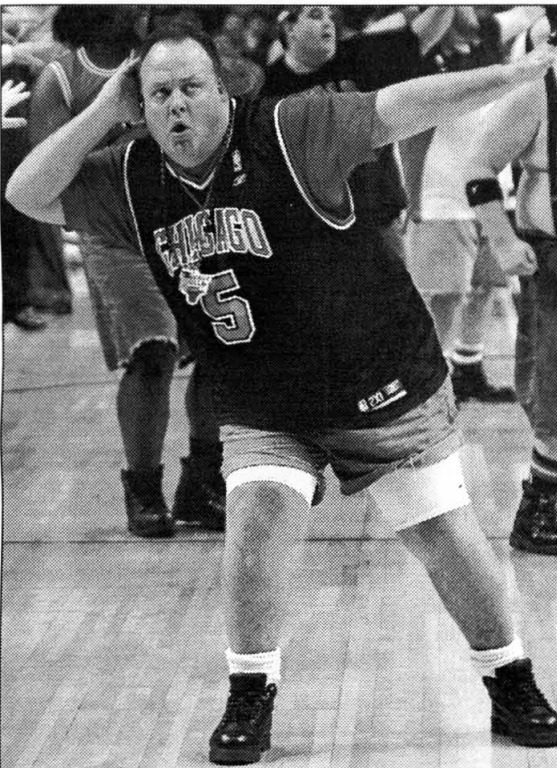
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'Huge' Bulls fan

○ Suburban man dreams of fame, performs with Matadors



Nolan Wells/The Naperville Sun

Kevin Swier loves performing in front of thousands of Chicago Bulls' fans during the six scheduled Matadors appearances.

By Lauren B. Kraft
The Naperville Sun

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (AP)—For nearly 40 years, an ebullient sports fan with a head for numbers and a body for comedy has chased a dream.

Kevin Swier's fantasy of performing in front of thousands of people has led him to try everything from a stint as a professional wrestler to singing for a New York City rock band. His forays into entertainment even led him to study quantitative analysis in college because, well, it was so strange that it just made people laugh. But it wasn't until the 39-year-old, married

father of four received his regular e-mail update from the Chicago Bulls a few months back that his dream would be realized.

Swier, an IBM employee who works from his Naperville home, read about tryouts for a new pep squad of sorts. The dance team would shake its stuff at the United Center during home games, and most of what was required was a willingness to make fun of oneself. Plus, there was that one curious phrase that put it in Swier's head that he was perfect for the job. The ad asked for "huge" Bulls fans.

"I've been fat, loud and obnoxious at sporting events for nearly the last 40

years," Swier said. "So now the home team is willing to sponsor me."

Auditions were a breeze. About 50 fans showed up in mostly Bulls garb and accessories. Swier, who wore only a Bulls jersey and shorts—"I figured I'm going to get by on attitude, you know, not gimmicks"—was a shoo-in.

"We thought we only wanted 10 or 12, but we saw 14 we really wanted," said Cathy Core, director for the Luvabulls and the new group, the Matadors.

Core said she was even charmed by the chest butts the burly guys threw around. Even during auditions when they were competing against one another, they had team spirit in mind, and it showed through, she said.

In the hours before their first of a planned six appearances at the United Center, it became obvious that the bond that had been established within the group was no stunt. Love for attention, laughs, the Bulls and food is what they came for, and it's exactly what they got.

As one of the quieter Matadors, which isn't saying much, Swier's antics are mostly reserved for the times he's in front of the camera or dancing to "YMCA." He throws out golden lines for reporters and television cameras, like when he was asked how many men were on the Matadors. His answer: "Fourteen. It only looks like 22." But his antics are more reserved than those of his cohorts, who run around asking to play tag or who expound on the beauty of a fat man in a little shirt.

"I'm what I need to be," he said. "When the adoring public is in front of me, that's when I need to perform."

That said, Swier isn't afraid to put on a show for his buddies, either, especially when it comes to sports.

While waiting for his second-quarter appearance, Swier was both cocky and awestruck. He said he knew he was a natural for the job, but at the same time he couldn't believe a regular guy was changing in the locker room usually reserved for visiting hockey teams at the United Center.

As Core and Marianne Caponi, who does marketing for the Bulls, hand out meal tickets, the guys are thrilled. "They know how to reward this group," said one of the Matadors, while rounding up a group of teammates to grab hamburgers.

Grant Park to have little Italy of its own

By Andrew Greiner
Staff Writer

The Chicago Sister Cities International program plans to install a Milan-style garden in Grant Park. However, construction of the garden cannot begin until CSCI secures the \$1.5 million to fund the project.

On Dec. 4, the Milan Committee of the Chicago Sister Cities unveiled its horticultural plans across the street from the future garden site at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Mayor Richard M. Daley approved the land for construction, but no tax dollars will be used. The city of Milan contributed \$40,000 for the preliminary drawings of the garden, but the construction costs will come solely from donations.

The designs for the park include rows of Lombard poplar trees, a cobblestone courtyard shaded by screens of hornbeam and hedges of boxwood twisted to resemble Leonardo da Vinci knots—one of Milan's most famous residents. The fountain that already resides in that stretch of park will be restored as part of the beautification.

Construction on the park could begin as early as May, said Barry Burton, deputy director of the Department of Natural Resources in Chicago. "We just need to raise \$1.5 million, then we can start building," he said.

Chicago has had a relationship with Milan for 30 years through the SCI; it also maintains sister-city relations with 22 other cities around the world. The program's mission is to promote cultural exchange, economic development and trade throughout the world.

Joy Hallum, international program coordinator for the Milan Committee at the Chicago Sister Cities International Program, said there could be more to the garden than just a cultural exchange.

"Part of our job is to create an endowment to fund the maintenance of the park," Hallum said. "It will be Chicagoans planting the trees for the garden. ...It will create some jobs for the city."

The maintenance of the park will be handed over to the Chicago Park District when it is completed. The site is on park district grounds, but the city will handle the construction phase,

Burton said.

The SCI, a nonprofit organization, will be soliciting donations until their monetary goal is met. An individual who donates the total \$1.5 million will get the opportunity to incorporate their name into the park. For a donation of \$3,000, a person may claim a poplar tree.

"We'll have some way to mark the donations. We're not sure yet, possibly a wall of fame or maybe a marker in the ground by the tree or some benches," Hallum said. "We won't know until it starts to come together."

While the Chicago branch of SCI is open to any contributors, Hallum expects the most interest to come from gardening aficionados.

"Around here, gardening is more popular than baseball," said Cathy Judge, a librarian at the Chicago Horticultural Society. "During the year at the Botanic Gardens there are hundreds of courses in botany and thousands of students."

According to Inge Alheid from the Garden Clubs of Illinois, there are close to 10,000 individual garden clubs in the state alone.

"Chicago is known all over the country and even the world because of Mayor Daley's beautification programs," Alheid said.

The Milan-inspired garden will be the only one of its kind in the United States recognized by the Grandi Giardini Italiani, an association of Italian Gardens, Hallum said.

"The great thing about this garden is that it is not a replica of an old Italian garden. It is a true contemporary expression of an Italian style garden. Chicago is the perfect host for this type of garden. It will blend with Chicago's rich architectural and cultural landmarks," Burton said.

According to Hallum, there will be some sort of signage to denote the Italian garden's location. It will be contained by the pre-existing path in the Grant Park site. The cobblestone courtyard will surround the fountain on the site. A knot pattern straight from da Vinci's sketchbook will be repeated 16 times around the garden, with the boxwood hedges as the medium.

Those interested in donating may call the Chicago SCI headquarters at (312) 744-8074.

Local women honored for their entrepreneurial efforts

By Tawney Saylor
Staff Writer

Women entrepreneurs are on the rise in Chicago and at least some of this development can be traced to the Women's Self-Employment Project, a nonprofit corporation based in the South Loop area that helps women create their own business opportunities.

A reception was held on Dec. 9 at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., to honor 11 exceptional women—including one former Columbia student—who have undertaken successful business ventures in the Chicago area with the support of the WSEP. Each recipient was awarded a \$500 grant and one year of complimentary broadband service as

part of the Covad Broadband Entrepreneur Award Program.

"Tremendous progress has been made in the past decade," said the event's keynote speaker, Illinois Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn. "Great ideas often begin with one person who has the courage to carry them out."

One of the award recipients, Dominga Cortes-Johnson, was honored for her ability to turn an innovative idea into a lucrative business venture. On Dec. 14, Cortes-Johnson launched Mi Spa, 1509 S. Michigan Ave., a full service spa that specializes in hydrotherapy and standard spa services, such as massages and facials.

"I came up with the idea because I really like to pamper people," she said. "I think it is important that we as women nurture one another."

Cortes-Johnson, who worked as a district manager at Verizon Wireless for seven years before becoming self-employed, said she was inspired in part by the business acumen of her daughter, Danielle, who was also honored at the ceremony.

Danielle Cortes attended Columbia in 1994 as a dance major. She is now a certified paramedic and founder of Heart Savers & Educators Inc., a Chicago-based medical training, consulting and product distribution company that opened in 2001.

Cortes said she saw the need for "community teaching in CPR and

first aid, especially among low-income women," and was able to fill that void after WSEP helped her with business and financial planning.

Angela Rowse, WSEP communications and development coordinator, said these are just a few shining examples of the nearly 8,000 women WSEP has helped over the years.

"They had an amazing idea," she said. "All they needed was that little extra push to go the next step."

Since its inception in 1986, WSEP has provided business training services, technical assistance services, personal financial services and public policy initiatives for low-income women across the nation.

Rowse said that although progress is being made, she would like to see even more women taking charge.

"The demographic for women in business is smaller, but the amount of women who purchase is higher," she said. "This is a problem because women want to buy products from someone that they can identify with and see themselves in."

Women-owned businesses account for nearly 26 percent of businesses in the United States, according to the 1997 Economic Census released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Illinois has the fifth largest number of women-owned firms in the country.

City treasurer Judith Rice said women are a driving force throughout

the area and are more than capable of handling the economic aspects of a business.

"The U.S. treasurer is a woman, the state treasurer is a woman and I am a woman," she said. "This shows that women definitely know how to manage money."

Illinois Commerce Commissioner Lula Ford stressed the importance of programs like WSEP and said women-owned businesses are the "lifeblood of American economy."

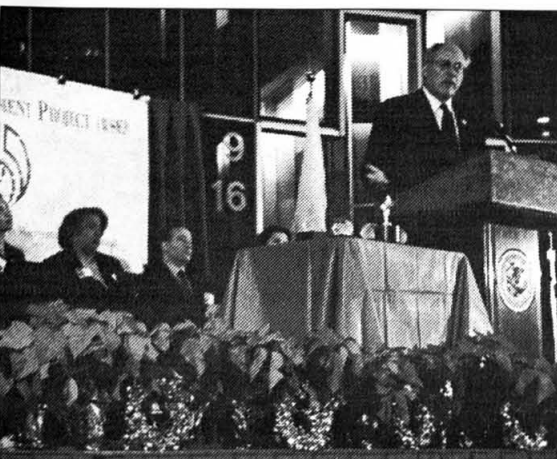
"Many women dream of starting their own business, yet due to lack of resources and business planning, these dreams never become a reality," she said.

Ford, the first African-American to serve in the Illinois Commerce Commission in its 90-year history, also pointed out that women of color account for one in every five women-owned businesses.

"This is an exciting trend and one that I hope continues into the future," she said.

Rowse said any woman is capable of starting her own business, provided she has the innovation and resources to do so.

"Finding funding is the biggest challenge," she said. "After that, all it takes is the courage to know that you can be anything you think you can be."



Charles Kushner/The Chronicle

Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn speaks at reception honoring 11 women entrepreneurs.

New year, new hill



Charles Kushner/The Chronicle

Peter Lindsay Schaudt, a Chicago landscape architect, climbs the Near South Side's newly completed sledding hill on Dec. 18. Schaudt's company landscaped the 35-foot tall hill, which sits just southeast of the new Soldier Field and features a 220-ft. slope to the lakefront.

Swedish company not coming to city, yet

Development delays force IKEA to look to suburbs for store opening

By Jennifer Golz
City Beat Editor

Swedish "big box" retailer IKEA has abandoned plans for a site in the South Loop and is instead scouting locations for a possible 2005-store opening in the suburbs.

Discussions between Rezmar Corp., the developer of Riverside Park, and IKEA officials ended last month when it was determined that the proposed site would not be ready for at least two years.

"IKEA doesn't need Chicago; we don't need IKEA," Mayor Richard M. Daley said at a press conference after receiving word of the company's plight from Chicago. "It's just another company."

Despite the mayor's disgruntled comments, IKEA officials are optimistic about the opening of a store in or near Chicago in the future.

"We're excited about perspective opportunities in the Chicago area, wherever that may be," said Joseph Roth, IKEA spokesman. "But [IKEA] had never formally committed to the [Riverside Park] site. The developer had a model that had a big blue box on it, but that was their doing, not ours."

The area south of 16th Street, north to Roosevelt Road and extending from Clark Street to the Chicago River, is the largest location of undeveloped land in the Loop. Before

developmental construction can begin, the area needs basic ground-work such as streets and sewers.

According to Judi Fishman, project director for Riverside Park, estimated project completion for the community is seven to 10 years.

"Riverside Park will be a mixed-use community with parks, a river walk and different types of housing including condominiums, town homes, lofts and single family homes as well as neighborhood and lifestyle shopping.

Swedish and we're on our own time frame." But Roth said the company would still like to get a second store in the Chicago area sooner rather than later.

The Schaumburg IKEA was opened to serve as the mega-store servicing the Midwest. It is octagonal in shape and three stories high with a large warehouse on location.

Roth said newer IKEAs being built are more streamlined and only average 290,000 to 350,000 square feet. Although these new stores are smaller, they offer the full range of IKEA products, the Swedish restaurant, the bistro and food market, as well as the supervised children's area. Currently, IKEA has 190 stores in 31 countries.

"Typically, IKEA needs 15 to 25 acres to build a store," Roth said. "We recognize the large customer base in the city ... but 15 to 25 acres in the city of Chicago is hard to come by."

"Riverside Park is a fabulous location and retailers know that," Fishman said. "There are many stores that are very interested in coming to the location, but it's too premature to name anyone specific."

"In the suburbs you can just plop something down with a lot of parking, but the city has high standards and a lot of these retailers are beginning to understand what they have to do to tap into the urban customer base," Fishman said.

"IKEA doesn't need Chicago; we don't need IKEA ... It's just another company."

—Mayor Richard M. Daley

"Any of the stores we put in there have an urban strategy, where IKEA doesn't have that yet and that was part of their problem," Fishman said. "It will be just as nice without them."

In 1998, IKEA opened a 400,000 square foot store in Schaumburg. Tanya Sobol, the assistant to the store manager, said the growth of the Schaumburg store steadily increases by 5 percent each year.

Today, that IKEA location sees approximately 66,000 visitors per week.

"When the doors opened we knew it was a success," Roth said. "But we're a private company, and we're

City orders hotel to clean up or close up

Electrical items atop hotel's 68 violations

By Kwame Abasi Patterson
Associate Editor

Based on a laundry list of 68 building code violations, the city of Chicago gave the owners of the Congress Plaza Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., one month to fix all listed obstructions or they will file formal charges against them.

Municipal Court Judge Daniel Joseph Lynch, who ordered the closing of the E2 nightclub, heard the city's case Dec. 18. He gave hotel owners 14 days to produce a formal schedule of repairs to address all of the violations. And if hotel owners, 520 S. Michigan Ave. Associates Ltd., refuse to comply, the property could be closed or seized.

The hotel, where employees have been on strike since June, was cited by the city in December for 68 different categories of violations. According to city building inspectors, the hotel has uncovered circuit boxes by some of the guests' rooms. Additionally, the hotel has 14 days to remove exposed wiring, provide required working space around equipment, install covers on outlet and junction boxes, restore exit and emergency lighting systems, provide lighting to various corridors and seal open drains.

"We're looking for the very serious violations that have the potential to be dangerous to be handled first," said Judy Frydland, a city attorney.

Daniel Graham, defense attorney for the hotel owners, agreed with the city's orders. He said he believes the most important part of the hearing was that there were no violations found by the city that could force the building to close. However, he believes a number of other items on the list are frivolous.

"We understand fixing the electrical problems as a priority, but a simple scratch of paint on the door or changing a two-prong sockets into three-prong plugs is ridiculous," Graham said. "The building is over 100 years old."

Congress Plaza Hotel spokesman Peter Andjelkovich said the hotel, which was constructed in 1893, can be expected to have some problems because of its age. And in an effort to correct these issues, Andjelkovich said the hotel owners have invest more than \$20 million over the last 10 years into hotel renovations. He added that the allegations against the Congress are false and brought on by the union.

"This is nothing more than a dirty trick to force us to sign unreasonable

contracts and since striking hasn't worked they have moved on to the next trick," he said. "It's a campaign to defame."

Congress Hotel workers, part of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 1, have been on strike since June, after management cut wages and benefits. Lars Negstad, research director for the HERE Local 1 said they went before the city's finance committee in November because they heard so many complaints from workers and customers about the hotel.

Additionally, the hotel violations were deemed severe enough the city chose to skip the usual administrative hearing process and "leapfrog" to the Municipal Court.

A vast majority of cases never go to court, but in the Congress Hotel's case the city didn't give the hotel a chance to make repairs, according to Graham.

But HERE Local 1 officials believe the city moved on the hotel, because its conditions are bad for the city's image.

"It's a black eye to the city," Negstad said.

Based on the city's inspection of the hotel, Frydland believes there is a lot of work to be done by hotel owners.

"It's a very sad case because people are out of a job, but based on what I saw, it's a lot of work," she said.

One striker, Henry Miller, a bartender for the hotel, said he isn't pleased with the court's order. Miller said the union and employees have pointed out several different dangerous violations to the city.

"It took one faulty wire to kill six people in the building across the street," Miller said, referring to the fire at the Cook County Administration building. "The city has a building with 68 different violations and 800 hotel rooms and it keeps it open?"

Andjelkovich said they are unaware of how the strike and the court hearing have affected business. He also said they are hoping the city doesn't make an example out of them based on the E2 tragedy, the Lincoln Park porch collapse and the Cook County Building fire.

Overall, officials from HERE Local 1 said they are satisfied with the court's ruling because it shows the city is taking an aggressive step against negligent building owners.

The next court hearing for the Congress Plaza Hotel is scheduled for Jan. 29.



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

The historic Congress Plaza Hotel has been battling striking workers since last June, now they face the city.