

3-13-2006

Columbia Chronicle (03/13/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

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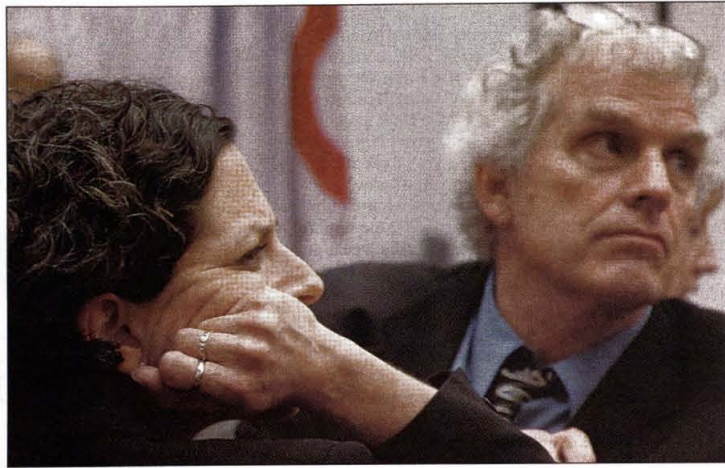
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Officials rehash familiar issues at address



Students address concerns ranging from scheduling to residential meal plans

By Hayley Graham
Campus News Editor

The fourth annual State of the College address given by Columbia president Warrick L. Carter revealed nothing new or unexpected. Students went easy on the administration, asking noncritical questions.

Carter talked about the same issues that have been addressed by the college all year—like diversity, growth of the campus and enrollment—to a capacity crowd of students, faculty and staff on March 8 in Columbia's Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

"We remain committed to diversity, open access and creativity," Carter said, during the opening of his speech. "We live by those principles every day."

While staying dedicated to its mission, Columbia is also going through some changes. In the fall, Columbia's science and math curriculum will be reunified under the umbrella of the Science and Math Department by shifting over courses from the Science Institute. This curriculum shift has caused a wave of backlash from faculty in the Science Institute. During his address Carter said that it is human nature to be hesitant about change and assured the audience that changes will be good for the community.

"At a creative, energetic and vibrant place like Columbia, change has to be embraced," he said.

This year the college also adopted a Campus Master Plan that outlines the building of a \$90 million tower, which will include a student center, at the site of Buddy Guy's Legends, at 8th Street and Wabash Avenue. Carter said it is Columbia's destiny to become the best student centered arts and media college in the world, which is a goal of the Campus Master Plan.

Another first for the college is that the graduation and retention rates are currently higher than they have ever been. While graduation rates may be on the rise, the average five-year graduation rate of African-American students is still only at 9 percent, according to Columbia reports.

Carter said the college is committed to keeping

See **Address**, Page 8



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Clockwise from top left: Columbia president Warrick L. Carter speaks at the fourth annual State of the College address about issues of campus life and the budget. Vice president of Campus Environment Alicia Berg and vice president of Student Affairs Mark Kelly (right) peer back at the audience to hear a student voice his concerns. Provost and vice president of Academic Affairs Steve Kapelke introduces himself to the audience at the address.

Film Club can't afford films

Club budget doesn't cut it for high film screening fees

By Jim Jaworski
Assistant Campus News Editor

The Columbia Film Club has not shown a single film this semester. Not because it doesn't want to, but because it can't afford to.

The Film Club, like every other club at Columbia, receives a \$500 per semester budget. While that may be more than enough for some student-run organizations, it is not nearly enough to screen films for students. Due to copyright laws, the club must pay a large amount to show a film to a general audience. Most films cost around \$350, 70 percent of the club's budget.

"It is ridiculous that such a large film school can't afford to show any films," said Michael Humphreys, faculty adviser for the Film Club.

Stephanie SeRine, president of

the Film Club, agrees with Humphreys.

"It's pretty frustrating," SeRine said. "We had all these ideas when we first started; we were going to have films every week."

The club recently inquired about the cost of screening the 1998 Darren Aronofsky film *Pi*. The cost for that film was about \$310, according to SeRine.

Columbia also charges the club a \$75 projectionist's fee on top of the cost of the film. That additional price also hurts the club, SeRine said.

"We don't understand why we can't just get a [teacher's assistant] to do it [for free]," she said. "It's ridiculous."

While the Film Club said funding is low, Dominic Cottone, director of Student Leadership, said any club has the responsibility to fund themselves after they run through money Columbia provides.

"That's the amount of money we give them and that's it," he

See **Film Club**, Page 8

Black Music Research hosts musical meeting of hundreds

By Jenifer Dorsey Fischer
Copy Chief

Jazz and blues are the musical genres most often associated with the Windy City. However, March 15 through 19 black banjo and fiddle, folk, classical and gospel music will be a few of the genres that take the spotlight, as musicians and music scholars from around the globe convene for the Conference on Black Music Research.

The Center for Black Music Research at Columbia will host the conference in conjunction with the Society for American Music, an academic organization that promotes the study of American music, which marks the 32nd annual conference. Nearly 400 people have registered to participate, including several Columbia staff and faculty members, according to Rosita Sands, the executive director of the Center for Black Music Research.

"This is an opportunity to hear

some cutting-edge research and find out what other scholars are doing and what they're investigating, finding, et cetera," Sands said.

In keeping with the CBMR's mission, the event will involve discussions of black music from various cultures and topics such as teaching black music, black music in Italy, black women's activism through music and Diasporal connections in black music of the Americas.

This is CBMR's first conference since it first co-hosted it with the Society of American Music in 2001. That conference was held in Trinidad and focused on the music of Caribbean cultures. Though this year's event doesn't have a single theme, there will be an emphasis on honoring Samuel A. Floyd Jr., Ph.D., the founder and director of CBMR, and his contributions to the field. Floyd, who recently retired, is the topic of one of 16 sessions. He will also be giving the keynote address and will be receiving a life-

time achievement award, according to Mariana Whitmer, the executive director for the Society of American Music. The society will also honor Muhal Richard Abrams, a composer and performer who co-founded the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians, as an honorary member. AACM is a nonprofit organization made up of musicians and composers that is dedicated to the development of artists and the creation of original music.

"He has furthered the study and enthusiasm in American music," Whitmer said, adding that he [Abrams] will give a performance March 17. "He was an instrumental founder of AACM."

A March 15 concert from the New Black Music Repertory Ensemble, a CBMR ensemble comprised of professional Chicago musicians, on is one of the conference's highlights that will appeal to

See **Meeting**, Page 8



Vacation, have to get away

By Jeff Danna, Editor-in-Chief

Illness is my worst enemy. I consider myself to be dedicated to my work and my studies, and it pains me to have to take time off. But several days ago I caught a virus that I assumed my immune system would fight off within about 24 hours.

A day went by, though, and I only felt worse. I ended up having to do what I what I'd always hated: I cut my workday short; I put my homework to the side, and I rested.

Five days after I felt myself becoming sick, the fatigue, the chills and all of those other nasty symptoms that come with the common cold are gone, but I still feel lousy. I feel like I've been disconnected from the world. In my attempt to rest and take care of myself, I turned off the news, I didn't read the papers, and as a result, I developed writer's block when I sat down to write this column.

So because current events have not been on my mind this week, I figured I'd share what has been: spring break. For the first time, I'm taking the kind of traditional college spring break trip I never thought I'd find myself taking. After this week, two of my friends and I will be road tripping it to Las Vegas where we will be staying in a huge condo just off the strip.

In past years, I'd been tied down during spring break. My hard-earned cash was spent flying across the country to keep up a long-distance relationship. Now,

I'm no longer tied down, so I'm free to take a road trip to Sin City and gamble away that money I would have typically spent on over-priced plane tickets.

OK, so I don't plan on gambling that much, but I cannot overstate how liberating it is to be able to take a trip for myself. For as long as I can remember, I've dreamed of heading West on a whim with a group of friends in an aging car with little luggage and even less money.

I imagined myself as a character Jack Kerouac forgot to write into *On the Road*, setting out to catch up with Dean Moriarty and Sal Paradise and having my own outrageous experiences with America along the way.

Now I have the opportunity to live out my little romantic road trip fantasy. It would be great if we picked up an eccentric hitchhiker or if my car broke down and we had to spend a day in Nowhere Town, Oklahoma—that would just add a dramatic element to my spring break story.

But what will make this week off of school perfect is the fact that I will be spending it with good friends, who in a few months I will probably see less frequently. I'm graduating in May, and this spring break could be my last opportunity for quite some time to get out of town and let loose.

Because I missed out on this type of vacation in the past, there's a lot of pressure for the Vegas trip to go well. This is

my only shot at having a wild and crazy college spring break. Sure, once I join the workforce I'll have some vacation time and I might have the chance to take some short trips, but most likely I won't have the kind of freedom I have now.

Most students at Columbia will have this same opportunity at the end of this week, and I can only stress that everyone make the most of it. I know college students are strapped for cash, but half the fun of spring break is trying to make do with limited means. If a trip to Mexico or Florida is out of the question, try something simpler. Take a mini-vacation to a nearby city or even just try to spend some time in an unfamiliar Chicago neighborhood.

In this increasingly hectic world, people run the risk of turning into workaholics early in life. They forget that vacations are often well-deserved, especially for students who are juggling school, jobs and all sorts of other stressful responsibilities.

That's why spring break, despite its cliché connotations, is so important. Too many times have I passed up the chance to take advantage of a school-sanctioned week off, and now even though I'm beyond excited about my Vegas vacation, I regret not doing it sooner.

I'm just glad I became sick before I hopped in my car to drive West.

—jdanna@colum.edu

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Announcements

MadCat Women's Film Festival

Students can come to the screening of *Amok-imation*, animated works created by Lisa Barcy, a Film and Video faculty member, as well as cartoons from Sweden, Mexico, the Netherlands and the Philippines. The event will begin at 6 p.m. on March 14 and will be held in room 402 of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. For more information, call Sandy Cuprisin at (312) 344-6708.

Julie Loyd Performance

Dancer and musical theater performer Julie Loyd will come to Columbia March 15 for a free performance in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The event will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information call Kathleen McLaughlin at (312) 344-8594.

Baseball Opening Day

On March 18, the Columbia Renegades will begin its season with a double-header against Northeastern Illinois University at 5 p.m. The second game begins at 7:30 p.m. The Renegades play all home games at UIC North Field, 901 W. Roosevelt Rd. Admission is free. For more information visit www.columbaseball.com.

Mr. Columbia

AEMMP Records will be hosting the first pageant, in which guys will compete for the title Mr. Columbia on March 17. Students can enter to win a Video iPod, and there will be a performance by Rob Nicholas and A Moment's Notice. The event will be held from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Admission is \$3. For more information call Joi Cuartero at (630) 788-4101.

Corrections

In the March 6 issue, The Chronicle incorrectly credited the front page photo of Lerone Bennett Jr. and the feature photo of Fat Tuesday on page 6. Staff photographer Kelly Bryan took both photographs.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

If you have an upcoming event or announcement, call The Chronicle's news desk at (312) 344-8964 or e-mail chronicle@colum.edu.

Do you know who any of the Columbia vice presidents are?

IN YOUR OPINION



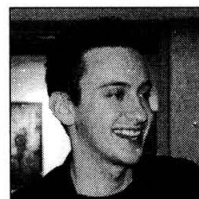
"Not a clue."

—Marc Morgan, junior, film and video



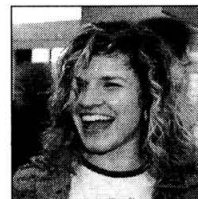
"I didn't even know there were six vice presidents. I just assumed there were vice presidents."

—Debbie Weiner, senior, radio



"Absolutely not. They're like the Wizard of Oz. I've never seen them, I just know they're there."

—Mike Ceraulo, junior, graphic design



"That's a big negative. I do know who Bob Blinn is."

—Erin Kayel Locksley Sanders, senior, art and design

Student-run record label to release album

Chicago band debuts LP on AEMMP records

By Amanda Maurer
Assistant Campus News Editor

On March 15, AEMMP Records, Columbia's undergraduate label, will release their annual album, *Secrets to be Told*, by Chicago band Rob Nicholas and A Moment's Notice.

In 1982, two Columbia professors created AEMMP Records, the first record label in the country that would be run by students.

Today, Irwin Steinberg and Chuck Suber, the label creators, are artists-in-residence in the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department, and their class is continuing to help students at Columbia.

They created the class Decision Making: Music Business 24 years ago as a lab. They felt the class would benefit students going into the record business, Suber said. Students in the class run the label.

Kevin Erickson has been the class's adviser for the past five years and enjoys working with the students because it gives them hands-on experience.

"[There's] satisfaction in taking the experience you've learned in the field or professionally and be able to apply it to really get a grasp of the music industry outside of textbooks," Erickson said.

Suber lives in New Orleans and commutes to Columbia one week each month to help instruct the class. He has been working with the class since it began and said that it teaches students lessons.

"The students [need] to under-



Courtesy Melanie Anderson

Rob Nicholas and A Moment's Notice signed with Columbia's student-run record label, AEMMP Records, and their first album, *'Secrets to be Told,'* comes out March 15.

stand that their own musical preferences do not necessarily translate into good marketing," Suber said.

In order for the class to agree on the music for each album it works on, it goes through the extensive process of listening to possible artists, eventually narrowing the number down to three. Although the students do some of the work in class, most of it is done in their free time.

Rebecca Farber, a senior AEMMP major, works as the vice president and chief financial officer of AEMMP Records. Farber said that it's challenging to communicate with others when so much work goes on outside of class.

"We're all so busy with our other classes, jobs and all the other

aspects of our lives," Farber said. "[It] sometimes gets difficult because this class demands so much time outside of the scheduled three hours a week."

Nakita Jackson, a junior arts, entertainment and media management major, works as AEMMP Records' marketing leader. Since she works part time, goes to school full time and is also a mother, she has learned how manage her time," Jackson said.

She said that while it's a lot of work to follow up with people and keep the lines of communication open, it's still fun.

"It really shows you exactly how it feels to work in record labels, because you are responsible for

getting the product out there to the consumer," Jackson said.

Nicholas said that the band's experience with AEMMP Records has been a learning process because the band hasn't gone through the real-world aspects of the business before.

"I think it's been really cool, because it's a safe environment to do things in," Nicholas said. "We don't have to worry about anything going sour."

The safe environment includes working closely with the artists, Erickson said.

"We need to develop our vision for their music, but also take into consideration their vision as well," Erickson said. "Their vision takes

prominence, but we change some things."

There are benefits to working with a large group as well. Nicholas likes how the band can work with all of the students in the class.

"There's only so much you can do with five [band] members," Nicholas said. "We're starting at the ground and are trying to work our way up. [It helps] when you have 25 people working with you."

Rob Nicholas and A Moment's Notice will remain with AEMMP Records until the end of August, the annual time when Steinberg "shops" for larger labels that may be willing to distribute the record.

If another label picks up the record, which has happened a few times in the label's history, AEMMP Records receives a \$10,000 finder's fee. The money goes back into AEMMP's budget.

Although the class aims to release a record every year, Suber makes sure that the students understand it isn't guaranteed.

"We tell the students in the beginning—that rather than putting out a poor record—if we don't have one, we don't have one," Suber said.

Last year the undergraduate program released Emily Hurd's *Fine Fine Line*. The graduate program released *Rock the Ages*, a compilation of independent rock artists from Chicago. Proceeds from the album went to VH1's Save The Music Foundation.

AEMMP Records, a nonprofit organization, plans hold several events that will feature the band, including the male pageant Mr. Columbia.

Theater department revives age-old play

Activist's final work re-enacted at college

By Annie Kelly
Staff Reporter

By the time Georg Buchner was 23 years old he had received his doctorate, established a secret radical society, fled to France to escape arrest for promoting revolution in Germany and written three plays, the third of which was unfinished when he died of typhus in 1837.

Through March 19, the Theater Department will bring the young political activist's work to life through its enactment of Buchner's final play, "Woyzeck."

The 170-year-old play is the tragic story of a man named Woyzeck who is driven to self-destruction due to matters out of his control.

"It's a simple story about a man who lives a very tortured life," said cast member Daniela Sumerano, a senior in the Theater Department.

Woyzeck's life is devoted to the military and full of complications. His common-law wife is unfaithful, and he is the personal servant to a captain who regularly belittles him. In order to make money, he sells his body to a doctor for nutritional experiments that allow him to eat nothing but peas.

In the 29-scene play, Buchner

addresses the degrading role the poor are forced to take in society as Woyzeck becomes nothing more than an object to his financial superiors. Sumerano, who plays the role of Woyzeck's wife, Marie, said there are a lot of frustrated characters in the show.

"They're poor and they know they're going to stay poor," she said.

Sumerano added that from the play she gets a sense of Buchner's struggle to keep the hypocrisy of politics and society present in people's minds.

"It's a simple story about a man who lives a very tortured life."

—Daniela Sumerano, senior theater major and "Woyzeck" cast member

The Theater Department's production of "Woyzeck" includes special effects, puppets, a dance scene and video.

"The video helps place you in certain locations," said Brian Shaw, director and assistant chair of the Theater Department. "It locates you in space and time."

Although "Woyzeck" was not finished before Buchner's death,

Shaw said the story still comes to a close. He said "Woyzeck" is unique because the script leaves room for audience interpretation.

"[Buchner] really does not tell you a lot of clues for how to feel about the events in the play," Shaw said. "You are simply presented the events and you need to make judgment. It's very much up to the audience what to walk away from the play with."

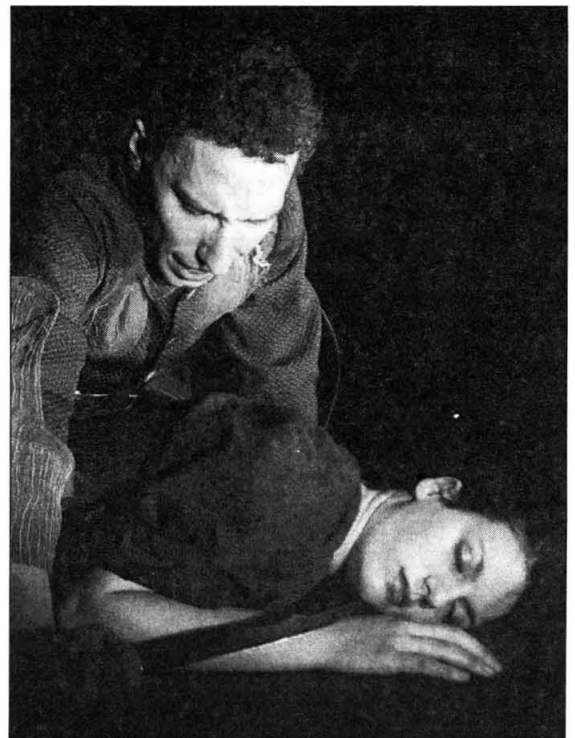
Senior cast member Calvin Pohlhamm believes audience members will walk away re-evaluating their personal relationships and considering what they mean.

In order to trigger strong emotional responses from the audience, the cast has had to alter its style of acting. "Woyzeck" contains scenes of various lengths, some as short as 15 seconds.

"It's almost like a film in the way that these scenes are put together," Sumerano said. "You can't work up your emotion. You have to hit the emotion at the top of the scene and really bring a sense of momentum."

Pohlhamm said another challenge in presenting "Woyzeck" is the constant activity required of the cast during the 70-minute performance.

"We're the ones that are handling the puppets, creating the music," he said. "We handle a lot of scene



Mike Sendra/The Chronicle

Ian Randal (left) and Daniela Sumerano depict Woyzeck and Marie in Columbia's "Woyzeck." changes too. It's all pretty non-stop and so everyone has to stay on their toes."

Shaw had all 14 cast members begin rehearsals as equal ensemble members. Before creating their characters, the students first took part in stage exercises. One helped

the cast gain an understanding of the physical space they occupy on stage and how it relates to others, Sumerano said.

Sumerano said she thinks that the cast would be experiencing further "speed bumps" if not for the

See **Woyzeck**, Page 8

Frequency 32

Television Department
Columbia College Chicago

Program Guide for Student Lounges and the University Center on Channel 32

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A special musical performance show that highlights bands and performers from the Chicago area. This show brings music to your eyes and ears. Featuring: Johnny Rev
MWF: 7:30p TTR: 6:30p

Columbia Pictures
Features your fellow student's film, videos, and animations.
This week's feature: Passing Down the Byzantine Tradition by Michael Kalopedia
MWF: 1:00p TTR: 10:00a

HotSpots
A fast-paced, entertainment program that visits different venues around Chicago.
MWF: 1:30p TTR: 10:30a

CAMPUS COMMUNITY

Campus Update
Columbia's forum for campus news, announcements, events, weather info & more..
Daily: 9a, 12p, 3p, & 5p

Newsbeat
Live news broadcast program produced by the students of the Television and Journalism Department
TR: Live Noon
Rebroadcast: 3:00p

Metro Minutes
Following entertainment and special interest pieces, Metro Minutes also covers the important happenings at and around Columbia.
MWF: 11:30a TR: 10:00a

Interested in volunteering for Frequency TV? Contact:
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Columbia College Television Dept.
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NATIONAL LAMPOON NETWORKS

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www.nationallampoon.com

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TR: 8:30p - 10:30p
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AFFILIATE PROGRAMMING

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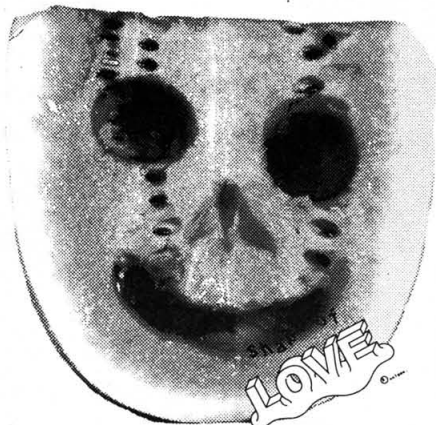
Podcasting
Columbia College's Frequency TV is the first college to podcast it's shows! For more info go to:

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2006 The World Enigma Exhibition

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The World Enigma Exhibition is an annual exhibition presented by The International Student Organization. This annual event is a big opportunity for the international student who want to show their works.

Drop your work at the International Student Lounge,
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Application dead line March 18

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

Concert Hall Events

Tuesday March 14

Norman Ruiz & Philip Seward in Concert
12:30 PM

Wednesday March 15

Master class with Eddie Gomez and Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Faculty
12:30 PM

Improv and Rehearsal Techniques with Puerto Rico Conservatory Jazz Ensemble
2:15 PM

Thursday March 16

Master Class with Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble
12:30 PM

Latin Jazz Ensemble
2:15 PM

Friday March 17

Instrument Seminars with Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music
1:30 PM

Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble with the Columbia College Jazz Ensemble
7:30 PM

All events are free. For more info: 312/344-6300

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

FICTION WRITING DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

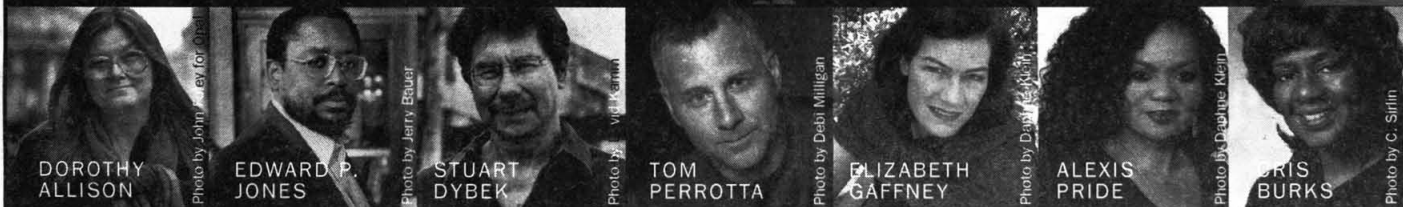
STUDS TERKEL

10th Annual StoryWeek

FESTIVAL OF WRITERS

Photo by Nina Subin

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This program is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Story Week is sponsored in part by the Chicago Public Library and Metro. Other Story Week sponsors include American Airlines, Bank of America, Caribou Coffee, Coca-Cola, Follett Higher Education Group.

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Host hotel: Located 3 blocks from Columbia College, the historic **Palmer House Hilton** is the official hotel of Story Week 2006. Since mid-March is a very busy time for Chicago hotels, we suggest you make reservations early by calling 877/865-5321.

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Application Deadline: March 28th @ 5pm



Shedding for a greater cause

By Jenn Zimmerman
Staff Writer

St. Patrick's Day is known as a time to overindulge by celebrating the Irish tradition through rounds of beers among friends, but some Columbia students find it to be the perfect time to let loose at an event for charity rather than at the local pub.

On March 16, Columbia's Social and Philanthropy Society will be hosting a St. Baldrick's Day head-shaving event and fashion show at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

St. Baldrick's is a nonprofit foundation that uses the donations it receives from each event in order to give grants to research organizations that conduct childhood cancer research. With cancer the leading killer among children in the United States, the foundation has raised over \$12 million dollars since its beginning that now circulates worldwide.

Since 2000, any person can participate in St. Baldrick's Day by either having their own head shaved or by shaving someone else's. All the shaved hair will be donated to make wigs for children with cancer.

Damon Maloney, a sophomore journalism major and the society's vice president, has already begun seeking donations for his participation. When participants sign up to be part of St. Baldrick's Day, they can visit a website where they can

make donations, he said.

Maloney said he will be among the six "shavees" involved in the event, four males and two female faculty members.

"Since I am on the team, I should be a team leader," Maloney said. "I wanted to step up to the plate."

Cassandra McCottrell, a television major, president of the philanthropy society and main coordinator of the event, is also hoping to get two other women involved as shavees.

However, because there were only six weeks to plan for St. Baldrick's Day, McCottrell is still seeking participants to help the team reach its goal of \$4,000. According to the St. Baldrick's Foundation website, an overall goal of \$7 million is set for this year.

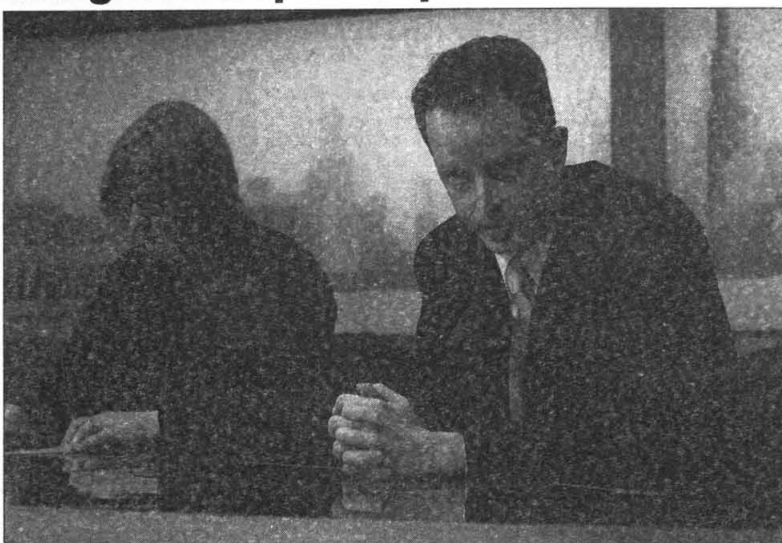
Sophia Pragnell, special events and communications manager for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, said the event began after three Irish business executives got together at a New York bar to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. These three men, who were very attached to their full sets of hair, thought shaving their heads would be a good way to help young children suffering from cancer.

"Who would have known from that one conversation the ball would get rolling?" Pragnell asked.

For some, this is more than just another way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Pragnell dealt with her own cancer experience first-hand. She said

Congress-hopeful speaks out



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

John Sullivan, a Democrat running for Illinois' 3rd Congressional District, which includes the southwest side and southwest suburbs, speaks on March 7 in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building. Barbara Iverson (left), a journalism instructor, takes notes while her students ask Sullivan questions regarding his stance on the war in Iraq and health care issues.

she wanted to become more involved with the fight against cancer shortly after her father died from a brain tumor. She eventually was drawn to St. Baldrick's.

"I was really inspired by the doctors and nurses [who treated my father]," Pragnell said. "They were so attentive and helpful. It really inspired me to be more involved."

Maloney said he knows students might be reluctant to shave their heads, and to get more involved, a fashion show has been organized to help bring in monetary donations. Participants willing to part with

their locks will be able to walk the runway afterward to sport their new look.

Reggie Scruggs Jr., a student, may be the biggest donor of the night, shaving off his nearly 6-inch afro.

After becoming friends with Maloney online, Scruggs said he started to hear more about the event. However, his participation wasn't an easy choice.

"At first I was hesitant because I love my hair, and people seem to like it," Scruggs said. "But my hair will grow back. The donation

[of the] hair will be a lot more beneficial."

The St. Baldrick's Day head-shaving and fashion show event will kick off at 5 p.m. March 16 in the Conaway Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. General admission tickets are \$15, \$10 for students and \$5 off if purchased in advance. This includes drinks, appetizers and a buffet dinner. For more information or to participate in the event, visit www.stbaldricks.org or call Damon Maloney at (651)307-4754.

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Film Club: Officials suggest club members hold sales to raise funds

Continued from Front Page

said. "That's all we can handle."

Although the operating costs of one club may be higher than another, all clubs are funded equally, Cottone said. Funding for clubs are from the Office of Student Leadership through student activity fees. Full-time students are charged a student activity fee of \$60 on top of standard tuition. Part-time students pay \$30. The Office of Student Leadership receives a cut of those funds, with most of it going toward student-run clubs and organizations.

Most clubs conduct their own fundraising, such as with bake sales, in order to make up potential lack of funding, Cottone said. The Student Organization Council matches all fundraising money up to \$500.

"That's why we try to get them to do fundraising—so they can make more money, because there is only a limited amount of money to give," he said.

For example, the Columbia College Association of Black Journalists has raised \$909 this semester through bake sales, according to Maggie Ness, co-chair

of the Student Organization Council. On March 8, the Fashion Association raised \$500 with a garage sale. Cottone said that could be the solution to the Film Club's concerns.

"If the students choose to raise about \$500, then the [Student Organization Council] will match that," he said. "So that \$1,000 [on top of the \$1,000 yearly budget] gives them \$2,000. So if they've got \$2,000 to spend, then most likely they can get films out the door."

Humphreys said, however, that the amount of money that can fund other clubs would not adequately fund the Film Club. If the club held a screening each week, he estimates it would cost about \$3,000 to \$4,000 a semester.

The Film Club has not yet held a fundraiser, but plans to in the near future, SeRine said.

The problem, however, goes beyond simple budgetary concerns because the cost of films is simply too high, Humphreys said.

"I would be willing to pay a fee [for a film]—if it was reasonable," he said.

Humphreys said that the fee is outrageous because Columbia owns many films that the club legally cannot show to a general audience. It would be legal for an instructor to show a film in class because that qualifies as private use. Showing a film to a general audience, such as a screening, violates copyright

Women show off at Big Mouth



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Junior radio major Shira Hald opens at the second annual Big Mouth ladies' night at the HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Ave., with an original song. Big Mouth featured many different women who showed off their performing talents from singing to playing instruments.

law, even though the club does not plan to charge for admission. SeRine said charging students could be a possibility, but she prefers not to because it would decrease the potential audience.

"We are not going to charge people," SeRine said. "Columbia should have a regular screening session every week. We're the only film school that doesn't have it, and we're [one of] the largest."

Steve Kapelke, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, explained that when class schedules were developed years ago, each department created its own schedule without communicating with the others. This is what has caused the overlapping of classes across various departments.

"What we have right now is a schedule that grew out of that construct, where we have a lot of different schedules commingling," Kapelke said.

Kapelke is currently working with vice president of Campus Environment Alicia Berg and the departments to create an optimal schedule. This will make better use of the facilities and serve students better, Kapelke said.

"It's not going to be something that we're going to be able to change overnight ... but we are very committed to making sure that it's going to happen," Berg said.

One change that students can look forward to for next year is that the meal plans at the University Center will be open to all students living on campus, according to Kelly. A student had brought up that finding time to prepare meals is difficult for busy college students.

Celeste Ball, a junior and president of the Black Student Union, asked Carter what Columbia is doing next year for students who came here because of Hurricane Katrina. Columbia supported about 45 displaced students and is encouraging their return to their home institutions.

Kelly said that those students will no longer be receiving free tuition and board, but the college will work to find the students who would like to stay at Columbia to give them the support they need to continue their education here.

Carter closed the State of the College address by encouraging students to challenge themselves to never quit.

Humphreys said the problem starts with the filmmakers.

"Hollywood cuts future [filmmakers] by insisting on this policy," Humphreys said. "How are students supposed to become better filmmakers without being able to see good films?"

He hopes that there will be an increase in funding, but he said it is difficult to approach the school for more money.

"[The club] can't get more

money because we haven't done anything yet, but we can't do anything until we have more money," he said. "There is a solution, but I'm not sure what it is."

The club does plan on showing films near the end of the semester, SeRine said. Since it did not show any films last semester, they have a total of \$1,000. They plan on a "screenathon," showing four movies over four nights.

Meeting: Conference to host various musical events

Continued from Front Page

the general public and Columbia students, Sands said. The event, which is meant to celebrate black music performance traditions, will be held at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance at Millennium Park.

"It should be a very interesting concert because of the way we program," Sands said. "We don't program just a single style or a single genre. It's not like you're going to hear a jazz concert or a classical concert. You're gonna hear it all."

As a tribute to New Orleans, the concert will include a couple of works by Louis Armstrong and a piece by a New Orleans classical composer by the name of Dede. There will also be two world premiers by other black

composers from the United States. Sands noted that this concert is entirely appropriate for students.

The rest of the conference is open to the general public though most of the attendees will include scholars and researchers. Whitmer said the event boasts many lecture recitals in which many great pianists will perform and speak. Student rates and one-day attendance rates for those who might be interested in certain sessions will be offered, Sands said. Even the Music Department's Columbia Jazz Ensemble will participate by providing music at the conference's opening reception.

"We saw this as an opportunity to have the Columbia Jazz Ensemble

involved," Sands said. "We know it will be a great experience for them, and it also provides an opportunity to showcase Columbia to the conference attendees."

For those interested in learning more about the conference or attending the events, visit www.cbmr.org.

"This is an opportunity to hear some cutting-edge research and find out what other scholars are doing and what they're investigating, finding, et cetera."

—Rosita Sands, executive director of the Center for Black Music Research



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Alexander Vallejos, a junior documentary film major, concludes the State of the College address by asking a question.

Address: Students voice college concerns to administration

Continued from Front Page

diversity at Columbia, and the senior administration is now having talks to address the issue of recruiting and retaining minority faculty, which would hopefully increase minority enrollment and retention numbers. Over the past decade the percentage of full-time minority faculty has fallen from 22 percent to 17 percent.

Carter said that in order to make Columbia more affordable the college will offer 700 new scholarships in the fall for low-income students. Tuition will increase again next year by 4.75 percent to \$16,328 for the year.

Two years ago the college had a surplus of scholarship money that went unused by students. Over the past year Columbia scholarships

were fully awarded, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. He said that the college is pushing its scholarship resources and making sure they are all being used.

"That will never be seen again at Columbia," Kelly said, referring to unused scholarship money.

Carter also announced a plan that will look to alumni for more funding to help keep tuition low. From the 35,000 Columbia alums, the college received \$48,000 in gifts over the past year.

"As we move forward, as we market our institution, we will rely heavier and heavier on alumni to give back to their institutions, to this institution," he said.

During the question and answer session, most students asked questions that were not critical of the administration.

One student was concerned that she is not able to take all of the courses she wants because they overlap by only a few minutes when they are in different departments.

Woyzeck: Actors participated in unusual play rehearsals

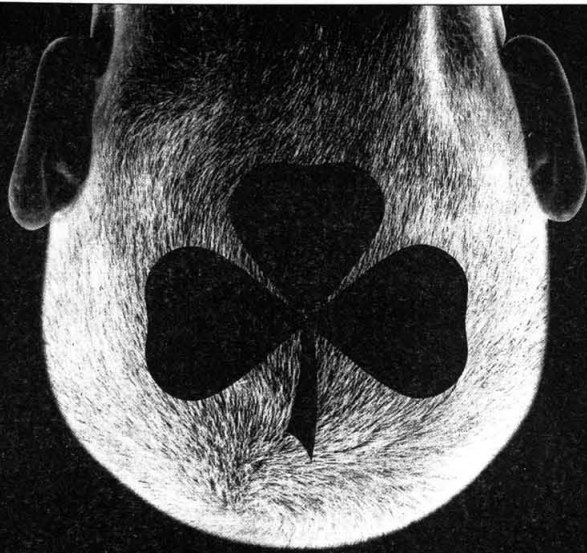
Continued from Page 3

rehearsal technique used by Shaw. The cast, she said, did not pick up scripts for the first three rehearsals, making it a unique process for her.

"The whole rehearsal process

really allowed us to get in touch with our bodies and our feelings," said Jasmine McNeely, a freshman cast member. "We learned about making the set a part of who you are."

"Woyzeck" opened on March 8 in the New Studio Theater, 72 E. 11th St. There will be a total of 10 shows through March 19 at varying times, including a post-show discussion following the March 16 performance. Admission is free to Columbia students.



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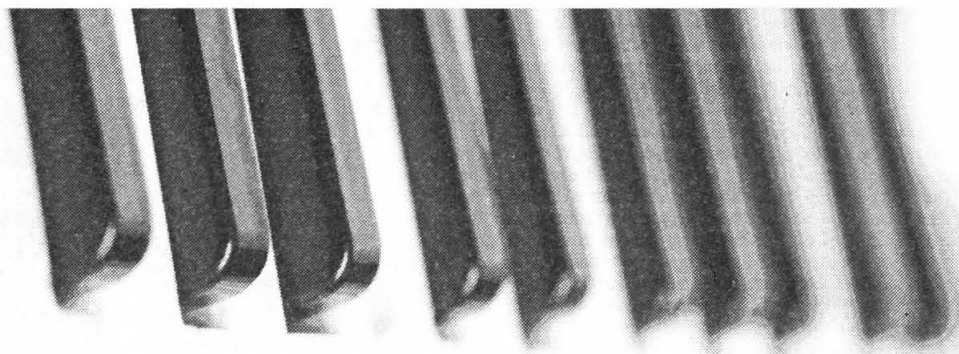
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Thursday, March 16, 2006
Columbia College Chicago
Concert Hall

- 12:30 - 2:00** Master Class with Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble
- 2:15 - 3:30** Columbia College Chicago Latin Jazz Ensemble. Latin Jazz Night at the Hot House, 31 East Balbo
- 6:30 - 9:00** Hot House Concert
- Chicago Jazz Ensemble with Jon Faddis. Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble

Friday, March 17, 2006
Columbia College Chicago
Concert Hall 1014 South
Michigan Avenue

- 1:30- 3:00** Instrument Seminars
Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble
Trumpet- Luis "Perico" Ortiz
Saxophone- Marco Pignataro
Bass- Eddie Gomez
Piano- Luis Marin
Guitar- Isaac Lausell
Drums/Percussion- Leobadis Gonzales(drums) and Andrew Lazaio(percussion)
- 7:30** Concert
Columbia College Jazz Ensemble
Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music Faculty Jazz Ensemble

A day to keep in mind

With spring break only one week away, it's understandable that students at Columbia might be concentrating on how they'll spend their time while being away from classes. But there is one date that everybody should be keeping in mind regardless of where they will be: March 21.

Midterm primary elections may not carry the level of finality to the public that general elections have in November, but participation in next Tuesday's primaries will determine who's still around eight months from now.

Take, for instance, the race for Cook County Board president. Since taxes are becoming the issue at the center of the heated campaign, the plans of either man will have a direct effect on all of us. Any increase in property taxes would be passed on to Columbia students who pay rent in Cook County. And that's not to forget the more than \$3 billion of taxpayer money in the budget for the nation's second-largest county.

While Republican candidate Tony Peraica will be running unopposed and is guaranteed to represent his party in November, incumbent John Stroger, a Democrat, is facing his toughest political battle ever as he seeks his fourth term.

That's because Stroger, the first African-American to ever be board president and humble enough to have a

hospital that treats the uninsured named in his honor, is being contested by reform candidate Forrest Claypool. Both have racked up impressive endorsements, and even while endorsing Stroger, Mayor Richard M. Daley still praised Claypool for his performance as Chicago Park District superintendent.

And Daley expressed his displeasure with the negative tone the campaign has taken in recent weeks. Commercials on TV from both candidates have brutally attacked the other's record.

Of course, that's not the only race. With Gov. Rod Blagojevich seeking re-election as well, Illinois' GOP is trying to determine who could possibly unseat a very vulnerable governor.

Some of Blagojevich's policies are also of importance to Columbia students, especially since the governor's proposals do not bode well for the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The state agency is responsible for many policies associated with the cost of attending college in Illinois, such as student loans, financial aid and scholarships.

While state Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka has been considered the front-runner for the Republican nomination, recent allegations from her former top deputy about corruption in her office may give more conservative opponents like suburban dairy magnate Jim Oberweis and state Sen. Bill Brady new hope. And that's not to mention the

combined effort of Ron Gidwitz and Steve Rauschenberger.

The ultimate deciding factor in all of these campaigns—as well as many others—will not be nasty ad campaigns, prominent endorsements or scathing allegations; it will be voter turnout.

The Cook County Board of Elections has been touting its new touch-screen voting machines and new state legislation that, for the first time, allows voters to cast early ballots. Chicago has 21 early voting sites allowing residents, who may not be able to get to a voting booth, to vote 22 days before. And while the idea might have a few bugs to still work out—a federal lawsuit was filed on March 3 by several residents claiming “limited access” violates their constitutional right to vote—the attempt to encourage participation is welcome.

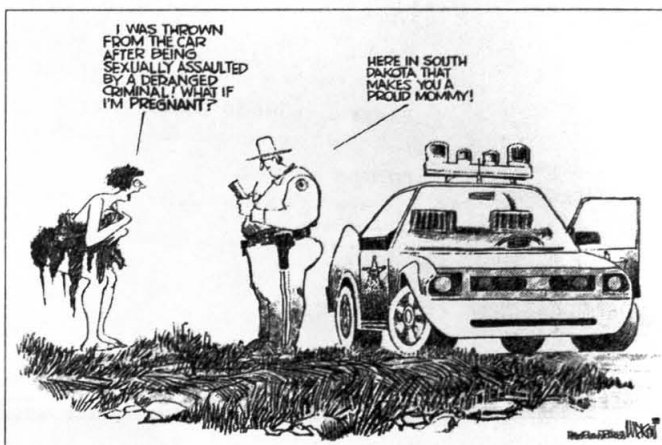
Some students may be looking forward to leaving town for a vacation, and others might be appreciating the opportunity to catch up on coursework. There might even be a few who plan on doing both. Everybody certainly wants nothing more than an opportunity to relax next week.

But however people plan on using their break at this midway point in the semester, the most important use of the entire week might be the few minutes involved in making sure their vote is counted on March 21.

BACK FROM THE DRAWING BOARDS



Chris Gallevo/The Chronicle



Don Wright/KRT

The young and the reckless

On March 3, 20-year-old Adrian Missbrenner was acquitted of charges that he sexually assaulted an intoxicated 16-year-old girl, because according to a video tape, she may have consented to the sexual act. The jury decided that there was reasonable doubt that the girl was raped.

But whether the jury ruled correctly, the Missbrenner case and the viewpoints of those defending him say a lot about our society's stance on rape.

The Dec. 7, 2002 footage on the tape reportedly shows Missbrenner and friends having group sex with the intoxicated 16-year-old girl, as well as writing lewd obscenities on the girl's motionless body.

The case gained national attention after the girl came forward and accused then 17-year-old Missbrenner of rape. He fled to Serbia in 2004 while free on bail but returned last May and had been jailed until the acquittal.

The debate over the decision is not a legal one but a moral one. Even Missbrenner admitted being wrongful in his actions and said that what his companions did “was absolutely disgusting.”

Despite what Missbrenner says, his claim last week that he suffered more than the girl by being labeled as a brutal rapist and child molester for three and a half years is absurd in comparison to what happened to the girl.

From reported accounts, what transpired that night can indeed be viewed as rape in some circles. Statements from the parents of the accuser paint a much harrowing version of what happened.

The family says the girl is barely talking in the beginning of the video, and by the 20 minute mark is so comatose that she doesn't even flinch when someone violates her. She didn't consent to that type of disrespectful treatment.

Rape is an issue that society

has difficulty dealing with. A study last year, commissioned by Amnesty International, found disturbing attitudes toward rape and rape victims in the United Kingdom. Among the worrisome facts, the poll found that 30 percent consider a “woman is partially or totally responsible for being raped if she was drunk.”

Questioning what is proper behavior for females is insulting. People are under the impression that if a girl dresses too scantily or drinks too much then she is at fault for possibly asking to become a rape victim. The outcome of the case illustrated that even though the girl was drunk, she was still held accountable for her actions.

It's disheartening to think that the logic behind the verdict seems to present this case as simply an incident of teenagers acting up. If anything, that sends the message that this won't just happen again, but it will also be the victim's fault.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



Chronicle cartoon disrespectful

I was deeply saddened by the political cartoon in the Feb. 27 issue of The Chronicle. It featured a man speaking with what appeared to be an African minstrel.

—Karl Fields
Junior
Film Production

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 13 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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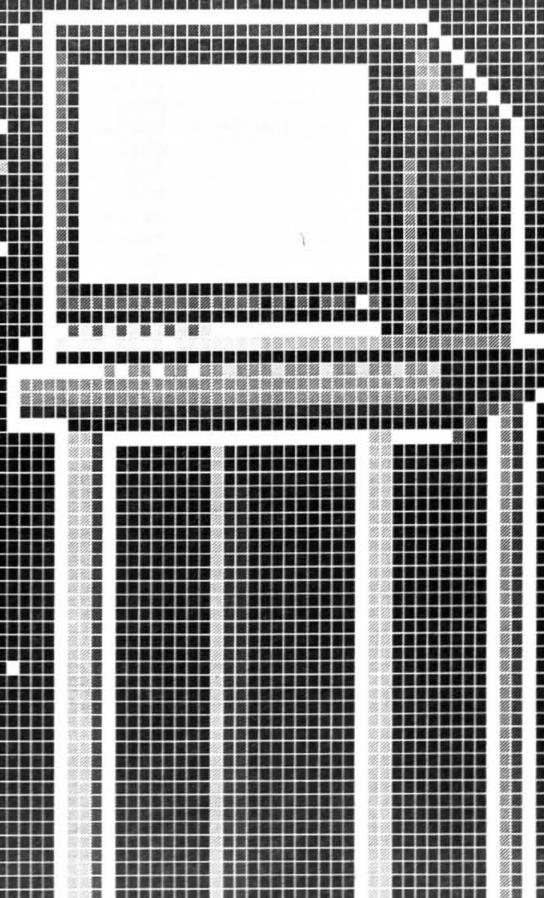
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LIFE ON TELEVISION

Channel 6





Liar, liar pants on fire

The power of lying is quite possibly one of the greatest gifts that God has ever given mankind. I am a proud liar myself, but I blame it mostly on the overly active imagination that rests deep down inside my brain meats. Oh wait, I think that's actually a tumor. Well, the imagination is underneath that unsightly growth.

Now, I don't lie to be malicious. I use my mad skills to put smiles on the faces of the downtrodden. Honestly, I never lie about serious stuff. I fib about stupid, little things that are so absurd that it's hard to imagine anyone believing them.

For example, when I first started dating my boyfriend Tedd (yes, he spells it with two D's), he was living in student housing with four other homosexuals. They were all terrible, but my favorite one was this fat kid, whom we'll call Steve, who played a lot of Dance Dance Revolution on Playstation 2. Nothing made my day like going over to Tedd's apartment to see a 400-pound gay kid dancing to a video game.

Steve was nice but very strange. He would always confuse

Tedd and me with each other because we are both thin and tall, which makes no sense.

Even though he was a bit off, Steve was enjoyable to listen to. One night as Tedd was getting ready for a party, Steve told me he had met someone online named Caesar, who was in his late 30s.

My imagination immediately went into overdrive—hopefully for obvious reasons. After Tedd and I got hammered and stumbled back to his place, I told him about Caesar. What I added, however, was that Caesar ran an overweight-fetish porn website called MoreCushionForThePushing.com, and

begged Steve to be on it.

Tedd cracked up. I don't think I've ever been able to make him laugh that hard again. Sadly, the joke came to an end when Tedd went online to find the website. I was forced to spill the beans at that point.

This grand trick didn't come without a price. Tedd believes very little of what I say and passes along this advice to anyone who comes into contact with me. Whenever I try to catch Tedd off guard with a carefully constructed lie, Tedd calls me out immediately. But as he does, there's a smirk on his face and a gleam in his eye that seems to be flashing MoreCushionForThePushing.com.

We're all told, of course, that lying is bad and that wolves will eat us if we keep it up. But all of my childhood role models did it. Superman and Batman lied all the time about their alter egos, and Pee Wee Herman was always a wily trickster. I never saw wolves eating any of them.

But it all depends on what someone is lying about. Telling boyfriends and girlfriends that you love them when you really spend most of your days ignoring them probably isn't a good thing. Telling your boyfriend or girlfriend that a janitor at the zoo got caught with his penis in a dolphin's blowhole probably isn't as bad.



It's a she-male! It's a flashback to the '80s! It's Madonna! It seems as though the 47-year-old queen of pop has been trying to regain her hip edge over the past couple weeks by popping up all over the place and saying stupid things. Despite her efforts, she really is just showing her age more than anything else, and it's getting irritating.

First off was that horrible music video in which she's dancing around in a leotard showing her ba-donk-a-donks. We get it, Madonna. You have a hot bod, a squishy booty and can play Dance Dance Revolution. But you're also the mother of two and have been over the hill for a few years. Just thinking of that video gives us the willies and conjures up images of Amy Poehler as the mom in *Mean Girls* saying, "I'm a cool mom."

Now she recently announced she'll be playing some shows at this year's Coachella Music and Arts Festival in California. We hear there were sounds of glee from all her aging friends when they found out Granny Madge would be breaking a sweat—and probably her hip—in the Sahara "dance tent." But at least we're confident she'll be able to fight off any angry Tool fans with her freakishly toned biceps.

Also, Madonna told her daughter that when she kissed Britney Spears in front of millions of people at the MTV Video Music Awards, it's not because she's a lesbian. She was simply "the mommy pop star and [Britney] is the baby pop star, and I am kissing her to pass my energy on to her." Uh, right. And then Britney used that energy to fall in love with and marry the world's trashiest man. Good job, Madonna.

Quit passing your wisdom and "energy" to pop stars, because you're ruining lives. Scott Stapp and George Michael must have passed their Jackass energy right on to you, because you're the Jackass of the Week.

— T. Breyne



Sleaze in the suburbs

Sleaze is everywhere. Sometimes it's charming sleaze (Paris Hilton) and sometimes it's vomit-inducing sleaze (alleged Burr Ridge rapists). Since I like to think that most of my columns explore charming sleaze, this week I decided to tackle the latter.

While our editorial staff explored the Burr Ridge issue this week, there's one part of the situation that made me extremely furious: how on Earth a jury ruled that an intoxicated 16-year-old being spit on and gang-banged while barely able to move may have been giving consent to sex by touching the offender's head.

"Looks like consent to me," defense lawyer Patrick Campanelli told the jury. But to me, it looks like another case of a jury ignoring a serious social problem due to stigmas surrounding young women.

Rape is a sore subject, and while everyone says he or she knows that forcing sex upon someone else is

wrong, people like to blur the lines about what exactly "force" means. For those who may be confused, saying "no" is generally a good sign of someone being uninterested in fucking you. Someone being unable to communicate may be sign number two.

Should a 16-year-old be incoherently drunk? Of course not. Were any of you incoherently drunk at some point during high school? I'm going to guess yes. The thing

is, teenagers are reckless. I for one had no clue about my own tolerance for alcohol when I went to my first keg party, and thankfully I had a brother to help walk me up the stairs and safely to my bed. But when did a girl being drunk turn her into a whore that any dudes at a party could stick their nasty penises in?

I feel like I've been rambling about sexual double standards between men and women for years, but this takes it to an entirely different level. When a guy is super-wasted at a party, it's funny. When a girl is super-wasted at a party, it's a quest to get her naked—and according to the jury in this recent trial, that's no one's fault but her own.

Mary Mitchell of the Chicago Sun-Times put it best in her March 9 column: "Some of us are still stuck in an era where 'good' girls deserve one kind of treatment and 'bad' girls deserve another."

Adrian Missbrenner, the 20-year-old man who was acquitted in this case, went as far as to say that the past three years have been harder on him than it was on the girl in the video. "You have to draw a line between what happened that night and what was done to me for those three and a half years," Missbrenner said to Fox News' Walter Jacobson in a recent interview. Missbrenner's mother's reaction was just as disturbing, lamenting about how happy she is that her son is back and how she was "disappointed" that he drank and had group sex.

Slap on the wrist? Barely. This girl is going to live with the memory of this sexual abuse for the rest of her life, but because she was drunk, many people seem to think she deserved this kind of treatment.

In this trial, it's glaringly obvious that the judge and jury had no clue about what it is like to live knowing you were sexually abused. The thought of these people trying to force this poor girl to watch the video of this event (that will probably scar her for eternity) is almost as nauseating as the act itself.

In order for our society to stop treating women like they don't matter (first the South Dakota abortion ban, now this), we need to stop acting like we don't matter. We need to kick that scumbag who groped us on the street in the teeth, or report him to the police. We need to speak up when someone is making us uncomfortable or nervous, we need to elect public officials who care about our needs and our rights, and we need to raise hell when crimes like the one that occurred in Burr Ridge in 2002 go completely unpunished.



Love us or hate us...

We'd love to hear from you. How to contact The Word:



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Tiffany Breyne - tbreyne@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8971

Ratings Guide

So, is that movie worth watching? That CD worth buying? Count the hearts in each review and use this handy chart to find out.



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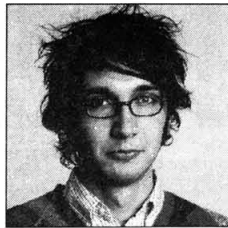
Word Up.



Jennifer Sabella



Tiffany Breyne



Hunter Clauss

top five

Cadbury Mini Eggs: I'm a bad Catholic, so to me the only benefit of the Easter season—other than warmer temperatures—is the gloriousness of Cadbury Mini Eggs. They're little pieces of heaven in a big, purple bag. Stock up; you won't regret it.

Diet Coke: Yeah, I know that Coca-Cola is a big, evil empire. But nothing jumpstarts my day better than an ice-cold can of delicious Diet Coke. Just for the taste of it, duh.

Goth kids on rollerblades: I saw a Goth guy gliding down Ashland the other day, and it made me laugh for 12 minutes straight. Anyone rollerblading is funny, but this took it to a whole new level.

Dorothy Allison: I just found out that this amazingly talented writer is currently an artist-in-residence in Columbia's Fiction Writing Department. *Bastard Out of Carolina* made me sob for three summers in a row, and I wouldn't take back a second of it.

Grocery shopping with my roommates: A recent rendezvous to the grocery store resulted in four boxes of Gushers, Toaster Strudels, spicy cheese dip and a mean stomachache. It's like a six grade slumber party every night in my apartment.

Happy Hour: Gladstone's, a bar and restaurant located right on the beach in Malibu, has a sweet atmosphere and what looks like good food—it costs too much for me to find out. But have the bartender Felipe make you a Pina Colada. That drink is full of miracles.

Cigars by the poolside: Nothing says a big F-you to school and work like smoking a nice stogie while dangling my feet in a pool and basking in the California sun. Every puff of the cigar and whirl of water was like another slap in the face to textbooks and deadlines.

New friends from Alabama: Sweet accents and such-great hospitality. Yeehaw.

Hotel Beds: The Sheraton Universal Hotel has the most comfortable beds in the world. Nearly twice the size of mine with twice as many fluffy pillows and soft, cozy blankets. I am speechless.

Returning to Chicago: I know I'm home when I'm surrounded by the concrete jungle, and the bars not only serve cans of PBR, but have 50 cent specials on them.

Story Week 2006: Just when I thought the Fiction Department couldn't outdo last year's Story Week, they go ahead and get Studs Terkel. This year's events sound interesting enough to skip some classes.

Child actors: All child actors need to be replaced by Muppets because I hate the way child actors speak in a fake-cute baby voice. For instance, Spielberg's *War of the Worlds* would have been better if a Muppet had replaced that nightmare known as Dakota Fanning.

My cat: I hardly ever get to see my cat Shadow. He lives with my parents, and I've had him ever since I was in 7th grade. He's getting old, and I'm afraid he's going to die.

Viking funerals: Speaking of dying, I really want to have a Viking funeral. My dead body will be laid out on a pyre and a friend will fire an arrow at the pyre, which causes it to ignite into a giant flame. Best funeral ever.

Margaret Atwood: Canadian author Margaret Atwood has invented the LongPen, which is a remote-controlled pen that allows Atwood to sign books without using her hand. I had no idea that signing books was so difficult.

Exposure



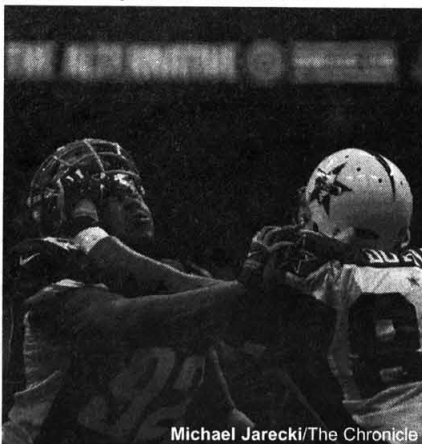
Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

In photography there are two types of pictures that hold interest: moments and action. When photographing sports the main thing to key in on is, of course, the action. It could be the action of the fans or the action in the game. You will sometimes find that you are not in the right place to capture the right action. You have to anticipate where the action is going to be, and this can be a difficult task if you are not a sports junkie.

Action can take on different forms. In the picture to the left, Colston Weatherington, 55, of the Dallas Desperados prays with fellow teammates and Chicago Rush players while daughter Trinity innocently looks on after their March 5 game.

In the picture below, the action and mood is the complete opposite. Offensive lineman Charlie Cock battles in the trenches with Dallas Desperados Terrance Dotsy.

Both pictures show various points of view and emotions that take place on the football field.



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Calendar of Events

Monday

Studs Terkel and Stuart Dybek will be reading from some of their work at the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., as part of Columbia's Story Week. The reading will take place in the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Tuesday

Starting at Sound, a new book about the Flaming Lips by Chicago Sun-Times rock critic Jim DeRogatis, hits bookstore shelves for \$14.95.

Jenny Lewis with the Watson Twins play at Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. This all-ages show starts at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$15.

Wednesday

George Clinton & The P-Funk All-Stars play at the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., at 9 p.m. This is an 18 and over show and costs \$33.50.

Starbucks stores across the city will pour free 12-oz. cups of coffee between 10 a.m. and noon.

Thursday

The Windy City Gay Idol auditions take place at the Closet, 3325 N. Broadway. Performers should arrive at 7 p.m. to sign up. Show starts at 8 p.m. The cost is \$10 for performers and \$5 for audience. The grand prize winner takes home American Airlines tickets, \$1,000 and a mountain bike.

Friday

The Annual Mystery and More Book Fair takes place at Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St. The book fair spotlights genre fiction such as mysteries, romance and science fiction. The fair starts at 12 p.m. and ends at 6 p.m.

Ellen Allien spins at the Smartbar, 3730 N. Clark St., at 10 p.m. Admission is \$10 before midnight and \$12 after. 21 and over.

Saturday

"Andy Warhol/Supernova: Stars, Deaths, and Disasters" opens at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave. The exhibit lasts until June 18. General admission is \$10 and \$6 for students. Call (312) 280-2660 for more information.

Sunday

Greg Haus, Mark Gertz and James Lauer spin at Smartbar, 3730 N. Clark St., at 10 p.m. The 21 and over show starts at 10 p.m. and is \$10.

What are your favorite Chicago sounds?

London sound artist Peter Cusack wants to hear, record the city's noises

By Mark Byrne/Staff Writer

If you smile when you hear “This is Grand” when the train reaches the Red Line stop, you’re not alone, and you may find that same CTA announcement on a CD in the near future.

Peter Cusack, a London sound artist, is coming to Chicago this month to record his third city-based sound project, a collection of city residents’ favorite sounds. If “This is Grand” is not your favorite Chicago sound, don’t worry; Cusack is looking for diversity, and there are several places to report your answer.

Podcaster Jesse Seay, a graduate student at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is in charge of gathering the answers. Seay knows Cusack personally, having taken a class with him when he visited SAIC a few years ago to teach a summer course in field recording.

Seay’s podcast, “Likes To Do Other Things,” has a short list of questions for Chicago residents, particularly: What is your favorite Chicago sound and why?

Gapers Block, a Chicago web publication that lists things going on around the city, referenced Seay’s podcast is helping her gather answers with a “Favorite Chicago Sound” thread. The most common responses, of which there have been more than 100, relate to the el.

“I’ve never realized that it’s a really common thing for people to

smirk when they hear [“This is Grand”],” Seay said.

However, she is more interested in the disparity among answers from people in different neighborhoods around Chicago. She would like the recording to include sounds from the many cultures all over the city. For her, one of the most interesting responses is a sound she’s never heard.

“One of my favorites is somebody on the South Side [who] wrote back and talked about the parakeets in Hyde Park,” Seay said. “Apparently they are pets that people have let go, and eventually they’ve formed a colony of parakeets down there.”

Seay appreciates the project as a way to discover things about parts of the city that you might not have otherwise known of.

“I’ve never been [to Hyde Park], and that’s my limited experience of Chicago,” Seay said.

Columbia Audio Arts and Acoustics professor Howard Sandroff brought up the topic of Cusack’s project to his Advanced Studies in Sound Design class, and they discussed it as a group.

Sandroff’s class said the actual recording of the city was more interesting than the final product itself.

The class noted that it valued the project as a historical document, which will record how the city is at

this point in time, based on its sounds.

The class wishes that sounds were recorded in the early part of the 20th century, when horses and trolleys made Chicago sound a lot different.

Cusack, who is an internationally recognized musician and researcher at the University of the Arts in London, is currently on tour in Canada. In an e-mail, Cusack referenced a statement he made about his first project in London as motivation for the Chicago project.

“Your Favourite London Sound is an attempt to discover what Londoners think and feel about their city’s rich and varied soundscape,” Cusack explains in the liner notes of the London CD. The second installation, recorded in Beijing, aimed to do the same thing, and now Chicago will be the first American city to be recorded by Cusack.

Cusack also explained that the auditory perception of London may have been something that those who lived there might overlook.

“Taken as a whole the favourite sounds reveal a fascinating perspective on London—that of the ear,” Cusack wrote. “It is quite different from that of the eye.”

Cusack will be in town to record Your Favorite Chicago Sounds March 13 through 17, but Seay said he may return to do more recording

later on. She isn’t sure how long it will be before Chicago’s CD is released, but London Sounds took

two years to record.

Favorite sounds can be sent to liketodootherthings@gmail.com.



Larry Drake plays some music for traveling Chicagoans. El sounds such as the Grand Red Line announcement are listed as some of city residents’ favorite sounds.

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Documentary searches for lost mind

Director Rupert Murray discusses 'Unknown White Male,' defends film's credibility

By Sam Libretti/Associate Editor

Doug Bruce, a native of England who had been living in New York, woke up on the subway in July, 2002 with no memory of ever being alive. He didn't even know his own name. Bruce turned himself in to police and from there was faced with the challenge of putting together all the pieces of his life that he simply couldn't remember. *Unknown White Male* is a new documentary that follows Bruce as he builds a new life while trying to accept his old one, despite his still-unexplainable amnesia.

Rupert Murray, the film's director, was also Bruce's friend before his memory loss. Murray was in Chicago recently and talked to *The Chronicle* about his relationship with Bruce, his feelings about the film and the question about whether the film is a documentary or a "mockumentary."

The Chronicle: What is your relationship with Doug like now? Murray: It's really good. We've become close friends. I see him probably once every month and a half. I saw him on New Year's Eve in Australia and a lot this month because of the film coming out.

This film is obviously more personal than other films you've worked on [Murray has done behind-the-scenes work on several independently-produced films].

With that in mind, where does *Unknown White Male* rank in terms of what films you're most proud of?

This one is the biggest one I've made for sure, in terms of industry, audience and press reaction as well as the depth of that reaction. This is the greatest feedback I've ever had, which has made it the most rewarding film I've ever made.

Doug said that he didn't want to talk to his close friends for a few months after he lost his memory. Was it difficult to not be able to talk to him for that long, knowing what he was going through?

No, not really. A lot of our friends would call him up anyway, when they were drunk. After a night at the pub, they'd lose a few of their inhibitions so they'd call him up saying things like, "Doug you bastard, what the fuck are you doing?" Or they'd be really [drunk] and someone would say, "Hey have you heard Doug's lost his memory?" And someone else would say, "Oh, there's no way," so then they'd call him up asking. I talked to him about it, and he said that people were calling him up and abusing him. I had to explain that all these people swearing at him were people that cared about him.

Did you always want to continue a friendship with Doug after he

lost his memory or was it frightening to think about 'becoming friends' with someone who was already a close friend of yours?

I was just really curious to find out what the hell had happened to him. He was in New York, which made it even more fascinating. I was always asking the question, "Where is the person we knew? Where has he gone?" He only existed inside our heads. This was a new person, so I was curious to find out how he was coping with everything. I thought I'd know the person I was going to meet, but I didn't. We started out as complete strangers.

There were other filmmakers interested in Doug's story. Was Doug always open to the idea of telling his story on screen or did the fact that you had been friends with him before he lost his memory give you an advantage?

Well, a lot of the other interested parties never really followed through with the projects. They lost interest, or it just petered out. Also, he knew we had been friends, and I told him that I'd take him back to England. He wanted to go back but found the idea really scary.

Was it difficult to separate yourself from being Doug's friend to being simply a documentary filmmaker?

It wasn't difficult because I made



Director Rupert Murray (right) must get to know his friend Doug Bruce all over again in the documentary 'Unknown White Male.'

no effort to do it. I didn't separate myself, and maybe in some documentary purist's eyes that's some sort of cardinal sin. But I was a friend before I was a filmmaker and that's how I made the film. It would have been sort of shitty to step back from being Doug's friend and then step back in once I was done.

People have questioned the validity of *Unknown White Male*. Do you feel a responsibility to defend the film?

Yeah, I do. I think it's my job to defend it. I could quite happily say, "Fuck it, he's my friend. They're all my friends, and we've done a great thing by telling his story." But I feel that I do have to defend it, especially since it's going to be in cinemas. I don't want people to go in there wondering if it's fake. I want them

to enjoy the film and get to know Doug without having these questions in the back of their minds.

What does Doug think about the skepticism surrounding the film? He doesn't care. There were people in New York that he talked to right after it happened who didn't believe him, and he just said to them, "Fine. That's your choice. Your opinion doesn't have an impact on my life."

If Doug does regain his memory, do you think his "new" life will become different?

I think he's been going in the same direction. The amnesia has accelerated his growth but it hasn't altered the path he was on. If his memory comes back, it will make him stronger. This whole situation has made him a better, stronger person.

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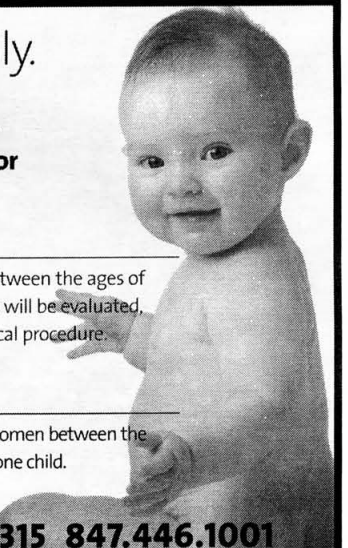
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Before TV shows, who knows what people did for entertainment. They probably played patty-cake and jumped rope over to the neighbor's house. It was nothing worthy of making a show out of. Today, though, TV stations are constantly trying to capture the real lives of people everywhere, from business owners to tattoo artists. But in a world where reality often crosses back and forth between fact and fiction, one has to wonder if TV is really capturing the true essence of real people. Here, The Chronicle compares reality TV shows to their real life counterparts, seeing which shows make the cut as far as truth goes and which ones are about as real as your grandma's red hair.

Story by Tiffany Breyne
Graphics by Joshua Covarrubias

Fantasy or Reality?

Reality TV: "American Idol"/"Making the Band"

These shows have made quite the name for themselves over the years by pitting wannabe musicians against each other in the ultimate battle to become America's next musical sensation. From Paula, Simon and Randy to Diddy, the judges and contestants battle over who is good enough and who needs to keep their day job.

Real Life: Minty Fresh Records

"I know ['American Idol'] is pretty cheesy, but for a lot of bands it's pretty good exposure, to be honest," said Beth Martinez, co-founder of Chicago-based Minty Fresh Records. "I don't think that winning a competition like that lends a band credibility unless they're actually good. But at the same time, winning [a show] is a really good way for a label to sign someone, because it shows that people like them."

Though she sees a positive side to the show, Martinez said that picking a musician for the rock label is all about talent and good work ethic—not picking someone who won a battle of the bands or some individual competition. Martinez also said the show is unrealistic because of the things it doesn't show that happen in the real world of signing bands to labels, such as the dedicated touring and minimal amounts of money bands make for years before being recognized.

"It ... skips so many steps of what it really takes to make a good band," Martinez said. "When you sign contracts, there's so much more than the audience sees going into that. Whatever band wins those things, they're gonna sign a contract, [and the record company's] gonna own them now. It is kind of different than just being in a band and really working for it."

Reality TV: "Blow Out"

Hair stylist Jonathan Antin is a man on a mission: open a successful and chic hair salon in Beverly Hills, Calif., no matter what it takes. Bravo is there to record the whole process as Antin dishes out disses and tough loving to assistants and artists.

Real Life: Milios Hair Salon

For Milio, the owner of Milios Hair Salon, 959 W. Belmont Ave., "Blow Out" not only does a poor job of portraying the hair industry, it makes the people look bad. Milio said he watched the show after customers would come in and talk about the "guy who yells at everybody."

"He was really egocentric," Milio said. "There are a lot of down-to-earth people in this business; we just want to do a good job."

While not all hairstylists are assholes like Antin, the drama adds a shock value to the show that makes it entertaining—but not to Milio. He thinks that there are other shows on TV that shed a truer light on the industry and get the customer's perspective too.

"Other shows, they show natural reactions, and I guess that's kind of OK," Milio said. "But [Antin] was real arrogant and too mean. We're a service business; we want to treat people well and make them happy."

American Idol



AP

Blow Out



Bravo



Rollergirls

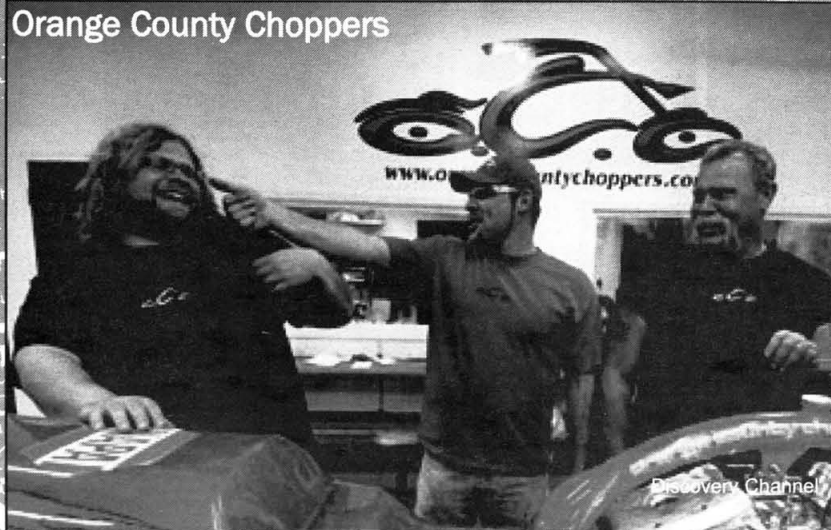


A&E



A&E

Orange County Choppers



Discovery Channel

Reality TV: "Rollergirls"

This A&E show follows an all-girl roller derby league based out of Austin, Texas, as The Texas Rollergirls go through bouts and troubles both in and out of the rink. There is drama, cat fights and girl power all loaded into an hour of action-packed entertainment.

Real Life: Chi*Town Sirens

Chi*Town Sirens league player Laura Rupp said "Rollergirls" does a good job of breaking free from the over-dramatized norm of reality TV and portraying real roller girls.

"Sadly, yes, that's all there," Rupp said. "It's all there, plus some. Their drama on [the show]—whether it's girl related or business related—it's all there."

Rupp, also known as Nurse RoughUp and co-captain for the Candy Stripe Killers, said while the Texas girls may sometimes be scantily clad on the rink, real-life roller girls tend to cover up a bit more. She also noted that The Windy City Rollers, another Chicago league, held recruitment nights after the show started and had more girls show up than expected, a lot of them showing interest after seeing "Rollergirls."

"In the beginning, I was getting a lot of questions [about roller derby]," Rupp said. "Now people know what it is. It's like, 'Just watch "Rollergirls." It's basically the same—they just make it dumbified."

Reality TV: "Orange County Choppers"

The members of the Teutul family have made a name for themselves throughout the country as the zany and talented custom motorcycle builders of "OCC." The show captures their average work day dealing with stressful situations, yelling at each other, making outlandish statements and seeing how their personal life is affected by the business.

Real Life: L.A. County Choprods

Making custom motorcycles is nothing new, but for Gard Hollinger, the success of the "OCC" series has brought on a whole new level of interest to the industry, some of it with unrealistic expectations.

"['OCC' has] definitely brought a lot of attention to the industry that was sort of small," Hollinger said. "From that aspect, I almost feel like I have to appreciate them. But they're not a real accurate representation of the business."

For Hollinger, the new attention brings in customers who expect bikes within a deadline of two weeks, which isn't how the business usually works. He also thinks that the show exaggerates the monetary side of the industry; most custom bike shops can't afford the equipment shown on "OCC," which he said is most likely given to them for free. Other than the stress the Teutul men experience on the show, which Hollinger said is a reality of working in the industry, he doesn't see other common aspects.

"The reality is most of us probably work longer hours with less resources," Hollinger said. "I try not to say too much negative [stuff] about guys like them 'cause they've done a lot for the industry, but the reality is there's a lot more really talented people out there that don't get noticed."

Play questions importance of being married

Dark comedic work delves into social issues with gay marriage theme

By Colette Ruscheinsky/Contributing Writer

Falling in love can be hard, but not being able to marry the one you love can be even harder. While the issue of marriage for gay and lesbian couples is controversial, writer and director Chris Garcia Peak has found laughter in it with his dark comedy "Shotgun Wedding."

Peak's play, which is showing at the National Pastime Theatre, 4139 N. Broadway, takes place in the fictional town of Le Boulevard Le Grand. Gays and lesbians are illegal there, and being single just isn't allowed. One of the main characters, played by Kate Cares, is forced to marry a man even though she is a lesbian. The character is surrounded by extreme conservatives who force what Peak called "over the top" beliefs on her, as well as the entire town.

"I wanted to do something to give people a funny look at what our country could be," Peak said.

Peak was first inspired to write "Shotgun Wedding" by fellow playwright Charles Mee. Mee has written numerous plays with wedding themes, and he places all of his work online for other writers to read and use for inspiration.

"It was an interesting process," Peak said. "[It was] chopping

things up, digesting it and then spitting it out into a new play."

"Shotgun Wedding" is produced by Collision Theatre Company, which a few DePaul Theatre graduates started a year ago. Among these college grads is Erica Peregrine, the play's marketing direction and public relations representative. Peregrine describes the play as having "an important message without being preachy. It's a perfect venue for students."

For actress Mary Grill, who plays the ultra-conservative Christine, there are many political messages that emerge from this comedic play, aside from the obvious message on gay marriage. Grill explained that her character is very comical. In her opinion, this was a smart decision by Peak, as it gives the audience more of an opportunity to listen to important issues without getting offended.

"I think 'Shotgun Wedding' calls attention to the dangers of fundamentalism and extremism of all kinds within politics," Grill said. "When there is awareness to be raised, an attempt to interest all types of people is needed. I think [the play] definitely does that."

Staff members of "Shotgun Wedding" had a variety of reasons for wanting to be a part of it.

Josh Horvath, who did design and audio for the play, explained that there are many political messages that inspired him to contribute to the play since it was so thought-provoking.

"[It deals with] the issues of church verses state, gay marriage, gay rights and the 'Big Brother' regime of current administration," Horvath said. "What I love about this play is that it takes you on a roller coaster ride. You don't know what is going to happen next. It will definitely challenge the audience, which is very important."

Members of the cast and crew, and every individual in the audience, may take what they want from the play's comedic representation of today's politics. Peak, however, had his own vision in mind when it came to creating the play's satirical message.

"It's essentially about how marriage isn't important and how it's more important to be with someone you love," Peak said.

"Shotgun Wedding" is playing at the National Pastime Theatre, 4139 N. Broadway St., through April 2. The show costs \$15 for general admission. For tickets and more information, visit the Collision Theatre website, www.collisiontheatre.org.



Courtesy Collision Theatre

Traditional wedding practices are discarded in favor of maracas in "Shotgun Wedding," a new play that satirizes the gay marriage debate.

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Sexual socialism in bathhouses

Bathhouse owner has faced many challenges

By Hunter Clauss/A&E Editor

Chuck Renslow wears many hats, and not all of them are leather. In addition to being a father and a gay rights advocate, Renslow is the founder and president of Chicago's Leather Archives and Museum, which aims to preserve the history of gay leather culture. He also founded the now-closed Gold Coast Leather Bar, which was the first leather bar in the United States. Renslow currently owns another leather bar called The Eagle and Man's Country, which is one of three gay bathhouses in Chicago.

Gay bathhouses are places where men can have sex with each other. Some bathhouses, like Man's Country, offer a sauna room and live entertainment.

Man's Country, 5015 N. Clark St., has gone through many ups and downs, but despite the impact of the AIDS epidemic of the '80s and the popularity of crystal meth, Renslow never considered selling the building and the colorful history that comes along with it.

The Chronicle: When you opened Man's Country, you found some crazy stuff like a human skeleton underneath the stage.

Renslow: [Laughs] What you [have] got to remember is that this used to be a Masonic Lodge. I'm a Mason. That's how I knew [the building] was for sale and I bought it. Now, a lot of lodges were missing up here. One of their ceremonies in initiation includes a skeleton, and that was the original skeleton

they left when they moved out.

What did you think when you found all of this?

How interesting! My main reason of thinking at that time was, How can I incorporate this [into the bathhouse]? I was going to leave the vault door down there but that was pretty stupid because that's the perfect room for a steam room. So I took that out. There's very little left of the original [layout].

How did Man's Country survive through the height of the AIDS epidemic? What do you attribute to that survival?

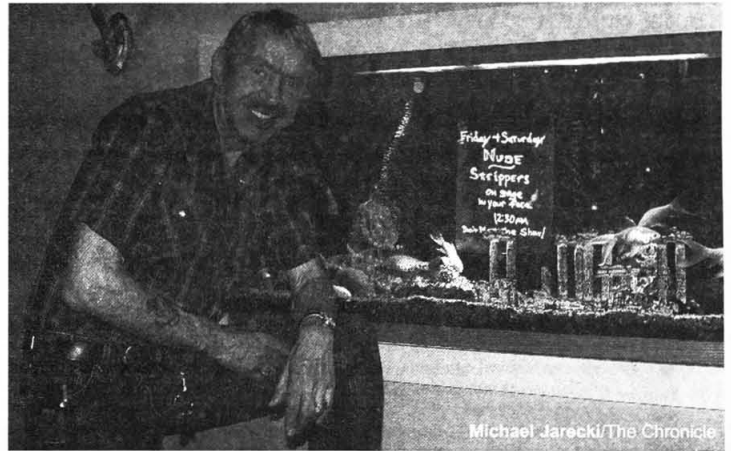
Man's Country survived through those rough times very limited. I closed no more than half of it down. I turned the auditorium into a discotheque. Man's Country was cut down to about 50 percent its original size.

How did you feel during that time?

Oh, fine. I felt great. I had a discotheque going on. I never looked back. Some people say that's a fault, but I really don't. I'm always looking forward and planning ahead.

What were other things you tried that got similar reactions?

Well, I opened the Gold Coast in 1958, [which was] the first leather bar in the United States. When I had it, I hired the first black bartender and everybody said, "Oh it's the North Side. You can't do



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Chuck Renslow relaxes in the lobby of Man's Country, 5015 N. Clark St.

that." I did, and it worked.

What was going on in your head as an owner of a bathhouse during the height of the AIDS epidemic?

It was several things. Survival was very important. I was also trying to think of other things to do. That's why I opened the discotheque. I kind of thought bathhouses would never come back. Once again, I was thinking of other avenues to go, other ways to use the building and so forth. On the other hand, I never wanted to close the bathhouse because I felt it was an excellent place for testing and people to meet.

At the time AIDS hit, my lover [Etienne] had AIDS. He died of AIDS. I was very kind to the fact that people needed help.

When AIDS first came out in '80, I was at the gay leadership conference in Texas when it was named. Before that it was called gay cancer or something like that. I was there and I realized what happened. When I came back here to Chicago, I closed the orgy room, took out the glory holes and started handing out condoms—selling condoms. We weren't giving them out yet.

The health department came in, and they said, "It's a lot better for people to be here than on the streets." So we stayed open. They're doctors. They're not dumb.

They realized that I was struggling to [stay open]. There was another bathhouse at the time, and they didn't close their orgy room or nothing. They said, "You're crazy. You're going to lose business." Well I did lose business. I lost a lot of business. But I survived.

Why do you think bathhouses are still relevant today?

Why were they relevant in Roman times? Sex. There's no two ways about it. What I've done with Kinsey and sexual research, [is that when] people are out cruising in bars they are attracted to people in their own class. In other words ... somebody cruising tends to cruise to their own social status. In a bathhouse, there is no social status. All towels are white. Everybody is naked. You can meet people you wouldn't ordinarily meet. In the bathhouse, we're equal. The millionaire is walking around with a white towel and so is the bum.

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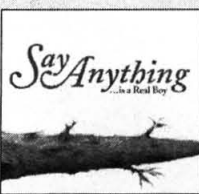
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Reviews

Garrison Starr
The Sound of You ...

Blah, blah, blah ... this album is about as lame as the artist's last name. Typical lyrics and beats make Starr's music blend in with the rest of the plain-Jane crooner wannabes. She sings about love, pain and whatever else in her life is apparently worthy of singing about. I'd rather listen to the fiddle player at the el stations. — *T. Breynne*

Say Anything
...Is A Real Boy

This rerelease from California band Say Anything is packed with cheesy pop-punk for your skanking and air-punching pleasure. A bonus CD, aptly titled *...Was a Real Boy*, has great new songs like the hot and lyrically-graphic single "Wow I Can Get Sexual Too." — *T. Breynne*

KT Tunstall
Eye to the Telescope

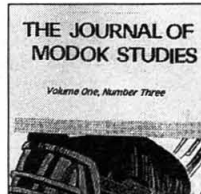
Tunstall is one of the breakout stars of the year, and for good reason. She's like a mixture of Fiona Apple and Nora Jones, dishing out soulful pop that should play in the background of a movie's "liberating" moment. Some songs aren't too special, but the good ones are grreat. — *T. Breynne*

Esquire
April 2006 Issue

"Best Song of the 21st Century" might have been more aptly titled "Best Single," but it's mindless fun all the same. The rest of the issue is equally entertaining, including the "Esquire Music Awards" winners and the story of Sgt. Brian Wells getting a new skull after returning from Iraq and Sela Ward is officially the sexiest 49-year-old woman alive. — *D. Strum*

Batman: Year One
Hundred #1
Paul Pope

This futuristic tale takes a look at the caped crusader a century from now, when superheroes are outlawed, and the totalitarian government commands a pack of cybernetic dogs. Sounds boring, but Paul Pope manages to make it work with his distinctive rough-around-the-edges style. The only thing that sucks about this book is its outrageous price. \$5.99! — *H. Clauss*

The Journal of Modok
Studies

Modok was this really lame Hulk villain who was basically a giant head in a floating wheelchair. Like I said, lame. This awesome zine, though, dedicates itself to making fun of this obscure character in a number of delightful ways. It's geared for comic book dorks but is well worth the \$2. — *H. Clauss*

16 Blocks
Richard Donner

If Bruce Willis never makes *Die Hard 4*, then *16 Blocks* is as close as he'll get. His character, an edgy alcoholic detective (what else is new), has to escort a prisoner (Mos Def) to a courthouse 16 blocks away. It's at least a bit reminiscent of Yippee-Kay-Yay—in that strange I'm-too-old-for-this-shit sort of way. — *C. Jakubowski*

Match Point
DVD

This romantic thriller deviates from Woody Allen's usual New York-based comedy. Scarlett Johansson's performance as a sultry seductress, however, is typical of her. She's smoldering and hot, but her inability to play a role other than the mysteriously irresistible woman disrupts the flow of this otherwise superb movie. — *J. Fischer*

Jarhead
DVD

Instead of being an action-packed war movie, *Jarhead* gives an honest look into the life of a Marine through the cruel reality of boot camp, fighting in the Middle East during Desert Storm and falling back into society. Jake Gyllenhaal fans won't be disappointed by his raw acting, or by his phenomenal physique. — *H. Graham*

Cinnamon-Flavored
Toothpicks

Whole Foods generally sells slightly more natural products—except when it comes to toothpicks. Instead of just offering boring ol' wood, it sells flavored toothpicks. The packaging says they help fight bad breath and get rid of plaque. Furthermore, the taste lasts much longer than most chewing gum, and it looks more Clint Eastwood and less Valley Girl. — *M. Byrne*

Fender Geddy Lee
Jazz Bass

Fender has designed a warehouse of artist signature guitars, but the Geddy Lee bass rises above even those. Designed as an exact replica of the guitar used by the acclaimed Rush bassist, the Geddy Lee model delivers near-perfect tone and the streamlined feel of classic Fender jazz basses. — *S. Libretti*

Puppy Curling
<http://www.gamesarcade.net>

You get four attempts to curl animated puppies across a kitchen floor and get closer to the target than your friend or the computer opponent. Occasional glitches can undermine the competition, but the game's still an effective way of losing track of time and smiling while doing so. — *D. Strum*

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

The Living Blue have known each other for the better part of two decades, if not more than that, and have been playing together for eight years. Throughout that time, the indie rock band—Joe Prokop on guitars, Stephen Ucherek on vocals and guitars, Mark Schroder on drums and Andrew Davidson on bass—have had their name scattered across the country. Their song "State of Affairs" off their new album, *Fire, Blood, Water*, has been played on the WB's "One Tree Hill," and they beat out 1,000 other bands in Little Steven's (Van Zandt, of "The Sopranos" and the E Street Band) Underground Garage Rock Festival for a profile on MTV. Though most of the band comes from Odell, Ill., they are currently residing in Champaign as they wait to kick off their Midwestern tour in April.

The Chronicle. What kind of shows did you guys play in the '90s?

Prokop: In Odell, we never played there. But in Champaign, we were doing the party circuit thing and some clubs in town. Back then, house parties were huge for bands to play. You'd get a lot of touring indie bands that would play parties. So we did that a lot, just kind of progressed through the years [by] getting our name out and getting better shows. And then it worked out with better shows in different cities and better shows in different states. It just kind of spread through the years.

Did you like playing at parties?

No, I mean it definitely made us stick out like sore thumbs, which is a good thing 'cause at the time, you're talking Champaign—the home of emo. That's where it came from unfortunately. We were playing a completely different genre of music at the time so we really did

stick out. So our shows were pretty chaotic. We were younger then, so it was funky. We were having a good time at a house party.

How has your sound changed from those house parties to now?

We've always kind of had a '60s backbone to our music. When we first started out, we were really highly influenced by a lot of '90s garage rock, kind of bluesy garage rock, a lot of surf, instrumental stuff. Then through the years we've dabbled a lot more with British invasion and late '60s psychedelic garage rock. We have other influences as well. We've been pretty heavily influenced by Captain Beefheart. A few years ago we were influenced by The Cynics, The Makers, The Oblivions, The Dirtbombs, all that good stuff.

What about nowadays?

In no way am I trying to sound arrogant at all or pompous, but we've been playing now for eight years and touring like crazy the last few years. We see bands every night. It's just like no matter what you do, no matter what your profession is, you're just gonna get, not burnt out, but there's [just] a lot of stuff today. I'm definitely picky about what I listen to.

You guys have played all across the country. How do audiences compare coast to coast?

As many times as we've done New York, Los Angeles was awesome to us. New York is a tough crowd. It's like you really have to work hard to bring people out. Our first show in L.A. was pretty much sold out. We play Chicago all the time, and we've definitely had to work

The Living Blue



Courtesy Minty Fresh

for it. The last few years have been booming for our Chicago shows. It's been really big crowds.

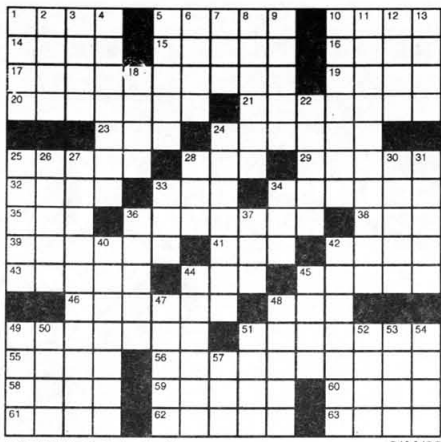
You've been getting a lot of positive press lately—does it feel like it's taken awhile to get to this point? It definitely has. But I'll tell you something, we talk about it a lot. We're glad about [our experiences] as opposed to a band who blows up overnight and has no experience of the industry.

For more information on The Living Blue, visit their website, www.thelivingblue.com.

— *T. Breynne*

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Little bit
 - 5 Jazz singer
 - 14 Christmas song
 - 15 Large antelope
 - 16 Court entreaty
 - 17 Committee head, perhaps
 - 19 Paper tidbit
 - 20 Violent attack
 - 21 Quadrille dance
 - 23 Bro's sib
 - 24 More optimistic
 - 25 Mr. Universe contestants
 - 28 Cribbage piece
 - 29 "Din"
 - 32 God of love
 - 33 Piece of the action
 - 34 Go
 - 35 Turn informer
 - 36 One archangel
 - 38 Bill at the bar
 - 39 E-flat
 - 41 Flow out
 - 42 Actress
 - 43 Note from the boss
 - 44 Singer Tillis
 - 45 Pal
 - 46 Greet like a lion
 - 48 Family men
 - 49 Honors formally
 - 51 Frankfurter's cousin
 - 55 Teheran land
 - 56 Junkyard collection
 - 58 Easter season
 - 59 Restaurant unit
 - 60 Enameled metalware
 - 61 Men-to-be
 - 62 Twice as cunning
 - 63 PC junk mail
- DOWN
- 1 Old Peruvian
 - 2 Circus-goers' cries
 - 3 Brewed drinks
 - 4 Assumed names
 - 5 Whippers
 - 6 Congeal
 - 7 Ewe's mate
 - 8 Computer type
 - 9 Ferber and Best
 - 10 Enliven
 - 11 Took turns
 - 12 Provocative look
 - 13 Scottish berets
 - 18 Downfall
 - 22 Patrick or Bruce
 - 24 Backpedal
 - 25 Buffalo bunches
 - 26 Re-create blank tape
 - 27 Country of origin
 - 28 Alehouse
 - 30 Stately
 - 31 Cornered
 - 33 Upper limit
 - 34 Gal at the ball
 - 36 Extensive
 - 37 Original PC maker
 - 40 Quantities
 - 42 Seam inserts
 - 44 Mathematician
 - 45 Creator of Oz
 - 47 Takes five
 - 48 Writing sheet
 - 49 Pie-cooling ledge
 - 50 Surface measure
 - 51 Store lure
 - 52 On the summit of
 - 53 Fancy party
 - 54 First sch.
 - 57 Baseball player's stat



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Solutions



to the nines fashion@columbia



Columbia President **Warrick L. Carter's** sense of fashion is best summed up by Yvonne Sode, his executive assistant. "I call him Mr. GQ," Sode said. A fan of formal wear, Carter shops at Paul Stewart for bow ties and the Shirt Shop in New York for custom-tailored button-up shirts. Carter's inspiration for fashion comes from his uncle Denver Jones, whose mastery of color combinations still impresses Carter. "He always looked good in clothes," Carter said. "He had a sense and flair for combining colors." A staple of Carter's wardrobe is the Columbia pin he wears on all of his blazers. "Whenever I go out, I carry the college with me," he said.

Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Out of My Head

by Scotty Carlson



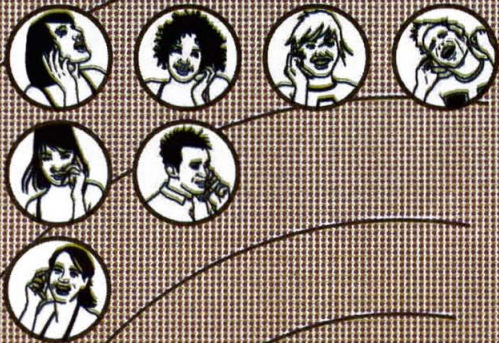
horoscopes by Alicia Dorr

- Aries (March 21 – April 20): You will enjoy a brief stint as the new face on the Wheaties box this week, but the entire edition will be recalled because some kid found a razor in a flake.
- Taurus (April 21 – May 21): You're sort of a curmudgeon. Perhaps you should take some ecchinacea, get some rest.
- Gemini (May 22 – June 21): You will blink for the gazillionth time today, and it will be a total party.
- Cancer (June 22 – July 23): You sort of smell like Subway. You know—burnt hair and B.O.
- Leo (July 24 – Aug. 23): You look incredibly dapper in suits.
- Virgo (Aug. 24 – Sept. 23): This week all your experiments will pay off when you prove your hypothesis that you can get fatter just from smelling fast food.
- Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23): You're gonna get hit by a bus if you keep this shit up.
- Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22): You never liked peas as a child, but you'll try one today and realize they're not all that bad. And then you'll throw up.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21): Who wears that hat, seriously? Hoboes, orphans and you.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20): You mistakenly say "yes" when someone asks you if you want a sandwich today. You must have missed the word "knuckle" before it.
- Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19): You should get a beer and go drink it in Grant Park. Trust me, they never catch that stuff.
- Pisces (Feb. 20 – Mar. 20): This week you will eat cold pizza.

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Carter speaks, students respond

Creating change should begin at the top

By Michelle C. Finkler
Copy Editor

Columbia president Warrick L. Carter, who is black, and his nearly all-white front row of vice presidents backedpedaled during the Q-and-A session that capped off the State of the College address on March 8. The session got at the heart of student issues but merely evoked PR-style responses and many "I don't knows" from administrators.

One concern resonated more than once: student body diversity. Before the administration can tackle this issue, it should consider starting at the top and looking at itself.

For example, Carter and the temporary vice president of Institutional Advancement, Eric Winston, are the only two administrators who are not white. It's insulting to hear administrators harp about how they're trying to mend fading minority enrollment (which has decreased by 10 percentage points within the past decade) and further increase the minority population of the school, when their own counterparts are mostly white.

"What are you [Carter] doing as an African-American yourself and president of this institution ... to retain these students as well as recruit them?" asked a black student. She expressed her alarm over how financially taxing tuition rates forced some students she knows to leave Columbia.

Carter replied that he is concerned with what happens to minority students and hopes that the new scholarships created for low-income students will be a solution. However, he said, "There is

very little that I can do at the very top other than influence policy and to make sure that we have the right kind of policies and to support mechanisms on campus to reach out." These soft and seemingly scripted answers are inadequate for a student body that was once praised for its diversity.

And whatever these "mechanisms" are, they aren't doing much to entice prospective students by working at recruitment tools alongside their educational purposes. For example, what good is the Center for Community Arts Partnerships if the population of black students at Columbia is waning every year? Maybe less money should be invested into these "mechanisms" since they are not working to promote Columbia to the very students they are designed to serve.

But the root of the issue stems from the past decade of Columbia's

administrative decisions that have somehow increased white enrollment while neglecting to reciprocally increase African-American enrollment. It's encouraging to hear Carter talk about the record numbers of students enrolling in Columbia; however, this increase in white enrollment only dilutes campus diversity, despite the additional revenue it brings.

The yearly tuition increase is a common threat to low-income, black students (the median income of black students at Columbia is \$30,000, while the median for white students is \$80,000, according to vice president of Student Affairs Mark Kelly). Carter attributed the tuition increase to a number of reasons including faculty and staff raises, which average 2.8 percent in the United States, according to an article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Compared to Carter's raise of 8.75

percent (a \$22,587 increase) for the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the faculty received chump change. He shouldn't blame faculty for the tuition hike, when his raise exceeded theirs by \$20,795.

And although affordability certainly plays a role in any student's college choice, maybe there is a greater deterrent that keeps non-white students from attending Columbia. Maybe it's that minority students just don't want to go to a school where they have difficulty relating to the students, faculty and staff.

Administrators said they know minority students like to be in an environment where people look like them. Doesn't the administration know that it's all white save for two members?

So while administrators try to "create change" in Columbia's diversity, they may want to start at the top with themselves.

Space at the college should be priority

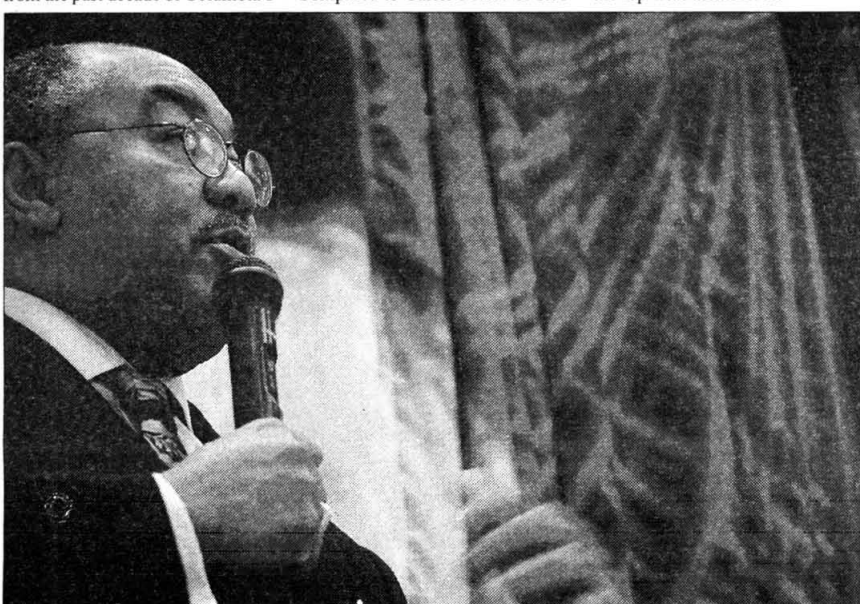
By Chris Schroeder
Guest Columnist

Warrick L. Carter's State of the College address was an overall success. Communication between the administration leaders and students was sincere and informative in most respects.

However, I don't feel that I was successful in learning what the administrative position was on one question I presented. As we sat in this overcrowded room for one of the year's most important events on campus, I asked Carter what his thoughts were about having a large, multipurpose room in the new student center as a solution to the small gathering spaces on campus. Basically, Carter, vice president of Campus Environment Alicia Berg, and vice president of Student Affairs Mark Kelly informed us that various spaces around campus would be better used in the future and there would be a couple large spaces in the student center that would be put to use as well.

I was pleased to hear Carter, Berg and Kelly speak about large spaces in the student center. But I am still concerned that dividing the space into separate rooms will only hinder our ability to accommodate larger events while also limiting the type of events held.

'Warrick L. Carter's State of the College address was an overall success. Communication between administration leaders and students was sincere and informative in most respects.'



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Plenty of good questions, not many answers

By Derek Strum
Commentary Editor

The Student Government Association handed out beads and decks of playing cards before Columbia president Warrick L. Carter's State of the College address on March 8. Attendees also received a short printed itinerary, which resembled a fine dining menu, for the event.

Too bad for those of us who left the Ferguson Theater feeling as though we'd just been served a lukewarm plate of baloney.

"This is always fun for me," Carter told the audience at the beginning of his fourth annual address. But the president's body language really suggested otherwise as he sat in a folding chair, repeatedly rubbed his hand along his left leg and looked to the vice presidents seated in the front row

while students asked questions. It became apparent rather quickly that the event was really more a "Question and Answer with Mark Kelly." At one point later in the Q-and-A session, Carter simply responded to a question concerning the cost and availability of Internet and cable access on campus by looking to the first row and saying, "Who's going to answer that for me?"

There were a good variety of questions from students following the address, but the responses to those questions reminded me an awful lot of the familiar lines I heard following the speech last year. Points are "well-taken" and administrators will "look into" this or "re-examine" that.

I'll try to retain my optimism, but it was hardly any wonder that students had to be reminded when they were expected to applaud. "I think this place looks completely different, don't you?" Carter asked, politely nudging the audience to clap. I would've said, "My hallway's orange" if it didn't sound so much like something more like-

ly to come from Ralph Wiggum.

I doubt anybody would enjoy having to go before an audience of college students and try to explain to them why they shouldn't have the concerns they do, but I left the Ferguson with probably just as many questions as I had when I entered. While the idea of a "Campus Center Savings Account" sure sounds wonderful, it's a little troubling to hear how much Columbia plans to rely "heavier and heavier" on contributions from its alumni.

From more than 30,000 graduates from the arts and media college, a mere \$48,000 was contributed to the school last year. Does Columbia completely strip its students of their generosity before they leave? Well, when you consider that there was the pleasant news of a 4.75 percent increase in tuition to look forward to next year (somebody's got to pay for those raises), it's not hard to see why graduates might have other obligations to honor with what they earn.

I don't doubt that administrators

are legitimately concerned about how well Columbia functions; things might just be managed more effectively if there wasn't as much emphasis on how it's marketed.

When one student voiced her displeasure with an experience at the Student Health Center, saying, "I don't really feel like I received a service there," it should have raised a red flag for everybody in the audience. The \$25 Health Center fee students pay for provides a "modest service," according to Kelly, in order to keep costs low. So what the student posing the question got for her money was the advice to put a towel on her head and lie down when she felt extremely ill.

Sorry to rain on the parade, but that anecdote was a real bring-me-down. I assume other students felt a similar reaction. And I would hope that if they want more from their investment in this college, they will follow the rule to "never quit" when it comes to vocalizing their displeasure with such items—as well as remembering never to forget that rule.

As I understand it, student community is a top priority in building a student center. In the address, Carter said Columbia wanted to provide one of the best student communities around. Can a large student community exist if the college doesn't have a large space to come together in?

Last fall, the Student Government Association held a semester kick-off party that jam-packed Roosevelt University's gym to the point that there was very little room to walk. The strength of our student community will continue to grow at a tremendous rate. If Columbia continues renting space at University of Illinois at Chicago and ignoring that Roosevelt's space is hardly enough room now (it certainly won't be better as our enrollment grows), the need for the students to come together will be unmet even with the student center established.

—Chris Schroeder is an SGA senator and president of Columbia Athletics

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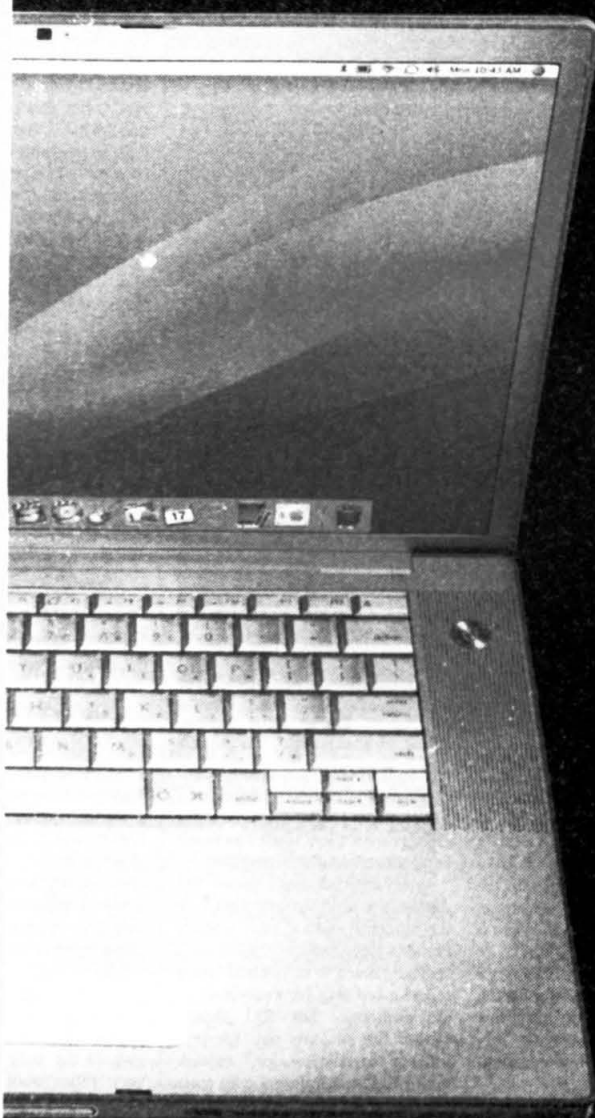
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"The photographs in this exhibit were created to point and ask, plead even, for answers to questions as diverse as: do we really go so numb in front of an embarrassment of riches; can you image buying a brand new house that looks exactly like every house on the block; does anyone seriously believe that these plastic plants don't, in fact, make things worse; or are we that afraid of death that we feel compelled to turn corpses into dolls?"

There is a certain disbelief at work here that only occurs when the filter of routinization is stripped away by seeing something freshly. And as with any revelation, there is a challenge: is this the way you want it? what are you going to do about it?"

- Curator. Paul D'Amato, Professor of Photography, Columbia College Chicago

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NEW AMERICANA, March 13 - April 21

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March 13 - April 26, 2006

College-Wide Reception, March 28, 5-7 pm

Shojo Manga! Girl Power! is an internationally touring exhibition. The show includes more than 200 artworks from 23 artists who have contributed to the development of modern Shojo Manga (girl comics) in Japan since World War II. The medium reflects the evolution of the social roles of Japanese girls and women during this period. The exhibition also documents how the visual composition of manga mirrors the developments in Japanese aesthetics.

Shojo Manga! Girl Power! is curated by Dr. Masami Toku, Associate Professor of Art and Art History at California State University Chico.

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March 2-April 1, 2006

The Middle East Peace Quilt Exhibition is the centerpiece of Peace it Together, a month-long celebration presented by Genesis at the Crossroads and Columbia College Chicago. Sima Elizabeth Seffrin, a visionary visual artist from Vancouver, British Columbia, conceived the Middle East Peace Quilt. Seffrin's two year project pieces together 30 panels created by artists of Israeli, Palestinian, European, and North American descent. All 30 of the panels will be on display in the Glass Curtain Gallery.

The Peace it Together celebration will present a number of arts programs, exhibitions, performances and lectures during the first two weekends of March. Peace it Together is a celebration focused on the power of art to bridge diverse cultures and peoples.



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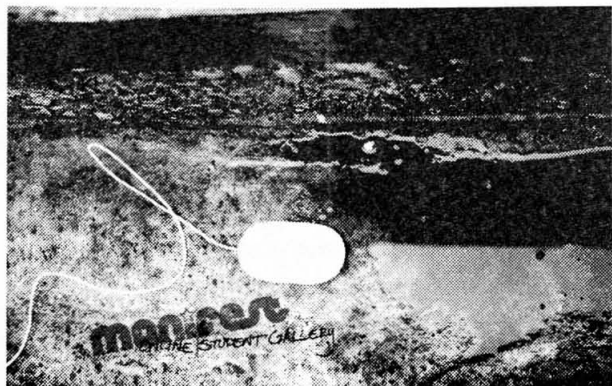
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Bring a CD or DVD to the 1104 S Wabash, first floor, Glass Curtain Gallery office suites. Questions? 312.344.6645.

Images should be of sufficient quality to print at 8" x 10"

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Questions? Jennifer Friedrich, 1104 S Wabash, first floor, Glass Curtain Gallery office suites, 312.344.6642.

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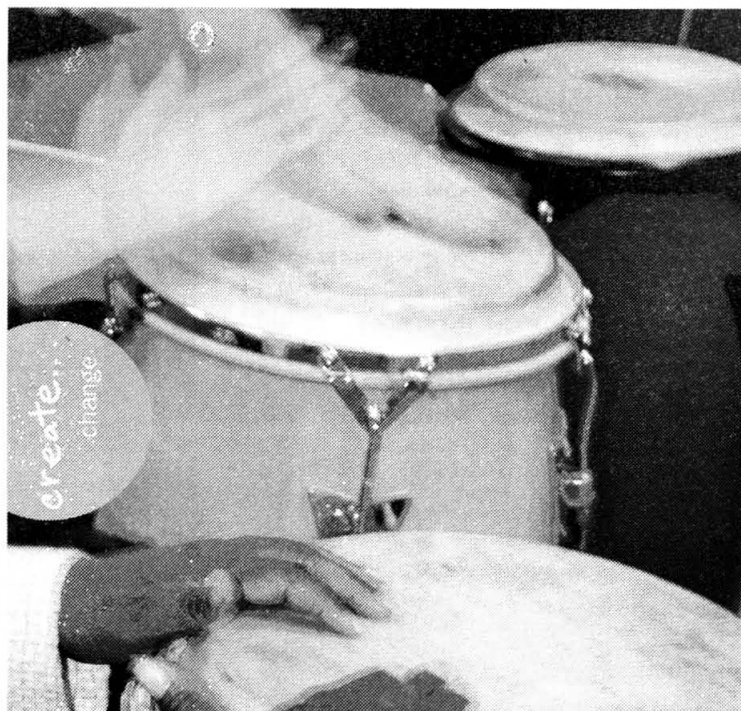
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■ Summer 2006 registration begins March 13. Fall registration begins April 3. **Registration holds** have been placed on accounts with outstanding balances. Please log onto your Oasis Portal to check the status of your account or to make a payment.



Chicago film series screens Burning Man documentary

Filmmakers Michael Wilson and Rob VanAlkemade were on hand to answer questions from the audience after a showing of their documentary, *Burning Man: Beyond Black Rock*, at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St. The documentary, shown on March 3, covers Burning Man, an annual festival held in the Nevada desert, which has gone from a handful of friends to roughly 35,000 people over its 20-year history.

According to Brian Keigher, program coordinator for the Cultural Center and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, the documentary was chosen to be part of the Cultural Center's film series showcasing a wide array of independent movies.

"It really seemed to be a good tie-in with acknowledging this whole arts community and shedding some light on this kind of mythical event," Keigher said.

Wilson, producer of the documentary, said he never intended to make a film about Burning Man, but was intrigued by the event after attending it with friends.

"It feels like this completely chaotic gypsy city that just rises out of the dust," Wilson said. "It just occurred to me that somebody was running a really incredibly elegant production—an invisible authority—but everybody feels completely free. I wanted to know

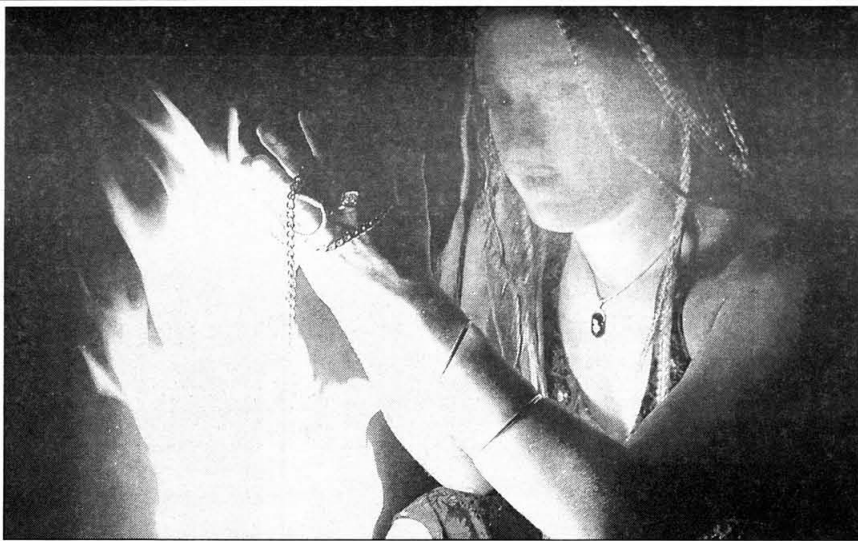
Burning Man: Beyond Black Rock chronicles the event's coordinators up to the final days of the 2003 Burning Man festival. Wilson said he never intended to expose anything while documenting the process, but rather wanted to tell the untold story of the organization and philosophies of this event.

"Honestly, when I went into this, I was like, 'If this turns out to be a scam, I'm just going to stop shooting,'" Wilson said. "Because I think that's really the last thing the world needs—one more report of how a great thing is a scam in this country."

The event, which began on a beach in San Francisco in 1986, has since become a cultural phenomenon in the Black Rock Desert in Nevada. Taking place the week before Labor Day, Burning Man has become a showcase for art and creativity in the environment of a temporary city.

Participants bring all of their own supplies and live as a community in the desert turned massive campsite. People can visit anything from an art gallery to a three-story dance floor running on a generator, Wilson said. All of these "theme camps" are creations of the participants alone and are not funded, built or maintained by the Burning Man organizers. The week culminates with the burning of a roughly 40-foot wooden man as the annual tradition.

"It was really just about creative freedom in the beginning," VanAlkemade said. "There was definitely no specific meaning assigned to any of it ... [especially not] to 'the Man.' It was really just



KRT

Fire-dancer Kara Snyder performs at the Burning Man festival in Nevada in 2003. The Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., held a viewing of 'Burning Man: Beyond Black Rock,' a documentary about the annual event. The Chicago Cultural Center's film series will view 'The Found Footage Festival' on March 31.

a spontaneous sort of gesture that caught on and became a sort of ritual or tradition for a few friends."

One of the noticeable characteristics of this event is that there are very few items available for sale to participants after entering the Burning Man gates. One of two items sold is ice, with the proceeds benefiting communities around Black Rock, VanAlkemade said.

The documentary highlights the organizers as they plan and budget for the festival roughly a year in advance. Since they do not profit from any sales, once the festival begins, the organizers rely on entry ticket sales to fund the project each year.

"Fortunately the administration has refused to sell out in any way,"

VanAlkemade said. "They could all be multi-millionaires easily enough if it became the 'Burning Pepsi Man.'"

According to Jon Groot, Burning Man Chicago co-regional contact, one of the few rules of the event is to "leave no trace." This means that participants are required to remove every single item brought to Black Rock, garbage included.

Rumors often associated with Burning Man tend to have negative connotations, Wilson said, adding that far too many people are under the impression that the festival is "just naked girls and fire."

"I saw [the documentary, and] I thought it was great because it

totally did help kind of break down those stereotypes that people have about Burning Man," Keigher said. "It's an arts festival first and foremost. We definitely wanted to educate the masses on the Burning Man festival being a cultural movement [and] a significant event."

According to Keigher, the next film in the Cultural Center's series is an eclectic montage of footage compiled from discarded videotapes from all across the country.

"The Chicago film series continues with "The Found Footage Festival" scheduled for March 31 at 8 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information on the Burning man, contact chicago@burningman.com.



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St. Patrick's: Number of Irish pubs increasing in Chicago

Continued from Back Page

brewed at the St. James Gate Brewery in Dublin, Ireland, before being transported across the Atlantic on container ships, Creed said.

Tractor-trailers move the beer to distribution centers across America following its arrival on the East Coast.

Chicago Beverage Systems, 441 N. Kilbourn Ave., is the only distributor of Guinness in the city and its facilities can hold more than 115,000 barrels, said Beth Hack, special events coordinator for Chicago Beverage Systems.

Hack said the week of St. Patrick's Day is one of the busiest times of the year for the distributor, and the majority of the Guinness kegs are sold to Irish bars and pubs.

Fado's, 100 W. Grand Ave., sells the most Guinness to the public in Chicago followed by Celtic Crossings, 751 N. Clark St.; Kerryman, 661 N. Clark St.; Grafton Pub & Grill, 4530 N. Lincoln Ave., and the Chicago Hilton, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Hack said.

"We know we're one of the top sellers here in Chicago," said Malcolm Molloy, owner of the Grafton Pub & Grill. "It shows on St. Patrick's Day when we go through loads of

Guinness; it's our No. 1 selling beer by a mile."

Molloy, who left Dublin in the 1990s, said he came to Chicago because of the job opportunities in the city. Then four years ago he opened the neighborhood bar where locals are welcomed with their children, he said.

While the tradition of drinking Guinness on St. Patrick's Day hasn't changed over the years, the place of celebrations has, said Kathy O'Neil, spokeswoman for the Irish American Heritage Center, a nonprofit organization aimed at promoting Irish-American culture.

"In the past it was just the Irish bars that had celebrations," O'Neil said. "Now it's a citywide celebration that attracts a mix of people who like being Irish for a day."

Overall, Chicago's celebrations are some of the biggest in the country and include three parades, parties, concerts and museum exhibits, O'Neil said.

The number of Irish pubs is also growing. Within the past 18 months McCann's website indicated that four new bars opened in the Lincoln Park area as well as six in the Loop and 14 in River North.

Establishments posted on McCann's site must meet his requirements, and that starts with Irish—not just Irish-American—people on both sides of the bar, which helps add to a friendly atmosphere, he said.

While surrounded by the smoky, dark wood interior, patrons shouldn't be overwhelmed by numerous TVs

Rallying for immigrants' rights



Dan Ciskey/The Chronicle

Chanting "Si, se puede!" ("Yes, it is possible!"), thousands assembled in Union Park at Ashland Avenue and Lake Street, in Chicago, to protest against congressional bill H.R. 4437. The bill would make transporting and assisting illegal immigrants punishable with up to five years in prison.

when eating classic entrees like fish and chips, shepherd's pie and curry fries, McCann said.

"And then the most important part is that the pub must pour the perfect pint of Guinness," McCann said. "That's where the idea for the crawl came from."

McCann said the Irish theme is a business model that seems to be working in high traffic, commercial areas. And as long as the pubs are in the neighborhood he'll continue to map out routes to take from bar to bar for the ultimate Irish experience.

"I can tell you me and my cousin were satisfied after the original North Side Crawl," McCann said. "It took us about seven hours."

For more information on McCann's pub crawl, visit www.kiplog.com/irishmap.

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Columbia ends the 'blues'

Columbia to convert Buddy Guy's Legends to parking lot in 2007

By Allison Riggio
Staff Writer

A gathering of roughly 25 South Loop residents expressed approval of Columbia's campus master plan at a March 6 South Loop Neighbors meeting, although some people still had reservations about aspects of the proposal.

Alicia Berg, Columbia's vice president of Campus Environment presented the plan to the local nonprofit at Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn St. One of the key points Berg outlined was the development of a new campus center at 8th Street and Wabash Avenue, currently the site of Buddy Guy's Legends. The school plans to build a 14-story mixed-use space sometime after the end of Guy's lease in May 2007. The campus center will allow for potential student performance areas, lounges and computer labs on the lower floors and add additional classroom space on the upper floors, Berg said.

Many residents were pleased with the plan to build on the location; some residents had even said the current condition of the blues club was somewhat of an eyesore.

"I hate to see [Buddy Guy's] go because his music is great, but the building is awful," said South Loop resident Loukia Verhage.

Since a budget has not been worked out yet for the campus center, it is too early to offer a time

frame for construction, Berg said. She added that the college has plans to convert Buddy Guy's Legends into a parking lot during the likely time gap after the club's lease ends and before the college is financially ready to construct the campus center.

Concerns posed by the South Loop Neighbors focused primarily on the general aesthetics of the already densely populated Wabash Avenue. Some residents questioned why the school didn't do more to address the issue of a lack of green space along the street in its master plan.

"We are not a rich school ... and we just can't afford to be building parks," Berg said. "Part of our mission is to really be able to provide an affordable education. It's very challenging to do that. If we could afford to [develop green space] we would."

Along with their concerns, the South Loop Neighbors had a bit of advice to offer the college as well. Verhage offered an option for the school to consider when budgeting for the potentially \$90 million development.

"I know [the school wants] Wabash to be Columbia College, but the fact of the matter is you have some high-end real estate that is there too," Verhage said. "I just think it might be a really good idea to see how that can be worked together between the [college] and those [residencies]. You've got people who own million-dollar condos and penthouses, and you don't know what source of revenue those people might be for you as far as donors."



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Standing next to an overhead projection, Alicia Berg, Columbia's vice president of Campus Environment, speaks before a group of South Loop residents at Grace Place, 637 S. Dearborn St. Columbia plans on initially converting the site of Buddy Guy's Legends into a parking lot.

Many residents suggested that the college rent its street-level space to retailers as an alternate source of funding. According to Berg, there is a possibility of some retail space in the new campus center, but it isn't always the best option for the school's existing buildings.

"We don't pay property taxes on academic space, and we do pay property taxes if we have a retail

portion of a space," Berg said. "[Additionally], we have such a [shortage] of space on campus that we really can't afford to turn it over to a retail tenant. And we also like the street presence for ourselves, because we have all these galleries and things [as storefronts]."

Mark Muenzer, vice president of the South Loop Neighbors, said that while some concerns certainly

exist about the development, the group is generally pleased with what the college has done so far.

"Overall we're very supportive of what they've planned," Muenzer said. "It's really wonderful to see Columbia stepping up to the plate and saying, 'You know, we really want to be a part of this in creating some really funky [and] neat kind of ideas.' [The area] needs an identity."

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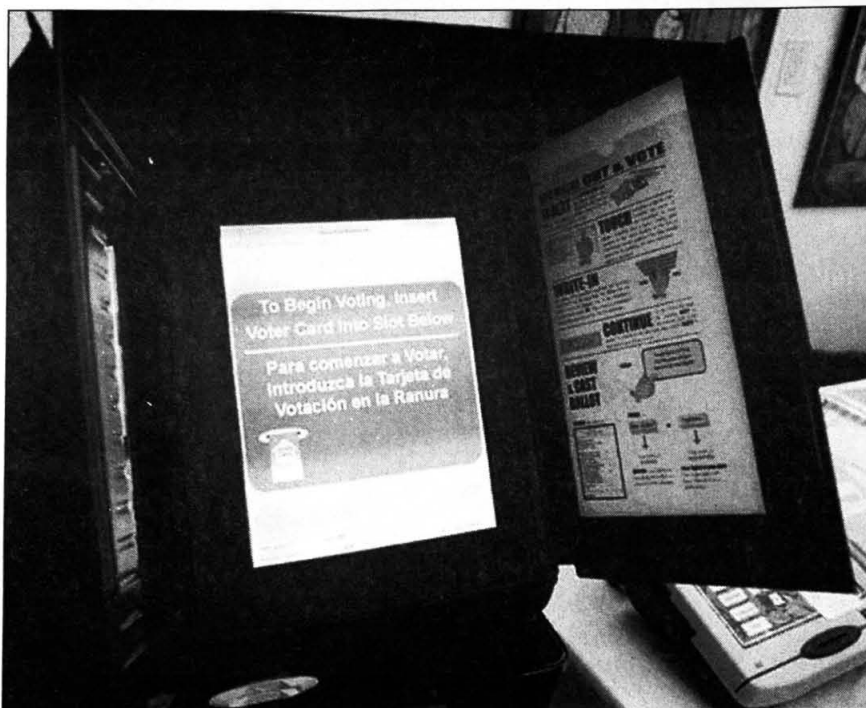
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Chicago introduced new touch-screen voting machines which are being used for early voting for the 2006 primary election on March 21.

Voting: City equipped with 21 early voting stations

Continued from Back Page

right to allow residents to vote early, while others have to wait until March 21. The attorneys wanted the court to strike down the new article and provide additional polling places.

Oberman said that the new election law may go back to the Illinois General Assembly.

"It's too early to say, but I suspect it's going to be amended," Oberman said.

However, Daniel W. White, who handles media relations for the Illinois State Board of Elections, said the General Assembly designed the law to be flexible.

"The law was written very clearly to give discretion to the jurisdictions [in Cook County]," White said.

White said that he could not comment on the lawsuit because it was just filed, but a court was to hear the matter shortly.

White said that other states have enacted similar measures to get more people to the polls. But he also conceded that it takes a while for it to pick up.

"We're always hopeful that there's an increase in voting," White said. "It generally grows with each subsequent election."

However, within the last two elections, primary election voting has gone down while general election voting has increased. The Chronicle collected and analyzed data from the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, which compiles Chicago statistics, and the Cook County Clerk's Office, which keeps suburban voting data, for the 2002 and 2004 elections.

According to the analysis, only 36.7 percent of registered voters cast a ballot for the 2002 primary; this number dropped to 34.8 percent in 2004. However, 52.1 percent voted in the 2002 November

general election and 74.5 percent voted in the 2004 general election.

Within suburban Cook County, 3,084 people have voted as of March 7, according to Scott Burnham, spokesman for the Cook County Clerk's Office Department of Elections. He said around 1.3 million people are registered voters in suburban Cook County. Burnham also said that this excludes absentee ballots.

Within Chicago city limits, 4,800 people have voted out of the 1.3 million registered voters, according to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. The number of registered voters in Chicago reflects the last count as of the end of February.

Despite the slow turnout, this election is a contentious one, especially for the position of president for the Cook County Board. Incumbent board president John Stroger Jr. is running against Forrest Claypool, another board member. What makes this particular race controversial is that the lawsuit was filed on behalf of Claypool supporters.

The lawsuit said that the areas lacking early polling places "substantially inconvenience voters who tend to vote for candidates other than those supported by the Cook County Regular Democratic Organization," like Stroger.

However, Steve Mayberry, a campaign spokesman for the

Stroger for President Campaign, thinks the lawsuit is politically motivated.

"It's essentially a desperate publicity stunt," Mayberry said. "The bottom line is that we don't have any control over [the number of polling places] at all."

Ken Davis, the press secretary for Citizens for Claypool, however, said the complaint dealt with real concerns.

"[Voters] didn't have equal access to the polling places," Davis said.

Davis said that many of Claypool's supporters live in the Lincoln Park, Rogers Park and other North Side lakefront neighborhoods, but he noted the early voting polling places are not conveniently located near these areas. The closest polling place to Lincoln Park is Welles Park, 2333 W. Sunnyside Ave., which is over five miles away.

Davis also said that although Claypool didn't directly file the lawsuit, he supported it.

"One of the things that clearly aggravated Forrest is that he has very strong support but that [his backers] are underserved," Davis said.

Chicago has 21 early voting stations located throughout the city. A complete listing of the polling sites can be found at www.chicagoelections.com. A listing of the open suburban Cook County voting sites can be located at www.voterinfonet.com.

Election: Students not following local elections

Continued from Back Page

County Board of Commissioners from each of the 17 districts in Cook County, which represent their constituents in the county's primary governmental body.

The County Clerk's Office is responsible for keeping all county records from marriage and birth certificates to applications and licenses.

County Treasurer is in charge of collecting and distributing taxes as well as investing public funds.

The County Assessor determines the value of property for taxing purposes.

The Cook County Board of Review provides a review on real estate tax assessments if appealed.

Any judicial vacancies in the state supreme, appellate, circuit and subcircuit courts are up for election.

Kelley Quinn, a spokeswoman for the Cook County Clerk's office, said the office expects the county board president and sheriff race to be of the most interest on the March ballot.

The race for Cook County board president has become increasingly competitive, particularly on the Democratic ticket. The contest

has recently caught headlines for harsh ad campaigns run by current Board President John H. Stroger and his Democratic challenger, Cook County Commissioner Forrest Claypool. The lone Republican, Tony Peraica, is also a current county commissioner.

The other race being closely followed is for sheriff. Recent news about inmates escaping from the Cook County Jail and current Sheriff Michael Sheahan's retirement made the contest one of the most watched. Competing for the Democratic nomination are Thomas Dart, Sylvester Baker and Richard Remus. The winner will run against the one Republican, Peter Garza.

Cook County, with a population of more than 5 million people, is the second largest county in the country and is home to not only the largest single-site jail (Cook County Jail), but also one of the largest unified court systems in the world.

Quinn said students living or commuting to Chicago should pay close attention and participate in the local election because the county directly impacts them.

"[Students] drive on county roads, use the hospitals, the

court system; all of that affects them," Quinn said.

Since turnout for midterm elections is typically down in Cook County, Quinn said, the county is trying to make registering and voting as easy as possible by using new voting equipment, making available early voting and extending the deadline to register.

Fred Church, a senior journalism major at Columbia, said he isn't voting in the upcoming election because it is his right not to.

"I've never been really political about anything before; it's not like if I don't vote something bad is going to happen to me," Church said.

Church said just because he isn't voting doesn't mean the election isn't important.

"Local elections are just as important as the presidential elections," Church said. "The president or governor isn't going to know what's going on in a small town like local people would."

Meaghan Olson, a senior journalism major at Columbia, said she is voting, but she thinks most students don't care.

"Local government affects us more than state and federal, and no one notices that or cares," Olson said. "I think a lot of people are confused about the elections; they don't know how important it actually is. Who runs the jails and court affects us all."

The impact the county has on people supersedes the impact the city has. Like when a Federal law overrides a state law, a county law overrides a city law, Quinn

said. With each municipality having its own set of laws and regulations as well as the county's priorities can sometimes seem confusing.

David Morrison, deputy director of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, a non-partisan group that explores and advocates the improvement of government and elections, said having so many branches of government can sometimes cause confusion.

"Lots of times people don't necessarily know where to go," Morrison said. "They have a concern but don't know if they take that concern to their state rep., county commissioner or city alderman. It's hard to tell what level of government is the right one to deal with an issue."

Morrison said it's important to get involved with the elections because a county the size of Cook has so much political clout.

"The county has thousands of employees, and there is a long history of patronage and using taxpayer offices to support political operations," Morrison said. "If good government matters to people then they should elect good government candidates."

Voter Registration and Participation

| Primary 2002 | Chicago | Cook County Suburbs |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Registered Voters | 1,377,878 | 1,313,943 |
| Actually Voted | 548,703 | 438,844 |

| Primary 2004 | Chicago | Cook County Suburbs |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Registered Voters | 1,334,909 | 1,295,632 |
| Actually Voted | 512,482 | 406,115 |

| Primary 2006 | Chicago | Cook County Suburbs |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Registered Voters | 1,298,872 | 1,300,000 Estimated |
| Actually Voted | 4,800* | 3,084* |

*As of March 7, 2006
Sources: Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, Cook County Clerk's Office

Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Exhibit of past foreshadows future

'Evolving Planet' covers 4 billion years of Earth's history

By Alicia Dorr
Managing Editor

When Jim Alexander, a co-trustee with the Elizabeth Morse Genius Trust, spoke to the first visitors of the Field Museum's new permanent exhibit, "Evolving Planet," he told them humans are basically doomed to extinction.

The experts that helped put together the exhibit know that even the longest stint of life on the planet, from trilobites to dinosaurs, has ended. But because the 27,000-square-foot exhibit covers everything after the first single-celled organisms that showed up 4 billion years ago, it puts Alexander's point into perspective.

"Evolving Planet" brings together computer animation, casts and models, facts and fossils to tell the history of life on earth. The amount of information and pieces in the exhibit, which is aimed at both children and adults, is extensive, varying from fossils from the museum's own collection to animations that took teams of scientists and professional animators to create.

The exhibit, which replaces the "Life over Time" display, has been in the works for a few years, involving scores of experts. It includes 1,300 separate samples of life, including early mammals and humans, ancient plants and, of course, dinosaurs. Lance Grande, senior vice president and head of collections at the museum, pointed to a portion of the exhibit featuring pieces from a rare fossil bed in

Wyoming, from the Tertiary Period called the Green River formation, as an example of how important and interesting these remnants can be.

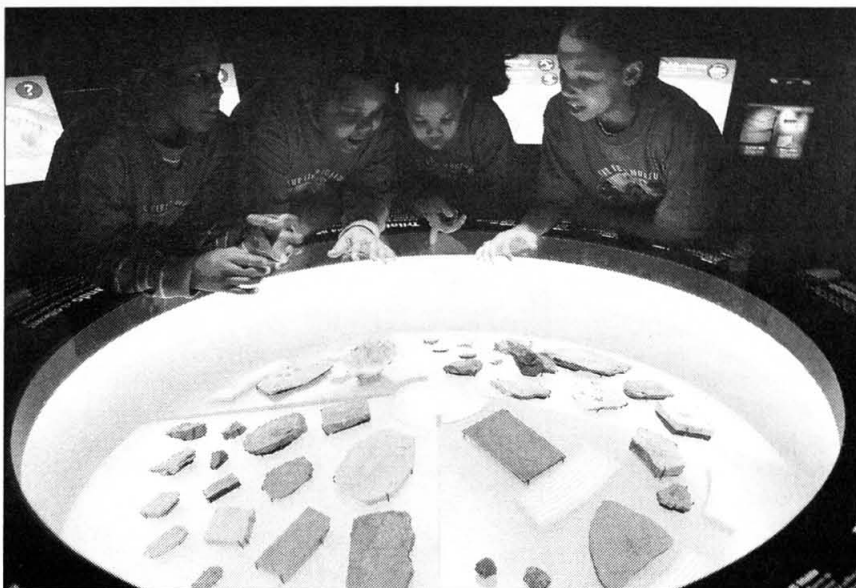
"[These fossils] help us reconstruct the environment and show exactly what these animals were doing," Grande said. "It gives us important insights about major changes in ecology."

The room focuses on an entire ecosystem that was excellently preserved due to conditions at the time. This room features rare fossils such as a pregnant sting ray, fish eating other fish, crocodiles, turtles, insects and birds. Grande said one of the most important parts of this formation is that it shows changes that the animals have gone through over long periods of time. He pointed to a paddlefish eating another fish, as an example because today they are filter feeders.

"This is a contemporaneous ecosystem that we can study," Grande said. "These plants and animals all lived together, which is one of the most powerful parts of it."

This area features a large collection of bird fossils, which follows the dinosaur hall and its Deinonychus, a raptor that has features of both birds and dinosaurs. This supports the idea that most experts agree on: Certain species of dinosaurs evolved into birds. Grande said that while dinosaurs weren't flying animals, "it's clear they had feathers," citing a recently fossilized feather of a dinosaur that had feathers.

Besides just Deinonychus, a huge portion of the exhibit is devoted to the Mesozoic era, with some dinosaur and flowering plant fossils



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Students from Morse Elementary School view mollusk fossils at the Field Museum's new exhibit, 'Evolving Planet.' From left to right, the students are Ladarius Duncan, 11, Angelica Giles, 10, Devonte James, 11 and Kevonica Duckworth, 11.

that cannot be seen anywhere else. The museum also remounted some paintings by Charles R. Knight, a painter who did some of the first portrayals of dinosaurs as active animals. The exhibit specifies which dinosaur fossils are made of real fossilized bones and which are casts, and each was set up to ensure poses and information are up to date with current theories.

Dennis Kinzig said he has volunteered and trained volunteers with the museum for 26 years, but preparation for this exhibit, from start to finish, was extensive.

"It was intense. [We had] over a dozen Ph.D.s who are world experts on their subjects," Kinzig, who primarily handles education and geology, said. "We're covering the entire history of the earth here, and it's just so complicated and so detailed."

Along with the renowned skeleton, Sue, which remains in the main lobby of the museum, the exhibit also includes a notable hadrosaur. The specimen, Parasaurolophus, was the first of its species to be uncovered, so it is mounted on a special structure for researchers so they can take the bones down to study and compare them.

But before all of this, there is a great deal of time spent on the per-

iods that have lasted the longest in terms of evolution, like the Cambrian Period of the Paleozoic Era, around 530 million years ago. One of the first striking parts of the exhibit is a sophisticated animation of a shallow Cambrian sea stretched out on three huge screens to look like a living aquarium.

This particular fauna is interesting in the larger picture of evolution, according to Peter Wagner, an associate curator who deals with fossil invertebrates. For example, during this time of sponges, worms, shelled invertebrates like snails and other creatures that are long gone now, trilobites ruled the sea. Wagner said the strange animals were actually an "appalling portion" of life for millions upon millions of years, but they, too, died out. Trilobites were adapting to a life of slow metabolisms in a certain environment, but the environment changed, and things like snails were the ones to go on.

"If evolution works, then why weren't trilobites the ones that survived? Well, that's actually how evolution works. They lived in a world that just doesn't exist any more," Wagner said. "It's like [people who were] really good at typing 20 years ago. Trilobites knew what they were doing, but they bet the

wrong bet."

The exhibit has several casts of early humans, including a life-size model of Lucy, one of the first hominids to give insight into how humans developed and began walking upright. It brings the evolution of life up to date in the Quaternary Period, with views of giant carnivores and mammoths, and explains that life today actually exists in a deep ice age.

Throughout the exhibit it appears that plants have been the real winners. Through each of the five great mass extinctions, full families of plants have made it through, according to Jennifer McElwain, an associate curator in paleobotany. While extinction affected the diversity of the plant life, it did not wipe out entire species as it did with animals, she said.

No matter what lasts or what species might be doomed, the exhibit shows the diversity of life, and just how complex evolution really is.

"Evolving Life" is a permanent exhibit that is free with museum admission, which is \$13 for Chicago students with ID. The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but last admission is at 4 p.m.



Muricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Associate Curator Peter Wagner points to a Cambrian sea being depicted in a high-tech animation made to look like a real aquarium at a new exhibit at the Field Museum.

Thank heaven for 7-Eleven

Police charged a 35-year-old man with simple assault after a March 2 incident at the 7-Eleven at 535 S. State St. The man entered the store and shouted to the clerk, "Why the fuck you call the police? I'm gonna kick your ass next time." The man had been previously asked to leave after causing a disturbance. The man fled after the police arrived but was caught a short time later.

Pick pocket strikes again

A 30-year-old woman had her wallet taken on March 4 at Hackney's at 733 S. Dearborn St. An unknown man, between 25 and 30 years old, and an unknown woman, under 25, bumped into the victim and then fled the scene. The victim lost \$50, an Illinois state ID card, a credit card, an ATM card and an insurance card.



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Woman strikes man

On March 4, a 30-year-old woman struck a 30-year-old man in the face at 620 S. Federal St. The man, who resides at the same address as the woman, refused medical attention. He didn't have any other information for police.

Flip phone

On March 5, a 53-year-old man let an unknown 45- to 49-year-old man use his cell phone at Dearborn Station, 400 S. Dearborn St. When the victim asked for his cell phone back, the offender said that he had thrown the phone away. The cell was a \$150 yellow and black flip phone.

2006 primary election

Early voting starts dispute

Program facing lawsuit, slow voter turnout

By Eric Kasang
Assistant City Beat Editor

The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners is touting "Vote Early" as its slogan to motivate Cook County registered voters to hit the polls before the March 21 primary. However, the controversy surrounding this program—in which communities have the option, but aren't required, to open polls for early voting—seems to be drawing more attention than the actual voting centers.

The vote early law was enacted by the Illinois General Assembly in 2005, allowing a city, village or township to hold early elections up to 22 days before the actual election. Despite the 7,884 people from suburban Cook County who have voted since the polls opened on Feb. 27, the early voting program has already drawn in a lawsuit by 11 Cook County voters. And depending on the person, this lawsuit is politicized.

The lawsuit, filed against the Illinois State Board of Elections, the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners and 72 cities, villages and townships, stated that the lack of uniform rules has caused communities to either not open any early voting sites or limit the places and time where a person could vote. One of the attorneys who filed the lawsuit said it had somewhat of an effect.

"A handful of [municipalities] have offered to stay open during Saturday," said Martin J. Oberman, an attorney on the case.

The complaint stated that the new article of the Illinois Election Code is unconstitutional—by giving some local governments the right to allow its residents to vote early, while others have to wait

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Mike Sendra/The Chronicle

Republican candidate for governor Judy Baar Topinka speaks to press after receiving endorsement of House Republican leader Tom Cross with 18 other Republican members of the Illinois House of Representatives on March 9.

Local elections come first

Despite low voter turnout, county politics business as usual

By James Ewert
Assistant City Beat Editor

Even though voter turnout for local elections is typically lower compared to presidential elections, for some, the impact of county and state governments is more direct than federal.

The midterm elections, which occur every two years, generally allow the American public a chance to gauge the pulse of party politics, and this year is no different. On March 21, citizens registered to vote across the United States will go to polling places to have their say in what candidate their respective party nominates to run for a slew of federal, state and local offices.

Federally, people in Illinois

will be nominating a Republican and Democrat to run for U.S. Representative for each of the state's 19 congressional districts. In the statewide election, voters will be nominating party candidates for the Illinois General Assembly, which will include all 118 State Representatives and 39 of the 59 State Senators. Also in the statewide election, voters will decide the fate of candidates running for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller and treasurer.

The most watched race in Illinois is likely to be the race for governor, which has been one of the most hotly contested. Battling for the Democratic ticket is current Gov. Rod Blagojevich and former 43rd Ward Alderman Edwin Eisendrath. Running for the Republican nomination is Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State

Treasurer and graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and Jim Oberweis, who ran unsuccessfully for U.S. Senator twice previously. Also in the running for the Republican nomination is Bill Brady, Ron Gidwitz and Andy Martin.

Of the five other major statewide positions up for election, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, comptroller and treasurer, only the lieutenant governor and the treasurer have more than one person running for their party's nomination. The other three have only one Democratic and Republican candidate running uncontested.

In the local Cook County primary, voters will be choosing candidates for a number of elected offices. The offices include:

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Primary
★ ★ for the ★
2006
mid-term election

**Offices
up for
nomination:**

State

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Secretary of State
Comptroller
Treasurer

* 39 State senators*

**All 118 State
Representatives**

Cook County

President of the Board
of Commissioners
Clerk
Treasurer
Sheriff
Assessor
17 Commissioners from
each district in Cook
County

Board of Review

3 Commissioners of the
Metropolitan Water
Reclamation District

Regional Superinten-
dents of Schools
Any judicial vacancy in

Vacant positions in
Supreme, Appellate,
Circuit or Subcircuit
court of Illinois



Rene Eddle/The Chronicle

While pouring a Black and Tan at the Curragh Irish pub in South-suburban Schaumburg, a spoon is used to float the Guinness on top of the Bass, creating a layered pint.

In search of the perfect pint

Guinness sales up as much as 20 percent for St. Patrick's Day

By Alan J. Baker
City Beat Editor

When Paul McCann's cousin came to Chicago for his job, he asked for a Guinness at an authentic Irish pub. So before his cousin's arrival, McCann mapped out a "North Side Crawl" and the two made their way to six pubs in Lincoln Park.

During the three years since, the web designer from Evanston has

been adding pubs to the crawl list and updates it each year in time for St. Patrick's Day.

The week-long celebration in March proves to be the one of the busiest periods each year for both bars and Dublin-based Guinness.

"Real Irish bars are about conversation and [are] where you go to make friends," McCann said. "Every other type of bar ... is filled with distraction."

And McCann said the best part about the conversation is that it's over a glass of Guinness.

The dark stout beer is poured at 488 locations, the largest number of tap locations in Chicago for any

one beer, said Tim Creed, spokesman for Diageo, a beverage company that manages Guinness's operations in America.

Last March Diageo sold 3,401 kegs to retailers—bars and liquor stores—in Chicago that poured more than 370,000 pints, Creed said.

"It's our busiest month of the year," Creed said. "Business is at least 20 percent greater."

All of the Guinness draft consumed in the United States is brewed at the St. James Gate Brewery in Dublin, Ireland, before

See **St. Patrick's** Page 20