

5-16-2005

## Columbia Chronicle (05/16/2005)

Columbia College Chicago

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# THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Columbia College Chicago's weekly newspaper

## An 'act' of audacity

○ Politically-charged student finds effort to question Patriot Act an uphill battle

By Jeff Danna  
News Editor

It's 1:30 p.m. on May 10 and Samantha Hamlin is sitting in the Hokin Gallery fretting over her notes about the USA Patriot Act that are scribbled in a spiral notebook. In three-and-a-half hours, she will present the Student Government Association with her proposal for a resolution on behalf of Columbia's students that publicly opposes the 2001 act designed to help the U.S. government fight terrorism.

She will have just five minutes to convince the SGA that her proposition warrants support.

Her campaign is something of a longshot. Even though she, like other free speech advocates, believes the Patriot Act allows the government too much access to people's personal lives, there is no guarantee the SGA will agree and back her efforts. On top of that, Hamlin is running out of time this year to make her case for a resolution.

"I would like to put more time into this, but the reason I'm speaking to the student government so soon is because they're getting ready to have elections, and I kind of started this late," said Hamlin, a freshman film major. "Because of elections, they couldn't speak to me any date after today."

For the past 10 days, Hamlin, a

member of the on-campus, progressive student political organization On the Ground, and a couple other members of the group have been spending their free time in front of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., collecting the signatures of students, staff and faculty who support the proposed resolution.

While Hamlin and her cohorts are dedicated to passing a resolution, the Columbia community is divided on the issue of whether it is the SGA's place to be involved in such an act and whether an anti-Patriot Act declaration can influence government's decisions regarding the law.

Despite these concerns, even college faculty organizations and 16 student organizations from 21 schools have approved declarations opposing the Patriot Act. These colleges include the University of California at Berkeley and the University of Wisconsin, which is represented by an outside organization made up of students from UW schools. Also, 379 communities—cities and states—have passed resolutions, including Chicago, New York and Los Angeles. Five of these communities are located in Illinois.

Her project began as an assignment for her Human Rights class, which required that she organize a

campaign focused on promoting civil liberties.

She had been following the controversy surrounding the Patriot Act's alleged effects on Americans' civil liberties since Congress passed it shortly after 9/11 on Oct. 26, 2001, and under the circumstances, she decided to make the act the focus of her class project and a task for On the Ground.

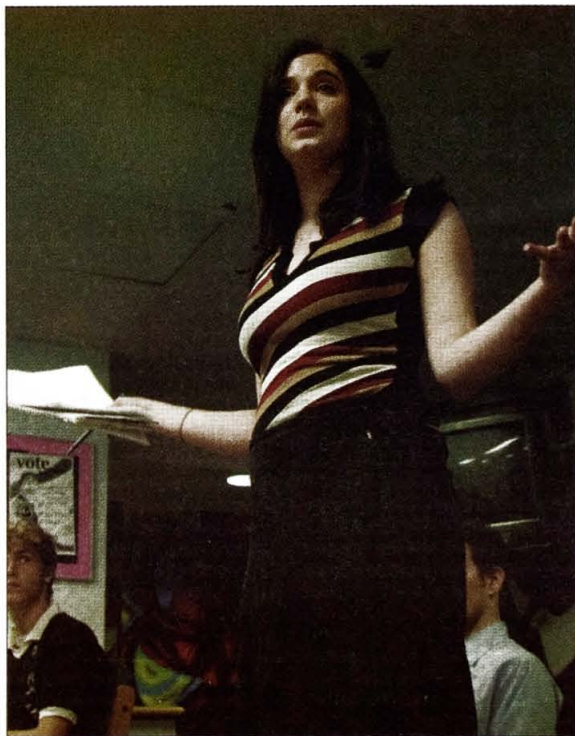
"This is not just something I'm doing for a class," Hamlin said. "This is something I'm passionate about as well, and it's something I knew [On the Ground] would be passionate about. They thought it was a very excellent idea, so we decided to go full-fledged."

### A political past

Politics have been a part of Hamlin's life since she was a child growing up with her parents in Roanoke, Va. Her mother published an information booklet about the Historic Gainesboro district of the city, and Hamlin often accompanied her mother to protests, city council meetings and other political events. Eventually, Hamlin began researching public policy issues and acquiring the information necessary to become an activist herself.

She came to Columbia with the ambition to become a political documentary filmmaker.

"I guess I graduated from high



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Samantha Hamlin, a member of the student activist group On the Ground, expresses her concerns about the USA Patriot Act to the Student Government Association May 10.

school and I felt a strong need to know what I was talking about, because I wanted to go out and share with other people," Hamlin said. "A lot of the people in my high school just were completely apathetic to everything going on around us."

### Community activism

Hamlin's current project stemmed from a campaign she stumbled upon while researching the Patriot Act. While poking around the website of the American

See **Resolution**, Page 6

## Coyotes prowl for more support

○ Default champions plan for future growth

By Alan J. Baker  
Associate Editor

Closing out the season with their best record in team history is a rewarding experience for the Columbia Coyotes, but the team is now stepping back up to the plate in an effort to get more students involved with Columbia's only established sports team.

At a meeting on May 11 in the HUB, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., Coyote President Chris Schroeder met with players Marty Headrick and Mimi Hall, Coyote game announcer Brian Matos and Mike



Alan J. Baker/The Chronicle

Chris Schroeder, president of the Columbia Coyotes and the team's catcher, discusses ways to encourage student involvement with the team

Flavin, head of recruiting, to discuss what should be done next year to draw more students to the games.

"We want to build the student community with our baseball team," Schroeder said. "Most students don't know there is a team."

One option discussed at the meeting was broadcasting next season's games on Columbia's WCRX radio station. According to Matos, a radio broadcasting major, it's just a matter of getting radio students

out of the classroom and into the field, literally.

"If we have our stuff together, it would be relatively easy to broadcast," Matos said. "Our station has covered games for UIC basketball, I don't see why we can't do it for our own Coyotes."

Matos added that if there was some reason the game couldn't broadcast live, there is always the possibility of a time delay or post-

See **Coyotes**, Page 3

## School prepares for early fall start date

○ Students will benefit from changes, officials say

By Jennifer Sabella  
News Editor

In a few weeks, school is officially out for the summer, and while graduating students will walk across the commencement stage, continuing students should mark their calendars because the fall semester starts early this year.

After years of discussion and planning, Columbia's unusual academic calendar is getting a makeover and will soon resemble the calendars of most colleges and universities nationwide.

Under the new schedule, fall semester classes will begin on Sept. 6, instead of the usual late-September start, leaving returning students with a truncated summer.

"It's been about four years in the planning," said Steve Kapelke, provost and vice president of academic affairs. "The faculty and I agreed that it was in the best inter-

est of both the students and the faculty. But primarily, it would provide a more continuous educational experience for the students so that the first semester was not broken up."

The main goal with the new schedule, according to Kapelke, is to streamline the fall semester. Generally, Columbia breaks in December for two weeks, returns for a three-week period and breaks for another three weeks after finals. Under the new schedule, the fall semester will end before the holidays and have an uninterrupted five-week break between semesters.

"Without question [the change] is going to benefit students tremendously. With our present academic schedule, those three weeks after the holiday break when students

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this week



### Commentary

Can we trust the media?

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The latest evolution in film criticism

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Cycling and the city

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## Andrew Greiner

Editor-in-Chief

### Bleeding blue without a Band-Aid

There is a bitter ongoing battle in The Chronicle newsroom, and as sad as it is to say, I am on the losing side. It is a fight that many can identify with; the battle is nothing new. As a matter of fact, it is a Chicago tradition.

It is a battle between Cubs fans and Sox fans. And those damn Sox fans actually have something to talk about this year.

The newsroom fight hasn't gotten physical yet, which is surprising considering how many brawls normally break out at U.S. Cellular Field.

No, The Chronicle office battle is masked with niceties like, "Hey, saw your Cubs the other night ... looking sharp, man. That LaTroy Hawkins is something."

As a Cubs fan, this type of cordiality comes with a sting that's worse than a South Sider's left hook. I have no retort. All I can do is sheepishly hand over the remote for the newsroom television and try to enjoy watching the White Sox cream their competition. I am afraid to watch this year's Windy City Classic, which begins at Wrigley Field this weekend, because I'm pretty sure the Cubs are going to miss some of the snot that the Sox will inevitably beat out of them.

So in order to put a stop to all the snide remarks, comments, observations and musings, I figure it's time for me to just come clean.

Alright you guys—and you know who you are—here it is: The Cubs stink and the South Siders' kick butt. No need to tell me about the Sox' record or their pitching or their lineup, since I

already know it is better than the Cubs. (Does anyone have any Peptol-Bismol?)

The only way that I can prevent the bile from shooting out of my gut after admitting to that statement is to look at the silver lining that comes from this year's lousy cub play.

At least they are showing their losing form early in the season and I don't have to waste another summer biting my nails, while the Cubbies lead me on with above-average play and toy with my emotions only to let me down at the last minute. I won't feel any heartbreak this summer, because the romance isn't developing. It's barely even a spring fling.

The funny thing is that because the Cubs are not-so-hot, everything feels just right in Cubdom, as if the last two seasons, which had the Cubs in contention, were just a dream. The 2003 season, the last time the Cubs made the playoffs, is a sweet but fading memory, and the idea of the Cubs taking a pennant is once again laughable. Ahhh.

The Cubs are playing back at their own level as of late, while the men in black are playing out of their minds. For anyone who hasn't been paying attention—that could be a lot of people, seeing as how the Sox usually don't get that much attention—the South Siders have the best record in baseball and are tearing their way through the American League. They keep putting together inspiring winning streaks and keep executing. These guys are getting it done by employing manager Ozzie Guillen's new strategy: playing small ball.

The Cubs, on the other hand,

are getting it done by employing a tried and true strategy: play a weak outfield, a piss poor bullpen, injury-prone starting pitchers and a patchwork offense full of bench players.

I'm not alone in calling them out; Cubs fans' overall disappointment is clear. A Comcast Sportsnet User poll asked fans what position needs the most improvement on the Cubs. Fifty percent said that it was Manager Dusty Baker. Similarly, a recent ESPN.com poll asked its users to vote on the most overrated and underrated baseball figures: Sixty four percent said that Dusty Baker is the most overrated manager in the major leagues.

The results of that same ESPN poll, by the way, named Kerry Wood, the Cubs oft-maligned ace, the most overrated starting pitcher with forty two percent of the vote.

What's worse is that ESPN's users voted Mark Buehrle, the White Sox ace, as the most underrated pitcher in the majors. As if the White Sox supporters in the office needed any more ammunition for shooting holes in Cubs fans' egos.

So c'mon guys, you handful of Sox fans, you elated Guillenites, let's call a truce.

Enjoy your season in the sun, because if I know anything about Chicago sports, the feeling won't last long. We all know that the Sox are better than the Cubs this year—it's written all over the Cubs' faces. There's no need to rub it in.

—agreiner@chroniclemail.com

## In This Issue

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Supplement A&E

### Announcements

#### ■ Signing off

As part of Manifest, the Radio Department presents its Senior Showcase on May 17. The audio exhibition will feature audio documentaries and radio production of news, sports and more in the C33 Gallery, 33 E. Congress Parkway, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.wcrx.net](http://www.wcrx.net).

#### ■ Poetry party

The English Department presents a Columbia Poetry Review Reading and Publication Release Party on May 19. The party will feature readings from the spring term contributors to the Columbia Poetry Review in the Collins Hall of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., at 5:30 p.m. 2005 Eileen Lannan Poetry Prize winners will also be announced.

For more information, contact the English Department at (312) 344-8125.

#### ■ A journalist speaks

On May 16, a Colombian jour-

nalist will speak in the Blum Room on the 5th Floor of Columbia's library in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave. The discussion will center on the difficult lives of reporters and journalists in the politically unstable country. The presentation begins at 1 p.m.

#### ■ Premiere Night

The Television Department presents its Premiere Night on May 20. The event will feature student-run programs such as Newsbeat, Out on a Limb, Frequency TV and Metro Minutes.

The screenings will take place on the 15th Floor of the Main Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave., at 6 p.m.

#### ■ Literature liquidation

Columbia's library will hold its first annual book sale May 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the 3rd Floor in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave. Prices for books will start at 25 cents.

For more information, contact Carol Gulyas at (312) 344-7072.

## Will you see 'Star Wars: Episode III?'



"Probably so. This one's probably better than the two most recent ones."

—Issa Muhammad, Alumnus (1998), Sound



"Yeah, because I've seen the other ones. I think all of [the other films] have been leading up to this."

—Aileen Arellano, Senior, Advertising Art Direction

"I don't think so. I'll wait till it comes out [on video]. I wasn't happy with the second one. It was really sappy."

—John Buonomo, Junior, Product Design



"Maybe, I've heard about it. I'm not really a Star Wars type of person."

—Petia Manolova, Senior, Fashion Design



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

### AccuWeather 7-day forecast for Chicago

Monday, May 16		
	Mostly sunny	High 66° Low 46°
Tuesday, May 17		
	Sunny to partly cloudy	High 68° Low 50°
Wednesday, May 18		
	Mostly cloudy with showers	High 72° Low 54°
Thursday, May 19		
	Mostly cloudy with showers	High 70° Low 52°
Friday, May 20		
	Partly sunny	High 68° Low 48°
Saturday, May 21		
	Mostly sunny	High 70° Low 48°
Sunday, May 22		
	Sunshine and some clouds	High 67° Low 38°

All forecasts provided by—  
AccuWeather.com—©2005

### 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](mailto:chronicle@colum.edu).

## Center connects students with pros

○ New one-stop-shop encourages portfolio reviews

By J. Diamond Weathersby  
Staff Writer

Nestled on the third floor of Columbia's Wabash Campus Center, 623 S. Wabash Ave., is a place dedicated to helping upperclassmen and recent graduates come up with innovative, professional ways to present their work samples to prospective employers.

Established last year, the Portfolio Center offers a host of services including several programs and workshops that assist students in compiling a portfolio, of their best undergraduate work with the purpose of acquiring employment in their field of study.

Some of the center's primary programs include Show-Off, a portfolio review where students network and get feedback from industry professionals about their portfolios; Portfolio Sessions, in which Columbia alumni visit to discuss

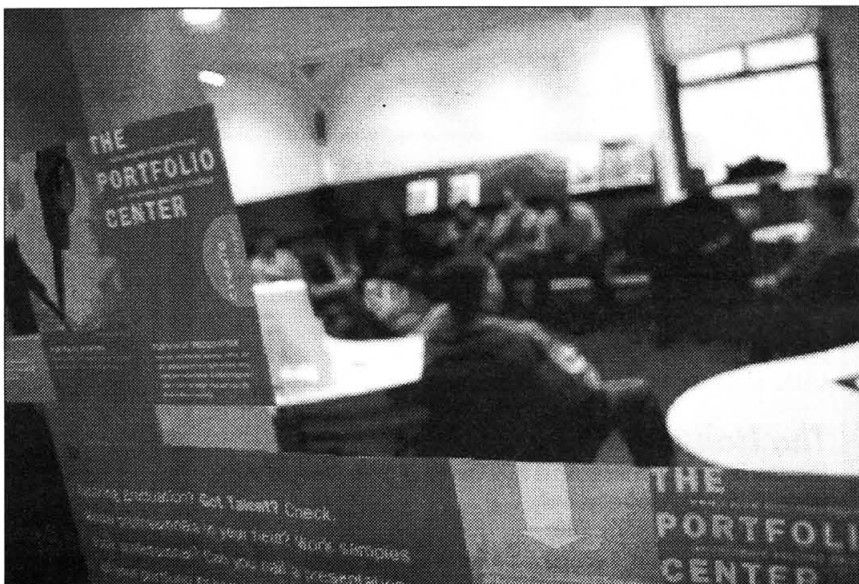
their portfolios and experiences as industry professionals; Visiting Professionals, in which a professional from a selected industry is on location one day a week for 10 to 12 weeks of the semester to offer career counseling and share his or her personal experiences with individual students and classes; Archive, an online collection of student and alumni portfolios; and Portfolio Production, in which skilled Columbia students are hired by the center to help format and document the work of graduating seniors.

"We have all this talent at the college," said Tim Long, director of the Portfolio Center. "We just try to help students get their portfolios to a professional level to take to their industry. We act as the facilitators, helping students get hooked up with valuable resources and people."



David Mak/The Chronicle

Ron Lipski (left), a film and video student, shows his portfolio to Kirkland Tibbles, CEO and producer of Funny Boy Films, at the Portfolio Center, 623 S. Wabash Ave.



David Mak/The Chronicle

Students assemble in the Portfolio Center in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., as the Center's staff members explain how students can get their collection of work reviewed by various industry professionals.

The Portfolio Center staff members also want to emphasize the importance of having a quality portfolio in terms of job acquisition and career placement.

"It's really important for students to understand how vital it is for them to have a quality, final body of work, or portfolio," said Matt Green, industry relations coordinator for the Portfolio Center. "It's one thing to be talented, but it can be another thing to be able to encapsulate that through your work, to be able to put [work] together in a way to get a job."

Columbia is the only college in the nation to have a full-service hub like the Portfolio Center, according to Kristin Scott, marketing and events coordinator for the center.

"While other colleges have portfolio programs, we're the only college in the country that offers all of these programs and events in one

place," Scott said.

On a typical day at the Portfolio Center, several senior students and recent graduates arrive for Show-Offs, while students of any grade level come to browse the online archive of portfolios.

Columbia senior Katie Ricca participated in a Show-Off where representatives from Upshot, a Chicago-based marketing agency, came to review art direction portfolios for several hours on a Friday afternoon. Ricca, a graphic design major, liked having her portfolio reviewed and appreciates the fact that all of the Portfolio Center's services are free to students.

"It's very nice to have someone review your portfolio without the pressure of a real interview," Ricca said. "Having someone who does it for free is very good. It was very helpful."

Columbia alumnus and Upshot

representative Raul Vallines encourages students to take advantage of all the college's resources, including the Portfolio Center.

"When you're here [at Columbia], you need to be getting as much as possible," Vallines said. "Your [work] is like your business card. It's also about your vibe, your personality. Some of our strongest talent comes from Columbia."

The Portfolio Center emphasizes the fact that portfolio development actually begins in the classroom. The staff recommends students keep track of their best projects and take advantage of internship and work experience opportunities.

For more information on the Portfolio Center and its programs, or to view the online archive collection of portfolios, go to [www.colum.edu/portfolio](http://www.colum.edu/portfolio).

## Coyotes *Continued from Front Page*

ing it online through the team website.

Perhaps one of the more effective ways to carry the team name around campus is branding a team logo among students, Headrick said.

A new logo is on the drawing board for next season to replace the current Columbia College double "C." The team decided it could hold logo design contest for students. Meanwhile the bookstore has started selling Columbia Coyotes merchandise.

Schroeder is also trying to schedule events during future Manifest celebrations, such as a barbecue and ball game between players and students. At this year's Manifest, the team is hoping to give out T-shirts.

As support from the student body grows, so will the team, Schroeder said.

Within two years Schroeder would like to become a Division III team, which means only Columbia students could play. It would also make the team eligible to join the National Club Baseball Association, a league consisting of more than 100 teams from around the country.

"It would give [the Coyotes] a guaranteed conference to play in,"

said Sandy Sanderson, president of NCBA. "They would be placed in the Great Lakes West conference, a great opportunity for their team."

For a move to the NCBA, the team would have to ensure they have enough student players for the next few years.

"We'll have to facilitate a team for the long term," Schroeder said.

The Coyotes were established five years ago as a club baseball team, which means anybody with Columbia affiliation was allowed to join, such as students, teachers and alumni.

Since then, the Coyotes have been competing against club teams from schools such as Northwestern University, DePaul University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Northeastern Illinois University, College of Lake County and a Navy league team.

The Coyotes had a rough start during their first three years, walking away with eight wins and 26 losses. During the past two years, the team has seen a significant turnaround, with 15 victories and only six losses.

"The players were really starting to push themselves to succeed and that's great to see," Coyotes

Coach Anthony Piccoli said. "They come out and want to play, now that's really starting to show."

Last season the Coyotes walked away champions of the Wisconsin-Illinois Baseball Conference tournament, defeating Northwestern University.

Unfortunately, because of scheduling conflicts and exam schedules between the participating schools, the 2005 WIBC tournament was canceled and the Coyotes were crowned champions by default, Piccoli said.

Howard Schlossberg, the faculty advisor for the Coyotes, agrees that last year's WIBC victory helped bring the team to the forefront and he hopes it continues to grow from here.

"Sports is considered entertainment, and we are a media, arts and entertainment school," Schlossberg said. "I think sports definitely fits into Columbia's mission."

Schroeder agreed and is trying to use the resources of fellow students and friends to help the Coyotes become mainstream.

All Coyote home games are played at the University of Illinois at Chicago's Les Miller Field on Roosevelt Road, which is close to

Columbia's South Loop campus.

"We moved to UIC to get a fan base going there," Piccoli said. "It's working. It's fun to see fans out there when playing."

The first game of the season attracted close to 40 fans, and the following games averaged about 25.

"I think students are aware of the team," Schlossberg said. "The vast majority are just not going."

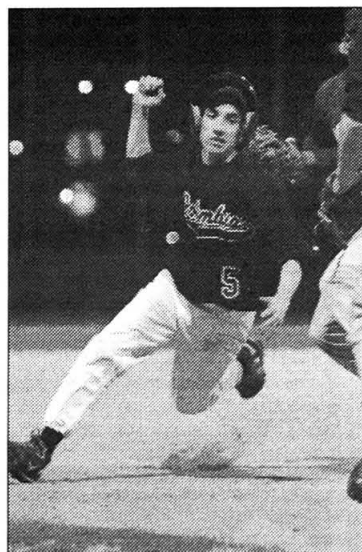
Since the baseball team started at Columbia, there has also been an interest in establishing a women's softball and soccer team among students, Schlossberg said.

"I think it would be great if we started seeing more sports teams here at Columbia," Schlossberg said. "Besides winning and the teamwork aspect, it's another way to get our school's name out there."

"The players have gone beyond the call of duty this year and I'm proud of every one of them," Piccoli said.

"They are pushing themselves to succeed both on and off the field for the team, and that's the best joy I could ask for."

For more information on the Columbia Coyotes, visit their website, [www.columbaseball.com](http://www.columbaseball.com).



File

Brian Kovar in action during a recent Coyotes game.



# 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

### The Halftime Show

Frequency TV goes behind the scenes of WCIU Channel 26 sports production of Chicago Public Schools basketball finals.

MWFSu: 10:30a TRSa: 7:30p

### Afterwards

A profile show of a celebrated and successful Columbia College alumni and their work of art. This week's featured artist: Rea Frey, Author & Amateur Boxer.

MWFSu: 11:30a TRSa: 8:30p

### Undergrad

A short drama that follows five college students who face life and love in the Windy City. This week's episode: B.Y.O.B.

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 H<sub>2</sub>O Winter Classic.

MWFSu: 11:30p

(NL) National Lampoon Network Programming

Do you want to volunteer for our live television production of Manifest 2005? Contact:

**Frequency TV**

Columbia College Television Dept.

312.344.8509

frequencytv@colum.edu

**The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago**  
1014 S. Michigan at 11<sup>th</sup> St.

## Concert Hall Events

### Jazz Gallery

in the lobby Monday at 12:30 pm

#### Monday May 16

Analytical Studies Brass Concert 6:00 PM

#### Tuesday May 17

Groove Band Recital 3:00 PM

Nick Gutierrez Senior Recital 7:00 PM

#### Wednesday May 18

Jazz Guitar Recital 12:30 PM

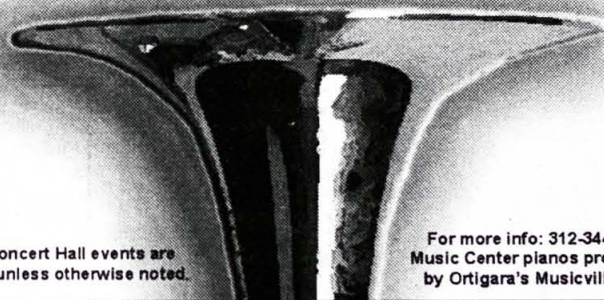
#### Thursday May 19

Drum & Percussion Recital 12:30 PM

Combo Fest 6:00 PM

#### Friday May 20

Jonathan Gauger Senior Recital 7:30 PM



All Concert Hall events are free unless otherwise noted.

For more info: 312-344-6300  
Music Center pianos provided by Ortigara's Musicville, Inc.

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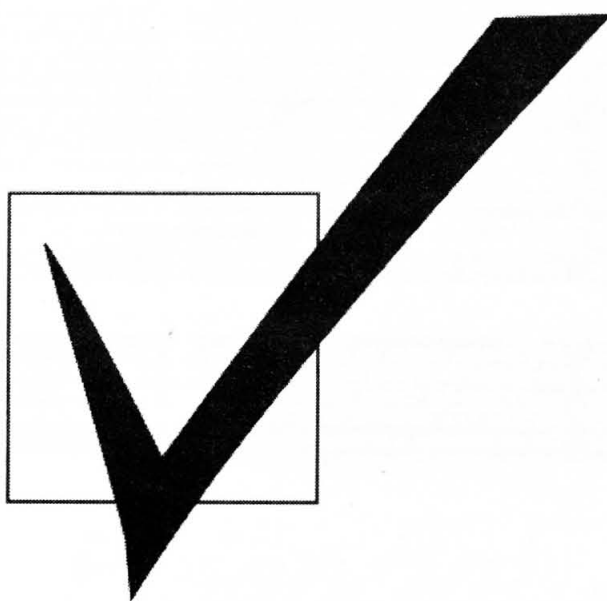
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# Vote for your SGA Senators!



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Computer labs will be available for your voting during ELECTIONS WEEK May 16th- 20th, 2005

Sponsored by the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Leadership



# 'Jammin' with Jane' supports abuse victims

○ Two Columbia classes get a lesson in fund raising for a "difficult" cause

By Colleen Sheehan  
Staff Writer

Putting together any kind of special event to raise money can be quite a task, but when there are 65 people and no budget, it is just plain difficult. Columbia's Marketing Promotions and Special Events classes have come together with those parameters to take on the difficult task of raising money for the nonprofit organization Family Rescue.

Family Rescue provides assistance to victims of domestic violence and promotes prevention through community education. Most of the program's money comes from federal, state and city grants, along with private donations.

"It's really nice that someone else is doing the fund raising," said Tara Dabney, spokeswoman for Family Rescue, "because if we did it, the money would have to come from our pockets to cover costs."

The event, "Jammin' with Jane," takes place at John Barleycorn Pub, 658 W. Belden Ave., on May 20 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Appetizers and drinks will be provided, and a '50s and '60s cover band, the Soda Jerks, is slated to perform.

The "Jammin' with Jane" event is named after instructor Jane Canepa, who teaches both Marketing Promotions and Special Events classes in the Marketing and Communications Department. Canepa also runs Eventors, a public relations firm that plans and stages special events. Canepa said the event was named after her seven years ago when a student decided to call it "Jammin' with Jane," and the name stuck.

"Every year I tell my students they can change the name, but they

never do," Canepa said. "It's more like a tradition now."

Canepa said the idea of her classes planning special events began about 14 years ago. The first event was organized in 1991, when her students threw a small party at the Chicago Marriott. It has now moved on to fund-raisers for nonprofit organizations.

"Instead of giving them a 20-page paper as a final exam, they actually put together something real and tangible that they can all participate in," Canepa said.

Students get only one month to organize the event with no budget, and all 65 students have to agree on where the event should take place and which organization they should help. On top of all that, the two classes never meet at the same time, so they do not directly work with each other.

To avoid confusion, a person from each class is chosen to do internal communications through e-mails and phone calls. Dayna Dixon, one of the students in charge of internal communications, said it was exciting to see everything come together.

"We start out with zero dollars and created an event that is not only going to happen but we are also making money for Family Rescue," Dixon said. "It's pretty amazing."

In order to plan a successful party, Canepa divides the classes into groups. Each group covers a specific task that Canepa feels is important to a successful event. The site committee is in charge of finding a location, negotiating and filing a contract. Entertainment, advertising and public relations committees assist in planning the event.

Every year the event takes place

at a different establishment for a different nonprofit group. Canepa said she has seen many successful events planned by students—as well as ones that were not successful. One low point was when a class held a potluck party in the faculty lounge, which failed to raise any funds or awareness on how to organize a special event. Canepa said the most successful student-planned event was a fundraiser for Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation last year at the Rock Bottom Brewery, which earned a record \$5,300.

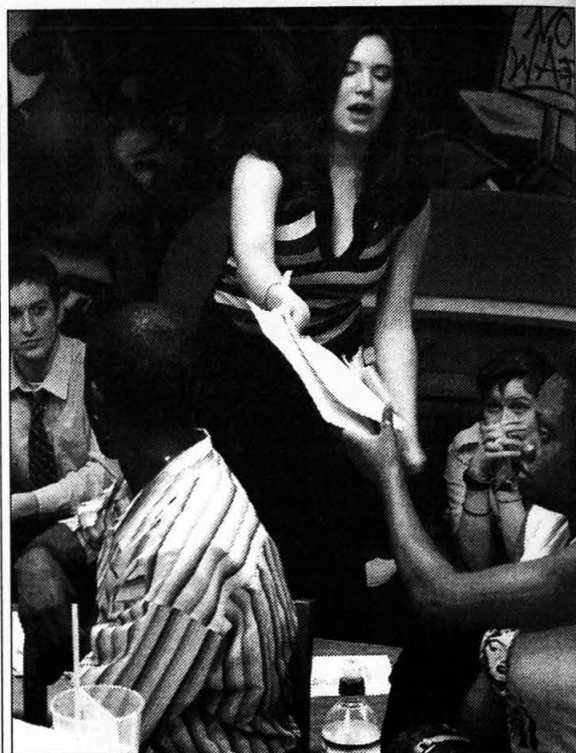
Marianne Wiedeman, a student in charge of public relations for the event, said the class's goal for this year's event is \$5,000. She explained that only \$5 of the \$20 ticket fee goes to Family Rescue. Canepa explained that this is the same problem real-world special events coordinators face when doing work for non-profit groups. The money that does not go to Family Rescue will go to John Barleycorn and toward other expenses.

Wiedeman explained that the class anticipates about \$500 in ticket costs and the rest of the goal money should come from a silent auction that will take place at the party.

Tara Nance, a student and volunteer at Family Rescue, and Dabney said the class is doing a great thing. Adding that some people who wanted to volunteer for Family Rescue didn't because they do not want other people to think they were being abused.

"Domestic violence and rape are the most difficult issues to raise money for," Dabney said.

For more information on Family Rescue, call the 24-hour hotline at (773) 375-8400.



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Samantha Hamlin hands out information during a May 10 SGA meeting. The SGA decided not to support Hamlin's anti-Patriot Act proposal. Student government officials said they did not support the petition because they are not a political organization.

## Resolution *Continued from Front Page*

Civil Liberties Union, she learned the ACLU was encouraging colleges and communities across the country to pass similar resolutions.

Hamlin believes these efforts are particularly urgent now because they would come just seven months before certain provisions in the Patriot Act are up for renewal in Congress.

"These resolutions generate discussion and dialogue about the Patriot Act that hasn't happened," said Ed Yohnka, director of communications for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois. Even though the resolutions do not directly affect the Patriot Act or future decisions made about it, they do send a message to lawmakers that people are concerned about its implications, Yohnka said.

"Twice in the last two years, Congress has voted to limit funding for the Patriot Act," he explained. "That means they are listening to these resolutions."

The ACLU does not officially sponsor these anti-Patriot Act measures, but the organization's website provides information on how to go about drafting, promoting and eventually passing a resolution. This is how Hamlin got started. She contacted the ACLU and a representative explained the process to her. Shortly after drafting the resolution, Hamlin hit the streets with her petition.

"You don't need any signatures, technically, but I wanted to, for one thing, educate the people of Columbia," she said. "I've found that a lot of people don't know about the Patriot Act here. Most of the people who did not sign [the petition] just did not know what it was."

### Good help is hard to find

Putting together the resolution was the easy part—finding help was another story. On the Ground is made up of only a handful of members who were

not necessarily able to assist. Others, while supportive of Hamlin's cause, weren't prepared to make a campaign their top priority. Some people offered to take petitions to their classes but not lobby on the street.

Eventually, two friends came to her rescue: Stephen Lieto, a freshman arts and entertainment media management major, and Kim Hilton, a sophomore photography major, both members of On the Ground. Together, the three of them acquired 470 signatures from students and faculty to supplement their SGA proposal. Hamlin's original goal was 1,500 signatures, but due to time constraints, she fell short. However, she said she was pleased with the results of her campaign after just a week-and-a-half.

Although some people were reluctant to aid Hamlin in what she said is a tiring task of petitioning, Lieto and Hilton were happy to help. "Sam was the only one pretty much going out and getting those signatures," Lieto said. "I went out one time and got about 40 signatures."

"I was impressed and eager to back up a friend," Lieto said. "She's one of the most conscious people about what's going on in this country I know."

### Building awareness

Part of the campaign involved chatting with students and making students aware of some aspects of the Patriot Act that Hamlin believes are alarming. "Communication between people and just talking to other people one-on-one and not lecturing at them—I think that's the number one way of educating them," Hamlin said.

Her concerns lie primarily in particular sections of the Patriot Act, especially those set to

See Resolution, Page 9

## Calendar *Continued from Front Page*

return is described by students and by faculty as lost time," said Mark Kelly, vice president of student affairs. "You're in the middle of the semester, you're nearing completion and all of the energy of the class is dissipated."

Kelly said students and faculty have been supportive of the change, adding that it has been on their minds for many years.

"Faculty and students have been requesting this since I arrived on this campus 21 years ago," Kelly said. "The decision is long overdue."

Sophomore film major Devlin McCluskey said he does not mind the short summer and thinks the schedule needed a makeover.

"It makes sense to be like every other school," McCluskey said. "It's weird to have a break in the middle [of the fall semester] and be expected to remember everything you learned."

Kapelke said the main reasons for the change were academic, but said it has other perks as well.

"[The new calendar] provides students the opportunities for summer jobs and summer internships that they currently don't have because our spring semester gets out so much later than everyone else's," Kapelke said. "Under the new calendar, our spring semester will be ending at just about the same time that other colleges do. Our students should be well positioned to take advantage of opportunities for summer work and internships."

Officials said students coming to Columbia from various parts of the country are also benefiting from the change. Two breaks in the fall semester make for more traveling costs and more stress, Kapelke said.

Although faculty and returning students have a shorter summer this year, it will not be that way for long. The spring 2006 semester ends on May 13, allowing the standard 16-week summer to return next year.

Kelly said a lot of work goes into changing the calendar, especially when it is something the college has relied on for so many years.

"I think there was possibly a tendency in the past to say 'well this is the way we do it,'" Kelly said. "There's a greater willingness of the college now to not assume that any practice has to stay the same. Our mission and purposes remain sacred but many practices can change and should change. This is an example of one that is [changing]."

### Dates to remember:

- Spring 2005 semester ends - **June 4, 2005**
- Fall 2005 semester begins - **Sept. 6, 2005**
- Fall 2005 semester ends - **Dec. 17, 2005**
- Spring 2006 semester begins - **Jan. 23, 2006**
- Spring 2006 semester ends - **May 13, 2006**



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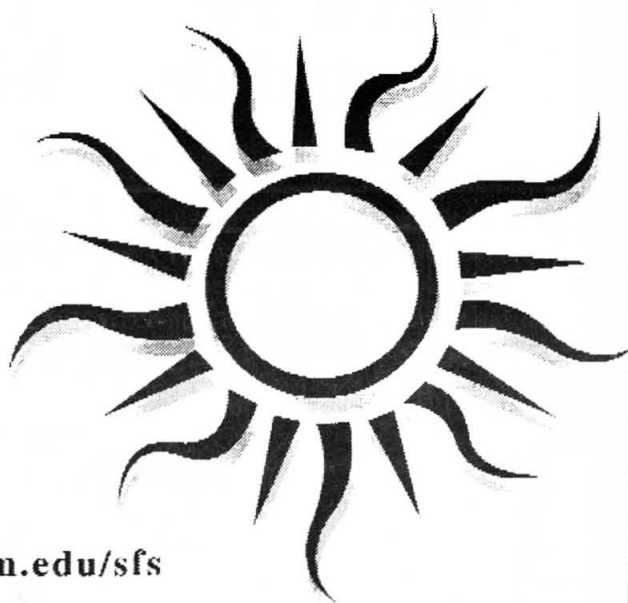
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# Grant set to improve quality of education

○ Title 3 to promote stronger ties, retention and intervention, officials say

By Stephanie Rycraw  
Staff Writer

Thanks to a \$1.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Columbia plans to give students more of what they have come to expect from the institution: an artistic, real-world collegiate experience, designed to help them achieve their goals.

College officials intend on using the grant to improve Oasis, to launch the Freshman Seminar program and to boost the college's retention rates.

The Strengthening Institutions Grant, or Title 3 Grant for short, is a five-year award intended "for institutions of higher education that say that they have very specific weaknesses that need to be addressed," said Lona Livingston, director of corporate and foundation relations for Columbia's Office of Institutional Advancement.

Livingston, co-writer of the proposal for the Title 3 Grant, said a meeting was held two years ago to identify three core issues facing Columbia.

"We went to the government with three components," Livingston said. "To address the issue of increasing our graduation rate, by creating a very strong first-year foundation, by enhancing both the face-to-face and online advising, so students don't take courses they don't need."

Livingston also said the final component was intervention.

"Identifying students by their attitude or their grades, that alerts that they might be at risk of dropping out," she said. "We are below the rate for other four-year open enrollment institutions," Livingston said.

According to Livingston, the college has aggressive plans for the grant, which are tentatively scheduled to roll out in September. Plans begin with the Freshman Seminar program, which will be mandatory for all incoming freshmen by 2009. Livingston said the primary goal of Freshman Seminar is to foster a four-year relationship between students and faculty.

"We're trying to make the whole freshman year experience more accessible so that students can identify with the school," she said.

Officials said the Title 3 Grant will also be used to make the Oasis system more user-friendly for students as well as faculty, and address Columbia's low graduation rate.

"We will coordinate all of our learning resources so that we will be better able to identify students who are at risk of dropping out," Livingston said.

Mark Lloyd, assistant vice president of marketing and communications, said the five-year grant will assist the college in implementing curriculums designed to introduce

first-year students to college-level work.

"Historically, this is a first-generation opportunity college," Lloyd said. "Some of our students are not academically prepared to handle a rigorous college curriculum."

In addition to enhancing the first-year program and overall collegiate experience, Lloyd said the Title 3 Grant will finance initiatives aimed at ensuring students are prepared to attend and ultimately graduate from Columbia. According to Lloyd, Columbia uses an "industry standard" six-year plan in determining the school's graduation rate. Using the fall 1999 to spring 2005 demographic, Lloyd said Columbia is nearly 10 percent below other open-admission, private nonprofit college and universities.

"We definitely have room for improvement," said Elizabeth Silk, director of institutional research.

Silk said that, according to research conducted by the American College Testing Program, which uses a five-year plan to measure graduation rates, Columbia's graduation rate is 29 percent, compared with the 44 percent graduation of other private institutions.

Lloyd said the most common reason students leave Columbia is financial. Some of the students transfer to other institutions while others leave school to work. Lloyd

## A night of light



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

A giant puppet looms in the First Floor store front of the University Center, 525 S. State St. on May 13. Luna Fortuna, a preview to the June 3 Spectacle Fortuna parade gives a glimpse into the artwork set to parade down Wabash Ave.

pointed out that some students have benefited from taking classes taught by working professionals at Columbia, which has prepared them to successfully work in their chosen fields without earning a degree.

"They work because they must," Lloyd said.

While many students may wonder whether any of the Title 3 funds will go toward scholarships or

building the much anticipated student center, these prospects are unlikely, according to Livingston.

"All of our attention and all of our money goes into the classrooms to ensure students have the best equipment and technology," Livingston said. "We were told to think where the school has to be in five years, and we have a wonderful opportunity to help students reach their dreams."

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# Resolution Continued from Page 6

expire Dec. 31. One such section up for renewal, Section 215, amends the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 by giving the FBI the ability to investigate a citizen's personal items, such as library and medical records, provided the investigation is pertinent to acquiring foreign intelligence or fighting terrorism.

Section 213 will not be renewed. This section of the act includes

"sneak and peek" procedures, which means notification of a warrant to search and seize a person's possessions can be delayed. Notification, according to the Patriot Act, must be given "within a reasonable period of its execution" and can be extended if a court finds that "good cause is shown."

Hamlin and her helpers believe provisions such as these violate people's civil liberties.

"I will say I feel it's necessary to have some type of mechanism to fight terrorism. I'm certainly not pro-terrorist or anything of that sort," Hamlin said. "However, what I am opposed to in the Patriot Act is the way they define terrorism. ... Basically, they say a terrorist is anyone who is suspected and may cause some kind of danger to the American public. And that, quite frankly, could be a common criminal; that could be me."

While Hamlin said she found people who were unfamiliar with

the Patriot Act, Yohnka said he noticed people still showing support for or protesting the act, even if they are not well versed in the language.

"Everyone in America has a view about the Patriot Act," he said. If people have not read the

**"She's one of the most conscious people about what's going on in this country I know."**

**—Stephen Lieto, On the Ground member, on Samantha Hamlin**

actual document, he explained, they at least grasp the concepts behind it and, in some cases, take a stand against it. "I intuitively have faith in the American people."

According to the results of a March Gallup Poll, Americans are generally unfamiliar with the Patriot Act. Thirteen percent of Americans who responded to the survey reported being "very familiar" with the act, while 46 percent reported being "somewhat familiar." And 41 percent said they are "not too" or "not at all familiar."

Emily Slusher, president of the Columbia College Young Republicans, said that often people base their opinions about the Patriot Act on popular opinion rather than taking the time to research the law.

Not only is Slusher an advocate of the Patriot Act, she is also opposed to Hamlin's proposal to the SGA, arguing that it's not the student government's place to pass an anti-Patriot Act resolution on behalf of all Columbia students, who might have differing political beliefs.

"I believe the Patriot Act helps to maintain security in the country," Slusher said. "I think with the way the world is working, the provisions being made are important."

Despite opposing beliefs, Hamlin, Lieto and Hilton were prepared to make their case to the SGA. And as Hamlin put the finishing touches on her presentation, her hopes were high. If the resolution passed, a copy would be sent to various government officials, from Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich to President George W. Bush.

"I hope to get student government to pass it because this resolution is something passed by students," Hamlin said. "We don't need approval from administration. It's just students agreeing to pass this on behalf of themselves. If student government does pass it, we can contact the ACLU. We can get national recognition for having passed this and join that list of universities. I think that would be very exciting and very good for our school."

As the SGA runs through its standard procedures during its May 10 meeting, Hamlin, Lieto and Hilton sit patiently on the sidelines, notes in hand, waiting for the opportunity to present their resolution.

When their turn comes, Hamlin is first to speak. She is dressed in the same sweater vest and long black skirt she wore in the Hokin; her makeup is applied tastefully. She passes out copies of the resolution to SGA members and explains her mission. Hilton follows, pointing out what she sees as some of

the problems with the Patriot Act, such as the "sneak and peek" procedures. Lieto discusses some of the resolution's implications. He points out that it would encourage Columbia's library to post signs warning students about Section 215, which gives the FBI the ability to search people's library records without notice.

After the group's five-minute spiel, it's the SGA's turn to comment on the resolution. For about 30 minutes, the student government debates the measure and suggests several amendments, including a provision that would require On the Ground to obtain signatures from at least 51 percent of Columbia's students before the SGA could vote on the measure.

But in the end, the resolution received only two favorable votes.

## Sizing up the vote

"We chose not to take a political position on this," said SGA senator Brian Matos, who voted against the measure. "We want to stay independent because we can't speak for every student." He said the SGA members' voting did not necessarily reflect their personal feelings about the Patriot Act.

"As a citizen of this country, I support [On the Ground's] efforts to not support the Patriot Act," said Jamie Fox, chair of academic concerns for the SGA. "But as a member of the SGA, I feel our organization is not an organization that can make statements of a political nature."

The On the Ground members said they were impressed with how the SGA handled debating the measure and even took a liking to

the proposed amendment that would have required the group to acquire signatures from more than half of the student body.

But they were also disappointed. "I think they were confused about what their power is and what it would mean if they approved this," Hilton said after the meeting. Because she believes the Patriot Act limits everyone's civil liberties, passing the resolution would have been acting in the best interest of all students.

When Michael Weinberg, vice president of the Columbia College Young Republicans heard about the SGA's decision, he said he was pleased. He suggested Hamlin and her friends find an alternative way of spreading their message, such as a debate between students of opposing ideologies.

But Weinberg said he admired Hamlin's efforts to be politically active.

"By Samantha doing it, no matter how much I disagree, it raised awareness," Weinberg said.

As for Hamlin, the resolution's original mastermind, she's looking forward to continuing the campaign with the help of On the Ground and presenting a more in-depth proposal to the SGA in the fall—just in time for Congress' vote on the Patriot Act's expiring provisions.

Hamlin said she plans on revising the petition to include signatures from only students—not faculty and staff.

"This was prepared very quickly," she said. "I am confident we can get—not 51 percent per se—but a massive amount of signatures if we continue for a couple months. "We will be back."



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<http://manifest.colum.edu>

## News from colleges across the country

### A family tradition of theft

Deception may run in the family for the 21-year-old New York University student accused of masterminding a \$43 million bank fraud scheme.

Hakan Yalincak's mother served two years in an Indiana prison for posing as a doctor, treating patients and defrauding the clinic that hired her and the church that helped her.

Now Ayferafet Yalincak, 50, of Pound Ridge, N.Y., is a defendant in a civil case that claims she worked with her son and husband to con investors out of \$1.8 million from an investment fund that never existed.

Hakan Yalincak, who was to graduate from NYU on May 11 with a math degree, is instead cooling his heels in a New Haven state prison after the feds arrested him on one count of bank fraud. Police allege that he deposited \$43 million in counterfeit checks, then arranged to withdraw \$1.7 million.

This alleged swindle came as investment fund investors were pressuring the Yalincak family to cough up \$1.8 million, court records show, raising the possibility that the NYU senior was arrested while trying to help his mom recover from an earlier scam.

Ayferafet Yalincak is not facing any criminal charges in her son's case, according to her son's attorney, Eugene Riccio.

### Asian celebration month includes porn

An Asian-American couple was shown having sex on the big screen of the Mackey Auditorium at California State University-Fullerton on May 5.

The X-rated video, *Yellocast: A Patriot Act*, marked the conclusion of Cal-State Fullerton's celebration of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

University of California-Davis Asian American studies professor Darrell Y. Hamamoto, who directed the six-minute politicized pornography, said he created *Yellocast* for several reasons.

One reason he said, is that the Asian community was going through systemic genocide by the U.S. military. To underscore that impression, Hamamoto added sounds of people wailing and scrolling text which outlined historical information.

In addition to the pornography, Hamamoto showed *Masters of the Pillow*, a 60-minute documentary made by James Hou, a former student of his. In the recording, Hou documented the making of Hamamoto's first-feature film, *Skin on Skin*—a 40-minute X-rated video, which was intended to arouse viewers, unlike *Yellocast* which had a political theme.

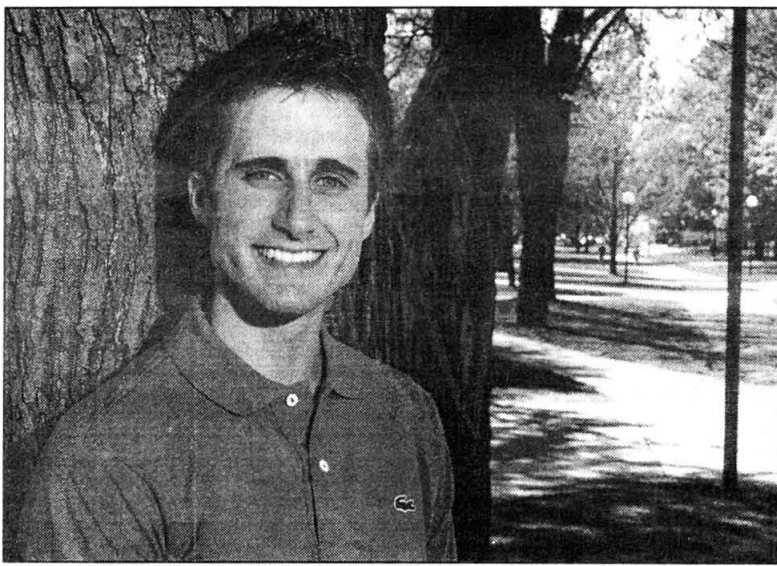
The Asian Pacific Student Association organized the event with funding from the Association for Inter-Cultural Awareness and support from the Asian-American Studies Department.

### A quarter century of homework

Pamela Bommarito smiles at the thought of purchasing a cap and gown just as many other graduates will this spring. But, these normal-college-kid characteristics can be quite deceptive, as Bommarito is anything but your average Boise State University graduate.

In fact, walking the line last

## A 'major' student



AP  
Sam Lien has graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a 3.94 grade-point average while earning four majors and having three part-time jobs while attending Hope College in Holland, Mich. Lien earned degrees in Spanish, Science, Biology and Political Science and said he lives alone in a small house off campus to prevent distractions from friends. Lien wants to open his own cosmetic surgery practice in Southern California after attending the University of Michigan Medical School this fall.

weekend was the final step in Bommarito's 25 years as a BSU student.

Bommarito said she's not sure if she's the only person to have ever taken a quarter century to get a single degree, but this very non-traditional student also said she's glad she did it her way. "It was more something of a goal than something I professionally needed to do," Bommarito said.

In 1980, Bommarito enrolled at BSU after spending one year at the La Grande School of Business in Oregon. She married and soon began a family, eventually bearing two children. Bommarito said she couldn't be a full-time student because of familial and profes-

sional constraints, so she simply continued taking one or two classes each semester.

Bommarito said there have only been a few semesters she has not attended at least one class.

Her son and daughter are currently students at BSU. Bommarito said sharing a campus with her kids isn't necessarily a bad thing, but she's not all too interested in sticking around after they're done.

This year, Bommarito and her two children both signed up for a biology class together. She said they developed a friendly rivalry, each trying to get a higher grade than the others on any given assignment.

Bommarito is convinced that anyone can get a college degree and adults should not let fear get in the way of graduation.

### Alcohol ban a last resort

A temporary alcohol moratorium may be placed on all University of California-Berkeley fraternities and sororities, following a string of alcohol-related incidents in the Greek community in the past few months, campus officials said.

The proposed ban comes as police and the university investigate the two most recent incident, which have placed renewed attention on the school's Greek community.

Three members of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity are suspected of shooting a pledge more than 30 times with a BB gun a month ago in what police call a hazing incident.

Police also arrested four people earlier this month at a ferry party sponsored by the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity after fights broke out and the boat had to make an emergency stop in Oakland, Calif.

The potential ban would be the university's second alcohol prohibition in five years.

Fraternity and sorority officials criticized the possible ban as unnecessary and ineffective.

Greek officials said their efforts to rewrite the Greek social code and implement a hazing prevention program would help prevent incidents.

The president of the campus' fraternity and sorority organizations said a ban would not stop drinking in the Greek system, but would instead force students to look elsewhere.

### Student arrested for heckling Coulter

Ajai Raj, a sophomore English major at the University of Texas, was released from Travis County Jail May 4 after being arrested for disorderly conduct during political commentator Ann Coulter's speech at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library auditorium.

According to a police affidavit, Raj was arrested for using "profane and vulgar language" and performing an "obscene gesture."

Disorderly conduct is a Class C misdemeanor in Texas, which is punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

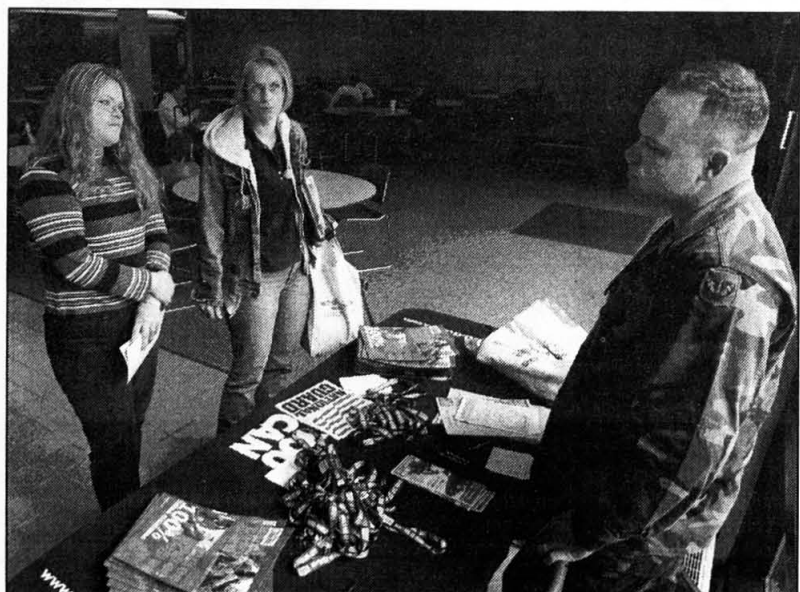
When Coulter, a right-wing pundit and author of four New York Times best-sellers, opened the session to questions from the audience May 3, Raj used profanity in asking a question about sodomy.

After the question, Raj ran about 30 yards from the microphone to the back of the aisle, making a repeated hand motion simulating masturbation, according to the police affidavit. This caused an "immediate breach of the peace within the crowd," the affidavit stated. At this time, two University of Texas Police Department officers approached him and arrested him for disorderly conduct.

When Raj asked why he was being arrested, police officers took it as an aggression and forced him to the ground, he said. Raj said he was bruised on the back of his right shoulder during the arrest.

—Compiled by Alan J. Baker

## One way to pay



AP  
Wisconsin Army National Guard recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Erik Hoffman talks with Jessica Davis, left, 18, and her mother, Hannelore Davis, at his recruiting stand in the cafeteria at Blackhawk Technical College in Janesville, Wis. The Army National Guard is ramping up its recruiting efforts by increasing its bonuses. On May 20 the Army plans to suspend recruiting nationwide for the day to address complaints of aggressive tactics.



# College band makes mtvU's best list

○ Envy wins contest between 250 college bands across America, walk away with \$25,000 and a Universal record deal

By James H. Burnet III  
KRT

**Milwaukee**—Whoever said Envy causes ill will probably never heard the tunes of Milwaukee's own garage band of the same name.

But mtvU, MTV's 24-hour college network, heard Envy, and so did the majority of 2.2 million viewers who logged on to mtvU.com over the past three months and voted the alt-rock group the best college band in the United States.

In a sneak attack that would have made Ed McMahon and The Publisher's Clearing House proud, mtvU VJ George Oliphant and a camera crew knocked on the door of Envy drummer and percussionist Nic Fugate's east side home Wednesday afternoon and announced that the band had won the second annual "mtvU Best Music On Campus" title.

The contest was no small potatoes. According to Stephen Friedman, general manager of the 18-month-old MTV spin-off network, more than 250 bands entered the nationwide contest earlier this year. The network, Universal Records and voting viewers narrowed the field to just a few acts in recent weeks. Then two celebrity judges, R&B crooner Akon and funkmeister G. Love, joined the fray, and Envy came out on top.

With the title comes \$25,000, an album development deal with Universal and a music video to air in the fall on mtvU, which is

broadcast on more than 700 college campuses.

Though Envy was founded at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville three-and-a-half years ago, a move earlier this year to Milwaukee and regular performances near the campus of UW-Milwaukee have the group proudly identifying itself as a UWM band.

On that school's connection, Friedman was impressed at the enthusiasm shown for Envy at UWM.

"We have high hopes that by kind of tapping into college students, bands like Envy, that the sky's the limit," he said. "The col-

lege music scene is really a fertile place to discover new talent. And we feel Envy could be part of a really long tradition."

Band members, including Fugate, a UWM student, thought they were gathered at his house to be interviewed as contest finalists. So, understandably, slack jaws and wide eyes turned to screaming, hugging and jumping when Oliphant and company flipped the script on them.

"Dude, I'm just really excited," the still-shocked bassist, 20-year-old Paul Pachniak, said minutes after the announcement. "It's been amazing. . . I wasn't really expecting it to happen this fast."

Pachniak left another band last summer to join his brother Jack, 22, and Dan Faherty, 23, both guitarists; Fugate, 20; and singer Amanda Tvedt, 22, in Envy.

Jack Pachniak, who co-founded Envy, was in Virginia on business Wednesday.

Faherty said he "hopes this will encourage more live original music and not just cover bands to form in this area."

A smiling Fugate joked that he was just happy he could ring a cowbell, a requirement he said other band members gave him when he joined Envy last summer.

And Tvedt said there was no

time to savor the victory, except for a pizza party she insisted they would have to throw to formally celebrate.

"This is great," she said, "but we have more music to write to make this thing go even further."

Tvedt's mother, Kim Tvedt, had no problem basking in the win though, screaming out over her daughter's cell phone speaker, "Amanda, you rock!"

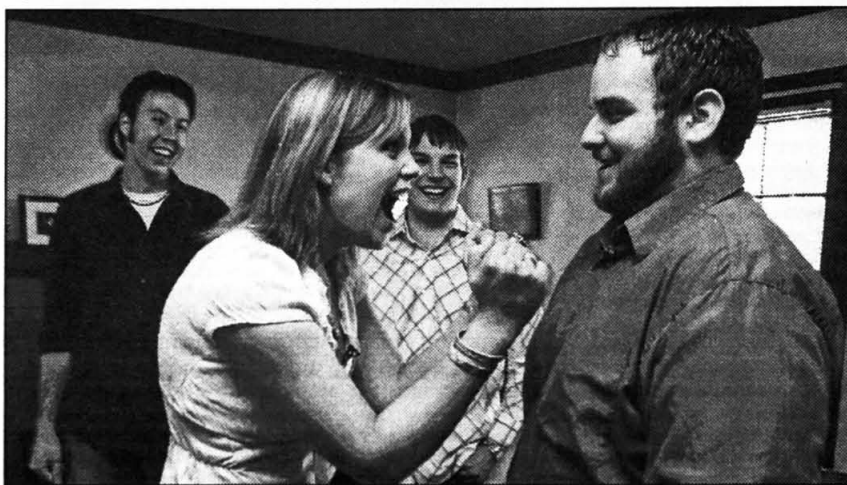
"You know, it was clear they're gifted musicians," mtvU's Friedman said. "It's kind of one of the great things about this channel, discovering student talent, and student talent that's going to withstand the test of time."

Friedman said he and his colleagues at mtvU heard a bit of Evanescence in Envy's style, but ultimately liked that "they had their own take on things and on the types of music they're pursuing."

As for the theme of their first video, Faherty thinks they could incorporate home videos shot on a camping trip two summers ago.

"Well, we have this single 'Burning Again,'" he said. "People think it's a break-up song, but it's really about this car we found in the woods, an abandoned 85 Honda."

The band "revived" the car and even took it for a few joyrides before beating it up again and launching it off a cliff. "Burning Again" is about the car's "second chance," Faherty admitted bashfully. "We may try to work off of that, but if it doesn't work, we'll come up with something."



KRT

Members of the Milwaukee rock band Envy (from left to right, Dan Faherty, Amanda Tvedt, Paul Pachniak and Nic Fugate) congratulate each other after being voted the best college band in the United States by mtvU, a 24-hour college network.

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\$\$stipends\$ provided.

Questions please contact Julie Caffey, Assistant Director, [C]Spaces at 312/344-7696



## Front page exploitation is shameful

When a couple of preteen girls are found brutally stabbed in a wooded area, as 9-year-old Krystal Tobias and 8-year-old Laura Hobbs were outside of Zion, Ill., last week, family and friends of the victims are likely to have many reactions: shock, outrage and an unbearable sadness.

So then what was 9-year-old Cristela Florek, a close friend of Tobias, doing with her face plastered across the front page of the Chicago Sun-Times on May 10, surrounded by reporters hastily scribbling notes and television crews swooping in for the much-needed close-up shot?

Becoming yet another victim of the horrible tragedy, that's what.

No doubt, the murder of Tobias and Hobbs was front-page news, the kind that makes every reporter cringe and every newspaper reader and television viewer pause.

Two girls, best friends, out playing on a warm Mother's Day afternoon before disappearing, only to be found the next day, lying together off a dirt path in a densely-wooded area. According to Zion

police, which arrested the father of Laura Hobbs for the crime, they had been beaten and stabbed to death.

To reporters, the story has to be told at times like these. And to tell it effectively, there must be voices—of friends, of family, of neighbors down the street—and capturing those voices effectively is what brings the story home to the reader. It allows a reporter to do his or her job, and do it well, with sensitivity and understanding.

But the Sun-Times' picture of Florek likely served a different purpose, and one that had little to do with telling a story and everything to do with selling newspapers.

Eyes cast downward, so small that reporters had to bend over to hear what she was saying, next to a man pointing a television camera at her head and surrounded by parked news vans, little Cristela stood in for the two girls the Sun-Times couldn't show, but no doubt would if they could find a way—Tobias and Hobbs. In the photo, the girl looks ambushed, no doubt at a loss to explain the kind of pain no 9-year-

old should ever have to give voice to—let alone while standing in front of a pack of reporters, eager to exploit that pain.

And for what? Cristela's feelings at that moment wouldn't—couldn't—have advanced the story one iota, because everyone could imagine what the 9-year-old was feeling.

Putting her pain on the front page, while emphasizing her frailty and vulnerability, served no discernible news purpose. It only served to appeal to base instincts of the Sun-Times' readers, and perhaps cause a few of them to plunk down 50 cents they otherwise might not have parted with.

Then again, the editors who made the decision to run the picture might look at the matter differently. But if they do, then perhaps they can explain why they misspelled the girl's name later in the story, changing Cristela to Kristela without explanation.

But to do that, they may have had to actually think about what was important. And whether their actions respected those who needed protection in a time of need, or instead helped to spread the pain around.

## OUT OF TOON



Chris Gallevo/The Chronicle

## North-South rivalry lives on

Ever since inter-league play was introduced in Major League Baseball eight years ago, the Crosstown Classic between the Cubs and the White Sox has become a therapeutic staple of summers in the Windy City. Each year, each series allows us another opportunity to ignore the fact that Chicago is home to the two franchises with the longest world championship droughts in baseball (no title since 1917 for the Sox, or since 1908 for the Cubs). We wouldn't have it any other way.

There is no overstating the importance of these six games' results to North Siders, South Siders and everybody in between, every season. This year's series begins with a three-game set at Wrigley Field this weekend.

The divide between the respective fan bases always seems to get wider, and each argument finds another answer. As a Bridgeport native, Mayor Richard M. Daley prefers the White Sox; Gov. Rod Blagojevich bleeds Cubbie blue. The Sox have won 22 of the 42 meetings; the Cubs took the last

three at Wrigley in July. William Liguette Jr., who attacked a Kansas City Royals coach in 2003, emerged from the first base side of U.S. Cellular Field; Steve Bartman was made famous along the third-base line at Wrigley.

And so we enter this first stage of a bitter, petty competition with hopes for both sides riding high. While the White Sox lead their division and possess baseball's best record, the Cubs are treading water and in desperate need of a turnaround.

Could the "loveable losers" be just another group of victims on the South Side's march toward the postseason? Or, might this be the North Side's chance of bringing those dreams crashing back into reality and resurrecting their own hopes?

This much is for sure: We'll all be watching. Regardless of its detractors, inter-league play has proven to boost interest throughout baseball and increase regional rivalries since its inception in 1997, with attendance for inter-league games averaging 32,660 fans a game.

But here in Chicago, our differences feel deeper, truer

and more personal. We have spent entire lives mocking the other team's ballpark, the fans that go to it, and the team that plays in it. Names like Aparicio and Fox, or Banks and Williams, can make some of us want to reminisce, or they can make some of us want to regurgitate. This weekend offers us the best way to settle some of these debates—at least, temporarily.

Sure, we could continue to dream about the day that will seemingly never come: when our ball clubs face one another in the World Series. Of course, the last time that happened, there were 45 states in the union and Katherine Hepburn—who lived to be 96—hadn't even been born.

But until hell freezes over, proving our superiority against our Chi-Town rivals gives us bragging rights for the season, and makes visits from the Cardinals or Twins pale in comparison. And beating the adversary across town is made all the more satisfying when the other side has to repeat the four-word mantra the city knows all too well: "Wait until next year."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



### Editorial ignores chance for student empathy

We were surprised and disappointed by the frosty editorial, "Lock students out of labor dispute," put out May 2 by our otherwise award-winning colleagues at The Chronicle.

The "keep it out of the view of the students" stance is insulting to the students' sense of empathy and engagement with the world around them. Do students want to be shut out of real life? Are they only interested in their film and music classes to the point that they wish to disconnect from their immediate environment, including the "dirty laundry" posted on the elevator walls? We think not, and if they do, what kind of artists will they make if they are so distanced from the life around them?

We can name plenty of bright, empathetic, talented students who are wholly

engaged in learning their art or craft and who also wish to be keenly involved in what is going on in their world—whether it be through the Student Government Association, Q-Force, College Democrats and Republicans, Amnesty International, Campus Christian groups, ISO, Latino Alliance, Hillel, CCABJ, On the Ground—they are fine artists and fine human beings. They are also our future.

Students are part of the world along with the rest of us. At other universities, for example, they have been known to go on hunger strikes in solidarity with their university staff. Students are part of the modern world, and the power or powerlessness of employees to shape their working lives is a blazing global issue.

Give the students the opportunity to make their own choices and decisions. Don't berate the US of CC's posters (or anyone else's heartfelt messages either). There's no tooth-picking of eyelids to make sure students read everything they see in the hallways!

—Sheila Brady, full-time staff

Linda Nashund, MFA '98,  
full-time staff

Jenny Seay, BA '01,  
full-time staff

**Have an opinion** about something you read on these pages? Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a Letter to the Editor? At the bottom of Page 15 you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

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# Mass media not for the masses

By Josh Kantarski  
Assistant City Beat Editor

In the early days, laugh tracks and designed sets offered a representation—but not the truth—of what life was like in America. It was art, and to some degree, it was good art, insofar as it helped Americans measure and reflect on their own lives.

But then, years later, the blurring began. Grainy, muddled, unclear pictures of truth and reality started to accompany our prime time diets, complete with handheld video cameras. The glossy veneer of “Leave it to Beaver” was gone. Fiction was no longer fiction. Reality TV was here. “Infotainment” had arrived.

Where we look now to make better sense of our world—the media—has capitulated. Seeking the largest audience, media must now entertain us while offering us news. After all, a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down.

Which brings us to the current state of mass media, and more specifically, print and broadcast journalism. Some could make the argument that media is art; with the power to create positive change and destroy human beings with equal deftness. When placed in the hands of the few, some of whom have nefarious agendas, that power becomes infinitely stronger.

Young journalists and members of the media heading out into the world have a decision to make. Will they contribute to the glut of quasi-news that circulates around this media-saturated country? Or will they help lift the veil that seems to have this country focused on the trials of fallen pop stars and apparitions located beneath local expressways?

For a historical and philosophical perspective on the dangers of art, which could apply to our media today, we can look at Plato. As depicted in Book 10 of Plato’s Republic, Socrates argues in a

dialogue with Plato’s brother, Glaucon, that artists—most notably poets—should be kicked out of the community. His argument is this: Artists, merely represent what they are trying to portray in their art, rather than conveying truth, and, as Socrates said, “representation and truth are a considerable distance apart.”

The part of the mind that the artist speaks to is not the rational, but the irrational, with an inclination toward our emotions, because that part of the mind is

the two, with France exporting \$28 billion worth of goods and importing \$19 billion in American products.

So, maybe the French do hate us, but while they utilize our exports and feed their kids with American meat, they might remember their dependence on us. And ultimately, ours on them.

But that’s probably not the case. I smell a misrepresentation.

Some producer or editor in a newsroom somewhere around the country knows that some

the same opportunity to misrepresent with careless diction and superficial reporting.

It would be easy to take 500 protesting Frenchmen as the veritable truth, for truly the image and written word are powerful things. Yet, truth and representation, as Socrates said, are a considerable distance apart. A group of Frenchmen, however, do not speak for the more than 63 million people of France, people who rely on the United States, just as the United States relies on France.

Others, closer to home, are taking notice as well. Frank Rich, columnist and cultural critic for The New York Times, voiced concerns in a May 8 commentary about the dangers of a blurred reality in media, and the media’s willingness to aid that blurring. He added, in a scathing indictment of the American media’s recent coverage of the annual White House Correspondents’ Association Dinner, that reporters’ interest in fawning over every piece of “news” that comes from the Bush White House contributes to the dizzying array of what we consume.

He said, “Infotainment has reached a new level of ubiquity in an era in which ‘reality’ television and reality have become so blurred that it’s hard to know if ABC News’s special investigation of ‘American Idol’ last week was real journalism about a fake show or fake journalism about a real show or whether anyone knows the difference—or cares.”

When America can no longer tell the difference between news and “news,” we will undoubtedly remain at the whim of those who wish to manipulate the truth to suit their ends.

Whether this country truly has an affinity for the avaricious is for another argument—our interest in the sensational and salacious is arguable—but in our current state one cannot help but wonder: how long is the proverbial “dog” willing to be wagged?



KRT

rich in representational possibilities; they pander to our most prurient desires. Art, Socrates claimed, “has a terrifying capacity for deforming good people.”

Here’s where those good people currently stand in America: How often have we heard someone ask, “Why do the French hate us?” Did we not, in some places, change french fries to Freedom Fries after the French, one of our oldest allies, chose not to support the United States in its decision to invade Iraq?

The French, however, don’t hate us. Rather, it’s quite the opposite.

A more lucid examination of French-U.S. relations indicates that France is one of the United States’ oldest and most significant trading partners. In 2002, bilateral trade reached \$47 billion between

American, somewhere, bears a French “hatred.” It’s their job to find them. They send a reporter and camera out, find an American willing to talk, and there it is: a manufactured story. Suddenly, the French hate us and Americans are confused.

To manufacture a story with the French perspective, the same steps could be taken. The immediacy of that image in a country so viscerally stimulated would speak for itself. The image, however, would not be truthful.

The power of a camera, a microphone and a group of rabid Frenchmen protesting American involvement in lands far, far away can be a powerful tool of representation. But that’s all it is: a tool to represent, giving only part, if any, of the story. The same goes for print media, which also has

By Jeff Danna  
Campus News Editor

Chicago certainly is not without its trademarks. The city is home to one of the world’s tallest buildings and the country’s busiest airports, and now it is one of the most congested cities in the nation.

According to a recent report by the Texas Transportation Institute, a division of Texas A&M University’s Engineering System, drivers in Chicago spent 58 hours a year—the equivalent of almost two-and-a-half full days or one-and-a-half business weeks—in traffic in 2003. This helps rank Chicago behind only Los Angeles on TTI’s list of most congested cities.

This should come as no surprise to those Chicagoans who commute into the city each day. And since the delay per-person

has increased by 16 hours in the last 10 years, to its current level, the highest since TTI began keeping records in 1982, commuters can expect the situation to worsen. Plus, with the Chicago Transit Authority threatening to cut back public transportation service in July, the alternatives to driving in Chicago are becoming less desirable.

If the CTA cannot cover its \$55 million budget deficit, it has proposed raising bus and train fares to \$2 and cutting back service. These cutbacks could include eliminating 65 weekday bus routes and the Purple Line express service.

This is not a good situation for the congestion problem. If commuters cannot rely on public transportation, then driving, despite heavy traffic, begins to look more attractive. No long waits for buses in the rain, no

overstuffed trains. At least in a car, drivers sit in their own private worlds with conveniences like a radio to provide at least some serenity. But if commuters hop off the buses and back into their cars, this is only putting more vehicles on the road.

As it is now, Chicago’s public transportation system saves commuters an average of 22 hours a year, according to the TTI report. However, those who use public transportation could face longer delays if, for example, the CTA increases wait times for buses as it has proposed. These commuters will essentially be in the same boat as those sitting in traffic on the Kennedy Expressway—they have to get to work, but they can’t escape the congestion.

So what can commuters do? Well, there’s always carpooling. Theoretically, if every driver

rode with one other person, the number of cars on the road could be cut in half. But this scenario is unlikely. The last thing a person wants to do is have to spend the grueling morning commute with another disgruntled commuter.

What commuters must do instead is voice their concerns for the lack of public transportation funding and take matters into their own hands. The CTA must know how essential it is to commuters and how much of an asset it is to the gridlock solution. Commuters fed up with traffic delays should form a coalition to raise money for the CTA. While it might be difficult to come up with \$55 million, it would at least send a more powerful message than any complaint ever could.

Congestion might seem like another part of daily life in Chicago, but it doesn’t have to be.

## Roamin’ Numerals

3

Number of times KOLE Eugene Maxwell, 18, of Centre, Ala., shot himself on May 6 while cleaning his 9 mm pistol.

17 million:1

Odds of two players in a foursome getting a hole-in-one on the same hole, according to Golf Digest magazine.

The Associated Press reported on May 12 that Randy Massey and his step-mother, Terri Massey, both aced the eighth hole at Painted Dunes Desert Golf Course in El Paso, Texas.

185

Gallons of beer sent by Germany’s Stuttgart brewery, “Stuttgarter Hofbrenn,” to Pope Benedict XVI in Rome the weekend of May 7. The new brand name and label change was approved by the Pope and helped turn around the wheat beer’s struggling sales.

## Choice Cuts

“

“You’re no Steven Spielberg.”

Anonymous response to Timothy Huffman’s question as to why the state of Michigan wasn’t prosecuting (the film) *Schindler’s List* for nudity. Huffman, 47, was appealing a January 2003 conviction of misdemeanor indecent exposure for content that appeared on a comedy show he hosted and produced for a public access channel in Grand Rapids. The three-minute segment featured a face drawn on a penis while a husky voice told jokes.

”

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We here at [C]Spaces are excited that Manifest, the Columbia College Urban Arts Festival, is fast approaching. Now in its 4th year, Manifest is a great start to the Chicago festival season, and an amazing way to celebrate the end of the school year. The celebration has already begun, and soon the galleries will be filled with graduating senior work. Be sure to check out our gallery spaces to see what our students have produced.

At 1104 S. Wabash, the Glass Curtain Gallery is featuring the work of graduating BFA Fine Art Students, the Center for Book and Paper Arts on the second floor houses the MFA Interdisciplinary Book and Paper Thesis Exhibition, and at the 1st floor Conaway Center, you will find the Graphic Design, Advertising Art, and Illustration Senior Exhibition.

Across the street, at 72 E. 11th Street, in the A&D Gallery is the MFA Photography Thesis Exhibition, and C33, located at 33 E. Congress, will showcase the talents of the students of Digital Media Technology.

At 623 S. Wabash, The Hokin Gallery will house the Interior Architecture Senior Exhibitions, and the Hokin Annex, the Fashion Design, and Product Design Graduation Seniors' work.

Finally, at the Raw Space at UCC, located at Harrison and State, you will find the BA/BFA Photography show, as well as an installation from the Science and Math Department.

And don't forget, the big event, the Urban Arts Festival, kicks off at 12 noon on Friday, June 3. STUDENTS, STAY TUNED TO SEE HOW YOU CAN QUALIFY TO WIN FREE AIRFARE ANYWHERE IN THE U.S.! This all day event is sure to entertain, amuse, and inspire. With bands on 3 stages, the TICTOC Performance Art Festival, Spectacle Fortuna—a parade, a spectacle, a procession, a ritual – there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Enjoy this month of festivities and we look forward to seeing you at Manifest 2005, on June 3!

For more information, visit <http://manifest.colum.edu>

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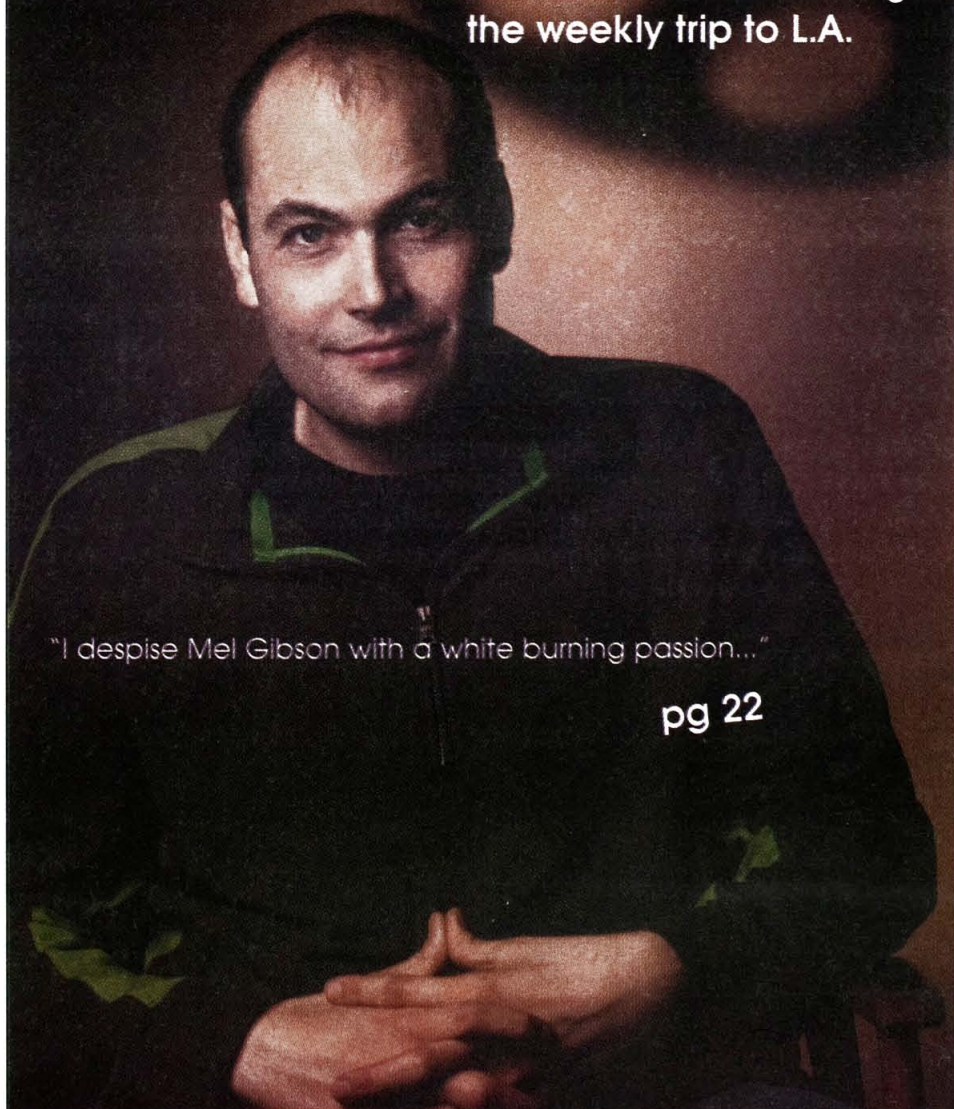
# A&E

AN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SUPPLEMENT OF THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

COLUMBIA'S FINEST NEWS SOURCE

## Jewish man loathes Mel Gibson

The Onion's Nathan Rabin talks about 'Movie Club,' Mel Gibson and making the weekly trip to L.A.

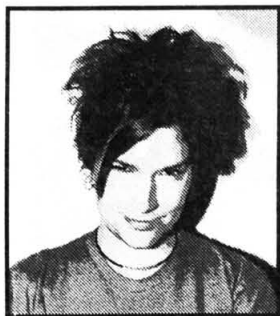


"I despise Mel Gibson with a white burning passion..."

pg 22



# Hick music hurts



BY JAMIE MURNANE/A&E EDITOR

Renee Zellweger surprised us all when she married country star Kenny Chesney in the Virgin Islands last week. After hearing the news, I'm sure many people were scratching their heads, as almost no one had the slightest idea that the two were even an item. (Apparently, they met at one of the countless January tsunami relief benefits.)

I was one of those confused people. But my confusion did not come from the fact that I was in the dark about their romance. It came from the fact that I just can't (or won't) fathom how Zellweger could go from dating ultra cool hipster White Stripes frontman Jack White to, uhh ... Chesney.

Sure, this Chesney guy's supposed to be a big deal for country music, but personally, I can't understand Zellweger's choice. How does an attractive Oscar-winning actress go from dating the rocker behind infectiously gritty songs such as "Seven Nation Army" and "Fell in Love with a Girl" to the cowboy hat-wearing Tennessean whose 1999 hit "You Had Me From Hello," drew inspiration from—surprise—Jerry McGuire, the film which Zellweger and Tom Cruise co-

starred. Destiny or coincidence? We'll never know.

What I do know, though, is that I would never have gone from a White Stripes to a mediocre country crooner.

Sure, marriage is (supposed to be) all about love, not your spouse's artistic expression. But I could never bring myself to be involved with a country musician for the simple fact that I can't stand country music.

I'm not necessarily discrediting the musical genre, or even saying it sucks. But for as long as I can remember it has always annoyed me to the point of drastically affecting my mood. It's true. Country music pisses me off—literally. It's a phenomenon that no one has been quite able to explain. I can't even put a finger on it myself.

Whenever I hear country music playing anywhere, I start cringing immediately. My face turns red, and I'm pretty sure steam shoots out of my ears. I become irritable and distracted, the only thought running through my mind being: "Must. Change. Music. Now."

It's like Bruce Banner, who turns into the Hulk when he gets angry. For me all it takes to set off my fuse is the slight utterance of songs like "Achy Breaky Heart" or—worst of all—anything by Toby Keith. (His name alone makes my skin crawl. I'm currently scanning my desk for a stress ball.)

I first realized my uber-annoyance with country music in high school when my mom, influenced by my country aficionado of a

step-dad, had the car stereo set on a country station. I think it was a Dixie Chicks song that was playing; at first I thought wasn't so bad, but as they kept on whining and pseudo-yodeling I just couldn't take it anymore. I was so annoyed I couldn't even maintain a pleasant conversation with my mom. Finally, I uncharacteristically shouted, "I can't take this music!" and changed the station with a huff. My mom was shocked. But now it's a running joke in my family that for some reason country music makes me angry. Maybe I was tormented with country songs by a baby-sitter when I was younger or something.

Being so easily infuriated by country music, I can't imagine being married to someone who actually creates it. The only thing worse than ever having to hear it would be if you were surrounded by it 24/7. Your house, which was once filled with mod-ish rock memorabilia, will now be filled with Country Music Award statues, cowboy hats, banjos and slide guitars. Guests will arrive barefoot with straws in their mouths after parking their dirt-covered pick-up truck next to your Mazda and letting their filthy dog urinate in your rose bush.

OK, that's a little drastic, and (maybe) completely stereotypical. But personally, I'd have to appreciate someone's art or career to share a room, let alone a life, with them. Maybe I'm shallow, but good taste in music is a must.

THISWEEKINA&E

## MONDAY

Author Thomas Frank at the Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave.  
9 p.m.

Rilo Kiley at Metro,  
3730 N. Clark St.  
7 p.m.

## TUESDAY

"What a Sensation!" Sensory Play Workshop at Early to Bed,  
5232 N. Sheridan Rd.  
7:30 p.m.

The New York Dolls at Metro,  
3730 N. Clark St.  
7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

Author David Rackoff at Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St.  
7:30 p.m.

Kathleen Edwards at Double Door,  
1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.  
9 p.m.

## THURSDAY

Nightclubbing: *Modern Music* at Gene Siskel Film Center,  
164 N. State St.  
9:15 p.m.

British Sea Power, Feist at Logan Square Auditorium,  
2539 N. Kedzie Ave.  
8:30 p.m.

LCD Soundsystem and M.I.A. at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.  
9 p.m.

## FRIDAY

Gaper's Block 2nd Anniversary Party at Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia St.  
9 p.m.

## SATURDAY

Kara Mallett opens "Gossip" art installation at ThreeWalls,  
119 N. Peoria St. #2a.  
6 p.m.

The Good Life at Bottom Lounge,  
3206 N. Wilton Ave.  
8 p.m.

## SUNDAY

Queer is Folk Festival at Old Town School of Music,  
4544 N. Lincoln Ave.  
8 p.m.

## ODDS&ENDS



Natalie Portman has a vendetta—against hair. The actress of *Garden State* and *Closer* fame shaved her head for a role in her new film, *V for Vendetta*, which revolves around an alternate reality in which Germany won World War II. "Some people will think I'm a neo-Nazi," Portman was reported as saying. "Or that I have cancer or I'm a lesbian. ... I can't stop rubbing my head, it's so soft. I might keep it for a while."



Pitchforkmedia.com is finally doing something more than hiding behind its computer screens. The Chicago-based critiquing website is hosting The Intonation Festival on July 16 and 17 at Pulaski Park with an incomplete yet already impressive line-up of bands: The Decemberists, the Fiery Furnaces, the Wrens, Broken Social Scene, Death From Above, Out Hud, A.C. Newman, Magnolia Electric Co., Four Tet, Xiu Xiu, Andrew Bird, the M's, and the Go! Team are all confirmed.



OutKast's fashionable Andre 3000 has just landed a deal with MTV Films and Nickelodeon to make kids' movies edgier. The rapper told the Associated Press that kids are looking up to people like his group and Jay-Z and that children's movies are "getting smarter ... because it seems like the kids are cooler." To move the films in an edgier direction, Andre will star in and co-produce a movie called *The Hit*, about a boy who finds out his neighbor is Cupid. Sounds real edgy.

HOW TO CONTACT  
A&E

Jamie Murnane - jmurnane@chroniclemail.com - 312.344.8565

Trish Bendix - tbendix@chroniclemail.com - 312.344.7521

Todd Burbo - tburbo@chroniclemail.com - 312.344.7086

HOW TO CONTACT  
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## Music runs in the family.



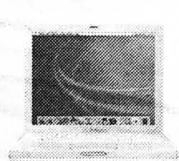
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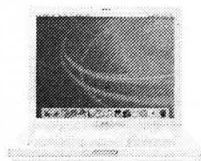
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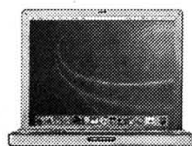
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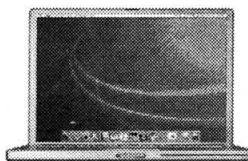
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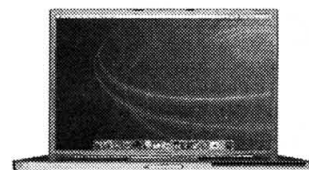
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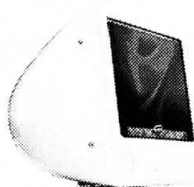


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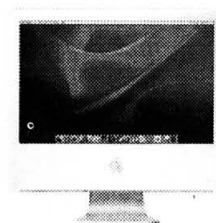
### Desktops



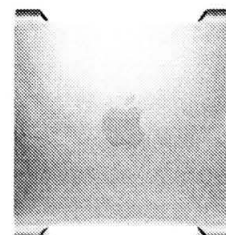
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# the KILLERS

## rock the Riv

Dance-rock, flashy lights and Vegas flair make for one killer show.

By Jamie Murnane/ A&E Editor

Typically, live concerts either have a highly entertaining stage show or the band onstage actually sounds good.

The Killers' sold-out Riviera Theatre concert on May 11 had it all: an electrifying light show; high-energy theatrics, thanks to singer/keyboardist Brandon Flowers' charismatic posturing; great sound that even put the band's only album, *Hot Fuss*, to shame; a crowd not afraid to dance; and even Bono, who was spotted on one of the side balconies, inciting the crowd to chant his name as soon as The Killers left the stage.

During a nearly 40-minute intermission, after openers Tegan and Sara played a crowd-pleasing pop set full of heartbreak and jealousy, the stage was transformed into a red and black set similar to that of a Las Vegas casino—appropriate, as the foursome call Vegas home—complete with light up band logo hanging above (a la the Elvis sign that famously adorned the King's backdrop).

Finally, the band hit the stage playing "Midnight Show," and the ultraviolet, strobe and multi-colored lights were cued. The band delivered their modernized glam/dance rock seamlessly, and it was obvious that this show would not only

sound good, but also be one of the most fun shows the Riviera has seen all year. Clearly, The Killers, like any good Vegas act, know how to put on a good performance.

With his commanding stage presence, it seemed that Flowers, clad in his trademark crisp white blazer and tie, could very well be the classiest, best-dressed front man out there. His fashion style, coupled with his theatrical antics and intense emotion while

singing carried the show line by line. For example, on "Mr. Brightside," Flowers dramatically placed his hands over his eyes while singing, "I just can't look it's killing me..."

One thing is for sure: If The Killers ever lose popularity (which is unlikely, given their infectiously radiant perform-

ance), Flowers could always have a career on Broadway.

The band played most of the other songs from their album, including radio hits "Somebody Told Me" and "Jenny Was a Friend of Mine" (which kicked off the encore). Flowers offered little stage banter, but when he did, it was clever and witty. Before their third song, he walked along the edge of the stage, with hands reaching up for him, and said, "Chicago, I have a very important question for you. If the answer is no, can we change your mind?" This was a perfect way to break into "Change Your Mind."

In addition to playing the expected crowd pleasers, the band also delivered their song "Indie Rock 'n' Roll," which is only available on the U.K. release of *Hot Fuss*. The song turned into somewhat of an arena anthem, as the crowd

sang along, "It's indie rock 'n' roll for me/ it's all I need/ it's indie rock 'n' roll for me."

A couple new songs were played as well—surely making the audience eager for a new killer album (not that they need to release one anytime soon, as they're still riding high on their debut release).

The first of the new songs was "Where is She?" in which Flowers emotionally asks, "Where is she?/ Where is my baby girl?/ What have you done with my whole wide world?" The other new song, "All the Pretty Faces," was just as emotionally intense, but on the other end of the spectrum. With lines like, "I don't feel like loving you no more/ I don't feel like touching you no more/ I don't feel like fucking you no more," it will surely be a hit single when it's released.

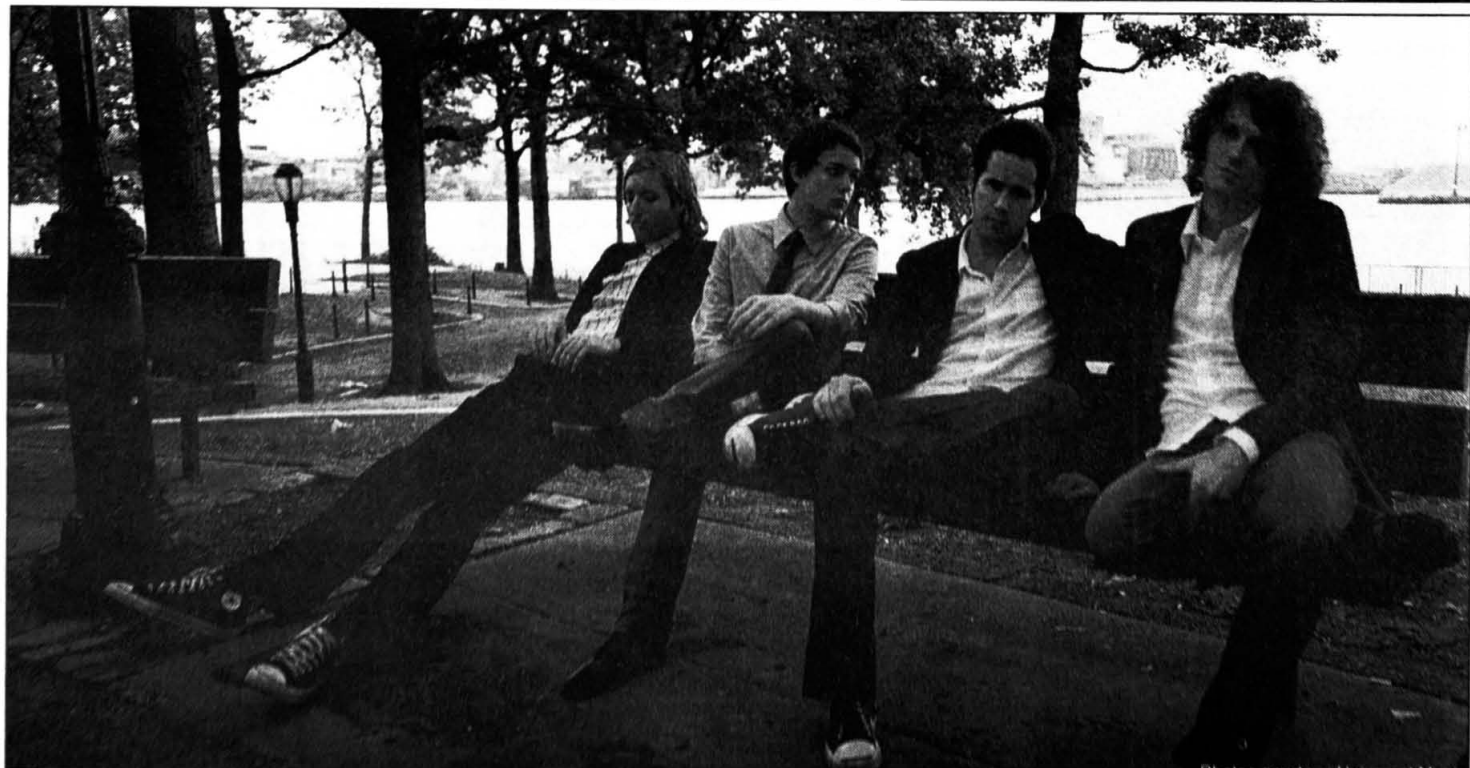
While The Killers' music is far

from original (in fact, it's best described as rehashed '80s rock—the Cure meets Bowie, meets Talking Heads, meets Depeche Mode," etc...), it's safe to say that they pull it off even better than the originals. Or maybe it just took so long for people to love it so damn much.

The band closed with "All These Things That I've Done," a song which had the audience providing much of the chorus, chanting, "I've got soul, but I'm not a soldier."

Even with a couple of new songs, it is still too bad that The Killers only have one album. If they had more material, the show could have lasted longer than 45 minutes.

Though the set was short, it doesn't get much better than seeing a great show that ends with Bono flashing a peace sign from a balcony.



Photos courtesy Universal Music

Clockwise from top right: The Killers: bassist Mark Stoermer, singer/keyboardist Brandon Flowers, guitarist David Keuning and drummer Ronnie Vannucci play in traffic; Flowers and his rhinestone encrusted keyboard, the band taking a break in the park before giving yet another outstanding performance.

# Seeing 'Crimson'

Former Chicagoans, Alkaline Trio produce more of the same on new album

By Trish Bendix/Assistant A&E Editor

Former Chicagoan Matt Skiba is bordering on 30 years old and he's still writing songs about the same things he did when he was 22.

In fact, Alkaline Trio, the band Skiba formed in 1997, have made quite a living off the themes they cycle over and over again: death and hell. The word "hell" shows up in at least five of the 13 songs on their sixth album, *Crimson*.

While the themes are the same, the pop-punk choruses are something vaguely new from the Trio, but seem to borrow from other noticeably younger bands that most likely list Alkaline Trio as inspiration (think Good Charlotte, Hawthorne Heights). Unfortunately, Skiba took an unwanted sabbatical when he broke his arm skateboarding (twice), giving room to up-and-comers like Fall Out Boy to capitalize on the genre Alkaline Trio once dominated.

Their label, Vagrant Records, said that *Crimson* is "the most mature and ambitious 13 songs that Alkaline Trio has ever pushed itself to create." Although their maturation isn't exactly complete, after the

vampire-themed *Good Mourning*, it's a welcome attempt at change.

Alkaline Trio's lack of maturity is evident. They're still targeting the same Warped Tour audience that filled Tweeter



Center last year. Their single, "Time to Waste," was released exclusively by Hot Topic stores at the end of April. And Vagrant celebrates their success on the website, saying that the recording of *Crimson* survived the reelection of George W. Bush and Skiba's skateboarding accidents, but noted that there were "no failed relationships."

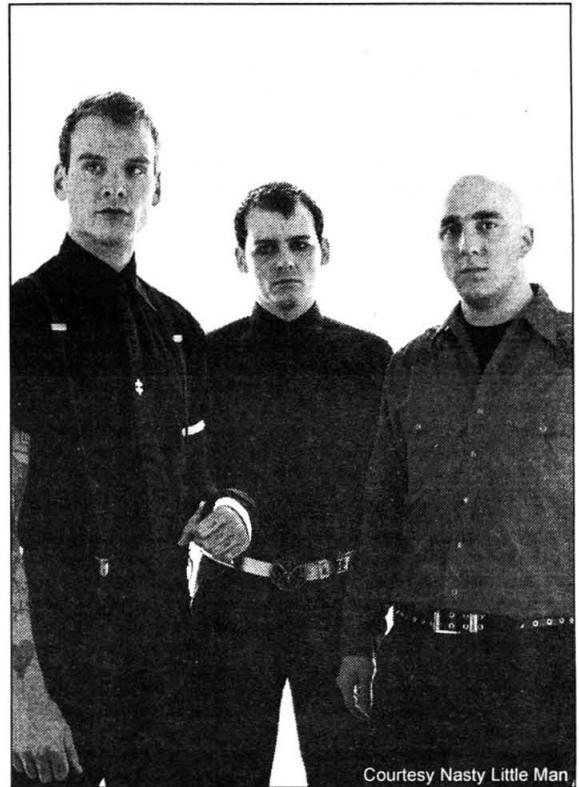
Maybe that's why this album isn't as exciting. It doesn't have songs from *Goddammit!* like

"Enjoy Your Day," which has Dan Andriano crooning over an acoustic guitar, hoping his ex-lover's new boyfriend bought her roses on Valentine's Day. There's definitely no "Sorry About That," a drunken plea from Skiba as he recalls his days of romance that ended in his selfishness.

But the Trio does some things right on *Crimson*. They don't trail far from what the fans love, and they write blissfully dramatic lines such as, "Calling all cars, all coroners, we've got a dead one here." There's even a morbidly tragic song dedicated to the West Memphis Three, a trio that were allegedly wrongly convicted for the murder of three young boys. The song called "Prevent this Tragedy," has Skiba singing, "We take our daily breath and thank our unlucky stars."

For longtime fans that have followed the band since their days at Asian Man Records, *Crimson* will be another good purchase. After the release of 2001's *From Here to Infirmary*, perhaps they're used to disappointment.

*'Crimson' will be released on Tuesday, May 24.*



Courtesy Nasty Little Man

Alkaline Trio are all grown up, but still singing the same old songs on 'Crimson.'

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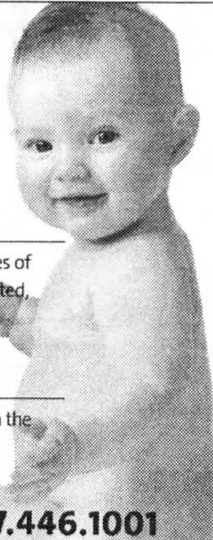
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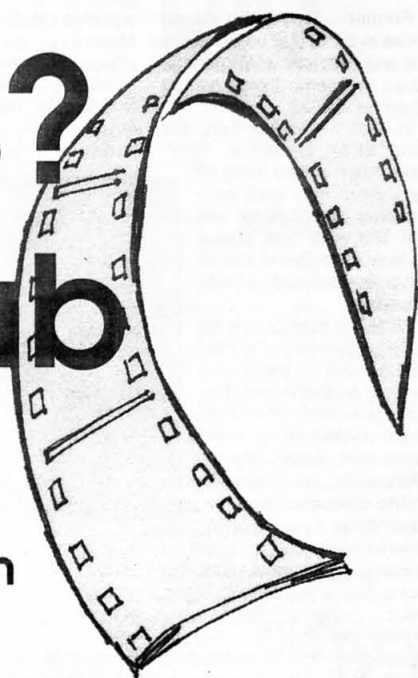
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# Love movies? join the club



**"Movie Club" puts a new spin on film criticism**

BY TRISH BENDIX / ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

## THE CREW



Courtesy AMC

From left: Zorianna Kit, Nathan Rabin, John Ridley, Dr. Josh Kun, Anderson Jones, and guest critic Regan Burns.

**A** fake skyline, which includes the famous Hollywood sign, provides the background for lively conversations and debates about one of America's favorite forms of entertainment—film—in a new criticism show.

Film criticism has merged with television before the 2004 arrival of "Movie Club with John Ridley," which enters its second season on AMC May 20. However, it has never before been set up like the entertainment version of Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect." On "Movie Club with John

Ridley," the movies may be the same as those discussed on Ebert's "Sneak Previews," but the topics of discussion are racier, more relevant and more in tune with what moviegoers want to hear.

The show's producers, Chicagoans Jamie Ceaser and John Davies, selected John Ridley, a filmmaker, novelist and NPR commentator, to host the show. Ceaser and Davies both worked as producers at WTTW and Ceaser has previously taught in the Television Department at Columbia and produced several locally centered documentaries. Davies created the series "Wild Chicago," which

features strange, crazy, and fun places and people in the city, and also worked with Roger Ebert and Gene Siskel on their original movie review TV show.

"Movie Club" presents five different opinions on the same film, as the group (Zorianna Kit, Nathan Rabin, Dr. Josh Kun, and Anderson Jones) almost never agrees wholeheartedly on a film. After a film is brought up for discussion, clips are shown and described, and the four commentators make bullet points and debate them before deciding on an average star rating.

Ceaser said that the original concept had "Movie Club" set in Chicago with director Harold Ramis (*Analyze This*, *Animal House*) as the host. But Ramis was unavailable, and the search for a new host brought the show to Los Angeles.

"We wanted someone with knowledge of the movie industry and someone who had worked in the industry. That's why we were looking at Harold in Chicago," Ceaser said. "Ridley really stood out because he started out as stand-up comedian and he really had the experience to be a host. He's funny, quick and able to come back at the other four."

## CASTING

The "other four" are accomplished critics selected from more than 80 tapes and auditions submitted from all across America. Nathan Rabin is head entertainment writer for *The Onion*; Zorianna Kit is the entertainment reporter for KTLA Channel 5; Anderson Jones is CNN *Headline News*' movie critic; and Dr. Josh Kun is writer and critic, as well as a professor of pop culture at University of California Riverside.

The production team explored newspaper, print, video, TV and the Internet for people who did reviews, Ceaser said.

Rabin said that he was ecstatic when the auditions came to Chicago last June.

"At the time, I was free 51 weeks out of the year," Rabin said sarcastically. "I had absolutely nothing to do. I was pretty sad and lonely, watching my *Star Wars* DVDs, drinking Jack Daniels and crying myself to sleep. Nothing was going on in my life."

Besides his day job at *The Onion*, Rabin contributes to radio stations like NPR and Air America, as well as music sites like NME.com, BET.com, Spin.com, and HipHop360. He has also written for the satirical webzine *Modern Humorist*.

But Rabin had doubts about "Movie Club." The same weekend of final auditions, Rabin's best friend was getting married in New York and he also had the chance to introduce author David Sedaris at a book reading.

"This wedding was wedding of the week in the New York Times so it was a big, big deal," Rabin said. "And David Sedaris is my favorite writer of all time, so I was excited, and it seemed like the opportunity of a lifetime. But I had to choose between the three, and thankfully the show pilot didn't end up airing for another month so I got to go to my friend's wedding."

Later that month, Rabin attended the final eight auditions in L.A., where he said his competitors were friendly but the competition was stiff.

"I rode from the airport to the hotel with one of the women, in early auditions, who worked as a critic at the Sun-Times and I hit it off with her," he said. "It was strange because we bonded very quickly, but it was apparent from the outset that there was only money or room for one outside critic. One of us was going to be going home. It's like this video game I used to play called *Double Dragon*. At the end, having killed everybody else, you have to kill your friend."

Rabin compared the interview process and final selection to a reality television show.

"It was all very, very surreal," he said. "At the finals, there were three critics flown in from out of town. There was a very nationally respected African-American gay Yale graduate, and I thought

I was f--ked because they said they were looking for diversity. Here I am, a heterosexual white male, and I'm up against a really bright accomplished black gay Yale graduate who happens to be one of the top critics in the country. But I figured I still had to give it a shot. To make matters worse, he was the exact same age as me, and also a prodigy. I wasn't completely scared off by that."

Like an episode of "Survivor," the final eight contenders were divided into two groups and read their scripts and discussed the selected films. Rabin hadn't even seen one of the selected films.

"I hadn't seen *The Passion of the Christ* because I despise Mel Gibson with a white burning passion," he said. "He's one of my least favorite actors, and certainly my least favorite movie star. That being said, I avoided the movie like the plague. I thought, 'I don't really have to subject myself to such excruciating violence.' ... I kind of lucked out, and it was on Pay-Per-View. It was strange though, because I literally watched it on a 10-inch screen in my hotel room. I'm sure that's the way Mel Gibson wanted his film to be experienced."

Rabin said he also thought that he saw an omen when the hotel didn't have his room ready on time.

"I went down to the producers' rooms and they asked me to rewrite my copy," he said. "It was this completely stressful thing. [Jamie] had this script for review I had written, and she read it in the flat-test, deadest voice imaginable. Then she read Josh's and said his was just great, and started reading the copy like it was a love letter."

But Rabin's brash honesty and humorous overtones got him selected as one of the final four, along with Jones, Kun and Kit. Rabin flies out for filming every weekend because he still lives in Chicago.

## THE SHOW

When AMC took on a show like "Movie Club with John Ridley," it was aimed at a younger, hipper generation. The show is successful due in part to its selection of commentators and movies, which range from widely released blockbusters to what Rabin describes as "arthouse French flicks."

"Critics are important," Rabin said. "We are the only thing that stands between the studios and audience. The fact of the matter is, we serve a very important function. The studios already have too much power through marketing film pieces of crap like *Saw* or *The Amityville Horror* remake. Mr. and Mrs. America feel obligated to go to the local multiplex and see *Amityville* on six screens, when there is a good obscure French film playing in an art house on the other side of town. As critics, we're

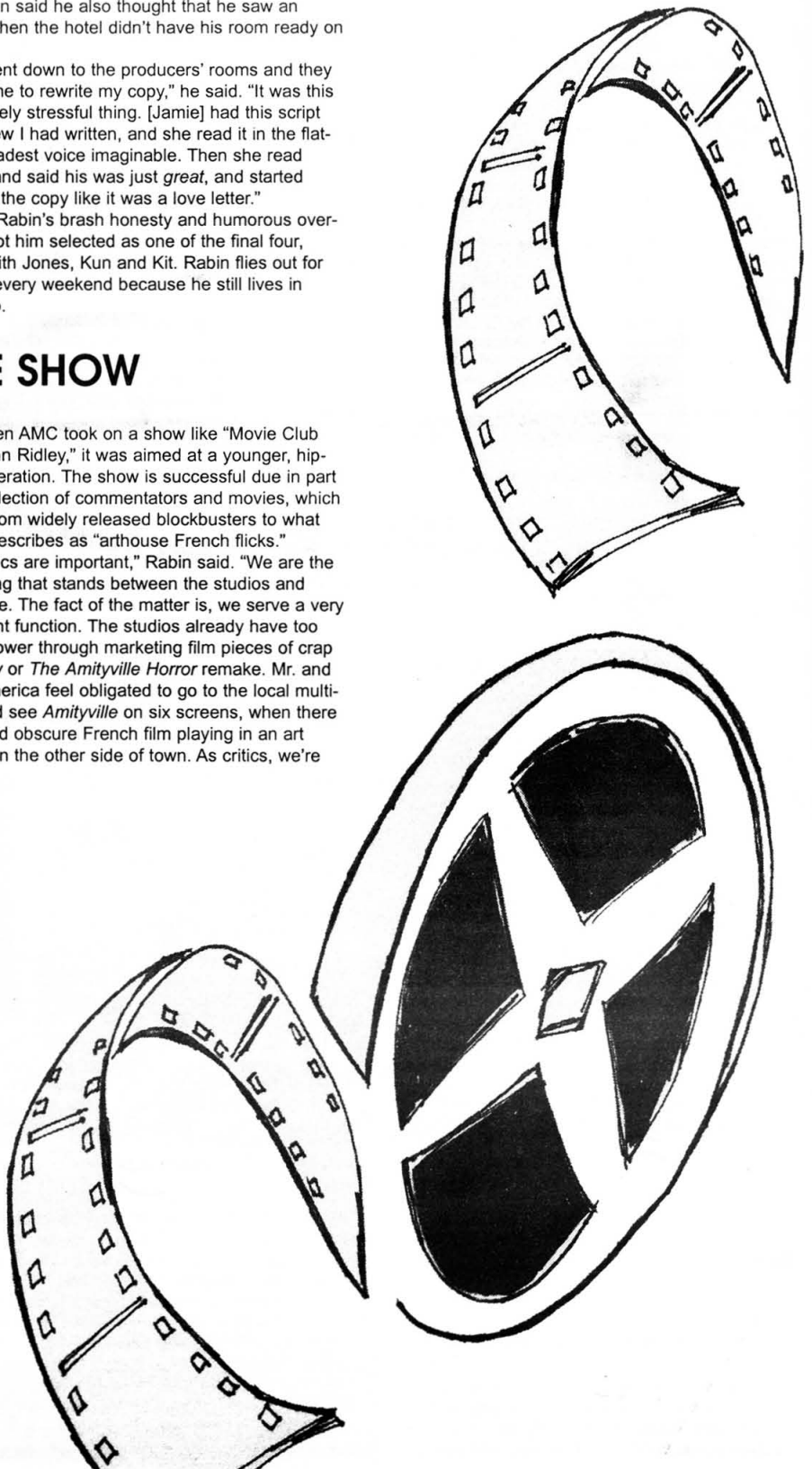
saying 'Don't go see *Amityville*! See that obscure French movie!' If it weren't for critics, darlings would float out into the ether."

Ceaser said that the overall goal is to go beyond the template "Sneak Previews" has built, serving as a "consumers' guide" to the movies.

"It still is in many ways, very similar to that," she said. "It's not only what you should spend your money on or shouldn't. It's interesting to hear ideas and different points of view. We hope that it's around for a while, that it evolves and gets better and better. Once you get the template down, you can experiment."

Rabin said, "[The hosts try to] bring something different and new and unique to the show."

"I think, well as I like to say, the bottomless need for attention I have, I try to be entertaining on television," he said. "I aim to amuse. But I also try to put things in historical and cinematic context. I have a lot of film criticism experience. Also [there is] my shameless mugging, and I frighten small children with my bald head."





# Othello, Hamlet ... Skywalker?

*Episode III finds heart in tragic hero, not epic warfare*

**Bradley Zint/Daily Forty-Niner**

It's time to prepare your inner-dork for the grand finale.

The last installment of the famous *Star Wars* series, the films that changed filmmaking, merchandising, soundtracks—practically everything—forever is set for release May 19. *Revenge of the Sith* promises to be the most action-packed, special effects-dazzled episode yet.

Anyone who has seen the original trilogy knows the story of the black-hooded Anakin Skywalker turned Darth Vader, a man whose good turns to evil in a classic story of greed, power and love. *Revenge of the Sith* will tell audiences exactly how such malevolence persuade him to gain control of the galaxy.

"What drove me to direct Episodes I, II and III was the larger story about Anakin, who starts out as a good person but who becomes evil—and, ultimately, is redeemed by his children," said George Lucas, the creator of *Star Wars* and director of the prequels.

An increased amount of violence garnered the film a PG-13 rating, the first non-PG rating of any *Star Wars* movie.

During the film's production, Hayden Christensen, who plays Anakin Skywalker, put on the newly-constructed Vader

suit and caused the entire Fox Studios lot to come to a standstill as people witnessed the event.

"Once the cameras started rolling and George shouted 'Action,' it was incredible," Christensen said. "Being inside the suit really does make you feel powerful and evil. Even today, nearly two years afterward, I can't forget it—and can't quite articulate how it made me feel."

The movie is hyped as the best of the prequel series. *Revenge of the Sith* has received surprising amounts of positive attention from respected directors Steven Spielberg and Francis Ford Coppola.

Admittedly, they are Lucas' friends, but even many of his friends didn't like the original *Star Wars*, so maybe their attention is a good sign.

Kevin Smith, director of *Clerks* and *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*, recently wrote enthusiastic comments about the film on his website, [viewaskew.com](http://viewaskew.com).

"This is the *Star Wars* prequel the haters have been bitching for since *Menace* came out, and if they don't cop to that when they finally see it, they're lying," Smith wrote. "This flick is so satisfyingly tragic, you'll think you're watching



*Othello or Hamlet.*

Even composer John Williams commented positively on the film.

"*Revenge of the Sith* has the contour of great human stories, in which people accomplish wonderful things amidst the terrible happenings that surround them," Williams said. He has also stated that the film's demands were the most difficult of any in his career.

Williams' musical contributions to the two trilogies are the greatest aspect of *Star Wars*, even above the dazzling effects, memorable lines and



The wookies say: "No public displays of affection."

mythological-inspired plot.

Ignore the Yodas and stormtroopers already standing in line: This film is going to reach out to everyone. The movies' central themes about

love and loss, good and evil, and revenge and retaliation will reach out to all of us. And besides, who in this world doesn't think Darth Vader is cool?

## Just read the book

*Adapting books to film can be a lengthy process with unpredictable results*

**By Chris Hewitt/Colorado Daily**

It's almost impossible for a movie to do justice to a great book.

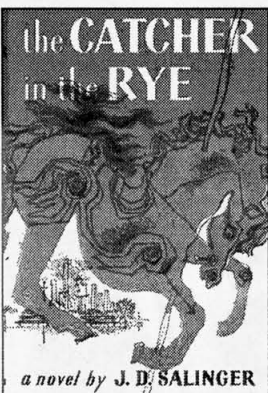
Even if a movie adaptation captures the essence of a book—*The Sweet Hereafter*, say, or *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*—it still isn't the book. Inevitably, things you loved about the book won't make it into the movie.

Our relationship with books tend to be more personal than they are with movies, largely because books rely on our imaginations to create images in a way movies don't. That may be why Hollywood has taken so long to get around to some much-loved books and why it will never get around to others. Trying to do justice to a book people worship is daunting, as these books (and possible future movies) indicate:

### *The Catcher in the Rye*

When we'll see it: Never.

What took so long: J.D. Salinger was writing *The Catcher in the Rye* when a movie version of his story *Uncle Wiggly in Connecticut* was released. *My Foolish Heart* starred Susan Hayward. Salinger hated it, which may be why *Catcher* hero Holden Caulfield is so contemptuous of his brother, who works in

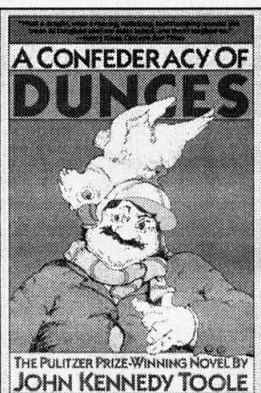


Hollywood. Salinger decreed that no other movies should be based on his work.

### *A Confederacy of Dunces*

When we'll see it: It's not looking good.

What took so long: A variety of directors have attempted to get it off the ground, including, most recently, Steven Soderbergh and then David Gordon Green (*Undertow*, *All the Real Girls*). Drew Barrymore's production company also attempted to get the movie made, with Will Ferrell mentioned for the leading role of a sardonic New Orleans man with a unique take on the world. But script dif-



ficulty—specifically, trying to tell a story largely based on what goes on in one man's head—has been a stumbling block.

### *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

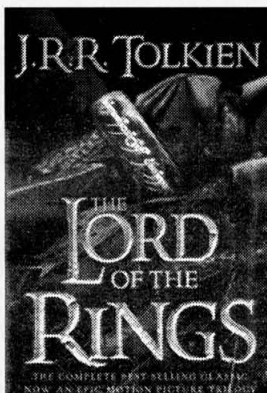
When we'll see it: Now.

What took so long: *Hitchhiker* was made into a well-regarded miniseries in the '80s, but fans' love of Douglas Adams' books is so great (and the scope of the five-book series so vast), moviemakers may have been too intimidated to take it on.

### *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

When we'll see it: Christmas.

What took so long: C.S.



Lewis' seven *Chronicles of Narnia* books, dating to the 1950s, have been made into TV movies, but to do them right would require costly special effects and a major commitment. A commitment like that turned *The Lord of the Rings* films into some of the biggest hits of all time, which is probably what persuaded Disney to pull the trigger on the first *Narnia* book. They didn't hire expensive stars—Tilda Swinton (*Constantine*) is the biggest name in the cast—and they're calling it *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, both tipoffs that

Disney envisions this as a *Rings*-style blockbuster series.

### *The Lord of the Rings*

When we'll see it: Everyone already has, but there's probably yet another collector's edition on the way.

What took so long: The questions were always the same—how many movies to turn the three books into? How to capture them without spending a billion dollars? And director Peter Jackson won an Oscar for the brilliant ways he answered them.

### *Prozac Nation*

When we'll see it: July 5.

What took so long: Well, being repeatedly trashed by author Elizabeth Wurtzel didn't help. Representatives of Miramax Pictures, which made *Prozac Nation* into a movie five years ago, have blamed Wurtzel's bad-mouthing, as well as never-ending problems and 9/11, for delays in releasing the movie. *Prozac Nation* premiered at the Toronto Film Festival in 2001. The Christina Ricci/Jessica Lange/Anne Heche film never did make it into theaters, but at least it didn't premiere on airplanes. It aired on the Starz! cable channel this winter and will debut on DVD July 5.

# Enron story stranger than fiction

By Todd Burbo/A&E Editor

Like it or not, Michael Moore has changed the face of documentary filmmaking.

The genre once dominated by pieces on exotic travel destinations and semi-obscure subcultures such as Bruce Brown's *The Endless Summer* or Ken Burns' *Jazz* is now flooded with films attacking political and corporate America. In the wake of Moore's 2004 film *Fahrenheit 9/11*, the first American documentary to make more than \$100 million, we've seen attacks on news networks (Robert Greenwald's *Outfoxed*), fast food (Morgan Spurlock's *Super Size Me*), and business in general (Jennifer Abbott and Mark Achbar's *The Corporation*).

The latest film in this vein is Alex Gibney's *Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room*, which dissects the already well-publicized corporate and political scandal of Enron by providing a peek at those who helped bring the company down and those who suffered because of its collapse.

The documentary is based on the book *The Smartest Guys in the Room: The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron*, by Bethany McLean and Peter Elkind, who both appear in the film to comment and elaborate on the seemingly ridiculous yet all too real plot.



In a weird coincidence, Enron exec Jeffrey Skilling's migraine and whistle-blower Sherron Watkins' testimony begin at the same time.

Gibney was brave to believe that audiences would pay to watch two hours of business jargon, and while he's unlikely to earn revenues on the scale of Moore's films, his gamble should pay off—he has certainly done all that he can to draw a crowd.

*Enron* begins with a dramatic, *Unsolved Mysteries*-style reenactment of an executive's suicide, then quickly backtracks to outline the company's history. Unfortunately, the film backtracks too far with too much focus on the details of Enron's rise to power. The narration and commentaries are peppered

with corporate lingo detailing the mechanics of business that audiences do not need to know to follow the plot.

Gibney seems to realize how dull the subject matter is and attempts to spice up the film with any non-business footage he can manage to squeeze in. An executive's vacation is depicted with stock footage of airborne dirt bikes, intertwined with company employees lounging in mud-streaked clothing.

Another employee's spending habits are illustrated by an entirely unnecessary—and completely uncensored—mon-

tage of strippers. *Enron* tends to linger on these moments almost as if it can sense the audience perking up during the break from business lecture.

The film also makes a feeble attempt to explore the psychology behind Enron's top executives, but fails to get beneath the surface, dismissing them as "former nerds" who just wanted to be cool. In the end, the only proven motivation for their fraud is sheer greed.

If audiences make it through the first half of *Enron*, they'll be rewarded with an interesting look at America's biggest corporate scandal. While the only footage of the executives involved comes from news clips and court coverage, plenty of insight is provided by other former employees. Most notable is an energy trader—traders were the lifeblood of Enron; they bought and sold energy "shares" as if it were stock—and a man at the bottom of the food chain, a power line repairman.

Recorded calls featuring the energy traders' banter provide the most shocking moments of the documentary. Audiences hear Enron employees calling power plants, telling them to shut down, and then power back up when prices rise; essentially creating California's infamous energy crisis of 2001.

The traders also praise wild-fires for destroying power lines, and discuss retiring at 30 years old on profits made from California's energy sales.

While the traders expose Enron's manipulation of energy prices, the line repairman brings a human element to the story. He mourns the loss of his investment of more than \$300,000, which he sold after the scandal for \$1,200. Nearing retirement age, the man is now completely unable to support himself without working. His story reminds us of what the Enron scandal was really about—the thousands of employees and investors left broke and jobless.

*Enron* does a good job of proving that America is, before anything else, a capitalist society. The company's relationship with the Bush administration is only briefly examined, but their influence on the election of Arnold Schwarzenegger is undeniable, according to the film.

A word of warning, however: Audience members might leave the theater convinced that American government is run by corporations, and not the people. But that's a bit too cynical.

*Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room* is now showing at Landmark's Century Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St.

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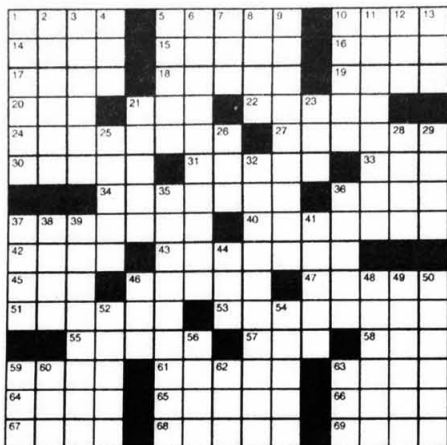
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# Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Genesis man
  - Moved in a curved path
  - Desert Storm missile
  - Go it alone
  - Disenchanted fan
  - Sagacious
  - Jack Horner's find
  - Without care
  - Small bills
  - Shade tree
  - Guided
  - "Biloxi Blues" playwright
  - Australian capital
  - Fire-bomb substance
  - Attribute
  - Accepted practice
  - Hive dweller
  - End one's amateur status
  - Tarzan's mate
  - Trend upward
  - Sadat's successor
  - Carson's predecessor
  - Drugged to sleep
  - TGIF part
  - Parsley piece
  - Tries out
  - Body art
  - Nuclear disaster
  - Never existed
  - Cork out
  - Green veggie
  - H.S. dance
  - Estate papers
  - Burn a bit
  - Sticky, wet stuff
  - Actor Flynn
  - Two-wheeler
  - Tacks on
  - Ladd or Keaton
  - Backtalk
- DOWN**
- Appearance
  - Buck
  - Female grad
  - Lady of the house
  - More fit
  - Chaparral bird



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05/18/05

## Solutions

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44	Poorly lit	54	Strong thread
46	Distress signal	56	Garr of "Close Encounters"
48	Actress Loren	59	Links org.
49	Minor adjustments	60	Gat or heater
50	Traps	62	Notable time
52	Packs down	63	Tv network

# I ain't no holla back girl

It's an all too common story: A fabulous, smart and funny girl being left for a dull, mousy one. It doesn't make much sense, but it happens time and time again. Recently, it happened to my friend Tracey.

Tracey started seeing the completely unattractive Josh a few months back. He had quite a reputation, which was part of the appeal for her. The more they saw of each other, the harder Tracey fell. The sex was great and he was more down-to-earth than she thought.

Then Josh started seeing Jane. Since Josh was not exclusively dating Tracey, there wasn't much she could say, and she didn't want to end things. But soon after, he did.

"We should just be friends," he told Tracey. Jane wasn't a bad looking girl, but she wasn't great looking either. She wasn't outspoken, and not particularly funny. She was ... average. Jane followed Josh to every party, bar and restaurant he went to in the city.

As Tracey told me the story, it became all too clear: This was a classic case of a man being unable to handle a self-assured woman.

I talked to my boyfriend Alan about the situation and he, much to my surprise, agreed. Some men would rather date a simple girl than a woman who is unapologetically extroverted.

"Some guys are threatened by confident women," said Alan, who is obviously not threatened by a confident woman. "But I do think women make too many excuses when guys end relationships."

I began thinking about every boy who ever dumped me, and my thought process behind each one. Scott dumped me because he was a low-life who was going nowhere and couldn't handle such an ambitious, fabulous person. Tom dumped me because he was too conservative for me and wanted a mousy, Republican

girl instead. And Chris dumped me because he's a masochist and I was too nice to him.

Uh oh. I officially made up an excuse for every guy who ever broke up with me. And I'm not the only one. Nearly all of my friends made similar excuses when a guy chose to end their relationship.

I could be wrong, but I rarely hear men saying, "She dumped me because I am just too hot for her and she's afraid I'm going to end things first."

When I break things off with someone, it's because the feelings are gone. That's it. Unless they cheat or do something horrible to me, that is usually the only reason. Why am I so unwilling to accept that when a guy ends things with me, it's because he simply doesn't like me anymore?

"No offense, Bea, but I could never date you," my good friend Adam said. "You're just not my type." Adam is notorious for dating the mousiest, most boring girls in the city.

Adam isn't my type either, but I wondered what the appeal is. I am rarely attracted to a man who isn't funny, smart or attractive and I need at least one of these qualities.

My friend Kevin explained Adam's strange behavior to me. "Sometimes it's nice to have someone around who doesn't take much effort to date," he said. "It's better than being alone, and you don't have to worry about getting your heart broken."

I suppose it's impossible to get honest answers out of an ex. Dwelling on the "why" can suck the life out of you. Whether I'm wrong or right, it's easier for me to say that a guy just can't handle me rather than admit that he simply doesn't care for me anymore. Therefore, every excuse I've ever made stands.

And extroverted girls should not be bummed about being left for boring girls. At least you know your ex is suffering in the bedroom.

—Beatrix@chroniclemail.com



**BELOW  
the  
BELT**  
by  
Beatrix Dixon

# The Half Funny Page

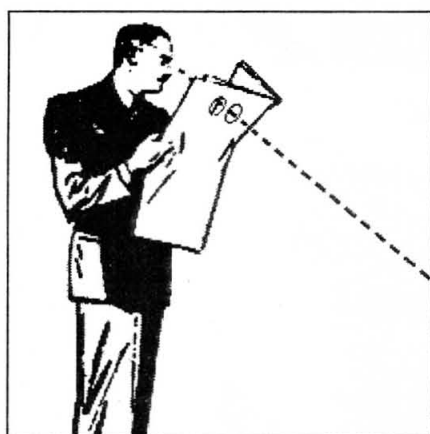
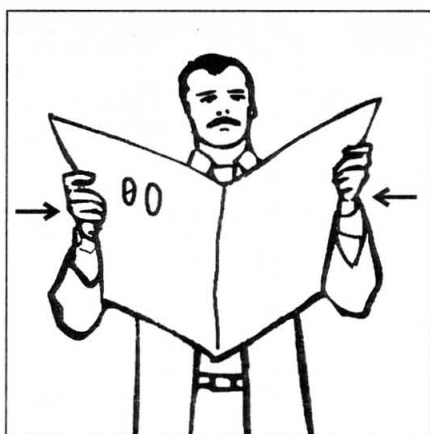
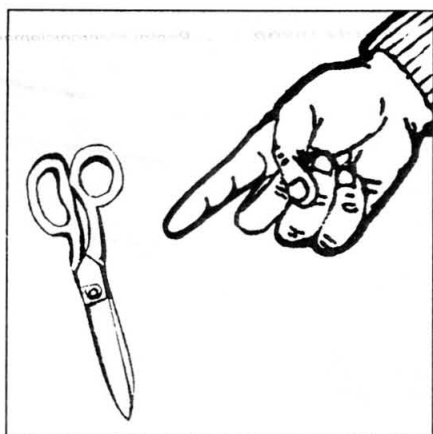
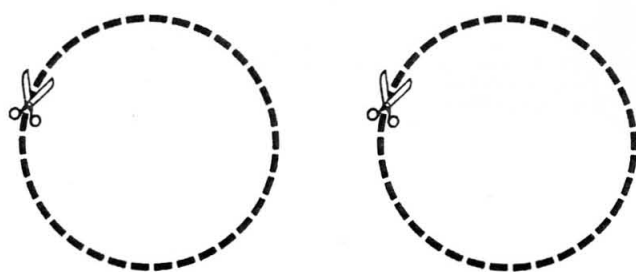
## Out of My Head

by **Scotty Carlson**



The Family Monster by Josh Shalek





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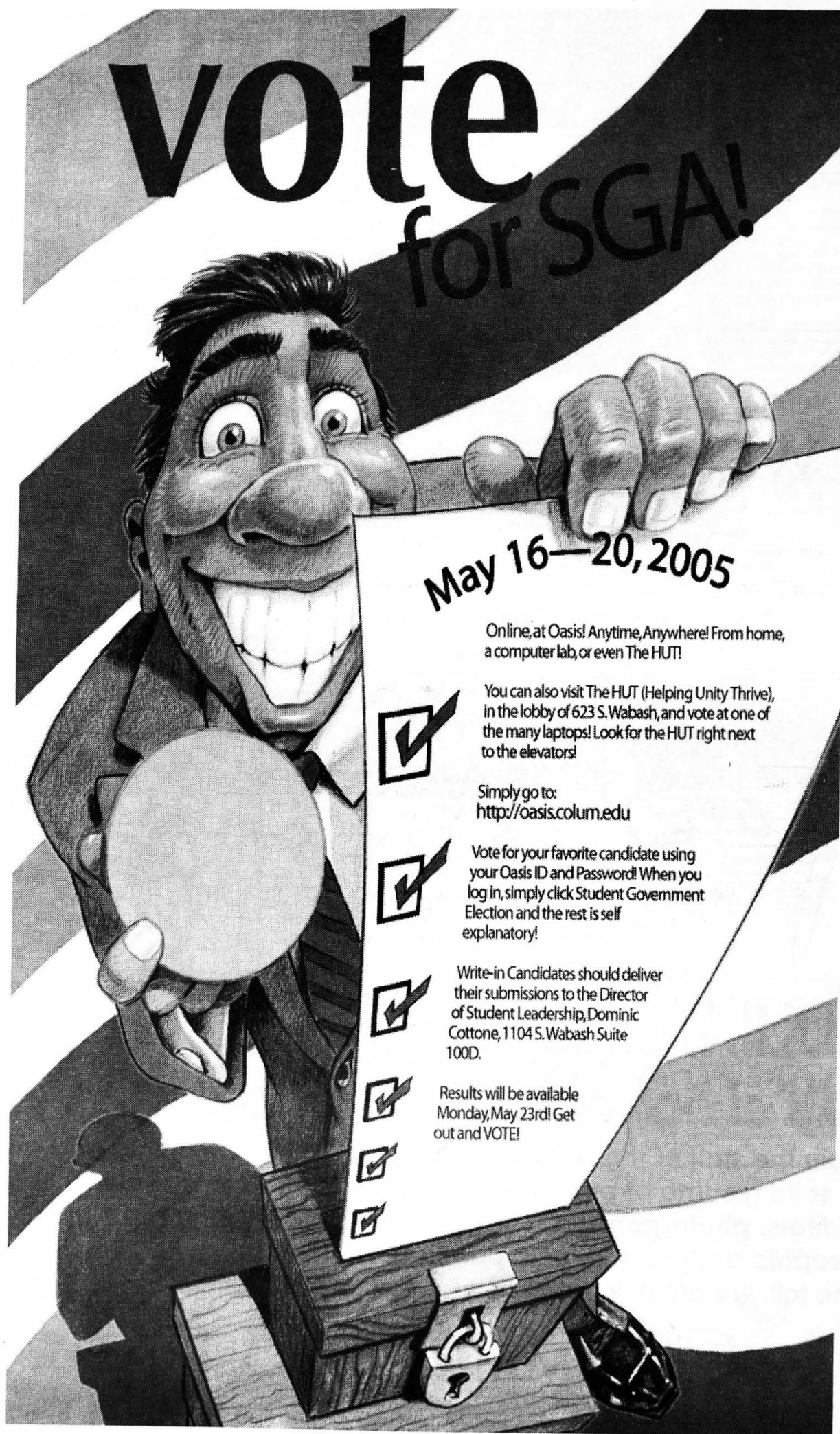
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*The following is a list of students who have worked for food service since 1988. Some of these students worked for a few months — a few semesters, but some of them stayed on to keep money coming in while they pursued dreams that brought them to Columbia.*



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*We hope we haven't omitted anyone. May all your dreams come true!*



# Riders grill CTA on Brown Line project

○ Upgrades, work on stations planned by CTA

By Monica Tapia  
Staff Writer

When the public had an opportunity at a May 9 meeting to ask Chicago Transit Authority officials with questions about the controversial Brown Line Capacity Expansion Project, many people left feeling unheard and unanswered.

Over the years, overcrowding has become an issue on one of the city's oldest lines which has nearly 44,500 riders on the average weekday.

Despite the necessity for updates on the line, many customers are not pleased with the CTA's design and plans for the affected stations.

The public meeting at Homer Park, 2741 W. Montrose Ave., was supposed to allow the community to voice their concerns about the impending Brown Line expansion but attendees left unsatisfied.

Regular riders were concerned at the meeting about the plans, including work on the Kimball, Kedzie, Francisco, Rockwell and Western stations, from the proposed design to the timing and cost of the project at the meeting.

"They lied to our faces, over and over again," said June Huitt, a regular Brown Line rider. "I'm pretty pissed."

Everyday Huitt, a Chicago resident, uses the Rockwell station in the morning and the Western

station at night. She said she is disgusted with the new design for the Rockwell station—a station that she was told, time and again at other community meetings, was going to remain the same.

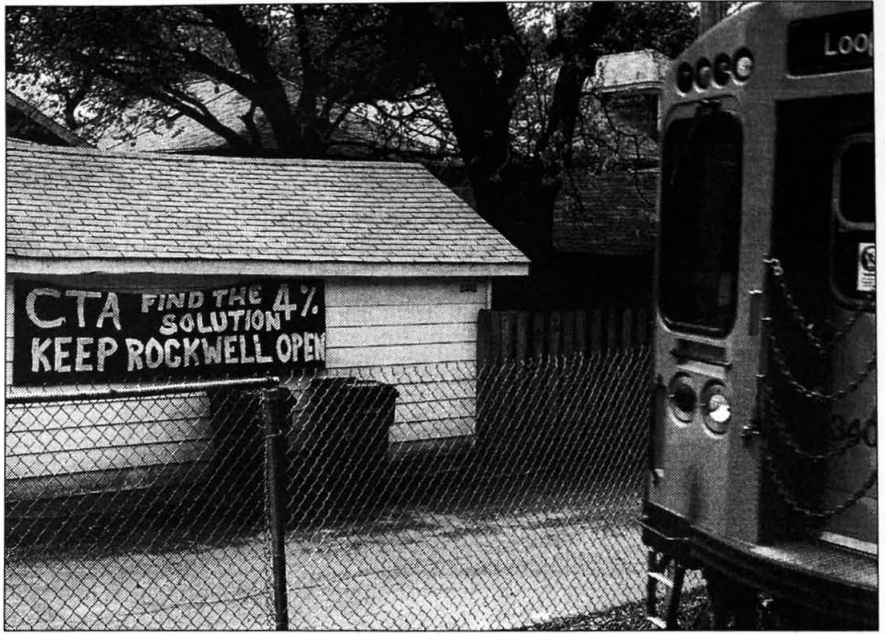
The CTA has every station up for redesign, said John Dalton, with CTA construction. He said that the new upgrades, such as new stationhouses or canopies, are going to be redone with inexpensive steel and materials. "The stations are not going to be Cadillacs," Dalton said.

Most of the stations are reducing their non-customer features such as janitor closets and employee restrooms. Questions about where employees would be able to take restroom breaks went unanswered, another point of contention for Huitt.

Attendees felt the most pressing issues were glossed over at the meeting. An issue that came up repeatedly was the length of time each station would be shut down.

Auriel Cabrera, a senior at Columbia and Brown Line rider, said she was appalled at the amount of time the CTA has estimated.

"The CTA needs to find alternative ways of providing services if these stations are going to be closed down," Cabrera said. "My guess is that they haven't considered how the passengers feel about closure."



Eric Davis/The Chronicle

The CTA sponsored a public meeting at Homer Park, 2741 W. Montrose Avenue, where regular riders and concerned citizens questioned the authority's upcoming Brown Line expansion project. Busy stations such as Kimball, Kedzie, Francisco, Rockwell and Western will be closed on and off starting this summer with few alternative options for riders.

The temporary closures will start in September. On average, each station will be closed for about six-eight months, but no adjacent stations will be closed at the same time.

The Western station is the only one that won't be closed on weekends. Station closures will be lengthy because overtime hours are not on the budget, according to Robert Wittman, with CTA construction.

Angry customers complained to CTA officials about starting the work during the first month of cold weather.

But CTA officials said the

project needed to begin immediately in order to obtain the funds provided by the federal government and the Regional Transportation Authority.

The objective of the project is to increase the line's overall ridership from 66,000 riders a day to almost 90,000. The plans also look to provide access to all CTA customers, including handicapped passengers with upgrades in wheelchair accessibility. The CTA plans to update the line, enlarge platforms to accommodate waiting passengers and add two more cars to each train to ease congestion

during peak times. Some stations are going to be fully upgraded.

According to CTA officials, the plan is on a tight budget—a half a billion dollars—leaving many customers at the meeting asking why they are concentrating on new designs and upgrades.

"I'd rather have a shabby station than something new [like these plans]," Huitt said.

No alternative train schedules have been printed or even proposed. More details will be determined in future meetings held by the CTA.

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## Mission Continued from Back Page

hasn't been responsive," Velez said. "We've been attempting to reach her, but that hasn't happened." Haithcock did not return their phone calls.

In March, Velez said, the group "went to the top" and sent more than 500 petitions and a letter to Mayor Daley voicing their concerns about the mission's possible move. Velez said they did not receive a response from the mayor's office. City officials have voiced concerns in the past that the mission could be condemned if issues of upkeep weren't addressed. The Mayor's office could not be reached for comment.

Velez said the group recognized the Chicago Journal as the South Loop's community newspaper, which is why they chose to send the letter to that publication.

"We recognize that Mayor Daley reads it as well," Velez said. She added that the group is currently in the process of laying out other alternatives for the mission, and in the coming months, they hope to voice those plans.

Velez said the article was a group effort and was researched through various city publications, including the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times.

And while the mayor may not have noticed the article, others have, including the mission.

Because of issues with other publications misquoting and misrepresenting the mission, the mis-

sions' spokesperson wished to remain anonymous, but did say that the groups' May 5 letter in the Chicago Journal was "mostly untrue."

"A good part of that article was totally false," said the spokesperson. "[The group] has a problem with us because they think we'll add serious issues [to their neighborhood]."

The mission's spokesperson

**"You can't stop your flow of communication because that's what they want you to do. They want you to go away."**

*—Martha Velez, The Concerned Citizens of the Pacific Garden Mission Relocation*

added that the group recently met with the mission officials, indicating that they would be bringing "five or six" members, but instead came with 26.

"We met with them on good faith, and while we were talking, people were picketing outside," the spokesperson said.

While both groups continue to argue their points, others in the South Loop have argued that the concerned citizens should take a look at how other mixed-income housing and homeless shelters in the South Loop have fared in the past.

Leslie Gryce Sturino, president of South Loop Neighbors, a non-profit organization dedicated to

preserving area landmarks and enhancing the quality of life in the South Loop, said that the citizens concerned with the Pacific Garden Mission's move should come to the South Loop to see how the community and mixed-income housing live harmoniously.

"I'm concerned that Pilsen residents haven't done their homework," Gryce Sturino said. "They need to get themselves informed."

Gryce Sturino, reiterating the missions' complaint of inaccurate information in the letter, said, "It's not playing fair putting wrong information [in the Chicago Journal]."

But while Gryce Sturino added that Pilsen residents could benefit from looking at the models in the South Loop, including a mixed income single room occupancy at 18th Street and Wabash Avenue, she said that another area institution would greatly benefit from the missions' move.

"[South Loop Neighbors'] position is that Jones College Prep has to absolutely go forward with all possible haste," Gryce Sturino said of the school's plans to add facilities once the mission moved. "This has dragged on for too long."

She added: "No one's needs are being served [with the arguments continuing], least of all the clients. The mission is going forward to change that."

# Cyclists to 'Bike Chicago'

○ Lake Shore Drive to be closed for bicyclists as part of annual event

By Debra Fine  
Staff Writer

People living on Lake Shore Drive who open their windows early on May 29 will not hear sounds of honking cars or crashing waves. Instead, they will be greeted by the sounds of gears changing and tires whirring as cyclists take over the road in the annual Bike the Drive.

Bike the Drive is the premier event of Bike Chicago 2005, a three-month initiative with events organized by the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation and other bicycling and citizens' groups. The Bike the Drive campaign, sponsored by the Mayor's Office of Special Events and Bank One, encourages Chicagoans to leave their cars behind and get on their bikes. Events like Bike the Drive, the Bike to Work Rally and Commuter Challenge aim to remind people that Chicago, which was named the best big city for cycling in 2002 by *Bicycling* magazine, is a bike-friendly city.

One of Bike Chicago's most popular events, Bike the Drive, is organized and presented by the CBF each year. The event allows thousands of bicyclists to ride on Lake Shore Drive when the city closes it to vehicular traffic for four hours. The event, which is open to all Chicagoans who register, drew as many as 25,000 riders last May, and the city expects just as many people this year.

Jocelyn Brumbaugh decided to bike the Drive last year with her boyfriend to celebrate the start of

the summer. It was such a great experience, she said, that she plans to go again this year, despite the rigorous course.

"You don't realize how hilly it is when you're riding in a car," Brumbaugh said. "It's open to all sorts of folks from first time bikers to [experienced bicyclists]."

Participants can choose from a 15-mile or 30-mile course on Lake Shore Drive, starting and ending at

**"It's more than recreation. Bicycles are a viable [alternative] to driving anywhere you need to go."**

—David Morton, Columbia College faculty member

the Museum Campus. After all the cycling is done, participants can relax at the post-ride festival, in Upper Hutchinson Field, at Columbus and Balbo drives, which includes activities for children, a pancake breakfast, music and health screenings.

"We encourage people to get out and take advantage of the convenient opportunities," said Mary May of the Mayor's Office of Special Events. "Bike Chicago is the only [bicycle program] recognized nationally."

The city is also trying to get people to choose riding their bikes to work instead of taking a car or bus. On June 17, the city will host the Bike to Work Rally and Commuter Challenge. Cyclists who ride to work will be rewarded with a free

continental breakfast, T-shirts and raffle prizes.

Aside from larger events, there are other perks for riders throughout the three months of Bike Chicago. Bally Total Fitness lets cyclists use their showers and locker rooms for free and local bike shops hold seminars on safety. Commuters will also be allowed to bring their bikes on Metra trains, an issue that has been a hot topic since Lt. Governor Pat Quinn proposed his initiative to petition for bikes on all Metra commuter trains.

City and activist organizations also sponsor events where bicyclists race against people driving in cars or taking the el to the same locations to show that bicycling is an efficient way of getting around. David Morton, a full-time faculty member in Columbia's Institute for Science Education and Science Communication, said riding a bike is a great way to get around.

"It's more than recreation," Morton said. "Bicycles are a viable [alternative] to driving anywhere you need to go."

Riders also have the opportunity to bike through the night during the 17 annual L.A.T.E. Ride, presented by Friends of the Parks. On July 10 about 9,000 people are expected to start at Buckingham Fountain and ride until they see the sun rise over Lake Michigan.

"It's unique riding through the city at night. It isn't something you do [all the time]," said Bike Chicago volunteer and cyclist Floyd Bednarz.



Ben Pancoast/The Chronicle

The Chicago Mayor's Office of Special Events and various bicycling advocacy groups in the city encourage people to ride around town during with the annual "Bike Chicago" campaign. During May, June and July events will be held around the city for riders of all ages and skill levels.

Bike Chicago is part of an ongoing commitment to making the city bicycle friendly, providing space for people to ride and park their bikes. Chicago has 100 miles of bike lanes—more than New York City—and more than 50 miles of bike paths. The city also has about 10,000 bike racks, according to May, and more are being installed all the time.

"We continue every year to improve upon what we have," May said.

Several tours of Chicago neighborhoods, such as Pedal Through Pilsen, which takes cyclists by historic buildings in the Pilsen neighborhood, will happen throughout the summer. Other tours include Chinatown on Bicycle Tour and a Travel Through Taylor. All of these events are organized and run by

various civic and advocacy groups.

Bike Chicago aims to be both an awareness campaign and a community builder for bicyclists in Chicago. Organizers look to encourage people to look at bikes as a real option as opposed to taking cars.

Amy Bartley, a junior marketing major at Columbia, an intern for the CBF who works as a volunteer coordinator for Bike the Drive, looks to do just that.

"Biking is a great way for college students to get around the city," Bartley said. "You can get to school in half the time you could walking."

For more information on any of these events log on to [www.bikechicago2005.org](http://www.bikechicago2005.org) or call The Mayor's Office of Special Events at (312) 744-3315.

## Lake *Continued from Back Page*

direct health effects from swimming in contaminated water."

The current federally-approved testing method for *E. coli* requires samples to be sent to and evaluated by licensed EPA testers. Though the test is then more accurate, it takes a relatively long time. In addition to the approved method, the Chicago Park District uses an experimental method called the Smart Cycler that provides faster results but, Arizzi said, the district cannot rely on this. Cabala said that there is a national push for faster methods like this one because, while departments wait for

results, people have likely already been swimming.

Recent research questions the effectiveness of swimming bans. Don Coursey, Ameritech Professor at Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, said his research for faster methods would mostly help larger cities.

"The problem is whether it is cost-effective for smaller cities to use new technology [like the Smart Cycler]," Coursey said. "Like a lot of things, you have to wait for the cost to catch up with the technology."

Coursey's and the EPA's

research both point to animal waste in the water as the cause of high bacteria levels. Agricultural sources and the rise of cities near coastlines are also factors. These kinds of issues will remain no matter what steps are taken to combat it, though the lake is much cleaner than it was in the 1960s and 1970s, when some of the counterpart Great Lakes were on the verge of being declared dead water bodies. Cabala said the Clean Air and Water Acts helped with many problems, but that there is still a long way to go.

"This is a huge, nationwide issue. Just because the lake looks

cleaner now, it doesn't mean it is," Cabala said.

The idea that there is more than meets the eye is the thought process behind the park district's swimming bans. The city's Department of Environment works closely with the park district to inform swimmers of the problems and try to improve the situation. Merritt said the city is pushing for better ways to test the water.

"There are inherent problems with using *E. coli* as an indicator organism [because] it reproduces and can thrive in the open environment and the current test

method accepted by the EPA takes over 18 hours to complete," Merritt said.

The city and the park district are working together on ways to "allow real time monitoring of the beaches," according to Merritt.

In the meantime, swimmers might have to expect bans again this summer. A regular testing policy like the Chicago Park District's is essential in urban areas, because the public's best interests are in mind, Cabala said.

"It's not an easy task," Cabala said.

### On the Lighter Side

**Don't leave stuff in the locker room...**

On May 5 an 18-year-old male at Jones College Prep, 606 S. State St., reported to police that he left his cell phone in his coat pocket in the school's locker room. Upon returning to the room, he discovered the phone was missing. He said the value of the phone was \$300.

**... Or on a 7-Eleven counter**

Police responded to report of theft inside the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., on May 7. The victim said she left her checkbook on the counter of the neighboring 7-Eleven. She left the store and realized she forgot it, and called the store. A clerk informed her that she had

given the checkbook to the owner. The victim called police to report the theft. The checkbook contained \$400 in cash, an ATM card and an ID.

**... Or on a public coat rack**

Officers responded to a report of theft at Pacific Garden Mission, 646 S. State St., on May 1. The victim, a 44-year-old male, reported that he left his wallet inside his jacket pocket hanging on a coat rack in the mission. He said he observed the offender walking from his jacket with the wallet in his hand. He tried but could not stop the offender, who ran out the front door. The victim reported the incident to police.

### OFF THE BLOTTER



Ryan Duggan/The Chronicle

### On a Serious Note

**Attack on Columbia grounds**

On May 3 a 20-year-old female at Columbia's Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., reported to police that for reasons unknown, a 20-year-old male picked her up and threw her to the ground, and stated that she needed to be more aware of her surroundings. Security was summoned. No injury was sustained and, when police arrived, the victim said she would not press charges, but asked that the offender not

continue to bother her.

**Man charged with public indecency inside library**

On May 7, a 44-year-old female employee of the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., reported to library security that a 40-year-old male was following her as she was restocking shelves. While maintaining visual contact with the victim, the offender was masturbating. The offender was apprehended by library security, and after police were called, was arrested. He was charged with public indecency and remains in custody.

—Information compiled from the 12th District Chicago Police Department records by Chronicle staff.



# Mission's new locale irks local community group

○ Planned move to open space for \$20 million Jones College Prep addition

By Josh Kantarski  
Assistant City Beat Editor

Even after months of meetings, hearings and other assorted gatherings, one Chicago-area group, aimed at getting its voice heard on the issue of where to put the Pacific Garden Mission, recently directed their frustrations at Mayor Richard M. Daley.

On May 5, a group calling itself The Concerned Citizens of the Pacific Garden Mission Relocation issued a full-page, open letter addressed to Mayor Daley in the Chicago Journal, a South Loop newspaper. In the letter, the group, composed of 20 Pilsen and University Village residents, outlined 12 reasons why the mission should not go through with its plan to move from its current location at 646 S. State St. to its planned destination at 14th Place and Canal Street.

The group's complaints include a "poor record of rehabilitation [for the mission]," a history of sub-par maintenance at the facili-

ty and the risk the nation's largest homeless shelter would pose to "children and the elderly."

The mission, which has been a staple of the South Loop, aiding the homeless for more than 80 years, announced on December 9, 2004 that it found a two-acre plot of land at 14th Place and Canal Street after more than six years of planning and negotiating. The move was aided by Chicago Public Schools and the city of Chicago. The plot straddles the 2nd and 25th wards, located in Pilsen.

The mission's plan would allow neighboring Jones College Prep, 606 S. State St., to continue with its \$20 million renovation that would include a gym built on the lot vacated by the mission. The college preparatory high school currently serves 720 students and has a graduation rate of 93 percent.

The mission's move, according to Connie Buscemi, a spokeswoman for Chicago's Department

of Planning and Development, was approved in March by the City Council. The mission's new facility would include solar heating, more dorm space and a centrally located courtyard, offering the mission more than twice the space it has now. The mission currently serves more than 600 people and is considered one of the nation's largest homeless shelters.

While it appears steps are falling into place for both the mission and Jones College Prep, some groups contend that other voices in communities affected by the planned move need to be heard.

Martha Velez, chairwoman of The Concerned Citizens of the Pacific Garden Mission Relocation, said the group has been following the developments on both sides since December 2004, and after voicing concerns at numerous meetings with 25th Ward Alderman Danny Solis, the mission and CPS, residents' concerns still have not been heard.



David Maki/The Chronicle

Pacific Garden Mission, 646 S. State St., announced plans in December 2004 to move from its current spot to 14th Place and Canal Street. The new locale will border the 2nd and 25th wards, and offer patrons more than twice the space they currently have. The proposed structure will include a central courtyard and a greenhouse.

"We've taken all the proper channels," Velez said, "[but] you can't stop your flow of communication because that's what they want you to do. They want you to go away."

Among the troubles for the group, Velez said, was their inability to meet with 2nd Ward Alderman Madeline Haithcock. "Haithcock

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# Sun, sand and testing beaches for bacteria

○ Chicago Park District, city searching for efficient ways to test water faster

By Alicia Dorr  
City Beat Editor

Every summer, tourists and residents alike head to Chicago's downtown coastline to enjoy Lake Michigan's beaches. However, in their search for sun and sand, many encounter something more unwelcome: E. coli bacteria.

Last summer Chicago's beaches were closed 128 times due to high bacteria levels. Now, with the summer and beach season fast

approaching, the Chicago Park District is ready to begin its regular water testing regimen in an effort to keep swimmers away from unsafe water. With the first beach closing on Lake Michigan's shore happening as early as April 19 of this year, the district is considering new ways to combat the problems that plague the busy destination.

"We're very particular about the maintenance of the beaches," said Lisa Arizzi, a Chicago Park District spokeswoman. "There are so many environmental factors that contribute [to beach closings]."

Keeping swimmers happy and coming back to the city's 29 miles of lakefront is important, but not as essential as keeping them from getting sick. The park district issues swimming bans on days when tests show high levels of E. coli, a bacteria associated with fecal matter that

the Environmental Protection Agency uses as an indicator for potentially harmful waters.

The beaches on the North Side tend to have the most closings, Arizzi said. The beaches that are affected the most, however, are Montrose Avenue and 63rd Street, for unknown reasons.

Factors like heavy rains, flooding of untreated sewage, urbanization along the coastline and animal waste all contribute to hazardous conditions, according to the U.S. EPA. If people swim in infected waters, they are at risk for everything from serious skin and skin infections to gastric problems. Rather than put swimmers in danger, the park district issues a swimming ban for 24 hours.

The EPA requires that water be sampled once a week, but the Chicago Park District tests waters once a day. Though disappointed swimmers may think Chicago beaches close too often, EPA spokeswoman Phillippa Cannon said this watchfulness is a good

thing.

"The Chicago Park District is very vigilant about monitoring their beaches," Cannon said. "It might seem like they're closed more often, but this is because they are testing more often."

The park district attempts to prevent problems each year by picking up trash and implementing other cleaning methods, but not all of the problems that contribute

"There can really be a lot of direct health effects from swimming in contaminated water."

—Tanya Cabala, former associate director of Lake Michigan Federation

to beach closings are controllable. After a heavy rainfall, bacteria levels rise—a problem that health department and park district officials all around Lake Michigan have to handle. In an urbanized area like Chicago, sewage and waste management problems come into play.

Heavy rainfall causes sewage tunnels to overflow into the Chicago River, bringing E. coli and other harmful bacteria levels to skyrocket. Though the Chicago Water Reclamation District has a plan to build reser-

voirs that would act as a holding cell until the water recedes, the problem is still serious now. The city routinely inspects and repairs its sewers along the lake to ensure sewage is not migrating to the beaches, according to Larry Merritt of the Chicago Department of Environment, but the problem does exist.

Because of problems relating to sewage, park district automatically issues warnings or bans if the locks on the Chicago River are opened during heavy rainfall, Arizzi said.

Sewage problems cannot be fixed overnight, which is why Lake Michigan advocacy groups and city officials are constantly pushing for faster methods of testing waters. Tanya Cabala, former associate director of the advocacy group Lake Michigan Federation, continues to consult the city on issues such as water testing. She said a coordinated effort to inform the public is important.

"First you have to test, then you have to make sure you're testing appropriately," Cabala said. "There can really be a lot of

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Ben Pancoast/The Chronicle



Ben Pancoast/The Chronicle

Chicago beaches were closed 128 times last summer due to high bacteria levels. Conditions like heavy rainfall cause sewage to overflow into the water and plague Chicago in particular because of urbanization along the shoreline.