

4-25-2005

Columbia Chronicle (04/25/2005)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

A Passion for Fashion



A model struts across the stage of the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., on April 21 for Fashion Columbia 2005. She wears a "Dishwashing dress" created by fashion design student Petia Manolova. For more designs featured in the show, see "Fashion Columbia" on pages 20 and 21 in A&E.

Ben Pancoast/The Chronicle

It started as a tiny acorn and turned into a huge oak," said faculty adviser Nena Ivon in her introduction of the Fashion Columbia show on April 21. And it was huge.

The show turned the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., into Chicago's fashion headquarters. The crowd included spectators from students to women toting Chanel bags while exotic models

made their way backstage.

The lights went out, the music started bumping and the models took the stage. Creations, ranging from a bath towel dress to intricately stitched gowns, were paraded across the stage as crowd members whispered, "Wow, is this really the work of students?"

And from concept to completion, it was.

Union plans still fractured

○ US of CC's future hinges on the tally of 42 votes

By Andrew Greiner
Editor-in-Chief

Months after the election, which was supposed to resolve the issue, it is still unclear whether there will be a staff union at Columbia.

Advocates for the union and executives of the college are, however, one step closer to resolving a dispute over which votes should be included in the final tally. Despite this, they are no closer to knowing whether the United Staff of Columbia College will ever materialize on campus, and the possibility for a new election has been left wide open.

It's a complicated issue.

"This is an interesting case," said Gail Moran, assistant to the director of the 13th region of the

National Labor Relations Board, the federal agency that investigates unfair labor practices and conducts elections to determine whether employees want a union.

The NLRB released its recommendations April 15 on how to handle a number of objections to the college's behavior prior to the October staff election. The objections included the eligibility of 58 challenged ballots, which were held in limbo after the election when questions were raised. The NLRB determined that 42 of the 58 challenged votes be opened and counted.

If more than 31 of those challenged ballots turn out to be pro-union, the staff members at

See Union, Page 7

Sexual abuse reported in Wabash building

○ Police seek unknown assailant, suggest caution

By Jeff Danna
News Editor

A 20-year-old female Columbia student reported to police and campus security April 19 that she was sexually abused in a stairwell of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

The woman was ascending the stairs at 7:45 p.m. when a 20- to 23-year-old male passed her, said "Hi" and grabbed her between her legs before fleeing the building, said Sgt. Bill Ross of the Chicago Police Department.

Police describe the offender as an African-American man, 5 feet 9 inches tall and about 140 lbs., wearing a dark-colored jacket and blue jeans. No arrests have been made, but Area 4 detectives are still investigating the case.

Police are treating the incident as an act of criminal sexual abuse rather than sexual assault due to the nature of the offense, Ross said.

Police and Columbia officials do not know if the offender is a Columbia student.

"In this case, it could have been anybody," Ross said. "Maybe he was a student, maybe he wasn't, but this has to do with security in [a Columbia] building."

The school is cooperating with the police and their investigation, said Mark Lloyd, assistant vice president of marketing and commu-

nications at Columbia. Because the occurrence was a criminal act, the school does not have jurisdiction over the investigation.

Incidents such as this are rare at Columbia, Lloyd said. And Ross said the police do not often receive reports from the school.

According to the most recent statistics from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, no sexual offenses were reported at Columbia between Jan. 1, 2001 and Dec. 31, 2003.

However, Lloyd said students should not take the report lightly.

"We live in a big city, and there's always reason for people to be concerned about safety," he said.

Some students were surprised to hear about a case of criminal sexual abuse occurring on campus.

"It's unfortunate," said Leanne Bazzetta, a freshman dance major. "You don't think that sort of thing happens, but it does."

Filitsa Bisbikis, a freshman fashion design major, said she thinks having more security guards around campus could help prevent these types of attacks.

Other students, like Anna Yeager, a freshman film major, believe the attack was an isolated incident that is difficult for students to prevent.

"There's only so much you can do," Yeager said. "It could be anybody."

Inside
this week



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Students take financial aid reform into their own hands

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A&E

'Holy' comics!

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City Beat

Celebrating the Daley legacy

Page 39



Andrew Greiner

Editor-in-Chief

Give us our Daley bread

This backlash about Time Magazine praising Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley irks me.

Now, I'm not the mayor's biggest fan. His political modus operandi of surrounding himself with fall guys and his strong-arm tactics, such as the overnight demolition of Meigs Field, aren't exactly attractive. And as a fledgling member of the dangling media, Daley's elocution has already presented more than enough challenges for covering his addresses.

But I can see why Time named him one of the top mayors in the country—Daley defines Chicago.

In January, I attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington D.C., where Daley received a lifetime achievement award from Americans for the Arts.

The presenters spent plenty of time talking up Daley's achievement in the Chicago arts scene, even playing a short video documenting all of the great culture the city has to offer.

They fawned over "Cows on Parade," lauded architectural achievements such as the Chicago Cultural Center, the Garfield Park Conservatory and the Harold Washington Library, and they sang the praises of Millennium Park.

I can't remember the exact quotes, but they went something like this: "Millennium Park is a fantastic contribution to the arts and a great triumph for Chicago's cultural community," or some other thinly-veiled butt-kissing drivel.

I also remember almost choking on my own tongue.

See, I knew that Millennium Park was actually millions of dol-

lars over budget and its title is sort of a misnomer; it should be called Five-Years-After-The-Millennium Park because of its late opening. I knew that there was controversy. I knew Cloudgate, the reflective kidney bean in the park's south end, still wasn't finished.

I knew these things because I live in Chicago.

Like me, other Chicagoans are hit with limitless mayoral scrutiny on a daily basis: Hired Truck scandals, minority contracts that don't end up with minorities, corruption in the administration and a general disdain for the asphalt on Northley Island.

But others, those outside of our fine city, don't know.

Put yourself in their shoes. Take away all of the knowledge of scandal intrinsic to Chicago and the city is one heck of a place to live. Millennium Park is remarkable, if you didn't watch its snail-paced development. And the mayor is one of the best in the nation because Chicago is an ideal place to live.

Daley is a throwback mayor. Even with all the scandal, and probably because of it, Daley's image is growing.

The mystique surrounding him hearkens back to the days when Chicago was the mob capital of the world. When political deals were settled in seedy back rooms amid cigar smoke, where burlap sacks had dollar signs printed on the side and when challenging governmental authority could have reserved you cement shoes for the bottom of Lake Michigan.

That tradition is carried on with Daley. And although the violent aspect has subsided—I think—that is still how Chicago works.

What other mayor in the country could have gotten away with

bulldozing Meigs Field in the middle of the night? Who else could stand behind a podium and stumble through weak excuses about a corrupt administration to reporters? Who else has a name that is synonymous with mayor? Nobody.

Scandal and controversy are not reasons for panning the mayor; they are reasons to love him.

The Time article certainly doesn't take this into consideration. The writers didn't nominate Daley as one of the five best because he makes me think of gangsters and strong-arm political tactics.

Time actually points out some more concrete measures of the mayor's performance, like how he revitalized an ailing tourism industry, increased green spaces around the city and installed new parks, encouraged small business, helped quell the murder rate, encouraged innovative architecture and so on and so forth.

For all the naysayers who disagreed with Time's ranking, I say phooey. Go live in Detroit for a while—where Kwame Kilpatrick, one of Time's five worst mayors, reigns—and tell us what you think of Daley then.

If you remove yourself from the Chicago Sun-Times' coverage of the mayors' office, he really is great.

Those folks who gave Daley the lifetime achievement award in Washington, D.C., were right on. Chicago is a shining example of a city that works, and its arts, culture and lifestyle deserve some accolades.

And Mayor Daley unquestionably deserves to be considered one of the top five mayors in the country.

-agreiner@chroniclemail.com

In This Issue

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Supplement A&E

Announcements

■ Poetic justice

Illinois Poet Laureate Kevin Stein reads at the Columbia College Concert Hall, 1014 S. Michigan Ave., on April 28 at 6 p.m. Stein authored nine books of poetry and literary criticism including *American Ghost Roses* and *Bruised Paradise*. Admission to the reading is free.

For more information, call (312) 344-7966 or contact jalverson@colum.edu.

■ The Biggest Mouth

An award of up to \$500 will go to the winner of the 2nd Annual Biggest Mouth Talent Competition. On April 28, 17 finalists will battle for the cash at the HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Drive, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event is sponsored by C-Spaces and the Student Programming Board and will be hosted by Rebecca Gallagher. The event, complete with music and food, is free.

For more information contact Sharod Smith at (312) 344-7188.

■ The loneliest number

The ONE series by the Breakbone Dance Co. runs April 28 through 30 and May 5 through 7 in the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. Through dance, the performances explore the troubled past of the eight dancers. Tickets to the event are \$20.

For more information, call the Dance Center Box Office at (312) 344-8300.

■ School's in for summer

Summer semester 2005 registration began April 18 for continuing students and runs through June 11. New and transfer students are to register during the week of June 6. Fall registration for continuing students begins May 2. E-mails have been sent through Oasis with registration times.

For more information on registering for classes, visit the OASIS website at <http://oasis.colum.edu>.

Correction

In the April 18 edition, The Chronicle referred to DePaul's athletic team as the Blue Devils. The team is actually called the Blue Demons. The Chronicle regrets the error.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

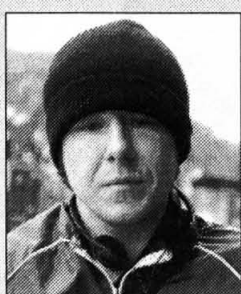
If you have an upcoming event or announcement, call The Chronicle's news desk at (312) 344-7254 or e-mail chronicle@colum.edu.

What do you think about the fashion sense of Columbia students?



"There's not much of a scene. It's a school and everyone wants to come to class in their pajamas."

—Joanna Horwitz, Senior, Fashion Design



"It's all over the map. There are lots of urban kids who grew up in the city and there are kids who are moving in trying to imitate that style."

—Simon Smith, Fiction Writing

"I appreciate that people dress differently. It's nice to see someone's personality through their clothing, to see who they are and what they represent."

—Desiree Velazquez, Freshman, Music



"I think it's very unique. Columbia is a very comfortable environment and it lets people experiment with their clothing."

—Tshaun Rodinson, Sophomore, Fashion Design



Ben Pancoast/The Chronicle

AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

| Monday, April 25 | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Partly sunny | High 54° Low 38° |
| Tuesday, April 26 | |
| Mostly cloudy with a shower | High 58° Low 42° |
| Wednesday, April 27 | |
| Partly sunny | High 60° Low 42° |
| Thursday, April 28 | |
| Mostly sunny | High 62° Low 42° |
| Friday, April 29 | |
| Sunny to partly cloudy | High 62° Low 44° |
| Saturday, April 30 | |
| Rain possible | High 58° Low 38° |
| Sunday, May 1 | |
| Partly sunny | High 58° Low 37° |

All forecasts provided by—
AccuWeather.com—©2005

New club represents Republican students

○ Political organizations at Columbia encourage diverse ideologies on campus

By Alan J. Baker
Associate Editor

Emily Slusher and Michael Weinberg were casually talking politics in class last semester, when they realized their Republican views placed them firmly in the minority of campus political ideology.

That's why Slusher and Weinberg, with the help of friends, are moving forward to establish the Columbia College Young Republican Club on campus.

"We had brought up the idea that we wanted to start a Republican group at Columbia," Weinberg, a junior in the broadcast television program, said. He and Slusher realized they were two of a "handful of Republicans here."

Nationwide, colleges have noticed a sharp increase in politically involved students following the 2004 presidential election.

To be a recognized student organization, applicants must submit advisory board information, provide 15 signatures of students who would like to join and choose a faculty adviser to attend meetings.

"Our most difficult part is finding an adviser on campus," Weinberg said. "We have talked to a few, but haven't gotten anything down on paper. Otherwise we're all set."

Getting Started

The first meeting on March 24,

at the HUB in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., drew close to 20 students looking for more information.

The advisory board—with Slusher serving as president, Weinberg as vice president, Mayme Pace as secretary and David Shin as treasurer—presented their objective to prospective club members. Goals include holding regular meetings for discussions on current events and political issues.

The club also wants to get a clear understanding of where Republicans and Democrats stand at Columbia by hosting a debate forum with the Columbia College Democrats.

Slusher is currently serving active duty with the U.S. Army at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif. She left at the end of March for a month and Weinberg said there are hopes for weekly meetings upon her return.

Competition

Flyers were posted around campus promoting the March 24 meeting, but many were destroyed because some students don't like the idea of a Republican club, according to Weinberg. One flyer had the word "Nazi" written across it.

"We had a lot of problems with the signs," Weinberg said. "Some were torn down and others were written on with explicit words,

but we're still going."

The Republican club comes at a time when more students want to take a political stance on campus. Earlier this year, active Democrat Ryan Duffy started the Columbia College Democrats.

"The members [of Columbia College Democrats] seem to like the idea of the Republican club," Duffy, president of Columbia College Democrats, said. "I have Republican friends and I encourage them to seek out and join the Republican group."

Political popularity

According to an April 19 report issued by Harvard University's Institute of Politics, liberals make up 43 percent of college students.

The survey also found that traditional conservatives make up 14 percent of college students, who overwhelmingly voted for President Bush in the 2004 election and are likely to support the war.

Following the 2004 election, 67 percent of college students said they would be more likely to get involved in politics in the future, according to the report.

"It's really important to have both Republican and Democratic clubs, so all parts of the political spectrum are represented on campus," Alton Miller, chair of the Marketing Communication Department at Columbia, said. "It's something that's happening on campuses all over the country."



David Maki/The Chronicle

Michael Weinberg, vice president of a new student Republican organization at Columbia, co-founded the group to represent what he sees as a 'handful' of Republicans on campus.

The Republican and Democratic college national committees have representatives in each state that work with groups such as the Columbia College Young Republicans to establish chapters.

"We have experienced tremendous growth," said Doug McGregor, executive director of the College Republican National Committee. "Students are joining in record numbers."

Currently there are more than 1,500 college Republican clubs, totaling more than 200,000 student members nationwide,

according to McGregor.

"In 1999 there were only 408 college clubs, so you can see we have increased dramatically," McGregor said.

Last year there were close to 500 Democratic clubs on college campuses, this year that number has grown to 1,240, according to Dan Geldon, executive director of the College Democrats of America.

"There has definitely been a huge amount of energy over the past few years," Geldon said.

See Republicans, Page 9

Improv skits, witty songs elicit laughs at Wise Ass

○ Audience of more than 130 students cheers on Columbia performers, represents tremendous growth of event since its inception

By Elliott L. Ramos
Staff Writer

A singing theater troupe, an imaginary visit to the gynecologist's office and some risqué material helped kick off the Wise Ass improv comedy night on April 21.

The Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., was packed with more than 130 students, and the pizza and

sodas were gone before the opening act began. Students were able to sign up ahead of time or volunteer to participate in several of the improv comedy exercises.

The first improv skit of the evening, "Dr. Know-it-all," featured three people attempting to answer questions from the audience by piecing together phrases where only a single member of the

three could say one word at a time.

Among the evening's entertainment was a sketch set in a doctor's office with a cowboy gynecologist. Jacob Malone, junior radio major, Joseph "Pop Corn" Chastai, a freshman theater major, and Drea Bella, a sophomore theater major, were featured in the sketch.

"The hardest thing is what we're going to do on stage. Everything else is a piece of cake," said sophomore theater major William Crespo, who co-hosted and organized the event. "We got a really good audience."

By far the most anticipated performance of the night was by The Cupid Players, a theater company directed by Columbia instructor Brian Posen. He played the piano as players started skits and sang hilarious songs.

One of the more memorable moments in the skit came after a female performer ripped out the heart of her date, with a chorus singing, "She

likes you, but she doesn't like, like you." Cupid Player performer Ranjit Souri stood silent in front of the audience only to break out into a love ballad to an unsuspecting girl. He sang about how he didn't need her, since the void in his life was filled by "strip solitaire."

The group ended its performance by running out into the audience and giving everyone hugs before performing a song about how their parents were having sex.

"I came here to see Cupid," said Quiana Al-Islam, a junior theater major. "I gave them a standing ovation."

Sean Pressler, a freshman film major, said, "The best part of the night was definitely the Cupid Players. They were awesome."

Pressler's roommate, feeling adventurous, participated in a skit in which four men had to admit their most embarrassing stories.

"I did it for the hell of it," said Cody Regemitter, a freshman television major. "What the hell do I have to lose?"

He laughed with pride saying, "Now I'll be referred to as boner boy!"

Some of the later acts grew more risqué with skits involving

descriptions of feces, sex or both. Some of the audience left as one participant played guitar and sang a song about Michael Jackson, little boys and priests.

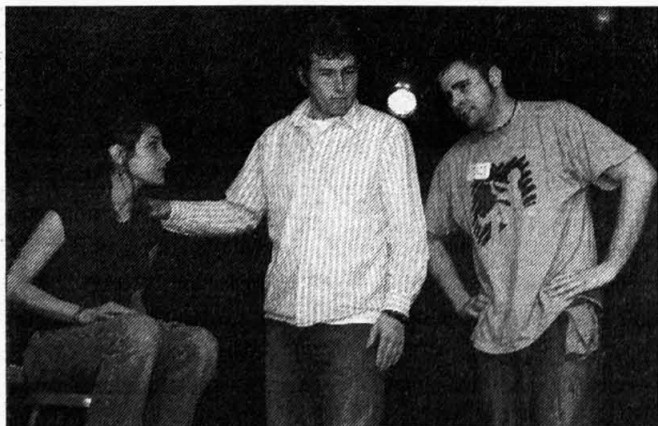
This will be the last year that Rebecca Gallagher, the assistant student event coordinator who has hosted and organized Wise Ass events, will play host because she will graduate at the end of the semester.

"I feel I made a contribution to the campus," Gallagher said.

She said she thinks Wise Ass has made a tremendous turnaround since its debut, which had an audience of fewer than 30 students. The April 21 event boasted a crowd of more than 130 people, according to Sharod Smith, the program coordinator for C-Spaces.

"We spent about a month to five weeks to organize the event," Smith said. "Every time you do it, you want to see what kind of people you can get with diversity of the crowds."

"Everyone who comes to Wise Ass wants to be there and that's something you don't get at every campus event," said Gallagher, as she strained whipped cream out of her hair.



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Sophomore theater major Drea Bella (left), junior radio major Jacob Malone and freshman theater major Joseph "Pop Corn" Chastai perform an improv skit at Wise Ass Comedy Night on April 21.

FREQUENCY 32

Television Department
Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

Program Guide for University Center on Channel 32

Campus Update

Columbia's forum for campus news, announcements, events, weather info & more...
MWFSu: 6a, 8a, 10a, 12p, 2p, 4p, 6p TRSa: 7a, 9a, 11a, 1p, 3p, 5p, 7p, 9p, 11p

Undergrad

A short drama that follows five college students who face life and love in the Windy City.

MWFSu: 10:30a TRS: 7:30p

Newsbeat

Live news broadcast program produced by the students of the Television and Journalism Departments.

TR: 12:00p

Speak Up

A variety show that encourages local college students from Columbia College, Roosevelt and DePaul Universities to speak up on ideas and facts that matter to college students.

MWFSu: 12:30p TRSa: 9:30p

Gamers (NL)

Get a preview of the latest video game gadgets for your game system and get a cool video tutorial that will create the ultimate video game experience.

MWFSu: 8:00p

Reality Bar Crawl (NL)

Take a ride on a rock star tour bus with the cast of two reality television shows. It's a trip you don't want to miss!

MWFSu: 8:30p

AV Squad (NL)

If you thought you've seen the best music videos of the year, then you've been misled. Check out new music videos that are more than you could imagine.

MWFSu: 9:00p

College Town, USA (NL)

The crew visits college campuses, hang-outs and students around the country.

This week's open house: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

MWFSu: 9:30p

Comedy Night School (NL)

Ever taken a course that won't dock you points for laughing in class? How about a course that offers the best way to cure a hangover and how to cook reneck-style? It's all here at Comedy Night School.

MWFSu: 10:00p

Funny Money (NL)

Comedians battle head to head for big money and audience laughs.

MWFSu: 10:30p

AV Squad (NL)

Be the first to see the latest music videos and live performances from your favorite musical artists.

MWFSu: 11:00p

Planet X (NL)

Instead of the ordinary sports, explore extreme sports from the H₂O Winter Classic.

MWFSu: 11:30p

(NL) National Lampoon Network Programming

Do you have a great film or video that people need to see? Contact:

FrequencyTV

Columbia College Television Dept.

312.344.8509

frequencytv@colum.edu

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

Concert Hall Events

Jazz Gallery

in the lobby Monday at 12:30 pm

Tuesday, April 26

Keyboard Mini-Fest
Is Practicing a Pain?
12:30 PM

Keyboard Mini-Fest
The Keyboardists Get Involved
6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 27

Classical Guitarist
David Mosqueda in Concert
12:30 PM

Keyboard Mini-Fest
The Keyboardists Arrange Things
6:00 PM

Thursday, April 28

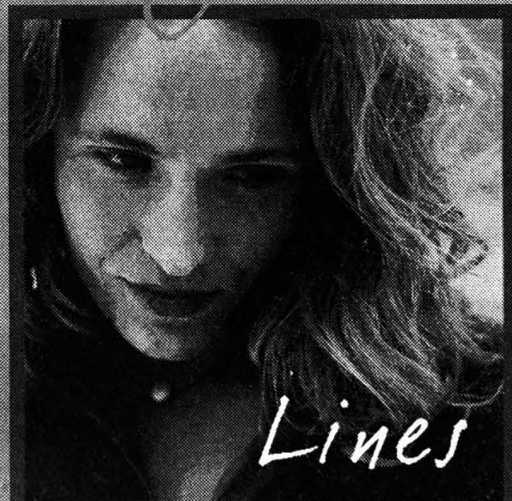
Trombonist and Composer
Robin Eubanks Workshop
11:00 AM

All Concert Hall events are free unless otherwise stated. For more info: 312/344-6300
Music Center pianos provided by Ortigara's Musicville, Inc.



Emily Hurd

her debut album



ALBUM RELEASE PARTY MAY 3, 2005

featuring her single

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www.emilyhurdmusic.com

Elbo Room

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21+ | No Cover

event starts @ 8:30pm

Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO



Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO 

manifest

URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL 2005

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

COMING UP: music, dance, & more

GROOVE along with sweet tunes and killer dance moves as 3 stages live up Columbia's campus and Grant Park with student bands, national acts, live art happenings, and high-energy student dance troupes.

All performances are FREE and open to the public.

HEADLINER BANDS

OZOMATLI – A 10-piece musical explosion of Afro-Caribbean, Latin, rock, hip-hop, funk, world-beat music that will get the party started.

SAUL WILLIAMS - America's premier hip-hop poet, "hyphen-artist extraordinaire" (poet-preacher-actor-rapper-singer-musician) sure to evoke an evolution of thought.

STEVE TURRE - One of the world's preeminent jazz innovators, trombonist and seashellist, Turre blends jazz, Afro-Cuban, and Brazilian music to create a unique artistic vision. He will be performing along with Columbia's own Jazz Ensemble.

STAGE LINE-UP

ON FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Kick-off **manifest** in Grant Park
with Muntu Dance Theater
12:00pm to 12:30pm

MAIN STAGE in Grant Park:
Headliners and Student Dance Troupes
4:00pm to 9:30pm

SECOND STAGE in Grant Park:
Student Bands
12:30pm to 5:30pm

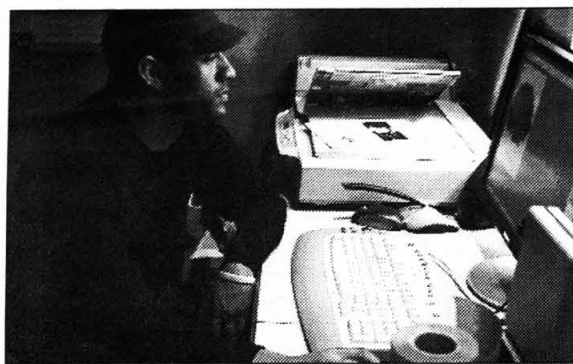
GARDEN STAGE at 11th and Wabash:
Groups from the Music
and Theater Departments
12:00pm to 5:30pm

GET INVOLVED

Students, talk to your teachers and department heads about end-of-year departmental exhibits and presentations or visit our web site to find out how you can be a part of **manifest 05**.



<http://manifest.colum.edu>



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Obie Perez, a senior computer animation major, works on a project in the Science Visualization Communications Lab on the 14th floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave. The lab is part of the Science Institute's goal to integrate science and the arts.

Science instructor's work lauded in UK

○ Columbia official aims to make science accessible

By Jeff Danna
News Editor

Zafra Lerman, head of Columbia's Science Institute, is in Europe this week, where she will be rewarded for her contributions to science education and give a series of lectures on alternative methods of teaching science.

The honor is one more accomplishment in her legacy at Columbia, which includes her vision for the Science Institute and numerous awards and grants.

On April 27, the Royal Society of Chemistry, a 45,000-member British organization dedicated to the advancement of chemistry and related sciences, will honor Lerman as she delivers this year's Nyholm Lecture. Where Chemistry Meets Art: The Element Connection, at the University of Brighton in England.

The RSC invited Lerman to give the prestigious lecture named for Sir Ronald Nyholm, council president from 1968 to 1970, because of her method of teaching science through aspects of art and media at Columbia.

At the symposium, she will receive a medal and £500, or approximately \$960, from RSC President Sir Harold Kroto at a reception following her lecture.

"I'm probably the first person from an art school to receive this award," Lerman said. "It's very unusual for an American to receive it. ... It's really a big honor to be honored by the Royal Society of Chemistry."

During the course of two weeks, she will give three different lectures at various locations in Great Britain, beginning April 25 in Reading, England, and ending May 5 in Aberdeen, Scotland.

Lerman believes that everyone, including art and media students, can learn science if it is taught properly. If teachers show how science is connected to aspects of art and media, students can grasp concepts they might not understand as well if the subject was taught in a more traditional manner.

"We live in a scientific and technological society," Lerman said. "It's important for every person in a democracy to have a background in science." Every day people hear about issues like

weapons of mass destruction and stem cell research that can be further understood with some scientific knowledge, she said.

Her teaching method has been the basis of the Science Institute since its inception in 1977. Prior to the creation of the institute, Columbia offered a handful of evening science-related classes taught by part-time faculty members, said Ernest Sukowski, Lerman's colleague at Columbia during the early years of the Science Institute. Sukowski now works at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago.

When former Columbia president Mike Alexandroff decided to establish a full-fledged science institute, he hired Lerman based on her involvement not just in science, but also in human rights and peace activism. She had worked at renowned science institutions like Cornell and Northwestern universities, and she had studied at the Weizmann Institute of Science and The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, both in Israel.

Upon being hired at Columbia, she established the Department of Science and Mathematics. During its first year, with only her and Sukowski as faculty, the department received an equipment grant from the National Science Foundation to develop academic courses, she said. With the grant, Lerman created three classes still offered at Columbia: Chemistry in Daily Life, Biology and the World Around You and Physics: Light, Sound and Electricity.

She and Sukowski faced the challenge of determining how to best teach science to students who might not have backgrounds or interests in the field.

"You had to appreciate where [students] were coming from," Sukowski said. "You had to teach them things they could use."

In 1991, Lerman formed The Institute For Science Education and Science Communication, and she continues to help it grow. Most recently, she helped the college receive \$145,000 last year under the No Child Left Behind Act, which Columbia was also approved for this year. With this funding, the institute will help improve science education in the Chicago Public

Columbia Hillel focuses camera on Israeli culture

○ Film festival aimed at giving students understanding of different ways of life

By Chris Magnus
Copy Chief

Zaza and his father stand side by side in a public bathroom. Zaza playfully jokes about the creation of life with his father in their first lighthearted moment of the film *Late Marriage*—the second to last scene in the movie.

He kneels in front of his father and thanks him for bringing him into the world, all before the audience realizes that he's being pushed into marrying the wrong woman—not the woman he loves—because of pressure from his family and the societal constraints that he believes must guide him.

The scene illustrates a marital issue within the Jewish faith and is representative of the scope of the films screened at the second annual Hillel's Israeli Film Festival. The fest was held April 19 and 20 in the Film Row Cinema on the 8th floor of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

"The film festival helps us look at the differences in culture and foster understanding," said Rachel Winokur, president of Columbia Hillel, an organization that celebrates the Jewish faith. "We try to

expose Columbia and other campuses to Israeli culture that they wouldn't find in the media."

Featured this year was *Giraffes*, directed by Tzahi Grad; *Desperado Square*, directed by Benny Torati; *Late Marriage*, directed by Dover Kosashvili; and *Yossi and Jagger*, directed by Eytan Fox.

The Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest owns the rights to three of the films and donated them to Hillel for the event. The consulate also put the group in contact with Strand Releasing, the distribution company for *Yossi and Jagger*.

Kathleen McLaughlin, coordinator of the Office of GLBT Student Concerns, used part of the GLBT budget so the office could buy the rights to *Yossi and Jagger*. They wanted to get involved because of the film's subject matter.

Yossi and Jagger tells the story of two male Israeli officers who fall in love while posted at a remote army base on the Israeli-Lebanese border. The controversial subject of same-sex relationships is further complicated by the strictly regimented system of the military.

"[The Hillel organization]

approached me and they really wanted to bring in the film, and they didn't have the funds to do it," McLaughlin said. "It stuck in my head and when I redid the budget I realized it was something I totally wanted to support. I think it's great to sponsor a great mix of events for queer students and international students. That way we can reach out to as diverse a group as possible."

Hillel's mission is to provide "meaningful Jewish educational, cultural and social opportunities," according to their website. Winokur, a fiction writing major, organized this year's event.

The two-day event drew about 50 people, Winokur said. Moviegoers came from surrounding colleges and high schools to see the movies; many students attending earned extra credit for various classes. Tameka Davis, a freshman broadcast journalism major at Columbia, attended with her roommate.

"I thought [*Yossi and Jagger*] was interesting," Davis said, "especially since it was based on a true story, which is sad. Overall the film was interesting and not like anything I've seen before."



David Maki/The Chronicle

Columbia Hillel President Rachel Winokur (second from left) talks to guests at the Israeli Film Fest opening reception April 19 outside the Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash, Ave.

Schools.

Lerman also encourages her own students to integrate their creative fields with science. She has received projects from students that range from a comic strip explaining how an atom is split to a dance depicting the separation of DNA.

"If you teach [science] in a way everybody can understand it, everybody can learn it and love it," she said. "But there is a danger when you use the arts to teach science. It has to be clear that the science really comes through the art. What I tell my students is if anybody in the art department can draw what you drew after taking my class, you did not present science in the art."

One resource Lerman helped bring to the Science Institute that aids students in showing their research through art is the

Science Visualization and Communications Laboratory, or VisLab. Built in 1993, the lab is a place where students can work on audio and visual science projects using up-to-date technology, said VisLab director David Morton.

The idea for the lab, he said, stemmed from Lerman's philosophy that students can learn science more effectively if it is integrated with their fields of study.

"We wanted to give students the ability to visualize scientific concepts in different ways," Morton said.

Skylar Wesby, a teaching assistant in the VisLab who graduated from Columbia last semester, is one person who benefited from Lerman's guidance. In 2002, he and other students traveled to Africa with her to visit places such as the University of Kenya, and an orphanage for children

with HIV/AIDS. While in Kenya, Wesby, a film major, shot a documentary of the group's travels that he is still putting together.

He also traveled to Russia last year with Lerman and several other students to learn about ecology and conflict resolution.

But it was the film projects he produced for his science classes on topics such as the respiratory system and covalent and ionic bonds that helped him land the job as a TA.

"I got comfortable here," he said. "I've become part of the family."

Although Lerman's efforts have helped students like Wesby succeed and helped the institute grow, her accomplishments go beyond the classroom.

For 17 years she has served as

See Lerman, Page 9

Work on faculty center scheduled to begin this fall

○ Space in Michigan Avenue building will house several Columbia departments

By Monica Tapia
Staff Writer

Columbia is planning the construction of an institutional center for full-time and part-time faculty members that will serve as a meeting place and cooperative work environment.

The Office of the Provost is spearheading a plan that calls for a section of the 8th floor of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., to be remodeled, creating workshops, training rooms and conference rooms for all faculty members. In its early planning stages, the center is slated to begin construction in the fall of 2005.

The new center will give faculty members the opportunity to have large committee meetings in new conference rooms and access to computer labs and workshops, said Associate Provost Janice Garfield.

"Faculty will also be able to bump into each other in a formal

and informal way," Garfield said. "We're hoping it will bring serendipity between the faculty members through the course of the day."

The center will also include the Office of Instructional Records, the Center for Teaching Excellence and other Columbia departments, which will create a closer work environment for the directors of each department.

Because the center will bring some departments closer together, faculty members will be able to work with each other to improve services, Garfield said.

The 8th floor is currently occupied by a copy center and storage space.

Mike Debish, associate vice president of facilities and operations, said the floor is currently being used by students.

"I am temporarily granting space to grad students for their projects, but when the time comes, new spaces will be

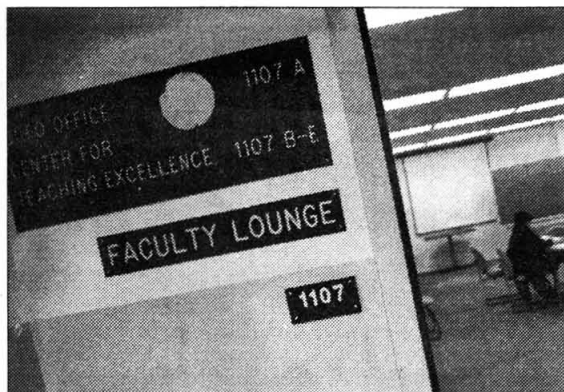
assigned," Debish said.

Plans are still in their preliminary stages, and the Office of Campus Environment has not decided on a layout for the center, Debish said. However, Gensler, the architectural firm that worked on past Columbia projects like "Corridor Blitz," has presented some designs.

The funds for the center will come out of Columbia's capital expenses, although the cost of the entire project is still unknown.

Today, faculty members use the 11th floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., as a resource institute center. But since the 11th floor is a multipurpose space also used by the Fiction Writing Department, the new center will accommodate more functions for all faculty members.

David Zivan, part-time staff for the Journalism Department,



David Maki/The Chronicle

The faculty lounge on the 11th floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., currently serves as a multipurpose area. A new faculty center on the 8th floor of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., will provide additional resources for faculty.

said he wasn't aware of the new center, but thinks it will be beneficial for all faculty.

"It's good to know I'll have a place to park myself for a while and to prepare myself before class," Zivan said. "It seems to me that Columbia is bursting through seams any way they could right now."

Ann Hanson, full-time faculty for the Science and Math Department, said the center seems like a great idea since fac-

ulty are so isolated, although she was also unaware of the plans for the new center.

"I don't know much about it, but I think it's a great idea since faculty has a lot of meetings, and we're always fighting for space," Hanson said.

With a refreshment and pantry center also on the agenda, the center will not only be a good resource center, but the hub for casual conversation between faculties.

Union *Continued from Front Page*

Columbia will unionize. However, if there are less than 31 pro-union ballots, it does not necessarily mean that the potential for a union is lost.

That's because if the ballots don't add up to a staff union, the report states that the election should be thrown out altogether.

"Should the Petitioner fail to receive a majority of the valid votes counted, [the NLRB] recommend[s] that the first election be set aside and a second election ordered."

US of CC representatives said they anticipate that the college may attempt to appeal the hearing officer's decision. The worst-case scenario, said Joan McGrath, a US of CC member and spokeswoman, is that an appeal could potentially tie up the process for months or even years.

"We just want the ballots to be opened. If we lose after the votes are counted, we won't take that extra election," McGrath said. "We don't think delaying it will do anything. It would just be standing in the way of democracy."

However, a spokeswoman for the administration was vague about Columbia's plans.

Mark Lloyd, vice president of marketing and communications for Columbia, said that there has been no communication between college administrators and the US of CC.

Citing a need to handle the matter expediently, Lloyd said he was unable to comment further.

"We have nothing to add to the US of CC's statements," Lloyd said. "If we do decide to appeal the results, we will inform the NLRB and the US of CC."

Barring any appeal by the college, the next step is for the hearing officer's recommendations to go before an NLRB board for consideration. Moran said there is no timetable for when the actual results of the challenged votes, or the future of a staff union at Columbia, will be known. The board will be made up of five appointed members.

"It could take quite some time to address it," she said.

In the event that the votes are counted and the US of CC loses, McGrath said it will pursue its legal right to vote again in one year, regardless of any concessions or appeals by the college.

The saga began in October during the run up to the election, when members of the US of CC and college executives started butting heads.

On Oct. 21 pro-union staff members filed a complaint with the NLRB after election results showed 158 staff members against the union and 138 for it. Two days prior to the election, the college had sent the NLRB a revised Excelsior list, a document that identifies all eligible voters by name and address, but six names had been removed. The pro-union staff members contend that they were not provided with this revised list.

The complaint also charged that 69 voters who should have been eligible under terms agreed upon by both the college and the pro-union staffers were left off the list.

The hearing officer's report states that the college may have tampered with the Excelsior list, which could be grounds for a new election. But the report acknowledges that the issue is a tricky one because it was difficult to determine voter eligibility at the college. The hearing officer took into account the multifaceted nature of many staff jobs on campus.

"Staff employees encompass just about all employees of the college who are not managers, supervisors, faculty, independent contractors or students, and while this may appear rather straightforward, the structure of the college makes it particularly challenging to distinguish supervisors and managers from rank and file staff members," the report said.

In many instances the report examines the challenged voters on a case-by-case basis. When the roles of the challenged employees

are more clearly defined, such as with the case of on-campus tutors, the challenged voters were categorized into groups. The hearing officer found that 42 of the 60 challenged voters should be included in the election.

Despite the Excelsior list decision, the 36-page NLRB report concludes that three of the four objections to the administration's alleged conduct during the election

be thrown out—including charges that the college directed employees to the wrong voting location, misinformed employees of the date of the election and promoted employees to management roles just before the election to render them ineligible for inclusion in the union.

The college circulated an e-mail message April 18 informing the college community of the results.

"It is still the college's position

that a number of these individuals are not eligible to vote for various reasons and therefore their names should not have been on the list," Lloyd said in the e-mail.

In an interview, Lloyd said the college's view about a staff union remains the same. While Columbia does not agree that there is any need for a staff union on campus, it supports the rights of members to pursue one.

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INNOVATION IN THE VISUAL, PERFORMING, MEDIA,
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Lerman *Continued from Page 6*

the chair of the Scientific Freedom and Human Rights Subcommittee of the American Chemical Society, and she is also the vice-chair of the Committee of Concerned Scientists. She frequently travels overseas as a peace advocate and has worked to free prisoners in foreign countries and establish peace in the Middle East.

In 2003, in Malta, Lerman organized the first-ever conference of scientists from Middle Eastern nations, with the idea that those who attended could establish cooperative scientific projects across borders. By working together on common issues such as water resources and energy needs, the countries could move toward peace,

Lerman said. The second conference is scheduled for November 2005.

Her commitment to advocating human rights earned her the Charles Lathrop Parsons Award from the National American Chemical Society in 2003, an honor bestowed to members of the society who demonstrate outstanding public service. For her teaching methods, Lerman has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring in 1999, among other awards.

"Zafra is No. 1, a dynamo," Sukowski said. "She's bubbling with energy. She has an active mind, and she comes up with idea, after idea, after idea."

Republicans *Continued from Page 3*

"We are spreading the democratic message."

Within the past few years, people are realizing that current decisions are going to have a long-term effect, said Rick Veenstra, chairman of the Illinois Young Republicans.

"Whenever you have a contested election and people are excited about the candidates, that's when you start seeing chapters forming," Veenstra said.

Weinberg agrees, and said he hopes to bring some balance to Columbia.

The two groups on campus have been in touch and talked about ways to work with each other. Most members would like to see debates, and agree a softball game for fundraising would be a good idea as well.

"I think the Republican club is a good thing," Joseph Yeoman, a student with the Columbia College Democrats Club, said. "It helps get other students opinions out and gives us something to compete against."

Weinberg said the Columbia College Young Republicans are currently planning their next meeting, which will probably meet at the end of April when Slusher returns to Chicago. Meanwhile, members will be putting up flyers around campus providing more contact information for students who are looking to join.

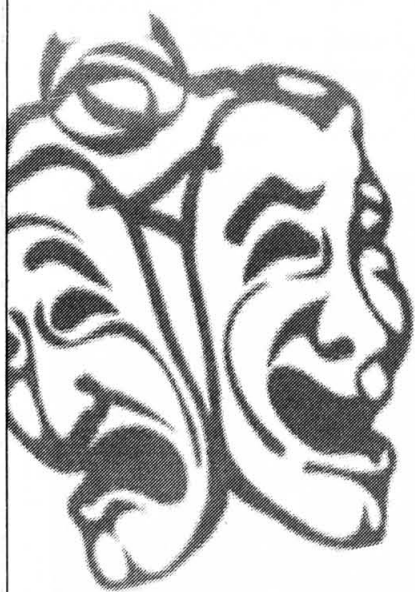
"Students who wish to affiliate themselves with a party at school should have an ample opportunity to do that," Veenstra said. "They should be recognized."

Defying gravity



Courtesy Ailee Judy/Breakbone Dance Co.

Breakbone Dance Co. members Rachel Damon (above) and Sarah Haas rehearse for ONE, a multimedia work that combines modern dance and body-slam technique with video and theatrics. Breakbone brings ONE to the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., April 28 through April 30 and May 5 through May 7.



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Questions? For more information, please contact Kathleen McLaughlin at 312-344-8584 or kmclaughlin@colum.edu.

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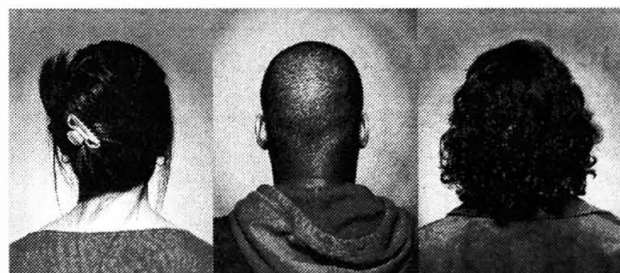
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| X1 | 1-week intensive | May 19 | June 13–17 |
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Briefs from colleges across the country

A serious hazing foul

A 19-year-old University of California at Berkeley student was shot more than 30 times with a BB gun April 8 in what police are calling a hazing incident involving the university's Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

The victim, who requested that his name not be released, was pledging the fraternity when he was taken by about 15 fraternity members to the fraternity house, where he was stripped down to a T-shirt and boxer shorts, police said.

The group proceeded to interrogate the student about the locations of the other pledges, but the pledge refused to talk. During the interrogation, at least three fraternity members took turns shooting the victim from a range of five feet or less with a BB gun, said Berkeley police Lt. Wesley Hester.

During the incident, fraternity members tried to force the victim to smoke marijuana and drink beer, he said.

The victim checked himself into the emergency room at Kaiser Permanente Oakland Medical Center the next day, where he was treated for welts and bruises on his body. A hospital nurse contacted Berkeley police Saturday evening to notify officers about the shooting.

Lt. Hester said the victim's injuries were not life threatening and he is expected to recover quickly.

Students dress up to promote gender awareness

The Tresidder Oak Room at Stanford University, April 16, held Genderfuk, Stanford's annual drag ball, and was host to

several hundred women in suits, men in dresses and students in every imaginable costume.

The event not only gave students a reason to party, but also one to support gender awareness issues. The Queer/Straight Alliance, or QSA, has helped promote Genderfuk for more than a decade.

This year, the QSA advertised more heavily than in years past, promoting the event not only at Stanford, but also at seven other local universities. Anyone with a college ID was welcome at the party, which featured performances from 12 student groups and the professional drag hip-hop group Nappy Grooves.

"It's unique," said senior Hannah Leslie, president of the QSA. "Just look at the crowd dressed up in drag. People are having fun in a unique environment. The event lets students perform and lets everyone f—k with gender. Genderfuk gives us visibility on campus, but mostly it's just fun."

Leslie added that Genderfuk may be the last QSA-sponsored party of the year, although there might be a queer formal in May.

University attracts ping-pong players

Han Xiao remembers the exact age at which he started playing table tennis. He was 6 and a half.

His circumstances have improved somewhat in the last 12 years. Xiao, a freshman computer science and business management major at the University of Maryland, is ranked among the top three players under the age of 22. He holds a place on the U.S. national table tennis team and plans to try for the

Students speak out



Irena Compadre of Little Rock, Ark., a sophomore at Washington University in St. Louis, sits in the first floor window of the admissions office April 15, during a student protest for higher wages for campus workers, including groundskeepers and food service employees. Members of the Student Worker Alliance indicated that they are making progress following a meeting with Chancellor Mark Wrighton and others.

2008 Olympics in Beijing.

Xiao and the three other members of the university's intercollegiate team are the latest examples of the university's tendency to attract some of the biggest talents in the sport of table tennis, informally known as pingpong.

The university's four-person team, captained by Xiao, also includes senior computer science and economics major Tianzhou Duan and freshman general business major Michael Shao, who are ranked in the top 15 and top 50, respectively, among the under-22 players nationwide.

The three are all of Chinese heritage. Duan was born in Beijing, where table tennis is

regarded as an intensely serious sport. The Chinese national team is first in the world and contains more top-10 players than any other country.

Xiao has returned to China, this time with the national team, to compete in the world table tennis championships in Shanghai that began April 23.

A sport that should be illustrated

The Princeton University campus was calm and quiet. A few students walked on paths from classes to dorms, and a handful of tourists posed in front of landmarks.

Suddenly, Monday afternoon's silence was shattered. Naked bodies, screaming voices and blaring air horns emerged from an obstructed corner near Nassau Hall and started running—fast.

The 20 streakers, members of the Hamilton College Varsity Streaking Team, had come to Princeton for a meet.

"The idea of going to Princeton was to participate in good-natured competition and score a victory," said Hamilton alum Matt Stringer, who founded the team in 2002 and traveled from his home in Denver for the meet.

Streakers consider themselves victorious when people applaud or join in. Another sign of success is avoiding campus safety officials.

Scott Welfel, founder of Princeton's streaking team—which was disbanded last week after a police investigation—was impressed by the team's turnout and spirit.

"I think it was basically a shock-and-awe campaign," he said. "They completely rocked our world. Our team was put to shame."

A reporter and a photographer from Sports Illustrated magazine came to campus to watch the Hamilton team in action.

The streakers did not attract much negative attention and no calls were placed to public safety, according to Charles Davall, the Department of Public Safety's deputy director for operations.

Time is money, so hurry up

Convinced that some college students are lingering on campus longer than they should, some Florida lawmakers want to make slowpokes pay to stay.

Two Senate committees have approved a plan that would increase tuition for state university and community college students who take significantly more classes than their undergraduate degrees require.

The latest version of the plan would raise in-state students' tuition by 75 percent if they take 20 percent more classes than are required. For a typical 120-credit bachelor's degree, the increase would kick in after 24 extra credits, or about eight extra classes.

There would be exceptions for double majors, remedial courses and some other circumstances, and the proposal would apply only to students who start college fall 2005 or later.

Tuition rates tend to change each year. But with this year's rates, the increase would boost a state university student's tuition bill from about \$68 to \$119 per credit—to a total of about \$2,850 for a typical undergraduate load of 24 credits per year.

Meanwhile, students who graduate promptly would be rewarded. Those with fewer than three extra credits would get a tuition rebate of up to \$1,000.

State analysts have suggested the tuition surcharge could save state taxpayers millions of dollars, as the state subsidizes students from Florida. They generally pay about one-quarter of the cost of their educations.

—Compiled by Alan J. Baker

Kidding around



Aaron Hohensteir, top right, and James Nelson, top left, along with other volunteers from Iowa State University build a new playground in Old Town Park April 16 in Ames, Iowa. Students in ISU's Leaders Inspiring Connections group raised \$45,000 for Old Town Park and two other playgrounds in the community. Close to 300 student volunteers took part in the construction.

Students petition for financial aid reform

○ National Tuition Endowment Act could redistribute government funding, create \$30 billion over 10 years for scholarships

By Alan J. Baker
Associate Editor

As tuition continues to increase for post-secondary education, more students find themselves borrowing money and saddled with the burden of debt after graduation.

So a handful of Columbia University students in New York are launching a campaign encouraging students nationwide to lobby the U.S. government to approve The National Tuition Endowment Act of 2005.

Nathan Walker, the author of the bill, estimates that it could generate \$30 billion over a 10 year period. The funds could then be used to provide scholarships for students.

It was Walker's curiosity that led him to discover what the government's FASFA program was doing with the accumulated interest from its loan program, including his own.

Through information from and interviews with the Department of Education, Walker, with the help of Baranda Fermin, a sociology and education major, concluded that the interest generated from student loans was given to other federal programs rather than going back to the DOE.

"The interest remaining after operational costs is sent back into the treasury," Fermin said. "It gets divided up into other programs. It should go back to the Department of Education."

Walker and Fermin, with the

help of eight other board members, have since written the NTE Act and are waiting to present it to Congress.

"I found seven areas of waste that, if we capture, could generate \$30 billion in 10 years," Walker said.

The first plan aims to refinance the bond rates that are available on student loans. The government currently use a 9 percent rate rather than the market rate of 3 percent, Walker said.

By allowing a more flexible market, with lower rates, the government could save billions of dollars that could then be redirected back into funds for the NTE Act, Walker said.

Also, additional NTE funding would come from the income generated by federal loan consolidation and eliminating subsidies to agencies enforcing default loans, he said.

"It's great that students have devised this plan to lobby for student aid," Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of Financial Aid website, said. "Some points are realistic and some are not."

The NTE Act calls for the removal of the interest on money the treasury issues the government for student loans.

According to Walker, by eliminating interest charges, the government will be able to offer lower student loan rates.

The treasury is getting its funding from somewhere, and usually it's from the public in the form of bonds, according to Kantrowitz.

"So the interest is what's

dents to show Congress that they care," Kantrowitz said.

"If you have 100,000 students petition and protest, then you might get something," Kantrowitz said.

Walker launched the campaign in January to encourage college students nationwide to endorse the act.

"We are asking for students to sign our petitions and for student governments at universities and colleges to endorse our ideas," Walker said.

The Columbia College Student Government Association has not been contacted by campaign members about the NTE Act. However, SGA President Michael Gallo said he likes the idea of the students' effort to help offset the costs of loans.

"It's definitely something that I am going to bring up at the next senate meeting," Gallo said. "They might support it, on the idea that it's a benefit to students."

The legislation proposed through NTE must be presented at a time when Congress reviews the Higher Education

Act guidelines. According to the Department of Education, the Higher Education Act is up for review at some point in 2005.

If the new legislation is approved by Congress, the money saved would be redirected back to students through scholarships.

Grad students going into public services and students maintaining a 3.0 GPA would qualify. And students who are transferring from a community college to larger institutions would be eligible as well.

"We want to help with the tuition leap for students who are making the financial leap," Fermin said.

Walker and Fermin are continuing to promote their campaign by gaining support from students across the country.

Together they are pushing for students from more than 3,000 colleges and universities nationwide to help bring the Act before Congress by signing petitions through their student councils.

The NTE team will lobby the Act to get more students involved during the Student Financial Aid Research Network in Chicago on June 10, according to Walker.

"He said the event in June will be another great outlet to get the word out while meeting with scholars in the area."

"We're excited and right now our effort is just trying to get more students involved with the NTE campaign," Fermin said.

- REVENUE**
- 1 Interest from student and parent loans.
 - 2 Income from loan consolidations.

The seven points of income establishing the National Tuition Endowment Act

- SAVINGS**
- 3 Refinance bond rates that are currently fixed.
 - 4 Remove "tax-exempt" bonds for private banks.
 - 5 Eliminate interest charges from U.S. Treasury to Department of Education.
 - 6 Eliminate government default subsidies to private banks.
 - 7 Remove subsidies to "watchdog" agencies.

Jessica Altus/Chronicle

being used to finance the money from the bonds," Kantrowitz said. "It's just not realistic."

The most important step right now is to get support from stu-

dent to students."

The legislation proposed through NTE must be presented at a time when Congress reviews the Higher Education

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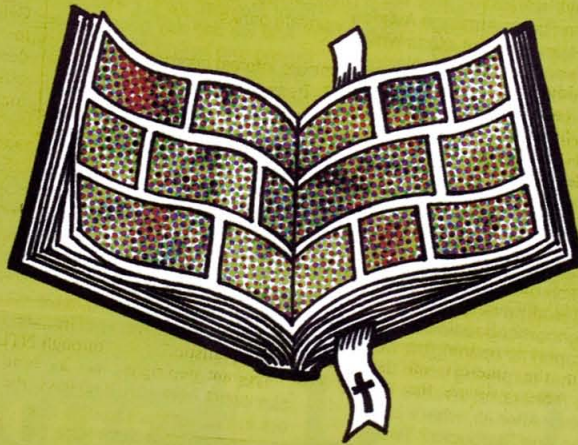
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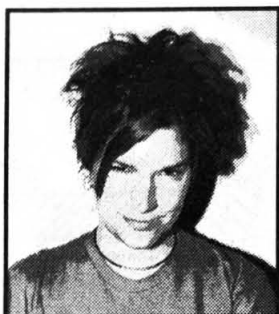
cartoon crusade

Trish Bendix pays respects to The Holy Consumption

page 6



Hostile Takeover



BY JAMIE MURNANE/A&E EDITOR

I'll be the first to admit that, more often than not, this space is filled with nonsense. And most of the time, I like it that way. I pride myself on being able to ramble on and on about inane subjects, personal stories that probably only I think are funny (you know, the you-had-to-be-there kind), and occasional pop culture musings. But this week, I decided it was time I address a more serious issue: Wicker Park.

Last week it was announced that a handful of corporate retailers are scouting locations in Wicker Park—more specifically, along North Milwaukee Avenue. As a recent Northwest Side transplant from the giant corporate retail magnet that is Lincoln Park, I was appalled. It's not like stores such as the Gap, Urban Outfitters and J.Crew don't have a presence in the city. And public transportation is easy enough (for now) for people to use to get to the already-existing stores.

Since I've gotten used to being away from the capitalist neighborhood I once called home, I've become more attached to and supportive of small independent establish-

ments. Even if I can't always afford to shop at them, I can't imagine the neighborhood without them. What would happen if the little boutiques and trendy thrift and record stores are replaced by big chains?

First, the hipsters would be gone. Yes, gone. Disappeared. Poof! They're way too cool to stick around any neighborhood with a Gap in the vicinity (even if so many of them secretly not only shop, but long to work, there). The tattooed-artist types (80 percent of Columbia) would inevitably feel forced to move to a non-gentrified Chicago neighborhood. That leaves ... well, you see my point.

Yuppies will flock en masse to Wicker Park just as they did to Lincoln Park's Armitage Avenue and Halsted Street areas when they went corporate, replacing cute independent boutiques with big names like—OshKosh? Weird.

Longtime Wicker Park establishments like Filter Coffeehouse and Myopic Bookstore will be replaced with their big business counterparts. While there's already a Starbucks at the intersection of Damen, Milwaukee and North avenues (which neighborhood residents protested upon its opening), it won't be all that surprising when the coffee monopolist invades Filter's home. After all, what's better than one Starbucks? Two—directly across from each other. Corporate heads will conclude that it's just too difficult for their customers to cross the street,

and soon, they won't have to.

Borders and Barnes & Noble will each be vying for Myopic's customers. The highest bidder will win and current residents will have to look elsewhere for rare or used books, and they can completely forget about selling their books anywhere in the area. Hard-to-find zines that grace the shelves at Quimby's will be replaced with glossies like Better Homes & Gardens. But of course, Quimby's won't be Quimby's. Hell, it probably won't even be a bookstore. They need to make room for a McDonald's somewhere. But if fast food aficionados aren't in the mood for Big Macs, there'll be a Taco Bell right around the corner, replacing the popular late night Mexican joint, Flash Taco.

And we can say goodbye to buying and selling cool CDs and vinyl as Reckless Records will be pushed out of its Milwaukee Avenue location. The typical mall staple Sam Goody will likely replace the neighborhood's favorite record store, and gigantic window displays and diminutive inventories will be all the rage.

Wicker Park would essentially become a characterless has-been of Chicago culture, as it would look a lot like any suburb directly outside the city.

This would be a nightmare. I can only hope the property owners in Wicker Park realize this too, and don't sell out for a big check that will ultimately turn the last hip neighborhood into another Lincoln Park.

THISWEEKINA&E

MONDAY

Reckless Records' New Release Ping Pong Party VIII at Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 9 p.m.

O and Not U at Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave. 7p.m.

TUESDAY

Camille Paglia reads from her new book of poetry *Break, Blow, Burn* at International House, 1414 E. 59th St. 7 p.m.

Before Sunrise and Before Sunset at Smart Bar, 3730 N. Clark St. 8 p.m.

Alix Olson and Pamela Means at Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Wendy McClure reads from her new book *I'm Not The New Me* at Women and Children First, 5233 N. Clark St. 7:30 p.m.

Alternative Comedy Night at the Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 9 p.m.

Juliette & the Licks at Bottom Lounge, 3206 N. Wilton Ave. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

Bear Claw and Mt. St. Helens at Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Lincoln Square Pottery Studio Student Sale at Lincoln Square Pottery Studio, 4150 N. Lincoln Ave. 6 p.m.

Screening of *Heaven's Gate* at Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. 6:30 p.m.

The Ponys' CD release party at Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 10 p.m.

Supersystem and Thunderbirds are Now! at Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 10 p.m.

SATURDAY

Eoin Colfer signs her book *The Opal Deception* at Barbara's Bookstore UIC, 1218 S. Halsted St. 11 a.m.

Dizzee Rascal at Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. 10 p.m.

Mosquitos at Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. 10 p.m.

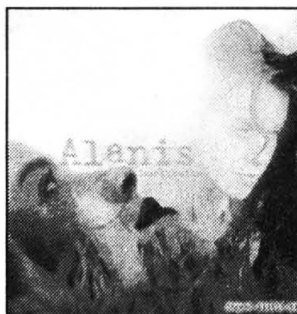
SUNDAY

Mando Diao and The Comas at Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 9:30 p.m.

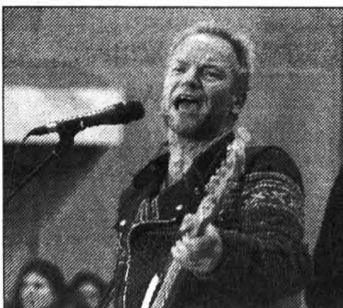
ODDS & ENDS



Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley is prominently featured in a Time Magazine article profiling the five best big-city mayors in the country. The article, which is in the April 25 issue of Time, describes Daley's power over the city as "near imperial" and "unchecked," yet still manages to make Daley's reign seem like democracy at its best.



Isn't this ironic? Alanis Morissette is planning an all-acoustic tour to promote an acoustic re-release of her 1995 album *Jagged Little Pill*. The new version will be available exclusively at Starbucks for the first six weeks of its release, features new recordings of such hits as the angsty "You Oughta Know" and yodel-esque "Hand in My Pocket."



A University of Illinois at Chicago music composition class got stung last week when Sting dropped by for an impromptu performance. The class had been told that they were being videotaped for a school promotional video, when in fact it was for the surprise celebrity visit. The recording is to be used in an upcoming episode of the MTV series "Stand In."

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Lollapa lineup announced

Perry Farrell announces Pixies, Weezer and more to play two-day Grant Park festival

By Todd Burbo/A&E Editor

The lineup for Lollapalooza 2005 in Chicago is finally official.

In an April 22 press conference, Perry Farrell, founder of the famed music festival, unveiled an impressive list of performers for its latest incarnation—a two-day event that will play exclusively in Chicago's Grant Park on July 23 and 24. After scouting 25 cities for a suitable location, Farrell and festival producers Capital Sports & Entertainment enthusiastically agreed on Chicago.

"We found Chicago to be ideal. The skyline is perfect and

gorgeous," Farrell said. "I was so happy that we all came to the agreement to build Lollapalooza here."

Some notable acts in the lineup of more than 60 groups include The Pixies, Weezer, The Killers, Dinosaur Jr., Dashboard Confessional, The Black Keys, Death Cab for Cutie and Liz Phair.

While reading through the list of performers, Farrell described select acts as only he could.

"Music is like food," he said of the relatively unknown band Kasabian. "Better yet, it's like breathing. When the air's not

so great, you start to breathe shallow. When I hear Kasabian, I breathe deep."

Although Lollapalooza has normally centered on young up-and-comers, the show will feature at least one musician whose career peaked before most bands on the bill were even formed.

"When you guys are ready for the 'Rebel Yell,' we have Billy Idol," Farrell announced excitedly. "And we're going to demand he take his shirt off. I hear he's in great shape."

Farrell also seemed excited by the New York group The Walkmen.

"They're wild," he said. "They definitely have that rock 'n' roll spirit of the '70s. They're going to be monsters."

Farrell emphasized the spirit of the lineup and what sets it apart from other music festivals.

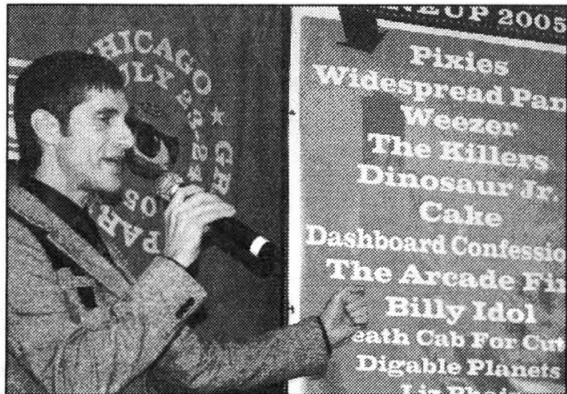
"These groups are the real deal. They're not corporate," Farrell said. "These are the kids in the clubs playing music, the people living it up, living the life, and it's reflected in the music."

Attendees of past Lollapaloozas may be surprised by this year's event. Farrell promised a more family-friendly



Todd Burbo/The Chronicle

Former Jane's Addiction frontman and Lollapalooza founder Perry Farrell unveiled the lineup for the festival.



atmosphere, and has even gone so far as to create an area expressly for children.

"I'm excited to, for the first time, build a Kidzapalooza," Farrell said. The kids' entertainment will be headlined by Blue Man Group, an act Farrell thinks will be a hit.

Lollapalooza 2005 will be hosted at Grant Park with the

help of the Parkways Foundation, which was organized in 1994 in an attempt to bring private investment to Chicago's neighborhood parks.

Tickets for Lollapalooza are currently \$85 for a 2-day pass. Ticket prices may change as the festival draws near. Check out www.Lollapalooza.com for updated and more information.

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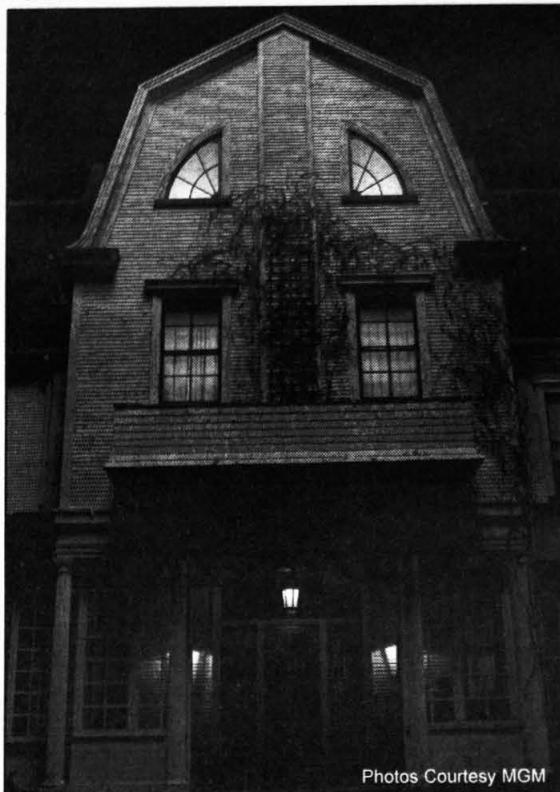
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'Amityville' snore remade into 'Amityville Horror'

Updated version of horror classic ups the gore and tension to make quality thriller

By Todd Burbo/A&E Editor



Photos Courtesy MGM

Above: The house acts as a main character in *The Amityville Horror*. Below: From right, Melissa George as Kathy Lutz, Ryan Reynolds as George Lutz, and Isabel Conner as Jodie Defeo.

When a classic film is remade, the new version seldom stands up to the original, in the eyes of critics and audiences alike.

Luckily for the crew of MGM's *The Amityville Horror*, the original can hardly be called a classic. Originally released in 1979, *Amityville* told the story of the Lutz family, who moved into their new home and were quickly evicted by an evil presence.

The original film's plot crawled along slowly enough to lose its audience long before anything creepy took place, and featured some shaky acting from leading man James Brolin, who played George Lutz.

In fact, if it hadn't been based on a true story, it's likely that no one would have recognized the name *Amityville*, since it was an entirely forgettable film.

The updated *Amityville*, however, is sure to be a hit. It's

packed with creepy dead children (as were hits *The Sixth Sense*, *The Ring*, and *The Grudge*), has an attractive cast in Ryan Reynolds (*Blade: Trinity*) and Melissa George (*Alias*), and is filled with stylized gore and frantic edits. The film's style is certainly derivative, but director Andrew Douglas isn't to be blamed for that, as production duties were handled by team Michael Bay, the geniuses behind Ben Affleck vehicles like *Pearl Harbor* and *Armageddon*.

Reynolds, who reprises the role of George Lutz in the latest version, is polite but honest about *Amityville*'s need for an update.

"I thought that for its day, the original was very provocative," Reynolds said. "I don't think it aged well. It was definitely a story worth retelling. The first one, with all due respect, didn't stand the test of time."

Reynolds showed enthusiasm for the project before film-

ing even began, and had to work hard to convince the crew that he was the right man to play George.

"I had to fight for this role. It was definitely something that was outside of my wheelhouse," he said. "I think producers and directors respond to people that are passionate about a project. They wanted to see why I was so interested in this role."

Choosing a proper George Lutz was crucial, as the new film focuses more on his psyche than the original. Where 1979's *Amityville* centered on a vague, evil presence attacking the family, the new version chooses to personify the evil through George Lutz, causing him to act out against his family in a fashion similar to *The Shining*.

Douglas is an unabashed fan of the 1980 Stanley Kubrick classic. His shots of Reynolds dragging an axe in pursuit of his terrified family are an obvious homage to Jack Nicholson's *Shining* character.

It's all in your head

The idea of a mentally fractured George Lutz is exactly what drew Reynolds to the project. After confessing that he's not much of a horror fan, Reynolds explained that he didn't approach the *Amityville* shoot as a supernatural suspense film.

"I loved that the movie had all of these supernatural elements, but that I didn't have to worry about that," he said. "The director could shoot the horror film, and I could shoot a movie about this guy who is unraveling psychologically."

Reynolds' focus on psychology certainly pays off. The film's most powerful scene has nothing to do with ghosts or spirits of any kind, but a menacing George Lutz chopping wood with his stepson. After placing the child uncomfortably close to the chopping block, George proceeds to swing the axe repeatedly, just inches from the boy's weeping face. The scene culminates when George smacks the child across the face, an impromptu move of Reynolds' that is perhaps the best example of acting in the film.



Director Andrew Douglas discusses a scene with his cast.

While abusing the kids wasn't fun for Reynolds, he says that their maturity helped make the situation less awkward. When asked about the improv slap, Reynolds makes one of his trademark wisecracks, but quickly shows how emotional the scene was for those involved.

"He had it coming," he said, laughing. "It was actually horrible. I didn't mean to do it. The script supervisor was crying, and I was apologizing to her ... But it was one of those great moments. It was totally unplanned, and it just came out so organically. But it was definitely disturbing."

Evil Architecture

George aside, *Amityville*'s main character is the house itself. The story is about a house that is alive with spirits, and director Douglas knew the importance of displaying that life visually.

"There were points in the scouting and design process where some people wanted it to be a full-on haunted Victorian house," Douglas said. "I was pulling my hair out, saying 'There's got to be a face! You can't just have those pointy bits like in *Van Helsing*.'"

To prove his point, Douglas emphasized the strong imagery of the house used in the original film.

"I remember the poster for *Amityville* more than I remember the film. The poster had eyes, and the balcony was teeth. It was a Halloween mask; the imagery was so deep," he said.

Reconstructing a house to compare with the original proved to be a challenge, as the home's owners demanded more money for the alterations,

in addition to architectural challenges.

"It was a hybrid. It was a Midwestern Victorian house, and we just bolted on this Dutch colonial face. Architects are the ones who would have nightmares about this house," Douglas said, laughing.

They might not be the only ones. Douglas' vision of *Amityville* is much more visceral than the one from 1979; the house oozes with blood and slime, and is populated by disfigured spirits reminiscent of *The Ring*.

Many parents would be concerned for the children on the set of such a disturbing movie, but Douglas thinks that they handle it better than adults.

"They have a much better sense of what's playful and what's real. You remember the debates about Columbine? 'Oh it must be the videos they watch ...' None of that's true," Douglas said. "For kids in general, there's clearly play time, and there's real time."

Douglas, who makes his feature film debut with *Amityville*, seems to know a great deal about filmmaking, if not child psychology.

Despite being run through the Hollywood horror production machine, Douglas' *Amityville* remains entertaining—the kind of movie that won't win Oscars, but may break popcorn sales records. The tale remains strong decades after it happened. America never tires of ghost stories.

"The original film has so much equity. We wanted to tap into the idea of it being a true story, because that has so much value in a horror film," Douglas said. "And right now, there's no question. We're just eating up horror films."



Women warriors break through stereotypes

Biannual Center for Asian Arts festival to feature diverse talent

By J. Diamond Weathersby/Staff Writer

Lectures, drummers and drag kings, oh my!

In observance of its biannual Woman Warrior Festival, Columbia's Center for Asian Arts and Media will host a weeklong festival of events throughout Chicago to commemorate the creativity, courage and culture of women of Asian and Pacific Islander descent.

Titled Starting from Scratch: Celebrating Creativity, the festival, April 27 through May 6, will cover a broad range of topics, such as women's struggles and identity issues. Organizers will also honor the accomplishments of Asian American women at an opening-night ceremony for the four recipients of The Woman Warrior Award. The remainder of the festival will feature a variety of events, including film screenings, music performances, a culinary arts presentation and a drag king performance.

Yuchia Chang, managing director of the Center for Asian Arts and Media, believes events like the Woman Warrior Festival are key elements in spurring awareness for the struggles and accomplishments of women in male-dominated societies.

"I think overall in our society, [the] woman is still ... a minority in many different fields, particularly in the arts," Chang

said. "You don't see as many women filmmakers, you don't see as many women artists being recognized throughout history. ... We want to use this festival to unite women ... so we have a louder voice and bigger representation out there."

Chang also thinks the

the artists involved, but everybody who's interested in expressing their voices to get their ideas out there, to get their concerns out there," she said.

Nina Xoomsai, a graduate student in Columbia's Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department and program coordinator at the Center for Asian Arts and Media, is looking forward to the assortment of talent that will be showcased during the upcoming festival.

"I'm really excited. I think we have a really diverse group of people coming," Xoomsai said. "There's a lot of talented Asian women out there."

Xoomsai also helped conduct research and edit one of the films that will be screened as part of the festival, *The Helen Fong Dare Story*, a personal documentary highlighting the life of Chinese immigrants in the Midwest. She thinks events like the Woman Warrior Festival help shed light on minority cultures that have been overlooked and underrepresented throughout American history.

"I just think that it's always good for people to expand their world view, whether it's Latino, Asian or African-American, because we're all people of color, but our contributions to the United States are not always found in history books,"



A scene from 'Sparrow Village,' a film that will be shown as part of the 2005 Woman Warrior Festival.

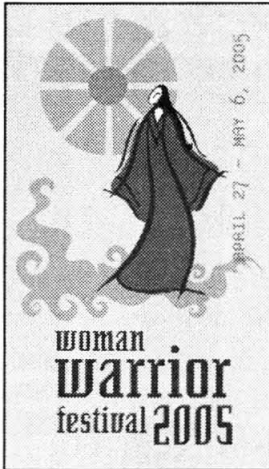
Xoomsai said.

Stephanie Shonekan, assistant chair of cultural studies and professor in the Department of Liberal Education at Columbia, also helped coordinate the festival's events.

"I would urge Columbia students to take full advantage of this festival and attend as many events as possible. This is a rare opportunity for students to soak up the information and art surrounding a unique and distinct group of people—Asian

women," Shonekan said. "For anybody interested in activism, creative expression in film and music, Asian culture, feminism, and of course, good Asian food, this is a festival not to be missed."

To find out more about Woman Warrior Festival 2005, check out the Center for Asian Arts and Media's website at www.asianartsandmedia.org/womanwarrior2005.



Woman Warrior Festival serves as a much-needed outlet for women to express themselves freely and creatively.

"Part of the idea is to present a wide diversity of issues and programs. We want to use ... the arts as an empowering tool to enable everybody, not just

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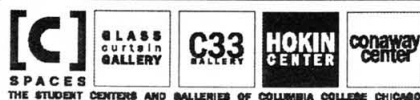
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Paper Echo: 6th Annual Photo Print Media Studio Exhibition

April 4, 2005 - May 6, 2005

Reception: Friday, April 8, 5-7pm

Paper Echo is an exhibition of student artwork in a variety of print techniques, such as, Van Dyke, relief, intaglio, cyanotype, Lazertran, and much more. The Photo Print Media Studio is a unique work area at Columbia College Chicago where students can explore printmaking, experimental photography and nineteenth century photography. The Photo Print Media student curriculum bridges the gap between fine art and photographic studies.

Image (detail): Ben Funks



Hokin Annex Gallery
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hours: M-Th 9-7, F 9-5
Sat. by appt.

Polytheism of Gender

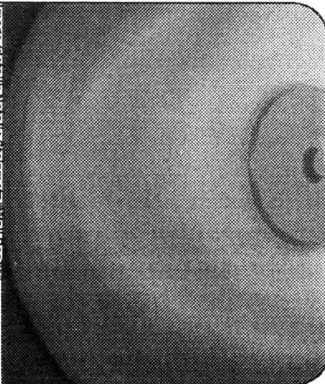
April 4 - May 10, 2005

Reception: Friday, April 8, 5-7pm

This is an open call exhibition with artwork that responds to how society constructs gender, and how humans view their sex, sexuality, and identity. Polytheism of Gender is an exhibition of 2-d and 3-d artwork that explores god-like idols that define gender roles in this society.

Curated by Hannah Czehatowski, Gretchen Jankowski and Matt Ohm on behalf of the Arts Community Student Organization.

Image (detail): Natalie Stommes - Wall Boats



Glass CURTAIN Gallery
1104 S. Wabash, first floor
hours: T, W, F, 9-5, M, Th 9-7
Sat. by appt.

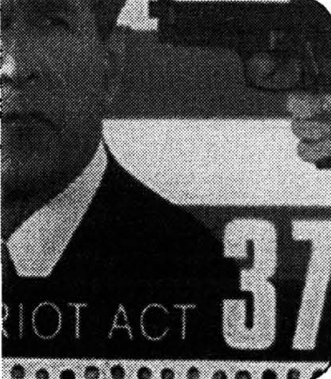
Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin

April 6—May 11, 2005

Reception & Gallery Talk: Thursday, April 7, 5-8 pm

An international exhibition thematically peeking into the depths of evil through the print making form of the postage stamp sheet. Curated and navigated by Michael Hernandez de Luna, this exhibition includes a stamp sheet from the late Ed Paschke. In memory of our friend and colleague Ed Paschke.

Image (detail): Al Brander



C33 Gallery
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WHAT IS GREEN?

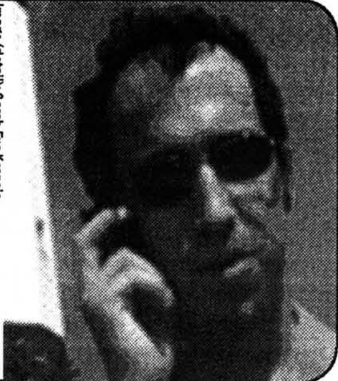
April 11- May 11, 2005

Reception: Thursday, April 14, 5-7pm

This open call student exhibition features 2-d and 3-d artwork in a variety of media that is primarily green. The exhibition provides an opportunity to examine monochromatic materials and work that celebrates and challenges our perception of what green is.

This show is juried by Columbia College Chicago artist alumnae. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards will be issued during the reception.

Image (detail): Sarah Eva Krancic

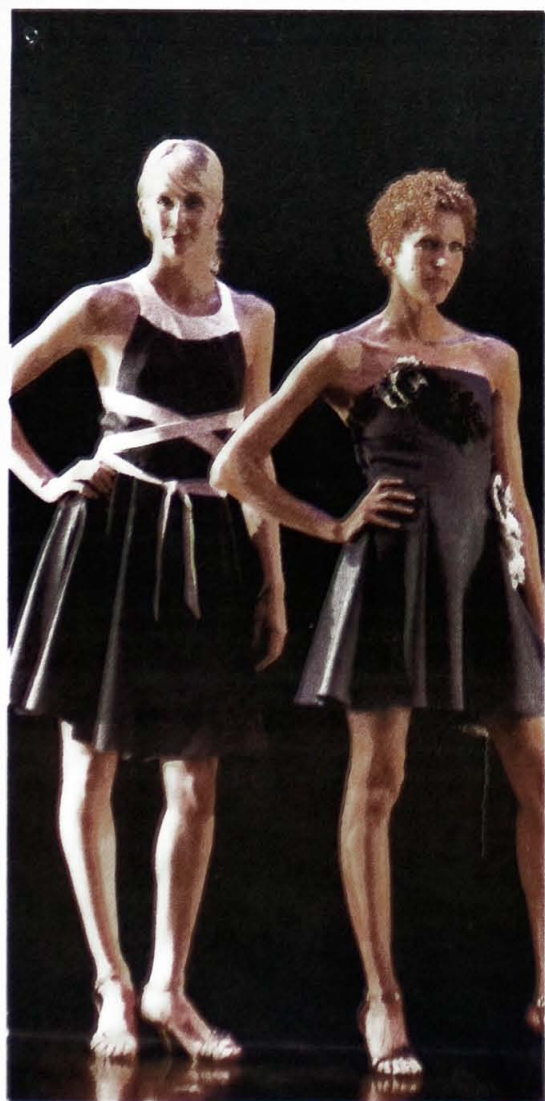


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Columbia's next t

PHOTOS / BEN PANCOAST AND ERIC DAVIS



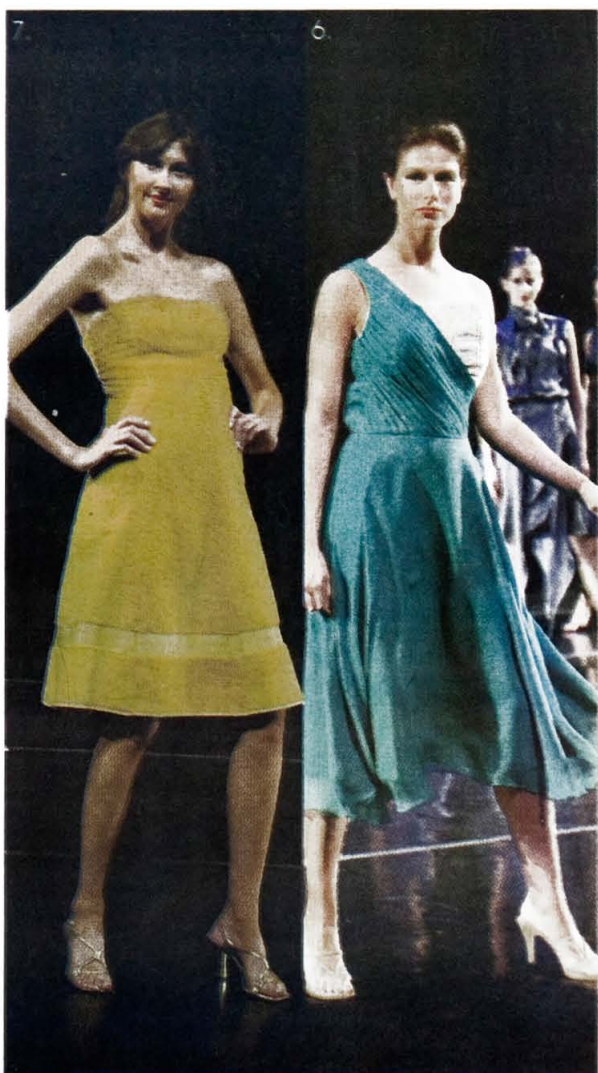
"I used to make my own doll clothes. I would sew them by hand,

I used to punk out my Barbie dolls."

- Designer Diana Azrikam



Top designers



On April 21 and 22, Fashion Columbia 2005 showcased the work of 36 student designers. Chronicle photographers captured many of the fabulous fashions that were presented during the event.

- 1 Three models wear pieces by senior Jeffrey Millbern created using tweed, brocade and charmeuse. Millbern said his clothes are "vintage inspired."
- 2 Senior Sarah Crossley's black, quilted, stand-up collar dress rounded off a series of black designs during the show.
- 3 Junior Laura Williams' black lantern dress illuminated the dance center. She said the "wearable art" was interesting to create.
- 4 Senior Suki Zhang's black jersey mini dress was amidst a sea of black during the fourth set of designs at the April 21 show.
- 5 Two models walk simultaneously in shantung gowns designed by Anna Ehrler.
- 6 Senior Shannon Kislia designed the aqua "yo yo" gown as well as two other pieces in the show.
- 7 Senior Elizabeth Peschges' bath towel dress was part of a series of bathroom-friendly avant-garde designs.
- 8 Three models wear Rachel Gedemer's Little Red Riding Hood-inspired designs, complete with a picnic basket.
- 9 Two models pose while wearing senior Lee Phutrakul's blue designs featuring cream wrappings and chiffon, burlap and muslin rosettes.

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Five hours of inspiration

Thrill Jockey Records collaborates with director Braden King for 'reference book of a DVD'

By Trish Bendix/Assistant A&E Editor

In February, local independent label, Thrill Jockey Records, released a DVD that features interviews with well-known and respected musicians, emcees, fans and engineers. *Looking for a Thrill* received enthusiastic reviews and had relatively good sales, yet the biggest break for the footage will be a screening at the Gene Siskel Film Center as part of May's Music Movies series, in conjunction with the documentary *Nightclubbing: Live from CBGB's*.

The DVD features candid interviews primarily with Thrill Jockey bands such as ADULT., Town and Country, Tortoise and Bobby Conn, but also includes revealing close-ups with Bjork, Steve Albini and Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth. The DVD allows viewers to listen to Bjork discuss her disdain of rock clubs in the '90s and her love of Public Enemy, before switching to Ian MacKaye (Minor Threat, Fugazi) as he talks about discovering punk music and how he originally found it frightening. Others included are members of The Butchies, Mekons, Yo La Tengo and The Sea and Cake.

Thrill Jockey's founder, Bettina Richards, initially devel-

oped the idea for *Looking for a Thrill* in 2002 and later asked director/documentarian Braden King to aid her in the process.

"She really drew up the main initial list of who was going to be involved," King said. "I could probably make a list of another 100 people I would love to talk to, but we had this sort of line of definition that had to be drawn somewhere."

The interviewing process itself is left off the DVD. Instead, the screen lists the name of the individuals and the bands they have been involved in before the artists discuss the musical influences in their lives.

"I try to keep it very conversational," King said. "It doesn't have to be the ultimate record in your collection, just a moment, record, or a show or something that stands out as a particular moment of inspiration. ... Usually, people could get going on something pretty quickly—it wasn't like I had to pull teeth. By and large, they had passion for moments or things that affected people differently."

King said one of his favorites was Town and Country band member Jim Dorling. Dorling's interview was one of the shortest, yet he managed to make

said, "though I think in a way, my point of view has changed since then."

The interviews for the DVD began in May 2002 and ended in June 2004. Each one took place in a different location, such as artists' apartments, venues, or old high schools. The final product is more than five hours long. King said it's not meant to be watched in one sitting, which is why the screening at the Siskel Film Center will be divided into five interviews per evening.

"With the initial concept, it wasn't taken for a feature film beginning to end," King said. "It's really a celebration of the Thrill Jockey community and those who inspired that community. The rule was if we shot the interview with someone, they were going to be on there. It was designed as a reference book of a DVD."

King and Richards were also featured on the DVD. King discusses his influence of foreign female hitchhikers in Morocco, singing and clapping a song as they sat in his back seat.

"[Richards] and I didn't think it was fair to be asking all these other people to talk without sort of going before the cameras ourselves," he said. "It was just a feeling we had that we should be forced to fess up, too."

King said the interviews for *Looking for a Thrill* were eye-opening and resonate within him constantly.

"Just walking down the street, there will be certain lines from people's interviews blowing through my head like song lyrics or something," he said. "It took me months to realize this incredible thing that people were talking about."

Looking for a Thrill will be shown at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 160 N. State St., every Sunday and Wednesday in May. For show times, check out www.siskelfilmcenter.org.



Courtesy Thrill Jockey

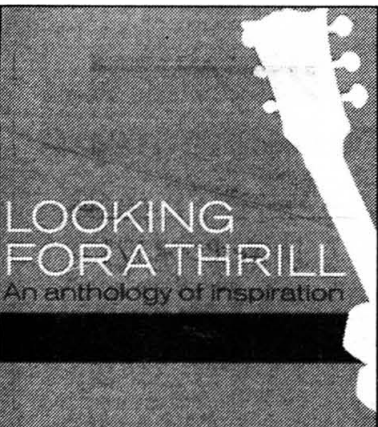


Courtesy Erez Sabag



Courtesy Thrill Jockey

Above (from left): Ian MacKaye, Bjork, and members of Town and Country talk about the moment in music that drove them as artists (on the DVD 'Looking for a Thrill.')



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holy creation

Paul Hornschemeier's online congregation, The Holy Consumption, is changing the face of Chicago cartooning

BY TRISH BENDIX / ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

It's probably safe to assume that most comics fans don't read them specifically for existentialist philosophy, but Paul Hornschemeier's comics transcend the mold of superheroes and tireless plot lines. His stories are about mental institutions and devastating family deaths, and include themes of unrequited love, prevailing evil, and depression, among other things.

His colleagues, Anders Nilsen, Jeffrey Brown and John Hankiewicz, are equally as innovative: Nilsen details the heartbreak of self-abuse and ailing grandmothers; Brown takes a candid approach to relationships and sex, effortlessly transplanting readers inside his head; and Hankiewicz's stark black and white images depict families in turmoil and the realities of sudden death.

Most of the time comic books are discussed in the mainstream by way of Marvel superheroes or big-budget film adaptations such as *X-Men* or *Spider-Man*. Films such as *Ghost World* and *American Splendor* have brought awareness of underground cartoonists to wider audiences, but Hornschemeier, Nilsen, Brown and Hankiewicz are forging a new path to make sure their unconventional and inventive comics are recognized and readily available.

Like many others in his profession, Hornschemeier was finding it difficult to display his work nationally. In 2002, he started a website, The Holy Consumption, that would become a thriving collective, including the other three Chicago-based and inventive cartoonists, creating a platform that would successfully display their work.

The Holy Consumption website (theholysconsumption.com) is an attempt to reach readers on a broad scale while creating a small community for inspiration and organization. The complete works of each artist, including books, drawings, sketches, T-shirts and CDs, are listed alongside brief descriptions and links to samples of their work.

"We didn't have a way to sell our stuff without sending it to a lot of stores, which is a hassle for a small-press person," Hornschemeier said. "There was no way to show people the other stuff we were doing, such as sketchbook work or anything else that doesn't fit into an easy-to-sell booklet."

The Holy Consumption breaks new ground by providing realism, surrealism and existentialism to an otherwise monotonous line of comic book trends.

"On a functional basis, [The Holy Consumption] is for selling our stuff, but really it consolidates an artistic identity for Chicago-based cartoonists," Hankiewicz said. "Out-of-mainstream comics work. When you're doing work like that on your own, it's harder to get any kind of visibility and identity. To form a community online, you help each other in a sense."

While all four cartoonists have been spotlighted for their artistic talents, their work is tremendously different from one another's, while still preserving a common bond that they all recognize as personal, if not somewhat autobiographical.



john hankiewicz

Hankiewicz, 33, is the oldest of the four artists. He previously taught English at the University of Central Arkansas and also worked as a librarian, but now he is a printmaking student at the College of DuPage.

"[Working as a teacher and librarian] didn't really [affect my comics] too much. They just took up my time," Hankiewicz said. "If you read biographies of Kafka, he sold insurance. People have had some mundane occupations."

Hankiewicz said he has been drawing since he was a kid, but it wasn't until recently he felt good enough to make his work available.

"For the last five or six years, I've taken it seriously enough to do it and want to publish it. But I was a slow learner, and had spent time doing other things in art until I recently felt good enough to want to see something in print," he said.

Hankiewicz's work is often light on dialogue, relying on intricate illustrations to convey moods and emotions. His characters are almost always ordinary people.

"It's no longer just superheroes," he said. "It's hard to make a dent in proving there's more than juvenile escapism. It's getting better, but I don't foresee comics as a mass medium, not like films and novels. As an artist, you resign yourself to a niche audience with 200 people that might read your minicomic. As long as you do a fantastic job assembling and creating a beautiful little package, it doesn't matter that it's 200 people and not 200,000. It's still great art."



paul hornschemeier

Earning recognition isn't completely new to the artists, but recently Hornschemeier has been profiled in *Time* and *Rolling Stone* magazines.

"My theory is, they just said, 'We need a cartoonist,'" Hornschemeier joked of his feature as *Rolling Stone's* "Next Big Existential Cartoonist."

Hornschemeier, 27, interestingly enough, named Charles Schulz as an influence, and his work seems to mirror Soren Kierkegaard more than Schulz's carefree characters of *Peanuts*.

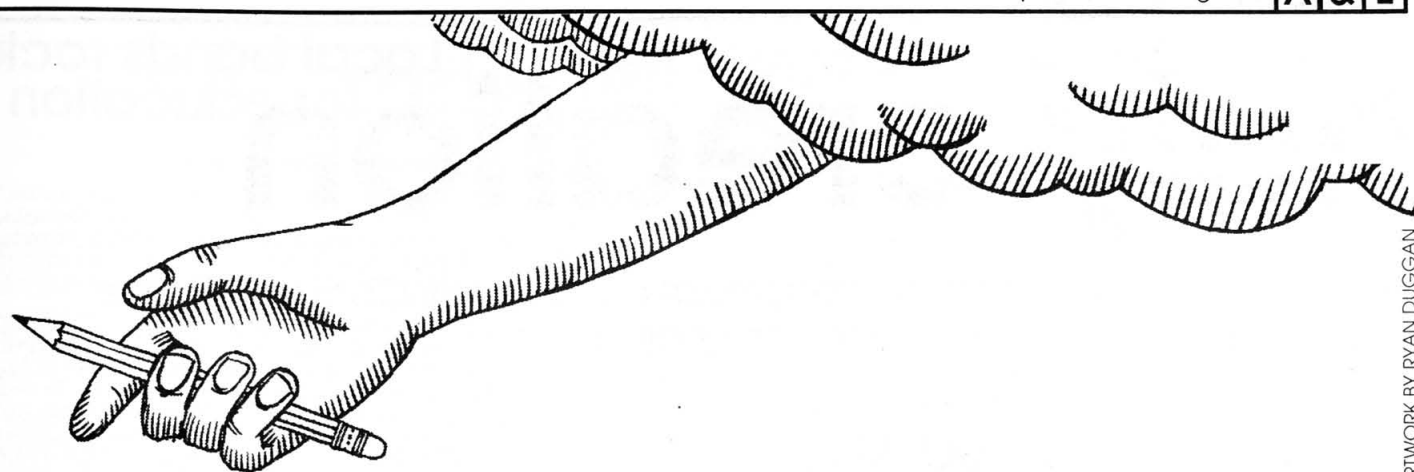
"Drawing is just something I've always done," Hornschemeier said. "It's an easy way to get things onto paper and out of my head—and let other bad things in."

Hornschemeier explained that naming the site The Holy Consumption was in good humor, as the site's intention was to allow the artists to display and sell their work. "Having grown up Catholic, I take every opportunity to make fun of religion," he said.

An Ohio native, the cartoonist met the other three at small press shows before moving to Chicago because "it seemed like a good place to get things done," he said. "Not like moving to be a rock star, or whatever one does in L.A." Soon after the move, he contacted the other three about his idea.

Hornschemeier put up the site in September 2002, selling Nilsen's work, which includes *Dogs and Water* and *The Ballad of the Two-Headed Boy*; Brown's long-form books, *Clumsy* and *Unlikely*; and Hankiewicz's *Tepid* series, among his work on the *Sequential* series.

"I think that we all, more so than maybe a lot of cartoonists, are interested in not settling with just any one thing," Hornschemeier said. "It's sort of an active searching for 'How can I do this better?' or 'What if what I just did isn't capturing emotion I want to capture?' This kind of resistance to resting on our laurels and pushing the medium forward is why I was just instantly drawn to the other three. It's something honestly different and new."



ADDITIONAL ARTWORK BY RYAN DUGGAN


anders nilsen

Nilsen, 32, came to Chicago from San Francisco in 1999 to attend graduate school at The School of the Art Institute. His time away from the drawing board is spent as a cook at Lula's Café in Logan Square and occasional skateboarder. Nilsen said he's grateful for The Holy Consumption, and that it works because all four of them are at the same point in their careers.

"It's also really good to have friends in the same city who are sort of going through the same stuff at more or less the same time—figuring out how to deal with publishers, for example, or trying to figure out how to draw stuff right," Nilsen said.

Nilsen is currently working on the last edition of *Big Questions*, a series that won him a Xeric grant given to comic book self-publishers. Nilsen will then start an entirely new series that is due out in January.

"I have my work cut out for me," he said.

Nilsen said he is largely influenced by music, which aids in his attempt to discern the world's text-heavy ads, public service announcements, and media from images that stand on their own.

"I used to think a lot about music and make little diagrams of songs and how they changed in intensity, and relate that to changes in a story's plot," he said. "Also, how mood is evoked in music and in pictures and how both are primarily non-linguistic like the way a song makes you feel often has nothing to do with what the singer sings about. I want to make stories, told with pictures, that are compelling, but not necessarily reducible to words, or reliant on them."


jeffrey brown

Brown graduated with a master's degree in painting from The School of the Art Institute in 2002, but it was during his time studying that he realized he wanted to be a comic artist.

"I've always thought I was good at drawing," Brown said. "When I started at the Art Institute painting, and thinking I was a fine artist at the same time, I wasn't completely happy with it, which is why I went there in the first place. I found out that making art wasn't quite all I wanted to do. There was something missing. Toward the end of my first year is when I started drawing comics."

That, he said, was when everything started to click.

Brown, 29, said that creating a comic scene in Chicago is nearly impossible due to the isolation drawing typically calls for.

"The creation isn't a social thing," Brown said.

"Usually what you have is people sitting at home in their studios doing all this work. With painting you can have events like a gallery opening or things like that. With comics, it's all in a book that comes out and shows up in the store."

Compared with the other three, Brown seems the most reserved, but he said that he often hangs out with Hornschemeier, who lives just around the block.

Brown is employed at Barnes & Noble when he's not working on an upcoming quarterly for Fantagraphics called *Moan*.

Hankiewicz noted that The Holy Consumption's Sunday Service, where one of the artists presents a new piece of work on the site (whether still in progress or completely finished), is incredibly stimulating.

"I think it's an artistic sensibility," he said. "We are different artists, at the basis of it, but we're all concerned with personal work. When you're working on your own, you're lonely and isolated. It's great when you're doing it with the knowledge that other people are doing it and supporting one another."

"It pushes me," he continued. "The three of them are such good artists, and I want to go up there and do something just as good. I want to participate and contribute as well. It's mutual inspiration."

The Holy Consumption crew are now friends, though they maintain they are somewhat socially disengaged, as the profession is a solitary one.

"Mainly we keep in touch by writing to each other, saying 'Hey this is good' or 'What a piece of crap!'" Hornschemeier said—but the latter hasn't happened yet, he said. "I really like everything they do. It's means of encouragement."

"It's not collaboration in the sense of writing stories together or making artwork together," Hankiewicz said. "We all have our distinct identities."

For now, The Holy Consumption will continue adding to the Sunday Services in attempts to entice readers and encourage each other, and will also have a window display at Myopic Books, 1564 N. Milwaukee Ave., in May.

R.I.P. CDs, RIPChicago is here

Music conversion service saves time, rocks out

By Stephanie Rycraw/Staff Writer

Time is something that most people simply don't have in abundance. So, when it comes to transforming CDs to MP3s, many people just can't spare the hours it takes. That's where RIPChicago comes to the rescue.

A local music conversion service, RIPChicago was founded earlier this year by Sean Quealy and Tex Stewart. Quealy, a DJ and former Columbia student, said the concept of RIPChicago was a natural progression of their mission to cater to music lovers who want the freedom of quality digital music.

Jim Martin, an attorney, owns an MP3 player and has used RIPChicago to convert his CDs. Martin said he learned about the music conversion service in a newspaper and later found a RIPChicago ad and called them.

"Sean responded right away," Martin said. "He came to my office and picked up my iPod and my CDs." Martin said he was equally impressed that when he needed an accessory, Quealy picked it up for him at no additional charge.

"He put 600 songs on this thing. It's terrific," he said.

Martin said RIPChicago is very conscientious about music copyright laws, and as a result will not convert any downloaded music CDs.

Quealy and Stewart believe their niche is local, which offers peace of mind to customers who want to avoid the potential risk involved in mailing their music collection to an out-of-state company.

"I was uncomfortable sending

my CDs somewhere," Stewart said. Like most of his customers, Stewart said he took comfort in someone personally picking up his music.

"I recognize that it's a commodity service," Stewart said. He candidly admitted that while downloading music onto an MP3 player



RIPChicago founders Sean Quealy (right) and Tex Stewart take a break from converting CDs to MP3s.

isn't quite brain surgery, it is "very time consuming." Stewart mentioned that he has been converting his own music collection into MP3s since 1998.

"The root of my interest in MP3s is convenience," said Stewart. RIPChicago also converts LPs and audio cassettes into quality MP3s.

For those who don't already own an MP3 player, RIPChicago also handles this detail.

"It's those little extras that we hope will tip the consumer's mind and they'll consider us," Stewart said. "We also offer free pick-up and delivery always," Quealy added.

"Somebody that is in need of our service is someone who loves music, does not have a lot of time, and wants this new technology," said Quealy.

"We offer to beat anybody's price on CD-ripping. The only caveat with that is it has to be an acceptable transfer rate," he said.

So how can Quealy and Stewart offer such a wide-range of services at such a low price? "We've managed to stream-line to get the job done," Quealy said. "We've designed the business to be fast and flexible for the customer and for us," he said.

Stewart credits the support of friends and family that work behind the scenes for enabling RIPChicago to function.

"The help and understanding and often free work, by a number of our family members and good friends, have enabled us to take the idea of RIPChicago from a single idea into reality," Stewart said.

Local bands rock ... for education

By Colleen Sheehan/Staff Writer

Most students don't need any encouragement to go see a concert, but on April 29, promotion company Triple Dot MAS is providing some. The company is bringing the first Rock-For-Education event to the Logan Square Auditorium—and they're giving away \$1,000 at the show.

The money will be awarded to students amid performances by two rock bands, Punsapaya and Pomeroy. Punsapaya, composed mostly of Columbia students, recently won the Chicago Music Award for Best Rock Album of the Year.

Punsapaya guitarist Mike Poupko said it was Triple Dot MAS's charity to students that prompted them to participate.

"I think it's a good cause," he said. "When I was in college, I would have liked the chance to win \$1,000."

While Punsapaya are a local band and will likely be playing for a familiar audience, Pomeroy are from Kansas City, Mo. and looking forward to playing in Chicago.

"We're excited about the opportunity to get in

the Chicago market," said Dave Fairbanks, lead singer of Pomeroy. "And to support anything that goes toward education."

Matt Marron, Pomeroy's guitarist, agreed. "We like to support the cause," he said. "Anyone who has had any scholarship knows how good it feels to have any kind of money taken off of your tuition."

Event organizers hope to involve more local bands in future events to raise more money in order to increase the scholarship amount. They will even be raising money for Keys for Kids, a group dedicated to saving school music programs.

Aided by top-flight sponsors such as The Onion and WGN, Rock-for-Education's future looks bright.

Rock-for-Education is an all ages event. Students attending will be automatically entered to win \$1,000 toward their tuition. All students must have a valid school ID. Admission is \$10, and doors open at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, call (312) 223-0088.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2005 5:00 P.M.

Sharing Cultures: Personal Revelation, Pedagogical Realization and the hope for Political Revolution.

Sharing Cultures is a collaborative teaching project between Columbia College Chicago and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. In this presentation the teaching team from Columbia College Chicago will share reflections on the project as an impetus for change with respect to the perception and location of power.

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2005 7:00 P.M.

Screening of "Amandla: Revolution in Four Part Harmony" (2002).

A moving documentary on music in the struggle. Introduced by Dr. Lisa Brock.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2005 7:00 P.M.

Screening of "State of Denial" (2003) & "The Sky in Her Eyes" (2002).

Moving documentaries on AIDS in South Africa. Introduced by Funeka Sihlali/Dr Hyman Rochman.

create...
change

This show will 'supersuck'

Eddie Spaghetti says his band will never mature

By Alicia Dorr/City Beat Editor

Usually, when a band is accused of putting out the same record over and over, it isn't exactly taken as a compliment. But for the dynamic rock 'n' roll band the Supersuckers, it's not just praise—it's their goal.

"I hate it when a band 'grows' or 'changes' or 'matures.' That's just fancy talk for sucks," said Supersuckers lead singer and bassist Eddie Spaghetti. "It's better to have a template and stick to it."

The Supersuckers just started touring in the U.S. to promote *Devil's Food*, a compilation of their previously unreleased and hard-to-find material.

The band will be stopping at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., with the Reverend Horton Heat on April 30. Their tour is in support of the recently released comp to make waiting for the new studio album a bit easier for their fans.

Spaghetti said there might be some aggravated fans out there who paid a lot of money to get some of the rare recordings on *Devil's Food*, but the band still wanted them released.

"It was like we had all these lost children all over the place," Spaghetti said. "It may piss off collectors, but hopefully they'll



still be happy with the few extra unreleased songs."

During the 17 years the band has been together since moving from Tucson, Ariz., to Seattle in the late '80s, they have honed their musical mold to a tight, generally kickass sound. They are known for high-intensity rock 'n' roll records, as well as the occasional laid-back country album, but always with the same formula.

With Spaghetti on vocals and bass, Dan "Thunder" Bolton, Rontrose Heathman on guitars, and Dancing Eagle on drums, there was never any need to change the lineup, Spaghetti said. Between marriages, kids and life moving on, the band stuck together. They broke

away from major record companies in 2001 to form their own label, called Mid-Fi Recordings.

The band are committed to making music, which was last demonstrated on their 2003 album, *Motherfuckers Be Trippin'*. It was the first album that received kudos from critics, who finally realized the Supersuckers weren't going away anytime soon.

With the majority of the lyrics revolving around drinking, fighting and rocking out, it might be difficult for some to picture the guys at home with families. However, Spaghetti said they have generally toned the revelry down when they are on the road, and he hopes this tour will be no exception.

"When we're [touring] we've got to deliver every night, so we don't do much partying," Spaghetti said. "But it's still fun [for us], which is probably depressing and sad."

The band did do a lot of excessive partying when they were younger, Spaghetti said. Now that the band have been hard at work on the other side of music with their label, they can look back at their wilder times with particular affection.

"In most ways it's never better to be older and wiser—it's

always better to be young and dumb," Spaghetti said. "There's a beauty in being young and dumb that you'll never have again."

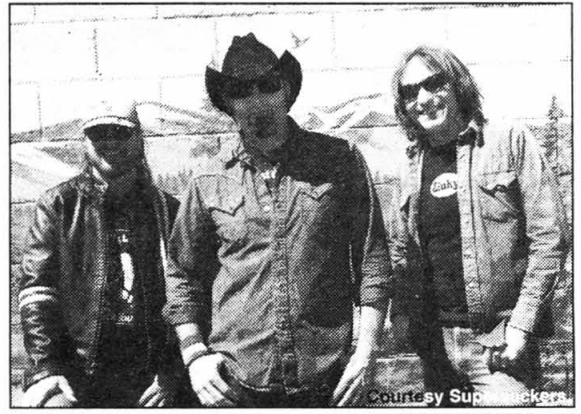
Aside from touring and working on the new Supersuckers album, Spaghetti has been busy in the studio with his new solo record. The project, a follow-up to his 2004 solo debut *The Sauce*, is an extension of the work he does with the Supersuckers, a little toned down.

Despite working solo on the side, Spaghetti said he has "no lofty ambitions of being an

artist" and will always stick with the Supersuckers.

The band has toured or worked with many other bands that have the same recipe for success, from the Ramones and White Zombie to Willie Nelson. After almost two decades in the business, Spaghetti has cultivated a favorite response to those who criticize the Supersuckers' strategy.

"When people say we've put out seven of the same records, I like to correct them and say we don't have seven—we have eight," he said.



Top: Eddie Spaghetti. Above: The rest of the band, sucking up the sun.

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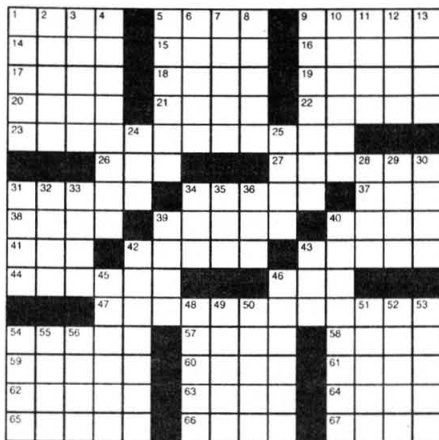
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Crossword

ACROSS
1 Woeful word
5 Leather piercers
9 Ababa, Eth.
14 Concluded
15 Oxford, e.g.
16 Pulverize
17 Jekyll's alter ego
18 Actor Connery
19 Crab-walk
20 Galley gear
21 Beanery sign
22 Perplexed
23 Dispers
26 Used to be
27 Worn-out words
31 "The Ballad of Jones"
34 Painful spots
37 In what way?
38 Saharan
39 Bombay wraps
40 Sheet of glass
41 At the ready
42 Lassoed
43 Fills to capacity
44 Dangling frill
46 Animal gullet
47 Uncontrolled individuals



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04/25/05

Solutions



DOWN
1 Kind of committee
2 Staunch
3 Agassi or Citroen
4 Teetered
5 Appraise
6 Cereal grain
7 Unwilling
8 Feel
9 Besets
10 Composer
11 Pops
12 Anglesey or Wight
13 Queens ballpark
24 Charles or Bradbury
25 Suit toppers
28 Confab
29 Use a whetstone
30 Flock mothers
31 Playbill listing
32 Surface measure
33 Makes a lap
34 Sucker
35 Mining product
36 Divest
39 Fly alone
40 Hock spot
42 Resumes business
43 Miguel, CA
45 Catchphrase
46 Large groups
48 Old sailors
49 MacDonald's refrain
50 Heavy tread
51 Midwest airport
52 Involving warships
53 Small silvery food fish
54 Urban blight
55 Michelin product
56 Ms. McEntire

Loose lips and relationships

Researchers say there are between 600,000 and one million words in the English language. Despite the many sentences that can be constructed out of those words, when you are in a relationship, there are only three that can make or break a union: I love you.

Love is a scary word and an even scarier feeling. Working up the guts to get the words from your heart to your mouth is no easy task, either.

My relationship with Alan was going better than I could have imagined. We always had fun together, and he was sweet to me and more considerate than most guys I'd dated. As the months floated by, I began to forget what life was like without him and I realized I was falling.

And I was falling fast. Putting time limits on love has never been my forte. I'm a hopeless romantic and have not discarded the idea of love at first sight. Unfortunately, I was pretty sure Alan never believed in it.

One cold day, several months ago, Alan and some friends decided to drag me to the ice-skating rink. (Note: I have no idea how to ice-skate and my overall balance is less than stellar.) I tied on my skates, screamed for five seconds and promptly fell.

As 6-year-olds glided gracefully by, Alan pulled me up and attempted to get me moving. On my way down the second time, I was cursing and furious. I was mad at the ice, my friends and my lack of any athletic ability. As Alan pulled me up again, I looked at him and realized that I was a goner.

I was in love with him. As soon as the thought entered my mind, it was aching to come out of my mouth.

"It's too soon," I thought. "You're being ridiculous." As weeks passed, I decided to

keep my newfound feelings under wraps. In my experience, the "L" word can do one of two things: Make the guy mysteriously disappear or turn him into a clingy, crying mess.

One night, Alan, my friend Stella and I went out for some drinks. Before we knew it, our table was cluttered with empty glasses and Stella and I were laughing hysterically and whispering to each other. I whispered to Stella that I loved Alan. Knowing that I was talking about him, he began asking me what I said, and he continued asking all the way home.

Logic has never been my strong suit, especially after seven drinks, so as we got ready for bed, I blurted it out:

"Listen, I love you."

Awkward silence followed. He kissed me on the forehead and we went to bed. I woke up the next morning, mortified. Saying "I love you" is hard enough, but not having the sentiment returned is a whole different ballgame.

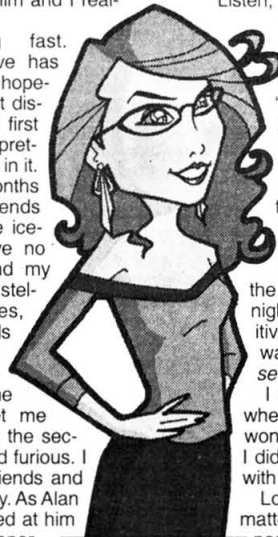
Once again, I tried to ignore the situation. Maybe he thought it was the booze talking.

As more time passed, I found myself on the verge of spitting the word out constantly, and one night I did it again. I was almost positive he would return it. Everything was going so well and it really seemed like he loved me.

I was wrong. And I had no idea where to go from there. I began to wonder if he would ever feel the way I did or if he was just biding his time with me.

Love sucks sometimes. But no matter how much it has hurt me in the past, I have no desire to live my life without it. If Alan doesn't find love with me, then maybe it just wasn't meant to be. I still haven't heard those three little words, so I suppose I'll just keep waiting.

—Beatrix@chroniclemail.com

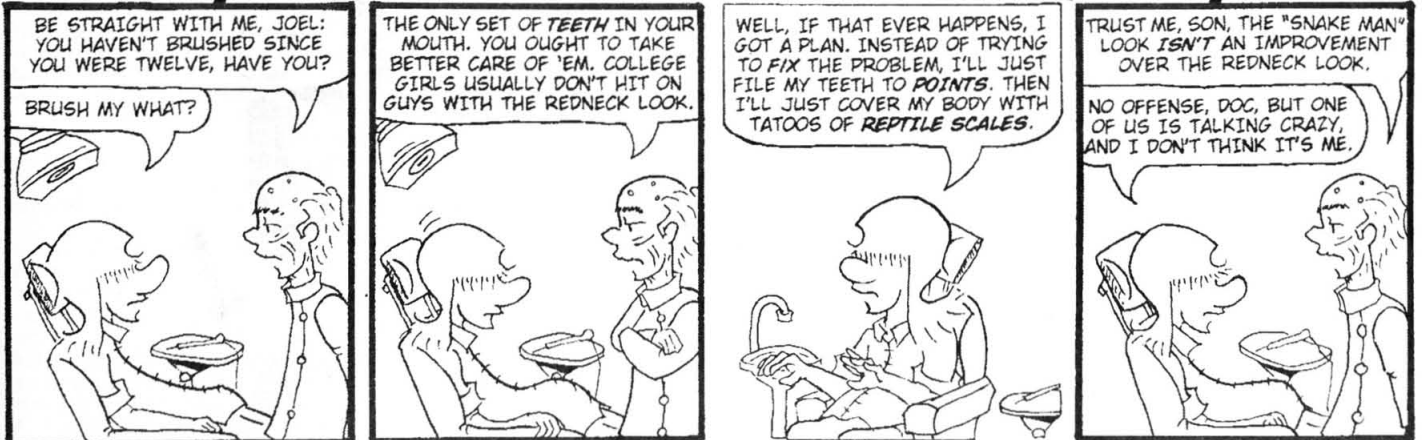


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The Family Monster by Josh Shalek



Safety is still the best chaser

It is a feeling that too many of us know all too well: waking up one morning and wondering how in the world you made it home the night before.

The front page of the April 19 Chicago Sun-Times reported that more Americans are sharing that experience and admitting to getting behind the wheel after drinking. That's just the respondents who were being honest.

Increased awareness in past decades had helped lower the trend and it goes without saying that driving while intoxicated is not only dangerous, but also illegal. The study, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, adds more than a few frightening statistics to that already common knowledge.

The 2002 nationwide survey found an estimated 159 million cases of alcohol-impaired driving, which is still higher than the 116 million episodes reported in 1997.

Every year of the study, more than 80 percent of drunk driving instances are attributed to people who had been binge drinking—more than five drinks on one occasion.

While alcohol is widely accepted as a social lubricant, an introduction to alcohol usually occurs long before college.

The Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) said the average age that kids begin experimenting with alcohol is about 11 or 12. It is during college that young adults arrive at the legal drinking age—many of whom routinely engage in binge drinking.

Which raises the question: How many decide to get behind the wheel—or admit to it after doing so?

The Preventive Medicine study also found that 41 percent of 42,815 traffic deaths in the U.S. were alcohol related, and motor vehicle-related injury is the leading cause of death in the U.S. for people between the ages of 1 and 34. That's in addition to AAIM's numbers indicating drunk driving as the leading cause of death among ages 5 to 28.

To some students, the numbers sound like more of the same.

Sadly, that's exactly right. Whether admitting the ill-advised attempts or not, a staggering number of people are arrested each year after ignoring both statistics and the law. The

Chicago Police Department arrested 6,432 people for driving under the influence in 2003, which is higher than 2001's total of 6,016. Either year, that's an average of more than 15 people a day.

The Sun-Times' focus on this issue should serve as a warning sign to Columbia students, many of whom have now reached the legal drinking age. This past New Year was rung in with a sad tale when a 21-year-old drunk driver—with a blood-alcohol level three times the legal limit—crashed into a cab on the North Side, killing its passenger, Brian Schultz, and its driver, Frank Frempong. Schultz had taken the cab because he knew he was too drunk to drive.

Nobody needs to apologize for going out and having one too many, but the latest numbers remind us that all students need to exercise the proper caution about how they return home.

The last thing anybody wants as the end of the semester approaches is to be involved in an accident, or to take a life—maybe even their own. Many of us have a U-Pass, and all of us have options. Let us all be smart enough to use them.

BACK FROM THE DRAWING BOARDS



Steve Sack/KRT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



can't even keep drugs out of our schools and prisons.

Perhaps our policies should at least stop ensuring the mobsters get rich.

—Christopher Largen
Senior, Community Service Program
University of North Texas
Denton, Texas

Student center more than just a wish

Meth use doesn't have to be a scourge

This letter is regarding "Meth use wreaks havoc in Chicago" (April 18).

Believe it or not, there's a solution to the lab explosions, child exposure, high profits, theft, disease and guns associated with methamphetamine.

We could centralize and regulate meth production and distribution in well-secured, quality-controlled government facilities where addicts would register before being administered a standardized dosage of pharmaceutical-grade meth, with medical supervision and without the use of dirty needles.

Addicts would also receive information about the risks of meth use, along with on-the-spot access to treatment resources.

This trailblazing harm-reduction strategy is currently being used by several nations in Europe, with a positive outcome.

Some citizens might think this approach is radical, but it would remove the economic incentive from the producers and dealers of illegal meth.

It would reduce the spread of AIDS and hepatitis. It would ensure that addicts aren't committing crimes of robbery and violence to pay the inflated black market prices imposed by the mobsters. It would eliminate the exploding meth labs.

And it would take the meth off the streets, where children have easy access to the substance.

After decades of this drug war, we

This is in response to the editorial entitled "Students should center on education" (April 18).

The Chronicle is correct in its assessment of the current situation. A student center will cost a lot of money. It will take time to get approval from the college and, indeed, it will take negotiations to figure out what goes in it. The correct nature of the piece ends there.

The undertone is that we should forget about the student center. It is somehow bad for the college and we should not work for the future, only our current benefit.

That is garbage.

A student center benefits all students. It's the ultimate solution to the divide between commuter students and dorm students.

Huge events could be held there. It would also consolidate existing offices into one main place, leaving open space in other buildings for departmental expansion. It would become the headquarters of the student body and would stand as a symbol of who we are as a college so that no one will ever again ask, "Where is Columbia?" A student center in the South Loop will scream "Here we are!"

I understand that a college is not identified by its buildings, for its power comes from the students. Giving us a place to call our own, where ideas and gifts can be freely communicated, would show who we are.

—Brian Matos
SGA Senator
Freshman, Broadcast Journalism

Ms. Right in 2008?

Guest Commentary
Bill Ferguson, KRT

So how do you address a woman president, anyway? I'm not sure, but I think the proper term is "Madame President."

I bring this question up not just as idle speculation, but because it's the kind of thing we really need to start thinking about.

Most people would agree that we will have a woman in the White House "someday." But I am beginning to believe that "someday" may not be very far away at all. Although it's very, very early to be speculating about such things, there are forces in motion that could virtually guarantee that a woman will be leading this country in January 2009.

Hillary Clinton is widely recognized as a front-runner to win the 2008 Democratic nomination, if she decides to run in the next election. Although she is seen as a polarizing figure, she is wildly popular with the Democratic base, and it is not at all difficult to picture her stepping up to the podium to give her acceptance speech at their 2008 convention.

Republicans realize this, and their strategists are already considering ways to counter the wild (and probably mostly positive) press coverage that a Hillary for President campaign would generate. Some of them believe they have the perfect answer, and her name is Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

It's a long-shot scenario, of course, and Rice has stated that she has "no intention of running" for president or any other elected office. But the question comes up again and again in discussions like this about whether or not America is really "ready" to elect a woman as president.

Personally, I think it's a silly question. I think a better question is this: Would most Americans vote against a candidate who best represented their values and views just because that candidate was not of the male gender? Look at it this way: Is a die-hard conservative Republican going to choose John Edwards or John Kerry

over Condoleezza Rice just because she's a woman? Is your typical bleeding-heart liberal Democrat going to throw his support to Jeb Bush or Rudy Giuliani instead of Hillary Clinton just so the White House can remain an all-boys club? I don't think so.

We all have a certain amount of inborn prejudice regarding things like race and gender and yes, there are some Americans who will never vote for a woman, or a minority or what have you.

But I think that kind of thinking is largely a relic of the past. For most of us, a candidate's ideas and philosophy are much more important than gender and ethnicity.

There is no question in my mind that America is ready for a woman president. We've just been waiting for the right woman to come along.

And who knows—we may just find two of them in 2008.

—This editorial first ran in the April 17 San Jose Mercury News

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Letters to the Editor (cont'd)

Chronicle editorial should be stamped counterfeit ...

Your editorial on the "Axis of Evil" exhibition at Glass Curtain Gallery ("The real crime is fraud, not free speech," April 18) not only makes a number of absurd assumptions, it also contains a factual error that requires a correction with an apology to the curator Michael Hernandez de Luna.

To begin with, Hernandez de Luna has never been charged or convicted as a "known counterfeiter" and defrauder of the U.S. Postal Service. To call him a "known counterfeiter," as you do in the final paragraph of your diatribe, is irresponsible, misleading and false, to say the very least.

Second, your statement that the Secret Service visited Glass Curtain to continue an ongoing investigation into Hernandez de Luna as a counterfeiter and defrauder of the U. S. Postal Service left us wondering if you had tapped the phone lines of the Secret Service themselves.

To the best of our knowledge, the Secret Service has never made that claim—neither to CarolAnn Brown, the director of C-Spaces who met with the two agents the night of the reception, nor to the media, nor to Hernandez de Luna's attorney.

Additionally, your argument doesn't answer the question why the Secret Service was so interested in speaking with Al Brandtner, the creator of our now infamous "Patriot Act" stamp sheet, or why they took photographs of "Patriot Act." Based on your argument, he must be a "known counterfeiter" too.

As journalists and therefore, one would assume, guardians of free speech, we would expect a great deal of seriousness on your part on this very serious issue. Were the Secret Service officers just doing their job investigating a work of art depicting a gun pointed to the president's head?

Perhaps. But why crash a reception? The show opened two full days before the reception

began. In addition, the postcard announcing the show and depicting the "Patriot Act" stamp with the names and locations of the participating artists, went out to the public a full month prior to the opening, plenty of time for the Secret Service to make a full inquiry.

show and the gallery's right and obligation to continue to display the controversial "Patriot Act" stamp sheet.

—Greg Weiss
Gallery Coordinator
Glass Curtain Gallery



Chris Gallevo/The Chronicle

Yet, the Secret Service made their presence felt at the most visible and public time possible. Coincidence?

Again, as journalists, you, more than most citizens, must be aware of the increasing erosion of our rights as citizens since 9/11 and the implementation of the Patriot Act.

So, to try to paint the Secret Service's presence in Glass Curtain Gallery during the opening reception of "Axis of Evil" as part of an investigation into postage stamp fraud is not only feeble-minded, but irresponsible because it deflects the public's attention from a very serious threat to its rights to free speech and artistic expression.

Columbia students, faculty and staff should be rightfully proud of school officials for courageously defending the

... Nothing counterfeit about exhibit, however

The Chronicle editors got it wrong in their editorial ("The real crime is fraud, not free speech," April 18).

There is nothing counterfeit about "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin." All the artwork in the show is 100 percent legitimate faux postage. "Axis" curator Michael Hernandez De Luna and the other 46 artists in the show created satire in the form of postage stamps, not counterfeit postage.

The specific statute quoted by Chronicle editors defines counterfeiting as the creation of stamps "of the kind authorized and provided by the [U.S. Postal Service]." Clearly, stamps with a penis on the pope's hat are not the kind the USPS authorizes.

Faux postage, or labels, as they are called in the stamp-collecting hobby, are not counterfeit; they are fantasy labels, with some similarity to Easter Seals or National Wildlife Federation charity seals, albeit with a slightly different political message. Your editorial fails to grasp that the "artistamp," or faux postage, is a specifically apt form!

For satirizing an inherently governmental (and occasionally propagandistic) imagery, the postage stamp, no effort stemming from the Glass Curtain Gallery show defrauds the USPS.

As reported in the L.A. Times on April 14 and elsewhere, a Secret Service spokesman has gone on record clarifying that the Secret Service was investigating imagery from specific artworks as they related to threats on the president's life, which is their job.

While as a taxpayer, I may have a problem even with that, your editorial got it wrong.

It is the job of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service to handle mail fraud in its many forms, specifically the counterfeiting of real stamps by real crooks who aim to make money by selling counterfeit stamps.

The pranks that De Luna has pulled in the past are not a "major problem for the post office" in relation to selling postage as stated in the editorial. Pulling a prank on the post office to create mail "art" may be sophomoric and illegal, but it is the con!

Text of art delivers the message of satire and separates it specifically from counterfeiting theft. I applaud both the Columbia administration for standing up to the Secret Service brown shirts, and all the artists in the "Axis of Evil" show who practice their basic human rights in speaking their minds.

—Andrew Oleksiuk
Interactive Arts and Media
President, Illinois Postal
History Society

Roamin' Numerals \$20,000

Estimated amount of damage incurred removing Jose Francisco Martinez from the chimney of a Lake Tahoe, Nev., home on April 20. Martinez, 19, had been stuck in the chimney for about two hours during an attempted burglary.

38

Number of years between two bear attacks suffered by biologist Scott MacInnes in Alaska. MacInnes, 51, suffered his most recent mauling on April 18 during an early morning jog near his home in Soldotna. Despite wounds to his head, neck and abdomen, MacInnes is expected to make a full recovery.

\$100,000

Amount of a federal grant applied for by Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) veteran Sean Truelove to fund a four-year project that would train a capuchin monkey for high-risk police operations. Truelove told the East Valley Tribune in Arizona that the idea came to him in a dream about 18 months ago.

Choice Cuts

"I consider it a debt of honor. She spit in our faces for 37 years. It was absolutely worth it."

Vietnam veteran Michael A. Smith's comments to the Kansas City Star after he spit tobacco juice in the face of actress Jane Fonda during a book signing on April 19. Fonda, 67, wiped her face and continued signing copies of her autobiography. The crowd applauded when it was announced that Smith, 54, had been arrested.



Call for democracy on staff union

Last week, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that 42 challenged ballots be opened and counted. The NLRB also ruled that at least 69 eligible voters did not appear on the eligibility list.

United Staff of Columbia College wants the votes counted. The college has indicated that they plan to appeal to Washington, D.C., causing indefinite delay.

To appeal the Labor Board's

decision is disrespectful to Columbia's staff, fiscally irresponsible and legally pointless given the weakness of their case.

US of CC feels this uncertainty will be bad for morale and ultimately bad for students. Our workplace is their learning environment; what negatively impacts the one, hurts the other.

We have a steep hill to climb; we must overcome a 20-vote margin with only 42 votes to be counted.

If the college agrees to forego an appeal, US of CC will abide by the vote count no matter

what the outcome and will not exercise our right to rerun the election as prescribed in the NLRB decision.

We urge the administration and board of trustees to stop and think of what's best for Columbia. Reflect upon this decision; don't just react. Count the ballots and let the staff of Columbia make their democratic choice.

—The membership of the
United Staff of Columbia
College

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The Department of Liberal Education and the Center for Asian Arts and Media present a lecture as part of the Woman Warrior Festival 2005

Listen: The Good [Silent] Asian Girl Talks Back to U.S. Patriarchy

Wednesday May 4, 4 pm
Collins Hall, 624 S. Michigan Ave.
6th floor, Columbia College



Fay Yokomizo Akindes presents narratives of three Asian American women who rescripted their lives from the "good girl" (who rarely speaks) to the political activist who talks back to U.S. patriarchy.

The three women include: Yuri Kochiyama, a contemporary of Malcolm X who "awakened" to political activism in her early 40s and is still active today in her 80s; Alberta Lee, daughter of the Los Alamos scientist Wen Ho Lee who was imprisoned in solitary confinement for 9 months then released; and Eiko Kosasa, a sansei (third generation Japanese American) woman in Hawaii who criticized her sansei brothers for replicating and benefiting from the dominant power structure rather than supporting the Native Hawaiian Sovereignty Movement.

Fay Yokomizo Akindes is associate professor of communication and director of the Center for Ethnic Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. Her research problematizes communication, culture and identity in Hawai'i, the U.S. and West Africa, and has appeared in *Diegesis*, *Discourse*, *Qualitative Inquiry*, several book chapters, and (forthcoming) in *Cultural Studies Critical Methodologies*. (Admission to this event is free)

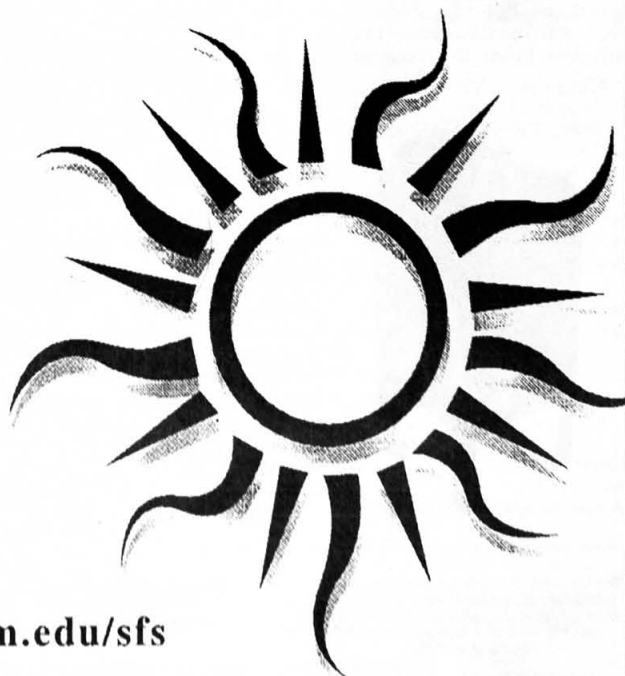


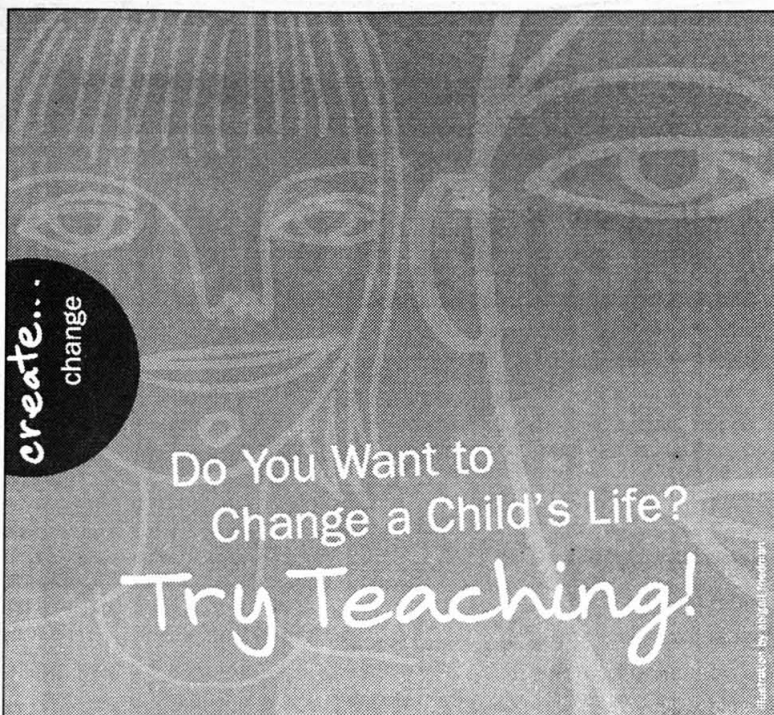
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Illustration by Abigail Friedman

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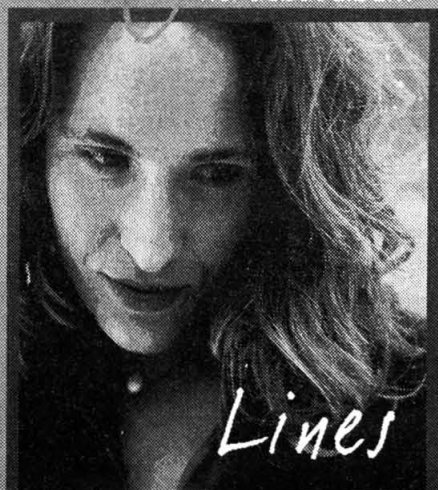
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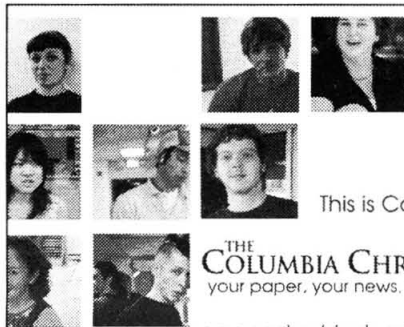
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Area resident records South Loop history

○ Dearborn Park an integral part of area rehab, according to historian

By Josh Kantarski
Assistant City Beat Editor

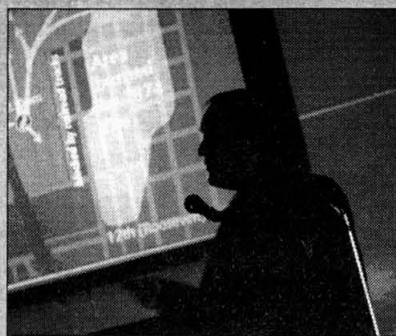
Looking around, Dennis McClendon saw no one who was interested in chronicling the history of the South Loop. Instead he saw a golden opportunity for gathering information about a poorly documented part of Chicago's history.

McClendon's most recent lecture, *Recounting History of Chicago's Near South Side*, on April 20 at East-West University, 816 S. Michigan Ave., incorporated a slideshow documenting many of the area's architectural feats, and even a few foibles, as part of the university's East-West Perspectives series of ongoing lectures, celebrating the school's 25th year of operation.

"I knew we were building a new neighborhood, and I wanted to be the one to collect—conscientiously—all this information [about the South Loop]," said McClendon, a South Loop resident for more than 20 years. "A hundred years from now, wouldn't it be great to know [Chicagans] have this [information], kind of like Wrigleyville does?" McClendon is also a board member of South Loop Neighbors, a community organization dedicated to organizing the quality of life in the South Loop.

Encompassed in his comprehensive slideshow, McClendon illustrates the rich, and oftentimes raunchy, history of the South Loop, offering up yellowing photos of bordellos that lined the streets in the area now known as Printer's Row, which runs from Harrison Street to Polk Street.

McClendon, owner of the graphic design company Chicago CartoGraphic, further documented the area's rich past, including its railroad history, which he called, "the real life blood, the energy of the South Loop." McClendon mentioned that only one of the four notable railroad terminals—Central, Dearborn, LaSalle and Grand Central stations—remains, and that it held a special place in his, and



Ben Pancoast/The Chronicle

On April 20, Dennis McClendon, a South Loop resident and Chicago historian, lectured at East-West University, 816 S. Michigan Ave.

the community's, heart.

"Most beloved for all my neighbors here [in the room] is Dearborn Station, the only one of the four stations that still stands," McClendon said.

Harkening back to Dearborn Station, McClendon said the locale is heavily involved in the revitalization of the South Loop. He added that Dearborn Park, built just south of the station, was an integral part in bringing the South Loop back to prominence, calling the park the "genesis" of the area.

"The neighborhood hit rock bottom in the 70s, and now we're seeing that change over, and a cycling back to now, where we have million-dollar homes in the neighborhood," McClendon said.

He also referred to the history of the area, including the re-channeling of the Chicago River in 1927 and the history of Plymouth Court—which used to be called 3rd Avenue—and also discussed the more recent history of the South Loop. He mentioned that Pacific Garden Mission will move from its locale at 646 S. State St. to a new area at 14th Street and Canal Street to make room for the expansion of Jones College Prep, 606 S. State St.

And while the South Loop continues to grow, McClendon added that the population density in the area is nowhere near capacity.

"We're a long way from the upper limit," McClendon said, noting that the area is still below 12,000 people per square mile. By contrast, McClendon added that areas on the North Side have population densities greater than 60,000.

Empty Spaces

Continued from Back Page

owners of the building left it in serious disrepair.

"The building is in need of a major renovation, which we're currently planning," Dewey said.

Reasons for vacant landmarks vary from neglectful owners to zoning issues. But it is the renovating and stalled renovation through the years that has been the problem for buildings like the Buckingham, as well as the Blackstone Hotel and the Dexter Building—not a disinterest in their history.

But now the real estate market in the South Loop has reached a point where renovating buildings like the Buckingham offers a lot more benefits. Dewey points out that the amount of students in the area is a major plus.

"It is a fabulous location, especially with the student population growing—the area has a great appeal," he said.

The Blackstone Hotel is soon to follow, with Lucien Lagrange Architects renovating the building. While the Dexter building's fate is up in the air, it is clear that many of the historic buildings in the South Loop will most likely form an integral part of the area's development in the near future.

Space for development

Aside from historic buildings that require renovation, the self-storage and rental signs that still dot the neighborhood are vanishing as development jumps from street to street. While new buildings and renovations continue to flourish in the area, some structures appear to have fallen through the cracks. But these last few empty spaces are not necessarily flying under the radar of developers; they are just next in line to build up in a ballooning real estate market.

Keith Giles has worked in developing the South Loop for years. As a partner of the Chicago-based real estate firm Frankel & Giles, he has worked on projects such as the

Dearborn Tower at 1530 S. State St.; the Michigan Avenue Tower at 1250 S. Michigan Ave.; and State Place at the corner of Roosevelt Road and State Street.

Self-storage facilities usually stick to areas that are cheaper to own and rent, and when the real estate market goes up they usually move out, Giles said. He said that this move started in the burgeoning South Loop.

"As a neighborhood develops there is usually a central development that spurs other developments," Giles said. "Ultimately everything will [be developed]."

He points to the current construction underway at the old railroad yards near Clark Street as an example of the "mega-projects" going into the area. He said it is safe to assume the storage spaces will be filled in the South Loop as well, along with all of the new development taking place.

"You're not going to see the same empty buildings you do now because this is hot marketplace," Giles said.

Rapid change

Harms remembers first noticing the South Loop's change in 2001 when she came back to Dearborn Park after spending a year in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"I remember driving down to Chinatown on State Street pointing to new buildings and saying, 'When did they build that? When did they build that?'" Harms said.

The obvious building up of the neighborhood has yet to cover the remnants of the old South Loop, whether it's historic or just simply empty. Harms stresses that she is happy with the development she has watched spring up around her in the past few years, and, according to Giles, she has more to look forward to.

"The whole area will keep on going for at least a decade," Giles said.

Meth

Continued from Back Page

of what will happen if something isn't done.

"If we don't get some funding in place quickly, [and] social marketing and counselors ... it's going to make its way quicker to the streets and we are going to see a whole culture of people on a drug that feeds on psychosis and paranoia," Cohen said. "It's a spark before the explosion."

A new Illinois law, the Methamphetamine Manufacturing Chemical Retail Sale Control Act, took effect Jan. 1. It was designed to slow the spread of meth in Illinois by regulating the display and sale of two key ingredients of meth production: ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. Now retailers cannot sell more than two packages of cold medicine containing these drugs at a time.

Also, the drugs must be placed behind store counters or locked in cases.

"I think it's going to make it a lot tougher for people to get pseudoephedrine," said Mark Warness, Chicago drug enforcement administration special agent. "We are putting a noose on the problem."

He hopes the new law will do some good, adding that this type of legislation has helped in other states such as Oklahoma and Missouri.

Despite increasing headlines, many are still unaware of the risks associated with the drug, and community leaders hope jarring ads in magazines and on public transportation will steer people away

from the drug's enticing grip. Already, Cohen said, the ads are bringing more people to treatment programs.

Cohen said he and others created the "Life or Meth" campaign in Miami in 2002. In 1998, seeing the association between users of crystal and risky behavior in southern Florida, they decided to take action after knowing that coworkers, patients and friends fell prey to the drug.

"Crystal meth usage is an epidemic proportion now [to] gay men and the heterosexual rural crowd," Cohen said. "You have two differ-

"If we don't get some funding in place quickly, [and] social marketing and counselors ... it's going to make its way quicker to the streets."

—Marc Cohen, president of the United Foundation for AIDS

ent sides, and with the rural, rarely do they consider the relation between STDs and meth."

Now Chicago has followed suit, in hopes of combating a frightening epidemic.

Stacy Bridges, general manager and editor of Gay Chicago Magazine, heard about the campaign and wanted to start one up in Chicago because he saw a great need for it. He started the Chicago campaign back in May with the gay media, placing vivid ads in publications such as The Windy City Times and Gay Chicago

Magazine.

Bridges chose to run the ads during Memorial Day weekend because it is known as a large party weekend in Chicago's circuit clubs. The ads ran during the summer. Bridges is starting the campaign up again soon with a new theme: Meth equals death. He hopes that images of death will halt the trend of busts, and stop people he knows in the community from using.

Cohen applauds the Chicago press and the health department for being very proactive and helpful with Bridges' endeavors.

"I have really good things to say about Chicago," Cohen said. "Your gay press is working together. You really need an infrastructure of support."

Treatment programs for meth users are also growing in Chicago. According to Lisa Cohen of the Illinois Department of Human Services, the addiction prevention appropriations for fiscal year 2005 total \$25,327,300. Although funding for substance abuse programs has been cut throughout the years, some believe Chicago still fares much better than the rest of the state, where treatment is hard to come by.

Treatment programs downstate are overwhelmed or nonexistent, but not in Chicago, according to Bruce Leibi of the Illinois State Police.

"The situation is flip-flopped," Leibi said.

Cohen—of the department of human services—added that, compared with other cities such as



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

In spite of the ballooning real estate development in the area, the South Loop still has vacant buildings and storage facilities.

Miami, Chicago's treatment program and department of public health is largely funded and maintains a good relationship with the community, working with other programs to combat problems and help create awareness.

Like Mike M., many can turn to Crystal Meth Anonymous for help. CMA offers addicts a 12-step program and support system. Members are growing as the popularity of the drug surges, yet the numbers at CMA don't reflect how large the problem is. Mike M. said that unfortunately, he doesn't think membership of CMA has reflected the increase of use.

"I would expect a surge in membership in the next couple of years," he added. "Personally, I see about a two to four-year lag between the time a person starts

using and gives up."

David McKirman, a researcher at Howard Brown Health Center, promised that the center will start working with, tracking and getting more data on meth users.

"We're moving in some areas," McKirman said. "Clearly, in a few years, it will become a priority."

Eliminating labs, creating new laws, fostering awareness and encouraging treatment are key factors to ridding the city. Cohen believes that the problem will not go away until people target the emotional problems that cause them to turn to the drug in the first place. Cohen had a warning for the future, drawn from his experience.

"Until we heal ourselves from the inside out of pain and find different ways to overcome it, this is going to keep happening."

McDonald's opens super-sized site amid controversy

○ New restaurant celebrates company's 50th year

By Hayley Graham
Staff Writer

Even as McDonald's celebrates its 50th anniversary in Chicago with a brand new flagship restaurant, controversy continues to bubble under the surface for the global fast-food giant.

In recent weeks, the hamburger chain has basked in the kind of positive publicity that comes with celebrating a milestone anniversary and opening a 24,068-square-foot restaurant in downtown Chicago. Around the world, media outlets have noted the company's success, and have sent crews to cover the opening of the new store.

Currently, there are more than 30,000 McDonald's restaurants around the world, with each bringing in an average of \$1.8 million annually.

In Chicago, the new, two-story restaurant sits on the site of what was once the Rock 'n' Roll McDonald's at 600 N. Clark St. The design of the building is a replica of the first McDonald's built in Des Plaines in 1955, but on steroids. Many in the city see the opening of the store as a positive for an area of the city popular with tourists.

"I think it'll be good for the neighborhood," said Connie Buscemi, spokeswoman for the

city's planning department. "It is a very identifiable and unique McDonald's."

Like many of its surrounding businesses, the 50th anniversary McDonald's is flashy and impossible to miss, with its 60-foot-high golden arches and glass exterior. It sits across from other heavily patronized hot spots, like the Hard Rock Cafe and the Rainforest Café.

"Some people may think it's tacky or gaudy, but it fits in with the restaurants around here," said Michael Delvalle, 35, of Chicago.

"[McDonald's] tried to make it more Chicago by giving the windows a skyscraper effect," said Katie Sheridan, a Columbia sophomore. "It is futuristic with a hint of modern."

The new store retains a number of familiar McDonald's touches while offering some new amenities. The food selection is the same, but flat screen televisions can be found throughout the restaurant. The dining area includes glass, hanging lights, and granite and stainless steel accents. The trashcans have also changed; they now read "thank you" in many different languages.

And even though the Rock 'n' Roll McDonald's is gone, not all of the musical memorabilia is



Ben Pancoast/The Chronicle

The 50th anniversary flagship McDonald's is open at 600 N. Clark St. The store is equipped with 10 registers, 60-foot-high golden arches, a glass exterior and two drive-thru lanes. The two-story restaurant sits on the same lot as the former Rock 'n' Roll McDonald's.

lost. Sitting beside the new restaurant rests a small, windowed museum—the Rock 'n' Roll Pavilion—which houses some of the remaining rock 'n' roll treasures, including a famous Beatles statue and an Elvis guitar.

Some critics and observers across the world, however, have seen the new opening as an opportunity to argue against some of the fast-food giant's practices, rather than a celebration of the restaurants' 50th year.

Throughout the chain's history, the company has seen it share of controversy. Critics contend that the company's products promote obesity, recently prompting the corporation to introduce salads and fresh fruit, while stripping the super-size option off its

french fries. The Food and Drug Administration has also focused on the company recently, ruling that it will require McDonald's to disclose the amount of trans-fatty acids in their foods by 2006.

In London, anti-McDonald's activists took the opportunity to celebrate 50 years of the chain quite differently. Members of McLibel, an anti-McDonald's organization, stomped on a "McBirthday" cake outside of McDonald's European headquarters on April 15.

Closer to home, about 30 people protested at a downtown Kalamazoo, Mich., location earlier this month to protest a store policy that prohibits customers from remaining on the premises for more than 30 minutes. The

protesters charged that the policy is unfair to the homeless and poor customers, many of whom are served by two nearby homeless shelters.

Buscemi said the McDonald's should be something people will want to experience whether they are Chicagoans or just visiting the city. Even for those living in Chicago, the new store holds a particular appeal.

"It's the American dream," said Karen Judson, a Columbia sophomore. "They are making money off of everyone's fatness, but they're making it classy. And it's working because everyone's excited."

It's an amazing portrayal of where we're at in America right now."

CTA *Continued from Back Page*

"We are hoping we don't have to put this plan into effect at all," said Robyn Ziegler, spokeswoman for CTA.

The CTA's plan will cause a rippling effect that will impact everyone, Ziegler said.

Rounds, who commutes on the Red Line and the 87th Street and Cicero Avenue bus, would have to make some drastic changes to her schedule due to the changes.

"I'd probably come to ask a friend who would take me to work," Rounds said. "This is sad, because the CTA is there, in our neighborhoods, to give us service. To spend a lot more [money] to get where we have to go is just plain ridiculous."

Other Chicagoans around the city were also unhappy with the proposed cuts. Columbia students

who rely on the CTA to get to school, for example, are facing less frequent services leading to significantly longer waits.

"It sucks because you won't be able to go and get a train right away," said Monika Kieca, a Columbia sophomore who uses the Blue Line to make it to class. "It probably won't be as safe, because if you're standing there for a long time you never know what could happen."

Scott Schacter, a Columbia junior, who depends on the CTA, hates the idea of the cutbacks because it will limit his accessibility to the city.

Some Chicagoans are upset about the prospect of driving more often in the congested city.

"I am very upset about it," said Chicagoan Martha Hart, 22. "I

own a car, so I will be forced to drive it more often. It probably won't be a big economic change, but it will be a big disappointment."

The people hit hardest by the cutbacks will be disabled people and senior citizens because they are on fixed incomes, said Cesar Ruvalcaba, a representative for the Campaign for Better Transit and a Columbia alumnus.

"Lower income people don't have options. They have to basically put up with whatever [the] CTA decides to do," Ruvalcaba said.

He believes there are plenty of other options for the CTA to consider.

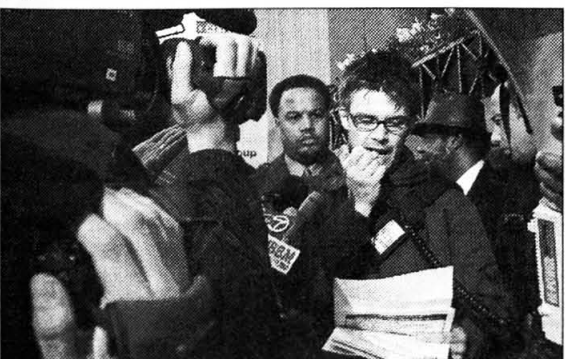
"It's our money that goes to the CTA, but they do what they want with it. We shouldn't be the ones paying for this," Ruvalcaba said.

He said Mayor Richard M. Daley and Gov. Rod Blagojevich are "basically playing pingpong," when they should be stepping up to the plate and working together to find the money.

The CTA does have options besides asking for Springfield funds, Ruvalcaba said, such as applying for state money through TIFs and other grants. He also feels that making cutbacks in the upper management positions of the CTA right now would also help relieve the deficit.

Ruvalcaba urges Chicagoans to contact their aldermen and representatives to push for alternative ways to avoid cutbacks.

"This is a city that works—let's keep it working," Ruvalcaba said.



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Rich Forsythe, owner of the Greater Rockwell Organization, spoke to the crowd in front of City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle, about the possible CTA cutbacks that may occur this year.

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Boss Daley history, humor remembered at celebration

○ Friends, politicians rank UIC among Daley's 'greatest accomplishments'

By Tiffany Breyne
Staff Writer

Despite the cold weather on April 19, many Chicago residents came out to celebrate the 50th anniversary marking the mayor, Richard J. Daley's, first election as mayor of Chicago.

As a tribute to the late mayor, who passed away in office on December 20, 1976, the Chicago Historical Society held a panel discussion on the blustery night about Mayor Daley's 21 years of service to the city. The panel touched on everything from Daley's personality to his stance on controversial issues such as racism.

Moderated by John Callaway, the well known broadcast journalist and host of WTTW's "Chicago Stories" program, the discussion also delved into the policies of Richard J. Daley and his impact on Chicago.

The panel included Thomas O'Gorman, aide to Alderman Ed Burke; John P. Pelissero, profes-

sor of political science at Loyola University Chicago; and Elizabeth Taylor, Chicago Tribune Magazine editor and co-author of *American Pharaoh*, a book about the first Mayor Daley's term in office. Each member of the panel related different personal experiences and anecdotes about the former mayor.

Callaway began the evening on a humorous note, recalling what it was like to interview Daley in the 1950s, a man he said had a constant knowledge of the press.

"The man knew everything," Callaway said. "After he died I had dreams of him every night, like my father had died. He was a father to me, and is still a powerful influence in my life."

Taylor spoke along the same note as she reflected on a moment during her *American Pharaoh* book tour when a man told her that he had two fathers,

one of them being the elder Daley.

The conversation touched on many different aspects of the previous mayor's life and service to the city. Taylor praised him on his ability to speak the language of the neighborhood. O'Gorman pointed out that part of what made him a good mayor was his ability to read people.

"He had an intuitive sense of evaluating character," O'Gorman said. "He could smell you a mile away."

Pelissero added that aside from being a good judge of character, Daley could make lasting connections with people as well.

"More than others, Daley had a better ability to forge relationships," Pelissero said.

The panel talked about the issues that were most difficult for Daley during his years in office, such as racism. Callaway said that many people thought racism was Daley's Achilles' heel.

"People painted Daley as someone who deliberately put up barriers to keep 'them' over there and 'us' over here," Callaway said.

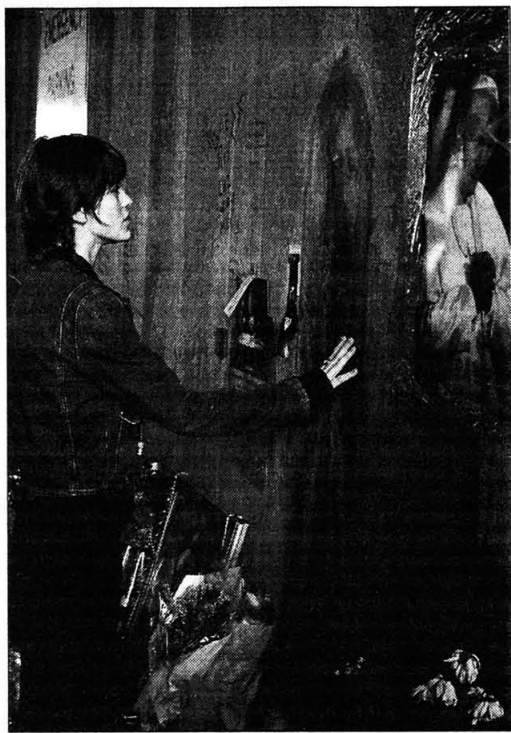
Taylor noted that she didn't like the word racist, but conceded that Richard J. Daley was not enamored with demographic changes in his city, and wanted people to stay in their own neighborhoods. During a brief conversation on Daley's shortcomings, Pelissero pointed out that he "had a fundamental misunderstanding of what people wanted."

The building of the University of Illinois at Chicago is a feat that some say, despite the demolition of the Little Italy neighborhood on the city's West Side, is one of Daley's greatest accomplishments.

"Daley thought it was important that the working people were educated," Taylor said.

At one point an audience member asked the panel to com-

Oh come all ye faithful



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

At the Kennedy Expressway's Fullerton Avenue underpass, curious viewers gather at what they believe is an image of the Virgin Mary appearing as a water stain in a crack in the wall. Flowers and photos fill the site.



AP

The Chicago Historical Society celebrates the 50th anniversary of Richard J. Daley's inauguration on April 19. Daley, his son, Richard M. Daley, and his wife, Eleanor, who died in 2003, are pictured above on the election day, April 13, 1963.

On the lighter side

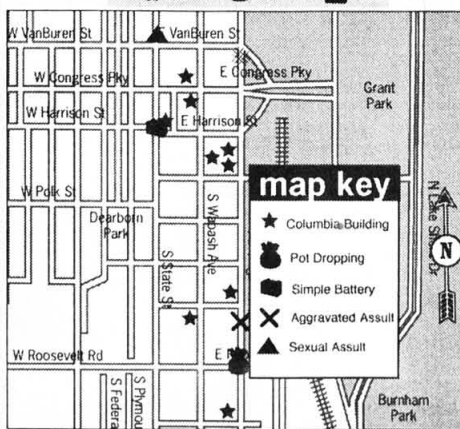
Lesson: don't drop pot in front of the Police

On April 13 at 9:45 p.m., police patrolling in civilian dress observed a 13-year-old male jumping the turnstile without paying fare at the Roosevelt Red Line station. The police announced they were officers and placed the subject in custody. A search of the offender yielded a plastic baggie containing a green, leafy substance, which appeared to be cannabis. While searching the offender, police noticed the offender motioning to another person nearby. The second offender, a 17-year-old male, attempted to discreetly drop another baggie containing the green, leafy substance to the ground. The police saw it and placed him under custody as well, confiscating both bags of cannabis.

The problem with horsing around

Police responded to a call of simple battery at the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., on April 12 at 4:50 p.m. The victim, a 21-year-old male, related that while engaging in a verbal altercation, a 17-year-old male offender pushed him, turning the shouting match into a physical fight. A 19-year-old male witness sustained a broken nose while trying to break up the fight. Another witness observed the three males wrestling on the floor when he entered the room, at which point the authorities called. None of the three men involved pressed any charges.

OFF THE BLOTTER



Jessica Altus/The Chronicle

On a serious note

Sexual assault in library

The police responded to a call about a criminal sexual offense at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., on April 18 at 1:30 p.m. The victim, a 12-year-old male, related that another 12-year-old male who had been using the computer next to him followed him into the restroom in the children's section of the library. The offender harassed him verbally before he sexually assaulted him. The victim told his mother, who informed security. A library security officer noticed a young male matching the description of the offender. He was placed in police custody and taken in for processing.

Assault with gun on CTA bus

Police were informed of an aggravated assault with a handgun on a CTA bus near 500 S. Michigan Ave. on April 13 at 1:30 p.m. The bus driver, a 44-year-old male, related that the offender jumped in front of the CTA bus. The driver allowed the offender, a 40-year-old male, on the bus and told him he should watch traffic more closely. The man became upset, threatening the driver with violence. He then reached into his pocket and brought out what the victim said he felt was a gun as it pressed in his side. The offender left the bus at the next stop and fled southbound on Michigan Avenue. No one has been arrested in connection with this incident.

—All information compiled from records of the 12th District Chicago Police Department by Chronicle staff.

Vanishing vacancies

○ Historic places, empty buildings last stop for developers in South Loop

By Alicia Dorr
City Beat Editor

When Barb Harms moved to the South Loop 11 years ago, the neighborhood was very different than it is today.

Harms was part of the second wave of people to settle in Dearborn Park, a planned community located from Dearborn Station at Polk Street to 18th Street between State and Clark streets developed in 1976 on land that was covered in railroad ties—not buildings. The project's developers designed the neighborhood as a whole, working with what was at the time one of Chicago's notoriously empty areas. By the time Harms moved in, however, she started to witness what she calls a different kind of expansion in the gradually changing South Loop.

"The development in the last few years has been lot by lot, block by block," Harms said.

Despite the ongoing development boom in the South Loop, there are still empty spaces and vacant buildings. While vacant buildings seem increasingly out of place in the South Loop as development in the area continues to skyrocket, historic buildings and those occupied by storage facilities are simply that last stop for real estate developers.

Now, while condos and facilities like the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., have steadily changed the look and feel of the area, the "block by block" development is turning to the few historic spaces and other empty buildings that have been left untouched in the hot market.

New condos and cultural life have sprung up all over the city, making the empty historic buildings and warehouses used for self-storage rarer every day as they are bought, renewed or simply torn down—the last remnants of the old, empty South Loop.

Historic spaces take more time

The South Loop is often cited for its historic architecture—even if the inside of the buildings are empty or in dire need of attention. There are several buildings around Columbia, for instance, that have remained empty for years despite their rich architectural significance and their coveted location.

The Dexter Building, which was designed by the influential architectural firm Adler & Sullivan in 1887, and sits across the street from Columbia's Wabash Campus Building, 623 S.

Wabash Ave., is in a great location. So is the Blackstone Hotel, on Michigan Avenue next to Columbia's South Campus Building, 1624 S. Michigan Ave. The locations are good and the timing is right, so why are these South Loop buildings still unoccupied?

From old owners or squatters battling with the city to the daunting task of updating old buildings, these historic spaces are not as appealing to developers as they may immediately seem. One example of this problem is the Buckingham building, 59-67 E. Van Buren St. The Buckingham, added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2000, has been vacant for almost three years. Designed by Holabird & Root in the Art Deco style for the Buckingham family, the same family who contributed toward the construction of Buckingham Fountain, it does not seem that the building's history has been the problem.

The Buckingham LLC purchased the building in June of 2004, and plans are underway to redevelop the landmark. David Dewey, developer for Brownstone Realty and Development, which is partner-

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Eric Davis/The Chronicle

The Blackstone Hotel, 636 S. Michigan Ave.



David Maki/The Chronicle

The Buckingham Building, 59-67 E. Van Buren St.



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

Dexter Building, 630 S. Wabash Ave.



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

Back of the Harrison Building, 605-609 S. Wabash Ave.

Crystal Meth: Second in a two-part series

Battle against increased meth use, production rages in Illinois

○ Connection between AIDS and meth abuse major concern, officials say

By Amy Wooten
Contributing Writer

In recent months, abuse of the drug methamphetamine has skyrocketed in Chicago. In last week's *Chronicle*, the issue of meth abuse was addressed in part one of a series. Meth abuse and the problems it brings have plagued one area of the city in particular—the Lakeview neighborhood. Public health and law enforcement officials are plotting strategies and hope their concerted efforts will be enough as they face one of the world's most potent drugs head on. Coverage continues this week.

Despite increased media coverage, methamphetamine use and production continues to surge, particularly in Lakeview's gay community. With gay men already at the highest risk for HIV infection, throwing this highly sexual drug into the mix poses a serious health threat. Officials, health professionals, law enforcement and community leaders have attempted to theorize why this incredibly addictive drug has rocked the North Side as they scramble to create an effective plan of attack to combat Illinois' growing meth problem.

According to the Chicago Task Force on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Substance Use and Abuse—a coalition of physicians, social workers, community leaders and city officials—young men who have sex with men are more likely than to use drugs such as marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamines.

In fact, a 2001 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta found that 95 percent of 295 men who had attended circuit parties in the past 12 months said they used at least one illicit drug, including crystal methamphetamine.

Officials from the Chicago

Department of Health are waiting for the results of another study, also sponsored by the CDC which looks at the drug habits of members of Chicago's gay community.

From his personal experience with the Lakeview community, resident Mike M., a recovering addict and Crystal Meth Anonymous member, said bars are (and have been) a main gathering point.

"Not only do we meet in bars, but we meet late into the night, when people felt they would be less recognized or seen on the streets entering the bars," he said.

Many would say that a marginalized group such as the gay community is a target for substance abuse, especially with so many hurdles in the past.

"People are dealing with pain, AIDS, parents, marriage, social pressures and political pressures. But the greatest fear of all [is] HIV," said Marc Cohen, president of the United Foundation for AIDS. "All these are at the crossroads of meeting each other."

Mike M. turned to drugs because of pain and discomfort.

Various organizations and states are tackling the meth issue, afraid

See **Meth**, Page 36

Possible CTA cuts draw Chicago's ire

○ Fares would rise by 25 cents to two dollars

By Hayley Graham
Staff Writer

Heather Rounds, a secretary in the Art and Design Department at Columbia, relies on the Chicago Transit Authority as an integral part of her life.

"Me, my sister and everyone else in Chicago depends on it," Rounds said.

These sentiments come as a reaction to the CTA Board's unanimous vote on April 13 in favor of a plan to cut service and raise fares to cope with a \$55 million budget deficit. The much-debated plan would go into effect July 17 unless

state lawmakers procure the necessary funds to close a more than \$1 million gap in the agency's 2005 budget.

Under the plan, commuters can expect the elimination of 54 bus routes and an increase in fares from \$1.75 to \$2 when paying cash. The CTA also plans to cut about 2,000 jobs.

Rounds said, "To have the CTA [possibly] make these cuts is a slap in the face."

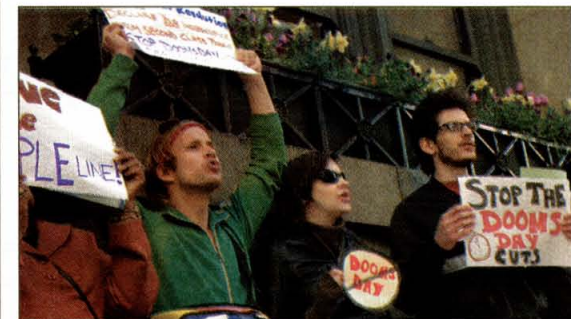
As for students and seniors, discounted rates will raise from 85 cents a ride to a dollar.

See **CTA**, Page 37



AP

The Methamphetamine Manufacturing Chemical Retail Sale Control Act aims to slow the spread of meth by banning over the counter medicine with addictive ingredients.



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Demonstrators gather in front of City Hall April 21 to protest the possible CTA cutbacks that might eliminate jobs and service.