

3-27-2006

Columbia Chronicle (03/27/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

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Students lose housing

By Jim Jaworski
Assistant Campus News Editor

Trying to make ends meet while attending college can be difficult for many students. When Cordell Chambers, a junior film and video major, found a very inexpensive apartment in the heart of the South Loop, he thought his path through college would be much easier. And it was—until he found out he was getting evicted.

Chambers is one of the handful of full-time Columbia students who are being asked to leave the

Single-Room Occupancy Building at 618 S. Wabash Ave., by March 31. The building, owned and operated by the Chicago Christian Industrial League, offers low-income persons reduced rent. Occupants pay rent based on their annual income and the rent tends to be much less than the market rate for a studio apartment. The difference is subsidized by the federal government.

When the building opened in the summer of 2005, some Columbia students qualified to live there based on their annual income.

After an initial down payment of \$414, the students signed a one-year lease. The fact that some were full-time students was never an issue until Feb. 23, when the building owners sent a letter asking them to vacate by March 31.

Chambers' lease does not expire until the end of September. "It's wrong to deny someone housing because of their student status," Chambers said. "The crazy thing is that the purpose of the building is to help support

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GLBT students fight for 'Safe Zone'

By Amanda Maurer
Assistant Campus News Editor

After years of not having a meeting place, Q-Force, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender student organization, on campus is looking to create a resource center with help from Columbia's administration.

However, since the creation of the Office of GLBT Concerns, faculty and students have fought to create lasting

programs, but each time the programs have faded.

Students like Kristen Gleaves, a sophomore fiction major and president of Q-Force, are now working to find a room for GLBT students on campus.

"I think that there's the assumption that because [Columbia's] an artsy school and in a big city like Chicago that it's going to be more open, have more of a [GLBT] community," Gleaves said.

See Safe Zone, Page 8

Saluting black music



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Kirk Edward Smith, a conductor of 30 years, salutes the crowd after the finale of the New Black Music Repertory Ensemble's March 15 performance at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Drive. Columbia's Center for Black Music Research sponsored the event that kicked off its National Conference for Black Music Research, held March 15 through March 19.

Columbia soccer needs more feet, funds

By Annie Kelly
Staff Writer

When freshman audio acoustics major Dan Sebastian started at Columbia, he joined a group on Facebook.com, an online directory of students, called "Damn, I Wish We Had a Soccer Team." Now, only seven months later, he will be competing in the Columbia Soccer Club's upcoming outdoor season, which begins on March 30 in Grant Park.

The coed club, which became an official school organization five months ago, practices weekly in the Roosevelt University's Herman Crown Center, 425 S. Wabash Ave., and has been competing in Chicago sporting

league Sports Monster games every Thursday night since the beginning of the spring semester.

At its Monday practices, the group, which has grown to 25 members, plays three-on-three soccer matches and does drills when the entire gym is available for its use. Once temperatures get warmer the club plans to move practice outdoors.

Jaime Gonzalez, club president and senior film major, was playing soccer through Sports Monster, when he realized that he would rather play in the same league through a Columbia team.

"I decided to create [the club] and see if Columbia had enough students who were interested, and the answer was 'yes,'" Gonzalez

said in an e-mail. "They were all just lying around, waiting for someone to do it."

Through Facebook.com, Gonzalez was able to recruit students, and the team began practicing in September. Some participants have played soccer since kindergarten. Others, like Gonzalez, who started playing only two years ago, have less experience.

Even though the club has a decent number of players, it is still encouraging others to join, especially females. Currently there are four female soccer players consistently involved.

"The lack of girls is frustrating because we hardly ever have

See Soccer, Page 6



Allison Williams/The Chronicle

Patrick Kold (in front), a member of the Columbia Soccer Club, fights for the ball against an opposing team in a March 16 play-off game at the Windy City Field House, 2367 W. Logan Blvd.



News or nonsense?

By Jeff Danna, Editor-in-Chief

The Chicago Tribune has a nifty little feature on its website that is probably more helpful than the publication's webmasters, staff members and readers realize.

In fact, I never paid much attention to the "most e-mailed stories" section of the site, either, until I noticed a common theme among the articles that composed the list: Rarely does it include a relevant news story.

More importantly, the stories that people seem to enjoy e-mailing to each other are either inane pieces on the topics of celebrity gossip, technological fads and the like, or they are localized stories about quirky people or absurd laws and ordinances.

This is a powerful statement about our values in American culture. We're quick to spread news that directly affects us and our lifestyles, but when it comes to issues about government, politics and other topics that affect our daily lives, we show little interest.

Perhaps if it was a "slow news day," I could understand why people would ignore the major headlines. But the entire week of March 12, for instance, was anything but slow. Days before the three-year anniversary of the United States' invasion of Iraq, the bodies of 87 executed Iraqis were discovered around Baghdad. The next day, former Secretary of State James A. Baker III and 9/11 commission co-chair Lee H. Hamilton announced the formation of a group of 10 current and former policymakers that will investigate President Bush's Iraq policies.

But never mind those events. Tribune readers that week were more concerned about spreading the word about faulty iPods.

Although the number one most-e-mailed story for the week as of March 17 was a praiseworthy political piece about Bush's incompetence, the second-most e-mailed story was a heartbreaking tale called "Swan song for an iPod," which was nothing more than a man over-dramatizing the death of his portable music device.

The seventh most e-mailed story of the week was a four-paragraph PR piece about how Starbucks would be giving away free cups of coffee that morning. That same day, the Tribune published a story about a study that found mostly affluent, white Chicagoans visit the city's flagship museums and theaters.

Needless to say, that piece didn't make the list of the week's top 20 most e-mailed stories.

One would think that the readers of one of the country's largest newspapers would take interest in foreign affairs or racial divisions in their own city. In reality, though, what we can infer from the Tribune's list is that many people are self-absorbed. They are happy to live in their world of free coffee while donning their iPod earphones and ignoring real life.

Hopefully, I'm just being too cynical. Maybe people are sharing articles about the secret to baking good lasagna (the 19th most e-mailed story) and defective Motorola Razr cell phones (fifth) because they assume their friends have already absorbed the top stories. But that wouldn't explain why the RedEye's cover story about the Potbelly Sandwich Works owner was No. 9 on the weekly list. That would also mean people wouldn't feel as compelled to spread the word about free coffee, because given the number of daily Starbucks customers, they would still find out.

Maybe the fact that readers aren't e-mailing stories about the Iraq war doesn't indicate that they are oblivious to foreign affairs, but rather it could indicate a dissatisfaction with the president's Iraq policies and unwillingness to read about a conflict from which they feel distant.

Maybe the list is inaccurate. The Tribune's website has no indication of the number of people who have shared the publication's articles or their demographics. Those e-mailing the stories could just be part of one particular group that enjoys relaying information through cyberspace.

However, the list could also confirm my worst fear as a journalist: Perhaps no one is interested in the "news" that people in this profession are so dedicated to reporting. Don't get me wrong—I enjoy reading stories about malfunctioning portable electronics, too (usually so I can laugh at the people who are so dependent on them, but why I read the stories is not the issue). And I'm the first person who wants to hear about free coffee.

But when we ignore issues like politics and race, we are simply ceding our own power to remedy social ills.

The moment we start caring more about iPods than Iraq (which we are dangerously close to), we send the message to policymakers that they are free to act as they wish because we are ignorant and unaware, and we like it that way.

Let's hope our culture doesn't come to that.

—jdanna@colum.edu

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Poetry Reading

Award-winning poets Terrance Hayes and Tim Seibles are coming to Collins Hall, room 602 of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., for a poetry reading on March 29. The event is free and will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. For more information call David Trinidad at (312) 344-8139.

Take 1 Screening

Students can watch the semi-annual presentation of the best films from the Production I and Production II classes on March 29. The event is free and will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Film Row Cinema room, 8th floor, in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. For more information call Sandy Cuprisin at (312) 344-6708.

Seldom Performance

The Seldom, a Chicago dance ensemble, perform at Columbia's Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., on March 30 and 31 at 8 p.m. The event costs \$20, and discounts are available for Columbia students. For more information call the Dance Center Box Office at (312) 344-8300.

Tea with Ahmed Kathrada

Ahmed Kathrada, one of Nelson Mandela's closest friends, will be visiting the Liberal Education Department and the Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media on March 28 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for afternoon tea. The event will be held in room 401 of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. RSVP is necessary. For more information call Iris Parker at (312) 344-7297.

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.

Why do you think energy drinks are so popular?



"A lot of people just drink coffee. I have a hard time drinking something that hot that fast. Energy drinks are easy to chug."

—Rob Vester, senior, audio arts & acoustics



"I'm kind of scared of energy drinks. I'm worried I'd be up all night. But everyone likes to be wired."

—Tracy Hickman, senior, audio arts & acoustics



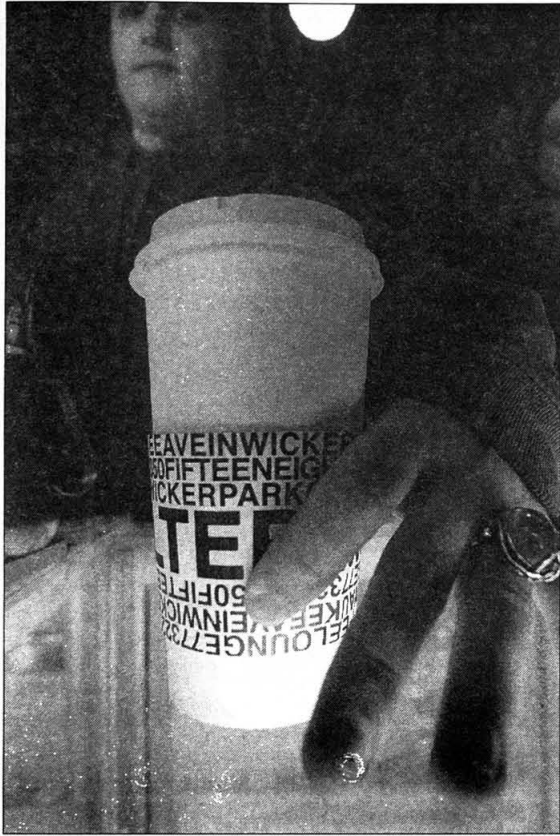
"I hate energy drinks. They're just a substitute for coffee."

—Bailey Quirk, senior, fashion design



"I like the way Red Bull tastes. I guess it's just good marketing on their part."

—Travis Machel, junior, photography



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Energy drinks provide quick highs, lows

Popularity of caffeine drinks booming

By Hayley Graham
Campus News Editor

As a bartender and college student, Aaron Bass maintains his chaotic schedule thanks to a quick boost from the popular energy drink Red Bull.

Like many students, Bass, a Columbia journalism major, needs a caffeinated drink to keep his motor running during a long day of classes and work. And if it's caffeine students need, these drinks definitely provide it. One 8 ounce can of Red Bull contains 80 milligrams of caffeine, which is equivalent to two cups of coffee.

Sugary caffeine drinks give students the energy they may need, but it doesn't last for long. "I'll probably go through three or four [Red Bulls] on a Saturday," Bass said. "[I drink it] to keep me up and keep me going."

While energy drinks provide a quick pick-me-up, Victoria Shanta Retelny, a registered and

licensed dietician and president of Living Well Communications, a nutrition consulting business, warns that they can leave people with less energy.

"Because of the added sugars you get more of an energy boost, but subsequently you will see a quicker drop due to the sugar load that you give your body at one time," she said.

The sugars in the energy drinks make the body's blood glucose level spike initially, which causes people to feel lethargic 30 to 45 minutes later when the blood sugar level crashes, according to Shanta Retelny.

"The only detriment would be if you are overdrinking them."

—Victoria Shanta Retelny, registered and licensed dietician and president of Live Well Communications

"Hydrate with water after drinking it; you won't feel the low as quickly," she said.

Christine M. Palumbo, registered dietician in Naperville and professor of nutrition at Benedictine University Lisle, said that the energy drinks are not harmful, but warned people to beware of the number of calories.

"Energy drinks such as Red Bull and Monster deliver a jolt of caffeine that compares to a Starbucks or Caribou or other coffee shops, but it's also high in calories," Palumbo said.

Studies suggest that in moderation, caffeine is actually good for the body and can enhance alertness and cognitive function, Palumbo said. Caffeine contains antioxidants, which prevent cell damage from unstable molecules known as free radicals. Antioxidants have been linked to preventing cancers, heart disease and stroke.

"Coffee is the number one source of antioxidants in the average person today," Palumbo said.

Shanta Retelny said moderation is the key when consuming

caffeinated drinks.

"The only detriment would be if you are overdrinking them," she said. "Too much caffeine is dehydrating."

Both Shanta Retelny and Palumbo would recommend drinking a cup of coffee to obtain a caffeine high, instead of an energy drink, because coffee doesn't have added chemicals and sugars.

"Energy shouldn't be derived from chemicals; it should be derived from your life," Palumbo said.

She said the best way to sustain energy is by managing stress and maintaining a healthy lifestyle as best as possible.

But the sugary taste is what keeps Bass drinking energy drinks.

"I just like the taste better [than coffee]," he said. "It's quicker; with Red Bull you can just throw it back and you're good."

Barry Benson, director of corporate sponsorship and underwriting at Columbia, said that as energy drinks become more and more popular there will be more on campus. Since last fall the energy drink Monster, which is distributed by Coca-Cola, has been available in the vending machines on campus. Hansen Natural, the company that makes Monster energy drinks, saw a strong increase in sales of 73 percent during 2005, according to Beverage Digest, the trade publication about non-alcoholic drinks.

Palumbo believes the booming energy drink trend can be attributed to advertising hype and the convenience of the fast energy high. Energy drinks have grown into a \$3 billion market. Rockstar Energy Drink's advertising campaign, "Party like a Rockstar," has helped the company gain a nearly 97 percent jump in sales in the past year. Red Bull has seen a 41 percent jump in sales in the past year.

"The trend is for young people to really be drinking energy drinks," Benson said. "They are very popular with the young market."



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

As of the fall semester Columbia began stocking its vending machines with energy drinks. However, experts recommend getting caffeine boosts from coffee, instead of sugary beverages.

Exhibit showcases art inspired by traveling

By Brian Sarna
Staff Writer

While teaching a drawing class in Rome five years ago, Corey Postiglione, a faculty member in Columbia's Art and Design Department, had the idea for an exhibit about traveling. The class brought him back to the art of sketching his surroundings, which became the basis of the exhibit.

Postiglione's new exhibit, "Travel Documents," on display at Columbia's A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave., is a collection of sketches, paintings, photographs and video art created as a response to travel. He said travel is important because it's dif-

ferent and unfamiliar.

During his opening curator's talk he said the show is supposed to be a teaching tool. Postiglione said he expects many teachers to bring their students to the exhibit. Postiglione himself is a tenured faculty member of 16 years in the Art and Design Department at Columbia, and many of the contributing 25 artists are fellow teachers at Columbia.

Judy Natal, a photography teacher at Columbia, has four framed photographs hanging on the wall of the gallery. Her work arranges old letters from building signs in the natural landscape of Joshua Tree National Park.

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Kelly Bryan/The Chronicle

School of the Art Institute students (left to right) Shin Young Park, Rahn Young Kang and Phoebe Kim examine a sketchbook on display at the "Travel Documents" exhibit at Columbia's A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave.

Columbia installs devices for heart safety

By Alan J. Baker
City Beat Editor

Columbia officials recently purchased automated external defibrillators and installed them at four locations on campus to better safeguard the well-being of students, faculty and staff.

The portable devices can temporarily diagnose and treat cardiac arrests, commonly associated with heart attacks, while the victim is waiting for an ambulance to arrive, said Nancy Modrow, senior training manager at the American Red Cross of Chicago.

During a cardiac arrest, defibrillators are used to create an

See AEDs, Page 6

Frequency 32

Television Department
Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Dude Turn That Up!

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
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
MWFSu: 1:00p TTR: 10:00a

SPIT

A poetry show that features the talents of Chicago's hottest poets.
This week's artist: MReld and DeWolf.
MWF: 1:00p TTRS: 10:00a

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 peices, Metro Minutes also covers the important happenings at and around Columbia.
MWFSu: 11:30a TRSu: 10:00a

Interested in volunteering for Manifest? Contact:

Frequency TV

Columbia College Television Dept.
312.344.8509
frequency@colum.edu

NATIONAL LAMPOON NETWORKS

MWFSu: 8:00p - 11:30p
www.nationallampon.com

ZILO

TRSa: 8:30p - 10:30p
www.zilo.com

AFFILIATE PROGRAMMING

f tv

Podcasting

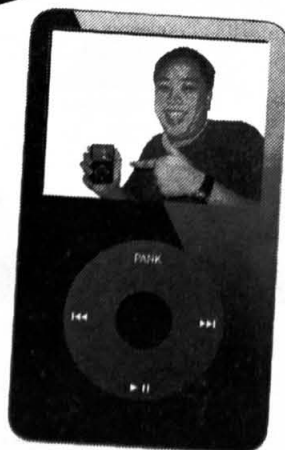
Columbia College's Frequency TV is the first college to podcast it's shows! For more info go to:

getontheFrequency.com
or

The iTunes Music Store and search for "Frequency TV"

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TVAS member or
stop by 729 in the
600 South building
from 10 am - 4 pm
on Monday 3/27 or
Fridays 3/17 & 3/31



\$5 each or 5 for \$20

Ticket sales begin March 15 and end March 31. Winner will be announced April 3, 2006. Winner need not be present.

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

Concert Hall Events

Monday March 27

Student Piano Concert
12:30 PM

Sara Vanlaningham Senior Recital
7:00 PM

Tuesday March 28

Demetris Timoleontos Senior Recital
12:30 PM

Student Concert Series
7:00 PM

Wednesday March 29

New Quartet and Orchestra
12:30 PM

Thursday March 30

Christian McBride & Jazz Gallery
in Concert
12:30 PM

Reservations Required. Call 312-344-6300

Tom Moustos Senior Recital
7:00 PM

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

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Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

A MESSAGE FROM STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES

Are you planning on registering for summer classes?

Summer 2006 Financial Aid Applications will be available March 13-May 26. Please visit the SFS News Spotlight or Forms page at www.colum.edu/sfs for more details.

For more information, please contact Student Financial Services by dialing 1-866-705-0200 or visit our website www.colum.edu/sfs

■ 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.





Allison Williams/The Chronicle

Andrew Gould, an audio acoustics major and Columbia's Soccer Club member, saves a goal against the Ballkickers in a March 16 playoff game at the Windy City Fieldhouse, 2367 W. Logan Blvd.

Soccer: Club proves artists can play

Continued from Front Page

substitutes," said Jessica Nail, a sophomore advertising art direction major and Soccer Club member, in an e-mail. "When [the team] starts outdoor [leagues in the spring], we have to have four girls on the field at all time. We are hoping to have six to eight girls total, since people can't always make every game and to be prepared for injuries."

Another struggle the club has encountered is a lack of funding. The Student Organization Council gives each club \$1,000 per year. Freshman member Pierre Ramirez, who studies audio acoustics, said that this is not enough as it costs \$800 just to compete in a league.

Between the cost of competing and equipment for the team, the soccer club has been forced to find alternative sources of funding. SOC will match funds up to \$500

that an organization raises. The \$1,000 already allotted and clubs can potentially get \$1,500 from school funding. Ramirez said the organization is looking to sponsors for assistance.

"Jaime got someone to donate \$500, which the school is matching, so that's how we're playing outdoor leagues," he said. "If we didn't have that donation we wouldn't be able to."

Sophomore photography major and Soccer Club member Rachel Bowman would like to see more support from the school.

"I mean, for heaven's sake, we have a group of amazing, committed players, but we don't even have enough funding for uniforms," she said in an e-mail.

The soccer club is not the only sports organization struggling with funding. The Columbia Renegades baseball team has also had difficulties because it must pay to rent the University of Illinois at Chicago's baseball field for its games.

"In order to conduct a full season the baseball team must spend most of its time researching and fundraising ways to make money," said Chris Schroeder, a junior and president of Columbia Athletics, a student organization that works to centralize resources for the athletic clubs on campus.

Fundraising is among these resources. His goal is for Columbia Athletics to eventually provide adequate financial support for sports in order to allow the teams to focus on playing—"rather than being more on the side of learning how to run a small business."

Dominic Cottone, director of Student Leadership, is aware of the high cost of operating club sports and said that the school is trying to find more money in the budget to help these organizations.

However, according to several club members, some Columbia students don't agree with the funding and growth of the soccer club or any other type of sports-related organization on campus.

"I've heard people mention they came to Columbia to get away from that 'kind' of school—the kind of schools with fraternities and football teams," Bowman said. "But I believe you can have sports while continuing to keep the atmosphere of an art school."

Speaking for all five sports clubs on campus, Schroeder wants students to understand that

athletes at Columbia do not think of themselves as "jocks."

"We are no different than any other artist on campus," he said. "We simply utilize athletics as an outlet of expression."

Ramirez has heard unsupportive comments about the growth of sports on campus as well, but he refuses to get in a dispute over it because he doesn't want to create "a negative vibe."

Cottone said that he believes the soccer club, as well as other sport clubs on campus, is disproving the myth that people from Columbia are not athletic.

Nail turned down a soccer scholarship offered by another school in order to attend Columbia. She said many students who are involved with sports before college might feel like they have to give them up when they come to Columbia.

"Anyone who says artists aren't athletically inclined is point-blank wrong," Nail said in an e-mail. "Columbia has a great baseball team, intramural basketball and now soccer. Art students are like any other students."

Ramirez said that a lot of his friends don't want to attend Columbia because they think there aren't any sports. He thinks the growth of sports helps the school.

Cottone said that in order to promote school spirit, Columbia needs to have a wide range of activities available.

"If you're going to give the student the total college experience, you need to have a vast array of different things that touch down upon their hobbies and interests," Cottone said.

Since this is only the first year the soccer club has been around, Ramirez sees definite potential for growth of the team.

"I don't think a lot of people from school know about our team, but I know there are more people in this school that have talent," he said.

The soccer club members encourage the involvement of more students. Gonzalez said that all students need to do in order to compete with the club is attend weekly practice.

"We have never done tryouts," he said. "You get to play based on dedication."

The soccer club practices every Monday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. the Herman Crown Center. It will be competing every Thursday in Grant Park with games beginning any time between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.

AEDs: College paying \$1,300 per AED

Continued from Page 3

electrical shock that resets the beat to a normal rhythm, Modrow said. AEDs electronically talk the operator through the process of wiping down and applying two pads to the victim's chest before pressing the start button.

The Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.; Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.; 1104 Center, 1104 S. Michigan Ave.; and the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., have AEDs installed in the lobbies, said Martha Meegan, director of campus safety.

According to Mark Lloyd, assistant vice president of Marketing and Communication, Columbia is aiming to equip all buildings with AEDs over the next several months. Columbia is also working with building owners to install defibrillators in properties the school rents.

"The college is really concerned about safety," Lloyd said. "Even though we hope to never use the

defibrillators, we do have them if in case they are needed at some point."

In a report issued by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 50 percent of cardiac deaths in 1999 were a result of victims not receiving medical services fast enough.

Since that time, AEDs have become more prevalent as airlines, schools and businesses have realized the importance of the technology, Modrow said.

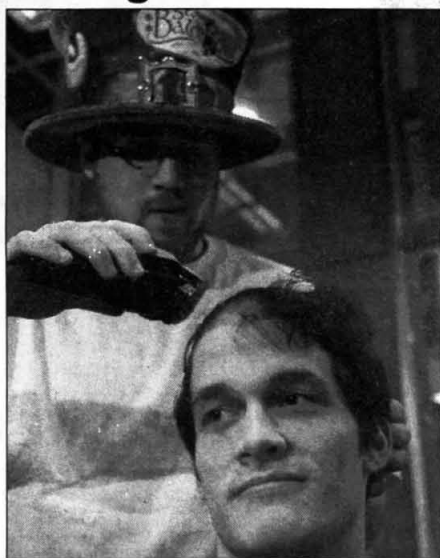
"For every minute that an AED is not used [...] it decreases the survival rate by 10 percent," Modrow said. "They're important in terms of saving lives."

Some individuals will be trained by college officials on how to use the AEDs, but Lloyd said the machines were designed for ease of use and to be operated by just about anybody.

The implementation of the AEDs came out of the security office as a preventive safety measure, not because of a specific instance, said Lloyd. Each machine costs Columbia about \$1,300, Lloyd said.

"Nonetheless, it's a good investment," Lloyd said. "If they save just one life then, they will be worth the investment."

Losing locks



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Junior film major Blake Hausman shaves freshman film major Xander Reynold's head at the St. Baldricks Be Brave ... Go Bald event for childhood cancer research on March 16.

Travel: Exhibition shows variety of artistic media

Continued from Page 3

"I want to invert the [way you look] at photographs and read text [to make it] so you read the photographs and look at the text," Natal said.

The photograph "Hollywood" has mismatched letters imitating the famed Hollywood sign on top of a graffiti-marked boulder. Natal called it an apocalyptic vision of the future.

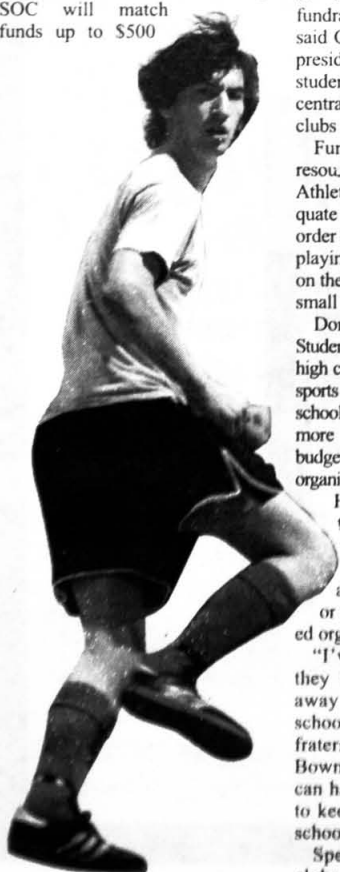
Fern Valfer, who has taught two-dimensional design for eight years, is showing four paintings of the Colosseum from her trip to Rome. In her paintings, shadow-filled scenes of the Colosseum, whose structures are white or a muted shade of brown, are contrasted with a vibrant Mediterranean sky paint-

ed with layers of dark blue and dashes of yellow and orange. The layered sky creates a three-dimensional effect in her paintings, Valfer said.

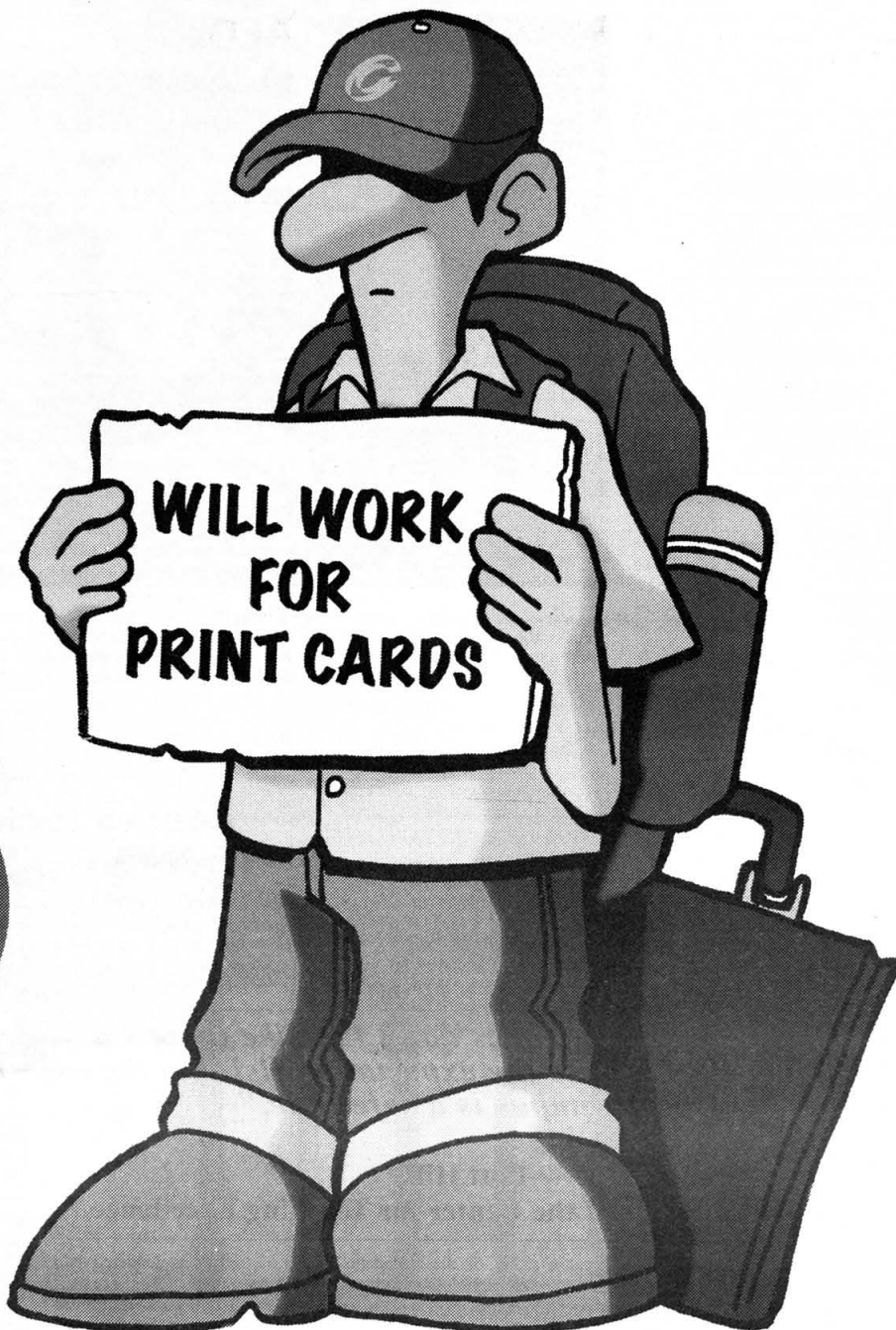
Postiglione approached Valfer a year ago about the show, and she decided to take photographs she had lying around her studio and paint pictures based on them, she said. She said the response to the travel theme excited her because everyone interprets it so differently.

The show was originally supposed to feature sketches done while traveling, but as Postiglione talked to artists the show grew beyond those confines. Now the show has works conceived during travel, like Natal's photographs, and works that have been crafted after returning home and reflecting, like videos or Valfer's paintings.

The show is Postiglione's sixth with the A+D Gallery and his first with the gallery since its September move from 72 E. 11th St. to 619 S. Wabash Ave.



Allison Williams/The Chronicle



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Columbia 

COLLEGE CHICAGO

Safe Zone: College aiming for GLBT campus community

Continued from Front Page

Administrators like Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, believe that some GLBT programs don't take off because students feel that Columbia is already GLBT friendly, since there are so many GLBT students on campus.

Patrick Finnessy, the director of the Office of GLBT Concerns at the University of Illinois at Chicago, came to introduce the Safe Zone program to Columbia's faculty.

The program finds faculty members who consider themselves "safe people" so students can speak to them regarding GLBT issues. In many cases, faculty members display a Safe Zone logo near their office. Finnessy trains people at college campuses nationwide how to work with the Safe Zone, a program that has been around since the early 1990s.

Currently there are more than 200 schools in the United States that have a Safe Zone program, including the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Northwestern University.

But after three Safe Zone training sessions, Finnessy did not return to Columbia.

As a trainer, Finnessy said he believed that he would work with people at Columbia to develop the program until they were able to take over. However, when Victoria Shannon, the original coordinator of the Office of GLBT Student Concerns, left the office, interest in the program faded away.

Losing interest

Shannon believes Safe Zone never caught on at Columbia because the administration lacked interest.

"They're not really serious about the issue here," Shannon said. "It's all smoke and mirrors."

Shannon is now a part-time faculty member in the Liberal Education Department. She asked Finnessy to come in for the Safe Zone training three years ago.

During her time in the office, Shannon worked to find a tangible space for GLBT students, to no avail.

According to Shannon, she was told she could look into a space for the students, but the channels she went through upset the dean of the department. She said, shortly afterwards, that she was asked to leave her position after working in the office for two years. Sharon Wilson-Taylor, the dean of Student Affairs, was not available to comment on the matter.

However, Shannon doesn't blame administrators alone for the lack of interest in a space for these students. Shannon teaches a Gay and Lesbian Studies class, which she created, and said that students aren't willing to become activists for the GLBT cause.

Tony Soto, a junior theater major and student in Shannon's class, believes that while the administration is not doing enough for those in Columbia's GLBT community, students haven't asked for programs either.

Shannon said this attitude is common among students in the Gay and Lesbian Studies class.

"This generation of kids come and take my classes, and then they

disappear," Shannon said.

Soto, a homosexual student, thinks that Q-Force is a good start, but more programs need to be offered.

"At this point it needs to be an educational thing, programs and meetings about important things that affect youth, like AIDS," Soto said.

Shannon believes that Columbia should be investing in various programs and activities for GLBT students, including a resource center, scholarships, a gay and lesbian alumni association and regular Safe Zone training.

Campus awareness

Shannon said she understands that while GLBT student concerns may fall low on administrators' priority lists, students and faculty should be willing to fight for these programs.

"Racism and homophobia are not dead," Shannon said. "We have to be vigilant."

Kathleen McLaughlin, the current coordinator of the Office of GLBT Concerns at Columbia, is familiar with other schools' Safe Zone programs, and wishes that Columbia could have one too.

"I've thought about [having a Safe Zone program], but it takes more than my office to get that going," McLaughlin said.

Although McLaughlin thinks that the program would be important for Columbia, time constraints on her part-time position have forced her to concentrate on current issues rather than programs students could benefit from.

When Finnessy originally came to Columbia, the Safe-Zone train-



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Victoria Shannon (right), a faculty member in the Liberal Education Department and original coordinator of the Office of GLBT Student Concerns, listens to students talk about their personal safety at Columbia. Students agreed that there are limited resources available to GLBT students, and that the administration needs to take more action to protect their rights.

open and inclusive classroom," Krause said.

Although it hasn't sponsored any programs with the Office of GLBT Concerns this year, Krause said that the center would be open to revisiting the Safe Zone program.

The center is currently working on its own program that allows faculty and students to discuss annual, themed issues. This year, the subject is HIV/AIDS.

However, Finnessy believes having programs is important

ate from high school and have supportive environments, they want their college campuses to see the same thing," Finnessy said. "And Safe Zone is an educational way to do that."

Moving toward change

Although there aren't any current plans to revive Safe Zone, Gleaves and Q-Force have been talking with Kelly to help create a more tangible representation of

of GLBT students on campus, many would not know where to go to find others. Gleaves hopes acquiring a physical location for Q-Force would help build a community for these students that is currently lacking.

Meanwhile Lott Hill, the assistant director of the Center for Teaching Excellence, has been looking into creating a program that is similar to Safe Zone, but isn't as structured.

"There's a perception that Columbia is a very tolerant environment, that there are lots of GLBT folks on campus and there's also the perception that because everyone thinks it's so tolerant, that there isn't enough dialogue about the issues on campus," Hill said. "The students sometimes don't feel like there's a community because the expectation [is] that the whole campus is a safe zone."

Gleaves thinks a Safe Zone program would also benefit students.

"I think it would be great to have [Safe Zones] start up again," she said. "I think it would be another way to have the school presence, another way to claim this area as an open area."

Whether it be an actual room or a simple feeling of community, Kelly emphasized that the college supports GLBT students.

"[Our goal] is to make it a comfortable, safe place for all students, including [GLBT] students," Kelly said.

Hill said that while he hasn't heard a direct call for the Safe Zone program, GLBT students have said that they would like more interaction with faculty.

"It does seem like students are very interested in finding which faculty [members] are particularly open or that are out," Hill said.

Faculty members college wide have expressed interest in working with GLBT students he said, and Hill believes that they will take advantage of the opportunities if they are presented.

Shannon understands the time and money that would need to be invested to provide additional programs to GLBT students, but it can be done, she said.

"It's complicated, but it just takes a few people who are dedicated and are ready to make some sacrifices and work hard," Shannon said.

"The students sometimes don't feel like there's a community because the expectation [is] that the whole campus is a safe zone."

**—Lott Hill,
assistant director of the Center for Teaching Excellence**

ing event was cosponsored by Student Affairs and the Center for Teaching Excellence.

David Krause, the director for the Center of Teaching Excellence, said that the center partially sponsored the event because the center saw it as a way to create greater awareness on campus.

"We saw an opportunity to help more faculty [members] become aware of what it takes to have an

because many of these students come to college with the need and expectation of having a supportive group on campus.

"The interesting phenomenon with so many high schools now across the country having [Gay Straight Alliance organizations] and more and more high school students coming out at an earlier age [is that] there's an expectation that when those individuals gradu-

gay, bi and trans-gendered students on campus.

"We're looking to accomplish a visible presence on campus," Gleaves said. "Just something that is visible, so queer students on campus can see this is here, this is real, it has a space, and there's a level of comfort that comes with that."

She said that although she thinks there is a large population



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Terri Griffith (left), a part time literature instructor, speaks to students about gay and lesbian rights during a Gay and Lesbian Studies class on March 15.

Filmmaker

John Waters

April 28th

At the Conaway Center 1104 S. Wabash

Details Soon

Brought to you from the Office of Student Leadership

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Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO 

The meaning of life in photos

Exhibition reflects contemporary American culture

By Kim Haburn
Staff Writer

Modern American life is filled with office cubicles and chain stores. These aspects of society are explored in "The Contemporary Condition: Photographs of Our Time," on display at the Hokin Gallery in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

The exhibit features the work of Columbia undergraduates, grad students and faculty members. Photographers selected photos they felt accurately reflected the meaning of contemporary life.

For example, Brian Ulrich, a part-time photography instructor, has pictures on display dealing with consumerism. One photo shows a woman talking on her cell phone, appearing bored, while looking at the choices in the grocery store. Another shows the wide aisle at a large chain store and the people stopping to look at items in the refrigerated cases.

Ulrich said he started to think about American culture as being obsessed with consumerism after the 9/11 attacks. During previous wars, people were told to sacrifice for the greater good of the country, but after 9/11,

Americans were encouraged to spend money, Ulrich said.

"Not too long after Sept. 11, the kind of political messages we kept getting as a response were not only 'be afraid,' but to go out and shop," he said. "I thought it was a strange way to deal with a political situation, to politicize something which is an everyday activity, a very American activity."

Ulrich said he thinks shopping has lost its purpose, because of America's consumer culture and the dominance of chain stores. This boredom with shopping is what Ulrich tried to capture.

"That's kind of what I look for when I'm making portraits of shoppers, is this kind of robotic stare that says, 'This is what our lives have become,'" he said. "It's the 21st century, and we're kind of manufactured to stroll the aisles. It's become all our recreation, all our free time, manufactured around consumerism, retail and fluorescent lighting."

The exhibit's curator, photography instructor Paul D'Amato, chose Ulrich to participate in this exhibit. He remembered Ulrich's work from when Ulrich was his student in the graduate program.

D'Amato's work on the Columbia photography books inspired the creation of this exhibit. The books focused on



Mike Sendra/The Chronicle

Mollie Knox, a transfer Cultural Studies major, settles in to study under art work done by Colleen Plumm, one of many artists featured in 'The Contemporary Condition' exhibit in Columbia's Hokin Gallery, 623 S. Wabash.

concrete subjects, such as landscapes or nature, but he wanted to make one that was more conceptual.

D'Amato also decided to pursue this idea because he noticed that students' work was leaning more toward portraits of modern life, such as offices and chain stores. This trend interested him, and he wanted to expand on it.

"Looking at work as a teacher for the last six years, I've been occasionally seeing work that looks at things I find unpleasant to look at in our culture," D'Amato said. "I've always

admired work from people who've tried to make work about these issues that I think are really important contemporary issues."

Nancy Julson, C-Spaces gallery coordinator, helped bring this exhibit to the gallery. The exhibit was timed in part to coincide with a photography convention at the Hilton this month, she said. Julson also said that many of the photographers featured in the exhibit have had work in other C-Spaces galleries before.

"[The exhibit is] like a Hokin superstar photographer show,"

she said.

Julson said that while she doesn't have a favorite piece in the gallery, she most enjoyed working with the photographers.

D'Amato said the exhibit might cause some deeper thinking about the modern world.

"I don't think any of this looks like the world we really want for our children," D'Amato said.

"The Contemporary Condition: Photographs of Our Time" is running from March 6 to April 21. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays.

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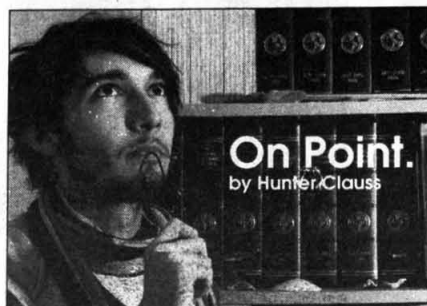
Your response will help the college determine what is working and what is not working at this institution.

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THE WORD

AN ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SUPPLEMENT OF THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE





Big brother knows best

I'm the first son, which means I'm a goner if God ever gets angry at mankind and starts firing off plagues at us.

In case of such an event, I'm followed by my sister, Taylor, 20, and my brother, Miles, 19, who should be more worried about the wrath of God than I am. But since I was the first one to go through my parents' firing line, I made all the mistakes they learned from.

Of course I love Taylor and Miles, but I secretly cringe every time they make mistakes. Well, I cringe mostly after I'm done laughing, but I

cringe because I care enough to think about it.

Taylor doesn't get into trouble very much. When she does, she can quickly figure things out. Miles, on the other hand, manages to back himself up in a corner, much to my amusement.

In high school, Miles briefly dated this girl who was the spitting image of Frankenstein's monster. Her head was shaped like a rectangle, and she spoke in a series of grunts, which lead to some of the most awkward

dinner conversations I have ever had.

I couldn't mock her to her face because I'm not a very strong man. In high school I was forced to take a gym class, but time has destroyed my once manly physique. Due to this unfortunate turn of events, there is no doubt in my mind that she could have tackled me, damaging my precious insides along the way. I imagine her rage would be equivalent to that of the apes in *Congo*. But all that was about to change.

One night, I managed to scrounge up enough inebriated courage to say

something. While I was enjoying a nice late-night drive in my crappy two-door Saturn with my friends Laura and Robbie, I told them about Miles' girlfriend. Since they were familiar with my exaggerations and lies, my two friends didn't believe anything I said about her.

At that point I was driving in the alley by my parents' garage, and lo and behold Miles and his girlfriend walked out from the back gate and jumped into my dad's SUV. I made a U-turn in front of the SUV and turned on the Saturn's brights, exposing the ugly truth of my little brother's girlfriend to Laura and Robbie. Miles and Frankenhound had no idea what was going on and smiled nervously as they shielded their eyes from the headlights.

Sadly, Laura and Robbie were both drunk and couldn't control their laughter, which prohibited them from getting a good look at Miles' girlfriend. All of that effort was wasted, and Frankenhound remains a legend and mystery to all of my friends.

As big brother number one, it's my job to care and look out for Miles. Whether it's drugs or trashy, no-good floozies, I feel the need to help my little brother out because he often doesn't know any better. And that's why I've decided to send my brother to space camp for the summer.



Rise up with fists

We live in a country chock-full of options. We can elect our officials, vocalize our regrets for choosing those officials, choose where we live, what we eat, where we shop and even our haircolor. But for one reason or another, every day in America and beyond, people seem to be settling—and relationships are no exception.

In life, regret is inevitable. I once dated a guy who wore shirts with flames on them—not something I'm too proud of. Snobby fashion remarks aside, sometimes we look back on our past relationships and realize that things were never as shiny—happy as we thought, and it takes getting out of the situation to

understand that maybe we were just settling for less than we deserve.

Last year, my friend Candace was particularly guilty of the crime of settling. After living in Chicago for more than two years, she was still trying to keep it together with an ex who lived in her hometown in Ohio. He would lie, cheat, call her names and ignore her. The next week he would visit, send her love letters and be the best boyfriend ever. But in all the time I've

known Candace, he never made her happy. She was always upset with him or worried about him. It soon became obvious that this relationship was doomed.

"I haven't met anyone here," she would say to me. "And things used to be so good with Nick and me."

I wonder what her version of "so good" really was, because if it was anything like mine, she was doomed.

After a year of drama, blow-out fights, breakups and makeups, I finally pulled the plug on a relationship that was obviously a train wreck. I felt bad about it, until I looked back and realized that month after month I dealt with a whole lot of bullshit that no sane 21-year-old

girl with any self-worth should ever have to put up with.

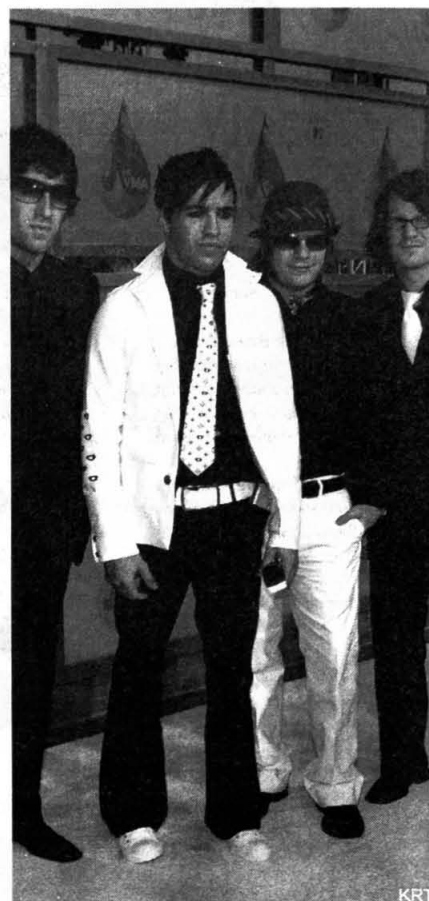
When we get used to lukewarm feelings with a significant other, we fool ourselves into thinking that it's as good as it gets, which is quite simply not true. I remember being 18 and thrilled when a boyfriend would say I looked nice once in awhile. I never realized that saying nice things to someone you're dating shouldn't be such a rare occurrence.

It sucks to be alone sometimes. I, of all people, tend to have a hard time flying solo, so mediocre relationships have become something I've grown used to over the years. For the first time in awhile, I can say with confidence that I am in a good, equal and satisfying relationship. No games, no bullshit—just awesomeness. And, you know what? I deserve it.

As for Candace, she decided she deserves some awesomeness as well. She bailed on the lowlife and decided to shack up with a very nice fella from Chicago.

Fairly tale endings? Who knows. But the fact of the matter is that we need to stop settling. We don't have much time on this Earth; why waste it feeling miserable and bored? Cold Stone saved us from run-of-the-mill ice cream flavors, and Howard Dean saved us (sort of) from run-of-the-mill politicians; it's time to save ourselves from people who fail to treat us like the fabulous human beings that we are.

Jackass of the week



People say the music industry has been going to shambles over the past few years thanks to crummy pop stars, unoriginal songs and comebacks from washed up musicians. One band has topped the list—despite their ever-so-catchy melodies and ridiculous lyrics—and managed to be the epitome of everything bad in the music world: Fall Out Boy.

The band apparently thinks so highly of themselves that they have to play under the alias name "Saved Latin," based on a quote from the movie *Rushmore*, which they also use for various song titles. This is an insult in itself to anyone with a good sense of humor and intelligence, because who relates that great piece of cinema to the pop punk band with a lead singer who has a hat surgically attached to his greasy head?

Anyway, Fall Out Boy performed a secret gig under this alias at the famous Knitting Factory in New York and reportedly had audience members call up their friends and hold up their cell phones so that the poor unfortunate souls who couldn't get in would know what great musical experience they were missing out on. Whatever. That would be a phone call from hell for most people.

Aside from the show, the big kicker is that bassist Pete Wentz did a bit too much "falling out" when he took pictures of his member and sent them to a crush, who in turn spread them all over the Internet. We think any unfortunate sighting of Wentz's south side will result in immediate blindness, so watch out.

So, Fall Out Boy, we decided your new alias is Jackass of the Week, and your new work should never, ever be exposed to the public.

—T. Breyne



Love us or hate us...

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



Hunter Clauss - hclauss@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8970

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.

♥	Complete Crap
♥♥	Download it
♥♥♥	Pretty Entertaining
♥♥♥♥	Very Good
♥♥♥♥♥	Word Up.



Jenifer Fischer



Tiffany Breynne



Mark Byrne

top five

The dictionary: This treasure trove of knowledge has captivated the nerd in me since I was in grade school. Webster's, Oxford-English—even foreign language dictionaries. The fun never ends. Seriously.

Papermate Write Bros. pen: I adore this classic with a white barrel, black ink and a medium point. I scoff at those fancy numbers with finger grips and radioactive colors.

The promise of spring: And the promise that soon people will cease to wear those hideous long, quilted coats that are so in vogue. They look like a sleeping bag and a trench coat got together and procreated.

Taking the stairs: I've discovered the joy of fitting in an early morning workout via the stairwell. Sure, I show up to class on the 9th floor sweaty and wheezy, but those endorphins rock—and so does getting upstairs faster than the suckers waiting for the elevators below.

Pepperface.com Edition Palm Defender: Ever since my beloved bestowed this sleek, sexy vile of pepper spray upon me, I walk the streets alone with a greater sense of security. Who knew self-defense could be so fashionable?

Little Italy Crew: You know who you are. Reuniting with my old neighborhood buddies for nearly a week of liquid fun couldn't be a better cure to my schoolwork blues. I'm pretty sure our St. Patrick's Day festivities will continue for many years to come.

TrumpCam: A camera that monitors the process of building the Trump Tower with 24/7 coverage and up to minute shots. There's no hurry to see it though—it'll be up for three more years.

Michael Douglas: "I don't know about that Brad Pitt, leaving that beautiful wife to go hold orphans for Angelina. I mean, how long is that going to last?"

Spring Break: I came this close to quitting school halfway through the break. Thank your lucky stars I'm back.

Intonation Festival: Comes to Union Park in June and The Streets are scheduled to play, along with other acts that aren't nearly as important. It'll be a weekend of excellent music and fun in the Chicago sun for the sweet price of \$25. I had a mini-orgasm as I bought my ticket online.

Garden State: Rick Moody's 1992 debut novel is so much better than the unrelated movie of the same name. I've never cared about New Jersey so much.

The Books: Speaking of books, The Books concert at Schubas on March 13 was pretty amazing as well.

Intonation: Speaking of concerts, Pitchfork keeps announcing new bands that are playing at this summer's Intonation Music Festival, and so far the lineup is delicious.

Dunkin' Donuts: Speaking of delicious, has any one ever actually tried dunking a donut into coffee? For some reason, the literal value of the name escaped me until recently.

Going home: And speaking of escaping, there's nothing like leaving Chicago and school behind for a few days during spring break to cease thinking for a while in Wisconsin.

Calendar of Events

Monday

The Orb plays at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. The show is 18-and-over, starts at 9 p.m. and costs \$20.

Aerosmith plays at Peoria Civic Center, 201 SW Jefferson St. in Peoria. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$43.50 to \$83.50.

Tuesday

Stories Care Forgot, an anthology of zines from and about New Orleans, is touring around the country and stops by Quimby's, 1854 W. North Ave., today. The event starts at 8 p.m. and is free.

Deus play, at Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave. The show is 21-and-over, starts at 9 p.m. and costs \$10.

Wednesday

Joey DeFrancesco plays at Jazz Showcase, 59 W. Grand Ave. The shows are at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. and cost \$20.

Ashlee Simpson plays at the NIU Convocation Center, 1525 W. Lincoln Highway in Dekalb. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. and costs \$32.50.

Thursday

Adam Langer, author of *Crossing California* and *The Washington Story*, speaks at Loyola's Hussey Lounge, Damen Hall, 6525 N. Sheridan Road. The event starts at 6 p.m. and is free.

Cracklin Moth plays at the Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave., with Frog Holler. The show is 21-and-over, starts at 9 p.m. and costs \$8.

Friday

Timothy Archibald will give a lecture and slideshow based on his book *Sex Machines: Photographs and Interviews*. The free event starts at 7 p.m. and will be held at Quimby's, 1854 W. North Ave.

Neko Case plays at The Vic, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., with Martha Wainwright. The show starts at 8 p.m. and costs \$19 through Ticketmaster.

Saturday

Found Footage Festival takes place at The Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. The showing includes outtakes from fast food training videos and infomercials. The event starts at 7 p.m. and costs \$8.

Jared Leto's band, Thirty Seconds to Mars, plays at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. The show starts at 11:30 p.m. and costs \$13.

Sunday

The Annual International Poster Festival kicks off at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Washington St., from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$12.

Exposure



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Simple things sometimes make the best photographs. It is often said that when you look for a photo you have to look beyond the main event and try to find the small parts that make up the whole. This is a photograph that one would not normally associate with St. Patrick's Day; there are no clovers, leprechauns or beer. Instead it is a photo of a Marist High School flag thrower, concentrating on making the catch.

Taking off clothes for a cause

Chicago group takes stance against genetic engineering

By Mark Byrne/Assistant A&E Editor

Some organizations use posters full of flashy colors to catch attention. Others use megaphones. One activist group in Chicago favors breasts.

The members of Chicago-based THONG, Topless Humans Organized for Natural Genetics, have been taking off their shirts since 2003, when the group was formed, and continue to arrange new events to raise awareness about genetic engineering practices that might negatively affect humans.

"I was there the evening it was founded," said Just Joking Jerry, a lawyer and long-time THONG member, who asked to be referred to as his pseudonym to not publicize his activist affairs. "I got invited in two roles. One, they figured they'd need a lawyer. And number two, they figured I'd be willing to do their kind of activism. Meaning, strip down."

Jerry spoke of THONG's first direct action, in the summer of 2003, at a 5K fun run sponsored by Kraft Foods. THONG opposes Kraft's use of genetically altered ingredients in commercial food, and so it joined in the run, without clothing. In order to stay within legal boundaries, Jerry said, the members do cover genitalia and nipples.

"It was so successful that we

decided to keep it going," Jerry said.

What followed the Kraft Foods run was a string of similar "direct actions" and fundraising parties, which occur a couple times a year.

Jerry cites the fundraisers as important parts of THONG, in more capacities than simply raising money. The fundraisers, which feature organic vodka with organic juice mixers, have the same dress code as THONG's actions: underwear and body paint. Jerry says this is one way it picks up new members.

"Appearing naked in public the first time is the hardest," he said. "If you can put people in an environment where they can feel comfortable being naked, it's easier to do it again, like to do our direct actions."

Jerry likes to keep his professional life and his activist life separated.

"When I'm there as an activist, I'm Just Joking Jerry," Jerry said. "When I'm there as a lawyer, I use a different name." He thinks that kind of separation is probably true of most THONG members.

"Most of the people involved are active in a lot of different things that don't necessarily fit together," Jerry said. "We get people from a lot of different places. The common bond is that we're addressing

important issues."

Gala Orba, a mathematics major at DePaul University, came to a fundraising party in 2003 and has since become involved in THONG.

"I went to a THONG party and I loved it," Orba said. "To be able to feel good about your partying social life was just a great idea to me."

Orba has since appeared in several direct actions, representing THONG at a Biotech conference in San Francisco in 2003 and most recently in front of the Eddie Bauer Store on Michigan Avenue in May 2005. THONG was trying to raise awareness about Eddie Bauer's Teflon coated spill-resistant clothing, which it claims has not been subjected to enough safety testing.

THONG's next fundraiser is a variety show conceived by Orba, titled Bio-Burlesque. The show was supposed to have its first of two runs March 10 at Dulcinea, 1431 N. Milwaukee Ave., but the owner, Beth Haggard, said that lingering construction at the new Wicker Park art and music cafe forced the show to postpone and change venues.

After a quick search for a new location, Bio-Burlesque is set to take place March 31 at YogaNow, an eco-friendly yoga studio at 742 N. LaSalle St., in the Gold Coast.

The show will feature both



Courtesy of THONG

Members of THONG pose before a direct action in October 2004.

members and non-members of THONG, and will include a burlesque act, improv comedy, and like any THONG event, lots of skin.

Charles Shaw is friends with some members, and has many of the same goals as THONG, but he is not involved with it. Shaw is the media coordinator for the public information campaign, BioETHICS 2006, and the editor-in-chief of the counterculture publication, Newtopia Magazine, which covers alternative issues. BioETHICS 2006 is concerned with the same natural food and biological ethics issues that THONG addresses with nudity.

"I think it's great as far as getting people's attention," Shaw said. "That's like a train wreck or a car crash; people just can't not look at it."

Shaw thinks that THONG is going the right direction, but it "[runs] the risk of being a one-trick pony."

"THONG is in its infancy," Shaw said. "It's very clever. It's got just the right amount of shock value, but it's not offensive. If they stay with it, and give it some thought, and are creative in their future actions, they can be very successful."

Jerry thinks that the naked factor is important not just because it gets attention, but because it makes people think about their bodies, and that is what THONG is concerned with.

"This is about bodies, and this is about human beings," Jerry said. "And it's a particularly effective tactic. The naked people are the most powerful people in the room."

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Multicultural issues become laughing matter

'How the Kanye West Was Won' tackles race relations, offers comedic voice for diverse ethnicities

By Judah Gartman/Contributing Writer

When first walking into Donny's Skybox Theatre on the 4th floor of Piper's Alley Theater, 1608 N. Wells St., it feels like stepping into a nightclub. Ludacris is blaring over the sound system, and everyone has a drink in hand. But it soon becomes obvious that this show isn't all fun and games.

The Second City Outreach and Diversity Program's latest comedy revue, "How the Kanye West Was Won," blends improv with multicultural issues. "Kanye" gives classic Second City scenes an urban twist and includes two original pieces written by cast member Min-aha Beeck.

The show is an extension of the program's mission to build an improvisation and comedy community for people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. In addition to producing two comedy revues each year, the program, which was established in 1992, provides workshops and scholarships for minorities interested in improv.

The cast of "Kanye," which also helped write the show, has tried to incorporate many of the elements of classic Second City improv with diversity that caters to all races.

LaTeshia Ellerson, a cast member and recent DePaul University theater school graduate,



Courtesy Second City

The cast of 'How the Kanye West Was Won,' a revue produced by Second City, combines classic Second City improv with an underlying message about racial tolerance.

explained that the skit 'Sisters' was originally set in Wisconsin.

"We just added Kanye West lyrics and black humor to make it part of the show," Ellerson said.

Each of the show's skits touches on important issues such as poverty, immigration, the rising death toll in Sudan and the cur-

rent state of the U.S. government—all while causing the audience to roll with laughter.

In a two-part skit that deals with a Senate bill on minority rights, the cast approaches the issue in a humorous, educated, yet at times shockingly insulting way. One by one each minority

group was ripped apart by derogatory terms and hurtful prejudices. By the end of the skit no one was left on the proposed bill, therefore no one was safe.

Dionna Griffin, director of outreach and diversity and the show's producer, said that the stereotypical characters were a

conscious choice. By making the characters extreme stereotypes the cast is showing how absurd stereotypes really are.

However, not everyone understood the reasons the issues were addressed in this way.

Audience member and frequent Second City patron Sarah Kalhorn felt that the show was offensive at times but she still understood that it served a purpose.

"I think it's hard in this environment because you don't know what the boundaries are," Kalhorn said. "I think the point of the show is to make you laugh and then think about why you're laughing."

Jokes about black people not paying child support and smoking weed all day, money hungry Jews and uneducated immigrants are just a few of the things that caused people to not just laugh, but to think about what was being said.

"That's the beauty of social satire," Griffin said. "We are just holding a mirror up to society."

'How the Kanye West Was Won' will finish its run at Donny's Skybox Theater, 1608 N. Wells St., this Saturday at 9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling the Second City box office.

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Second hand Dollar store Book sluts Reading under the influence in the Gutters

When thinking about Chicago, some typical images come to mind: the Sears Tower, the Cubs, the Great Chicago Fire, the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

These elements have not only defined the city—they have also served as inspiration for storytellers of every kind. Upton Sinclair, Sandra Cisneros, Sherwood Anderson, David Mamet, Mike Royko, Studs Terkel, Carl Sandburg and Richard Wright are just a few of the many authors who have been influenced by the City of Big Shoulders.

Today, Chicago has a thriving literary scene, thanks partly to the city's rich history of the written word. Through zines, websites and reading series, an emerging community of writers is proving that you don't have to go to New York City to be successful.

By Tiffany Breynne

& Hunter Clauss

Graphics by
Joshua Covarrubias

THE2NDHAND

THE2NDHAND is a free quarterly zine that primarily showcases authors living in and around Chicago, such as Anne Elizabeth Moore (*Hey Kids! Buy This Book*), Brian Costello (*The Enchanters vs. Sprawlburg Springs*) and Joe Meno, whose *Bluebirds Used to Croon in the Choir* included some short pieces that were originally published in THE2NDHAND. This broadsheet publication has a rotating single-author format, but the online edition features a selection of writers.

Originally from South Carolina, editor and publisher Todd Dills moved to Chicago when he was accepted into Columbia's graduate school for fiction writing.

"I always kind of wanted to be involved in a scene that was actually alive, and this was the only place where I got into grad school that had something that was actually living in terms of a literary scene," Dills said. "Down South, there's not much."

Dills considered South Carolina's community too focused on academia, with not enough writers getting behind their writing; attending Columbia was a refreshing change. For Dills, the college had the right attitude when it came to the community and area surrounding it.

"Columbia is a good example of a college that really engages in the scene and the community," he said.

The Dollar Store

Inspired by the consistently random selection of knickknacks that can be found in a dollar store, Jonathan Messenger and Jeremy Sosenko co-host the monthly Dollar Store Show readings at the Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave., which take place the first Friday of every month.

"Almost everything that you buy in a dollar store is going to be of low quality, but you're still only paying a dollar for it, so you know what you're getting every time," Messenger said. "I've always liked going into these places and exploring them and the weird merchandise they put out."

Some of the night's readers use improv comedy techniques to ensure a night of laughs and memorable moments. Past readers include THE2NDHAND online editor Jeb Gleason-Allured; Karen Christopher, a founding member of Chicago's Neo-Futurists; and Mike Newirth, fiction editor of Bridge magazine.

"What's interesting to me about the literary scene is how active the readings are," Messenger said. "In New York, the literary scene is based upon the publishing world. In Chicago ... there aren't that many publishers—certainly [not] huge publishers like they have in New York. So the way writers today get their work out there is by these readings."

Bookslut.com

While Chicago has an active community of self-publishers from zines to independent magazines like *Venus* and *Punk Planet*, there is also a network of literary blogs and websites that are locally based.

One such website is Bookslut.com. Founded and edited by Jessa Crispin, Bookslut provides reviews and commentary on anything and everything that deals with the written word. From poetry and comic books to Harry Potter, the writers at Bookslut give a witty take on what's going on in this large field.

Crispin manages and operates Bookslut from Chicago, where she finds herself constantly impressed with literary events and panel discussions.

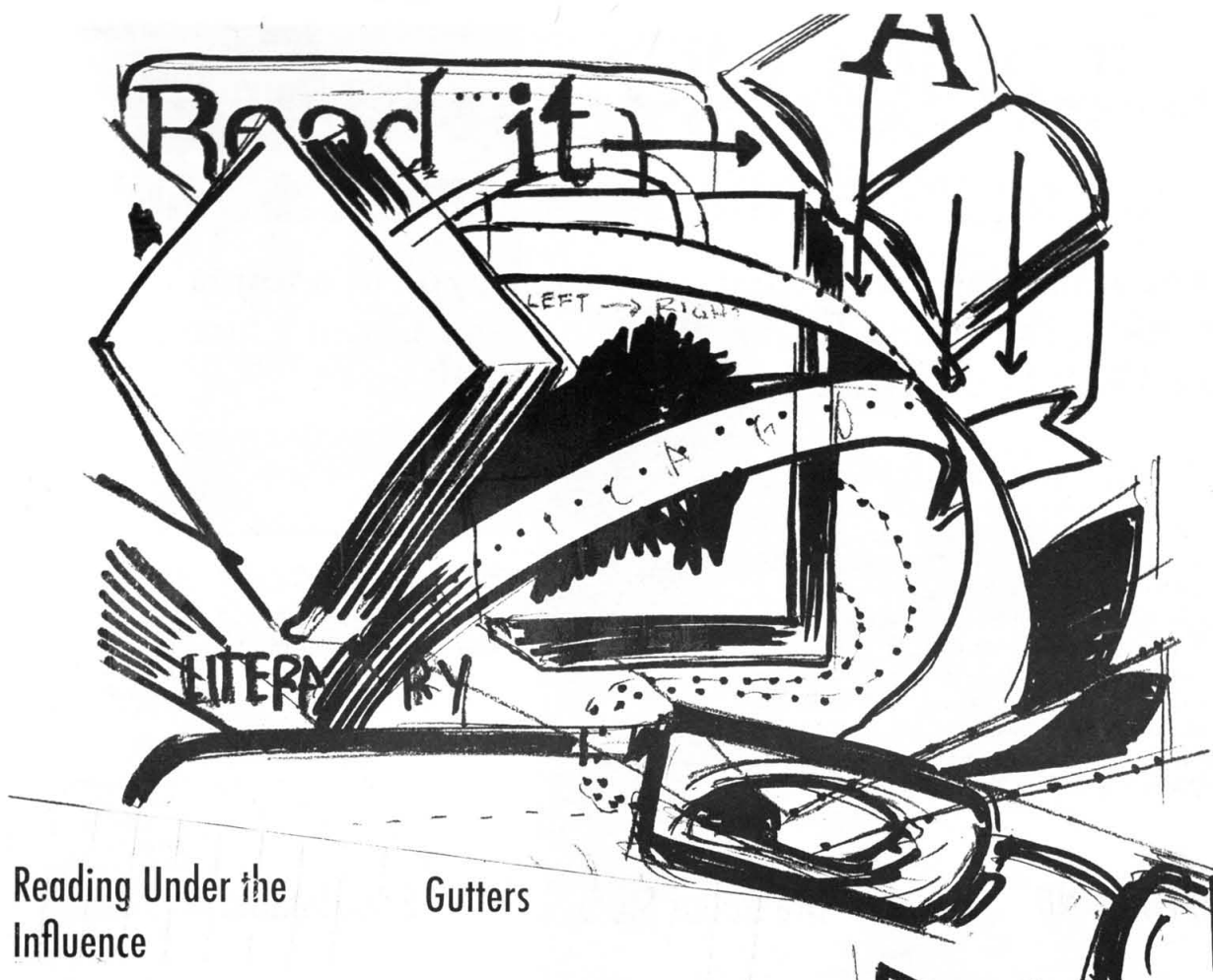
"There's always something going on," Crispin said. "The reading series in Chicago are fantastic."

While she enjoys what the city has to offer, she is upset that there are not as many large publishing companies in Chicago as there are in New York.

"It bothers me it still has a low self-esteem problem," Crispin said. "It seems like so many writers get a book deal and they move to New York because that's where they feel they should be."

Despite how problematic this situation is to Crispin, she believes there is a strong community in Chicago.

"Every reading series that I've been to has great attendance," she said. "There's definitely a demand for it. There's definitely a community."



Reading Under the Influence

Reading Under the Influence, a monthly reading series involving literary themes and alcohol, has been held at Sheffield's, 3258 N. Sheffield Ave., for a little over a year now. Rob Duffer and Amanda Snyder, two of the RUI regulars and organizers, feel that while there are plenty of reading series in Chicago, theirs offers a fun and inviting environment with audience interaction and themes ranging from banned books to Chicago authors. They said that their audience has grown since the beginning, and now, on average, a reading entertains a crowd of 50 to 60 people.

Snyder and Duffer think that while a lot of the same names are brought up when it comes to the literary scene, they think it's a great community that people are always able to contribute to. Snyder said that when RUI first started, it was friends getting together to socialize and enjoy literature. The two credit the growth of RUI to the fact that people are receptive and supportive of others' work.

"There is a strong community," Duffer said. "It seems to be growing, and any of the people that I've worked with [and] talked with have all been really supportive of other people's writing, so it's a really nurturing community. To me it seems to be getting bigger."

Gutters

Gutters Workshop is a monthly get-together that Keith Helt and Hatuey Diaz host to help beginning zinesters get their publications off the ground with critiques and brainstorming. The duo, working together since last May, started Gutters when Diaz, a struggling independent publisher himself, realized Chicago's literary and zine scene was missing a free workshop.

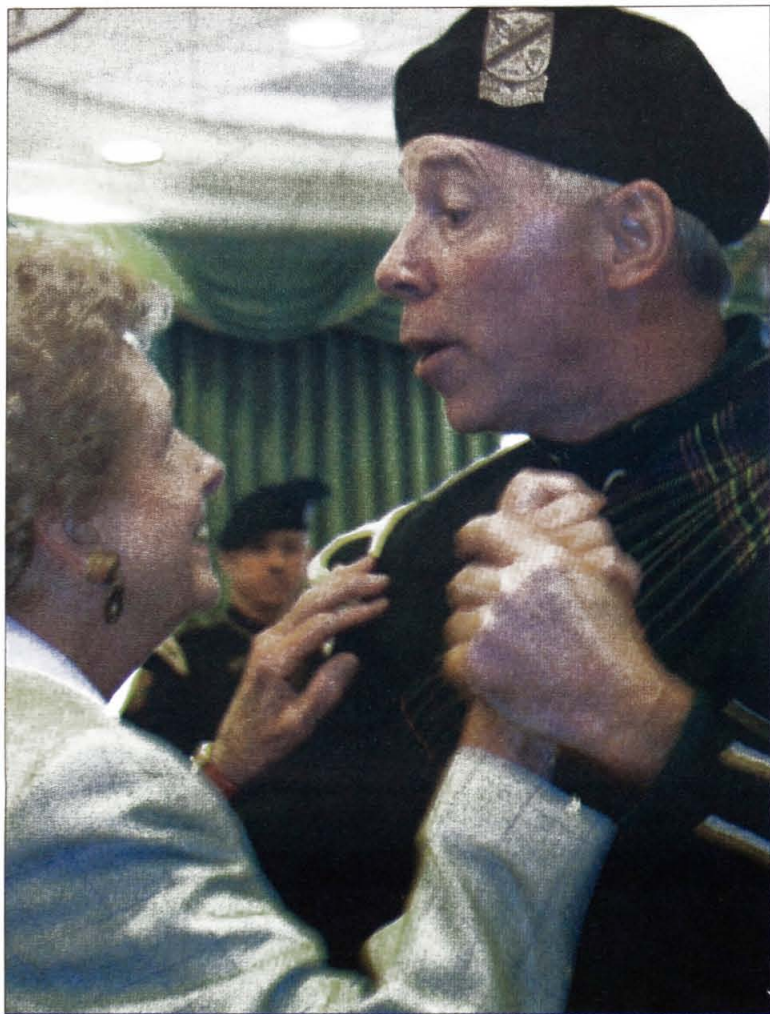
Diaz said that only five people attended the first session, but it has progressed to about 25 to 30 people in recent months, with a few new people joining in every time. He compared Chicago's scene to the one in Portland, Ore., which is thriving and successful despite its small size. He said that Chicago's scene may seem "mean," but that has a lot to do with getting the word out about activities and the overall shyness many budding independent publishers feel when advertising their work. Gutters tries to bring in people outside the regular group of participants to help broaden the scene even more. Diaz said that at a big event in January, a lot of people showed up that were already involved in the scene, which wasn't quite the turnout they were expecting.

"[Coverage is] something that we talk about a lot," Diaz said. "We felt bad because we felt like, all these people know each other and they're always involved with these sorts of things. We're trying to switch up who we ask to be a part of it just because we want to get as many people exposed as possible."



Piping up

A photo essay



Kelly Bryan/The Chronicle



Allison Williams/The Chronicle

Founded in 1926, The Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band is Chicago's second-oldest bagpipe ensemble and the official band of the South Side Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade. During the group's performance in the March 12 parade, the Rovers were like rock stars in the eyes of the spectators. Cries of "We love you guys!" could be heard over the wail of bagpipes. After the parades, fans approached them on the street for photos and solo renditions of "Amazing Grace."

Over the years, the Rovers have entertained presidents, foreign dignitaries and Pope John Paul II. Along with playing for such well-known individuals, the band also entertains at festivals, weddings, church parties and house parties around Chicagoland.

The Rovers sometimes feel more like a cross between an extended family and a fraternity than just a band. Members range from high school freshmen to grandparents, and some members are from the same family. The group's philosophy for its performances is simple: Have a good time.



Allison Williams/The Chronicle



v/The Chronicle



Kelly Bryan/The Chronicle



Kelly Bryan/The Chronicle

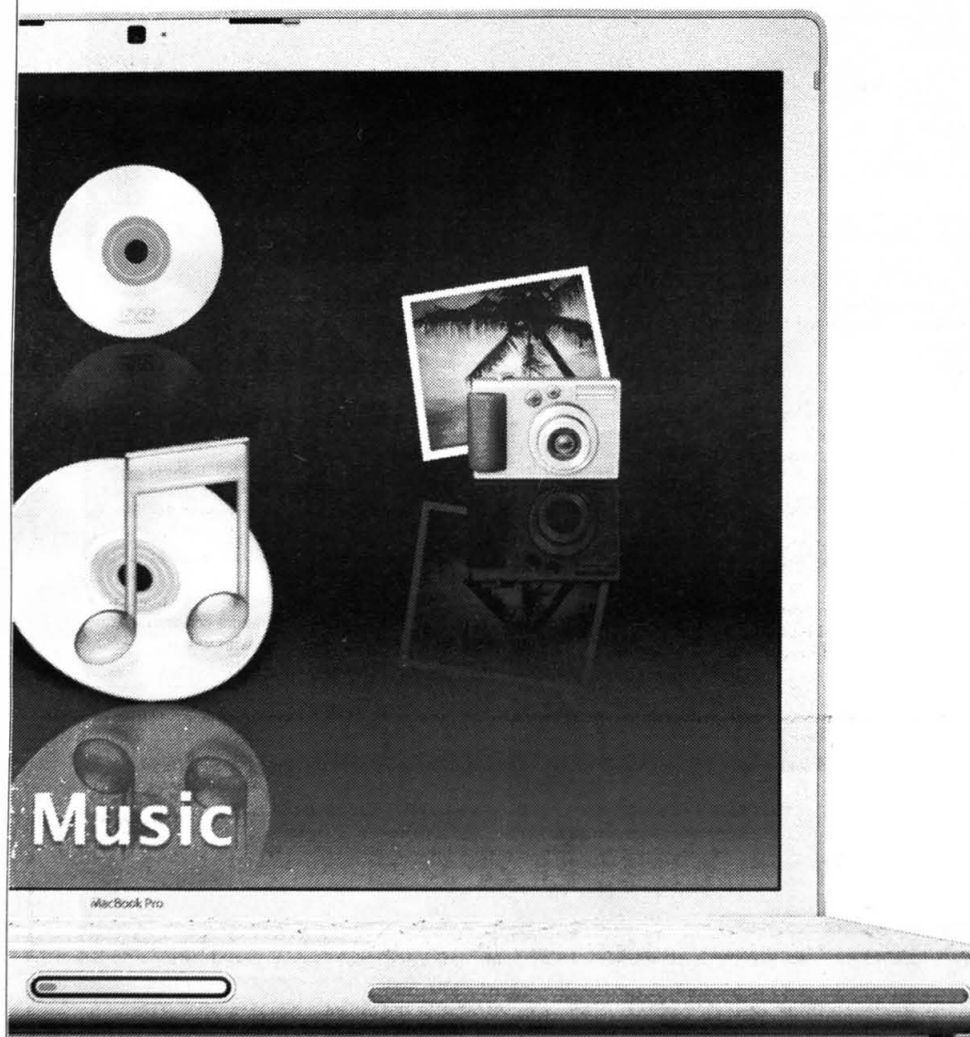


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Tobacco film burns industry with satire

'Thank You For Smoking' gives voice to America's 'merchants of death'

By Sam Libretti/Associate Editor

If people have heard of the film *Thank You For Smoking*, it's likely because a sex scene that features Katie Holmes was left out of a screening at the Sundance Film Festival. That triggered speculation that Holmes' fiancé, Tom Cruise, had a hand in the scene's absence.

Aside from that controversy, however, the film, which is an adaptation of Christopher Buckley's novel of the same name, has garnered respect at film festivals as a smart satire of the country's opposition to smoking and the role tobacco lobbyists play in advertising. The film's protagonist, Nick Naylor (played by Aaron Eckhart), is an expert in spin and relishes his role as a "merchant of death" as he takes on a proposal from Congress to attach graphic illustrations about the dangers of smoking to packs of cigarettes. The film features an all-star cast that includes Robert Duvall, Rob Lowe and Sam Elliot.

Director Jason Reitman, whose father, Ivan Reitman, directed films like *Stripes*, *Ghostbusters* and *Meatballs*, sat down with *The Chronicle* to discuss the making of his first feature film.

The Chronicle: The first question is probably the most logical one: Are you a smoker?

Reitman: No, I'm not. I tried it when I was 15, and it hurt too much. After doing this film, I got

inside knowledge on cigarettes—it turns out they are just deadly.

Have you gotten any feedback from anyone associated with "big tobacco" about the film?

I haven't yet, but I look forward to it, because I think they'll like the film. I've met some liquor lobbyists who have enjoyed the film. I imagine if I do start to hear from tobacco lobbies it will be secretly.

Since this film is based almost entirely on Buckley's novel, did he have input in the screenplay?

I would send him drafts as I got them done, and he would send me back notes saying "Yes, this is good," or, "No, this wouldn't happen like this in that setting." The good thing about him is that his father is William F. Buckley, and he grew up around all this. That made it easy for him to guide me if I was getting anything factually wrong.

At the Sundance Film Festival, the sex scene involving Katie Holmes wasn't shown due to an error in the reel operator's booth. What was your reaction to the conspiracy theories about Tom Cruise wanting the scene cut?

Had it been a more crucial scene to the plot, I probably would have been annoyed by the absence of the scene and the questions about it. But I mostly just felt sorry for

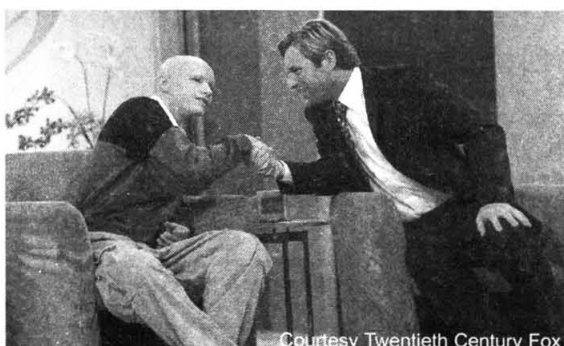
Katie. She's getting hammered left and right almost daily about it, and she's such a lovely girl. It makes me sad that a big deal got made over nothing. But it's been great for the film. Ask someone on the street about *Thank You For Smoking*, and they'll say "Oh yeah—that's the one with the Katie Holmes sex scene."

It seems that whenever Sam Elliot [who plays Lorne Lutch, the first Marlboro Man, in *Thank You For Smoking*] is in a film, he is there because whoever wrote the part wrote it specifically for Elliot. Was that true for the Lutch character?

Absolutely. I only wanted him, and I wrote him a letter saying that I'd be disappointed if someone else played the role. He loved the script, but wanted to have a more "noble cowboy" approach to [a scene in which his character essentially takes a bribe from the tobacco lobby to stop campaigning against smoking]. I told him taking the money would humanize the character and add a whole new dimension to him, and he went for it.

This film is largely a satire of spin appearing in virtually all aspects of everyday life. Has working on it made you more aware of that sort of invasive presence of commercial products in society?

I think our generation has been



Courtesy Twentieth Century Fox

Tobacco lobbyist Nick Naylor (right, played by Aaron Eckhart) makes nice with a "cancer kid" in *Thank You For Smoking*.

spun to since the cradle. We get it from all angles, and the difference is that this generation is aware that we're being spun to, which has made it sort of more acceptable. I have a sense of humor about it now.

Throughout your research, did you talk to any tobacco lobbyists? I never met with any, but I was at a function where there was sort of a "real-life Nick Naylor" from a tobacco lobby, and I loved it. The whole room hated him, and he handled it so brilliantly that I was just sitting there smiling because I loved it.

Throughout your promotion of the film, have you had to deal with any "Daddy's boy" stigma?

Very rarely. People generally like the film. I think if people hated the film, I'd be getting a lot more of that. At least the people who dislike it haven't talked to me yet.

You first made short films on the independent circuit. What advice would you give to young filmmakers in the position you were in a few years ago?

I started making short films nine years ago when I was 19, and I always used the film festival system. If a movie is good, it will be well-received at a festival; if it sucks, it won't get in or will be hated at the festival. It's a great way to make connections and find people who will judge films purely on quality.

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Metric measures up

Mostly-Canadian band conquers universal sounds, politics

By Jonathan Taylor/KRT

Metric drummer Joules Scott-Key has seen it all. From the boroughs of New York to the endless expanse of Los Angeles to the upscale neighborhoods of Toronto, he and his band Metric have found themselves constantly on the move. But Scott-Key believes that the endless travel—and the new experiences that come with it—is what being in a band is all about.

"I always think of our band as non-complacent," Scott-Key said. "We're constantly trying to see what's on the other side of the hill. With each new place that we go to, it's all different. And I think we thrive on that. It's this insatiable thirst for more information and

different effect."

Metric's music clearly shows how their travels have influenced their music. On their latest record, *Live It Out*, the mostly Canadian four-piece blends a multiplicity of influences into one tight package, mixing the growing art-rock sound of Toronto and Montreal with New York's older punk sensibilities, Los Angeles' pop stylings and a dash of British dance-rock flavor. The result is a band that, according to Scott-Key, "has the sort of rowdiness of rock 'n' roll but [is] also ... sort of smart rock."

That sound has been getting more and more exposure lately, thanks to the growing

Along with Metric, bands like Broken Social Scene, Stars and Feist have all been winning over critics and fans outside of the Great White North, using their patented combination of experimentation and traditional rock hooks. But despite the fact that these bands all come out of the same area—and in some cases, share the same members—a number of stylistic differences exist between the groups.

"I consider us part of the Toronto scene, but Metric was always sort of a little more independent," Scott-Key said. "We were the ones that traveled away from here, we were the ones that lived in different places. We like being the bad seed in the family, so to speak."

its downsides. No matter what they do, Metric will never be able to avoid being compared to Broken Social Scene or Stars, despite the noticeable differences in sound and lyrics between the groups. Where Broken Social Scene utilize airy melodies and Stars use vocal harmonies, Metric emphasize drum and bass. Scott-Key is starting to believe that the opinions about the band and the comparisons to their Toronto contemporaries are beginning to change.

"Metric's sort of holding its own, as far as that goes," he said. "I feel like people are starting to understand the separation [between Metric and Broken Social Scene], that it's two different bands. But we love being associated with that band, because we're all friends."

And of course, the popularity of Broken Social Scene has given Metric, and a number of other Canadian bands, an avenue for success.

Aside from taking on more of a rock 'n' roll sound, Metric has also put a political slant on their work. Songs like "Handshakes" and "The Police and the Private" showcase a concern for a number of political issues, ranging from worries of government intrusion into private life to the economy and oil. It's all part of Metric's attempt to understand the vast world around it.

"I think as citizens of the earth, we react to the political climate," Scott-Key said. "Not to say we're a political band at all, but we're just like anybody else who's living in this world and commenting on the things around them."

For now, Metric will concentrate on spreading their message and music wherever Scott-Key and company's travels take them. Whether jamming with indie-scene friends in Toronto, playing shows in New York and Los Angeles, or moving beyond American horizons, Metric will continue their quest to make a name for themselves—one city at a time.



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those places. All those different places have a success of the Canadian indie-rock scene. Being part of a collective scene does have

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Murder, they wrote

Why TV police shows are all the rage

By Sid Smith/KRT

Prime-time programming is certainly scary. In otherwise peaceful Wilmington, Del., an 11-year-old is kidnapped in a park on a break from soccer practice. At a swank Miami private club, a young man is hacked to death with an ice pick, a bloody letter "L" carved into his chest. Members of a racist militia in Indianapolis are abducting African-American men, torturing them and then stringing them up until they bleed to death.

These are only a few highlights of a report that logged events which occurred during viewing of the bulk of crime and legal procedurals airing on the major networks during a single week in January: all the "CSI" and "Law & Order" entries, along with "Criminal Minds," "Without a Trace," "Numbers," "Close to Home," and many others.

Despite what some see as violent content, viewers are staying tuned. The original "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" has been the No. 1 show in Nielsen ratings 12 weeks out of the season so far. Closely following is the increasingly popular "Without a Trace" and regularly accompanying the top 20 are the Miami and New York "CSI" spinoffs, "NCIS,"

"Cold Case," and the many versions of "Law & Order," among others.

Like many observers, William Petersen, the veteran Chicago stage actor whose lead role in the original "CSI" has won him TV superstardom, cites the trial of O.J. Simpson as one of the origins of this movement.

"The more [viewers] watched [the O.J. trial], they got the feeling these scientists and witnesses were speaking this DNA language they didn't get, a whole vernacular they didn't understand," Petersen said. "When he was found not guilty, they were confused. And they wanted more information."

But "the O.J. factor" might not be the only reason for the interest. The "Law & Order" franchise, while not as steeped in forensic detail as the "CSI" trio, deals with criminal investigation and justice.

"People forget that 'Law & Order' goes back to 1990," said Dick Wolf, executive producer of the "Law & Order" lineup. "We were around a lot earlier than [the] O.J. [trial]."

The "CSI" forensic emphasis has helped make microscopic, anatomical photography and scientific lingo omnipresent on TV,

part of what novelist Patricia Cornwell (*Predator*) refers to as a "Star Trekian" age. But, Petersen said that, ironically, the first "CSI" came about as something original.

"People at the network wanted nothing to do with a TV show about fingerprint dusters," Petersen said.

Petersen had been talking with CBS for some time about a possible series, but every script he was sent seemed cliché.

Instead, as Petersen sees it, "CSI" broke with TV crime in a number of ways.

"Instead of the big things, it's about the littlest things. And they become the most important things," Petersen said.

Wolf, however, refuses to see "CSI" or even "Law & Order" as anything but new clothing on an old dress form.

Mark Gordon, the enterprising producer behind "Criminal Minds" and "Grey's Anatomy," the ABC medical soap opera many see as a crime-streak antidote, believes the public has a history of fascination with crime.

"Crime in American fiction dates from the '20s, '30s and '40s in potboiler novels and film noir, not to mention tabloid journalism," he said. "In the past few years, TV just figured out a way



Gary Dourdan (left) and Stephanie March are cast members of 'CSI' and 'Law and Order,' respectively, two programs that are part of the popular crime show genre.

to capitalize on that in a different manner."

Lately, others raise more serious issues—in particular questioning the growing public assumption that "CSI" is pure reality, not part scientific fantasy. That bothers Cornwell tremendously.

"We have a really serious problem on our hands, and TV has made it so much worse," Cornwell said. "'CSI' is fun to watch and entertaining. But, more and more, jury members believe that police and scientists work every case with this huge bag of tricks, and if they don't, the victim and jurors feel the case has not been adequately investigated."

Despite heady concerns and

this season's ratings bonanza for crime shows, there are signs the inevitable shift in the wind is stirring. After resting at the top of the heap all fall, "CSI" actually lost the No. 1 ratings spot in recent weeks to the return of "American Idol." However Wolf said crime dramas aren't necessarily going anywhere, because the subject isn't.

"Crime is a constantly renewable resource," Wolf said. "Every day people continue to kill each other in bizarre and unfathomable ways. Even if murder goes down by double digits, there are still thousands of people killed in this country every year and killers who warrant prosecution."

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Reviews

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Flaming Lips
At War with the Mystics



The new Flaming Lips album definitely fulfills any Lips junkie's craving. The album is a continuous ebb and flow between the old, intensely loud Lips, and the new rhythmic Lips. If you are looking forward to a blissful spring and summer, listen closely.
— J. Ewert

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Neko Case
Fox Confessor Brings the Flood



For those of you who have been missing the brilliance of Canadian songstress Neko Case, you have some catching up to do. Case's latest album is gorgeous as always. From the folksy opening track to the brief but catchy "At Last," Case made another album that makes us love her even more.
— J. Sabella

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
The Octopus Project
One Ten Hundred Thousand Million



This electronica, post-rock band creates a hodgepodge of sounds, dance beats and intergalactic melodies. The album is completely instrumental and is reminiscent of typical dance club music but with an experimental edge. The repetition is mind numbing and at times annoying, but the album is only a step above white noise.
— M. Finkler

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Frankenstein #3
Grant Morrison



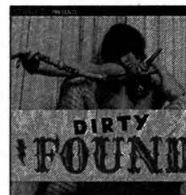
In this latest edition, Frankenstein teams up with the Bride to duke it out against a town full of insanity. Due to a toxic spill in the water supply, the small middle-America town has gone crazy with people killing each other—sometimes resulting in cannibalism. Doug Mahnke's artwork complements the morbid themes nicely.
— H. Clauss

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Hell in a Handbasket
Tom Tomorrow



This Modern World's satirical use of 1950s advertising has made it one of, if not the best, comic strips around. *Handbasket* is the first time Tom Tomorrow's work has appeared in full-color—and you know that if Ann Coulter finds "nothing remotely funny" about the material, then it's probably worth reading.
— D. Strum

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Dirty Found #2



Found magazine brings you ridiculous findings from all over the country. Dirty Found does, too—only it's raunchy. If trashy people pooping with kittens, action figures on penises and erotic letters wrought with misspellings and hilarious scenarios is up your alley, I suggest picking up a copy of the new second issue at independent bookstores around the city.
— J. Sabella

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Deal or No Deal
CNBC



This game show has all the right ingredients: beautiful women, a silhouetted "banker" in a dark office, Howie Mandel as host and briefcases that could have serious cash. If that isn't enough, contestants usually realize they put their faith in the wrong briefcase, and therefore, won't receive most of the cash. It's simple, ridiculous, intense and awesome.
— M. Byrne

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room



This documentary is for anyone wondering how Enron was able to dupe the entire American public. It will instill paranoia, anger and outrage, as well as turn the most optimistic consumer into a pissed off cynic. And any movie about corporate America that features a Tom Waits' song is good enough to watch.
— J. Ewert

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Howl's Moving Castle



The magical world that occupies *Howl's Moving Castle* is one in which wizards and witches are enlisted in a war between two kingdoms. While the DVD special features seem to be a bit lacking, the endearing plotline of this animated film is well worth the price. Watching this movie is a nice way to end a long day at school.
— H. Clauss

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
McDonald's Premium Roast Coffee



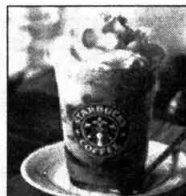
The quality of coffee can generally be measured in binary. That is, unless you have a really sensitive palette, it's either good or bad. McDonald's coffee is bad. McDonald's Premium Roast is good. At least it's covering all the bases.
— M. Byrne

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Government Interviews



There is no better way to start the day than being interviewed by a government agent for a friend who is in the military. Well, actually finding out that a friend's top-secret government job is riding on the interview is even better.
— H. Graham

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
Starbucks Strawberries & Creme Frappuccino



This delicious combination of strawberries and whatever else Starbucks puts in this drink is amazing. It's like a burst of everything good about the summertime in my mouth. I can't believe I just discovered this drink. Move over caramel and mocha—I've got a new Frappuccino love and nothing's going to stop it.
— T. Breyne

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

Psych-folk-drone may be the newest term used to describe instrumental music, but over the years Town and Country's frenzied wall of acoustic sound has been called anything from noise music to drone music. Together since 1997, the quartet has compiled a long list of more than twenty instruments from around the world and made six albums, with their latest release, *Up Above*, out this past January. The group—Josh Abrams, Ben Vida, Liz Payne and Jim Dorling—met up at Myopic Books in Wicker Park. Vida took time to talk about the band's progression from the '90s to the present and the instrumental music scene.

The Chronicle: You've all contributed to other groups, but has it always been just the four of you playing together since the beginning of Town and Country?

Vida: Yeah, we have. Josh Abrams is a jazz bassist around town and has played with all kinds of rock 'n' roll people as well. I've been doing something called Bird Show for a few years. [We've been] releasing stuff with different local labels, and that's part of actually being interested in all this different music from all over. Of course we need to find adventure outside of that as well. We took a couple years off between making 5 and this one, *Up Above*. I think the shit that we were getting into when we came back into the group, it had to come along for sure.

Was that time off intentional?

It just kind of happened that way. With indie labels you don't have any kind of grandeur responsibility to anyone,

which is awesome. Personally I was just very happy to not work within that group setting for awhile 'cause that's how it goes. We've been together for, I don't know, like eight or nine years now. So you have to take this little break—and maybe we'll take another one now. But it's cool that it's still the four of us; it's still the original idea of only acoustic instruments. But I think the music that we've made from the beginning of our time together up til this point has changed a lot.

How so?

I think that it's whatever we're intrigued by at the moment we bring to the discipline of the setting. It's still us, it still these kinds of instruments, but we might have gotten interested in this kind of thing or that kind of thing—so we just adopt it into our situation. That's super nice to be working within these limitations at a time when there's no limitations to the kind of music you might make at home except maybe skill, which of course is a great limitation.

In the *Up Above* song "King of Portugal," vocals are included, which is something new for you guys. Why the change?

I guess it just happened pretty naturally. We started this little side project called Dream Weapon where there were other people from the community playing with us and there was a lot of vocal droning going on, along with the violins and bass and all the other instruments. And I do a lot of singing in Bird Show, actually, 'cause it's more

Town and Country

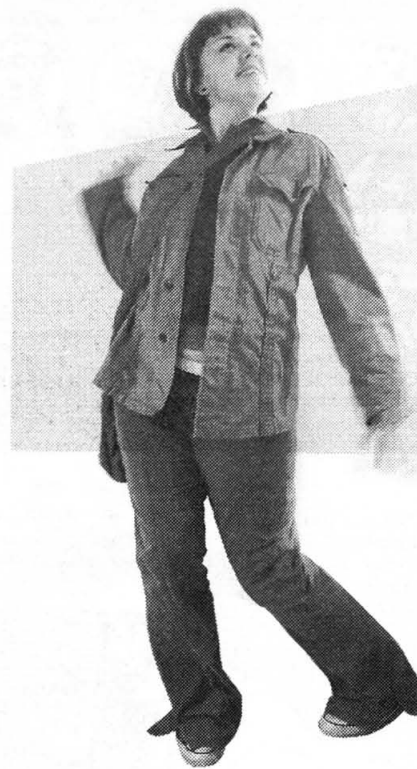


Courtesy Thrill Jockey

poppy. And so I think that was just in the air, and it fit so well. But in the group we all do a lot of chiming in and especially in our live shows now. And it makes a lot of sense 'cause it's four of us holding instruments, so we're only getting as much racket out of that as we can. So adding the voice, it's right there, it's so easy. It's not always easy to sing but it's easy to make a sound.

For more information and to hear Town and Country tracks, visit www.thrilljockey.com. — T. Breyne

to the nines
fashion@columbia



Jenna Boelens, a junior photography major, describes her fashion style as vintage. She said she doesn't shop often, but when she does, she likes to go to the Brown Elephant thrift store. The German army coat she's sporting is a hand-me-down. "I got this from my aunt, who dated a German guy," she said of the coat, which has small German flags on each sleeve. Some of Boelens clothes, she said, she's had since middle school.

Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

horoscopes

by Alicia Dorr



Aries (March 21 – April 20): You were elected president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Congrats!



Taurus (April 21 – May 21): You have \$57.23 in change hidden around your room. I just thought I'd let you know so you can set up some sort of Easter change hunt.



Gemini (May 22 – June 21): Your first record, which came out on March 26, will be a huge success. Just like the devil promised, cheater.



Cancer (June 22 – July 23): Your significant other will offend you greatly when she asks you if you're pregnant. And you know, despite the complete impossibility of it, you are.



Leo (July 24 – Aug. 23): You will achieve your lifelong ambition of becoming a barfly in your favorite pub. Now you just have to get used to having so many eyes and vomiting on everything.



Virgo (Aug. 24 – Sept. 23): You're a creepout.



Libra (Sept. 24 – Oct. 23): Do you remember the time you ate an ant? Well, that ant had babies and started a colony of inside-human ants that help with your digestion and homework. You are a modern marvel.



Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 22): You won't understand why people keep making fun of you for saying you're bilingual. I think that it's because Klingon isn't exactly a day-to-day, living language.



Sagittarius (Nov. 23 – Dec. 21): You'll be exceedingly boring this week. Try juggling for attention. People love juggling.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan. 20): Your hair smells like cinnamon. Your friends are scheming to cut it off and place it in their drawers.



Aquarius (Jan. 21 – Feb. 19): Did you know you were in the movie *Gigli*? Yeah! That's why people avoid you nowadays!



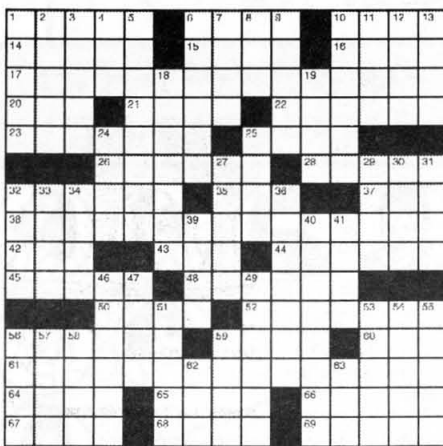
Pisces (Feb. 20 – Mar. 20): You had a "Kick Me" sign on your back, but I replaced it with a "Kiss Me" sign. No, no I didn't. That's a lie.

ACROSS

- 1 -Saxon
- 6 Brewery supply
- 10 City near Phoenix
- 14 Matthau's love in "Grumpier Old Men"
- 15 Eye part
- 16 Event for all comers
- 17 Pour it on
- 20 "Pinafore"
- 21 Bird crop
- 22 All-seeing one
- 23 Headache remedy
- 25 Persian word?
- 26 Annoy
- 28 Cut corners
- 32 James of "Boston Legal"
- 35 Musician's asset
- 37 Olds creation
- 38 Pour it on
- 42 Brynner of "Westworld"
- 43 In addition
- 44 Full of spirit
- 45 Sad piece
- 48 Overthrows
- 50 Chimed
- 52 Now hold on!
- 56 Esoteric
- 59 Shuttle grp.
- 60 Cover
- 61 Pour it on
- 64 School on the Thames
- 65 Eat fancily
- 66 Irregularly worn
- 67 Studio structures
- 68 Words from a pro?
- 69 Was deserving

DOWN

- 1 Omega's opposite
- 2 Averages
- 3 Comprehend
- 4 Kauai souvenir
- 5 In camera range
- 6 "Teenage ___ Ninja Turtles"
- 7 Declare openly
- 8 Consent to
- 9 Western resort lake
- 10 Schenectady's river
- 11 Larger-than-life
- 12 Move merchandise
- 13 Pony up
- 18 Neighbor of Djibouti
- 19 Aphrodite's child
- 24 Of India: pref.
- 25 Small-minded
- 27 West Yorkshire city
- 29 Spring bloom
- 30 Hook up
- 31 Floral arrangement
- 32 Eyelid woe
- 33 The Beatles bassist
- 34 Rod in a rod
- 36 Invigorate
- 39 Comfy
- 40 Habitual criminal
- 41 Dorothy or Lillian



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

3/20/06

Saturday's Puzzle Solved



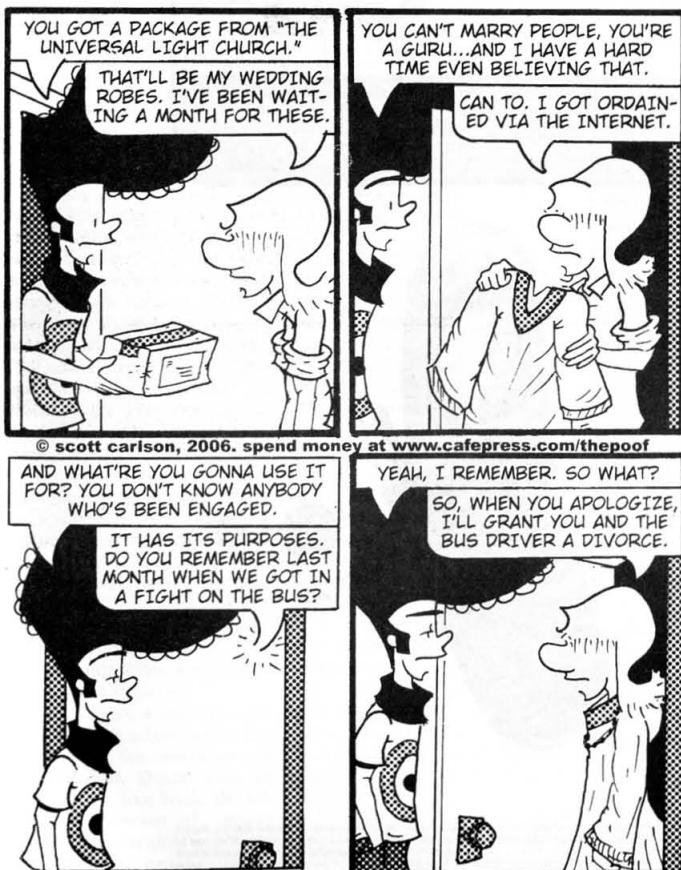
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3/20/06

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- 59 1492 caravel
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- 63 FDR's Blue Eagle

Out of My Head

by Scotty Carlson



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Students learn about real world of publishing

Columbia lab helps students publish pieces of writing

By Brian Sarna
Staff Writer

Four years ago Jotham Burrello, an instructor in the Fiction Writing Department, decided that students needed help getting published. So he took student reports on small printing presses from his publishing class and set up shop at the end of a hallway in the offices of the Fiction Writing Department.

As the adviser, Burrello is now the only faculty member involved with the Publishing Lab, which relies on student reports and is run by three students. The lab offers an array of services: Research reports are available for students to peruse and contests and submission calls from magazines are in the main hallway on a table; hands-on book review opportunities are available in the office; and there is a bulletin board visible as students walk to class.

Beth Dugan, a student worker in the lab, said these services all play a part in helping students get into print.

"We're trying to get students published because a writing department that doesn't get anybody published isn't much of a writing department," Dugan said.

Beyond that, Burrello said that students needed a connection to the publishing world outside of the Fiction Writing Department—and the Publishing Lab is that connection, giving students the information they need to explore publication options. Dugan said there is no end to available marketing reports because the class is required for all fiction majors, and they all have to do a report. That means every semester new reports are funneled into the office on the 12th floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave.

The reports include a fact sheet about the printing press and a review of one of the books it has published to illustrate what kind of work is desired—and that is a valuable resource, Dugan said.

"We had all this great information, all this great research," Dugan said. "We just didn't have a place to put it."

Gina DiPino, a graduate student, is taking advantage of the book review, the easiest way to get published, Dugan said. In addition to a free book, the lab supplies a packet of sample reviews, and a student employee works with the writer to revise the review and find a place for publication, he said.

The Reports help students learn about the market, which, DiPino said is huge. She is currently taking a class with Burrello and is required to look at the small press reports. She plans to submit work to the contests and submission callings on display in the hall.

"While the lab's purpose is to help students get published, only the writer knows their voice, so it is their responsibility to pursue publication," said Shawna Flavell, an employee in the lab.

The lab does not hunt down students or guarantee publication. A laminated, pink sign on the office door reads, "Publishing Lab: come in, get published (Results not typical, consult doctor before entering)."

"[The lab is] a good stepping stone for students to get published, but we're not going to guarantee that you're going to get published," Flavell said.

He does not want students to be discouraged by rejection letters because they are inevitable.

Flavell and Dugan suggest that students try to submit work as soon as they complete a full movement, which is a piece with a beginning, middle and story arc that comes to a comfortable ending, Flavell said. Dugan said

that many students do not look to publish until they are in more advanced classes, but that is not necessary.

"As soon as you have a full piece you can get it published somewhere," Dugan said.

"What's coming out of this department is so much better than everything out there. Just having a plan, knowing the market, you're going to get published. Just keep sending out and sending out—someone will pick it up."

Teddie Goldenberg, a fiction writing senior, said he used to be one of those students who was afraid to submit. Now he aims higher, trying to break into bigger magazines, armed with the knowledge that the field is more competitive than in smaller journals.

"I suggest going against what the Fiction Writing Department says and go up to down," Goldenberg said. "Try for Harpers."

He started by submitting four pieces to various publications in the last few months, and he said he has sometimes used the lab for research.

There are opportunities internally for publication as well. The lab produces a reader with short stories that are no more than 750 words. Flavell said it is a good way for students to get a publication credit.

The publishing lab is open Monday and Tuesday from noon to 6 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SRO: Full-time students forced to leave because of taxes

Continued from Front Page

low-income individuals. If they're trying to get them to live a better life, get an education and make something of themselves versus keeping them in the low-income bracket and holding them down. I pay my rent to the Chicago Christian Industrial League, and this whole situation isn't very Christian at all."

Part-time students are not being asked to leave the SRO, according to Hayes. Freddie Williams, a freshman in the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department, dropped a class to change his status from full time to part time. He said his parents live too far from Columbia and he has nowhere else to go.

"This is the roof over my head," he said. "I have to do what I have to do."

Building management said that it has no choice but to ask the students to leave because of tax reasons.

"One of the basic rules of a taxpayer-funded building is that we can't allow full-time students to sign leases in the building," said Tony Hayes, director of asset management for the Chicago Christian Industrial League.

"They were allowed [at first], and

it was a mistake. At the time we did not know we couldn't allow them to live in the building."

The order to ask students to leave came from the National Equity Fund, which is in partnership with the Chicago Christian Industrial League.

"If a student is full-time, then they are not eligible for subsidized housing," Hayes said. "Ultimately we would love for them to stay, but we are being forced to make sure we're 100 percent compliant by April."

The Chicago Christian Industrial League plans on compensating the students who leave voluntarily before the March 31 deadline. Management will return the initial payment of \$414, which would not have been given back otherwise.

Some students are considering challenging the SRO's demands. Hayes said at this point it is unclear what building management would do in such a scenario.

"We're hoping that all our students accept our [offer] and look for other housing," he said.

Chambers didn't agree that the offer was fair.

"You can't do anything with that," he said. "You can't realistically live somewhere on \$414."

Students are complaining that they should not be judged differently just because they are full time.

"This is supposed to be equal-opportunity housing," said Whitney Cullens, a sophomore graphic design major and SRO resident. "It's definitely not living up to its mission statement."

Cullens said that she thinks the

situation was handled poorly by management.

"I applied and went through a lot of paperwork to get in there," she said. "It was very time-consuming. For them to finally say that we can't be there ... I don't think it should matter that we are students."

Not all SRO facilities have these rules. The YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, which has the most SRO units in the city, does not have any restrictions on students of any status, according to spokeswoman Lee Concha. However, unlike the SRO, YMCA rates are not based on income and vary in price.

Some students at the SRO said they simply can't afford to live elsewhere. In order to afford his old apartment, a modest studio on the West Side, Chambers worked full time at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and part time at Columbia's Student Activities office. After moving in to the SRO, he was able to afford to quit his job at the Hyatt and work solely at Columbia. Having to leave the SRO will force him to pick up a second job again, leaving him less time for schoolwork.

"Now that I don't work two jobs I was able to do a lot of [schoolwork] on the weekends with films and videos," he said. "I got a chance to get a lot of film opportunities. I was able to work on a few music videos, commercials and short films. If I [have to] start a new job, then my schoolwork is going to be compromised and I won't be able to get much hands-on experience, if any, in the film industry."

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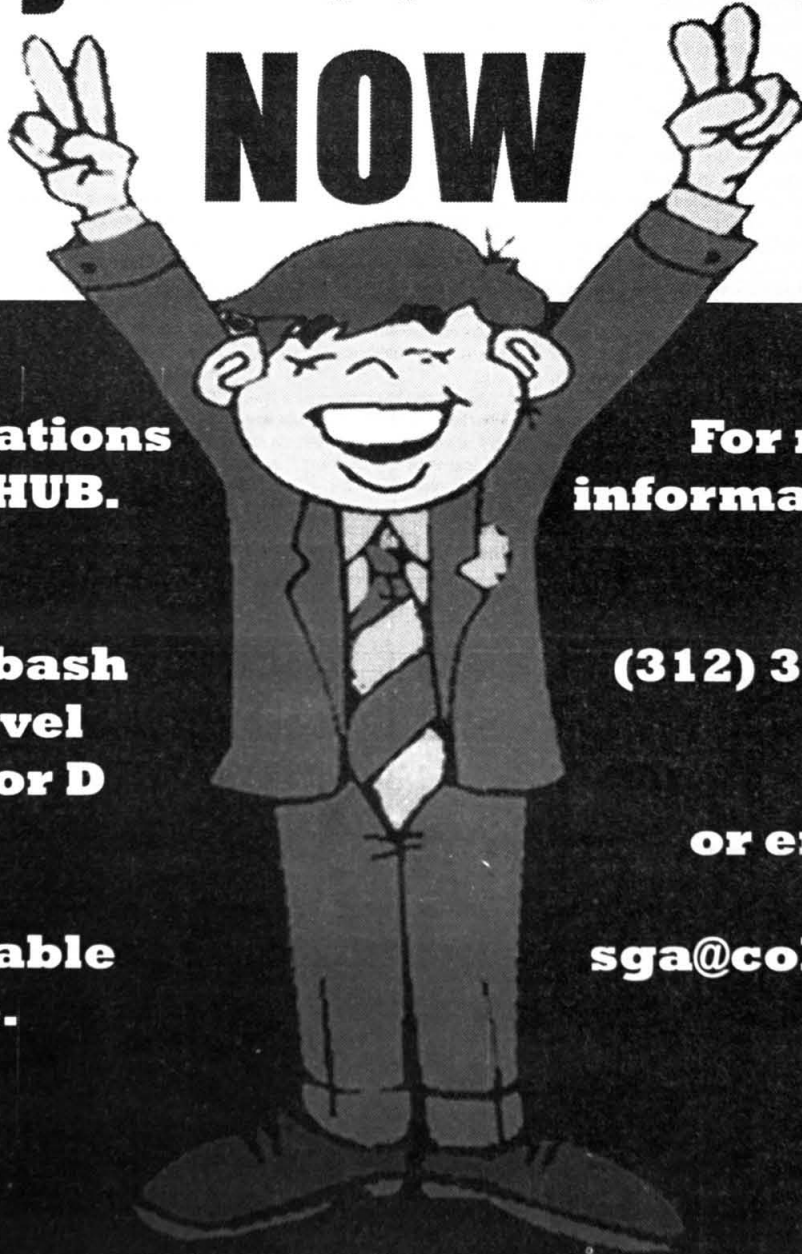





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An admirable way to 'break'

In years past, the city of New Orleans was a logical destination for college students during spring break. But in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the Gulf Coast region remains in the process of rebuilding.

That's why it was laudable of the 28 representatives of Columbia's Student Organization Council and three staff members who volunteered to leave early the morning after St. Patrick's Day from Chicago and spend six days assisting with relief efforts in Gulfport, Miss., during their week away from classes.

The Columbia students made the 14-hour drive down to a region still devastated from last August's hurricane. Mary Graham, a reporter for the Forest City Summit and the Britt News-Tribune, took part in a similar relief effort with 23 Waldorf College students at the beginning of the month. About her first glimpse of Gulfport, she wrote in her diary: "Buildings look like a pile of toothpicks, houses barely standing, a beach cluttered with debris and blue tarps serving as temporary roofs

fill the landscape."

"Unimaginable," she added. "And to think this is six months after the hurricane struck."

Columbia's role in the relief effort is part of the projects being organized by Community Collaborations International, which has been assisting conservation and educational organizations since 1994. The Hurricane relief effort is just one of the group's programs, which also involve projects to help rain-forest conservation and sea turtle rescues in Costa Rica.

While the relief effort in Gulfport over spring break is unlike anything Columbia has done before, the students who took part represent the very best of the college's student body. Everyone at the school should salute them at the Student Leadership Reception next month at the HotHouse.

Participants were warned that Columbia could not "guarantee the health and safety of participants or eliminate all risks." And during a week when the toughest battle for many students might have been just getting out of bed, the eight-hour work

days volunteers in Gulfport assisted in offer priceless rewards.

If nothing else, the timing of Vice President Dick Cheney's accidental shooting in February drowned out the release of the congressional inquiry into Katrina the same week—an essentially damning report that should have served as a reminder of the lackluster preparation and response to the problems caused in the Gulf Coast region. And those problems still exist today.

But volunteer efforts like the one undertaken by Columbia's student leaders and CCI do not go unnoticed. In fact, they are appreciated by the ones who need the most: the victims.

Perhaps our own admiration was best summed up by Edgar "Buster" Huse, a 56-year-old handicapped Vietnam War veteran in Pearlinton, Miss. In the Daily Nebraskan, he told a group of 10 University of Nebraska-Lincoln volunteers who arrived to help remove debris from his property last January, "We sure appreciate y'all... really, more than you know."

Keep your policies out of the 'Vagina'

Open minds around the nation have plenty to be angry about. Recently some universities banned the award-winning off-Broadway feminist production "The Vagina Monologues" from being performed on campuses, calling it inappropriate and distracting. Yet the actual benefits of the play are being ignored. Some banded together to form "Eve's Army," saying the play is empowering to women. Others say it reduces women to their genitals. But banning a controversial play is the issue.

Playwright Eve Ensler conducted 200 interviews with women of various ages and ethnicities and then turned them into "Monologues," featuring characters talking about female sexuality, rape and abuse. The show has become a worldwide phenomenon since opening, particularly on college campuses, raising awareness about violence against women.

But some campuses are banning the play, calling it inappropriate and offensive. Most recently, Marquette University has joined a dozen Catholic universities that have prevented students from putting on the production, calling it too distracting. While a show that features women chanting "cum" certainly raises a few eyebrows, that alone

shouldn't infringe on the primary function of a university—free expression of ideas.

In recent years, the controversy about "Monologues" has become multifaceted. Fans call the play a great stride in feminism while critics say the show is vehemently anti-male.

Yet "Monologues" has a valuable place in our society. Valentine's Day has been called "V-Day" by fans on stages across the nation. Ensler's "V-Day" campaign generates thousands of productions worldwide on Feb. 14, and the proceeds (over \$30 million to date) go toward anti-violence efforts.

At its core, the show is supposed to liberate women and get them comfortable in their own bodies. But in this day and age, it seems "Monologues" is seen as more of a feminist political statement rather than a brave voice against sexism and the horrible things some men do to women.

Political or not, the show should still be allowed to be produced across college campuses. College students are legal adults and they make the decisions of what is appropriate based on their tastes. It's ridiculous that 18-year-olds can be sent off to war, but are viewed by some administrations as not mature enough to view a particular play. While

legal adults expect many things from college—whether education or decadence—they certainly don't expect any type of censorship. Preventing free expression defeats the purpose of college.

The effort is led by a conservative Virginia group, the Cardinal Newman Society, which urges Catholic campuses nationwide to ban the performances, because according to Patrick Reilly, the group's president, they depict a woman's sexuality independent of marriage and men.

We should feel lucky that First Amendment rights are not an issue here at Columbia. With the exception of Wacky Warrick—which was critical of the administration and allegedly created on company time—freedom of expression is encouraged here.

Even though the Secret Service showed up at the opening of the "Axis of Evil: The Secret History of Sin" the administration defended the artist's right to expression. It was one example of Columbia's commitment to essential creative liberties.

If female college students want to talk about their vaginas because it liberates them, then let them. After all, college students can't feel like adults when ignorant groups continue to treat them as though they are children.

BACK FROM THE DRAWING BOARDS



Chris Gallevo/The Chronicle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



Department merger was a mistake

It was with absolute shock that I heard about the college's decision to merge the Science Institute and Science and Math Department. This is a huge mistake that the current administration has made. When the Science Institute was established in 1991 under the leadership of President Mirron Alexandroff, he knew what a powerful entity it would be for the school. For years Columbia has gained worldwide press and recognition, even from the White House, because of the Science Institute and Zafra Lerman.

In an e-mail addressed to the Columbia community on Feb. 3, Provost Steve Kapelke wrote, "Following a comprehensive study and evaluation" the recommendation would be made to merge the departments. I ask the provost: Were students asked to take place in this study? Did students participate in evaluating the two departments? Is the study public, and if not, why? Kapelke wrote, "The missions and operations of the two units in relation to undergraduate education are similar and overlap in significant areas, and the education and training of the faculty is fundamentally the same, at least in terms of undergraduate teaching

responsibilities." If this is the case for the Science Institute and Science and Math Department, what is next, consolidation and merger of the Television and Film Departments? Why not? They both teach aesthetics, editing, production, writing, producing, etc.

The Science Institute's classes focus on science and math but also on critical thinking that can be used in everyday life. As an alumna of the college I feel the classes I took at the Science Institute were some of the most valuable in my college experience. The educational experience is not the same in the two departments. The faculty may have many of the same credentials and experiences, but two totally different teaching techniques.

Were classes that were "overlapping" reviewed and observed by the administration? Did the provost and president personally observe? Were students in these classes asked about their experiences? Knowing the way things are done at Columbia, I doubt it.

I hope that the entire Columbia community looks at this situation and asks, is this really better for Columbia? Is this a politically driven attack on the Science Institute?

The administration's "Create Change" assault needs to stop attacking the vision of late Columbia President Alexandroff. Maybe it's time for President Warrick L. Carter and Columbia's board of trustees to "Create Change" in the current administration.

—Justin A. Kulovsek
Former Student Government
President, 2004

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 17 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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How dark will 'Shadows' be for baseball?

Bonds cheated

By Jim Jaworski
Assistant Campus News Editor

Few sports work as a metaphor for American society more than baseball.

American workers try to emulate baseball players by spending as much time as they can sitting around until the boss calls them off the bench. Baseball players, like Americans, come from every ethnic group, and one's competence and skill depends little on where one is from. A baseball team's success, due to the lack of a salary cap in Major League Baseball, tends to reflect how much money the team has: Sure, the poor teams can succeed every now and then, but the wealthy have an instant upper hand. If the money is wisely used, that usually translates into success, mirroring the class struggle in America.

In baseball, much like America, people cheat. And in baseball, much like America, people are all too willing to look the other way.

Barry Bonds had the baseball world by the throat. He was, and still is, the best baseball player alive. His effortless swing, matched with perfect timing and a keen eye, turned him into the player opposing pitchers fear most—he was once intentionally walked with the bases loaded.

But, unfortunately, he cheated. The extent to which is detailed in *Game of Shadows*, written by the San Francisco Chronicle reporters Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams. Excerpts were published in *Sports Illustrated* and reveal much of what many had suspected all along.

Bonds did not need steroids to be the best. He was the son of baseball great Bobby Bonds. His godfather, and personal hitting coach growing up, was one of the greatest players of all time, Willie Mays. He had all the advantages an athlete could ever ask for, and he used them effectively to build his legendary status.

But apparently that was not enough. Like a multi-millionaire who cheats on his taxes to save a few grand, Bonds' juiced up to help his own numbers. He wasn't happy being the best of his era. He wanted to be the best of all eras, and steroids helped him achieve that.

Some say that cheating in baseball is as common as the double play, and rightly so. Hall of Fame pitcher Gaylord Perry admittedly doctored the ball to gain an advantage over hitters. Sammy Sosa and Albert Belle were both caught using corked bats, and some have even accused Babe Ruth of using one. Many players in the '60s and '70s admitted to taking amphetamines, or "greenies."

Those actions made those players better, which, in turn, made baseball games more intense and interesting. But that does not make their actions acceptable. It is dan-

gerous to ignore integrity and honor, not just in baseball, but in life.

When Jason Giambi was busted by a grand jury investigation into Bay Area Laboratory Co-operative, he handled the situation with honor. While he was intentionally vague and never directly mentioned steroids, he made it perfectly clear that he cheated, apologized and intended to come back and play clean.

The Yankee first baseman was lampooned by fans and the media alike. He was booed wherever he went, even in Yankee Stadium. People didn't care that he was trying to repent, to make things right. I never heard a single person outside the Yankees organization attempt to defend him.

When Bonds was busted by the same grand jury investigation, he handled the situation like the scoundrel he is. Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, was a huge player in the world of modern steroids, but Bonds claimed he didn't know. Bonds said he didn't know the steroids he received from Anderson were actually steroids. He thought the product was flaxseed oil—a lie so ridiculous I'm surprised Bonds himself didn't burst out laughing after he said it. His lies are engulfing him almost as quickly as his swollen neck is devouring his head... well, almost.

Yet, somehow, people defend him. They say he never failed a drug test, even though the drugs he took were designed to be undetectable. They say he would be great even without steroids. They say he is a victim of a media witch-hunt. They say that steroids do not help hand-eye coordination or make smoother swing. Basically, not enough people really care that he cheated.

The problem with Bonds goes beyond steroids. The problem is not that he deprives other clean baseball players of a level playing field, or that he makes liars out of his teammates and coaches who have no choice but to defend him, or that he robs fans of the integrity of the game. The problem is not even that kids will see him and start taking steroids to get a better shot at the big leagues, although that is a major concern.

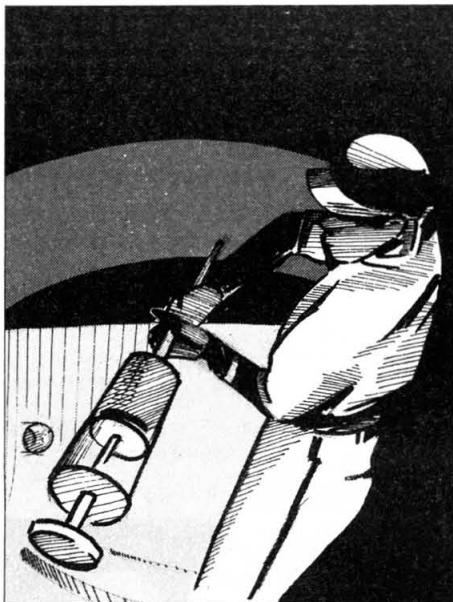
The problem is what will happen when Bonds steps into the batter's box the first time this season. When thousands of everyday citizens in AT&T Park who work hard and play by the rules all rise to their feet and give a known cheater a rousing standing ovation.

When that happens, we've all been a little cheated.

Cheating is part of the game

By Mauricio Rubio
Assistant Photo Editor

The thing that Americans have to realize about our beloved national pastime is that it is—and always has been—filled with cheaters. The steroid allegations against arguably the second best player in the history of baseball—detailed in the recently published *Game of Shadows: Barry Bonds, BALCO, and the Steroids Scandal that Rocked Professional Sports*—have led to the moral police of baseball wanting his records to be banished and forgotten forever. While it may not shock anyone that Barry Bonds used steroids, since his home run totals rose along with his hat size, people are making a bigger deal about it than they should.



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

For those who want to crucify Bonds for cheating, I have news for you: He didn't cheat baseball at all. Baseball did not outlaw steroids until the 2004 season. So anything that Barry Bonds did that was steroid-related up until that point was perfectly fine under baseball law.

Baseball fans think that Bonds is ruining the history of the game. The history of baseball, however, is littered with instances of corked bats, doctored baseballs and, yes, performance-enhancing drugs. Baseball fans seem to think of drugs in particular as immoral, and that Bonds is making a mockery of the game. They want all of his records to either be banished or to be asterisked.

Before the moral police of baseball march to Cooperstown with their torches and pitchforks, consider this: During the June 3, 2003, game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Sammy Sosa, the former darling slugger of the Chicago Cubs, was ejected from the game for using

a corked bat. Why is the corked bat illegal now? Back in 1923, another slugger was caught to be using a "trick" bat during an August game. That player was none other than Babe Ruth.

Ruth cheated, and he cheated a lot. He entered baseball as a pitcher who would scuff the balls to give them extra movement. Ruth allegedly used trick bats before and after his 1923 incident. Ruth was notorious for stretching the rules and breaking them, and Ruth is also considered to be the best player in the history of baseball. But how good can he be if he used corked bats? Corked bats gave Ruth an unfair advantage, and surprisingly, no one has asked for Ruth's accomplishments to be stricken from the record.

The Babe is not alone in cheating the game and ruining its "ethical fabric." Recent history gives us guys like Albert Belle, who was caught using a corked bat during a game. The cover-up effort ran so deep that pitcher Jason Grimsley had to sneak into the umpire's office by crawling through an air ventilation shaft to replace Belle's bat with a legal one. Why not strike Belle's accomplishments from the record book? Why not go further and scrap Grimsley's 51 career wins from the books as well?

If you want a performance that truly ruined the ethical values that baseball had, look at Doc Ellis 1970 no-hitter. Ellis started the game six hours into an LSD trip, but there is no outcry to remove that game from the record books. Isn't LSD an illegal drug? How do we know that Ellis didn't use the drug in other games to help "enhance his baseball experience"? So many players took drugs in the 1970s, perhaps the entire decade of baseball should be stricken from the record books.

What about Don Sutton and the 1978 incident that surely corrupted the youth of America. He was ejected from a game for suspicion of using sandpaper to doctor the ball. He was a teammate to another cheater, Gaylord Perry, who used Vaseline on the baseball to make it

do the surreal, and both are in the Hall of Fame. Perhaps the most famous cheaters of all, the 1951 New York Giants had an elaborate sign stealing system. Did it help them win the 1951 pennant? Do we need to take away their World Series title and give it to the Dodgers?

It's not that I don't care about records and history—I do. I just don't care that Bonds took drugs to make him better. Steroids aren't like Popeye's spinach; you can't just take them and instantly become stronger. You still need to lift weights and work out.

So Bonds took steroids. Big deal. Embrace him for what he really is: The best player that we will ever see in our lifetime.

People are making a bigger deal about [Bonds' steroid use] than they should.

Roamin' Numerals

8,784

Number of digits of the non-repeating, non-terminating decimal Pi recited by Gaurav Rajav on March 14. The 15-year-old junior at Salem High School in Virginia hoped to recite 10,790 digits and set a new North American record. He will try again in May.

\$974

Estimated tip 19-year-old waitress Amanda Newkirk received in Roanoke, Va., when a customer left \$1,000 to cover a \$26 check. Newkirk is due to give birth in May.

325,000

Maximum number of pups the Canadian government will allow seal hunters to kill when the annual season opens up in April. The quota is up from the 320,000 allowed last season.

Choice Cuts

“As long as the penis is placed on ice and reattached within a few hours, the success is usually pretty good.”

Dr. Greg Bales, associate professor of urology at University of Chicago, commenting to the Chicago Sun-Times on the uncommon surgery for a severed penis. Bales was speaking in regard to the case of 33-year-old Jakub Fik, who cut off his own penis and threw it at police during an outburst on the Northwest Side on March 15. Fik was having problems with his girlfriend.

”

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March 5th

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March 19

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CELEBRATING MICHAEL'S
BIRTHDAY

April 9

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RELEASE PARTY FOR
"JUST GOT PAID"

April 23

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THE SUMMER WITH
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623 S WABASH AVENUE, HOURS: 9 AM - 7 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY AND 9 AM - 5 PM ON FRIDAY

THE CONTEMPORARY CONDITION, March 6- April 21

Reception: March 24, 6-8 pm

The Contemporary Condition: Photographs of Our Time is an exhibit of undergraduate and graduate student photography which explores the state of today's society.

"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



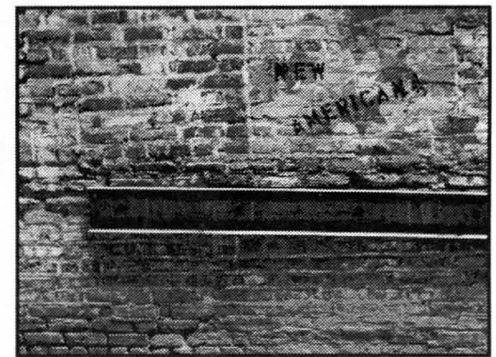
HOKIN ANNEX

623 S WABASH AVENUE, HOURS: 9 AM - 7 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY AND 9 AM - 5 PM ON FRIDAY

NEW AMERICANA, March 13 - April 21

Reception: March 16, 5-7pm

This open-call student exhibition explores and examines the New Americana. Many of today's ideals, ethics and climates can easily be identified as American. Definition can be drawn from consumerism, direct marketing techniques and fast foods to family values, sexuality, entertainment and environmental landscape.



C33 GALLERY, 33 E Congress Avenue,

HOURS: 9 AM - 7 PM MONDAY - THURSDAY AND 9 AM - 5 PM ON FRIDAY

Shojo Manga! Girl Power! Power of Girl Comics

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.



GLASS CURTAIN GALLERY

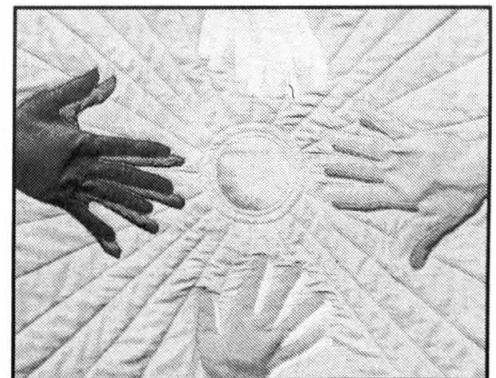
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PEACE IT TOGETHER—MIDDLE EAST PEACE QUILT EXHIBITION

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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THE STUDENT CENTERS AND GALLERIES OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

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MANIFEST

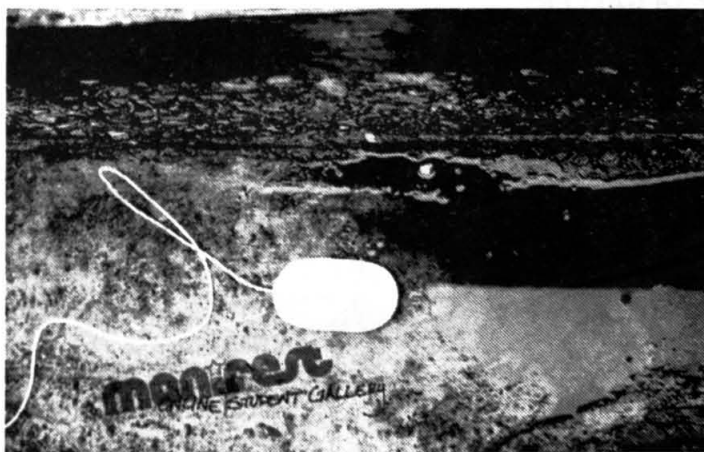
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COLLEGE CHICAGO



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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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April 14, 2006



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MANIFEST

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

Immigrants: Groups argue rights versus security

Continued from Back Page

calls to their legislators," Pulido said. "The days of sitting around and doing nothing are over."

The Minuteman Project, a controversial group out of Arizona, devotes itself to reporting illegal migrants to the police. Some groups argue that the Minuteman Project is nothing more than a vigilante group that attracts white-supremacists, but the group denied that it is a racist or vigilante organization. The Minutemen are mostly working-class citizens who feel that the United States' borders and their jobs are threatened by illegal aliens.

Pulido, who referred to the rally as "pro-illegal alien," said that people who help illegal migrants are aiding and abetting felons. She also said that politicians should not have attended the rally because they took an oath of office and being present at the rally with people demanding rights for illegal migrants was a violation of the Constitution. She also said that the Sensenbrenner bill is part of a larger fight.

"I believe that they're going to pass H.R. 4437," Pulido said. "And some politician is going to introduce legislation that will try to overthrow it."

Pulido said that people who are tired of illegal entries are going to fight to make sure the bill, or something similar, remains in place.

For Isabel Garcia, a community

organizer for the Pilsen Alliance, a grassroots organization that aims to help immigrants, the rally against H.R. 4437 and support for other migrant issues is part of a larger picture. She also said the unity of the rally reminded her of the Million Man March.

"I had this feeling in the march that we were doing something similar," Garcia said.

Garcia, who said the Pilsen Alliance did not help organize the Feb. 10 rally but showed support, said she was pleasantly surprised by the turnout. She also said that

this movement is not going away anytime soon.

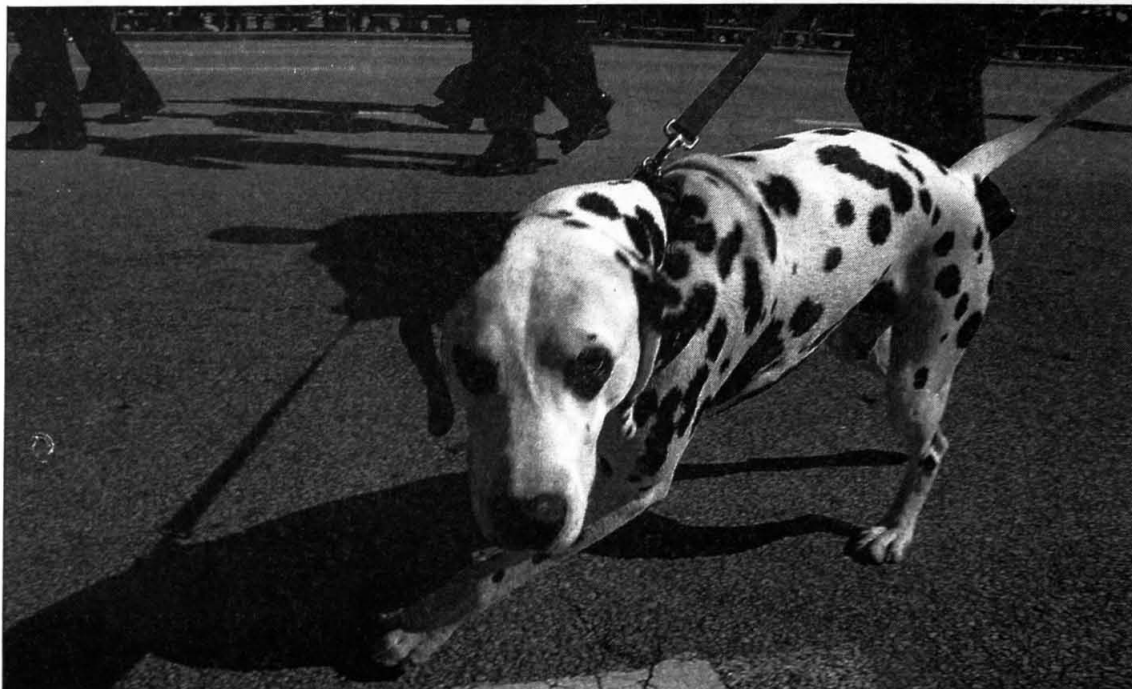
"It has the potential for becoming something more," Garcia said. "If we start forming alliances with other immigration groups, we can keep this from fizzling out."

Still, like Pulido, Avila believed

that various immigration issues will be molded by the ballot.

"We showed our power [on March 10] with the rally," Avila said. "Now we're going to show our political power by asking permanent residents to register to vote and vote in elections."

Alternate St. Patrick's Day route



Eric Mash/The Chronicle

A New York City Fire Department mascot trails off the parade route to explore people on the sideline observing Chicago's annual St. Patrick's Day parade. The parade took place along Columbus Drive, between Balbo Avenue and Monroe Street, in the Loop on March 11.

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Cartoons no laughing matter

Editor fired after controversial images printed on campus

AP

The editor who chose to publish six of the cartoons that caused violence in the Islamic world was fired from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's student-run newspaper on March 14.

Acton H. Gorton and his opinions page editor, Chuck Prochaska, were suspended with pay from The Daily Illini days after the Feb. 9 publication of the cartoons, which first appeared in the Danish Jyllands-Posten.

At the time, Daily Illini publishers said the action was taken against Gorton not for publishing the cartoons, but for failing to discuss it with others in the newsroom first.

The Illini Media Co. board of directors, which is composed of students and faculty, voted unanimously to fire the editor after a review "found that Gorton violated Daily Illini policies about thoughtful discussion of and preparation for the publication of inflammatory material," according to a statement.

Gorton later called his firing a blow against free speech on col-

lege campuses.

"If I can be fired, what will other students think who maybe want to challenge the status quo?" Gorton asked. "This is a bad precedent."

Gorton said he intends to file a lawsuit against the publishers of The Daily Illini, citing, among other complaints, unlawful dismissal. But Illini Media board member Adam Jung said he is confident the company "has acted properly on this issue."

"If I can be fired, what will other students think who maybe want to challenge the status quo?"

—Acton H. Gorton, former editor of the Daily Illini

In its statement, the board said it regretted having to fire Gorton less than three months into his one-year term.

"The board believes this conclusion is in the best interests of The Daily Illini newsroom and will allow the student journalists to carry on with the newspaper's 135-year-old tradition of a vibrant, independent student press," the statement read.

Interim editors in chief, Shira Weissman and Jason Koch offered to reinstate Prochaska,

but he declined.

"I appreciated them clearing my name and offering to take me back, but relationships have been strained, so I respectfully declined," Prochaska said. "I felt it was in my best interest to move on."

The publication of the cartoons sparked protests from Muslim students at U of I. The editors' suspension from the independent publication also raised a fresh discussion of ethics and free speech in college newsrooms.

Jung insisted that the dispute never was over the cartoons' publication, but over decision-making procedures.

"The investigation focused entirely on allegations of abuse of process," Jung said. "It was in no way a response to the content of the piece, nor was it an instance of suppressing the right [of free speech] afforded by the First Amendment."

He said any new editor would have an opportunity to publish the same cartoons.

"That would depend on following the proper channels," he said. "But if the editor follows the proper channels, then that would be OK."

Gorton has said he sought out advice from The Daily Illini's former editor-in-chief and oth-



AP

Acton H. Gorton was fired from The Daily Illini after the paper published editorial cartoons about prophet Muhammad in a February issue. The cartoons had previously been published in a Danish newspaper which prompted violence in the Islamic world. The paper's board of directors was disappointed with the decision because Gorton didn't consult co-workers before running the cartoon.

ers before deciding to run the cartoons.

Prochaska said that he and Gorton moved quickly to publish the cartoons because they were newsworthy.

"We had a news story on our

hands, with violence erupting about imagery, but you can't show it because of a taboo, because of a taboo that's not a western taboo but a Muslim taboo?" Prochaska asked. "That's a blow to journalism."

Geese: Shrubbery, border collies possible solutions

Continued from Back Page

situation geese do very little economic damage," Brown said. "But there are places and situations where you can actually have geese being part of or associated with closing beaches and areas because of high bacterial contamination. It's all about their droppings."

The species of Canadian geese leaving behind too much "fertilizer" is protected under federal law from being physically harmed, making it difficult to come up with easy solutions to the problem, Brown said.

Some solutions, like putting non-toxic chemicals on the grass, would not be as practical as others, like using architectural alterations that would make the park a less appealing habitat for geese, he said.

Brown also suggested eliminating the geese by using professional companies that harass the birds in an effort to keep them moving.

Susan Hagberg, president of Another Wild Goose Chase, a company that specializes in migratory bird management, said her company has worked with the Chicago Park District at McKinley and Marquette parks on the South Side to control goose problems.

"What people have to understand is that these are living, breathing, moving and adaptable creatures," Hagberg said. "If you don't use scientific principles to manage the problem, all you're going to do is maintain it."

The company uses border collies to harass the geese without harming them, making them

feel that their environment is unsafe. Another method Another Wild Goose Chase uses is egg depredation, a federally permitted practice in which goose eggs are modified so that they will not hatch correctly.

Hagberg said Another Wild Goose Chase has been evaluated by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and works closely with the Humane Society to ensure the population control methods fit with the policies of those organizations.

O'Neill said the Grant Park Conservancy and Chicago Park District have not yet decided exactly what technique they will use to address the problem,

but the use of such companies is being contemplated. He also said the conservancy could incorporate artwork from local schools to create an obstruction for the geese, making Grant Park a less desirable habitat.

"It would be an interesting way to bring Columbia into the solution, to do some kind of artistic summer displays of streamers [from light posts]," O'Neill said. "We're going to explore all these things until we come up with a solution. It's going to take a little bit of work because in those particular areas that are affected, there are sightlines that can't be blocked."

Teens' trip turns physical

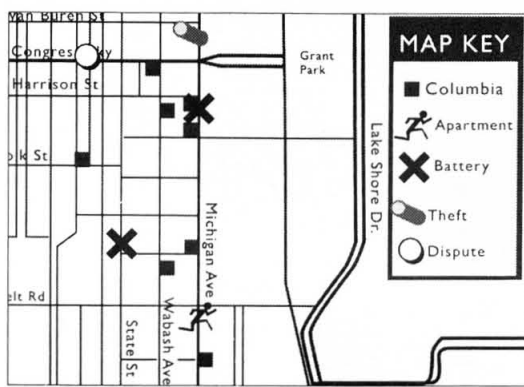
On a March 9 field trip to the Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 618 S. Michigan Ave., a 16-year-old boy struck a 16-year-old girl in the back of her head twice with an unknown object. The girl refused medical attention, but her mother demanded that police arrest the boy. He was taken into custody and charged with simple battery.

Missing pocketbook

On Feb. 8, a 50-year-old woman left her leather purse underneath her chair in her office at Roosevelt University, 430 S. Michigan Ave. When the woman returned from work, she discovered her purse was missing. Among the missing items were \$6 cash, a credit card, a cell phone, a Social Security card and keys.

Police photograph man after assault

On Feb. 10, police responded to a domestic disturbance at an apartment complex at 1021 S. State St. A 28-year-old man said that a 30-year-old woman struck him in the face and body and also scratched his neck. The woman was arrested and charged with domestic battery. The man had photographs taken of his neck.



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

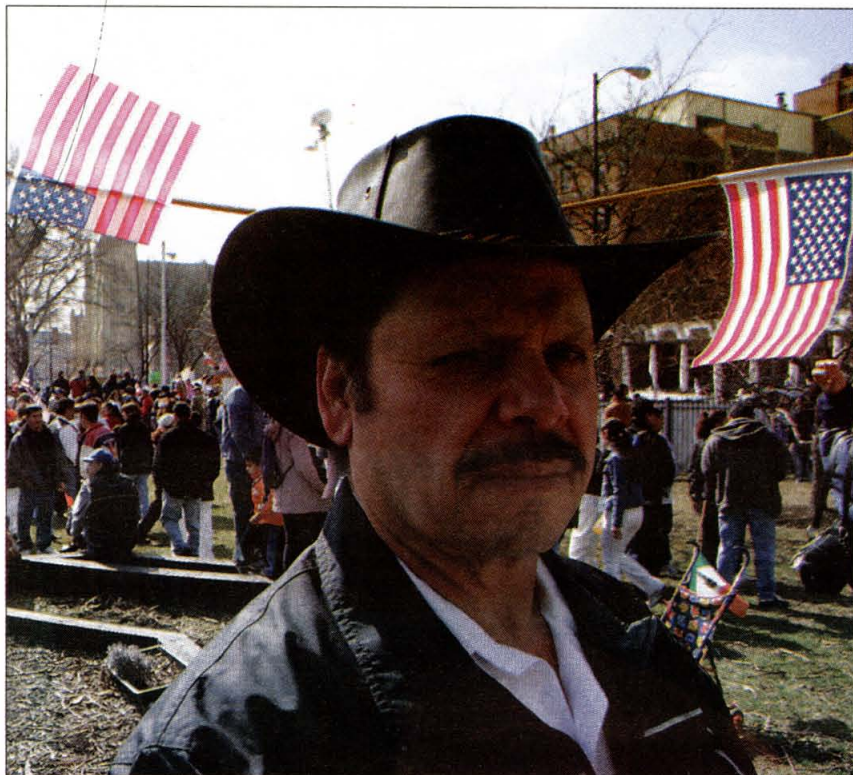
Don't mess with me

Police responded to a request on March 9 to document a damaged apartment at 1212 S. Michigan Ave., which was previously rented by a 23-year-old man. The apartment had holes in the walls and doors, and the walls, carpets and ceilings were sprayed with barbecue sauce. The toilet was splattered with feces. The floor was riddled with empty Ice House beer cans, along with a 30-pack box. The property owner didn't have a monetary damage assessment for the police, and the offender wasn't found.

Man gets poked, calls police

Police responded to the Hotel Blake, 500 S. Dearborn St., on March 7 about a dispute between a 41-year-old man and a 52-year-old woman. The man and woman were arguing when the woman pointed her finger at the man and touched his chest. The man wanted police to document the incident but not arrest the woman. The man did not have any marks or bruises on his chest and refused medical attention.

Compiled by Chronicle staff through information provided by the Chicago Police Department.



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Alejandro Martinez wears two American flags during the march against proposition H.R. 4437 on March 10, a bill that would stiffen immigration laws in the United States. Another immigration reform proposal, the McCain-Kennedy bill, seeks to create a temporary guest worker program.

Setting the reform stage

Opponents, supporters agree immigration issues pressing forward

By Eric Kasang
Assistant City Beat Editor

The March 10 immigration rally caught many people, including organizers, protesters and the media, off guard when thousands of marchers congregated on Federal Plaza, 230 S. Dearborn St., to raise awareness of immigration rights. The march, which started in Chicago's West Loop, at Ashland Avenue and Lake Street in Union Park, shut down streets and businesses.

And after the crowd drew as many as 100,000 protesters and dissipated in several hours, both marchers and critics agree that immigration issues, particularly illegal entry, security, and migrants' rights, are not disappearing from the national debate anytime soon.

Karla Avila, the director of the New Americans Initiative, a state-funded project of the Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Rights that helps immigrants gain permanent residency, said the rally's central protest was aimed at the U.S. House of Representatives.

"The H.R. 4437 [bill] was the main issue that the communities recognized," Avila said. "Not just the Latino community but other immigrant communities, too."

H.R. 4437, an amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act, is supposed to increase security along the United States border.

Sponsored by U.S. Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr. (R-Wis.), the bill seeks to make it a felony to enter the United States illegally, as well as help an undocumented person.

This bill conflicts with a bill by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) that aims to create a temporary guest-worker program, which will allow many undocumented workers to register with the government for a temporary job status. The McCain-Kennedy bill acknowledges security issues, but aims to get undocumented workers who are already in the country into the guest worker program. Opponents of the McCain-Kennedy bill said that it is nothing more than amnesty for illegal aliens.

Avila said her group preferred the McCain-Kennedy bill.

"We are supporting the McCain-Kennedy bill, which supports immigrants who have worked and paid taxes," Avila said.

Avila said that some immigrant rights groups may plan a boycott of Miller Brewing Co. because it contributed funds to Sensenbrenner's campaign. Miller gave \$500 to Sensenbrenner in 2003 and \$2,000 in 2004, according to the Federal Election Committee.

However, Pete Marino, a spokesman for Miller, said there will no longer be a boycott in Chicago. He said representatives from the company met with rally organizers on March 15 and explained their position on Sensenbrenner's bill.

"We are coming out against the legislation H.R. 4437,"

Marino said.

According to the New Americans Initiative, 20 percent of Illinois' residents are either foreign-born or children of immigrants. It cited Illinois as having the fifth-largest immigrant population.

The Migration Policy Institute, a nonprofit think tank, released a 2006 study stating that large-scale temporary worker programs already exist in the United States. According to the study, the United States received 1.5 million granted applications for temporary workers and their dependents in 2004. However, the United States only admitted 155,330 immigrants under the permanent employment-based grouping.

Of course, these numbers do not reflect the number of unauthorized entries into the United States. Within the past 20 years, the number of illegal migrants entering the country has risen from 4 million to about 11 million, according to the Migration Policy Institute. And this is regardless of the 221 percent increase in border patrol programs.

However, since many of these entries are illegal, the division between helping immigrants versus national security is becoming even more contentious. And some are supporting Sensenbrenner's bill. Rosanna Pulido, the state director of the Minuteman Project, said the Feb. 10 rally and border crossing issue is going to stir up the American public.

"Americans will have to fight at the ballot box and with telephone

See **Immigrants** Page 22

The scoop on the poop

Grant Park officials looking to control goose droppings

By James Ewert
Assistant City Beat Editor

First it was too many bunnies eating too much vegetation in Grant Park. Now, the problem is geese—and what they leave behind.

Bob O'Neill, president of the Grant Park Conservancy, said he has fielded numerous complaints from park-goers about goose droppings covering large areas of park land, especially in Butler Field, the 100 S. Lake Shore Dr.

The Grant Park Conservancy held a meeting March 13 at Daley Bicentennial Plaza, 337 E. Randolph St., to discuss and address the problem.

"We're not over-reacting. The lawn is literally filled with goose droppings," O'Neill said. "It's like walking on land mines—or slipping I guess."

The meeting featured a presentation from University of Illinois at Chicago biology professor and ecologist Joel Brown. The Grant Park Conservancy asked Brown to

help with the rabbit issue last year and has now enlisted his help for the goose problem. The presentation outlined the problem, why it was happening and what can be done to stop it.

Brown said during the sixties it would have been a rarity to see Canada geese in Grant Park, but because they have been federally protected due to the threat of extinction, there has been a population explosion. He also said that humans feeding geese has exasperated the problem.

"By the early '60s the subspecies of goose we are talking about was nearly extinct," Brown said. "We have become victims of our own success. This is the kind of problem you like to see as an ecologist."

Brown said difficulties the geese cause can range from simply being a nuisance to attacks, and even possibly having an effect on beach closings caused by fecal matter contaminating Lake Michigan. Brown also said that as of right now, there is no link to migratory birds spreading the infamous bird flu, but if that was the case, it could cause a much more serious problem.

"As a general rule, in a park

See **Geese** Page 23



Erin Mash/The Chronicle

Grant Park officials are trying to find ways to control excessive amounts of goose droppings around the area this spring after receiving numerous complaints.