

2-23-2004

Columbia Chronicle (02/23/2004)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

E2: Picking up the pieces



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

The morning after the one-year anniversary of the E2 nightclub disaster, Eric Gill stops to look at a makeshift memorial for a friend who died at the scene Feb. 17, 2003. See page 38 for story.

No hike

○ Tuition costs to remain same for next year

By Chris Coates
Editor-in-Chief

In a surprise move against national trends, Columbia's undergraduate and graduate populations will not see an increase in next year's tuition charges, college officials said Feb. 18. The college has raised its tuition every year for at least the past decade.

According to Mark Kelly, the college's vice president of Student Affairs, the move shows Columbia's commitment to keeping education affordable despite the college's past economic problems. Since 2001, the college's endowment has lost at least \$15 million.

"It's been a concern among everyone: Will Columbia become unaffordable?" Kelly said.

Although data shows Columbia remains one of the most affordable, four year private institutions in the state, the college has

annually increased tuition sometimes by as much as 12 percent.

Currently, Columbia students pay \$15,270 in total expenses a year. Students should expect to spend around the same next year, officials said.

At its Feb. 17 meeting, the college's board of trustees voted unanimously to hold its current tuition rate.

Last year, the college raised charges by 8.5 percent for the fall term, with Columbia President Warrick L. Carter then citing the college's investment losses, an increased demand in expanding the campus and the college's reported nearly 90 percent dependence on tuition.

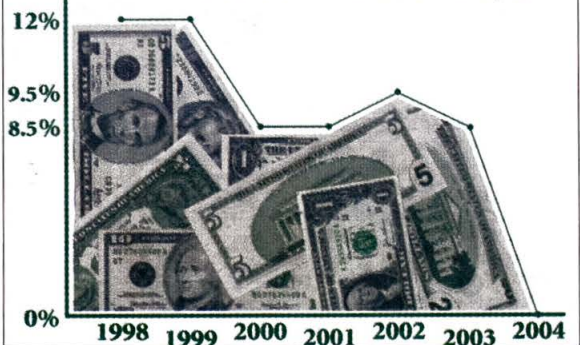
From 1998 to 2003, the costs of a Columbia undergraduate education increased an average of 9.8 percent.

The high-water mark was in 1999, when the college hiked

See Tuition Page 6

Undergraduate tuition hikes per academic year.

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO | 6



Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

Water beetles plague college theater

○ Cockroach lookalikes need more than an exterminator, students say

By Scott Carlson
Assistant News Editor

Even though they aren't cockroaches and probably won't be around for very much longer, water beetles have set up camp in one of Columbia's buildings.

For the past five years, some Columbia students and faculty in the 11th street campus building, at 72 E. 11th St., have had to share the makeup room and parts of the rest of the building with a troop of unwanted guests, they told The Chronicle.

"We've always had a certain

amount of a bug problem in the building," said Sheldon Patinkin, chairman of the Theater Department.

The beetles, commonly misidentified by students as cockroaches, have made their homes inside the walls and ceiling of the building, most notoriously in the second floor makeup room.

"They're not cockroaches, but they look like cockroaches and still frighten people," said Mary McDonald-Badger, producing

director of the Theater Department.

And while the incidents have calmed over the past month, given how long their guests have stayed, faculty members maintain the problem won't be going away any time soon, and they are looking to the administration for a permanent fix.

"At the present moment, we haven't seen much of them, but it gets pretty hairy in there several times a year, especially at the

See Beetles Page 6



Citing job losses, staffers organize

○ 'We will deal with it accordingly,' says Carter

By Lisa Balde
Managing Editor

In an effort to curb concerns about job stability, a small group of Columbia staff members recently launched an initiative to start a

staff-only union, the United Staff of Columbia College.

More than six months in the planning stages, the US of CC initiative comes in the wake of a pension freeze and a string of job cuts

See Unionize Page 7

Inside
this week



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Calling all lumberjacks and dead parrots

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Add a little 'Orange' to your meals

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Calendar: Feb. 23-27

MONDAY

As part of Columbia's Black History Month celebration, "Black Images On Screen," there will be a screening of *A History of Racist Animation*. The film explores racist stereotypes from the golden age of animation and will be followed by a discussion.

The event begins at 3:15 p.m. in Hokin Hall of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

TUESDAY

A diversity job fair is at Navy Pier's Lakeview Terrace, 600 E. Grand Ave., from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Chicago South Side branch of the NAACP. It is free and open to the public.

Recruiters from various fields will be on hand to interview and hire applicants. The fair offers job opportunities regardless of age, race, creed or gender.

WEDNESDAY

"African American Writers in Entertainment," a panel discussion, is at 10 a.m. in the Hokin Hall of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

The panel will feature three speakers: Danita Jones, one of the first black writers for the NBC sitcom *Frasier*; Allan Johnson, Columbia journalism instructor and television and entertainment reporter for the Chicago Tribune; and Michael Fry, Columbia faculty member and feature film writer.

THURSDAY

Big Mouth open mic night begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Performers can sign-up for the evening at 6 p.m.

Big Mouth is a monthly event that turns the microphone over to anyone who has something to say, sing or rap. The program has been running since 1999.

FRIDAY

A TV trivia game show is at 1 p.m. in studio A on the 15th floor of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. Watch faculty, staff and students compete for prizes while proving who knows more about all things television.

The free event is sponsored by the Television Arts Society. For more information, call (312) 344-7433.

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

Clarification

In an article in the Feb. 16 edition about the college's baseball team, "Columbia Coyotes step up to the plate," The Chronicle erroneously reported that the team's catcher is named Charles Schroeder. His name is Chris Schroeder.

The Chronicle regrets the error.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Feb 16 - 20 user poll results

Have you been following the Democratic primaries?

Yes: 60 percent No: 40 percent

Vote at ColumbiaChronicle.com



Chris Coates Editor-in-Chief

Cubbies need a vacation

One of the ironies of the debate over last year's renaming of Comiskey Park was the fact it wasn't all that original.

A few miles away and 77 years earlier, chewing gum tycoon William Wrigley Jr. renamed a North Side ballpark for his newly purchased Cubs.

The stadium, of course, was Wrigley Field, and until then, the ballpark at Clark and Addison streets was Weeghman Park, and the North Side boys played on the West Side.

But long before the days of salary caps, the Cubs' new owner gave his players something much more: Wrigley offered his Cubbies a free trip to a tropical paradise just before the season.

Take that U.S. Cellular.

The place was Santa Catalina Island, Calif., more than 2,000 miles from the friendly confines.

In the early 1900s, Wrigley bought stock in a real estate venture in properties off the California coast. According to lore, Wrigley, who was then just beginning his days as a millionaire, invested without actually seeing the property.

Catalina was the stuff of movies—a 76 square mile, *Casablanca*-meets-*Tarzan*-esque setting just a two-hour boat ride off the coast of Los Angeles.

It was also quite barren, with little amenities aside from stunning views and the legendary Tuna Club, whose members included Theodore Roosevelt and Winston Churchill.

When Wrigley finally got around to checking the place out, he changed his mind, bought the rest of the investors out and became the island's only owner.

It was another feather in the shrewd

businessman's cap.

Wrigley probably saw the place's magic. That little island in the Pacific is now a top tourist destination, bringing in millions of dollars in revenue each year.

Perhaps sensing those possibilities, the capitalist slowly began improving Avalon, then and now Catalina's only substantial city. He installed infrastructure, fixed sewers and erected streetlights. Soon, Catalina was positively in the middle of a construction boom: first a resort hotel, then a casino and then a pottery factory.

Wrigley kept building, and tourists and the wealthy from Los Angeles kept coming.

Wrigley himself built a summer estate overlooking the ocean and began eyeing the island as the new summer home of his other venture: the Chicago Cubs.

From 1921 to 1941, the Cubs spent spring training on Catalina Island on a field exactly the same dimensions as Wrigley's. It was an illustrious time in the country's history, from prohibition to World War II, when a large part of Catalina became a military base.

The conditions were perfect, the temperatures mild and in the days before cardio, the mountains were perfect for heavy training. Plus, the players were miles from civilization, forcing them to focus only on refining their baseball skills.

It was also advertising gold. The descriptions of picture-perfect Catalina by Chicago's sports writers spurred an early 20th century pilgrimage for chilly Chicagoans. And with Catalina less than an hour from the Hollywood hills, the springtime Cubbies—who, during their days on Catalina, appeared

several times in the World Series—drew their fair share of celebrities, including the likes of Marilyn Monroe. In fact, a young Ronald Reagan—the future movie star/governor of California/president of the United States—spent each February and March on the island as play-by-play announcer for the team.

Today, Catalina retains much of the charm ensured by Wrigley. For vacationing Los Angelinos, the island is the Hamptons of the West, ushering in dozens of multimillion-dollar mansions that overlook Avalon's still quaint downtown.

Cars are sparse; most Catalonians use golf carts for transport.

As for the Cubs, they've been on a losing streak ever since they moved their spring training. Between 1929 and 1945, the Cubs made five appearances in the World Series.

Maybe our boys in blue and white needed that vacation.

Since 1979, the Cubbies have trained in the arid desert of Mesa, Ariz.

So, with less than two weeks before the Cubs' 2004 spring training kicks off, I say the Cubs move back to Catalina. When you're five outs from the World Series, every bit helps.

Wrigley would have liked that. He died in 1932 and was buried on the island.

Although Wrigley's son, Phillip, took control of the empire, the Cubs were mostly managed by William Veeck, the father of future Chicago White Sox owner William Veeck Jr. Veeck of course created the White Sox's famous exploding scoreboard that's still a draw at Comiskey Park.

Make that U.S. Cellular Field.

—ccoates@chroniclemail.com

3 years ago in The Chronicle

We still miss El Taco Loco.

The Feb. 26, 2001, edition of The Chronicle leads with word that the construction of the new Buddy Guy's Legends at Wabash Avenue and Balbo Drive, just south of Columbia's Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., is on track and set for completion in March 2003.

The site remains vacant today.

Buddy Guy's still operates out of its location at 9th Street and Wabash Avenue, a site on which Columbia hoped to build its new student center. The college technically owns the building and lot.

In 2000, construction workers tore down El Taco Loco, a small eatery and Chronicle favorite that once occupied the corner, to make way for the new four-story club.

Construction of Buddy Guy's hasn't happened yet.

Even back in 2001, there were problems with plans, according to club general manager Kevin Binkley.

"We have been held up a little bit by permits and stuff," he said.

To say the least.

Announcements

Sorry, the positions are filled

In another round of hiring by the college in recent weeks, Columbia has filled four newly-created positions.

Kim Clement has been named assistant vice president for Development; Nelson K. Boyette, executive director of Constituent Relations; John M. Holster, executive director of Advancement Services; and Lona Livingston, director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Livingston is the only candidate hired from within Columbia.

Next week's Chronicle will look at the college's recent appointments.

Kerouac-ed at Columbia

The first draft of Jack Kerouac's legendary novel, *On the Road*, has hit the road itself. The book will eventually take a three-month detour to Columbia.

The draft, a 120-foot scroll complete with editing notations and the author's own ink-stained fingerprints, was purchased by Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay two years ago for \$2.43 million.

After displaying the draft in Indianapolis, Irsay plans to send the Beat Generation's famous text back to the road.

The bad news? The four-year tour of American libraries and museums won't make a pit-stop at Columbia until August 2007.

Read with the next Monet

The Columbia library's winter gallery "Art of the Library" is now open to the public.








"Art of the Library" is a continuing series of exhibitions that feature the talent of Columbia students, staff, faculty and community members. Pieces in the exhibit will include watercolors, photo-

graphs, cartoons, handmade dolls, jewelry and more.

The collection can be found on the third floor of the library inside the south campus building located at 624 S. Michigan Ave. There is no admission charge to view the art.

Weather

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

Monday, Feb. 23	
	Mostly cloudy High 40° Low 28°
Tuesday, Feb. 24	
	Cloudy with snow possible High 38° Low 26°
Wednesday, Feb. 25	
	Clouds and sunshine High 38° Low 24°
Thursday, Feb. 26	
	Partly sunny High 40° Low 26°
Friday, Feb. 27	
	Mostly sunny High 42° Low 30°
Saturday, Feb. 28	
	Increasing clouds High 44° Low 30°
Sunday, Feb. 29	
	Cloudy with rain possible High 40° Low 26°

All forecasts provided by AccuWeather.com ©2004

Lunchtime serenade



Dan Saura (left) and Kevin Martinez jam in the Hokin Gallery of the Wabash campus building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Feb. 18 as part of the lunchtime Acoustic Music Afternoon series.

Study shows fewer transfer students in spring semester

○ Recruiting limitations cited for low registration

By Andrew Greiner
Assistant News Editor

Columbia may be losing its appeal as a destination for transfer students.

For the third year in a row the number of transfer students is down, according to enrollment data for the spring 2004 semester by the college's Office of Institutional Planning and Research. Since spring 2003, the college has seen a 21.5 percent decrease in transfer students.

The percentage of incoming transfer students has steadily declined since fall 2002, when transfer enrollment took a 2 percent dip.

Elizabeth Silk, director of Institutional Research, said it might not be correct to call this decline in transfer students a trend.

"We haven't seen a pattern to explain why there are less transfer students," Silk said.

While the loss of transfers is troubling, it could be seen as a positive for the school. The school is experiencing a trend in which more students commit to Columbia early and finish out their four years with the college, said Steven Kapelke, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs.

The spring enrollment numbers show a 3.4 percent increase in new freshman enrollment since 2003. In 2003, 255 new freshmen enrolled for the spring semester, while 274 new freshmen registered for spring 2004.

The increase in new freshmen is an encouraging sign for Columbia, but the loss in transfer students is distressing to the administration.

"Some of our best students are transfer students," Kapelke said. "They add a certain level to our educational advancement."

Susan Sindlinger, director of transcript evaluation, agrees. Some of the most successful Columbia students were transfer students, she said. Transfers have broad education, and because of work at other schools, they usually display elements of focus and drive

that help them succeed, according to Sindlinger.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student

Affairs, said there is not much that can be done to increase Columbia's transfer student numbers.

There are recruiting limitations when it comes to attracting transfer students, he said. Aside from running an ad in a campus newspaper, recruiters' hands are tied at other colleges, Kelly said. Community colleges have more relaxed rules, but overall, the decision to transfer to Columbia purely rests with the students.

Kelly said he is not overly concerned with the transfer student enrollment dip. Transfer students make up only 5 percent of the overall student population.

The 21.5 percent slide could also be misleading because it is a difference of only about 100 students or so. This spring, 394 transfer students have enrolled, while 502 transfers enrolled the previous year.

Kelly said he is pleased with the 2 percent overall enrollment boost for this spring. "Two percent is healthy, and it is about what we expected for spring," he said.

One of the most startling numbers on the enrollment report is a 94.3 percent decrease in returning and readmitted students. These students are classified as such because of an interruption in schooling for at least one full term, Silk said.

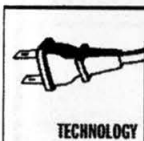
But according to Silk, the returning and readmitting students may have been improperly coded. Therefore, some of these students may have been lumped together with continuing students. The miscoding needs to be looked into further but could be fixed with an adjustment to OASIS, Silk said.

"Ever since OASIS came in, we don't count things the same way," Sindlinger said. "They're just labeling things differently."

Columbia computers doomed?

○ Discarding attachment e-mails only a temporary solution to combat virus

By Andrew Greiner
Assistant News Editor



Columbia's Information Technology Department issued an e-mail alert Feb. 16, warning of

possible computer infection by the Mydoom virus. According to the alert, any e-mails containing attachments with certain file types are being discarded.

Whether or not traces of the virus have been detected on Columbia's network is unclear. Officials from the IT Department were unavailable for comment. But the discarding of e-mails might be a necessary step in preventing the virus from infecting Columbia computers.

The Mydoom virus first surfaced in January 2004, and within days, some experts estimated it had infected close to 300,000 machines and continued to grow.

Mydoom is a worm virus that arrives through an e-mail attachment, and while it may be hard to identify from the address line, it can be spotted by its attach-

ment's file extensions. The extensions .pif, .scr, .exe, .cmd, .bat and .zip identify the virus, and they are the same extensions that the IT Department said it would delete, according to the e-mail.

The worm is highly contagious. Mydoom seeks out all the e-mail contacts on a particular machine, copies itself, then mails a copy to every person in that address book. One of the defining symptoms for the virus is the erroneous message return.

The e-mails are disguised as undeliverable messages, but one indicator of infection is that these bounced back messages were never sent in the first place.

"It's like, I get an e-mail from Singapore that says my message was undeliverable. The problem is, I don't know anybody in Singapore, and I never sent an e-mail," said Steven Sobocinski, a part-time help desk employee.

Once the virus is let loose, it opens up certain ports on the PC, which could be the biggest concern. According to a report published on nwfusion.com, hackers can upload spyware or simply browse the user personal

information stored on an infected computer.

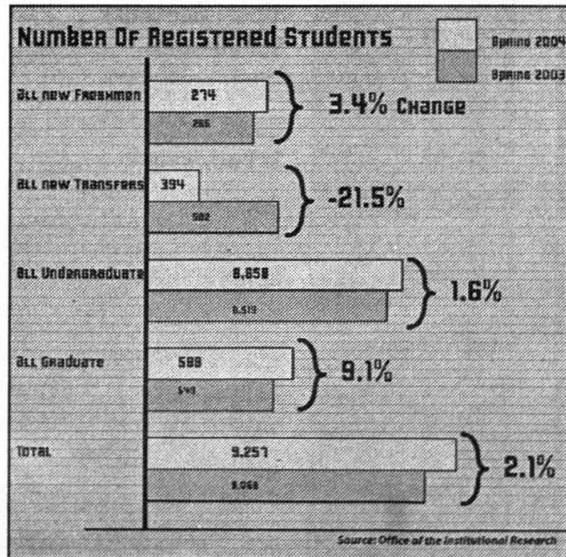
The virus attacks machines using Microsoft Windows Operating Systems. According to www.microsoft.com, an update will help resolve a user's Mydoom problem. Windows update will scan your machine for infection and allow you to download the necessary security patch, according to the site.

The IT Department's policy of discarding e-mails should be a temporary solution. With the availability of security patches and updated antivirus software, Mydoom can be contained and expelled.

Sobocinski said deleting the e-mails might not be technically easier than updating. Because the department is understaffed, deleting questionable e-mails is less taxing than visiting all the computers on Columbia's campus to update and clean them.

But the policy of discarding e-mails indiscriminately shouldn't last long.

"I assume [the IT Department] is working on a way to deal with this virus before it infects the network," Sobocinski said.



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colum.edu/scholarships

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Hillary Kalish Scholarship

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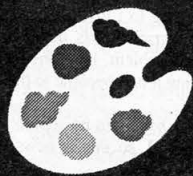
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Library goes wireless

By Jeff Danna
Copy Editor

Students who visit Columbia's library in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., this semester will find a new addition to the library's technological landscape—wireless Internet service.

"The library's always tried to be at the forefront of new technology," said Jessica Alverson, electronic resources librarian.

What began in September with the installation of a wireless Internet access point on the second floor in the library's instruction room, the wireless service finally took shape in November and December with additional access points installed on the fourth and fifth floors.

In order to make use of this new service, students must supply their own laptop computers complete with an 802.11b, or Wi-Fi wireless card, which detects the network and provides transmission at 11 Mb per second.

According to Alverson, because the Internet signal can be detected between floors, students can access the web from anywhere in the library.

Students familiar with the speed of a DSL Internet connection should have no trouble adjusting to the wireless service, she said.

"I haven't noticed much of a difference [in speed from DSL] using [the laptops] in the instruction room," Alverson said, "but speed will be affected by the number of users."

Early in the spring semester, six to eight simultaneous users will

be capable to use the service, but as more students become aware, that number is expected to increase, said Emil Payne, library technology coordinator.

"The wireless service means more mobility for students," said Roland Hansen, head of Access Services in the library.

Currently, the library's computers are not equipped with word processing programs. Now, with the implementation of the wireless network, students can surf the Internet, browse books for information and type using word processing programs installed on their own computers, all within the confines of the library, Hansen said.

However, students using the wireless Internet will not be able to print documents from the library's printers.

Hansen said the library hopes to have acquired a supply of wireless, Internet-ready laptops for students to borrow for use within the library by next year.

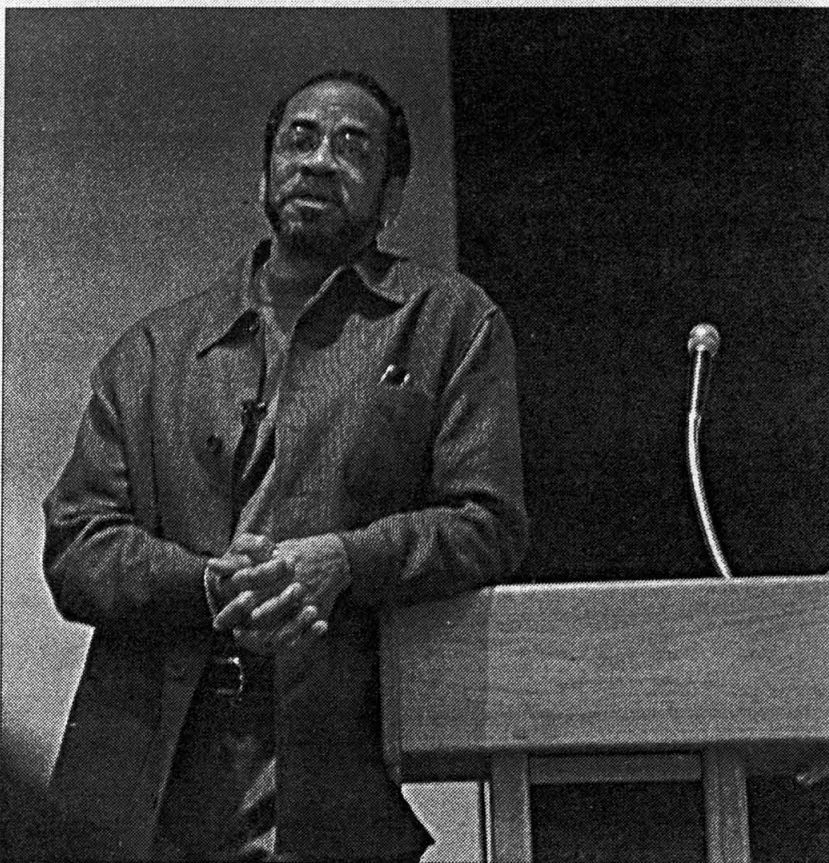
The library's wireless network can be used free of charge, but attaining the necessary resources for compatibility might set students back a pretty penny.

According to Rick Bravo, commercial sales manager for CompUSA, 101 E. Chicago Ave., most laptops on the market today come equipped with the necessary 802.11b card and sell for approximately \$1,400 to \$2,800.

Students who own laptops without 802.11b cards can purchase cards separately for around \$80, Bravo said.

For more information, visit www.lib.colum.edu/wireless.htm for possible answers to any specific questions.

Tim Reid's take on television



Labeeba Hameed/The Chronicle

Emmy-nominated actor, director and producer Tim Reid speaks to Columbia students as part of Black History Month Feb. 16 at the Hokin Hall in the Wabash campus building, at 623 S. Wabash Ave., about his experiences in film and television. Reid has appeared in many television shows, including 'Sister, Sister,' 'The Richard Pryor Show' and 'Save Our Streets.'

Tuition *Continued from Front Page*

charges 12 percent for the second year in a row.

"I remember the 1999 tuition increases. It was crazy," said Joe Wolff, a junior television major. "I think it is about time a year goes by without a tuition raise."

But for many colleges, tuition charges are continually in flux.

According to data obtained by the College Board, tuition jumped nationally an average of 6 percent for four-year, private institutions during the 2003-2004 academic year.

An exception, until Columbia's move, is Eureka College, a small liberal arts college near Peoria, Ill., which actually cut tuition rates by \$6,000 to combat what it said were sluggish admission rates.

As recently as last week, officials denied Columbia would take similar steps.

That has apparently changed.

"Eureka is doing that out of desperation," Kelly said. "We're doing the zero percent increase not out of desperation. It's because we want to make sure we remain economically and academically accessible."

In fact, when comparing tuition charges across the country, Columbia is one of the most affordable colleges of its kind. Even with nearly double-digit increases of costs annually in the past, Columbia's undergraduate tuition charges last year were still more than 8 percent below the national average for four-year, private institutions.

Nationwide, the yearly cost of education, including tuition and fees, at a private school is an

average \$19,710. Columbia's is \$15,270.

"In small and big ways, the college is becoming attentive to students' needs," Kelly said. "I think this is ... evidence that the students want a more complete college experience."

Surprised students who talked to The Chronicle said they approve of the plan.

"That is so wonderful to hear," said Phyllis Lacour, a sophomore early childhood education major. "I love this school. I think [the tuition hold] will make a lot of people stay and draw new students."

Student Government Association President Justin Kulovsek said he thinks the tuition hold is a positive step for the college.

"It shows that the administration of this college and its board of trustees are committed to quality education and to keeping the school affordable," he said.

The SGA met with the board of trustees in November primarily to discuss tuition cuts for next year.

Kristin Fleischman, a freshman illustration major agreed that the tuition hold should increase Columbia's enrollment.

"I think it will definitely draw more students, and it'll make more people stay instead of dealing with money issues," she said.

But there is still apprehension. "I think that would be great if it's true," said Kate Dineen, a junior photography major. "I'll believe it when I see it."

—Andrew Greiner and Lisa Balde contributed to this report.

Beetles *Continued from Front Page*

beginning of fall when the room has been emptied [of students] for a few months," said Tom Mula, faculty member of the Theater Department.

Theater Department faculty members said the problems with the beetles began between five and six years ago, when the school renovated the bathrooms on the third floor.

Water beetles, as their name suggests, prefer an environment rich in moisture, and therefore took residence in the bathrooms.

But when the lavatory repairs began, the beetles had to find a new home.

"What they did was simply move down a floor," Patinkin said.

According to McDonald-Badger, since the makeup room runs along the building's waterlines, the room's walls became an even better spot for the beetles to make their own.

The beetles have since annexed the corner nearest to the door.

Kristen Reisse, who teaches makeup classes in the room, said that, due to the cleaning problem posed by the insects and the record of disturbances students have experienced in the corner, teachers have stopped using the area all together, except as a supply hold.

Students who have had classes in the makeup room have their own horror stories.

Continuing student Sherri Dugdale recalled spending a seemingly normal class in the makeup room listening to the teacher talk and applying makeup.

Then someone looked up. "They were just hanging from the ceiling, while we had to sit in class," Dugdale said.

Bethany Troop, a Columbia sen-

ior, had a number of her own run-ins with the beetles.

"It wasn't all the time, but once in awhile, we would see them crawling across the middle of the room," Troop said.

Teachers said the class disruptions caused by the infestation can be annoying, but what has really bugged them is what they consider the school's inadequate response to the problem.

"It's not right to say the administration hasn't done anything, because they have," Mule said. "It's just it hasn't been enough."

The faculty's main grievance is the tone of response they receive when reporting the infestation and asking for clean-ups.

"They insinuate that the makeup room isn't clean," Mule said. "They tell us we get the bugs in here because of the makeup, but we've never seen bugs in the makeup."

"We mostly find them across the room, away from the makeup," Reisse said.

According to Mark Lloyd, assistant vice president of communications and marketing, Columbia hires a pest control company to come to the school and do a routine monthly inspection.

If anything is discovered, the exterminators come back the next day to treat the problem.

McDonald-Badger said the exterminators do come in about every month to spray for the bugs, but since the problem has been going on for such a long time, she feels the problem needs more of an examination.

"They do put out traps and poison, but these creatures are smarter than we are and always have been," she said.

The administration's delayed response to the beetle problem, according to Lloyd, is because the administration was never notified of the problem, let alone how distressing it had become to the teachers.

"We have had no reports of that [problem], so this is news to us," Lloyd said.

Lloyd maintained that, since the problem has now been brought to the school's attention, appropriate measures will be taken to handle the beetle problem.

"In this case, we will in fact have a pest company come out and do an inspection to verify that there is a problem, and if there is, we will immediately have somebody do treatment to make sure the problem is taken care of," Lloyd said.

For faculty members of the Theater Department, the good news couldn't have come soon enough.

"It's very distressing for students to come in and have to apply makeup with bugs looking over their shoulders," Mule said.



Springfield shells out cash for future teachers

○ Some education scholarships available

By **Andrew Greiner**
Assistant News Editor

Gov. Rod Blagojevich dedicated much of his Feb. 18 state of the budget address on efforts to revamp Illinois' ailing public school system. He advocated repairing teacher pensions and infusing \$400 million more for state school spending. But an innovative approach could give

enough," Blagojevich said in his March 2003 State of the State address.

Lisa Gillis, 29, an early childhood education major at Columbia and a recipient of the IFTC program scholarship for the 2004-2005 school year, said she is excited about the possibilities that come with the scholarship.

"I do intend to teach later on. Currently, I think I will be in the

"Five years is a big commitment, and I can't be sure that I want to teach in public schools for that long," Lewandowski said.

The scholarship is maintained by the ISAC, and the application is available on their website, collegezone.com. The amount of the award depends on the student's skills as well as the location of the school. A \$10,000 award is available to students who agree to teach in "hard-to-staff" schools. There are more than 2,000 schools on an ISAC list that have financial hardships or shortages in the workforce, Reimers said.

Students also can receive higher-end awards if they teach specialized subjects such as math and science.

February is Financial Aid and Admission Awareness Month in the state of Illinois, according to ISAC. Students are encouraged to consider financing their education by applying for aid for the upcoming school year. The deadline to apply for the IFTC scholarship is March 1. The amount of money provided by the scholarship could significantly offset the rising cost of education.

According to Reimers, this scholarship is not new, just modified.

"ISAC has had scholarships for student teachers to encourage them to go into teaching as a profession," Reimers said.

The program began as the David A. Debolt Teacher Shortage Scholarship Program and was renamed the I-TEACH Teacher Shortage Scholarship Program under Gov. George Ryan's administration. Blagojevich renamed the program once again, calling it the Illinois Future Teacher Corps Program. But, along with a new name, Blagojevich doubled the award amount, Reimers said.

The \$5,000 to \$10,000 scholarship is attractive for students interested in teaching. The amount of the award cannot exceed the student's tuition for the year. The scholarship is renewable without an extended teaching commitment. If a student takes the award during their junior year and agrees to the five-year commitment, they may apply again for their senior year and are not expected to agree to an additional five years.

\$2K up for grabs ... if you apply

○ Scholarships for Asian-inspired projects

By **Burnadette Bicek**
Staff Writer

The Center for Asian Arts and Media hasn't received any applications for its \$2,000 scholarships for Asian-inspired projects, and the deadline is March 10.

But Nina Xoomsai, the program coordinator for the center, said she isn't worried. Xoomsai said the center tends to get the majority of applications for the annual Helen Fong Dare Scholarship closer to the deadline.

She said the lack of applications could be due to a misconception among students that they must be of Asian descent to be awarded the scholarship.

"You don't have to be Asian, you just have to have an interest in Asia or Asian arts," Xoomsai said.

The scholarship awards up to \$2,000 for Asian-inspired projects, including poetry, visual art exhibits, video and film. As long as applicants' work promotes traditional Asian art, it qualifies for the award.

Awarded money will be used toward completion of the proposed projects.

Nancy Tom, founder and executive director of the center, said interest in the award has peaked in recent years.

Tom, who implemented the scholarship, said the center went from receiving only eight applicants to 18 applicants last year.

Tom does not hesitate to say why she chose to name the scholarship after her mother, Helen Fong Dare, who died in 1995.

"I named it after her because she was an incredible role model," Tom said, "not only for Asians, but for all girls."

"She came to this country in the 1920s, not speaking a word of English, but she knew America gave opportunity for women to do something with their lives," Tom said.

Dare was born in Kai Chak, Guangdong, a southern village of China. She was the town's first woman to graduate from college and the first female to teach

school there.

Dare believed in "reinvesting in one's community," according to the scholarship application. Tom has decided to take her mother's advice and do just that by providing the scholarship.

"When she passed away, she left a little money. I took that money and started the scholarship," Tom said.

Tom said her mother would be proud to know the money she left is helping others achieve their artistic dreams.

Tom's mother always taught her four children that if they worked hard, they would be able to accomplish anything.

"She always taught us we have to work extra hard being a minority in this country, so hard work was never a second thought," Tom said.

Both Tom and Xoomsai said they would love to see applicants who did not win last year's scholarship submit projects again.

"Just because they didn't win doesn't mean their projects weren't good. We just have a limited budget," Xoomsai said.

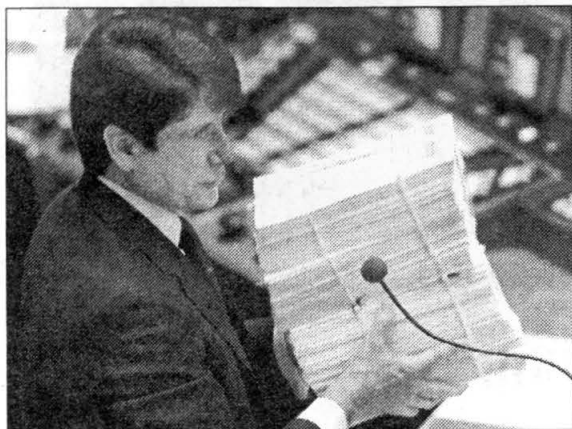
Last year's competition yielded three winners, Jaekwon Oh, Dennis Shin and Marty Hon, who each received \$500 to further their Asian-inspired projects.

Tom offered her philosophy for succeeding in whatever dreams students have to achieve.

"Whatever you want to do, doesn't matter what it is, work hard and you can achieve it," Tom said.

Students who are interested in applying for the scholarship must be enrolled at Columbia full time during the application process and throughout the year in which the funds are distributed.

Applications can be obtained online at www.asianartsandmedia.org. For further information about the scholarship, contact Nina Xoomsai at (312) 344-8214.



T.J. Salsman/State Journal Register

Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich holds guidelines for the State Board of Education to illustrate what he considers an ineffective bureaucracy during last month's State of the State address to the General Assembly.

Columbia students a way to help the governor's quest for better education in Illinois.

A \$5,000 to \$10,000 scholarship is available to college juniors and seniors in Columbia's Early Childhood Education Department. Blagojevich created the Illinois Future Teacher Corps program scholarship last year in order to plug the vacancies in hard-to-fill teaching positions. Recipients of the IFTC Program scholarship are required to teach in Illinois public schools for five years after graduation.

"Next to a loving parent, no one is more important to a child's upbringing than a good teacher. Without quality teachers, every educational initiative in the world won't succeed. Illinois will have to fill 44,000 teaching positions over the next four years. Relying on the traditional methods of hiring and recruiting won't be

Chicago Public Schools because they need the most help," Gillis said.

Gillis said she doesn't mind the required five-year commitment, because her plans to teach fit well with the scholarship's objectives, but other students could be turned off by the five-year contract.

The program offers a reprieve for students who accept the scholarship and decide not to fill the teaching requirement. The award can be taken as a low-interest loan, said Lori A. Reimers from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. Students who fail to fill the teaching requirement must repay the funds, plus 5 percent interest and any reasonable collection costs.

Lisa Lewandowski, an administrative assistant for the Early Childhood Education Department, said she would take the scholarship as a loan.

Unionize *Continued from Front Page*

in several departments throughout Columbia. It was devised to give the staff a voice in the restructuring of the college, union developers told The Chronicle.

Columbia President Warrick L. Carter expressed indifference toward the move at a recent press conference with school media outlets, saying "the college would rather not have a union."

"We feel that unionization normally flies in the face of collegiality," he said. "Individuals have the right to seek representation if they want it. And if our staff decides to move in that direction, we will deal with it accordingly."

But the full-time staff hasn't achieved unionization yet.

A formal union can't exist until the staff proves it has a clear majority in support, forming a bargaining unit made of people eligible to participate in the union. The staff union excludes "faculty, top administrators, and supervisors with power of hiring and firing," according to the US of CC website.

Staff members affiliated with US of CC have launched into a card-signing campaign, giving all eligible staffers a chance to sign a union card that will show support for the proposed union.

Only after a majority is received and a bargaining unit is solidified can the National Labor Relations Board, an independent federal liaison between unions and institutions, recognize the union. Then Columbia's union will receive official status.

The US of CC will be affiliated with the Illinois Education Association, an organization committed to working with higher education staff, and will use the IEA to help with decision making.

"We believe that the enfranchisement of staff through a union will preserve staff's vibrant role in the life of the college and positively impact the delivery of education to our students," the US of CC's mission states.

"We're just looking to get our voice back," said Michael Bright, an administrative assistant in the

Film and Video Department and an affiliate of US of CC.

According to Bright, the basis of the staff's drive to unionization began in late July and early August, around the time pension talks started heating up.

"The pension was in crisis," he said, "and we were concerned about it. ... And some of the 'retirements' that happened in upper management were disturbing too."

Stacy Stern, the Center for Book and Paper Arts webmaster, agreed that a union seemed like a positive choice in the midst of a college that clearly was in crisis.

Stern, who also is associated with US of CC, said that, after former Associate Vice President Bert Gall and former Vice President of Human Relations Paul Johnson were "fired" from their higher management posts, the staff felt like their jobs were in danger.

"We just sort of decided we needed protection so we couldn't be fired at will," she said.

The biggest hurdle the union

initiative currently faces is the misconception of what a union entails, as well as what it means for the staff. Stern reiterated information from the US of CC website, saying this union should not be likened to an angry group of teamsters or to the mafia.

The union would be a union for the staff at Columbia only, allowing staff members to participate in decisions that, right now, seem non-negotiable, she said.

Misconceptions may be hurting the push for NLRB recognition.

US of CC representatives, who have remained out of sight until now, said a great deal more support is needed, and more cards need to be signed to meet their goal.

"Where I work, I feel pretty secure, but I feel it's important to unify in order to help each other stay strong," said Judy Butler, an Interactive Multimedia administrative assistant and affiliate of US of CC.

But some staffers are worried that, if they sign a union card in

support of the initiative, they're at a higher risk of being fired.

Stern said the US of CC wants to debunk rumors about being fired for getting involved in the union.

"Since I signed a card, the college can't fire me," she said. "Federal law says [the administration] can't fire someone for interacting with a union."

All signed union cards will be kept confidential, she said.

Even if it achieves official union status, the US of CC will not be the only union on campus.

Columbia's part-time faculty members aligned their union, the Part-Time Faculty Association of Columbia, with the IEA in 1993.

Jonathan Visona, a P-Fac representative, said he thinks unions empower staff members to make changes in the college and to cooperate with the administration.

"It's going to give them a voice," he said of US of CC. "That's what employment is all about. In the end, it really serves the students."

iPod

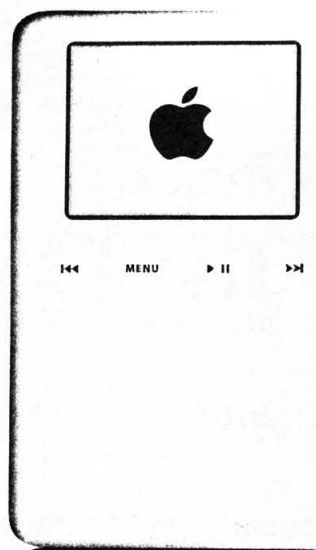
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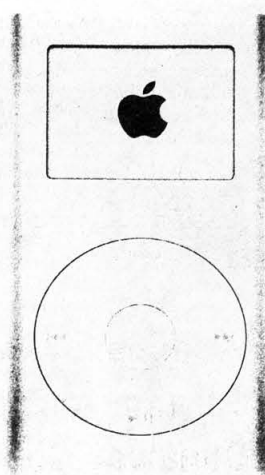
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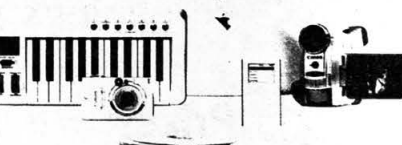
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Film/Video

Meet & Greet

Wednesday, March 2, 2004

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Conaway Center (first floor of 1104 S. Wabash)

The Career Center for Arts and Media and the Film/Video Department of Columbia College Chicago will host a **Meet & Greet event**.

This event will allow students to network about collaborating in the various areas of film and television production.



Students seeking crew for projects will have the **opportunity to pitch their ideas to recruit crew and talent.**

Crew people will be able to screen reels. **Pitches and screenings start at noon.**

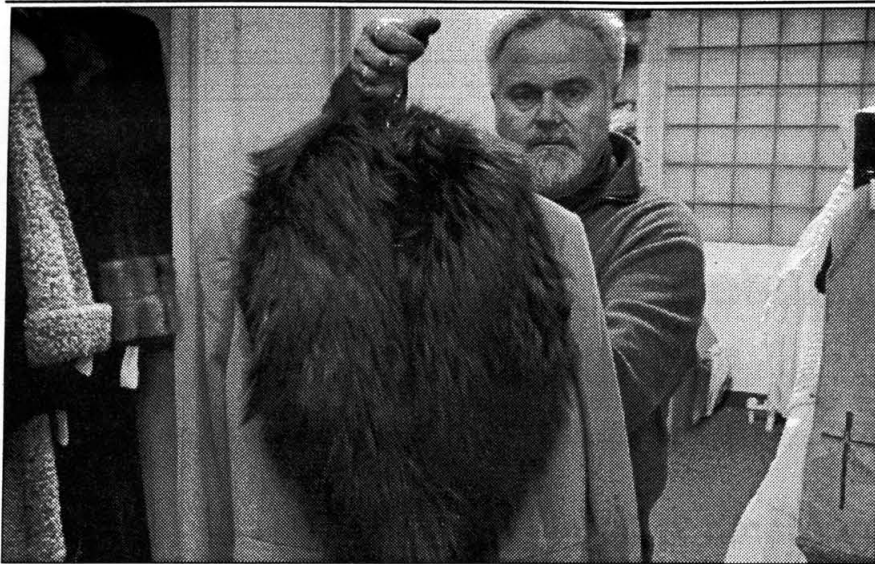


Prizes will be awarded for the Best Pitch and Best Reel. Refreshments will be served. Local film and video organizations will be in attendance.

All are welcome.

ATTENTION: to pitch an idea, sign up at 1104 S. Wabash Ave., Room 301, **before March 1.** To show a reel, bring a VHS formatted tape to the event.

For more information, contact the Film Department at 312-344-6700, or the Career Center for Arts & Media at 312-344-7280.



Charles Kushner/The Chronicle

Hugh Manning, curator of the Fashion Department's Fashion Columbia Study Collection, holds up a Versace coat that was donated to the department's museum. The total collection is valued at \$5 million.

Falling into the fashion closet

○ \$5 million study collection includes ethnic clothing, vogue oddities

By Jeff Danna
Copy Editor

With approximately 9,000 articles of clothing valued at nearly \$5 million, representing the intersection of thrift store randomness and Marshall Field's elegance, the Fashion Columbia Study Collection, located in the 1006 S. Michigan Ave. building, is a rarity in the United States.

With mostly donated garments and accessories dating back as early as the 1890s, the Study Collection is one of only three of its kind open to the public in this country. The other two are located at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and the University of North Texas.

"What happens in our industry is designers tend to gravitate toward certain garments that they fall in love with for one reason or another," said Hugh Manning, curator for the Fashion Columbia Study Collection. "And they wind up buying it, whether it fits them or not ... and they develop their own study collection."

Columbia's collection originated in 1989 as the brainchild of Art and Design Department faculty member Dennis Brozynski and Arts, Entertainment and Media Management faculty member Dianne Erpenbach, who recognized such a resource as valuable for student use.

Over the years, the Study Collection has grown to its current size thanks to donations from an array of Chicagoans—including acclaimed designers—who weeded out their attics, closets and basements of unwanted vintage clothing.

Among the most prominent of the collection's contributors is Chicago fashion designer Mark Heister, who turned over 37 years worth of sample pieces of everything he ever designed to Columbia.

"That's what separates us," Manning said. "We're the only one of the three study collections that actually has one designer's entire work."

Arts, Entertainment and Media Management faculty member Jerome Svec also donated 20 wardrobe pieces—about 500 total, according to Manning—to the greater good of the Fashion Department. Chicago-based designer Tiffani Kim also supplied the collection with a large portion of her

own personal collection.

Manning said he also has developed a close relationship with the Fashion Institute of Technology, one that continues to aid Columbia.

"We are growing by leaps and bounds, and [the Fashion Institute of Technology has] pretty much maxed out," Manning said. "But luckily, we benefit. F.I.T. donates a lot."

The Study Collection opened its doors to the public just a year-and-a-half ago, allowing students, designers and general fashion enthusiasts access to the vault of textile history.

"We want to be not just for the fashion students; we want to be for all departments," Manning said. "I certainly see where theater designers would benefit. And we get art classes coming in. We'll put the dresses or the suits on a form and they'll sketch."

"This is not a museum collection. ... It is a white-glove, hands-on, touch, turn it inside-out, look at [the collection]."

—Hugh Manning, curator, the Fashion Columbia Study Collection

And the visitors aren't limited to Columbia students, or Chicago residents.

The Study Collection has attracted admirers from as far as Amsterdam and Germany who discovered the collection's precious artifacts through the Internet.

The room is kept cool and dry to deter insects, mildew and mold, Manning said.

"This is not a museum collection," he said. "It doesn't get put behind glass. It is a white-glove, hands-on, touch, turn it inside-out, look at it [collection]."

Although the Study Collection can't be classified as a museum per se, it includes countless pieces Manning refers to plainly as "museum quality."

For instance, the ethnic collection—pieces that were mostly purchased due to their scarcity—is made up of authentic garments from countries such as Africa and Japan.

A bamboo tunic that once belonged to a pygmy tribe sits delicately in a long, cardboard box, telling a story all its own. Manning explained that such an article of

clothing was traditionally used to keep wearers safe from body lice.

The tunic would be soaked in sweet water, and the lice, attracted to the sweet water, would swell inside the miniature bamboo shoots and die.

The collection also boasts other authentic ethnic clothing, such as an Eskimo coat made from the stomachs of seals and whales, and a Japanese straw rain cape.

Hanging side by side with more contemporary pieces are oddities no longer produced, such as a jacket made entirely of monkey hair and a beige Versace skirt and jacket combo with a removable fur collar.

Items that Manning calls "incidentals many people don't think of," such as the assortments of 350 women's hats and 100 men's ties have found their way into the collection.

"[The ties are] my passion; that was my donation," Manning said. "I've been collecting ties since I was in college."

In addition to serving as an educational resource for students, the Study Collection is also affiliated with local outreach programs—one that assists financially-challenged

women graduates of substance abuse programs in preparing for job interviews—and another, the Glass Slipper Project, that provides underprivileged local high school girls with prom attire.

All garments provided in the programs are donations that have been made to the Study Collection, but have not been included in the collection itself.

Because the collection is not funded by Columbia, Manning is still trying to raise money for some projects.

A portion of Heister's donation—which is currently quarantined from the bulk of the collection—is in need of dry cleaning due to a case of mildew. Manning would also like to afford a conservator who would repair distressed garments.

To Manning, the Fashion Columbia Study Collection represents an important aspect of society—fashion—that tends to be taken for granted.

"I'm passionate about [the Study Collection], and you can pick up on that," he said. "It's just such an obvious necessity that people don't really think about."

'E' reserves more time for reading

○ New program provides class handouts online

By Scott Carlson
Assistant Campus Editor

Keeping up with class reading just got easier for Columbia students.

This semester, Columbia's library introduced a new program called eReserves, which allows students to access special reserve items from any computer with access to the Internet. Instructors are now able to upload Microsoft Word documents, news and magazine articles, graphs and other class materials to the library's web page.

Reserve items at the library, mainly course-related textbooks and class packets made available by teachers, are normally available for a checkout period of two hours of in-library use to one student at a time.

The eReserves program allows students to access the electronic reserve items for as long as they want from any computer with Internet access. Once students gain passwords, they may access the files through the library's eReserves homepage available at <http://ereserves.lib.colum.edu>.

The program was recently introduced to Columbia library officials by Docutek Information Systems, a West Coast-based company that specializes in eReserves. According to Jessica Alverson, electronic resources librarian, competition from similar college libraries was a factor in the decision to select the program.

"A lot of other libraries already offer eReserves," Alverson said. "So a lot of the decision was keeping up with services that people expect to have and making the library more user-friendly for people at home."

The program, however, has some drawbacks. Instructors are limited by what they can upload. Many items are not available electronically, so they must be scanned and uploaded as pictures. Similarly, due to size and copyright concerns, entire textbooks will not be available to students online.

Beyond the minor speed bumps, the system is being trumpeted by the library because of its ease of use. Besides convenience for Columbia's commuter student population, Alverson said the program's straightforwardness is its acme.

"It's a very user-friendly system for students, faculty and staff," Alverson said. "If you can check your e-mail, you can use the eReserves."

The program's accessibility also extends to Columbia's instructors. According to Jennifer Sauzer, circulation manager of the library, instructors needn't go through the library to post class materials. This semester, library workers will upload files for teachers as a part of setting up the system and getting users acquainted, but teachers can actually scan in or upload items themselves with little training.

"We're trying to encourage people to use it by doing the work for them," Sauzer said.

Another positive aspect of the program developed from a potential concern—Columbia's bookstore, located just around the corner from the library. Officials worried students might access chapters of a book or poems from a collection without buying the complete works, posing a danger to book sales. But officials from Follet, the parent company of Columbia's bookstore, commended the library's move toward electronic reserve materials.

"Overall, having electronic reserves won't affect our sales," said Cliff Ewert, vice president of public and campus relations for Follet. "If students had to buy a book for only one specific chapter, they probably wouldn't buy it anyway, so it would work out better for students to have the program available to them."

Alverson said she believes information posted online will mainly include handouts and photocopies that students would have normally received in class, so the chances for putting the bookstore out of business are slim.

Copyright concerns are another point handled by Docutek's system. The eReserve program presents students with a copyright clearance for materials. Students are not allowed to view materials until they read through a warning about "appropriate use."

At the moment, the library has only a few classes signed up with the system, but Sauzer and Alverson foresee even more joining. Before the 2004 fall semester begins, they hope to have a training session for instructors to see how easily materials can be posted and how effortlessly the system can be used.

"I've gotten several inquiries from instructors, and hopefully word-of-mouth after some instructors have worked with it will inspire others to use the system," Sauzer said.

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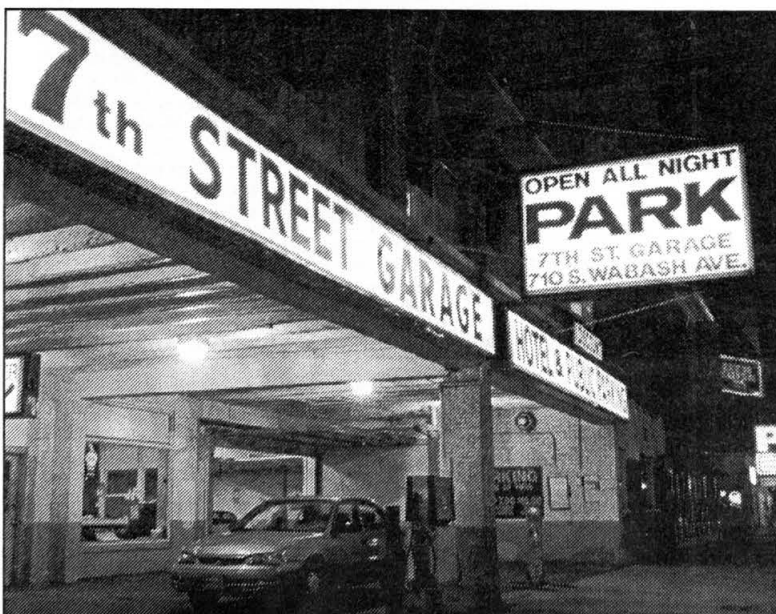
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More youth head to polls as apathy still dominates

○ Early polls indicate illusive 18- to 24-year-old voters could turn out in record numbers for 2004 presidential election

By Lori Aratani

Knight Ridder Newspaper (KRT)

SAN FRANCISCO—Georgy Russell, 27, made headlines across the country in the fall for selling thong underwear to finance her campaign for governor in California's recall contest. She persuaded 2,216 people to support her, but she still can't persuade her younger sister, Sophie, to tune in to politics.

Such is the dilemma of the youth vote. While the potential payoff is immense—about 1 in 5 eligible voters is younger than 30, according to the University of Maryland's Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement—getting those voters to turn out can be difficult, even when they're related to the candidate, in the case of Russell.

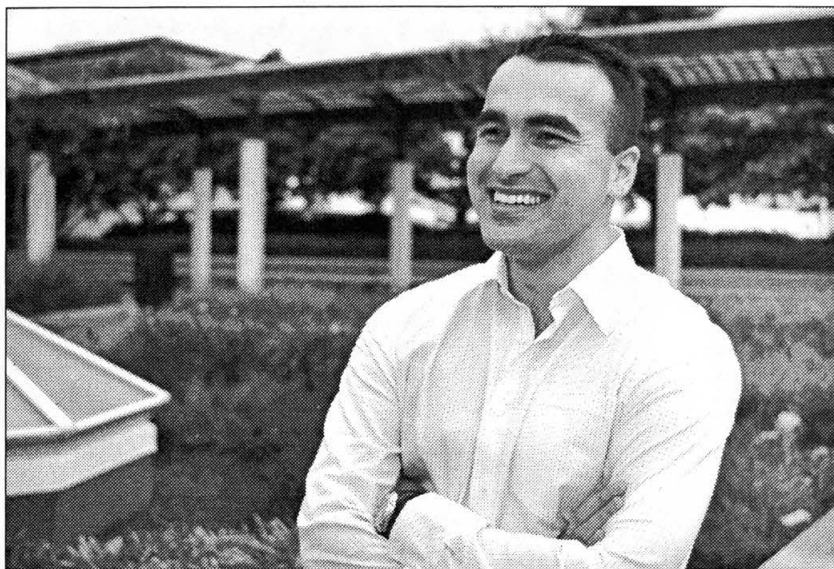
Young voters are notorious for not turning out at the polls. In presidential election years from 1972 to 2000, the turnout rate declined by 13 percentage points among voters 18 to 24 years old, according to the University of Maryland. In 2000, only 42 percent of 18-

24-year-olds voted, while 64 percent of citizens 25 and older did.

If recent surveys are any indication, however, 2004 could be the year that younger voters make an impact. More young people say they plan to vote in this year's presidential contest than four years ago. And a new series of initiatives, spearheaded by such diverse players as Hollywood producer Norman Lear and wrestling superstar Bradshaw, are focused on making it happen.

A recent MTV poll conducted by Peter D. Hart Research Associates found that 4 out of 10 of the 18- to 24-year-olds surveyed said they will "definitely vote" in the next presidential election—up nearly 30 percent from 2000. A survey by Harvard University's Institute of Politics found two-thirds of college students were registered to vote, and 82 percent of those said they planned to vote this year.

"It's clear that there's a lot of young interest this year," said



Erose Hoagland/KRT

Nima Niakan, who said he voted for Al Gore in 2000, was San Francisco Bay area coordinator for former Democratic presidential candidate Wesley Clark's 'C' Company, an organization that hoped to attract young professionals to vote in the election.

Ara Khachatourian, the media director for MTV's "Rock the Vote" campaign, in its 14th year. "The economy and, of course, 9/11 and war in Iraq

have really engaged folks. This year they're pausing and looking at issues outside of their immediate realm."

Early signs are promising: Exit polls taken during the Iowa caucuses in mid-January showed voter turnout among those younger than 30 almost doubled to 17 percent, from 9 percent in 2000. The number of voters younger than 30 was higher than that of the 30- to 44-year-old crowd.

Even so, young voters aren't a sure bet.

Former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean was among the first of the 2004 field to use the Internet to reach college students and other young people. His website includes a separate section targeted at younger voters, called Generation Dean. But the early buzz on college campuses hasn't been enough to help him win a primary or caucus.

Four years ago, Nima Niakan, a 28-year-old Silicon Valley techie was like many young professionals with good civic intentions. He registered to vote and planned to support Al Gore. But when Election Day rolled around, he was busy and never made it to the polls. At the time it wasn't a priority.

Four years later, things have changed. Niakan's still busy—but he's also grown increasingly disenchanted with the Bush administration.

"I don't like the 'We're going to do it our way' approach," he said. "I'm a person who's traveled to 10 or 15 countries over the last three years, and I've found that that policy reflects back on me. I get subjected to questions about what Bush does."

This year he vowed to do more than just vote: He was going to participate. Niakan became the San Francisco coor-

ordinator for C Company, the Gen. Wesley Clark effort to attract young professionals. C Company campaigned for Clark through e-mail and the popular Craig's List website. Gatherings were held at apartments or hip nightspots.

Other nonpartisan efforts are joining forces to reach out to young voters in 2004.

Producer Lear's initiative, "Declare Yourself," includes tours of 18 different college campuses. The group has also linked with Friendster, the popular web networking site, to launch "voter parties" featuring cast members from MTV's "The Real World."

"We're really trying to reach young people where they live, work and play using popular culture," said Declare Yourself spokeswoman Christy Salcido. "Research shows it's important to get them early."

World Wrestling Entertainment Inc.'s effort—"Smackdown Your Vote"—includes voter registration drives at wrestling events. The initiative will culminate at WrestleMania XX in New York next month.

Russell, who's mulling a run for city council in Mountain View, Calif., if she doesn't get into business school, said getting young people's attention can be difficult, but it can be done. The key is talking to them, she said, not at them.

As for Niakan, he's still engaged. His mission now is to get his younger brother, Navid, to register to vote.

"Maybe something will happen," he said. "It's all about having the conversation."

From professional wrestlers to spoken-word artists, many nonpartisan groups and celebrities have kicked off aggressive campaigns to reach out to young people this year.

Strip culture apparent at Colorado State U.

By Christiana Nelson

Rocky Mountain Collegian (Colorado State U.)

(U-WIRE) FORT COLLINS, Colo.—Luke Hennings considers himself a normal college student.

The senior business finance major has been to strip clubs, bachelor parties with private strippers and even has a friend who is employed as a stripper.

He does not think that is out of the ordinary.

"Going to a strip club is a normal and social thing," Hennings said. "I think, for girls, it is more funny than social, but for guys it is definitely just social entertainment."

After visiting a male strip club in Dallas with a group of friends, freshman Annie Timmerman agreed that the experience remains humorous to her and her friends.

"It was a dark place and the stage had lights," said Timmerman, an open option major. "It was fun, I guess. The guys just danced around, and it was more funny than anything."

Regardless of age or gender, visiting strip clubs is part of a culture, said Nate Ornelas, a disc jockey at Dandy Dan's, a 21-and-over topless club in Denver.

"We have everybody from one end of the spectrum to the other, from blue collar to white collar, from the ditch digger to the lawyer to the stockbroker," Ornelas said.

While many college students have viewed professional strippers, Ann Hudgens, the executive director of Campus Life, said she has little knowledge of a strong association between strippers and college students.

"My general reaction, over the years, is that I've seen very few of these incidences," Hudgens said.

Hudgens said there is a dis-

tinction between university reaction to the general student population visiting or ordering strippers and stripper involvement by students who directly represent Colorado State University.

"It isn't an illegal thing, so with the general student population, it has to do more with helping people think it through, asking them if this is the best thing to do in the long run," Hudgens said. "I don't see it as a big issue."

Yet, Hudgens views the university's student representatives differently.

"The university really has an opinion about it when it is used by some student organization, a fraternity event or something that is really affiliated to the university in some way," she said.

Greek Life regulations concerning strippers vary between sororities and fraternities, but strippers are strictly prohibited at any recruitment events.

"For women's organizations we don't allow strippers at all," said Annie Miller, a senior psychology major and a member of Delta Delta Delta.

Nathan Steinberg, the Inter-Fraternity Council director of risk management and a member of the Chi Omega fraternity, said there are no fraternity rules prohibiting strippers, but it is not a substantial problem.

"I've never heard of a fraternity party at CSU with a stripper," said Steinberg, a junior liberal arts major. "It's not really an issue with us."

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity member Dominic Trujillo begs to differ.

He said that about once a semester strippers visit his fraternity house.

"We get them for graduating seniors," said Trujillo, a senior liberal arts major. "There are usually two girls and they just do

the normal things: Strip, do a dance, have whipped cream faces. It is normal, nothing out of hand."

Trujillo said that he has also heard of sororities hiring strippers, but Liz Warren, a Chi Omega sorority member, said she has never heard this.

"I definitely haven't heard of it," said Warren, a sophomore social studies education major. "It is not OK with Greek Life."

While individuals at CSU and university groups may hire strippers without reprimand, students have varied opinions about what should be done about possible stripper appearances at athletic parties.

"I think it is unfair for athletes because other people can just have strippers at a birthday party and it is over with that night, no big deal," Warren said. "Still, I guess it is something that comes with being an athlete—you're in the spotlight and people look at you more closely."

Timmerman agreed.

"Athletes are supposed to be role models, but they're just people trying to have a good time," she said. "I think the university should just let it go. If it is not affecting how they play, then it shouldn't affect them."

Timmerman added that visiting strip clubs is just a popular pursuit for college students.

"[A] lot of people go just for entertainment for their night," Timmerman said.

Featuring strippers at athletic parties is just another way to stand out to recruits, Hennings said.

"It is no different than buying a \$200 meal," Hennings said. "People ask what stripping has to do with recruitment, but what does a steak and lobster dinner have to do with recruitment either? It is just there to impress."

What do you think?
E-mail chronicle@colum.edu

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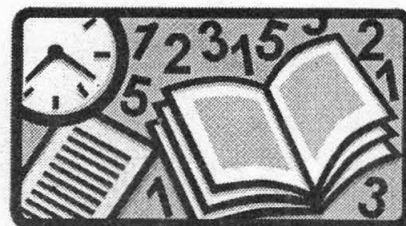
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
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Columbia

C O L L E G E C H I C A G O

No need to whitewash scholarships

In a perfect world, the government would provide for all of its citizens' needs and would create a society where everyone is equal.

In a perfect world, scholarships would be given to those students in need of financial help, regardless of their skin color.

And, in a perfect world, there would be no such thing as unfair job advantages, discrimination, racism, bigotry, hate crimes, unequal access to money and denial of higher education.

But this is not a perfect world.

Equal representation of every race and ethnicity without somehow denying others something is virtually impossible.

Enter affirmative action. Last week, in an act of protest against affirmative action, a student group at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R. I., began offering a \$250 scholarship that only white students were eligible for. The original \$50 for the fund grew to \$250, and controversy began brewing on campus.

One side of the argument came from 20-year-old student Jason Mattered, a recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship from the Sallie Mae Fund scholarship for Hispanic students. He said he was given the scholarship because of his 3.9 GPA, with his ethnicity playing a minor role.

"No matter what my ethnicity is, I'm making a statement that scholarships should be given out on merit and need," he said.

At a school like Columbia, which prides itself on a diverse student body, students from different backgrounds juggle the same classes while working one

With universities in the past holding "affirmative action" bake sales—selling brownies and cookies at different prices to students of different ethnicities to prove how unfair affirmative action is, it seems almost foolish that a race-based scholarship can even exist.

Having these unbalanced financial opportunities breeds tension and resentment among students, creating a rift on campus. And in an institution such as Columbia, with its liberal mindset and community designed

to bring people together through arts and communications, having unequal financial opportunities seems ugly and distasteful.

In a perfect world, scholarships would be given out based on need and academic performance rather than having a checked box that says "white," "black," "Hispanic," "Asian" or "other."

In a perfect world, financial help for school would be given out for talent, creativity, achievement, ability and hard work.

In a perfect world, being accused of racism for equal opportunity scholarships would be unheard of.

But, we don't live in a perfect world.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Our Turn

or more jobs to pay the same tuition. Somehow they manage the task of surviving on a daily basis. Ask any Columbia student—white, black, Asian, Hispanic—and they'll tell you what these financial woes have done to them.

To automatically suggest that only minorities come from low income families and are in need of financial help, and to imply that minorities attend the school because they are just that—minorities—is absolutely offensive and insulting from any perspective. To say that in this modern day that ruling out whites for a chance to receive financial help from a scholarship seems almost cruel, and to imply that whites are rich and are more than capable of making it is absurd and untrue.

Ashcroft should 'abort' his latest quest

It seems that bad news always hits close to home.

Last week, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft announced that he would subpoena the medical records of more than 40 patients who had received partial or late-term abortions at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. In addition to this audacious move against Cook County residents, Ashcroft is actively seeking patient records from University of Michigan Hospitals and Health Centers in Ann Arbor, Mich., Hahnemann University Hospital in Philadelphia, Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and Weill Cornell Medical Center in New York and an unidentified San Francisco Bay area hospital; Ashcroft's vicious stroke would effectively leave almost 200 women's medical records open to scrutiny.

Provisionally, the injunction was halted by Chicago federal circuit judge Charles Kocoras, who refused the information request under Illinois medical privacy law and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

However, the U.S. Department of Justice is weighing a probable appeal of Kocoras' ruling, stating that doctors opposing the ban should be blocked from testifying in their own lawsuits unless their medical records are turned over.

Despite what you may hear from Fox News Channel, this is not some quiet rebellion by a cabal of disgruntled gynecologists. "If there's a law, it should be followed," said Dr. Joe DeCook of the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists. "It can be enforced without embarrassing the woman by dragging her name out in public."

"The Congress has enacted a law with the president's signature that outlaws this terrible practice," Ashcroft was quoted as saying. "We sought, from the judge, authority to get medical records to find out whether indeed the allegation by the plaintiffs, that it's med-

Despite what you may hear from Fox News Channel, this is not some quiet rebellion by a cabal of disgruntled gynecologists.

ically necessary, is really a fact."

That nasty sound you hear is the simultaneous thumping of Bibles across the country, by the way.

The pertinent question is where are the plaintiffs? To date, no names have been revealed in conjunction with the aforementioned lawsuit, in either a criminal or civil context.

Despite his best efforts to con-

ceal the move as a legitimate inquiry into an infringement of federal law, Ashcroft's true intentions shine through behind his serrated grin and self-righteous posturing. Need we all be reminded that Ashcroft was the key individual responsible for the drafting and belligerent propulsion of the Patriot Act following 9/11? Didn't think so.

Ashcroft has always had an agenda; he thrashes democratic process and civil liberties like wet laundry on a line, ignores the laws of our land for the weird and archaic ghost stories of centuries past and believes himself to be above reproach or scrutiny.

People can be reasonable when it comes to disagreeing on matters such as abortion (or at least they should be), but very few believe that the government should be spending our tax dollars to wage an invisible war against reproductive and medical rights.

If you do, then you can stop reading here and go back to beating your wife, or whatever it is that helps you compensate for your diminutive manhood.

Not surprisingly, there has been very little indignation on this issue in mainstream media. They have chosen to focus their energy on John Kerry's alleged infidelities, rather than the invasion and wholesale disrespect of an entire segment of American citizens.

Exposure



Labeeda Hameed/The Chronicle

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Off the beaten path : Views from campuses across the country Calif. mayor went too far

Staff Editorial
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

(U-WIRE) BOSTON—Gay and lesbian couples deserve to be allowed to marry in all cities and states across the country, but San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom hurt that cause and trampled on the rule of law everywhere Feb. 12 by organizing an act in blatant disregard of California law—he arranged for a lesbian couple, and later 15 other same-sex couples, to be officially married in City Hall. Gay marriages are prohibited in the state of California and Newsom's actions are troublesome.

The couple has every right to disagree with what is an unjust law, but it is inappropriate for a city's highest elected official to use his legal powers to help others break the law. It is not his place to step in, and this is not the correct way to go about changing the law.

The one place where gay marriage activists are making progress is in Massachusetts, where they are going about it through the legal process. Arguments in Massachusetts are being made in a legal fashion—and the law is changing.

If Newsom truly disagrees with the law prohibiting gay marriage, he should move for it to be changed instead of making a mockery of the legal system. People must follow the examples being set in Massachusetts if they have any hope of changing the current laws in an orderly

fashion. While the lesbian couple has every right to perform an act of civil disobedience to demonstrate their belief that a law keeping them from having the same rights as heterosexual couples is unfair, the mayor does not. People elected to hold public offices should be held to a higher standard than those who elected them. They are elected to uphold the law and make sure that others uphold it as well—hence they should not be telling others to break the laws either. The mayor does not have the power to decide which laws to follow. All laws must be followed by all citizens—public officials included. If Newsom disagrees with a certain law and decides he does not want to follow it, he has every right to use the legal system to attempt to change the law.

He should not simply promote the idea that it's alright to blatantly ignore the law, and although Newsom is not breaking the law himself, it is being broken arbitrarily with his blessing. If laws are continually broken because someone decides they do not agree with them, the meaning of laws themselves will be lost. Critics accused the Supreme Judicial Court of committing judicial activism and acting out of line by ruling that gay marriages should be allowed. They were not—the court made a scholarly judgment based on the Massachusetts Constitution. While Newsom is on the right side of the issue, he's on the wrong side on his plan of attack.

Show some respect for veterans

Adam J. Ferington
Commentary Editor

Valor, n. A soldierly duty of vanity, duty and the gambler's hope.

"Why have you halted?" roared the commander of a division at Chickamunga, who had ordered a charge; "move forward, sir, at once."

"General," said the commander of the delinquent brigade, "I am persuaded that any further display of valor by my troops will bring them into collision with the enemy."

—Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*

All good soldiers are inevitably betrayed by their generals who hold their position of fortune and power in thrall as a means to their bitter ends of cowardice and comfort. It happened that at one time a severed limb was enough proof of commendation and respect; a grisly exchange for a meritorious deference in the eyes of his countrymen. Now even the cripples are subject to derisive goads.

Last week Republican Party trollop and Fox News Channel contributor Ann Coulter spit a venomous assault from her forked tongue against decorated triple amputee, Vietnam War hero and former Georgia Sen. Max Cleland, claiming that, "Cleland is making the rounds on talk TV, basking in the affection of liberals who have suddenly become jock-sniffers for war veterans and working himself into a lather about President Bush's military service," adding contemptuously that, "[Cleland] did not give his limbs for his country." Bravo milady, such class. Next time, why don't you just jam a broom handle into the spokes of his wheelchair as he descends a flight of stairs?

Coulter's comments are low, even by her own standards, but coldly predictable. Coulter adheres to the tired clamor of war drums, negligently espousing the blind reasoning that all measures of conscientious observations and moral responsibility must be elim-



Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

inated during military service. She is stupid as a bag of wigs, that one.

You see, Cleland had the gusto to question President Bush's somewhat murky military service record during the Vietnam War, in addition to Bush leaving his stint in the Texas Air National Guard nine months early in order to attend Harvard Business School, adding that, "I just know a whole lot of veterans who would have loved to have worked things out with the military and adjusted their tour of duty."

This is the latest example of a toxic trend that seems to be sluicing through the veins of the Republican Party, a slander-bombing campaign to color veterans as cowards and turncoats

because they have the audacity to repudiate the claims of their beloved commander in chief and his chicken hawk cronies who have built their palaces with tales of military renown.

And Bush isn't the only one who used his rich daddy's influence to get him out of military service. Vice President Dick Cheney didn't serve during Vietnam, claiming that, "I had other priorities in the '60s than military service." House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) has been quoted as saying, "So many minority youths had volunteered for the well-paying military positions to escape poverty and the ghetto that there was literally no room for patriotic folks [like me]." Yeah right, but there was

somehow a draft still in effect. And, best of all, half-deaf dope fiend Rush Limbaugh ducked service by claiming that his anal cysts prevented him from defending the nation. Do you need any more examples?

Coulter owes an explanation and an apology not only to Cleland, but also to the families who have lost children in "non-combat" situations recently in Iraq. Would she walk up to the grieving mother of a soldier killed by a car bomb while off duty? I think not. The chicken hawks may shirk from their responsibility to the well-being of the troops in Iraq and their own cowardly pasts, but they can't hide forever.

At least one part of "chicken hawks" is right.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE Your Turn

Question: Should the United States go to Mars?



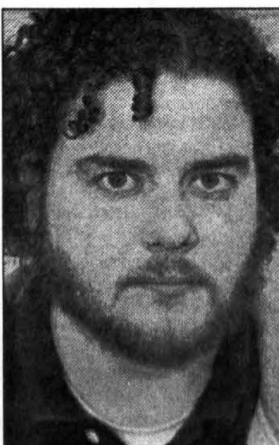
"No. I think there's better things to spend the money on."

—Nichole Smithe
Senior, Undeclared



"Yeah, there's a lot of spin-off technology available from it."

—Kelly Anderson
Junior, Digital Media



"Yes, space exploration always produces useful technological byproducts."

—Chris Neir
Senior, Fiction Writing



"No, we have too many problems to concentrate on here [on Earth]."

—Catrina Weatherspoon
Sophomore, Graphic Design

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French head scarf ban unfairly targets Muslim people



Claude Paris/AP Photo

Veiled women gather on the streets of Marseille in southern France to protest the French government's recent approval of a bill banning religious attire in public schools.

Staff Editorial
Daily Nebraskan (U. Nebraska.)

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb.—On a typical weekday morning in 1989, two girls in Creil, France, donned their clothes and headed for school, unaware that they would spark a firestorm of international debate that would burn for more than a decade.

Secularism has been the policy, if not outright philosophy, of those

in the French government since the French Revolution. Since then, there has been a powerful government promise of gender and social equality for most French citizens, but not all of them.

When Jacques Chirac took office in 1995, he reaffirmed the importance of secularism and declared a need for legislation that would guarantee the French people freedom from religious influences in their state buildings, schools and halls of government.

But for those two little girls in 1989 and France's 5 million Muslims, the government's dedication to secularism in the name of equity has become a blatant form of discrimination.

On February 10, France's National Assembly approved a bill banning religious attire in public schools. The 494 to 36 vote virtually ended debate and extinguished the hope of millions of women who cover their heads with their faith.

French President Jacques Chirac and his Union for a Popular Movement have 364 of the 577 seats in the National Assembly, far more than the 288 votes required to pass the legislation banning Islamic head scarves, Jewish yarmulkes and large Christian crosses in public schools.

Little opposition is expected in the French Senate, and it has become quite clear to Europe's largest Muslim population that they have been targeted and sup-

pressed by the French government.

Secular and liberal, the French government long has been considered the most progressive democracy in the world.

But to the millions of Muslims who have immigrated to postcolonial France, the government's rejection of religious symbols and clothing is a form of hostile occupation—to be French means surrendering their cultural identities as Muslims against their will.

There's nothing democratic about that.

The French government's abhorrent misuse of power may be a side effect of a colonization policy long since faded. In our new global community, France's decision to force Muslims into a compliant citizenship is the first stone cast into a pool. Ripples will follow.

As more and more people equate fundamental Islam with terrorism, more and more Muslims will find themselves displaced, suppressed and denied full citizenship in any country fearful of terrorism.

We should take heed and urge our allies and our own government to not repeat the horrors of our collective histories. We should refrain from embarking on another religious crusade in the name of democratic equality.

There is nothing just, nor equitable in denying a minority their cultural identity. And although the French Senate is expected to continue passing some of the most anti-Muslim policies in the world, the fires of discontent will not die.

But know this: More little French girls will be sent home in the name of democracy.

COLUMBIA'S VOICES

Iraq only the beginning of U.S. imperialism

I was struck by a sentence in Adam J. Ferington's Feb. 9 column: "The age of imperialism is over." Unfortunately, I don't think it's true.

Over the past two years, U.S. aims in the Mideast and central Asia have often been called "empire." It's hard to see what attempting to conquer and dominate a country—as the United States is in Iraq—should be called, other than imperialism.

It doesn't end, or begin, in Iraq. There are 189 nation states in the U.N.; 120 of them contain U.S. military bases. About half a million U.S. troops are stationed at these 700 bases around the world. The United States maintains the largest and most deadly military machine ever seen on this earth, including a large arsenal of nuclear weapons, and frequently threatens to use it, as it has most recently in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Again, imperialism would seem to be the proper term.

John Stevenson
Faculty, Liberal Education

Students need to make concerns known

I regret not being able to return Lisa Balde's phone call concerning the new MFA in poetry program. I read her recent article this afternoon and

was surprised because no students had brought any issues about the poetry MFA to our attention. New programs often need adjustments once they enroll students and begin classes.

It is important, therefore, that students know that they can always bring their concerns to their department and to the Graduate School Office.

Also, students should know that there are opportunities for productive discussion about new and existing programs throughout the year.

The Graduate School makes every effort to let its students and faculty know that we are interested in their experiences and concerns, and we will always make time to talk with them. Let me encourage everyone in the Graduate School who is concerned about issues good or bad, but especially those who are dissatisfied and who wish to take steps that might improve the situation, to get in touch with me, with the Graduate School Office staff or with their department faculty.

Keith S. Cleveland
Acting Dean of the Graduate School

The disease of politics affects everyone

While Adam Ferington, in his Feb. 16 commentary entitled "Bush's idiocy provides Sunday's entertainment," pon-

ders how he could more productively spend his time while watching television shows, I think I might have just found the miracle answer—don't ever watch the Sci-Fi channel again. Pick anything else, but never this channel.

After reading such words and phrases as "cannibalism," and "a down-spiral parallel earth where tentacled children creep into your house at night and replace the young in their cribs," topped off with "fingers in the cold night, tightly-wound contours that tint the dissenting among us with unease and cause us to call out for some veneer of reassurance, a soft light to push back the shapes that spill from the cracks in the closet door," it seems Ferington himself is helplessly caught in his own little Sci-Fi nightmare.

But all aside, I would also like to say he did raise some interesting, valuable issues of concern that, as of today, still need to be dealt with. I also believe with poking ridicule and disgust at Bush's initial reasons to go to war with Iraq, you circle those elements right back to almost every current and past Democratic candidate running for president.

Lest we forget, John Kerry himself voted to strike Iraq with military force. Now, it seems to me that if this guy would really prove to have the qualities of an "ideal" president so many Democrats in this country are calling for, (someone who is

brave and relentless in his opinion, someone who is not afraid to show his opinion and remains true to it even when his current job or favor may be at stake) he, and the rest of the candidates for that matter, would have called for a much deeper preliminary analysis of Iraq and Saddam Hussein.

Had Kerry or most other Democrats have questions about any aspects of this war, pre or post, they should have strongly voted "no" and furthermore demanded more reasons to go to war with Iraq.

And it is pretty hard for me to believe that such resources to start an inquiry into this matter weren't ever available to them.

Sure, at first a few raised their concerns to Bush in only a whispering manner, but in the end, we didn't see as much of their own "true" personal opinion as we so view right now. Rather, they sat cautious like a coward scavenger waiting to grasp a hold of the slightest hint of any future negativity toward Bush.

Therefore, if President Bush has as much blame for "clumsily" initially believing the CIA, most Democratic candidates deserve likewise for "clumsily" initially believing Bush.

I don't know whether I should laugh myself silly or throw-up when I hear candidates make their major platform basis to remove Bush from office. It in effect is saying, "Gee, I sure don't know how to fully run this

country or promise you prosperity, and I won't exactly highly capitalize upon my exact, specific platform ... but hell, I want to remove Bush!" to which this is normally followed by Howard Dean's now famous signature, "Yeaaaaah!"

Ferington also wrote, "It used to be that we hung thieves, liars and scoundrels and left their remains to the birds, but that's all over now. Now we let them run the country." And you know, I could really not agree more.

By the way, did you ever hear about the whole thing with former President Clinton lying while under oath? Just thought I'd ask. This, my friends, is politics. When many of us were young, we would hopelessly fight over a kickball or other form of game at recess. What would make us eventually end up with it? Nothing major, really.

In many situations no one could, with all truthful certainty, be labeled above the rest as the true, rightful person to get this game.

Add a few more years of age and changing this kickball to foreign policy or internal affairs but still fighting childish, and you have just graduated into the "disease" of politics—never again to be cured.

Jordan D. Aubey
Sophomore, Broadcast Journalism

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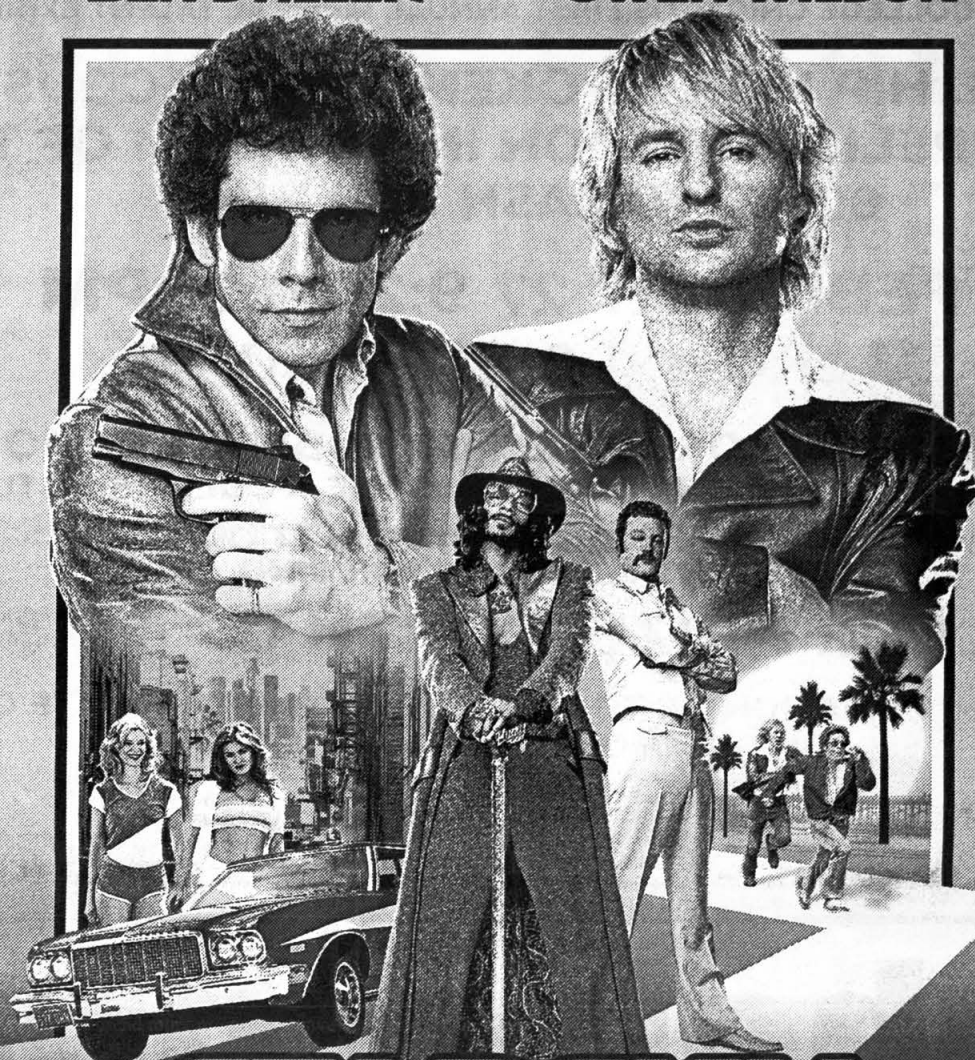
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Academy Awards 'lost in translation'

○ This year's Oscars snub worthy candidates, awards show remains unfair and predictable

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor

If words such as recognition, achievement and reward didn't exist, there wouldn't be a point in handing out tiny gold statuettes and \$1,000 gift baskets. Since they do, Hollywood has decided to annually celebrate the actors and actresses who exceed their typical \$10 million performances to get all the press and acclaim they can get their hands on. Who's the center of attention at this year's Academy Awards? The Chronicle takes a look at some of the most interesting show-downs of 2004.

Best Actor:

Bill Murray: (*Lost in Translation*) His greatest performance to date—subtle, hilarious, and people are dying to hear his acceptance speech.

Sean Penn: (*Mystic River*) Penn's work in *21 Grams* was powerful and heart wrenching; he's still one of the most underrated actors in the industry.

Johnny Depp: (*Pirates of the Caribbean*) Without the rum drinking antics of Captain Jack Sparrow, the film would be just another Disney pirate movie.

Jude Law: (*Cold Mountain*) Law seems to get better with every role he plays, but the film screams, "Give me an Oscar," which is exactly why it won't get many.

Sir Ben Kingsley: (*House of Sand and Fog*) Kingsley has been here before and he'll be here again, but an Oscar seems out of reach this time around.

And the Oscar goes to... Bill Murray, the former greenskeeper

and Ghostbuster is ready to walk the walk and talk the talk.

X-Factor: Sean Penn could ruin Murray's night with the surprise victory.

Best Actress:

Naomi Watts: (*21 Grams*) Watts owns her role as a grieving mother from the opening scene of the film, establishing herself as one of Hollywood's elite leading ladies.

Diane Keaton: (*Something's Gotta Give*) Though she nabbed the Golden Globe this year for Best Actress in a Comedy, this role most likely won't get much Oscar attention.

Keisha Castle-Hughes: (*Whale Rider*) In her debut role, the 11-year-old actress portrays a girl desperately trying to win over her grandfather's affection with sincere honesty and imagination.

Samantha Morton: (*In America*) After playing the freaky precog in *Minority Report* and the mute girlfriend in *Sweet and Lowdown*, Morton turns to the struggling immigrant mother, Sarah, and graces audiences with her best work to date.

Charlize Theron: (*Monster*) Turning a former model into a serial killer seems like a daunting task, but

Theron seems up for the challenge.

And the Oscar goes to... Naomi Watts is going to pull the Oscar rug out from under Charlize Theron and surprise the audience with a victory. There isn't a single performance this year that deserves it more.

X-Factor: Does the 11-year-old

Castle-Hughes have what it takes to become the youngest best actress winner in the history of the Academy Awards?

Best Supporting Actress:

Renee Zellweger: (*Cold Mountain*) Zellweger is the fan favorite, but is that enough to guarantee an Oscar win?

Holly Hunter: (*Thirteen*) The most interesting character in the film,

right now. She doesn't deserve the Oscar, but the Academy is going to give it to her regardless.

X-Factor: If there is any

justice in the world, Patricia Clarkson will get the award for her work in *Pieces of April* and *The Station Agent*, and mainstream media will discover the best kept secret in Hollywood.

Best Supporting Actor:

Ken Watanabe: (*The Last Samurai*) Watanabe's stroll down the red carpet comes via the Oscars' annual obsession with the almighty movie epic.

Benicio Del Toro: (*21 Grams*) Del Toro consumes every part he plays, and *21 Grams* is no exception.

Tim Robbins: (*Mystic River*) Robbins is another Hollywood heavyweight who seems to get overlooked year after year for his incredible work as an actor.

Djimon Hounsou: (*In America*) Another former model turned actor, Hounsou has the talent and ability to create onscreen magic with every part he plays.

Alec Baldwin: (*The Cooler*) Give Baldwin a smooth speech, a couple of cocktails and the nasty role of a villain, and you've got an instant formula for an Oscar nod.

And the Oscar goes to... Tim Robbins is way over due for a little gold man, and the audience might get a controversial acceptance speech to go with it.

X-Factor: Djimon Hounsou could pull off one of the biggest upsets in Oscar history.

And in other Oscar races:

Peter Jackson gets Oscar gold for Best Director in *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. *Lost in Translation* gets two for Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay. City of God follows suit with Best Screenplay Adaptation and Cinematography. *Triplets of Belleville* upsets *Finding Nemo* for Best Animated Feature.

Missing in Action:

Here's a short list of a few things left off the Oscar ballot this year that deserve to be mentioned.

Best Actor: Paul Giamatti in *American Splendor* and Peter Dinklage in *The Station Agent*.

Best Actress: Scarlett Johansson in *Lost in Translation* and Patricia Clarkson in *The Station Agent*.

Best Supporting Actor: Sean Astin in *The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King* and Albert Finney in *Big Fish*.

Best Director: Tim Burton for *Big Fish* and Alejandro González Iñárritu for *21 Grams*.

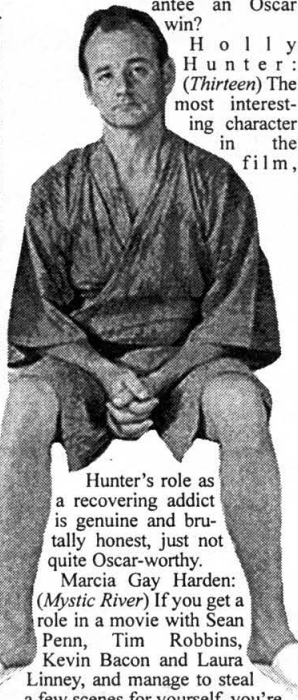
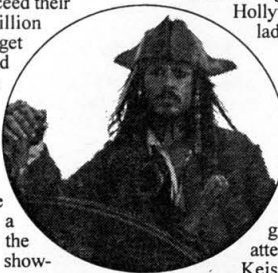
Whatever the case may be come Oscar night, the awards seem to follow a fairly simple and contrived formula: the mentally challenged, ugly duckling roles

will usually get an actor on stage to accept an award. If the movie's big, the hero or heroine dies and there's a dramatic 10-minute voice-over, you've got a good chance at taking home a statue.

An Oscar doesn't guarantee longevity in

Hollywood—just ask Mira Sorvino or Marisa Tomei.

The 76th Annual Academy Awards are Feb. 29 at 7 p.m. on WLS-TV.



'And now for something completely' ... original

○ Late Monty Python member Graham Chapman lives on in upcoming bio pic, 'Gin and Tonic'

By Jamie Murmane
Assistant A&E Editor

Monty Python fans worldwide have been waiting years for this. Hippofilms, a Los Angeles-based film production company, has announced it will begin casting on March 20 for its new feature film, *Gin and Tonic*. The film is based on the life and memoirs of Graham Chapman, one of the founding members of the Monty Python group.

Chapman, the British humorist famous for his everyman roles (such as the Colonel in "Flying Circus," who insisted some sketches were just "too silly," and King Arthur in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*), died of cancer in 1989. *Gin and Tonic* director David Brenner told The Chronicle there was much more to Chapman, "one of the most certifiably loony men of his generation," than met the eye.

According to Brenner, the film will follow Chapman from his early performances with John Cleese to his days at Cambridge University, where he became a fully-certified ear, nose and throat surgeon.

"What most people don't know—they know the persona of Graham and his craziness and brilliance—but they don't know the conflicts that were going on behind

Cambridge Circus, then writing TV for the BBC before breaking through with Monty Python. But, it will also show the problems he had with things like his drinking and his coming to terms with his bisexuality."

Brenner said the casting for *Gin and Tonic* is aimed at finding someone to play the younger version of each of the six Monty Python members: Chapman, Cleese, Eric Idle, Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Terry Gilliam.

"We're not looking for exact Monty Python clones," Brenner said. "We're not looking for people who are funny but don't look anything like the Pythons. We're looking for a mix—the best of every possible world—someone who looks like Graham, Cleese, Jones, Palin, Idle, who not only is funny and can replicate that type of comedy, but also exudes that particular Pythonic brilliance and lunacy." That, said the director, is a subjective thing that only true Python fans really know.

The first auditions will take

place in, but are not exclusive to, Los Angeles, which many people may deem a bit odd.

"I just want to make it clear to all the Python fans in England that Hollywood is only the first stop for these auditions," Brenner said. "The second auditions will be in London, then on to New York, and it looks like we'll be following it up with Tokyo auditions."

Filming for *Gin and Tonic* will begin in December of this year in London.

"But first, we want to give Python fans an opportunity to make themselves known," Brenner said. "Basically, if anyone out there can silly walk, can nudge and wink, can play Cardinal Fang as well as Michael Palin, we want to see them."

Staying true to the side-splitting Pythonesque humor, the auditions for the film, which anyone interested may attend, should be as entertaining as anything Python-related could be.



Graham Chapman

the scenes, and that's what the film is going to show," Brenner said. "It'll show him through his early days performing unsuccessfully with John Cleese and the



Courtesy Hippofilms

The entire gang in 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail.'

"We're expecting the unexpected," Brenner said.

In fact, Hippofilms is encouraging outrageous and creative costumes—of course, prizes will be awarded for those who go all out. Performances from local actors dressed in full Python garb will also take place throughout the audition "event," which promises to turn into a flying circus itself.

With any hope, *Gin and Tonic* will do for the legacy of Graham Chapman what his work with his fellow Pythons did for comedy as we know it. The film is expected to be in theaters by mid to late 2005.

DORIS' DISH

DORIS DADAYAN

ddadayan@chroniclemail.com

I'd like to introduce you to Blake from Houston. Blake from Houston is my friend Vivian's friend. Blake from Houston is a Republican. Blake from Houston voted for President George "Dubyah" Bush. Blake from Houston is dull, condescending, pompous and rude.

But Blake from Houston is a victim.

At 4 a.m. every Friday and Saturday, Blake gets a long-distance call from Vivian. Around 4 a.m. every Friday or Saturday, Blake knows what's going down. He knows his duty. Regardless if he's out or trying to sleep, he knows there'll be a call coming in from Chicago. And he knows he'd better answer it.

At 4 a.m., and after a couple of drinks, Blake is hilarious, sweet, witty and just about the most intelligent, interesting person on the planet. But at 4 a.m., Blake is also a recipient, one of the millions of people across the world known as the "chosen ones."

These are the people who have taken on the role of "the drunk call receiver." Subjected to drunk dialers at 4 a.m., these people must be sober enough to answer the phone, for the dialer knows they have Caller ID, and he or she may get mad if the receiver doesn't pick up.

Refusing to have anything to do with him while the sun is out, the only relationship Vivian has with Blake is when she's drunk. That's when she asks him when he's coming to visit her in Chicago, asks about what's going on in his life and tells him how much she misses him.

During the day, Vivian talks about how unfunny, stupid and boring Blake is. The few times they've talked on the phone sober, the conversation went something like, "Blake, you're boring. Call me when you're drunk."

But when they're drunk, they love each other. As the night progresses into morning, Vivian gets that look on her face, whips out her phone and says, "Oh ... you know what time it is."

Oh, yes, I know. It's time to call Blake.

My friend Vivian is just one of the many "drunk dialers" across the world, a group that really emerged circa 1998, back when cute little cell phones made an appearance.

Historically, the drunk phone call is nothing new. People have been making fools out of themselves for years in pathetic, lonely attempts to get back with an ex-high school boyfriend or a prom date.

Trying to sound hip on voice mail, slurring words and fighting sentences that come out sounding like, "I is a college student," is a curse brought on by phone companies that offer these generous nighttime minutes.

The task of trying to understand whether the answering machine has beeped or not, not knowing exactly when to begin the babbling of, "Hey! I miss you sooooo much! Why haven't you called me?" or "Hey! What are you doing? Want to come over?" becomes very tiring.

Then again, many of these drunk dialers don't wait for the beep to begin their ranting. Their messages will begin in the middle of a sentence saying, "... leaving here soon so you can reach me at that number, 'cause we haven't really seen each other in a while, and, uh, what was I talking about again?"

Yes, cell phones have only created a newer, greater lever of embarrassment in rational decision making. With the push of a few buttons, or maybe just one specifically programmed for this reason, the intoxicated can subject him or herself to a lower level of humiliation, conveniently, from any place in the world.

But there actually are plenty of positives about the drunk phone call, starting with the fact that the caller is always funny. Nothing they do is stupid—quite the opposite in fact. Everything they say is witty and smart. And it's always their turn to talk and talk and talk. What happens in the morning, well, who cares? Ultimately, it all boils down to living for the moment. And what a moment it is.

Jump to my friend Mika. Mika is another "drunk dialer." But Mika doesn't discriminate. Mika doesn't play favorites. Mika calls everyone in her phone book until someone finally picks up.

And although waking up the next morning may include a recount of things that were said the night before, well, ultimately, it's all in good fun.

Sure, avoiding booze is a sure-fire way to keep your pride and dignity. But in some cases that just isn't an option. So, shouldn't the recipients of the "dialed-drunk call" feel flattered they were the one thought of when the caller was plastered? After all, didn't the drunk phone call emerge from feelings of loneliness, sadness and a longing to be with that person?

But, let's face it. When you're drunk, your phone should be locked up.

Drunk phone calls cause misunderstandings. Drunk phone calls ruin relationships. Drunk phone calls ruin lives.

And in the case of our conservative friend Blake, drunk phone calls make people seem a whole lot more fun and exciting than they really are. I think even he would agree with that.

—ddadayan@chroniclemail.com

Jamie Murnane's

Artist Interrogation ...

With Katryna Nields

Sisters Katryna and Nerissa Nields of Massachusetts have been playing folk-rock music together since the early '90s. Their 11th album, *This Town is Wrong*, hit stores Jan. 13, and the duo will be hitting Chicago on Feb. 26 when they play at Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave. For information, call (773) 525-2508 or visit www.schubas.com.

The Chronicle: How long have you and Nerissa been playing music together?

Katryna Nields: Well, since I was born. [laughs] ... Nerissa was given the guitar for her birthday when she was in sixth grade, and she really started playing the summer after eighth grade. We sort of discovered each other as musical partners in high school, and we played our first open mic nights in 1987.

C: What's your favorite thing about playing music?

KN: It sort of depends on the day. ... I love getting to communicate with an audience. ... We were in a five-piece band for many years, and that was really fun. And we're doing some band shows in celebration of this record's release, and those shows are wonderful, and they're so energetic and exciting. But I also love when it's just Nerissa and me and a slightly smaller audience, and the sort of interplay that goes on between us and the audience is really satisfying.

C: Is that why you decided to just go off and be a duo?

KN: Well, that came from so many different things. We were on the road about 320 days a year, and I think all of us sort of felt like, "Wow, this is all we can do; we can't do anything else." I think it was coming to the point where we weren't enjoying being on the road anymore, because it was all we ever had. Now, we really can enjoy the experiences of going to different cities and playing for different people and not have it sort of be a slog where we groggily roll out of the van and don't even remember what city we're in and play a show, get back in the van and keep driving.

Then, Nerissa and I had a chance to play Lilith Fair, and we opened for Dar Williams and Cry, Cry, Cry, as a duo, and that made us realize that we actually had fun doing that—that it could be musically, emotionally and personally satisfying. That was part of what made us realize that giving up the band for us didn't necessarily mean giving up music.

C: You mentioned before that Nerissa wanted to write novels, and I understand that *This Town is Wrong* is actually the soundtrack to—is it her first novel?

KN: Yes, it's her first, and it's actually going to be released by Scholastic Books—it's called *Plastic Angel*.

C: How did you two decide to have the album coincide with the book?

KN: Well, it was funny because people from Scholastic came to a show of ours and called us up a little while later and asked Nerissa if she'd like to write young adult novels based on her songs, and she thought, "Wow, I never even thought of that!" ... The first song that they sort of agreed upon doing was the song "This Town is Wrong." It's about some young teenage girls who are sort of figuring out who they are and figuring out that they're allowed to choose what they want to be and they don't have to just listen to what their classmates or parents or teachers or the town that they're living in is telling them to be or do. ... What they decide is that they want to be singer-songwriters and have a band, which they call Plastic Angel. As a result, they write songs and as Nerissa's writing the novel, she realized, "You know, we should record these songs. People should be able to listen to them when they're reading the novel."

C: Is there anything else you'd like to add or advice you might want to give to people starting out?

KN: Say yes to everything—at the beginning. We did that and it was great because we had lots of experiences that were really cool in terms of different opportunities to play. And sometimes we got paid and sometimes we didn't. And some of the ones we didn't get paid for were some that were most helpful to our career. And I would say you really have to stay true to what you want to be and make your art and your music and your message be the most important thing and not base it on what you feel would be popular. ... And, when we play at Schubas, we're playing with a group called Common Rotation, who are awesome! So people should come to the show, and they should make sure that they're not late.



UNDER THE INFLUENCE

BY MATTHEW JASTER



● **Monster:** Some are angry the screenwriter tricked audiences into believing that Aileen Wuornos was a victim instead of a killer. I'm more irritated that Charlize Theron tricked people into thinking she's an actress.

● **"The Simple Life Part 2":** Paris and Nicole are set to star in another installment of the hit reality series. Maybe this time they'll drop them off in the middle of the Amazon with nothing but a hair dryer and a Lionel Ritchie Greatest Hits CD.

● **The Simpsons:** Coming to a theater near you. It's about time.

● **Happiness equals 42 degrees.** (It's so warm and comfortable out there.)

● **"The Apprentice":** I can't take any hard ass CEO seriously who wears a hairpiece that looks that bad.

● **The Passion:** If Mel can handle Hollywood executives, I'm sure he can handle the wrath of God.

● **Indiana Jones 4:** The rumor mill suggests that George Lucas didn't care for the script. Does the man responsible for *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* and *Howard the Duck* have any right to criticize a screenplay?

● **"Super Millionaire":** If you can sit in the hot seat and deal with two minutes of Regis Philbin, ABC will give you \$10 million.

● **Jersey Girl:** Kevin Smith is calling it Ben Affleck's comeback picture. Let me be the first to call it just another Bennifer bucket of sh--.

● **Spring Break:** Is it here yet? I need a vacation from all this relentless schoolwork.

● **Brilliant!** Everybody is going around trying to imitate those Guinness scientists, and it's already getting on my nerves.

● **Billy Crystal:** Hosting the Oscars again. How refreshing and original.

—mjaster@chroniclemail.com

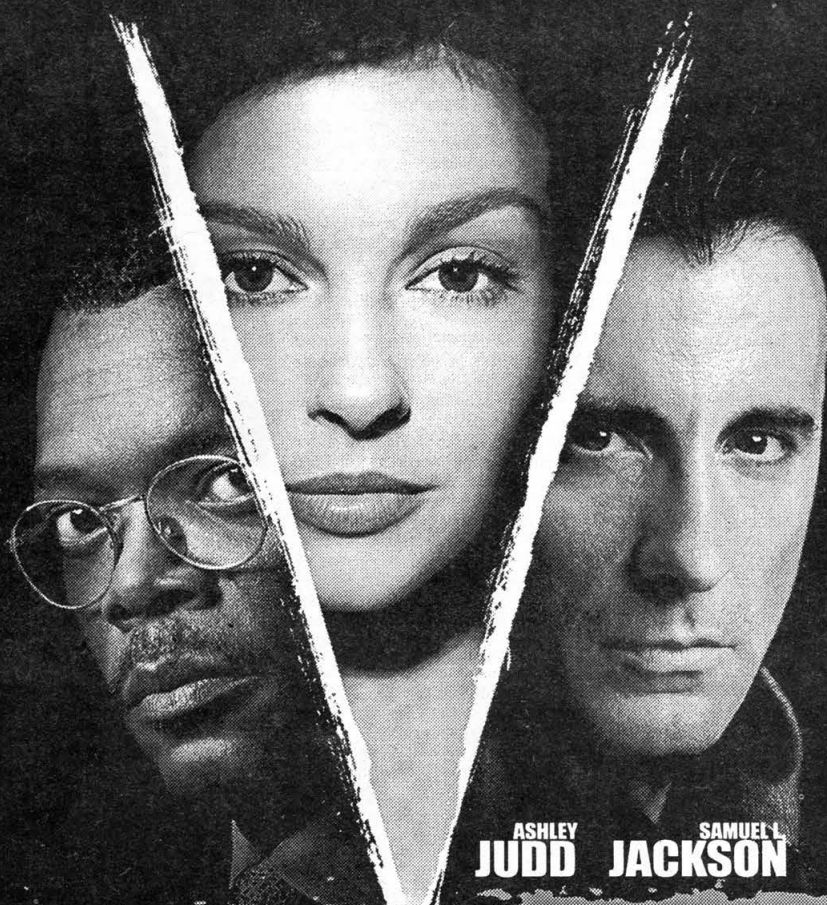
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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH!

Columbia students take 'comic' turn

Comic book creators bring heroes to Hokin Gallery, centered around the 'word of action'

By Doris Dadayan
A&E Editor

Created to defy the world of the mainstream comic book industry, *R-SQUARED* and *The Shadow Knight*, now on display in the Hokin Gallery of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., make their debut March 3 in Chicago-area comic book stores.

Written by Alverne Ball, an Albert P. Memorial Weisman

Scholarship recipient and a fiction writing major at Columbia, *R-SQUARED* is the first in a series of action genre books published by Quality Quill Publishing & Entertainment.

R-SQUARED tells the story of Cross, a character who is part of a secret government agency that protects the country.

The stern-looking Cross is on the run from the agency that trained him. He tries to seek revenge against the government agency that supposedly murdered his family. In the midst of seeking vengeance, Cross discovers he is a part of a bigger conspiracy to overthrow the president of the United States.

Ball, the president and editor-in-chief of Quality Quill Publishing & Entertainment, said the idea behind *R-SQUARED* is that normal people are being watched by the government every day. The back page of the book gives a chilling message: "You are being watched. You are being listened to. You are being followed. You are a threat to national security. You are a rebel. You must be recruited. *R-Squared* is waiting."

Inspired by comics such as *The Specialist*, *The Professional* and *The Punisher*, Ball said when he created *R-SQUARED*, he didn't want to identify a specific city for the set-

ting, but being from Chicago, the pictures in the book have certain similarities to downtown Chicago, with one of the buildings closely resembling Marina City.

Cory Byrd, a 2001 Columbia illustration graduate, cover artist of *R-SQUARED* and creator and illustrator of *The Shadow Knight*, teamed up with Ball last year to create the series.

Written by Ball, *The Shadow Knight* is set in 2102, and tells the story of a half African-American, half Japanese ninja named Shadou-Ryu, a character who endures a life of danger and pain in a mundane world covered with wasteland. The future looks pretty bleak, the ozone layer no longer exists, and the earth no longer has any form of life—the world has basically gone to hell.

Byrd said he created a character of mixed blood to make an impact with African-American characters in comic books and to "add a little twist to [the story]."

According to Byrd, he wanted to convey the art of ninjas and Japanese history and animation, so that even though the story is based in the future, it has an old Japanese feel to it.

Byrd said creating *The Shadow Knight* took about six months, and the character Shadou-Ryu came from watching Japanese anime and playing ninja video games.

"I wanted to really get into ninjas and real fighting styles, techniques that [ninjas] really use, because in most comics or video games or movies, they really just convey ninjas as a quick, fast, fighting killing machine, which they are, but it's a much more deeper aspect of it," Byrd said.

According to Ball, the idea behind creating Quality Quill Publishing & Entertainment is that, with comic book companies having a "grip on the creativity of the creator," it's much harder for a writer to break into the comic book industry than it is for an artist.

He said Quality Quill was intended to make Chicago a publishing entity once again and to change the face of small publishing. With the creation of the company, Ball said he strives for an organization where writers are in control of their work.

"I always felt like writing didn't get enough respect in the [comic book] industry," Ball said.

these major mainstream companies or these major indie companies telling you that your story isn't good enough," Ball said. "My job as editor is to make sure artist and writer get together to put out the best damn product we can."

R-SQUARED and *The Shadow Knight* are currently on display at The Hokin Gallery in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. For more information on Quality Quill Publishing & Entertainment, visit www.qualityquill.com.



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Dido, Timberlake and The Darkness win big in England

LONDON (AP)—Retro rockers The Darkness won three honors at the Brit Music Awards, the U.K. equivalent of the Grammys, and Justin Timberlake and Dido each took two.

The Darkness, a London-based band, won Best British Group, Best British Rock Act and Best British Album for *Permission to Land*. The glitzy, showbiz ceremony was held Feb. 17 at Earls Court in west London, hosted by British television personality Cat Deely. Timberlake won Best International Male Artist and Best International Album for *Justified*.

Dido won Best British Female Artist single for "White Flag," a love song said to be about her ex-boyfriend Bob Page. *Permission to Land* was inspired by '80s and '70s rockers.

The Darkness' music is a throwback to arena rock, and they're known for their over-the-top stage show.

"This is a real privilege, a tremendous honor and a great achievement ... and I have to say, we probably are the best British group," Darkness frontman Justin Hawkins told the crowd. "We should thank our collective parents for bestowing on us the gift of rock."

Hawkins wore a feather-trimmed, silver catsuit to perform the band's chart hit, "I Believe in a Thing Called Love." The set had an underwater Atlantis theme and, at the climax, Hawkins was lifted into the air on a flashing neon column.

"Wow, two in one night, thank you," Timberlake said. "This is

awesome. This is only my first record, you guys stick with me."

In a videotaped acceptance speech, Dido thanked fans and said, "This is quite a personal song for me. It's not an easy song to write or to sing, and that's what makes this even more amazing."

Busted picked up two awards: Best British Breakthrough Artist and Best Pop Act. The White Stripes were named the Best International Group.

American rapper 50 Cent took the prize for Best International Breakthrough Artist, and Basement Jaxx won Best British Dance Act.

Duran Duran was given an award for Outstanding Contribution to Music. They performed a medley of their greatest hits after receiving the honor from Timberlake.

Beyonce Knowles won the Best International Female Award. She thanked her British fans, saying: "I think of this as my second home." The Best British Male Solo Artist award went to Daniel Bedingfield. The singer couldn't pick up his honor because he was in New Zealand recovering from a car accident.

The Black Eyed Peas, Busted and Beyonce were among the performers.

Knowles appeared in a white Roberto Cavalli dress and \$475,000 worth of diamonds. Introduced by hip-hop act Outkast, she appeared on stage in a puff of smoke to sing her hit "Crazy in Love."

—Associated Press

West puts Chicago sound on the map

○ 'College Dropout' surges into rap scene with No. 1 single 'Slow Jamz'

By Kwame Patterson
Associate Editor



Roc-A-Fella Records' newest and hottest member, Kanye West, released his solo album on Feb. 10. On *College Dropout*, West elaborately illustrates his rags to riches story of trying to make it in the rap game, college and more importantly, life.

West built a name for himself as a producer. When Timbaland and The Neptunes weren't quite enough, artists called on West for his ability to create No. 1 hits.

As a producer, West has helped develop numerous classics, such as Jay Z's "This Can't Be Life" and "Izzo (H.O.V.A.)," Talib Kweli's "Get By," Mos Def and Faith Evans' "Brown Sugar" and Alicia Keys' "You Don't Know My Name." As an MC, however, West only recently came to the forefront with two chart topping singles: "Slow Jamz" (from Twista's *Kamikaze* release) and his very own "Through the Wire."

The album as a whole offers a unique style of musical genres that only a native son of Chicago can bring to the hip-hop table.

A number of musical forms were either created or perfected in the Windy City, but Midwest rappers haven't been able to incorporate them into hip-hop.

West, however, finally takes advantage of Chi-town's unique

sound by blending hip-hop, R&B, gospel, go-go and poetry to create an eclectic sound.

In addition to a variety of musical forms, *Dropout* also offers a combination of topics that taps into a diverse audience. The album delivers true-to-life situations for the many stages of West's life.

In one song, he spits lyrics of Jesus walking beside him, while in

ing up the tempo of old school tracks and then looping them over entire songs.

For example, West's first release, "Through the Wire," in which he details his near-fatal car accident in 2002, is originally Chaka Khan's 1984 hit, "Through the Fire" sped up and repeated.

Lyrical, West provides a sluggish, steady flow. He still somehow avoids sounding monotonous by incorporating catchy beats, punch lines and hooks into the music.

West also makes up for his slow lyrical pace by articulating each bar, making it easier to follow.

In order to demonstrate his range of performance, *Dropout* features a mixture of guest artists, such as Jay-Z, Twista, Common, Ludacris, Talib Kweli, Mos Def, Jamie Foxx and Lauryn Hill.

Fortunately, unlike some rap artists, West doesn't allow them to outshine his ability.

It's amazing that he was able to bring Lauren Hill out of hiding.

Overall, the lyrics, beats, styles, sampling, comedy and guest artists provide an abundance of variety.

Dropout captures the flavor of Chicago, while holding world-wide appeal.

It's clear this album is the introduction of another revolution within hip-hop.

West can easily take hold of the industry and become a driving force for years to come. But, what's up with the teddy bear on the cover?



the next song, he's picking up women on the Internet.

It's rather apparent that he has a huge chip on his shoulder in regard to higher learning.

From jacket cover to the outro, his album is immersed in contempt for education, but his view is manifested in comical satire as opposed to anger.

Dropout is also heavy on retro-sampling R&B music. West is known in the industry for speed-

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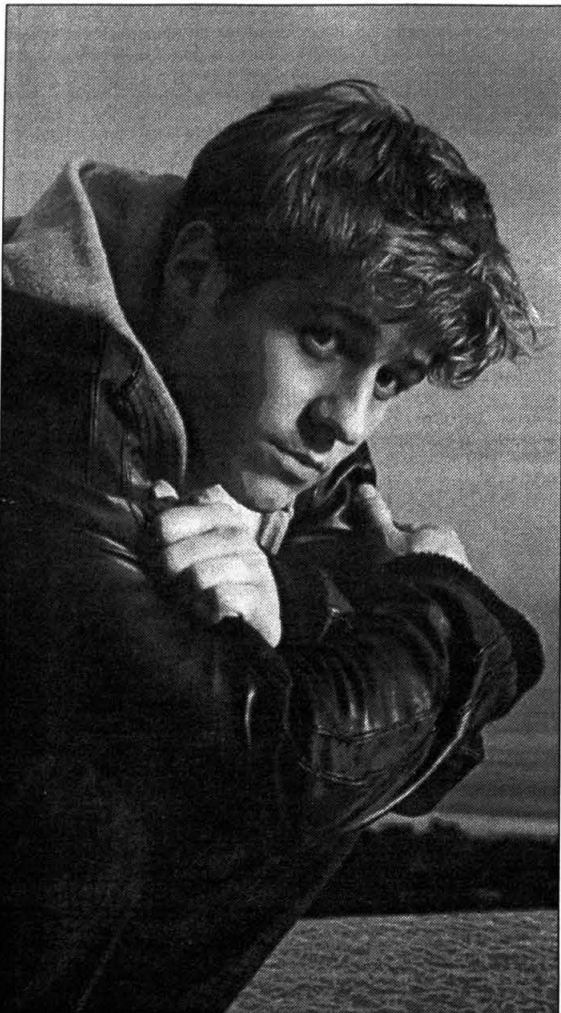
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Teen drama gets a new zip code, picking up where the cast of '90210' left off



Benjamin McKenzie as the show's star, Ryan.

Courtesy Fox

By Jamie Murnane
Assistant A&E Editor

When "Beverly Hills 90210" finally went off the air after 10 years and a few too many overdoses and breakups, the Fox network lost what many believe to have been its biggest hit. But, have no fear, drama enthusiasts of America, "The O.C." is here—and doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon.

The show, created by 27-year-old Jason Schwartz, first aired in the summer. When it returned for a Wednesday night slot in October, Fox's ratings soared.

The premise of the show is not terribly unlike that of "90210." It revolves around a group of high school friends (played, of course, by coverage actors) in an upscale California neighborhood—only this time it's Newport Beach, where everyone is not only beautiful, but also hip, and weekend trips to Tijuana and mansions overlooking the sea are the norm.

After being abandoned by his alcoholic mother, bad boy Ryan (Benjamin McKenzie) is taken in by his public defender, Sandy Cohen (Peter Gallagher) and Cohen's wife Kirsten (Kelly Rowan), a successful real estate broker. The Cohens' wisecracking, indie-music-loving son, Seth (Adam Brody) quickly attaches himself to Ryan. The two soon become best friends, despite their many differences (Do Brandon and Dylan ring a bell?).

Soon after living with Seth's family, Ryan falls for Marissa (Mischa Barton—the only cast member who is actually the age she plays), the girl next door. Seth soon becomes caught up in a love triangle and faces hard decisions. Does he go for Summer (Rachel Bilson), the girl he's been infatuated with since grade school, or does he go for Anna (Samaire Armstrong), his

female counterpart? When Marissa has a nervous breakdown after her parents (or 'rents, in "O.C." lingo) split, will she ever gain back her reputation? Can Sandy and Kirsten's marriage withstand all the emotional and professional rollercoasters looping and dipping around them? And what's up with that creepy Oliver?

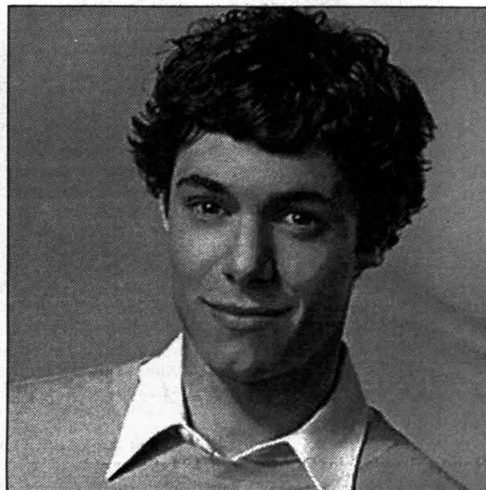
All the drama—divorces, fights, hookups, breakups and makeups—is enough to make one's head spin, and really, it's about time someone got it right. The bottom line is that "The O.C." has something for everybody: drama, humor, sarcasm, fashion and for once, a really great soundtrack that's not straight from the weekly top 40. Even the parents are cool on this show, not at all like the frumpy Walshes. Although, there is such a thing as "too cool." (It looks as though Marissa's ex, Luke and her too-young-looking-

complements Ryan's meatier main course of a character. It's because of this the show has not been cast in the same, shallow shadow as its predecessors. Hopefully, Seth's recent decisions won't change all of that, keeping the show, the characters and the situations well-balanced and interesting.

In just 18 hour-long episodes, "The O.C." has successfully marked its place in the book of nighttime television. And, although much of what takes place on the show is far different from what most young adults have experienced or will ever experience, it's somehow easy for people to relate to. While many of us would die for any kind of vacation, let alone spur of the moment getaways to Palm Springs, shopping in high end boutiques, throwing and attending extravagant parties in beach houses and on yachts, we can all tune in

to-be-a-mother may end up getting pretty friendly. But, of course, she looks only 25, so who could blame him?)

It's Seth, an authentic, believable character, that makes the show. The wittiness and sensitivity he brings to the table perfectly



Adam Brody as funny boy Seth.

Courtesy Fox

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'Our Lady' proves perfect concoction

By **Jamie Murnane**
Assistant A&E Editor

An egotistical radio personality, a quadriplegic priest, a trash-talking adulteress, a neurotic basket case and a stuck-in-the-closet homosexual make for a volatile combination in Stephen Adly Guirgis' latest theatrical production, "Our Lady of 121st Street."

The play, which made its Midwest premiere at the Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St., on Feb. 15, brings the wide array of personalities—childhood friends from Harlem—together after many years apart to attend the wake of their former teacher, Sister Rose.

As if the obligatory reunion weren't awkward enough, Sister Rose's body turns up missing—

stolen, actually—from its coffin the day before her funeral.

Due to the confusion and grief the circumstances have caused, emotions and tensions are running high. To make matters worse, old wounds are reopened and doused with salt. The characters, while trying to deal with the unbelievable situation at hand, must also deal with each other and the personal baggage they each carry around. Are the individuals on stage only mourning Sister Rose's death, or could they be grappling with all the mistakes and hardships they've faced throughout their post-Catholic school lives?

With "Our Lady," Guirgis, who The New York Times Magazine said "may be the best playwright in America under 40," has crafted a

piece that keeps audience members laughing all the way through, while also bringing them to the brink of tears. Though many of the characters' conversations are of a humorous nature, a deeper, serious theme of salvation is laced throughout the fast-paced satire.

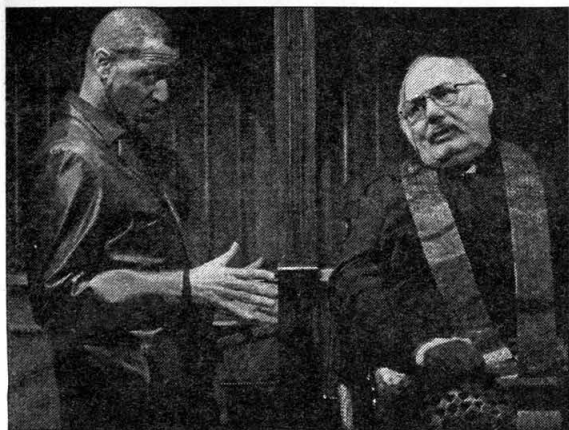
The plays universality and brutal honesty are, perhaps, its most important aspects. Everyone knows what it's like to be thrust into situations with no easy way out, forced to face one's flaws and decide what must (or must not) be done about them. Of course, all of this could not have been conveyed easily if it weren't for the superb acting of the cast—watching the play feels more like watching a movie that's been edited to perfection. Coincidentally, Pinky, a mentality disabled character, is played by Eddie Martinez, who attended Columbia as a theater major for two years.

Mixed together, all the actors bubbled and fermented like an acidic concoction in a mad scientist's beaker. As the play ends, the foam starts to run over, and viewers are left with feelings of relief, surprise and even confusion.

"Our Lady of 121st Street" runs through March 28 at the Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St.

Show times are Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. and Wednesday matinees on March 17 and 24 are at 2 p.m.

To pay respects to Sister Rose, visit www.steppenwolf.org or call (312) 335-1650. Tickets range from \$36 to \$52



Rooftop (E. Milton Wheeler) confesses his sins to Father Lux (Robert Breuler) in 'Our Lady of 121st Street.'

Columbia alumnus 'battles' controversy in debut exhibit

By **Marianne Lyles**
Staff Writer

As part of "Battling the Birth: Black Images On Screen," photographer and Columbia alumnus Rashid Johnson projects his individual ideas of images that have shaped the African-American male in film and television. Johnson said he almost declined the offer, but eventually he gave in to the idea.

"This is rare for me, but I saw it as an opportunity to address the issues that I felt were important," Johnson said.

Despite his taking part in the exhibit in the Glass Curtain Gallery, of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., in conjunction with Black History Month, Johnson admits he doesn't like the idea of the monthlong salute to African-Americans. He said it is not enough time for black artists and their work to be recognized and appreciated.

Johnson's display at the gallery contains strategically placed televisions playing NBA slam dunks, events in the fight for civil rights and scenes from D.W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation*, a highly-controversial film from the early 1900s.

Johnson said he chose television as the medium because it was something he thinks everyone is familiar with. By placing two of the televisions within a boxing ring, he wanted to create the confrontation of *The Birth of a Nation*

and Oscar Micheaux's *Within Our Gates*, considered a response to Griffith's famous film.

Also playing is "Court TV" footage of the O.J. Simpson verdict, projected on a white wall. Johnson said Simpson stood out to him as a black figure who was transformed from a villain to a hero in the eyes of the African-American community.

Johnson said these are issues and images that he has long been thinking about and believes that everyone will take their own ideas away with them after seeing the exhibit.

"Everyone has the opportunity to take away various things. I had no intention of creating a show that gives the black experience," he said.

According to Ryan O'Neil, a marketing communications major at Columbia, the exhibition's setup was strange, and he felt more images of blacks could have been presented.

"The O.J. thing is bizarre," O'Neil said. "It doesn't seem like there's enough representation of the diversity [of African heritage]."

Yet, Quentin Milroe, a film major, liked the message of the exhibit and the way Johnson curated it.

"It is something worth checking out if you have the time," he said. "Battling the Birth: Black Images Onscreen" is free and open to the public through March 19.

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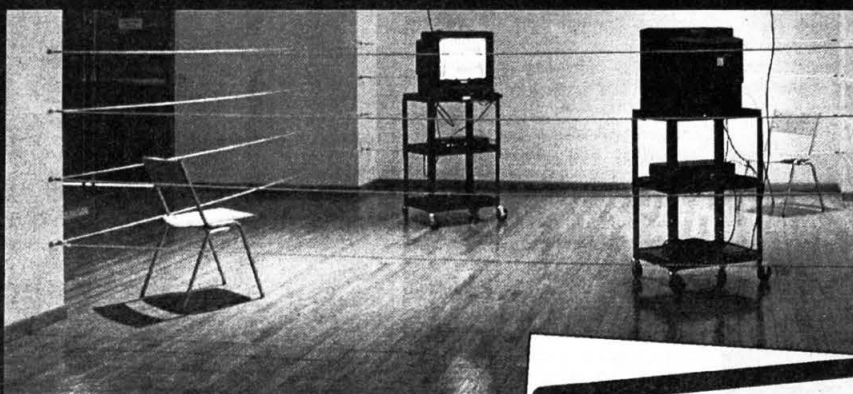


[C] EVENTS

spaces

Battling the Birth: BLACK IMAGES ON SCREEN

In conjunction with African-American Heritage Month, the Glass Curtain Gallery is proud to present this exhibition, curated by photographer and Columbia College Chicago alumnus Rashid Johnson. Black Images on Screen explores African-American identity, race issues, and artistic vision through the media of film and television.



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HORACE BROWN

**FEBRUARY 24, 1-3PM
HOKIN GALLERY AND ANNEX**



THE MONTHLY DRUM CIRCLE SERIES FEATURES VARIOUS DRUM LEADERS WHILE PROMOTING A COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE FOR COLUMBIA COLLEGE STUDENTS THROUGH THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE OF MUSIC. STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING A PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT AND JOIN THE CIRCLE OF MUSIC. FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



CALL4 DEMOS

from GRADUATING SENIOR STUDENTS

[C] Spaces is accepting demo submissions from bands and solo musical artists.

Demo Submission Deadline: March 1, 2004 Drop Off: Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash	Selected artists will be featured at Manifest 04 May 27 at outdoor sound stages around campus.	Thursday, May 27 is a single-day Urban Arts Festival featuring music from students, local and national acts, and a campus-wide ArtWalk.
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SUBMITTED DEMOS WILL NOT BE RETURNED.

Demo Submission Criteria

At least one member of the group must be of graduating senior status (the completion of 90 credits or more) or graduate student status.
Demo must be on a CD, DVD, video or audio tape and of good sound and/or visual quality.
Demos must be clearly labeled with the title of group, contact number and e-mail addresses.

Manifest is a month-long celebration of graduating student work.



ALBERT P. WEISMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP EXHIBITION

**FEBRUARY 9 - MARCH 13
HOKIN GALLERY
AND ANNEX**



This exhibition features completed projects in the areas of photography, digital imaging, sculpture, painting, interactive installation, book and paper arts, published poetry and photos, music recordings, and other mixed media formats. All projects are funded in part by the Albert P. Weisman Scholarship.

c33 *Look and See!*

What is C33?

C33 is the newest of the C-Spaces, the student centers and galleries of Columbia College Chicago, remodeled in the summer of 2003. It is the gallery in 33 E. Congress on the ground floor -- the newest meeting place for the Columbia family!

What are the hours at C33?

Monday – Thursday: 9am – 7pm

Friday: 9am – 5pm

Saturday: By appointment

What is C33 for?

C33 is a space for students to curate exhibitions and for organizations and departments to host student events as well as a place to congregate, study, and chill out between classes. It's a space for the students at Columbia College Chicago.

What's happening at C33 this month?

January 26 – February 25 (hours the same as gallery hours)

Shelter, an exhibition of installation, sculpture, photography, and other 2D works by Arts Community. Arts Community is a recognized student organization that prepares Art & Design students for professional life in the greater art community.

Wednesday, February 11, 5pm – 7pm

Shelter Exhibition Reception

Free food and drink

Every Monday this semester, 7pm – 9pm

Starting February 18

Poetry Open Mic Reading

Hosted by Student Leadership

How do I reserve C33?

Call Ted Cho, C-Spaces' Tech and Program Manager to book events. If you're interested in curating an exhibition, download the form from our website at www.colum.edu/spaces or contact the Hokin Center at 312-344-7696.

[C]
spaces

the student centers and galleries
of columbia college chicago



From 'king' to cowboy

○ Mortensen back in the saddle with big budget epic

By Matthew Jaster
A&E Editor



The thought of sharing a room with the recently crowned king of Middle Earth was equally terrifying and exciting. This was a rare opportunity to sit down and discuss filmmaking, politics and American history with one of the most talented character actors in the entertainment industry.

Viggo Mortensen arrived at the hotel for the college press junket sporting a bright red *Hidalgo* T-shirt and thick, black wool socks.

He glanced down at the tape recorders scattered across the coffee table and joked, "Looks like you're all armed and ready to go."

For an actor who seems to want to stay as far away from the spotlight as possible, Mortensen has put himself in quite an awkward position.

This latest journey will take him through nine cities in 10 days on a promotional tour in support of his new film, *Hidalgo*, which opens nationwide on March 5.

In the film, Mortensen portrays real life pony express rider Frank T. Hopkins, a cowboy who travels to Saudi Arabia to compete in a 3,000 mile horse race.

Out of his element, Hopkins uses his curiosity and charm to keep him out of trouble. The same could be said for Mortensen when surrounded by a group of college journalists.

But like any cowboy with a job to do, whether he enjoyed it or not, Mortensen intended to make the best of the interview process.

"Initially, I thought it was an interesting story, set in an interesting time particularly for this country," Mortensen said. "A story in which a cowboy goes to a third world country on invitation and behaves in more or less a dignified way—ends up learning just as much about himself as the people he encounters."

After playing Aragorn in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, you'd think Mortensen would keep some distance from another big-budget, action-adventure epic.

"I liked that it was a big budget Hollywood movie," Mortensen said. "Not that I was looking to be in another big budget movie. I kind of feel like I'm in a constant state of tiredness."

There is no rest for the box office star, a label that Mortensen doesn't seem to care about when approaching a role.

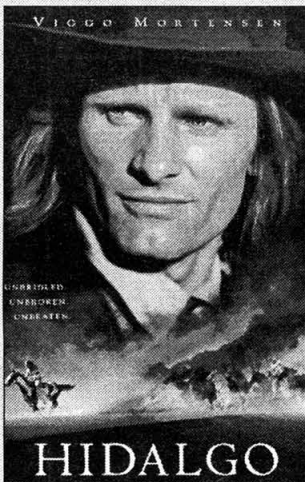
From his turn as the defiant soldier in *Gl. Jane*, to the heroic ranger in *Lord of the Rings* or the cowboy in *Hidalgo*, he initially responds to each character.

"Any role that I've played, I've found something interesting," Mortensen said. "Each character requires different approaches. My point of view 10 years ago is probably different than it is today."

It was his passion for horses

and a personal interest in Buffalo Bill that were important factors in Mortensen's final decision to work on *Hidalgo*.

"I'm related to Buffalo Bill through my mother's side of the family, and I've always been fascinated by his mythology of the Old West," Mortensen said.



What he didn't want to make was a film that was preachy and overbearing to audiences.

"I like the way Joe Johnston, the director, told the story. It could have been done by Howard Hawks. It's deceptively simple in appearance, and it lets the audience think for themselves. It's an old fashioned type of Hollywood movie."

Mortensen believes the real standout in the production was his horse, *Hidalgo*, played by the charismatic T.J.

"He came up with all the reactions in the film," Mortensen said. "He really seemed jealous at times or disapproving or bored. He needed to be a character in his own right."

When Mortensen's not acting, painting is an important aspect of his life.

While he enjoys the solitude and ownership involved in painting a picture, he's just as enthusiastic about the collaborative work of a film.

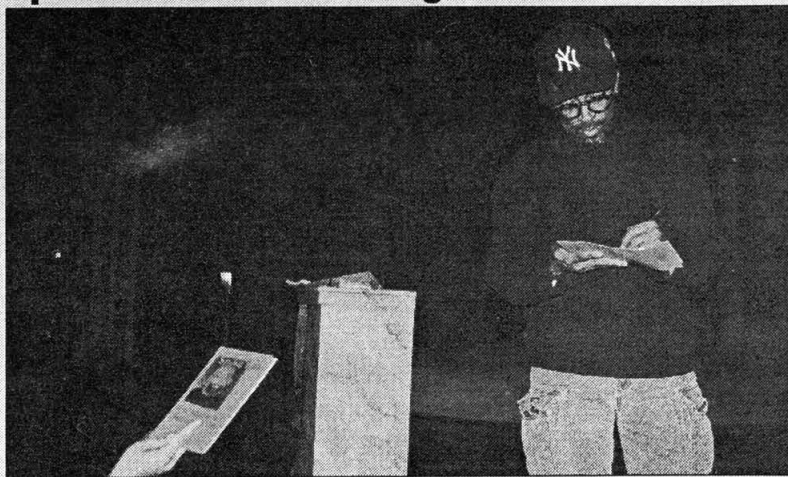
"When you're collaborating, guided not just by your own instincts, conscience and your own work habits, but by a director's intentions or point of view, there's something interesting that happens moment to moment when making a movie," Mortensen said.

Much like the character he plays in *Hidalgo*, Mortensen is more like a cowboy than a box office star.

He approaches each role he plays with passion and dedication, letting the pieces fall into place along the way.

"Cowboys that I know and admire are people who have their own way of looking at things, and whatever they don't know about they at least show some curiosity about," Mortensen said. And in that respect, life imitates art.

Spike returns to Chicago ...



Adrian S. Burrows/The Chronicle
Spike Lee signs autographs after a student lecture at DePaul's Merle Reskin Theater, 60 East Balbo Drive, on Feb. 17.

Great cast can't save political bore

By David Germain
AP Writer

Welcome to Mooseport is the Howard Dean of Hollywood, holding all the cards to succeed, then stumbling and tumbling when show time arrives.

It sounds like a splendid comedy ticket, Gene Hackman as an enormously popular president who leaves office, retires to his summer home in a sleepy Maine town and blunders into a mayoral race against a local plumber (Ray Romano). Hackman and Romano are backed by an excellent supporting cast that includes Marcia Gay Harden, Rip Torn, Maura Tierney and Christine Baranski.

Director Donald Petrie (*Miss Congeniality*, *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*) has a track record in populist comedy, while there's a reasonable expectation of wit and depth in the screenplay by Tom Schulman, an Academy Award winner for *Dead Poets Society*. Yet *Welcome to Mooseport*, like Dean's campaign, withers and dies.

Petrie's pacing is sluggish, and Schulman's script is awkwardly constructed and just plain not funny. Hackman plays President Monroe "Eagle" Cole, a two-ter-

mer who leaves the White House with a whopping 85 percent approval rating. Newly split from his gold-digging wife (Christine Baranski), who has taken his prime residence in the divorce, Monroe relocates to his vacation home in Mooseport, where he plans to write his memoirs and sift through the lucrative book, speaking and corporate board offers coming his way.

Accompanying him are his faithful executive secretary Grace (Harden), his nervous publicity man Bullard (Fred Savage) and a band of Secret Service guards so loyal they hide in the woods on the golf course to toss balls back onto the fairway when their boss inevitably slices into the trees. "Lucky bounce, sir," is the mantra.

Into Monroe's life comes hardware store owner Handy Harrison (Romano), the lovable local lunkhead hired to fix the ex-president's toilets. Handy's a sweetheart of a man whose chief failing is he cannot commit to longtime girlfriend Sally (Tierney), a veterinarian tired of waiting for him to pop the question.

The movie clunkily orchestrates scenarios that turn Monroe

and Handy into fierce rivals: Monroe inexplicably agreeing to city elders' requests that he run for mayor; Handy filing for the mayor's race; Handy's determination to stay in the campaign so he doesn't look like a quitter after Monroe asks Sally on a date.

The action devolves into cheap politics as Monroe brings in his hotshot campaign manager (Torn) to dig up dirt on Handy and to try to control the David-and-Goliath media circus.

The hijinks should be hilarious, considering Hackman and Romano's comic sensibilities. The gags and jokes fall flat, though, and *Welcome to Mooseport* lingers along at far too leisurely a pace (a golf match between the two candidates drags on to interminable lengths with barely a laugh).

Like candidates who keep mouthing winner's talk even as they plummet in the polls, the actors do their best with the weak material. Their energy and enthusiasm make you want to like *Welcome to Mooseport*.

Ultimately, the movie is a cinematic campaign that deserves a low turnout from box-office voters.

Chiropractic... The Choice For Me

Jason Kucma is a Third-year student from Medford, NJ. He graduated from Ithaca College with a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology concentrating in Cardiac Rehabilitation.

"The only thing that has ever captured my attention was studying the human body. The more I learned in school, the more I needed to know. The most logical step for me was to become a Doctor of Chiropractic so I could truly help people."

Before making his decision to attend Logan, Jason visited nearly half of the chiropractic colleges in the United States. "Logan is in the perfect location in a safe, residential area. The Admissions staff are very friendly and helpful and the faculty are excellent."

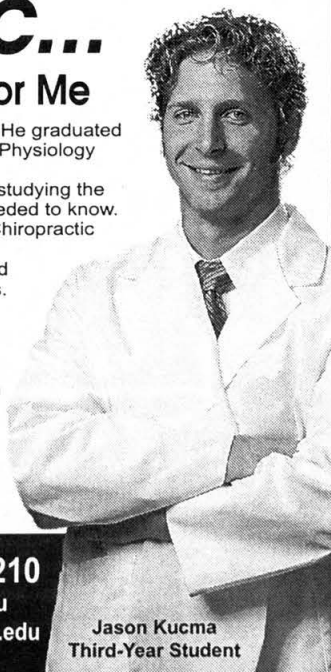
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Jason Kucma
Third-Year Student

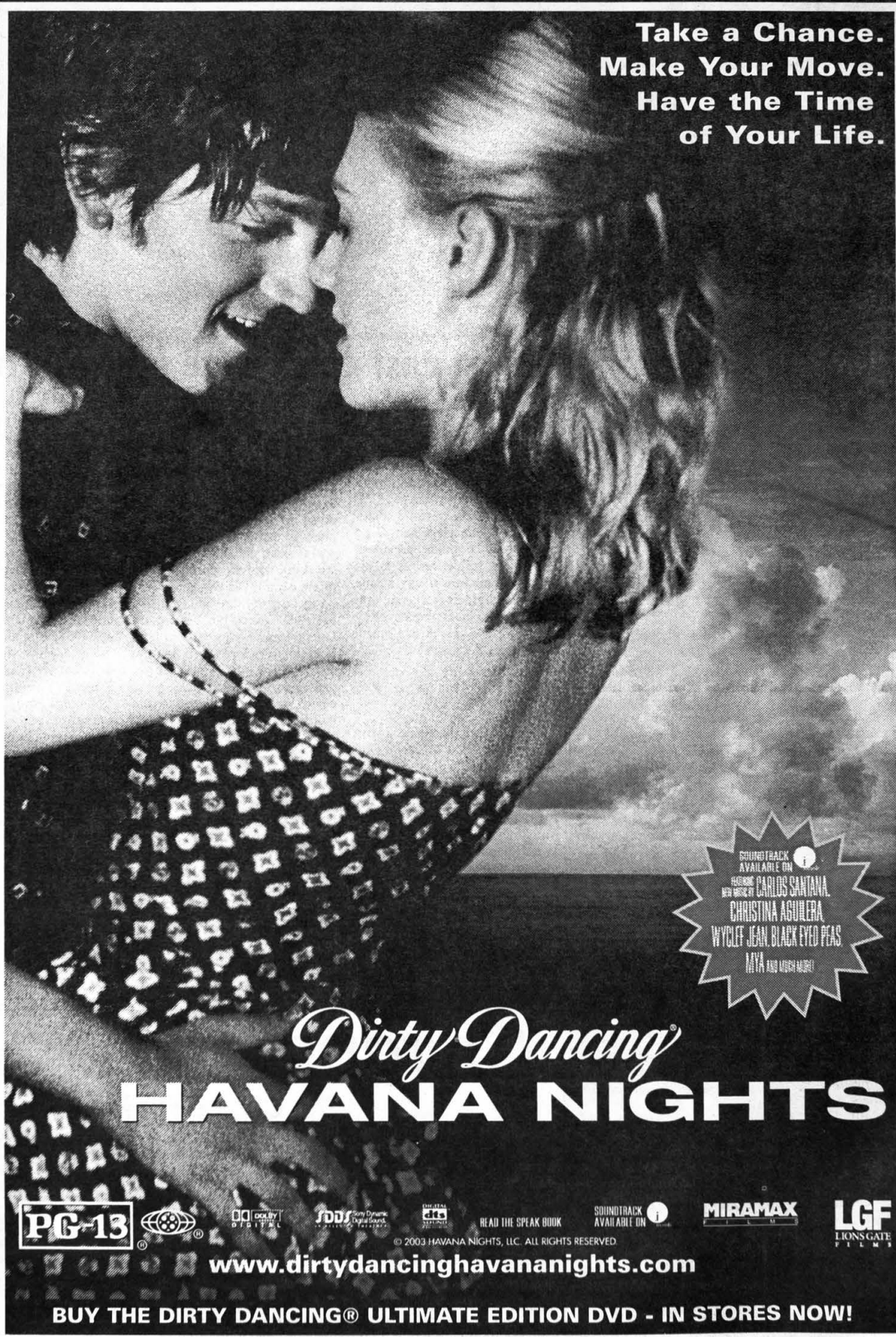
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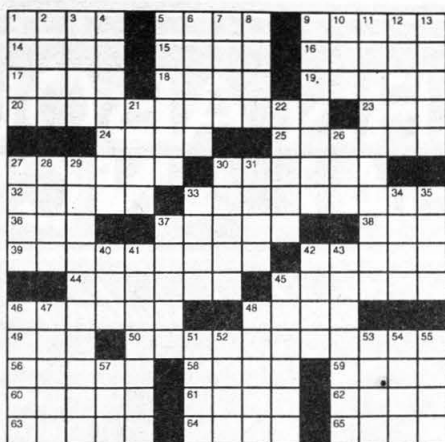
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Today, February 23rd, during regular office hours, and pick up a complimentary pass to attend
a special advance screening of "Dirty Dancing: Havana Nights" on Tuesday, February 24th.

Passes are available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. One pass per person. Employees of all promotional partners, their agencies, and those who received a pass within the last 90 days are not eligible.

IN THEATRES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH!

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Energy food, for short
 - 5 Between-meals munchie
 - 9 Grouchy Muppet
 - 14 On the less windy side
 - 15 Carpeting measurement
 - 16 Mariner's malarkey
 - 17 Rich, dark soil
 - 18 Window ledge
 - 19 Mail unit
 - 20 Eye-opener, for many
 - 23 Animation art
 - 24 Arkin or King
 - 25 Stoppers
 - 27 Kitchen ring
 - 30 Forage crop
 - 32 Delete
 - 33 Ring
 - 36 Coop product
 - 37 Cautious
 - 38 Bite the dust
 - 39 Pay back
 - 42 Asimov's genre
 - 44 Sibling's daughters
 - 45 Aviators
 - 46 French brandy
 - 48 Walt Kelly's comic strip
 - 49 Nexus of activity
 - 50 Dishwater container
 - 56 Chopin piece
 - 58 Sentry's order
 - 59 Biblical garden
 - 60 Psychiatrist
 - 61 Alfred
 - 61 Frankenstein's aide
 - 62 Heavy reading?
 - 63 Voting places
 - 64 "Da Ya Think I'm?"
 - 65 Like molasses in January
- DOWN
- 1 Math subj.
 - 2 Baseball family name
 - 3 Gather in
 - 4 Laments
 - 5 Winston Cup org.
 - 6 Starry hunter
 - 7 Egotist's main concern
 - 8 Fifty percent
 - 9 Keep an eye on
 - 10 Take a load off
 - 11 Morning alarm, for many
 - 12 Come to terms
 - 13 Film spools
 - 21 Run away
 - 22 Jet black
 - 26 Former power grp.
 - 27 Bock or porter
 - 28 Strong inclination
 - 29 DeNiro film
 - 30 Fischer's game
 - 31 Folk wisdom
 - 32 Pierre's pop
 - 34 Hoist
 - 35 Kauai garlands
 - 37 Susan of "All My Children"
 - 40 Hr. fraction
 - 41 Lab glassware
 - 42 Autograph
 - 43 Small storage rooms
 - 45 Verse
 - 46 Cut-price
 - 47 Surpass
 - 48 Flower of Texas
 - 51 ___ won't hurt a bit
 - 52 Pet canary's digs
 - 53 Object of worship
 - 54 Verne's captain
 - 55 Had the answer
 - 57 Dolores ___ Rio



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02/28/04

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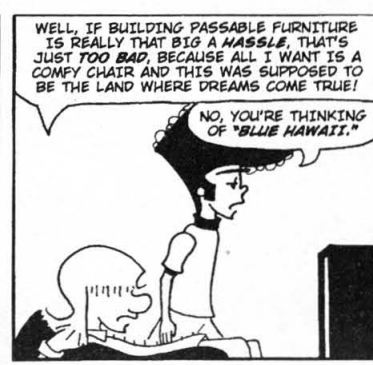
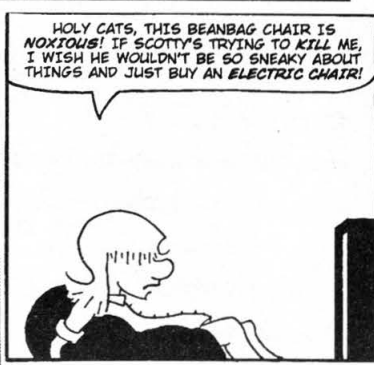
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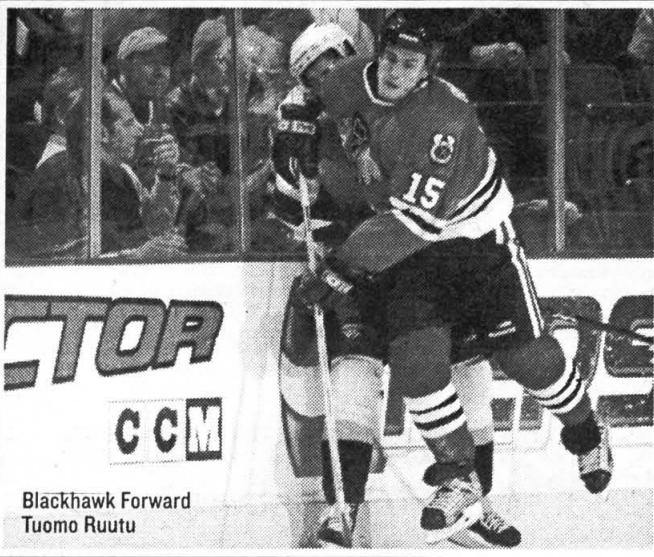
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Served with Potato Chips

Soup: Mon- Turkey Green Chili

Tues-Cheddar Vegetable

Wed-Chicken Noodle

Thurs- Cream of Artichoke

South Loop greener than most city neighborhoods

By Chris Coates
Editor-in-chief

With Chicago registering as one of the few large cities in the country still deficient in park space, some neighborhoods are better equipped to increase green space. Part two of "Park Problems" looks at how the city's South Loop compares to other neighborhoods.

THE SOUTH LOOP

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population in the neighborhood immediately south of Chicago's downtown jumped nearly 40 percent between 1990 and 2000—one of the highest boost of population in the entire state.

The South Loop is a vibrant, new community of condominiums rising from the shells of abandoned printing warehouses and former parking lots.

And although it continues to struggle with the development of basic amenities, it does not lack parks or green spaces. According to a study conducted by the nonprofit Neighborhood Coalition, South Loop residents have access to 48 acres of parks per 1,000 residents.

The amount is slightly above average when compared to acreage for other downtown residents. In an area typified by high-rises and parking garages, residents living within a mile of Chicago's Loop have roughly 41 acres of park for every 1,000 residents.

Citywide, however, the average is four acres of open space or parks per 1,000 residents, according to a 2000 study conducted by the Trust for Public Land.

The numbers actually mean the South Loop is one of the few areas of the city that is not in need of parks. It is one of the greenest in the city.

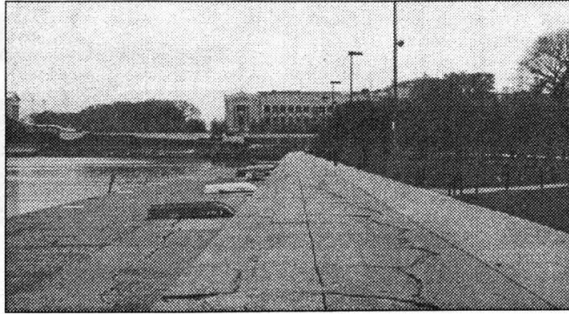
The reason for the South Loop's higher than average amount of green space is simple. It is a new community, one where open space is plentiful. It is an ideal community to benefit from the CitySpace plan, which relies on retrofitting abandoned lots, a plentiful option in a new community like the South Loop.

The neighborhood is also within walking distance of Grant Park. The Framework Plan outlines broad steps to retrofit those areas near the borders of the park into neighborhood areas. As of December, a proposed dog park within Grant Park was nearing approval. As Bob O'Neill, president of the Grant Park Advisory Council, said, Grant Park is very much a community park on all sides.

Such a plentiful amount of parks is the polar opposite of many locations elsewhere in the city. Residents on the city's far West Side have less than one half of an acre per 1,000 residents.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS

In other more prosperous neighborhoods, like Rogers Park on the North Side of the city, the problem is equally lopsided, indicating that race or income level does not necessarily determine whether a neighborhood will have sufficient green



The CitySpace plan shows the lakefront now (left) and what the artists' visions are for the future (right) near the Museum Campus.

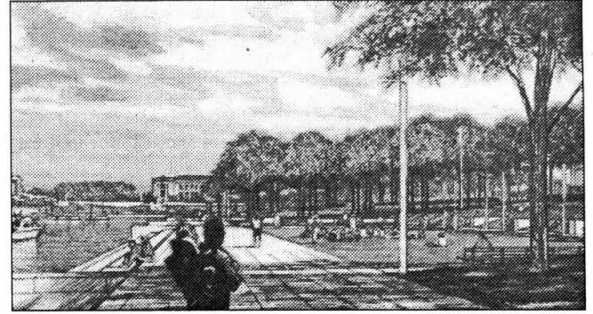
space. According to the CitySpace plan's statistics, in 1993, the neighborhood had less than two acres of open space per 1,000 residents.

"We're way down there at the bottom," said Alderman Joe Moore, whose 49th Ward includes portions of Rogers Park, one of the densest areas of the city. Because of the cramped nature of the area, Moore said he estimates his ward has only

Such is not true for those living on the North Side.

THE PROBLEM

The CitySpace plan relies on already-existing open spaces. Dense, established neighborhoods—the areas that are desperately in need of parks—often have little or no open space for the city to build upon. The lack of vacant or



Courtesy city of Chicago

Park Problems

The Chronicle's look at a lack of city greenspace

a handful of vacant lots that could be retrofitted into community green spaces.

"Land up my way is so darned expensive," Moore said. "And the fact there's buildings on it, which add to the expense even more."

Moore's neighborhood is not alone.

"A lot of those really dense, North Side neighborhoods are deficient for open-space amenities," said Glenda Lewis, the greening director for the Openlands Project. "But there's no open space."

Ironically, it is demand that drives down the possibility of green space. In established neighborhoods, green space is often sparse because developers build on any plot available. In fact, neighborhoods on the South and West Sides of Chicago—the neighborhoods that are often considered overlooked in even the basic of city amenities—have the most park space in the city.

The city itself points to the South and West Sides as areas with "many more vacant acres than those on the southwest and northwest sides of the city." Of the 77 neighborhoods south of Madison Street, the city cites 14 areas with at least two acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This is due, at least in part, to the city's overzealous funding of parks in the area in light of the inequity allegations in the early 1980s.

The amount of South Side parks is three times higher than those neighborhoods north of the city. And they have the ironic benefit of having many abandoned lots, perfect for further acquisitions, according to Dr. Brent D. Ryan, co-director of the Urban Planning and Policy Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

obtainable land has left the city with a dilemma: It simply has no space to buy.

"When you talk about specific neighborhoods, you have to look at the availability of specific green spaces in those communities," said the park district's Helen Doria, a special assistant to the superintendent of the Chicago Park District, who has worked with neighborhoods in developing pocket parks and gardens. Land has to be donated; buying hundreds of vacant lots outright would be extremely expensive. Plus, there is little fiscal return on the property—not a very good incentive for would-be developers.

Instead, the CitySpace plan is highly beneficial to budding neighborhoods. Obviously, space is available and the price is often right.

The CitySpace plan overwhelmingly includes the development of parks that sit within two miles of either downtown, Lake Michigan or the Chicago River.

According to Eleanor Roemer, policy director for the nonprofit Friends of the Parks, the difference comes down to money.

"Where there's no empty lots, where there's no empty space, then it involves an outlay of money to purchase property for parks," she said. "There hasn't always been the political will."

OUTCOME

As of 2000, the park district's 11,645 acres of city, county, state and federal parklands is still far below the national average. Minneapolis—a city with 13 percent the population of Chicago—has approximately 10 percent more park space per person, according to data furnished by the 2000 U.S.

Census.

However, it is markedly higher than the amounts before the implementation of the CitySpace plan.

But Chicago—even after hundreds of millions of dollars in capital improvements—still falls far below what other cities offer in terms of parks. Parks comprise only 8 percent of Chicago's land area. In New York City, by contrast, parks and open spaces make up 25.7 percent of the city's total land area.

"I don't think [the city is] taking the problem lightly," said Chris Slattery, director of the Chicago office of the Trust for Public Land, a group that has worked closely with the city to develop neighborhood green areas. "The city established this very optimistic goal. I don't think the park district has come close to meeting that goal. But there has been some progress."

In fact, the city itself cannot pin down exactly how much green space it has added since 1993. It is also unclear how much the city has spent, according to Kathleen Dickhut, the assistant commissioner of the Chicago Department of Planning and Development.

If it is any indication, the original CitySpace plan called for \$4 billion in neighborhood improvements by 2000. By 2005, the city hopes for an additional 1,500 acres. According to the Trust for Public Land, the city has added 4,304 acres since 1998, surpassing the amounts outlined by the plan.

According to Doria, overall, the city is consistently gaining green space.

"When you talk about specific neighborhoods, you have to look at the availability of gaining open

space in those neighborhoods," she said.

She cited several recent land acquisitions, including Northerly Island, Millennium Park and the USX space near the Pullman District in South Chicago.

All are located near Chicago's lakefront. All are also in areas that have not been cited as green space deficient.

Indeed, Ryan—who has written extensively about urban planning—points to the inherent flaw in the CitySpace program.

"The city is looking for a kind of low cost answer to the problem," he said.

Instead of improving the properties the district already has, the financially strapped park district has elected to obtain wholly new properties. And those parks aren't in areas that need them.

"I would not imagine that the city would be on the road to creating any number of new parks when they're having trouble maintaining the ones that they've already got," he said.

At any rate, Slattery said it is too early to gauge the city's commitment—or the outcome of the massive project.

"I think [the city] is making a more concerted effort to address the problem than in years past," she said. But the future for green space in the city is still unknown. "I don't think there's been a long enough time ... to see a significant difference."

And does Moore think the city has lived up to its promise?

"I think so. There's always so much more that could be done."

Park/Open Space per 1000 Residents	Park/Open Space Acreage
City	per 1000 Residents
Minneapolis	14.9
Washington DC	13.1
Oakland	9.3
Baltimore	7.8
San Francisco	7.6
Philadelphia	7.0
New York	6.2
Chicago	4.0
Miami	3.7

Source: NYC Oasis
Carla Lachman/The Chronicle

City reflects on the E2 tragedy

○ Crackdown on club overcrowding continues

By Nathaniel Hernandez
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP)—In the year since 21 people died in an overcrowded nightclub, bouncers across the city keep a closer count on the number of people passing the velvet rope, fire inspectors make more surprise checks and new laws are in place to make a night on the town a safer prospect.

Even at small neighborhood bars like Estelle's Cafe and Pub, where lines were unheard of before the deadly stampede at the E2 nightclub across town, doormen use hand-held clickers to keep track of patrons and find themselves telling people they'll have to wait—the bar's already at capacity.

"I would definitely say there was more freedom with the occupancy before E2," doorman Al Myers said. "Now, I have to have two clickers to keep track of who is coming in and who's leaving. Before, I could just wing it."

Crowding is exactly what the city has been trying to avoid since the E2 tragedy in the early hours of Feb. 17, 2003. A security guard trying to break up a fight released pepper spray, sparking a panic that sent hundreds of club-goers surging toward the already crowded stairwell leading to the street.

In addition to the people killed, more than 50 others were injured, some trampled as the crowd pushed toward the exit. Some 300 relatives and friends of the victims held a memorial outside the still-closed South Side club early Feb. 17 and read aloud the names of the dead on the one-year anniversary.

In the year since, fire inspectors have dropped in unannounced on the city's clubs for more than 2,000 inspections; new rules require all exits to be clearly marked; even 911 centers are better prepared to head off another disaster.

"We've seen less violations," said First Deputy Fire Commissioner Charles Burns Jr., who added that the inspections would continue indefinitely. "We see public building owners and managers getting the message."

Today, city procedures have changed to tighten control over nightclub crowding, and club-goers across the city say they are paying more attention to their surroundings.

"I think about [E2] every night," 22-year-old Lupe Lopez said Friday while unwinding at the Funky Buddha Lounge, 728 W. Grand Ave. "When I go to a new place, I look for exits."

At least 16 clubs have been temporarily shut down because of overcrowding—about one a month over the past year and four in January alone—though the clubs were allowed to reopen the following night.

"These people have to be given the benefit of the doubt" that inspectors may have arrived when it was unusually crowded, said fire department spokeswoman Molly Sullivan.

After the city shut down the Funky Buddha Lounge for a night in May, the doormen started using clickers to more accurately track the number of people coming in and out, said the club's manager, Stephanie Christian.

"It's actually been easy to comply," she said.

The city also approved a package of reforms last fall, including requiring every club to visibly post information on safety exits and evacuation routes. The city also has banned the indoor use of pepper spray.

A new computer system now allows police officers to call up information on the spot from the building department about court orders involving a specific address.

The city's 911 center also has been updated. There were about two dozen phone calls from E2 the night of the stampede, but many callers didn't know the name of the club or its address, so each 911 operator had to start over with the search. Now, as soon as five calls come in from one location, the information appears on a large screen in the center so everyone there is aware.

Building Commissioner Norma Reyes said her department had inspected 300 taverns, nightclubs and restaurants since the tragedy to ensure the buildings were up to code and had adequate exits. She said the department has 90 to 95 percent compliance in correcting the violations it finds.

"The bottom line is the changes have made Chicago's large gathering places safer than they've ever been," City Corporation Counsel Mara Georges said.

Neighborhood tours celebrate city's history

○ Program guides sightseers through lesser known Chicago communities

By Rochelle S. Russo
Staff Writer

If you are a new Chicagoan, in search of a neighborhood to move to or simply looking for an adventure, exploring the city through Chicago Neighborhood Tours is a great opportunity.

The program, developed through the Office of Tourism at the Chicago Cultural Center, was created six years ago by Juana Guzman, who led neighborhood tours in her own van.

Chicago Neighborhood Tours has come a long way since 1997. The tours currently provide a 57-passenger, wheelchair accessible, motor coach bus to travel the neighborhoods through the 26 different tours.

The three types of tours offered are: neighborhood tours for \$25, including refreshments; special interest tours, such as the Great Cemeteries of Chicago, for \$50, including lunch; and cultural historian choice tours for \$35, including refreshments. Senior citizens and students receive \$5 off the price of the neighborhood and special interest tours.

All tours depart from the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph St., and are approximately four to five-and-a-half hours long.

The Neighborhood Sampling Tour is a special interest tour that occurs four more times this year: March 27, June 12, Aug. 14 and Nov. 6. According to the Office of Tourism, this tour is a guaranteed sell out.

Ethnic food guide Evelyn Thompson will be leading the tour of several restaurants, bakeries and delis through different neighborhoods.

Cuisine from around the world can be found right here in Chicago's backyard. Restaurants sampled may include Antopolis for Greek, Phoenix Noodle and Dumpling House for Chinese, Pompeii for Italian, Zaky for Middle Eastern, Satay for Thai, Sabor A Cuba for Cuban, Mom's Bakery and Restaurant for Filipino, Furama for Mandarin, Café Iberico for Spanish and

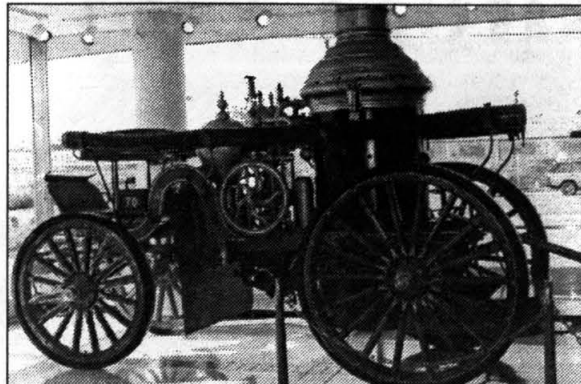


Photo courtesy Chicago Neighborhood Tours

This original fire truck, which was once pulled by a team of horses during the Great Chicago Fire, is on display at the Chicago Fire Academy, located at site of the O'Leary's homestead.

Kamdar Plaza for Indian. No restaurant is sampled more than twice, and no tour is ever the same.

The Great Chicago Fire Tour, another special interest tour, will be held April 3 and June 5. Tour guide Herman Schell tells the story of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 through a visit to Mrs. O'Leary's homestead at 137 DeKoven St. This establishment is now a fire academy, preserving memorabilia such as an original fire truck.

The next stop is the Historic Water Tower landmark, one of five surviving public buildings from the fire that lasted 27 hours, demolished 17,450 buildings and claimed an estimated 250 lives. Schell recaps the details of a fire bell ringing, sending firefighters to the wrong neighborhood, currently known as Pilsen.

The last stop is the fire exhibit at the Chicago Historical Society.

The Soul of the South Side Tour, occurring Feb. 28 and July 10, is one of the featured neighborhood tours, taking tourists south of 60th Street, which focuses on the thriving art community on the South Side.

One stop on the Soul of the South Side Tour is at the ETA Creative Arts Foundation. Founded in 1971, ETA is home

to a state-of-the-art theater, gallery, library, offices and a gift shop. Another destination is the South Shore Cultural Center. Originally built in 1906 as the Private South Shore Country Club, there are now several diverse performances, including the annual South Shore Jazz Festival.

The neighborhood tour through Ukrainian Village, will occur March 6 and Sept. 18. Located at Chicago and Western avenues, Eastern European restaurants, ethnic museums and churches pepper Ukrainian Village. Some stops include the Ukrainian National Museum, St. Volodymyr Church, St. Olha Church and the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, not to mention leisurely strolls through an Old World neighborhood.

Tour coordinator, Cesar Sanchez, 25, works for the non-profit Chicago Office of Tourism. Sanchez has been responsible for creating the 2004 tours, as well as those during previous years. Sanchez decides which neighborhoods are toured, which restaurants are dined at, which museums are viewed and which tour guides are selected to orate.

"Our main focus is history, architecture and cultural attractions," Sanchez said.

Gay rally *Continued from Back Page*

through the court system is just as important [as rallying]," he said.

One of the ways in which same-sex marriage has garnered attention in places like Massachusetts, where the Supreme Court this month ruled in favor of full marriage rights for gay couples, is that court cases involving same-sex marriage have been identified and litigated successfully.

John D'Emilio, director of the Gender and Women's Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said this tactic is critical in winning acceptance of the issue in this state.

"Illinois is definitely lagging in this way," he said. "Before same-sex marriage is likely to take hold in any given locale, the jurisdiction needs to first create some kind of legal climate of acceptance."

Ed Yohnka, director of commu-

nications for the American Civil Liberties Union in Illinois, suggested that the right case in Illinois simply may not have presented itself yet.

"Litigation is different in every state and every circumstance," he said. "Sometimes cases move forward in different areas for different reasons. In Illinois, we have not yet seen the kind of legal challenge to the state's marriage laws that were brought forward in Vermont and Massachusetts."

Chicago does, in fact, have a domestic partner registry, which went into effect in Cook County in October of 2003. But more important to those involved in the struggle is opposition to a bill in the Illinois Senate and two separate pieces of proposed legislation in the General Assembly, which attempt to legally define

marriage as solely between a man and a woman.

Regardless of the strategies involved, Ann Gunkel Hetzel, director of the women and gender studies in the Liberal Education Department at Columbia said she feels that framing the issue as a matter of human rights is the right way to go.

"Opponents of legislation allowing same-sex marriages tend to look at it as some sort of assault on an institution," she said. "If it's defined in these terms, it will be difficult to change the current situation. I think the most successful way to frame the issue is to look at it as an issue of human rights, which may help people to sidestep the emotions involved."



Andrew J. Scott/The Chronicle

Eric Gill frequented E2 with his friend Antonio Myers, who lost his life at the age of 22, the night of the E2 tragedy.

Minor league, major changes

○ Windy City ThunderBolts prep for debut under new name, ownership

By Eric Alexy

Assistant City Beat Editor

In a league where change is mandatory, the recently revamped Windy City ThunderBolts baseball franchise took it a step further.

After several seasons of based in the cellar of the 12-team Frontier League, the Crestwood, Ill.-based franchise, formerly known as the Cook County Cheetahs, is set to begin its first season of baseball as the ThunderBolts in May.

In October, the team was purchased by local ownership group the Crestwood Professional Baseball, LLC. The group includes former Sen. Patrick O'Malley; Mike Stranczek, the son of Crestwood's mayor; and Kevin Rhomberg, team president and a former Cleveland Indians player.

Shortly after ownership changed hands, the team ran a contest with the Daily Southtown to determine a new name for the franchise. After the ThunderBolts moniker was chosen from 750 entries, another contest, held online, unanimously determined that the team would be called the Windy City ThunderBolts, instead of the Crestwood or Midway ThunderBolts, said Matt Wilson, ThunderBolts assistant general manager.

The team's colors also were switched from red, black and gold to blue, black and white.

"We're basically wanting to get away from the Cheetahs' name and the style that they ran this organization with," said Wilson, who came to the organization after a season with the 2003 Frontier League Champions, the Gateway (Mo.)

Grizzlies. "I've heard about the Cheetahs, and most of it was negative; so to get that mentality out of people's minds, I definitely believe [a name change] was necessary."

"We want to turn things around for the ThunderBolts this year, get to the average league attendance and try our best to put out a successful team on the field within the limitations of the league."

Rhomberg said the new name and ownership marks a "new beginning" for the franchise, which has seen declining attendance since its inaugural Frontier

League season in 1999. Last year, the team's average home attendance was 1,475, fourth lowest in the league and well below the league average of 2,214,

according to www.ballpark-watch.com.

After initially pursuing the franchise two and a half years ago, Rhomberg, whose experience in the 11-year-old Frontier League includes a stint as managing partner of the Canton (Ohio) Crocodiles, said he finally found the right group of owners to work with.

"They're interested in the baseball team becoming a community asset," he said of the group, which is rounded out by Bob Stump, John Kelly Jr., Dan Brennan and Rich Mundo. "They're investing in their community."

According to Rhomberg, the franchise overhaul was both timely and expensive, but he said it was necessary and something he intended to do all along.

"We'd like to be as successful

as the other franchises in the area: Kane County [Cougars], Schaumburg [Flyers] or Joliet [Jackhammers]," he said.

Because of Frontier League rules, team rosters can change vastly from season to season. Teams are required to have 12 rookies on their rosters, Wilson said.

In addition, each team is only allowed two players with three or more years of league experience. This, Wilson said, allows the league to stay competitive and unpredictable.

The ThunderBolts will also be working with an entirely new front office and a heavily revamped coaching staff in the 2004 season.

Joe Charboneau, 1980 American League Rookie of the Year and a long-time associate of Rhomberg's, will be the team's hitting coach for the upcoming season. Last season, he was with Washington (Pa.) Wild Things, who led the league in hitting.

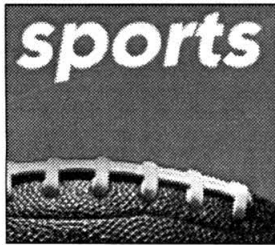
Steve Maddock, a veteran minor league baseball coach and player, recently joined the club as field manager.

Greg Beck returns as pitching coach after serving as the Cheetahs interim manager for several weeks at the end of last season.

The team is currently slated to begin spring training in May and will open the regular season with a pair of home games against the Rockford River Hawks on May 21 and 22.

During the season opener, Wilson said the team will announce the name of the person who suggested the winning team-name entry. The winner will throw out the opening pitch and receive two free season tickets.

For more information about the Windy City ThunderBolts visit their website at www.wcthunderbolts.com or call (708) 489-2255.



Chicago cops protect and serve seniors

○ Program serves elderly without nearby family

By Tawney Saylor

Contributing Writer

There are nearly 300,000 Chicago residents 65 years or older, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Chicago Police Department is working to serve the unique needs of this population by appointing a Senior Citizen Officer to serve each of the city's 25 police districts.

As part of the Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy first introduced in 1993, these officers serve to combat problems at a neighborhood level by reviewing crime patterns, making frequent visits to senior citizens in the area and sponsoring activities and community meetings for seniors to participate in.

"This approach dedicates an officer to watch out for all of the senior citizens in each district," said First District Commander Tom Byrne. "It's great to have our Senior Officers working directly within the community."

Officer Angela Winburn-Wright has been involved in community policing for nine years and has served as the First District Senior Citizen Officer for the past year. She serves more than 800 residents living within the district and describes her position as "extremely rewarding."

"A lot of times seniors, have no family in the area, and they have no one to talk to when they have a problem," she said. "That is why I try to establish a rapport with them, so they know there is someone in the community that they can trust."

Wright said officers in her position work to identify problems that are not necessarily crime related, but concern the overall quality of life for senior citizens in the area.

As temperatures plunged to the single digits in Chicago this

month, Wright demonstrated her initiative by making regular house visits to many of the seniors in her district to ensure that their heating systems were functioning properly.

"A lot of times, seniors require a little more attention than beat officers can give them," she said. "My job specifically requires me to take a proactive approach to the problems facing senior citizens in the community."

One of the largest tasks Wright has taken on is the Emergency Identification Bracelet Program available to all seniors residing in the First District. Each resident who registers for the program receives a bracelet with a personal ID number that includes important identification and contact information officers can use in case of an emergency.

Although Wright works full time to respond to the needs of senior citizens in the area, she does not always work alone. In addition to the 25 Senior Citizen Officers in the CPD, there also are 125 supplementary officers who have been trained in issues specifically affecting seniors who can be called upon if needed.

"It depends on the circumstance, but the process of helping seniors in the area is definitely a joint effort," Wright said.

Byrne said that many times seniors in the community do not know who to call when they have an emergency, and it is essential for them to have a familiar face to turn to.

"The position of Senior Citizen Officer is an important one, that requires high-level communication skills, understanding, compassion, dedication and integrity," he said. "Officer Wright possesses all of these qualities, and it is really a bonus to have someone like her working in our district."

OFF THE BLOTTER

◆ An attempted theft was reported at 315 S. Plymouth Court, Feb. 10 at 12:15 p.m. No one has been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

◆ A simple battery occurred on the sidewalk at 840 S. Wabash Ave., Feb. 15 at 7:54 p.m. Three men were taken into custody in connection with the incident, including a 25-year-old and a 37-year-old, both from the first block of East 9th Street, and a 21-year-old from the 2300 block of South State Street.

◆ A 1997 Toyota Camry was reported missing on Feb. 14 at 12:30 p.m. from the street at 608 S. State St. No one has been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

◆ A black 1999 Toyota Camry was reported stolen on Feb. 10 at 1:30 p.m. from the street at 320 S. Wabash Ave. No one has been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

◆ A simple battery occurred Feb. 13 at 1:37 p.m. at 237 S. State St. No one has been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

◆ Vandalism was reported to have occurred during the overnight hours of Feb. 11 at the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 618 S. Michigan Ave. No one has been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

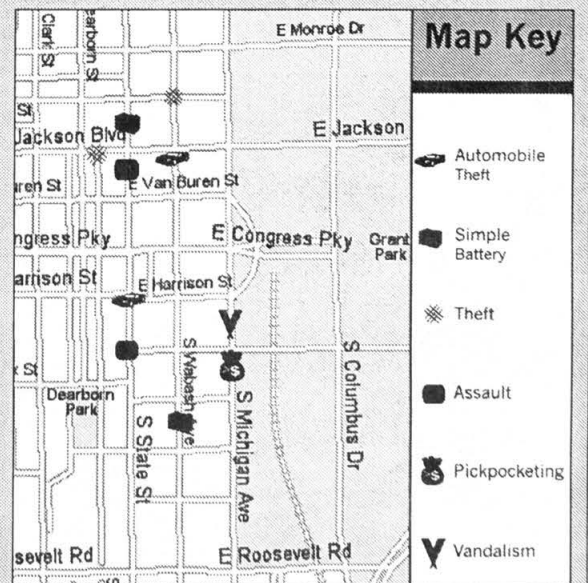
◆ A pickpocketing occurred at 720 S. Michigan Ave. Feb. 8 at 4:45 p.m. No one has been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

◆ A simple assault occurred Feb. 11 at 8:30 a.m. at 333 S. State St. No one has been taken into custody in connection with the incident.

◆ A 50-year-old man from the 600 block of East Bowen Avenue was taken into custody Feb. 13 at 12:45 p.m. for an attempted theft at Tower Records, 214 S. Wabash Ave.

◆ A 40-year-old man from the 600 block of South State Street was taken into custody in connection with a simple assault that occurred Feb. 10 at 12:15 p.m. at 701 S. State St.

—Compiled by Jennifer Goltz



Carla Lachman/The Chronicle

Blackstone draws a crowd



Charles Kushner/The Chronicle

Chicago Police Sgt. Blisset works with paramedics at a scene where a sports utility vehicle crashed into the scaffolding in front of the Blackstone Hotel, 636 S. Michigan Ave., Feb. 19. According to the police, no pedestrians were injured when the vehicle drove onto the sidewalk during rush hour.

Breakfast with a twist in the South Loop

○ Former Columbia student opens second location of themed restaurant

By Alicia Dorr
Staff Writer

Orange you glad there's a new restaurant in the South Loop? The quirky brunch spot, Orange, owned by former Columbia student Matt Miller, has opened its second location at 75 W. Harrison St.

Orange offers customers the same unusual menu as the original restaurant. Dishes like green eggs and ham (scrambled eggs with basil pesto and Italian bacon), jelly doughnut pancakes and French toast kabobs, are presented in fine-dining fashion. An extensive juice bar gives guests a chance to have freshly-squeezed juice any time of year.

Miller said he started Orange in response to fancy restaurants that had nothing on the menu that people could relate to. He recalls going to restaurants where he was not familiar with the ingredients in certain dishes and ended up with spaghetti because it was all he recognized.

"The point is to not take food so seriously, to have more fun with it," Miller said.

The downtown location has a casual atmosphere, right down to the throw pillows on the seats. According to Miller, they opted for vibrant colors to counter the usually dark atmosphere of downtown restaurants. He also wanted to give people downtown a place to hang out for relatively

inexpensive prices "without getting a stomachache." With most meals around \$8, Orange is a viable option for those in search of quality food.

Orange's signature dish twists the cultural fad of sushi into an original item called Frushi. This dish consists of fresh fruit and rice sculpted to look like sushi. The fruit used to make the dish changes periodically, creating a new taste each time. It is even served with chopsticks.

Ideas like Frushi did not come all at once. Miller was a struggling freelance writer with no culinary training when he decided to open the first Orange location. He signed on head chef John Perkins to help him develop his offbeat breakfast ideas. The idea is taking high-presentation food and changing it a little to produce a creative dish.

"We're sort of thumbing our noses at the idea that you can't have interesting, high presentation food that you also like," Miller said.

Miller wanted to make sure the Clark Street Orange would do well before thinking about a new location. Only a year ago he passed on the Harrison Street location, which was formerly Monday's restaurant. He said the location had changed so much in one year that he could not say no again.

Bonnie Sanchez-Carlson, the

executive director and president of the Near South Planning Board, sees the arrival of Orange as a good sign.

"Everybody is excited that Orange is here," Sanchez-Carlson said. "It shows the South Loop is changing when upscale restaurants come to an area you wouldn't normally associate with trendy or fine dining."

Miller is not fazed with the South Loop's reputation, which he sees as changing. He cites Columbia's expansions, the history and architecture of the area, and the untapped market among his reasons for choosing the South Loop.

"This area is exploding and I just wanted to be on the ground floor," Miller said.

A restaurant like Orange encourages people to travel farther south to see what else is in the area, Sanchez-Carlson said. With restaurants like Blackies and Room 12 there are more reasons to visit the South Loop than ever before. And with new condos and the University Center of Chicago being built in the area, there will be a greater demand for restaurants like Orange, she added.

Miller encourages Columbia students to try Orange by offering 10 percent off with a college ID. Orange is open 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the weekend.

Same-sex marriage laws upset Chicago-area gays

○ Protest held in front of Catholic leader's home

By Mark W. Anderson
Associate Editor

Despite a recent upswing in activity, including a highly visible demonstration on Chicago's Near North Side, Illinois still lags behind other states in the nation when it comes to the debate over same-sex marriages.

While a number of other locations around the country are on the front lines of the controversial battle over the rights of members of the same sex to marry, Illinois seems relatively quiet in comparison, in spite of a sizeable gay and lesbian population centered in Chicago. While there may not be long lines of same-sex couples looking to wed outside of City Hall, such as in San Francisco, or seeking the right to civil unions, as in Vermont, that doesn't mean there's no interest in the issue here.

The recent demonstration held outside of the residence of Cardinal Francis Eugene George, Feb. 14, showed that the issue of same-sex marriage is on many area activists' agendas. Nearly 150 people, including camera crews, reporters and Chicago police officers, showed up on Valentine's Day outside the North State Parkway home of the spiritual leader of Chicago's Catholics, in demonstration against the church's opposition to same-sex marriage.

Demonstrators chanted and marched, calling for the cardinal to drop his opposition to both state and federal legislation and to ensure rights for homosexuals, in addition to attempting to mobilize public opinion in favor of the issue.

The rally drew together longtime activists, local politicians and regular citizens, many of whom were in same-sex relationships and came out to show their support.

Laura Angelucci, 40, who attended the rally, said she came with her partner of 15 years.

"I want my country to recognize our relationship," Angelucci said.

Jean Durkin, 45, and Paula Walowitz, 51, who were legally married in Toronto, Canada, in October 2003, said that, even though they were able to legally wed by traveling to Canada, they still wanted the ability to marry in the United States.

"Even though we were married [in Canada]," Paula said, "we felt lonely throughout the process, because we had to leave our own country to do it."

Andy Thayer, co-founder of the Chicago Anti-Bashing Network and one of the organizers at the rally, feels strongly that one way the issue of same-sex marriage will gain prominence in Chicago will be to get as many people as possible out in the streets.

"Some of us in the community are saying we aren't going to make significant progress unless we get public opinion on our side," he said. "We're just in the beginning stages of organizing our activities, but we think mobilizing in the streets is critical."

Others have suggested focusing on the legal environment necessary to secure the rights of those wishing to enter into same-sex marriages. "If we don't have access to every institution in society, we need to pass statewide and national laws making sure that we do," said Rick Garcia, political director of Equality Illinois, a lesbian and gay civil rights organization.

"I think we have to have every available option in our toolbox. You can have a million people in the streets, but I think working

See Gay rally, Page 38



Carrie Bergagna/The Chronicle

Protesters gather on Valentine's Day to speak out against the Catholic Church's opposition to same-sex marriages.