

9-11-2006

Columbia Chronicle (09/11/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

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Student goes to the board

New representative to sit on board of trustees

By Jim Jaworski
Assistant Campus News Editor

Starting this semester, a representative of the student body will have a seat at the highest echelon of Columbia power.

Annie Kelly, a senior journalism major, was selected to be the student representative on the board of trustees, the first such position in 30 years. The board, which oversees all major decisions at Columbia, selected Kelly in April from a list of three students, with the intention of having a representative for the student body.

"Decisions are being made on a daily basis that are affecting students," Kelly said, adding that her viewpoint as a student is essential to the decisions the board will make.

The decision to allow a student on the board came last spring, after much petitioning from the Student Government Association. The SGA finally got what it asked for, but in a somewhat limited capacity.

While Kelly will not have any voting power, she will sit on some board committees, such as

the Student Affairs Committee and the Campus Environment Committee and can attend any meeting she desires.

"I'm there to voice my opinion on what decisions should be made for the good of the school," she said.

This school year will be a trial period, with the board deciding at the end of the year whether to permanently keep the position.

"This was a way to appease both sides," Kelly said. "If it goes well, we'll hopefully have future students sitting on the board. Otherwise, this might be the only year."

Kelly will work together with the SGA to plan ideas to present to the board. She said she needs to simultaneously represent the students while keeping in mind Columbia's long term goals.

"I need to be making decisions as a trustee member that are good for the school and not just for the students," she said. "I am a student and I have a student's point of view, but I represent the entire school."

Kelly attended a preliminary meeting, held after she was chosen for the position, to get acquainted with the major players on the board. Kelly will attend her first actual board

See Trustees, Page 5

Big 'shots' take stage at Jam



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Junior Evan Legler, a music business major and frontman for The Bullet That Breathed performs at Columbia's 'Jam of the Year.' The event was held in the Conway Center of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., on Sept. 6.

Team hits home run with popularity

Fundraising to supplement budget

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

The times they are a changin', and so are Columbia students' views on sports. An explosion of sports interest has erupted on

campus, so much so that the Renegades will offer not only one baseball team this fall, but at least two. However, as sports teams are quickly being created, finding funding has likewise become an imminent concern.

The Student Athletic Association, also called the Renegades, is concerned that the budgeted \$10,000 for team

sports will not be enough. That means teams like baseball will have to turn to fundraising and other income sources.

Since the baseball teams are club sports that fall under the newly created Student Athletic Association, there will not be a limit as to how many people can join.

Interest is up overall, as was

proven during baseball team try-outs and sign-up days this past weekend. More than 40 people tried out for the baseball team last year. The Renegades expected just as much interest this year. The team also welcomed about 20 returning members.

To meet the demand for the sport, at least two teams will be created. The two leagues differ in enough ways to appeal to the most casual of players and to those who plan to devote more time to the sport.

The original baseball team, which has been around for six years, will leave the Wisconsin Illinois Baseball Club and join the National Club Baseball Association. The NCBA promises more games and members will travel to neighboring states for games.

The new team will remain in the current league, the WIBC. This would be a more "leisurely" team, said Matt Holihan, vice president of the Renegades.

Both teams can propose a desired budget to the Student Athletic Association, Schroeder said, but the Association will decide the exact amount each team will be allocated and which teams may need extra funds.

Last year the baseball team's overall budget hovered around

Students fly solo with off-campus housing

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant Campus News Editor

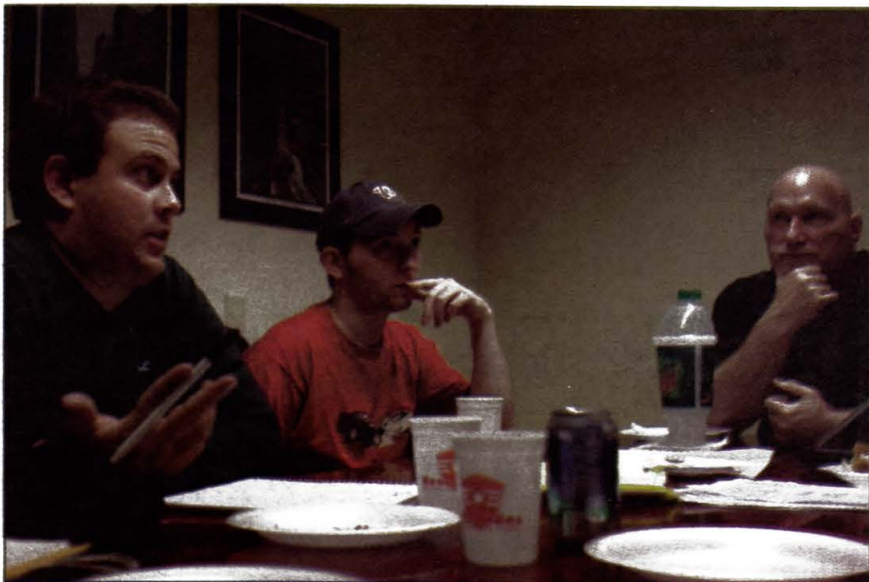
With Columbia centered at the heart of the South Loop community, and just on the outskirts of Downtown, the cost of living isn't exactly fit for a college student's budget.

The cost of living in Columbia's dorms for an academic year ranges from \$7,000 to close to \$12,000, according to statistics provided by Columbia's Residence Life website.

Although this could be seen as a bargain compared to other rates for local downtown apartments, students are limited in their options if living on or near campus isn't fit for their pocket-books.

Even if dorm-style living were more affordable, there is a waiting list for current students to get into a Columbia dorm, according to Lawrence Williams, coordinator of Residence Life programming.

Despite the high cost of living and dorm space not available to all students, Columbia does not offer assistance in finding off-campus housing.



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Matt Holihan, Jim Snemis and Mark Bricevich of the Columbia Renegades discuss plans for the semester at a team meeting on Sept. 6.

See Renegades, Page 5

See Housing, Page 8



I go to Columbia, and I can spell

By Hayley Graham, Editor-in-Chief

A few weeks ago, I was riding the Red Line with some friends when we experienced the first sign of fall—ignorant freshmen.

Some people say bad things come in threes, and on that particular Friday night, they couldn't have been more right. Not only was the train car sweltering and reeking of sweaty armpits, but to top it off, I was squished next to three females who gave Columbia a bad name.

To recount the 20 minutes I spent beside them pains me, but someone needs to stand up for Columbia students. Now don't get me wrong, I definitely do not think that all freshmen or new Columbia students are as ridiculously misinformed as these three particular girls, but I've come across my fair share.

After shrieking about their plans to get drunk, completely oblivious to the icy stares of other annoyed passengers, the girls began to obnoxiously flirt with the middle-age Cubs fans sitting across from them.

Unfortunately, I was caught in the center of the charade, while the girls twirled their hair and pretended—or at least I hope so—to be stupid and the guys pretended to be interested. At this point I was just annoyed and slightly amused.

However, my ears began to bleed when one of the three said something that I've heard far too often. If I recall correctly, it went something like this: "I can't spell; I go to Columbia. It's an art school."

My friends, who also go to Columbia, and I looked at each other, disgusted, while these three vapid freshman girls con-

tinued on to say that it wasn't necessary to be smart to go to Columbia. Embarrassed by the fact that these people were insulting my intelligence and the school I have grown to love, I bit my lip to avoid unleashing my rage. And believe me, it was really difficult, considering the appalled looks on the faces of the other passengers. I could practically see the respect that the commuters had for Columbia students quickly wasting away with every ridiculous word that came spewing out of the freshmen's mouths.

Earlier when the guys asked them where they go to school the most unbearable of the group responded with "Columbia University—downtown," which inevitably led to a battle of wits with the other two. "Wait ... I totally thought it was Columbia College."

Maybe I should have said something instead of letting the girls tarnish the Columbia name, but I bet an embarrassing argument would have followed.

Sadly, this is not the first time I have heard someone make this statement.

When I was a freshman, another student in my Science of Nutrition class fought with the teacher about a challenging test he gave us, making the argument that "this is an art school and we don't need to know science." Seriously, do people really believe that or are they just too lazy to learn?

The notion that an artist does not need to be smart or well educated in subjects like math and science is absurd. The more knowledge an artist has, the bet-

ter communicator she will be. Clearly artists cannot make a statement about an issue without doing research first, just like a journalist can't write a story without reporting. An audio acoustics major can't record a song without understanding the physics of sound and an illustrator can't accurately draw the human body without understanding the anatomy of it. And obviously a fiction writer or a poet needs to know how to spell; spell check only goes so far.

So what I don't understand is why anyone, especially a fellow student, believes that Columbia students aren't intelligent. Hopefully those people will visit some of the galleries and performances around campus and see some of the brilliant work of Columbia students. Most likely some of the exhibits, if not all, will reflect the research and hard work the artists put into creating the project, and some may even incorporate elements of math and science.

When the three girls finally got off the train, the other passengers actually roared with applause. In the nearly four years that I have lived in this city, I have never experienced a group of commuters so happy. However, it's sad that these three obnoxious and misinformed freshmen may be those commuter's lasting impression of Columbia students. And of course the girls didn't even grasp that the clapping was out of sheer joy of their departure, just like they probably didn't realize they were giving Columbia students a bad rap.

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Campus News
Arts and Entertainment
Commentary
City Beat

Announcements

Lectures in Photography

The Photography Department will host a discussion with photographer Tim Davis on his exhibition, "My Life in Politics," which is currently on display at the Museum of Contemporary Photography. The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Ferguson Theater in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. Admission is free.

For more information, contact the MoCP at (312)663-5554.

40 Years of Common Struggle

A symposium, "Black & Brown: 40 Years of Common Struggle," will be held as a discussion of the shared struggles of the black and Puerto Rican communities for equality and civil rights. The event will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 14 in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. Admission is free.

For more information, contact Ann Marie Soto at (312)344-7812.

Art of the Library reception

An opening reception will be held to feature the new art exhibits that will be on display in the library in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave. The event, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sept. 14, is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Larry Oberer at (312)344-7153.

Peter Carpenter performance

The Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., presents "Bareback Into the Sunset," a performance from writer and choreographer Peter Carpenter at 8 p.m. Sept. 15. General admission is \$22-\$26, but discounts are available to Columbia students.

For more information, contact the Dance Center box office at (312)344-8300.

In Your Opinion

How do you feel about the vending machine prices being raised?



"It's horrible, and vending machine prices should stay low, especially for college students."

Donnell Berry, sophomore, marketing communications



"I generally eat a lot of organic food so I really don't use them anyway."

Doug Gabriel, freshman, fine arts



"Robbery! Eight and a half grand and now I have to pay more for a Snickers bar?"

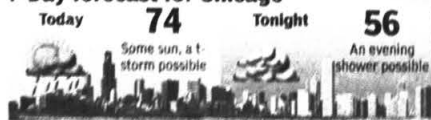
James Nichols, junior, music business



"I think it really sucks because I'm an incoming student and I was expecting prices to be a certain amount for middle-class people."

Lillian Eng, freshman, music performing arts

7-Day forecast for Chicago



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2006

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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

South Loop artist breaks into scene

Former Columbia student's work hits Hollywood

By Tiffany Breyne
Managing Editor

Tucked away on a side street in the ever-growing South Loop, a crisp black awning hanging over a giant window display of figurative drawings reads "Francine Turk Gallery."

The artwork inside is part of Turk's newest exhibition, "Isolation and Anonymity," featuring dark, lone bodies with blurry faces and splotted paint on otherwise blank canvases. The paintings line the wall at the gallery, 18 E. Cullerton St., are a spin on the more simplistic figures that caught a set designer's eye at the Chicago Antique Market last summer and made Turk famous.

Turk, 34, landed in the spotlight after some of her artwork appeared in the movie *The Break Up* starring Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn. The pieces, all drawings of naked women, were featured in the apartment shared by Aniston's and Vaughn's characters in the movie.

Though this was her first moment in the public eye, she has spent the past decade dividing her time between earning her fine arts degree at Columbia and running her own businesses.

"Every time I would dive back into school, I would get caught up with my work," Turk

"It could have been a lot worse, so it's unfortunate the paintings can't be replaced, but what can you do really? You just gotta move on."

—Francine Turk, former Columbia student and artist

said. "My career would take me in a direction where I had an opportunity I couldn't pass up. So I kept having to leave school and it's my intention to go back there and take more classes."

Turk is an entrepreneur at heart and, with that drive, opened her first business, Wine and Dine Design, more than a decade ago. She designed ceramics and tables and sold

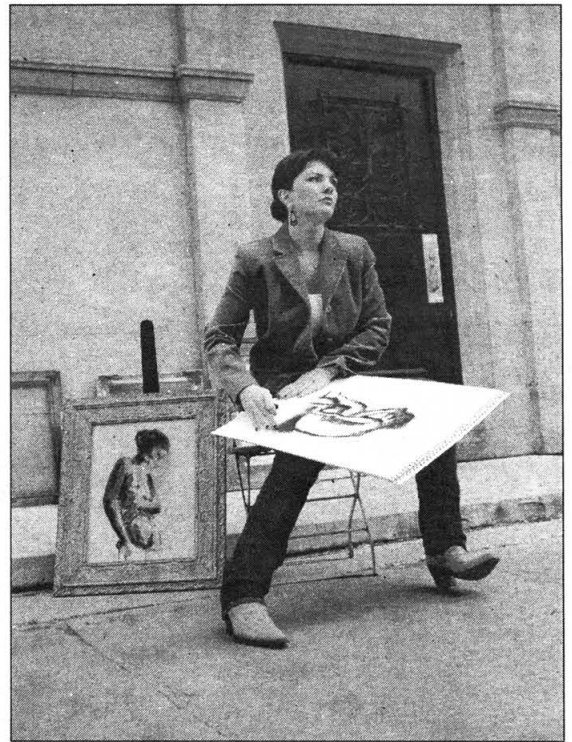
them in California to help pay for schooling, but after eight years, it wasn't as artistically satisfying as she hoped. So Turk closed down shop and came back to Columbia to attend classes and sell her other artwork on the side.

Yet an itch to do more with her artwork led Turk to drop out again and open up a gallery.

"Literally, I just woke up one day and was not satisfied with my last business, and I had to start painting again," Turk said.

Marlene Lipinski, a fine arts faculty member, said it's common for art and design students to have an entrepreneurial drive. While Lipinski said that many students leave Columbia during their junior or senior year to pursue their own businesses, Turk's case of coming in and out of enrollment over a period of time is not as frequent.

Though she got more exposure due to the popularity of the movie, Turk also experienced some unwanted attention. On June 13, Turk's gallery was broken into and artwork she had planned to show clients was



Courtesy Francine Turk

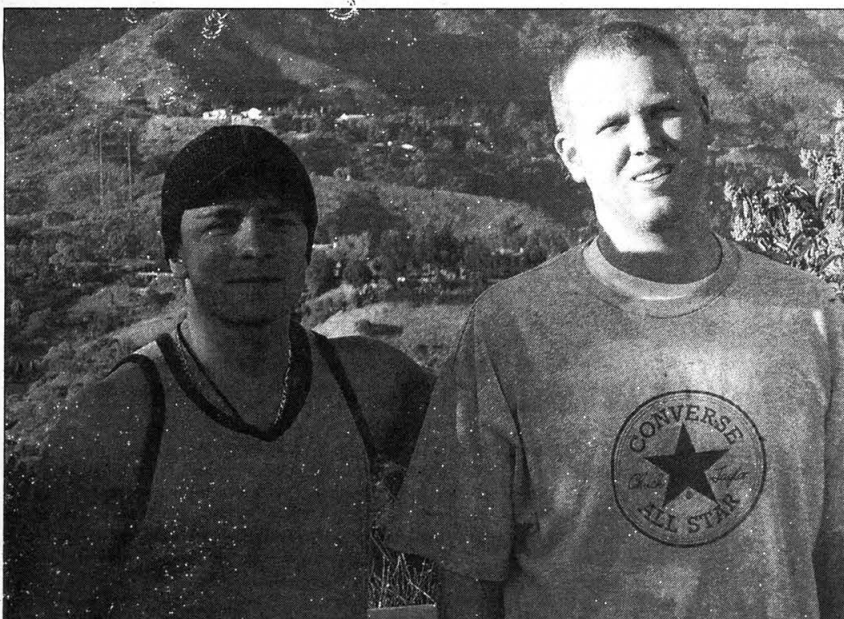
Francine Turk displays the figure drawings featured in the summer movie *The Break Up*.

stolen. According to Turk and the police, the robbery took place early that morning with a few people, at least one of them armed. It looked like an inside job, due to the fact that other

items, such as her computer and camera, hadn't been touched.

After some discussion, fingers started pointing at Michael

See Art, Page 9



Courtesy Mike Samm

Alumni Kevin Barkey, right, and Mike Samm, left, stand near Barkey's new home in Hollywood. Barkey is currently the personal assistant to rapper Snoop Dogg.

Dogg assistant gets his day

Columbia alumnus enters music scene after semester in L.A.

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant Campus News Editor

Most Columbia students get the same speech when starting classes here: It's all about the hard work and luck that gets you where you want to be. Alumnus Kevin Barkey found that luck in Hollywood.

At just 24, Barkey is a personal assistant to Snoop Dogg and David Banner, a dream for someone like

himself who has been a fan of the rap artists since he was 12.

Barkey spends most of his work week alongside Snoop. Attending events, going on weed runs for the famous artist who claimed in a 2002 interview with BET that he quit, or even calling up customer service if the rapper's Sidekick breaks, Barkey's responsibilities aren't average.

"I'm like a doctor, always on call," Barkey said. "So if I turn this shit off, he's like, 'Why is his phone off? I need him.'"

Far from his "white boy roots" in Fort Wayne, Ind., Barkey now

works in Beverly Hills, Calif. for The Firm, the top music and film management company in the world, according to Barkey.

Graduating just last summer, Barkey decided to end his last few weeks at Columbia with the semester in L.A. program.

"You get what you put into it," Barkey said. "How I looked at it was, I got five weeks to find some way to make money, because I'm not planning on going home and I signed a year lease."

Despite his apparent success

See Barkey, Page 10

New VP aims to energize fundraising

Increasing alumni gifts, decreasing tuition dependency on list of VP's goals

By Hayley Graham
Editor-in-Chief

Eric Winston, the newly appointed vice president of Institutional Advancement, aims to increase financial resources and support for Columbia.

Winston came to Columbia as the interim vice president for Institutional Advancement after Sam Ross resigned suddenly from the position at the end of 2005. Now Winston said he will stay as long as the college allows him and has plans to make the Office of Institutional Advancement solid enough to continue to work efficiently during times of management turnover, since the office has experienced this frequently in the past few years.

While Columbia's in the midst of a \$20 million capital campaign, Winston is working toward building relationships with alumni and potential donors, locally and nationally. He recently sat down with *The Chronicle* to discuss his goals for this academic year.

The Chronicle: Before you came to Columbia you were in semi-

retirement. Why did you decide to then come to Columbia and stay?

Winston: I came primarily because [President Warrick L. Carter] needed some help. After I got here he asked me if I would stay. I did because I really and truly had a symbiosis with the campus and students and the staff and everyone else. I liked what I saw, I liked what I felt and I was moved by that. It is an institution that I thought I could make an impact in. Believe me when I tell you that if the vibes had been bad I would not be here, but the vibes were very good and thus far they are still good.

What are your goals for Institutional Advancement this year?

What we are attempting to do here is to improve the fundraising capabilities of the office and to strengthen the outreach and public awareness of the college. My goal is to ensure at the end of the next fiscal year we have more financial resources than we have had in the past.

How does a private liberal arts college compete with other schools to get fundraising?

Fundraising in colleges starts with the board of the college.

See Winston, Page 9

Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

Beginning with the Fall 2006 Semester, you have **TWO WEEKS** to drop classes without being charged tuition and fees for those classes. This is one extra week than in the past!

Classes that you no longer plan on attending must be dropped on OASIS by **Monday, September 18, 2006** in order to receive a 100% credit on the tuition and fees.

Beginning Tuesday, September 19, 2006 through Friday, October 27, 2006, classes removed from your course schedule will be considered withdrawals. A grade of "W" will appear on your transcript and full tuition will be charged for these classes.

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING THE DROP POLICY PLEASE CONTACT THE RECORDS OFFICE AT (312) 344-7224

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR CHARGES PLEASE CONTACT STUDENT FINANCIAL SERVICES AT (312) 705-0200.

New Drop Deadline

for 2006-2007

What's Happening In the Concert Hall



Tuesday September 12
Student Jam
with Gary Yerkins
12:30 PM

Wednesday September 13
Corky Siegel Chamber
Blues Workshop
12:30 PM

Thursday September 14
Jazz Faculty Concert
12:30 PM

Music Dept. 1014 S. Michigan Ave
All concerts are free. For more info: 312/344.6300

Columbia College Chicago

music
...it keeps getting better!



HORN PLAYERS NEEDED

to audition for the
Columbia College Jazz Ensemble
TRUMPET ★ TROMBONE ★ SAXOPHONE

For more information contact Scott Hall
shall@colum.edu or 312.344.6233

Renegades: Sports to share tight budget

Continued from Front Page

\$4,000. This year, they're expecting to operate at \$5,000 to \$6,000, said Adam Salasek, treasurer of the Renegades. However, the baseball team has not yet proposed its formal budget request to the Student Athletics Association.

All sports clubs will share \$10,000 which comes from the Office of Student Leadership, run by director Dominic Cottone. While the sports will receive some money, Cottone said teams understand that a considerable amount will have to be collected from dues and

fundraising.

"We tried to be as democratic with [the money] as possible, because there was only a limited amount of money to go out," Cottone said. "I didn't want one sport to feel like they didn't have a vote as to where the money should be going."

However, the Student Athletic Association's current budget will be easily drained by the currently established four sports teams, let alone another 10 or so that are in the creation process.

"[The \$10,000] is way less than a drop in the bucket," Salasek said.

For the baseball team alone, the fee to join the NCBA, about \$1,500, would most likely use up their allocated budget. While there are several ideas as to how the teams can be funded, those involved fully realize that more

money needs to be found.

To help cut some costs, each player on the NCBA team will pay membership dues of up to \$200, among other costs, Holihan said. Those students will have the entire semester to pay those dues and could receive some financial help from fundraising.

"The thing is, if they want to make their athletics work, they need to go out there and fundraise."

—Dominic Cottone,
director of Student Leadership

Cottone said students should not be surprised to face these costs.

"You pay to play," he said. Even after that, the teams will have to decide how much addi-

tional funding they will need.

"The thing is, if they want to make their athletics work, they need to go out there and fundraise," Cottone said. "It takes a lot of work. No one just hands you a bat and says 'Go out there, have a good time.'"

But Chris Schroeder, president of the Renegades, doubts that team members can raise a majority of the money needed, so they are looking for alternative sources of funding to supplement the fundraising.

"We find that right now [with] the budget being as low as it is and all of these different sports popping up, the college is going to have to stand up and give the students more money for what they're asking," Schroeder said.

Students are displaying such a great need for funding that it is unlikely they will be able to

fundraise the amount they need, Schroeder said.

Like the Student Organization Council, the Student Athletic Association will match what teams can raise.

Nevertheless, faculty adviser Howard Schlossberg believes the future of the Renegades baseball team is "terribly exciting." He is confident that the baseball teams will pave the road for other sports to excel.

"I really think it's going to raise the profile of sports for the whole college and maybe give birth to some other teams," Schlossberg said.

Students can support the Renegades' NCBA team by attending its first preseason game at Northeastern Illinois University at 2:30 p.m. Sept. 17. The official season does not begin until March.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

Trustees: Student trustee first in 30 years

Continued from Front Page

meeting on Sept. 14.

Many sensitive issues, such as land purchasing, are discussed at the meetings. Such reasons are why the board was hesitant to allow a student to see the inner dealings of Columbia, Kelly said. One of the stipulations of Kelly's position is the promise of secrecy.

Andrew Breen, vice president of the SGA, said the decision to have a student trustee will be beneficial to the future of the school.

"A student trustee will give us a little better insight into the administration's plans for the school," he said. "I fully understand that she's under a privacy obligation, but

within the bounds of that, I hope it gives us an edge on better serving the students."

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs and head of the Student Affairs Committee, said the trustee position shows how far student representation has come at the college.

"This is a process that has been unfolding at Columbia for years," he said. "Go back five years ago and there was no legitimate student voice on campus. There was no student government and there was little to no student representation anywhere in the college on governance bodies and on ad-hoc committees that planned anything."

One of the long-term goals of the position is to have a future student trustee gain voting power, Annie Kelly said, admitting to the pressure of having future student trustees riding on

her performance.

"I want the board to want me to be there," she said. "I want the board to see that it is important to have a student there. I hope I can get that across."

Neither Kelly nor Breen would divulge what they plan to possibly present to the board this year.

Kelly, a three-year veteran of the SGA, will remain on the association's Executive Board.

Students are mixed on the potential benefits of a student trustee.

"It all depends on how open-minded the board will be," said Anne Hinkelman, a senior liberal arts major. "They didn't seem too receptive in the past. Hopefully, this isn't just to appease the students and they are genuinely interested in hearing the student's voice."

jjaworski@chroniclemail.com



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Annie Kelly, Columbia's student trustee, will attend her first board meeting on Sept. 14.

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2007! THE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT 2007 HAS CHANGED!

Please mark your calendars: the Columbia College Chicago 2007 commencement exercises for undergraduate and graduate students will take place on:

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2007 at Navy Pier

Please bookmark the commencement websites as your check point for:

- information on Commencement and Manifest
- details on the graduation ceremonies
- the undergraduate seniors listserv for informative email updates
- travel and hotel information

Visit today and check back often!

Undergrads **MUST** visit the site to join the seniors only listserv!
www.colum.edu/commencement

Graduate students please check:
www.colum.edu/graduate/gradcompregpage.html



EFFECTIVE THIS SEMESTER

If you are enrolled for at least six credit hours and your immunization records are not up to date and on file with the college by November 1, 2006, you will be blocked from future registration.

In order to be up-to-date and in compliance with the State of Illinois and the college, you must submit proof that you have been immunized against tetanus-diphtheria, measles, mumps, and rubella.

If you have not yet submitted your required immunization records, you may do so by mailing them to:

create...
change

**Records Office
Columbia College Chicago
600 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605**

Or fax them to:

(312) 344-8091 or (312) 344-8073

In many cases your high school or physician will have your immunization history on file. You may request to have them sent directly to the address above. If you are unable to obtain your records, you must be re-immunized.

To help ensure compliance with the new policy, the Student Health Center will be offering immunizations for Columbia College students during the month of September. To make an appointment to receive your immunizations at the Student Health Center, please register at this website:

www.colum.edu/Student_Life/Immunization_Fall_2006.php

The cost of immunization at the Student Health Center is as follows:

Tetanus/Diphtheria \$45 (you must have received a tetanus shot within the last 10 years)

TDAP \$60

Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis - *only tetanus and diphtheria is needed to fulfill requirements but immunization for pertussis, or whooping cough, may be recommended for some students.*

MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) \$95 each | 2 required (two separate shots required over your lifetime)

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



U.S. Cellular® gets me... so I can always get the score.

INTERESTED in club sports at Columbia?
Show up this Wednesday!
Sept. 15th at 6pm in the HUB.
1104 S. Wabash, Lower Level



****IMPORTANT****

****IMPORTANT****

☆ CURRENT SPORTS

Baseball - Cycling - Soccer - Wrestling - Cross Country

☆ CURRENT SPORTS INTERESTS

Tennis - Fast-Pitch Softball - 16" Softball - Volleyball
 Women's Basketball - Men's Basketball - Flag Football
 Raquetball - Women's Lacrosse - Men's Lacross
 Ultimate Frisbee - Cheerleading - Swimming

Want to sign up? Don't see your interest on the list?

NO PROBLEM!

Visit <http://ATHLETICS.COLUM.EDU>

☆ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Soccer

Thanks to all of those who came out to tryouts this past weekend!
 If you did not make the team and still wish to play,
 Attend our meeting this Wednesday at 6pm at the HUB

Baseball

Thanks to all of those who came out to tryouts this past weekend!
NEXT GAME: Sunday Sept. 17th at NEIU at 2:30pm
 If you did not make the team and still wish to play,
 Attend our meeting this wednesday at 6pm at the HUB

☆ Convocation was a HUGE success!

We received over 600 signatures from students interested in joining a sport on campus!

Those students, as well as ANYBODY interested in joining a sport should attend our meeting this Wednesday, Sept. 13th at 6pm at the HUB

☆ Fitness and Intramurals

Free classes for Columbia students held at the fitness center loocated at Roosevelt University - Marvin Moss Center at 425 S. Wabash, 4th Floor.

***Pilates-** Every Wednesday in September 4:30-5:30pm

***Abs-** Thursdays 6-6:30pm

***Cardio Kickbox-** Thursdays 6:30-7:00pm

The Renegades are looking for anyone interested in being our Marketing-Events Coordinator!

Please contact us through our website if interested.

The Renegades are looking for sponsors! If your business would like to sponsor club sports, please email us at: Athletics@colum.edu

Student Athletics Association (Renegades)
1104 S. Wabash Lower Level Office A



getusc.com
1-888-buy-uscc

Housing: Columbia lacking help for off- campus housing

Continued from Front Page

According to statistics provided by Columbia's office of Research, Evaluation and Planning, as of last year 2,000 students lived in Columbia's dorms. With the student population reaching 11,000, that leaves 9,000 students to either commute or find housing off-campus.

According to Kelli Collins, assistant director of Residence Life, Columbia had a director of off-campus assistance, but as of the 2003-2004 school year, the position was cut.

"We previously had an off-campus housing coordinator who actually gathered this info to give to students, but quite honestly, as we gained more housing, it was urgent of course for us to fill our space before we send students elsewhere," Collins said.

Without a director of off-campus housing, Collins said Columbia's Relocation Guide is an alternative.

The guide, created by Residence Life, lists the average rates for apartments in neighborhoods around Chicago.

The guide also provides tips on good questions to ask while looking at apartments and also helps explain how leases read.

Despite the usefulness of the guide, it hasn't been updated since 2005, but Collins said the newer version is expected to

come out within the next few weeks.

In the guide, price ranges for neighborhoods are listed based on information the office got from different leasing companies and independent landlords, Collins said.

Local real estate agencies like Apartment People or Simply Roommates are also listed; both companies offer free assistance to anyone trying to find an apartment.

Students can still come to Residence Life for help with off-campus needs, but Collins said most are pointed to the guide. However, Molly Grimm, housing assignment coordinator, said she offers advice based off her own experiences living in the city.

"A lot of it has to do with a common sense of street smarts," Grimm said.

When it comes to what neighborhoods students are moving to, Royal Dawson, a senior research analyst for the office of Research, Evaluation and Planning, said it can basically be tracked along the Blue and Red Lines, but Lakeview has the highest population of Columbia students outside of the 60605 zip code, which covers the South Loop area.

Universities near Columbia's campus, like the University of Illinois at Chicago and DePaul University, offer places or websites to its students and landlords to post open apartments

near the area.

According to Mary Jones, UIC's housing officer, UIC's website lists open apartments and anyone can post.

Jeanette Pena, a work aide at DePaul's housing office, said students in need of information can turn to the student center for listings of open apartments.

Unlike UIC and DePaul, Columbia does not offer a website to go to for information, and without a student center, listings are scattered around campus, making it harder to locate.

Collins said for the next semester they are looking into creating some sort of spread-

sheet for students that lists postings of landlords or students in need of roommates. For now, though, by word of mouth is how students get hold of this information, Grimm said.

Lauren Linch, an assistant in DePaul's housing office, said that another option open to students is DePaul's new affiliate housing, Loft Right.

This is the first year DePaul is offering affiliate housing to its students because of the high demand for loft-style living, according to Linch.

Linch also said that Loft Right is very similar to an off-campus apartment.

"Basically they have their own billing management, so it is not done through DePaul, but they only house DePaul students," Linch said.

Although affiliate housing is not available to Columbia students, Collins said they are looking into the possibility, but are not sure when it would go into effect.

For now, students will have to turn to the relocation guide or independently search on their own for any assistance to find an apartment outside of Columbia's dorms. Although this may cause problems for students who live out of state, Grimm assures that the guide is an effective enough way to find an apartment.

jzimmerman@chroniclemail.com

"A lot of it has to do with a common sense of street smarts."

—Molly Grimm,
housing assignment
coordinator

Top Five Zip Codes Where Most Students Move

1. 60605 South loop
2. 60637 Lakeview
3. 60622 Wicker Park
4. 60647 Bucktown
5. 60613 Lincoln Park

18.5% Students living on campus
81.5% Live at home or off campus



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

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Art: Intern charged with burglary

Continued from Page 3

After some discussion, fingers started pointing at Michael Gutweiler, an intern Turk hired after she realized her newfound fame gave her more work than she could handle. Gutweiler, a former graphic arts major at Columbia, was charged with felony burglary, but is out on bond and awaiting trial, a process that could take over a year, Turk said.

The artwork is yet to be found, and Turk highly doubts that she'll ever get the pieces back. Despite the missing paintings, Turk said she has come to accept what happened and took inspiration from the incident to make the current exhibit.

"There's definitely parts of me in each piece, but I've worked through it and I'm just happy I wasn't there," Turk said. "It could have been a lot worse, so it's unfortunate the paintings can't be

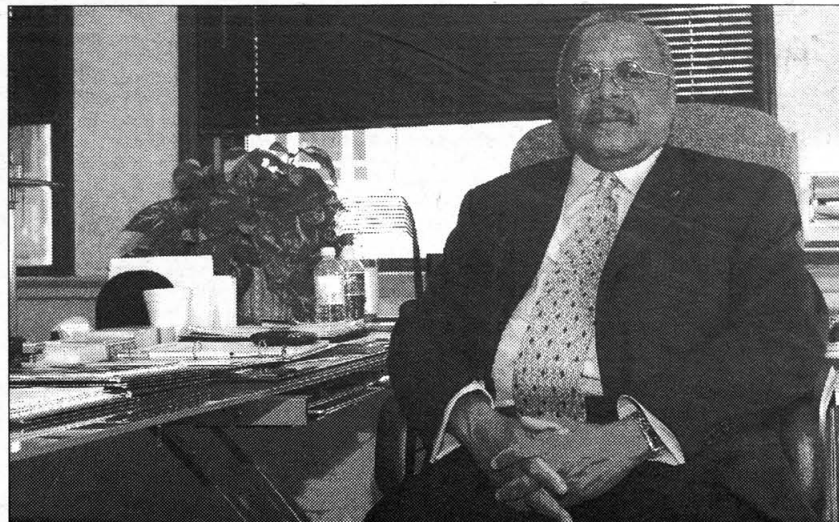
replaced, but what can you do really? You just gotta move on."

Turk has since hired a new personal assistant to replace Gutweiler. Darick Maasen, a former American Academy of Art student, knows Turk from framing her art pieces for the past three years and helps her with everything from managing the website to setting up shows and helping clients. Maasen said that almost each piece in the current exhibit is sold and more clients are interested.

As her popularity grows, Turk is considering opening another gallery either in Chicago or elsewhere. Until she makes that move, she is busy with the exhibit and recently had artwork featured in an indie film, *Quebec*, featuring John C. Reilly, which was filmed in the city. Turk also has plans to attend Columbia again in the future to help keep her art fresh.

"I think that it's so great to go back [to Columbia] and get your eyes opened again and get some of that energy from some of the other people, and see what other people are working on," Turk said.

tbreyne@chroniclemail.com



File

Eric Winston, vice president of Institutional Advancement, plans to decrease Columbia's dependency on tuition by increasing gifts and donations.

Winston: Vice president seeks to reconnect alumni with Columbia

Continued from Page 3

You have to have a strong board and a giving board. In addition to that, fundraising and getting the support that college needs comes from building strong relationships from the local and national community ... and from building strong relationships with the products of the college.

Why has it been so hard to get alumni to give back to Columbia?

The college has been severely disconnected with its alumni.

All I can say is that there was not a concerted effort to keep in touch with the alumni. It's been changing in the last year or so. What we're doing is laying the groundwork and the framework for this coming home, this gathering of Columbians, this Columbia renewal.

Isn't it hard to establish that relationship if Institutional Advancement continues to have a turnover of management?

Obviously. That's why I'm here—to stop the turnover. Let me say that's a true statement, but if the basic processes are in place, the person who sits in my chair can change routinely if a good staff is there to carry on the work.

Is the college still working on a capital campaign that was aiming to raise \$50 million?

\$20 million. We're in the silent phase; we're just going

around and talking to potential donors about what we are trying to do. This particular campaign is designed to build capacity. We are going out and talking to people who may have an interest in Columbia College Chicago.

Isn't \$20 million a lot of money for a school that has no history of a capital campaign that size?

No, not really. We had a firm do a review, and they felt that we could raise about \$15 million through a feasibility study, and the board decided to make it about \$20 million. We feel confident that we can reach that goal. We certainly have associated with us people that can make that happen. The question is, will they step up to the plate? And that's our job, that's my job, the president's job, the board's job, to get these people to do it.



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Francine Turk's South Loop gallery, 18 E. Cullerton St., was broken into July 13.

Tired of getting dirty fingers?



Visit us online at www.columbiachronicle.com

Barkey: From the mailroom to the doghouse

Continued from Page 3

which he largely contributes to the semester in L.A., Barkey said that when he was trying to enroll in the program, Columbia's staff met him with strong negativity.

"The thing with the Columbia teachers is, the reason they are back at Columbia teaching is because L.A. didn't work out for them, and that's why they're not so keen about going out to L.A.," Barkey said.

Barkey felt his teachers' pride in Columbia as an independent film school got in the way of encouraging him to be part of the program in L.A., which focuses more on mainstream films. The teachers also said that once the five weeks were over, most students wouldn't be able to find jobs, according to Barkey.

However, Barkey's instructor at the program, Craig Gore, first introduced him to The Firm, because he knew Barkey was in L.A. to stay.

"He has the attitude to do what it takes to get the job," Gore said. "He made it clear from day one that he would be getting into the business, and there was no question about it."

Barkey's former boss, Chris Kerr, who worked with him at Columbia's woodshop, said he saw Barkey's passion in film and music after watching some of his videos.

"He was already kind of a rock star," Kerr said.

Mike Samm, Barkey's former

roommate, said that he was made for the L.A. scene.

"Kevin can be a real goofball, but when it's time to work, he's dead serious," Samm said. "He literally went to the library and got a book of every single L.A. agency to send his portfolio out to and must have sent them out to 100 agencies before he left."

Even though Barkey was studying film editing, he realized during the program that music management was more of the direction he wanted to take because of the job security it provided. By not having to look for work every few weeks like Barkey felt he would have to do in film, music management made more sense to him.

Barkey said he also learned from guest speakers throughout the program that the best way into the music industry is starting off at an entry level position in the mailroom at an agency, which is what he did.

He graduated in June 2005, directly following his semester in L.A., and started working for a small agency in the area called Allure.

However, Allure, an agency that helps actors find work in ads, quickly wore thin for Barkey.

Making little money, he had to pick up a second job working as a telemarketer on the weekends. Working seven days a week between the two jobs, Barkey said he was ready to move on and dive into the music industry.

Turning back to his Columbia roots, Barkey asked Gore for help in getting his foot in the door at The Firm. Gore introduced Barkey to Katherine Ripley, an assistant to the L.A. program, who had a connection

in the mailroom and helped Barkey get the job.

"When you start at The Firm, they're like, 'You will probably be in the mailroom for a minimum of six months,' and I was in the mailroom for only three weeks," Barkey said. "I really got lucky."

Just three weeks into his new mailroom job, an opening for an assistant position to the head of new media and digital technology came Barkey's way.

Originally starting his studies in Canada at Western Canada University, Barkey received a B.A. in media information technology culture, making his B.A. from Columbia in film editing his second. Barkey said this was largely the reason why he stood

out among other applicants to David Kang, head of digital media at The Firm, who ended up hiring him.

Still, Barkey knew he wanted to be more involved in the hip-hop world.

Just four months into his assistant position, a lifetime gig headed Barkey's way.

Constance Schwartz, manager for David Banner and Snoop Dogg, was looking for an assistant for the two rap artists. Barkey quickly jumped at the opportunity to switch desks.

Barkey said his love for hip-hop, and the two bachelor's degrees on his resumé, could have largely contributed to why he was able to land the job. He also said it was because of

his non-L.A. roots.

"They love people from L.A. that aren't from L.A.," Barkey said. "They saw me as a kid who left everything behind and you could take a chance with."

Currently Barkey is still working as an assistant to both Snoop Dogg and David Banner. "I'm basically Snoop Dogg's bitch," he said. "He's just a regular-ass person needing help."

Looking to take on new rap artist Saigon, from the HBO series Entourage, Barkey hopes to continue with his fast-paced success.

"He is one of the illest artists out there, and people just think he is an actor," Barkey said.

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Lucky listeners jam



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Kaustubh Pandav, left, and Joe Sell, right, of Lucky Boys Confusion performed at Columbia's 'Jam of the Year' held in the Conway Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., on Sept. 6.

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For competition guidelines, see

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Credits (left to right): Anasee Kasudia; Jodi Adams; Mark Klett, from the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Photography, 1981.

Note: These cards from past years are provided as examples only and are not intended to suggest or restrict the range of acceptable artwork.



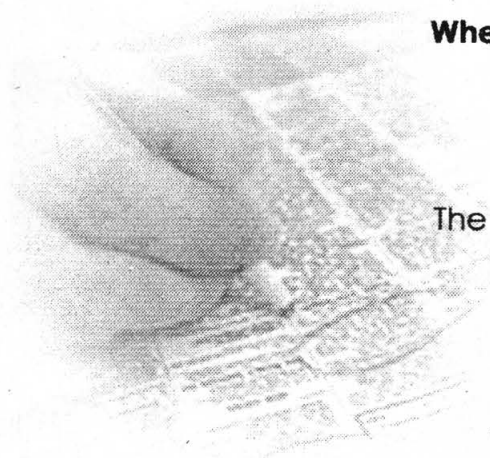
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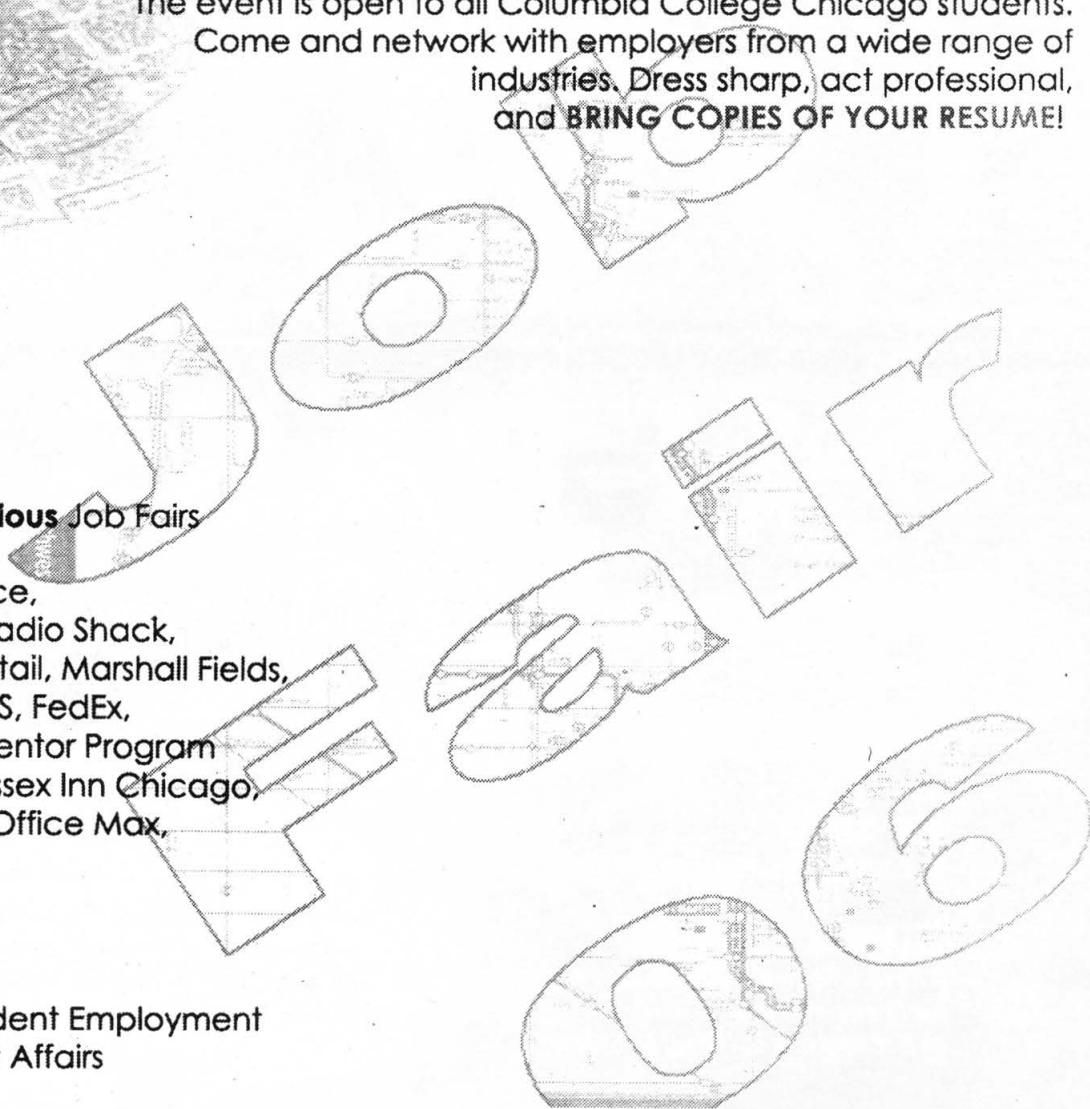


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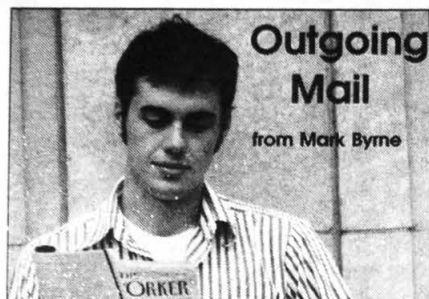
An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle

Laptop Battles

on page 20

are giving computer
geeks a chance to go
mainstream into the
music world





Outgoing Mail

from Mark Byrne

Dear Department of Homeland Security,

Well, first of all, let me say that I am incredibly thankful for how quickly I got through airport security last weekend. At O'Hare Airport, I allowed myself a ton of time before my flight because I figured I'd sit in line for an hour, after which the security guys would empty my bags all over a table and feel me up. Yet, as it turned out, things are a bit more relaxed now, at least for my demographic.

I got through the line in about 10 minutes, which is pretty good for a busy travel day like the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. Then when I got

to security, the guards actually spent more time worrying about some crazy old lady and her cat than they did thinking about me. I walked right on through. No bag rummaging, no frisking, no strip searching.

Here's the thing though: Yes, that old lady was probably a little nuts, but I'm a communist sympathizing art school liberal with a hard-on for blacklisted authors and a curious inclination toward stealing candy bars from convenience stores. I enjoy accusing people of being "fascist pigs." I ride a bike. I'm the enemy, boys.

So why not me? Why did I slip so easily through your little barrier? Why did that nutty lady get held up for the entire time I spent in line, and even longer after I walked away down the terminal? Why did you make her throw away her cat food?

This doesn't all add up to me, but I presume there was something I was missing. Maybe that little cat gave an officer the evil eye, or maybe that old coot had some kind of ridiculous criminal record or a few hard-to-explain connections with the KGB. Maybe the cat food was actually explosive cat food. Who knows?

Here's what I think, though: I think that ol' lady gave your goons a hard

time. She's probably pretty stubborn, and maybe she didn't like the hurried atmosphere of O'Hare, self-described as "the world's busiest airport." She probably gave you a bit of sass, and you decided to flex those time-wasting muscles. You sure showed her—and her cat.

I, on the other hand, was nice and respectful. I took off my shoes; I took off my belt. I laid my stuff out flat in the bus tub and walked on through the metal detector without a word. It was all so easy.

The way that went down doesn't seem quite right to me. I think that wannabe terrorists, when they make their way through airport security, don't try to bring their cats through or make a fuss about stupid procedures. In fact, I'd wager that they are just as obedient as I am, just as nonchalant, and slip just as easily under the radar, especially while the security guards are so distracted by such non-threats as little ol' Miss Jackson and her cat, Cupcake.

Don't get me wrong, Department of Homeland Security; I think you guys are doing a good job, if only by virtue of the lack of terrorist attacks. But it's been five years since 9/11. Give the little old ladies a break, and start paying attention to people capable of radicalism, like me. Go ahead, search through my bag; I'm fine with it, and I've got nothing to hide. But leave Miss Jackson and her cat alone, you fascist pigs. She hasn't had a radical thought since the McCarthy era.

mbyrne@chroniclemail.com

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



MCT

Every weekday at 10 a.m. Central Standard Time, a horrible event happens. All across the Midwest, television watchers are at risk of being subjected to an unspeakable terror—"The View." The show is an hourlong recipe for disaster with a sprinkle of humility and a dash of insanity over an offensive amount of stupidity to make one disgusting estrogen stew.

For those who are blessed enough to never have encountered the show, it goes something like this: Four women who are supposed to represent everyday females sit around a coffee table obnoxiously trying to out-talk each other with brainless comments on social issues and then attack the special guest of the day with pointless questions that leave no room for intelligence. These characters each speak for women of all ages and "views," hence the witty name. Here's a breakdown of the cast:

Barbara Walters: Or more affectionately known as Baba Wawa. She represents the older-than-sin demographic, the kind that say anything offensive, because they're too frickin' old to care.

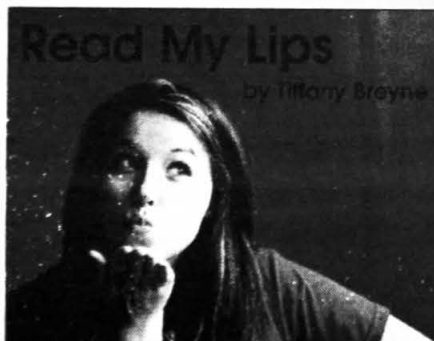
Elisabeth Hasselbeck: The young, attractive one. That's where the good stuff ends. She is supposed to represent a younger generation but is instead a frigid, mouthy 4-year-old trapped in a twentysomething's body. She was on "Survivor: The Australian Outback." 'Nuff said.

Joy Behar: The overly obnoxious "comedienne" who is full of herself. She represents every bitter woman in the world who hates her ass and then eats away the anger, causing a huge cycle of doom. She never has anything worthwhile to say but makes sure we hear it anyway.

Rosie O'Donnell: As the new addition to the group, O'Donnell will give Behar stiff competition when it comes to shouting moronic things. Though we're not sure what she represents, we think it has something to do with the missing link between ape and man.

As the show continues on into its 10th season—lord knows how that happened—the women not only humiliate themselves more and give the female race a horrible reputation, they become more and more like jackasses.

—T. Breyne



Read My Lips

by Tiffany Breyne

Are you my match?

Last weekend I got home from a friend's party, and, though I was wicked tired, I stayed up and sat around my living room trying to do a crossword puzzle. After about a half hour of staring at the paper, my roommate came home and an overview of our nights somehow lead to me filling out a match.com survey. I have no idea how I ended up at the website, but once I was there, I figured why not make a profile? Talking to creepy people online could probably lead to a potential life partner, right?

Ha, right. As soon as the survey started asking questions about my opinion on exotic pets (no opinion) and my favorite color (green), I knew that this website really is a joke.

Instead of filling out the survey like a regular desperate person, tooting my own horn and spouting my deep thoughts in 250 words or less, I decided to show my true colors. Here is what I came up with:

For fun:

I like sitting on my ass and doing nothing, but I also like exercising and being active. So basically, I have multiple personalities. I'll probably subject you to watching mass amounts of girly TV, including, but not limited to, "Sex and the City," "Laguna Beach" and "Grey's Anatomy," because I find it funny.

My job:

I am a journalist who gets moody around deadline time. I don't know what I want to do with my life, but I'm fairly certain it does not involve settling down, getting married and having kids. Stop reading right now if that is what you want at any point in your life.

My religious beliefs:

I'm not sure what I believe, but I know it's not that some big dude is above me watching every move I make. Yet I think everyone should believe something. Oh well, let's wax philosophical over coffee and maybe I'll figure something out.

Favorite hot spots:

My couch is a favorite. Lately I've had the habit of falling asleep there instead of my bed. I also like cheap

food such as Taco Bell, Pompei and Potbelly. You could probably take me there for a date and I'd be cool with that. But I'd probably think you were really cheap.

Favorite things:

I love sex, drinking and offensive humor. They all rank high on my list of life's greatest things. Music does as well. While I don't have the best taste in music, I can be a snob about it and have been known to lose respect for people that have bad taste.

Even more information about me:

I'm irrational at times because of the fact that I like to be right most of the time. I don't have pretty toes, so don't talk to me if you have a foot fetish. Sometimes I snore and drool, but I'm a good cuddler. I have weird quirks such as naming my pets and iPod Kevin Bacon and often tell lame jokes that I find hilarious.

I could write far more than this, but I'm bored with talking about myself and this honesty thing is killing me. It's nice to get it out of the way, though, rather than sift through profile after profile to find a decent guy I can fake it with—both in and out of bed, most likely.

Unfortunately, you have to pay to get this profile set up and have people look at it, which was really just taking the whole joke a bit too far. I'm willing to waste my time answering dumb questions but I certainly won't waste my money. Therefore, this column has become my own match.com profile for the next week. Though you can't see my answers to the multiple choice questions, I think you get the idea of what I'm all about. Inquire within if you think I'm one hot, cool chick.

tbreyne@chroniclemail.com



Love us or hate us...

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



Mark Byrne - mbyrne@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8969

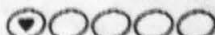
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Ratings Guide

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



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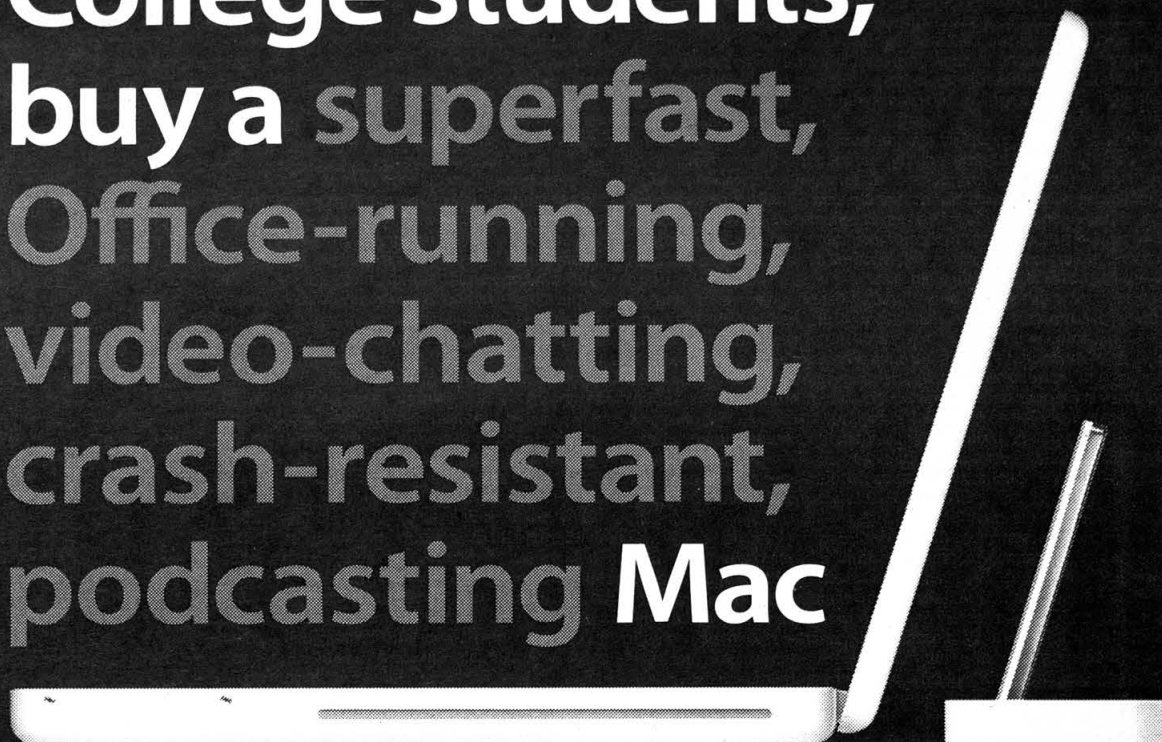
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 **Authorized Campus Store**

Altered states and floating minds

SpaceTime Tanks offers customers chance at deep self-exploration

By Michael Claire/Assistant A&E Editor

Amongst the circus of sirens and cell phones, it's hard to imagine a place where the roar of the el can fall silent to the rhythm of a heartbeat, but a business on the near North Side presents such an opportunity.

Founded in 1982, SpaceTime Tanks, 2526 N. Lincoln Ave., claims to be the longest-running floatation center in the country, and has been operating under its current management since 1988.

Devoid of sound, light and gravity, SpaceTime utilizes large floatation tanks, also known as isolation or sensory deprivation tanks, to create an almost womb-like environment. According to co-owner Sarah Stephens, these conditions provide a means for relaxation to the "floater" and help to melt away stress and fight nagging muscle and joint pain.

"There's truly nothing like it," Stephens said.

The cream colored pod-like tanks, which resemble discarded props from the movie *Blade Runner*, are usually 8 feet in length and contain about 10 inches of water. At 93.5 degrees, the water's temperature reduces the sensation of skin-to-water contact.

In addition to the temperature, the water contains 800 pounds of Epsom salt per tank. These salts, which Stephens claims are good for the skin, create a buoy-



Michael Jarecki/ The Chronicle

One of the floatation tanks at SpaceTime Tanks. These tanks are designed for the relaxation and rejuvenation of the mind and body.

ancy that eliminates the body's gravity, giving the user a Dead Sea. A normal floatation session lasts an hour, with more experienced floaters sometimes preferring up to two.

"It was weird and cool, and it made me want to do it more," Stephens said. "I remember being excited about the idea because my only knowledge of floating before that was from the movie *Altered States*."

Matthew Buckley, a 30-year-old employee at Ego's Dungeon, described his first float as "really restful."

"I could hear my heart beating, it was so peaceful it weirded me out," Buckley said.

Floatation tanks have been around since the 1950s, when Dr. John C. Lilly became enamored with the idea of stripping stimuli away from the mind and body. A physician and psychoanalyst, Lilly found that the brain doesn't shut down when deprived of exterior stimuli, but actually becomes highly active. In the early 1960s Lilly began to radically change his approach to floatation tank research when he began adding LSD to his experiments.

The combination of drug use and floating sessions, however, are frowned upon at SpaceTime.

According to spacetime-tanks.com, floatation tanks offer a wide variety of health benefits ranging from increased levels of creativity and problem-solving capabilities to the reduction and elimination of unhealthy habits (i.e. smoking) and overall stress and muscle relief.

Stephens claims that floatation has also been scientifically proven to slow down brain waves to a more creative state.

Dr. Jason Ingham, a 34-year-old chiropractor at Advanced Spine and Sports Care, has never used a floatation device, but approved of the health benefits associated with floating.

"Taking gravity off of the back is always beneficial to the health of your spine and back," Ingham said.

Despite the obvious health benefits, lying on your back in a pitch-black tank can still be an anxious and unnatural experience for many first time floaters and is not recommended for people with claustrophobia. Stephens explains that like many hallucinogenic drugs, floating is a very individual experience.

"I can never tell someone what their experience is going to be like exactly, because we're providing this environment and it's your own individual personality that's going to determine what your experience is like," she said.

Still, Stevens is adamant that floaters will at least feel relaxed while in the tank.

"It's very difficult to prevent yourself from becoming very physically and mentally relaxed," Stephens said.

mclaire@chroniclemail.com

Looking for part-time work?

Opportunities Available for Columbia College Students

The Center for Community Arts Partnerships (CCAP) is holding open interviews for qualified students interested in working part-time with youth in after-school programs throughout the Chicago area. CCAP is looking for students to work as tutors, homework aides, administrative arts program assistants, and arts and technology assistants (i.e., photo, video, computer science.)

The ideal candidate should be a Columbia College junior, senior or graduate student and have experience working as a tutor or in the disciplines listed above, enjoy working with youth, and have the ability to adjust to an urban school setting.

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

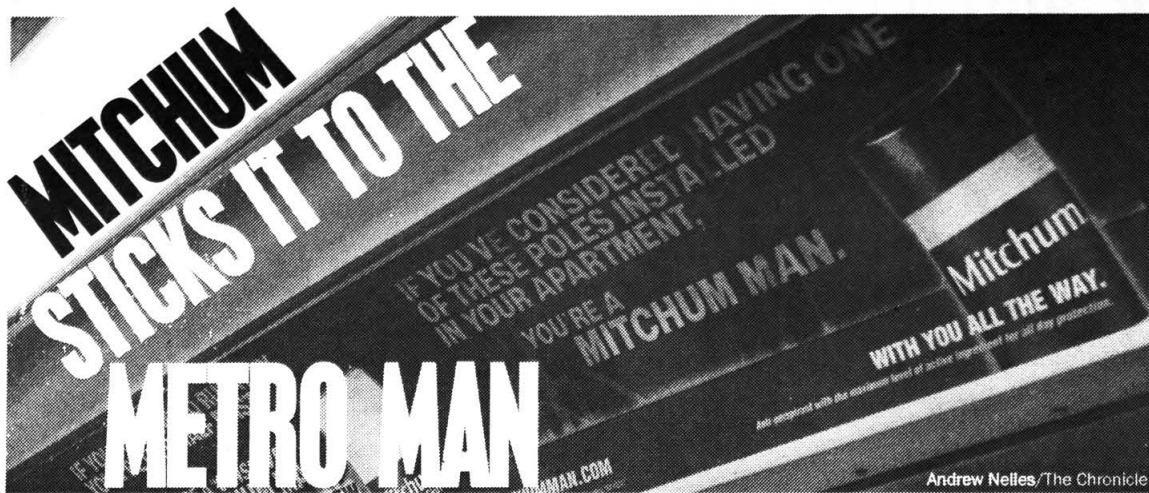
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Through its School Partnerships, CCAP works with K-12 schools in Chicago and Evanston to enhance students' education through project-based or arts integrated experiences before, during and after school. As a result, classrooms are transformed into studios and performance spaces where students are engaged in a powerful learning cycle in and through the arts. CCAP's Community Schools initiative unites the most important influences in children's lives – school, family and community – to fully support their learning and development. It offers a full-service approach to education by addressing the whole child, including physical, social and emotional, as well as academic needs.

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change



New ad campaigns rebuke metrosexuality, embrace 'manlier' things

By Mark Byrne/A&E Editor

"What can you do to make sweating a lot positive?" asked Suzanne L. Fogel, the chair of the Marketing Department at DePaul University. "There's not really a lot."

Mitchum Deodorant, a product of the Revlon Company, sought to do just that in an ad campaign that debuted this year in CTA el cars, as well as in some workout centers.

The ads, however, don't bother to directly address sweating, which is typically the primary concern of any deodorant brand. The approach taken instead is blatant praise of exaggerated machismo that might be associated with heavy sweating (according to various ads, a Mitchum

Man might have a stripper pole in his apartment—but a "sensitive" Mitchum Man would run its installation by his wife first), in what some are calling a swing back from the recent metrosexuality craze.

Tim Calkins, a marketing professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, said the first question to ask about the campaign is, "Will it drive sales for the brand?"

"I think it might [increase sales] because it is so different from what is out there," Calkins said.

Though there are a few other campaigns that have recently taken the same tone, Mitchum's

attitude stands in direct opposition to the image-conscious male made popular by Bravo's reality show, "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy," which is in its third season.

Calkins believes not all men felt comfortable embracing the metrosexuality trend.

"Now people have said, 'well, that's not me, and that doesn't reflect a lot of people,'" Calkins said.

Fogel first saw one of the ads pop up in the gym where she works out. The ad read "If you're not here because of a New Years resolution, then you're a Mitchum Man," and she recalls staring at it from the elliptical trainer. Fogel also

thinks it is a backlash from metrosexuality, and considers it a decent campaign.

"If you can appeal somehow to being really masculine, and make that positive, then I think it's a great ad campaign," she said.

Fogel also noted that men are not the only gender that faces stereotype-driven advertisements.

"A lot of women's advertisement is still focused on catching a man, being attractive, being thin," Fogel said, citing *Shape* magazine, which she considers a relatively positive magazine. In it, she said, ads for Nike run along side ads for weightloss solutions and makeup. "It's virtually impossible to get away from."

Calkins is aware of the female-focused ads as well. Yet he thinks the campaigns targeting women do it "in a much less tongue-in-cheek way." He said a possible reason for that is men may be more open to humorous generalizations.

John D'Emilio, a professor of gender studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, recognizes that a series of ads like the Mitchum Man campaign can be interpreted in a number of ways—but for most viewers who don't take it at face value, it is mostly harmless.

"It's all in the viewing," D'Emilio said. "Someone can look at those things and just laugh and laugh and laugh. And other people will see it and aspire to the values behind it."

D'Emilio, who also noticed the ads at his gym, said he recalls them as "stupid," but despite that, they have a place as a cultural analysis.

"It serves almost as a gender critique because it's so ludicrous," he said.

Whether the ads serve as a critique of gender or open praise of machismo, they rely on generalizations for material. And while Calkins is unsure about whether the ads will breed stereotypes, he knows the marketing world well, and he thinks Mitchum is heading in the right direction.

"You never like to generalize people," Calkins said. "By the same token, identifying and playing off insights leads to great advertisements."

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH!

Mommy, will u txt me a story?

Stories makes translation to text-message characters

By Allie Shah/MCT

If Charles Dickens were alive today, he might be writing a text novella called "Gr8 Xpectations."

A text novella is a mini-novel written in text message speak that's meant to be read in snippets on a cell phone. The result of a three-way partnership between Virgin Mobile USA and two non-profit youth organizations, the first four-week novella by 23-year-old author Sara Schmidt will wrap up soon. In the first week, 12,000 people signed up to read the story about homeless teens called "Ghost Town."

Cell phones, once used strictly to communicate, have evolved into portable entertainment devices with new functions coming online continually. That, coupled with the growing popularity of text messaging, led Virgin Mobile and its partners to debut their idea.

"It's a new way to reach our audience with something intriguing," said Ginger Thomson, chief executive officer of Youth Noise, an online youth community.

The San Francisco-based group aims to help teenagers and college students get involved in social and civic causes that they feel strongly about. The other group involved in developing the

text novella is Stand Up for Kids, which serves homeless youths.

Thomson, who was an English major at Harvard, was cautious about the prospect of seeing Shakespeare or Hemingway's words abbreviated on cell phone screens.

"I would call this a story rather than literature," she said. "It's not literature in the traditional sense, by any means."

Only those with Virgin Mobile phones can get the text message episodes for "Ghost Town" sent twice a day—once in the morning and again in the evening. Users had to sign up for it and pay for the messages. Ariel Rosen, director of pro-social initiatives for Virgin Mobile USA, said that standard charges applied, typically 5 cents per message or just 1 cent a message if the user was on a special promotional plan that charges \$9.99 a month for text messaging. The company will donate part of the proceeds to Youth Noise and Stand Up for Kids.

Each scene is about 160 characters long, just enough to fit into one text message. Those who signed up for the novel will receive the messages through Sep. 15.

Somewhere along the story line, there's a plot twist and subscribers will get a chance to vote on what they think the character should do. Schmidt said she wrote two endings, and the one that gets the most votes will be delivered to all subscribers.

There are eight characters in the story, which revolves around a high school football star, "Ghost," who has a secret—he's homeless. All of the characters have back stories written about them and posted on the Youth Noise website (www.youthnoise.com). They also have blogs where visitors can add comments. The main characters also have web profiles posted on MySpace.

Recently, Schmidt was trolling on MySpace and noticed that a couple of teenage girls added their names to one of her characters' websites. "I'm thinking, 'My characters are hot!'" she said with pride.

Schmidt is a senior studying English literature at Southeast Missouri State University and a staff member of Youth Noise. While writing the text novella, she said, she talked to current and former homeless teenagers to make sure the story would ring



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Cell phones, which can already access the web, take photographs and record movies, can now also operate as a medium for literature.

true to their experiences. The goal, she said, is to entertain people with a good story but also to raise awareness about teen homelessness.

Using the language of text messages was perhaps the biggest writing challenge, she said. "We had to keep cutting and

cutting and cutting. We had to work our way backwards. Then we had to put it in text-speak."

It was an especially hard task for Schmidt, who owns a cell phone but rarely uses it. In fact, she'd never sent a text message before.

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Battles of a D

Story by Tiffany Breyne Graphics by Jennifer Crider

Computer geeks have always been in a league of their own, with the talk of gigabytes, mini-bits and hard drives. Society likes to plot them against the cool kids; hence the *Revenge of the Nerds* series and the much loved but short-lived "Freaks and Geeks." One of the best and most realistic parts, about these portrayals is the fact that the geeks are self-acknowledged; they embrace their nerdiness and use it to their advantage.

This is what the folks behind big city laptop battles are doing—using their computer geek know-how to create a fun, music-infused atmosphere that combats technique, experimental beats and competitive drive in just minutes for a battle championship title.

"It's fun; it's real geeky," said Paul J. Geissinger, a regular in the laptop battle scene and winner of the 2005

Laptop Battle Championship in Seattle. "It's like a DJ battle for dorky people."

Residing in Philadelphia, Geissinger, who played and won under his performance name Starkey, has been doing various electronic music projects for the better part of the last decade. Geissinger was also the winner of the Mid-Atlantic Laptop Battle that took place on Feb. 12 in Washington, D.C., which led to his winning the championship. Laptop battles have been a huge part of his music production for years, and he's not the only one.

Though originating in Chicago, laptop battles have caught on mainly in Philadelphia and Seattle as the computer version of a battle of the bands.

Seattle area DJ Kris Markle, also known by his performance name Kris Moon, started throwing laptop battles three years ago.

As Moon described it in an e-mail, the rules are fairly simple. Contestants have a laptop, a controller and three-minute rounds to show off their skills. The contenders are whittled away until there is one winner at the end taking home the prizes, which range from clothing to equipment to software. Judges look at performance, composition and crowd response in addition to the music itself.

Though many of the battles take place along the East and West coasts, Gair Marking first heard of laptop battles taking place in Chicago years ago. Marking liked the concept and after discovering laptop battles headed by Markle in Seattle, Marking started Philadelphia's version under the name Seclusias and soon numerous DJs were working with him.

For Marking—performance name dev79—the battles answer a long-awaited question of what comes next in the world of electronic performances. In Marking's eyes, a battle is more than just a concert or a dance show; it's an event that draws in a diverse crowd of "older people, 9-to-5ers, more conservative types, tech people [and] musicians" curious about the performance.

Laptop participants have their own idea of what attracts audience members, ranging from the time and place of the battles to the actual performance.

Dave-Leon Czolgosz competed in a March laptop battle at Smartbar, 3730 N. Clark St. The battle, set up by Markle and others, had eight contestants and Czolgosz—playing under the name Nogunri—made it through to the second round. The show wasn't as big as the Seattle



ifferent Beat

minority in this scene," Wood said. "You know that you're going to be seen as the only girl and some people might look at it as, 'Oh, she only got there because she's a girl,' or some people look at it like, 'I'm rooting for the girl.' You just hope that one day there are more girls."

world and will probably become the predominant computer use of people soon. That could show a large shift in all realms of life, no less music."

performs under the alias Junebullet, caught on to the gender gap years ago. Wood helped found First Ladies DJ Collective, a group in Washington, D.C., that works together to get visibility and recognition for female performers in the community. Though FLDC members don't often compete in laptop battles, Wood decided to try out for the Mid-Atlantic Laptop Battle by sending in a sample of her work, and she got in.

Wood said the laptop battle experience is different from what she's used to as a DJ since her style usually involves longer, more techno-style music as opposed to other performers' short, cut-up sound. She had a feeling she wouldn't make it far in the rounds due to inexperience. Her prediction was somewhat correct after she lost in the first round, but then was brought back later as the wild card and lost that round as well, she said. While Wood is a talented and popular DJ in the D.C. area, she partially attributes her acceptance to perform in the battle to her gender.

Yet that comes as part of the territory with any subculture, Wood said. Like any other scene outside the mainstream, she said, males typically dominate.

"That's just a fact, that girls are definitely a

According to many of the laptop battle regulars, this medium won't be under the radar forever. Just as trends fade in and out in a cyclical fashion, music is no different. But most performers are optimistic that the battles will become more mainstream as long as participants keep promoting it.

"If laptop composers continue to evolve and innovate, you can bet the battles are only going to get more and more attractive to larger audiences," Czolgosz wrote.

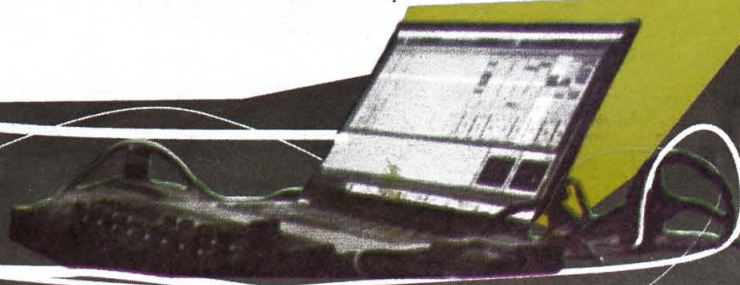
Moon also thinks changes will take place soon. While the battles have made their way to Germany and the U.K., this December's championship battle in Seattle will be a big influence on battles in the U.S., Moon said, with contestants coming from all across the country, including Texas, Philadelphia, Georgia and Florida.

Other performers aren't sure how to perceive the battle scene. Marking rides the fence in terms of the battles of the future.

"I guess it's becoming more popular, but I couldn't really fathom the success rate and longevity of it," Marking said. "It's hard to say—laptops are becoming very, very prevalent in the

"It's fun; it's real geeky. It's like a DJ battle for dorky people."

Paul Geissinger, 2005 Laptop Battle Champion



The Grates: Australian for fun

The Grates breakout the French ticklers and body oils on their first full-length album

By Michael Claire/Assistant A&E Editor

The Grate's debut full-length album, *Gravity Won't Get You High*, brings the gravy and spreads it all over your fat uncle's tummy for some lubricated family fun. Produced by Brian Deck (Secret Machines, Modest Mouse and Iron & Wine), the album exhibits a Detroit Cobra's kind of soul with a subtle dash of Yeah Yeah Yeah's oomph.

Hailing from Brisbane, Australia, The Grates all met during high school drama classes. The band didn't form until Patience Hodgson (lead singer and glockenspiel master) started turning heads with her outback shrills and thrills at a fateful karaoke jam. The two other members, Alana Skyring, drums, and John Patterson, guitars and keyboards,

soon formed the remainder of the trio.

Recording their first EP, *The Ouch. The Touch*, in Patterson's father's garden shed, the group found early success with the single "Trampoline." The song found a home on Australian radio and helped land the group some press in Australian Rolling Stone.

Although the EP appetizer and hit single were yummy, the full-length CD is where the real meat is at.

The album starts off quirky and continues to bounce around like a hell-raising toddler. "I Won't Survive" opens the album's floodgates with the sexually hungry lyrics, "If I could find a little piece of flesh I'll be alright." The song is actually quite creepy, with some

erie lullaby-like guitar lines and a chorus that echoes, "I won't survive." Things really kick off, though, with the catchy, "19 20 20" and the cynical "Lies Are Much More Fun."

The song "Howl" is a clear-cut rocking winner. It's a sexual awakening that would raise Allen Ginsberg from his grave and make him get down and dirty at your old man's next party. With lyrics like, "You look so good tonight/you look so good I cannot lie/I wish I had a little piece so I could bring you to your/oh whoa oh oh/knees," Ginsberg would be crazy not to ditch the worms and dirt.

"Trampoline," the hit single from *The Ouch. The Touch*, delivers with the same punch and



The Grates' debut, 'Gravity Won't Get You High,' will turn your bed into a trampoline.

panache, with Hodgson's sultry vocals leading the way. The guitars glam out into a beach-wagging boogie while the charged lyrics weave a Bettie Page type of eroticism. Hodgson croons, "Use your bed like a trampoline/I said higher! Higher!" and "Use your car like a hot machine/I said, higher! higher!" The song works because it uses sex as an instrument for control, a powerful instrument that seeks to manipulate and influence its intended prey.

"I am Siam" and "Sukkafish" aid in slowing things down a tad and help to reveal an exposed Hodgson. Both songs deal with loss and the pain and turmoil that eventually follow. "Sukkafish" is especially adept at chronicling the pestering thrums of a broken heart with lyrics like, "I ain't ever seen this valley before/you know I would/I ain't ever, I ain't ever."

Although the simple Meg White-like drumming runs throughout the album, it never detracts or overwhelms any of the songs. Patterson's guitar licks and riffs intertwine perfectly with Hodgson's vocals. The sex never stops, and the party atmosphere plays throughout, slowing up only momentarily to help the drunken party girl light the right end of her cigarette.

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The Grates
"Gravity Won't Get You High"



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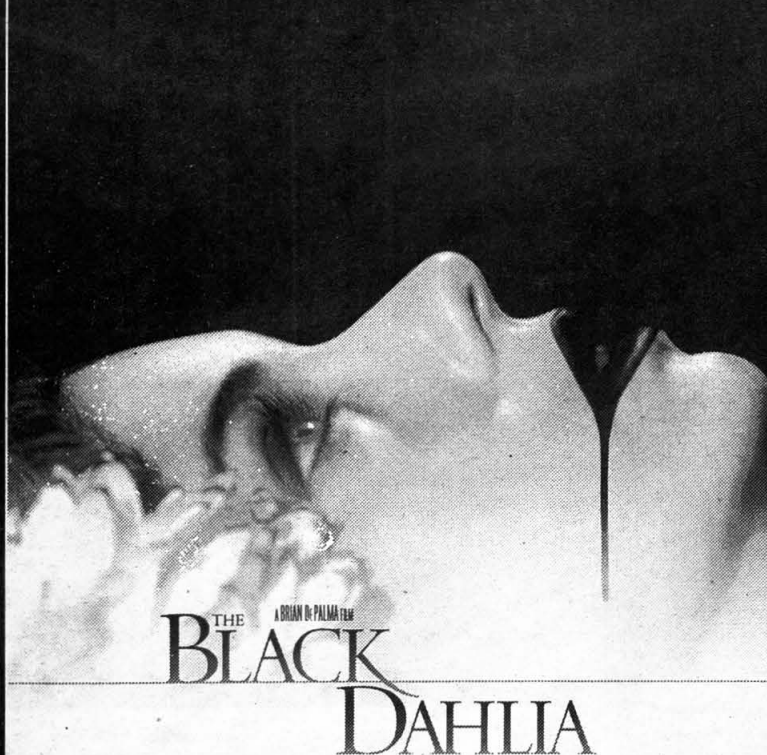
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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

Reviews

Music

Threat Signal Under Reprisal



It's all been done, but some just do it better. *Under Reprisal* follows many formulas, but manages to remain fresh, crushing and melodic. If lead singer Jon Howard can shed his uncanny vocal resemblance to Linkin Park's Chester Bennington, and tour like they have no life, Threat Signal will be huge in five years. —B. White

Venetian Snares Cavalcade of Glee...



Aaron Funk, the mastermind behind Venetian Snares, is a genius—and this album proves it. Aphex Twin influenced with its erratic beats, dense rhythmic inconsistencies and complex, detached approach to structure, *Cavalcade of Glee...* is a must-own for any aggressive techno fan. —B. White

Ratatat Classics



Ratatat's second album is a giant butt plug of butter, perfectly smooth and delicious. This all instrumental album hugs you with its robotic hooks and beats, and slashes you apart with its wildcat growls. The opener, "Montanita," has a *Charlie Brown's Christmas* type of warmth and sets the tone for the rest of this hip-shakin' hunk of cheese. —M. Claire

Print

Astonishing X-men #16



Astonishing X-Men #16 keeps up the momentum of the series. This pure dork fest continues the Hellfire Club's attack on the X-Men, which deserves bonus points because the leader of the Hellfire Club—the White Queen—is a cross between the Ice Queen from *The Chronicles of Narnia* and a dominatrix. —H. Clauss

People Magazine The Royals



People magazine explores royalty in this special edition. From the unforgettable wedding of Lady Diana to Prince Charles to images of Diana's fatal car crash in Paris, *People* chronicles various royal families. It's a history lesson in a magazine and worth a read for anyone interested in royal gossip. —M. Kroeck

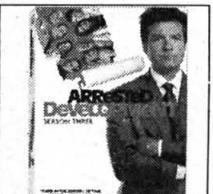
Discover Magazine October issue



Flipping through the latest *Discover* magazine, one can read about the popularity of endangered animals' meat in the United States, the new Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter to hit the Red Planet and Einstein's love affairs. Newt Gingrich gives an interesting Q & A too. It's a nerdy delight. —E. Kasang

Film

Arrested Development Season Three DVD



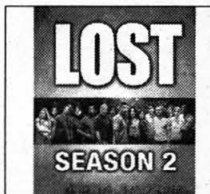
Now the story about a great show that lost everything, and the one DVD set that brought its last season all together. Despite their undeveloped extras (gag reel, chaotic commentary), these episodes make up the final chapter of a comic masterpiece. Its cancellation is proof of our own arrested development. —M. Fagerholm

United 93 DVD



Devoid of *World Trade Center*'s mainstream polish, Paul Greengrass's real-time visualization of the doomed hijacked aircraft is objective, visceral and absolutely shattering. With a director's commentary and interviews with the victims' families, this is a worthy DVD release for the best film so far this year. —M. Fagerholm

Lost Season 2 ABC



I jumped up and down on my couch when the last season ended with the castaways blowing the hatch off of that creepy underground bunker. While this season doesn't answer many of the major questions presented in season one, the plot development still blows the hatch off my pants. —H. Clauss

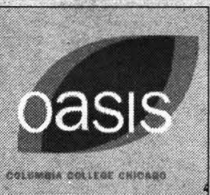
Misc.

The Chicago White Sox's Losing Streak



Never before did White Sox losses satisfy as much as they have lately. Because Sox fans rubbed Cub fans' noses in human waste last year while they won the World Series, it makes it oh so good to see the Southsiders floundering and grasping at a playoff spot. —J. Ewert

NO HEARTS OASIS



OASIS? More like mirage. Just when you think you're going to log on to this shitty website, it flakes out and says that it's too busy smelling its own farts. While the redesign makes it look less like AOL from the early '90s, there's still a 50/50 chance you won't be able to get to the information you need. —H. Clauss

Revolving Doors



The greatest thing to happen to the door since cars started pimpin' it out with suicide doors. The new revolver at 33 E. Congress is a beauty and glides like a dream. Have fun with a few lovers or hookers and pack the bitch up for a nice revolving orgy. —M. Claire

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

When Trey Spruance of Mr. Bungle, a band famed by ex-Faith No More singer Mike Patton, produces one of your albums, you must be on to something.

Through their different lineups, Chicago's Tub Ring has acquired a different kind of sound. Experimental but poppy, punk with a touch of metal and silly with a serious side, this band pushes the limits of the general form of rock music. Playing some 200 dates each year, Tub Ring—Kevin Gibson, vocals; Trevor Erb, bass; Rob Kleiner, keyboards; Chris Wiken, drums and Jeff Enokian, guitars—have built a reputation for their crazy live shows. But, what's the story with the band's bizarre name? The *Chronicle* spoke to Trevor Erb to find out.

The Chronicle: Tub Ring, huh? Were all the other good names taken?

Trevor Erb: In the early formative stages of the band, one of the members came to practice and said, "Man, it sucked today. My mom made me do all these chores, and I had to clean the ring around the bathtub, and it was gross." And we were like "The tub ring"? And that was it. Some of the members have regretted it, like Kevin. But I think it describes our music perfectly. I don't think our music is nasty, disgusting and ugly, but I think it's an amalgamation of so many different elements, which is what a tub ring is.

If you could describe your sound in three words, which words would you use?

Fast, chaos and shit. Wait, not shit! Not shit! How about: fast, chaos and stamina.

How'd the band get together?

The band got together by a need and a want to make different music. We met through different facets. Kevin

and Rob met through going to shows. Chris and I, the drummer, played in another band, and we moved to Chicago to join Tub Ring a little while ago. And Jeff, the guitarist, was in another band called Duct Tape Moustache, which are is from Chicago.

What are your live shows like?

Insane. Regardless of if there are 2,500 people there or 100, or even just 10, we put on the same show every night. For us, the music is like gunpowder. We try to cram as many songs into a set as possible. We don't stop or take breaks. We just go. So basically we play a 40-minute long song, and it's just nonstop, bouncing everywhere.

Who are your influences?

Obviously the Mr. Bungle influence exists. We're influenced by bands that are crazier than us. This may sound brash and egotistical, but I think the only other band out there that's crazier than us are The Dillinger Escape Plan. So we try and top them every night we play, but do it without bashing people in the face in the process.

In most live photos, Rob is jumping or diving off something. Does he think he can fly?

Tub Ring



Courtesy Tub Ring

[Laughs.] Rob has figured out this trick where he can launch himself off the keyboard because his keyboard stand can hold about 400 pounds. That's his trick. But he's not a one-trick pony; He also surfs on it, humps it, molests it. But yeah, our live shows are insane.

Tub Ring will be doing a short Midwest tour starting Sept. 14 in Covington, Ky. After the tour, Erb said the band plans on recording a new album. For more information, visit <http://www.myspace.com/tubring>.

—B. White

Little indie shines bright

New film is a hilarious celebration of humanity's common quirks

By Matt Fagerholm/Film Critic

In the era of instant messages, iPods and reality TV, can the act of going to the movies still generate the communal power it once produced so long ago, when film was a new and magical experience?

The exhilaration caused by a group of strangers becoming similarly affected by the power of cinematic art has become quite a rarity in contemporary movie theaters. That is precisely why a film like *Little Miss Sunshine* is so special.

It breaks no new artistic ground, nor has anything particularly profound to say. A bare-bones description of its premise can hardly be thought of as "original"—a bickering dysfunctional family sets out on a road trip to take their pudgy young daughter to a beauty contest. Yet from its enormous success at the Sundance Film Festival to its journey into mainstream release after climbing the box office charts, this film has proven its ability to move a large, jaded audience to riotous laughter and exuberant cheers.

The secret to *Sunshine*'s success lies not in the plot's setup, but in its ingenious execution. Each character's eccentricity is generated from a fully developed and realized personality, intelligently crafted by screenwriter Michael Arndt and acted to perfection by one of the finest comic ensembles in recent memory.

Greg Kinnear is the optimistic bobble head of the household, attempting to solve each daily conflict with one of his failed

motivational speeches.

Toni Collette's defiant stability as Kinnear's long-suffering wife seems to be pitched at the brink of insanity as she struggles to keep her family from bursting apart—the way she chomps on a popsicle is a textbook study in suppressed neurosis.

Steve Carell continues his winning streak of uproarious yet grounded performances with his role as a suicidal gay uncle, who sporadically breaks out into the most side-splitting run since John Cleese's *Monty Python* march.

Paul Dano embodies adolescent angst like a second skin as Kinnear's oft-silent son, conveying volumes with a mere sardonic tilt of his head.

Alan Arkin, meanwhile, embodies the anarchic glee of past decades, mouthing off four-letter philosophies and snorting coke, all the while giving genuine amounts of tough love to son Kinnear.

Yet amongst this wildly entertaining, exemplary group of performers, it is 8-year-old Abigail Breslin that unquestionably steals the show as Kinnear's pageant-hopeful daughter. Sporting spectacles that would drown Woody Allen and placed directly on the line separating innocence from reason, Breslin's performance is entirely devoid of smarmy cuteness or mechanical precociousness. The purity of her eagerness and hope forges a duet with her growing obsession and frustration, aimed at the perfection of a self-image that is as beautifully mis-

guided as the other characters' pursuits.

Married co-directors Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris have a deft eye for uncovering the sublimine in the shabby, the beauty in the ugly, the perfection in the flaws. Their film finds laughs in the simplest and oddest of places, like a malfunctioning car horn that sounds remarkably like the Road Runner being crushed by a steamroller.

Sunshine's mixture of unpredictable guffaws—none of which the trailers ruin—and gritty observation recalls the uncensored sensibilities of '70s antiestablishment pictures like *Harold and Maude*. It gives the audience the shameless lift of a studio-bred heart-warmer like *Sister Act*, coupled with the offbeat charm of *Napoleon Dynamite*.

Yet none of these comparisons can truly do justice to what makes *Little Miss Sunshine* so uniquely wonderful. I felt more like a participant than an observer at the joyous sold-out screening of the film I attended at Chicago's own Century Centre Cinema. It may have been the first film I've ever publicly viewed where the entire audience was either roaring with laughter or popping suppressed giggles like red-hot kernels.

The final moments of *Sunshine* are so thoroughly unexpected, wildly hilarious, completely outrageous, startlingly inevitable and oddly moving, that the audience broke into applause long before the credits began to roll.

Little Miss Sunshine cuts

right to the heart of our own fears and insecurities. It triumphantly emerges as a celebration of humanity's common flaws and quirks—the kind that can easily connect strangers, united by sheer pleasure in a darkened movie house. Who could have expected that a carload of depressed losers would together create what is sure to be the finest feel-good movie of the year?

'Little Miss Sunshine'
Directed by Jonathan
Dayton and Valerie
Faris



From left: Abigail Breslin, Toni Collette, Steve Carell and Greg Kinnear star in 'Little Miss Sunshine.'



'Little Miss Sunshine' is in theaters now.

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The trauma of 9/11

5 years later, events still prominent and possibly overwhelming

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

After being trapped under the collapsed World Trade Center for nearly a day, two survivors of the 9/11 attacks share their courage and hope in a film that commemorates the fifth anniversary of the disaster.

World Trade Center tells the story of two Port Authority police officers' struggle to stay alive after being trapped beneath the metal and concrete debris of the fallen towers. It also looks at the emotional stresses their families underwent waiting to hear if their loved ones were alive or dead.

Although a half decade has passed since the attacks, the events are still vivid in many minds and can still bring back severe emotional and mental trauma.

"If you're going to the box office and seeing a film called *World Trade Center*, you should know what you're getting into," the film's director, Oliver Stone, told *The Chronicle*.

Stone has a reputation for using history as a basis for many of his films, such as *JFK*, *Nixon* and *Platoon*. For *World Trade Center*, the experiences of Sgt. John McLoughlin and Officer Will Jimeno are used to show the events of that day through their eyes.

"Every time I've done a movie, I've done it to suit the story," Stone said.

The film takes place over a period of 24 hours and concentrates on the lives of McLoughlin, Jimeno, their wives and fellow officers.

"We stayed faithful to what they felt and saw," Stone said. "To have been at the bottom of it for 22 hours and barely survived, that's enough of a story for me."

World Trade Center tries to show the more humanistic side to the events of 9/11, and Maurice Brooks, a viewer of the film, appreciated that.

"I'm glad it was more of a human interest story than a chaotic, more violent one," Brooks said.

"This was easier to take, but it's still early."

Brooks' sentiments were shared by his sister, Suzanne Lewis, who also saw the film.

"It was just made too soon," said Lewis as she came out of viewing *World Trade Center*. "It seems kind of unfair. No disrespect to the officers, but so many people died."

Brooks, a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army, felt a special connection to the attacks.

"[9/11] hurt a lot," Brooks said. "It devastated me, left me shocked, appalled, angry. There were a lot of emotions. There still are."

Leonard A. Jason, who's a psychology teacher at DePaul University, believes that reliving the events of 9/11 can affect one's mental health.

"I think having a period of years go by [before the film's release] is a good idea," said Jason, who's been teaching psychology for 31 years.

Jason believes that the media can influence the perception of events and because of this, it's important to portray events accurately.

"People who have been directly affected [by the disaster] should think about whether or not they want to subject themselves to [the film]," Jason said. "They shouldn't watch it if they don't feel ready."

New security measures at airports, national landmarks and major events serve as reminders of 9/11.

"Once [9/11] happened, I felt we were at war," Lewis said. "I felt we weren't free anymore. It's scary. We will never be where we were."

Stone admitted that portraying the events accurately was difficult.

"It was a technical nightmare of building the holes and getting people in and out," Stone said. "It's shot in a simpler style.... Very studied on the eyes."

Stone was pleased that the film has had no large walkouts and seems to "grip" people. He also believes that most audiences are

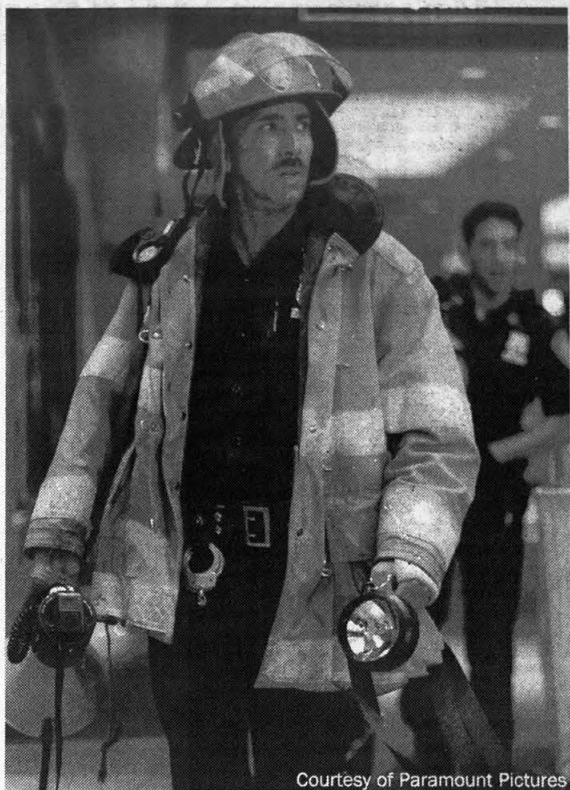
capable of emotionally handling the film.

"You can't warn everybody," Stone said. "I think you have to take your own responsibility for seeing a film.... Anyone who's been severely traumatized should be in medical care and should know what to see and what not to see."

While the film has historical relevance, the images in it are graphic at times and could bring back strong emotions for those directly connected to the event.

"Part of [how someone's affected by the film] depends on how it's done," said Jason. "If [someone's] still very raw and still dealing with the consequences of [a traumatic event], I would caution people who go see these movies to think about that."

mkroeck@chroniclemail.com



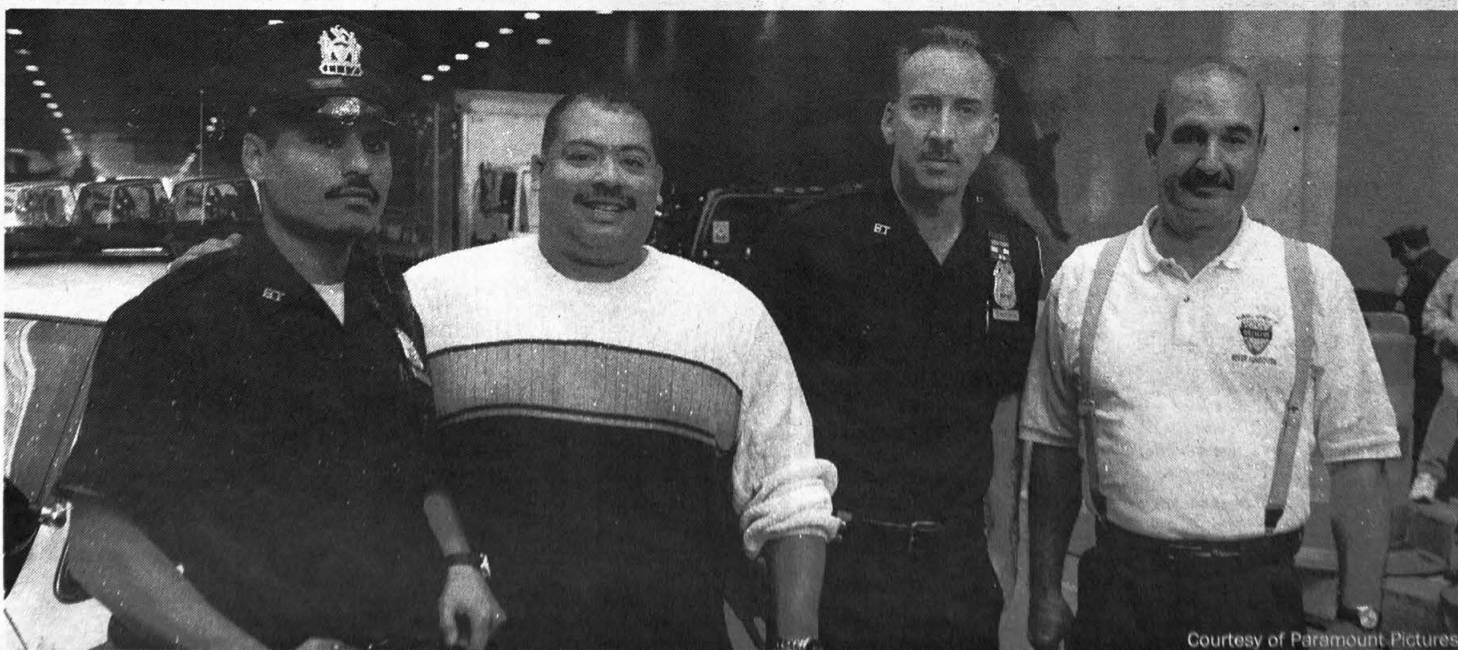
Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Nicolas Cage stands on a set of the World Trade Center moments before the towers collapse.



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

Actors in *'World Trade Center'* look up at the burning towers as they arrive on the scene of what would become ground zero.



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

From left to right: Michael Peña, Officer Will Jimeno, Nicolas Cage and Sgt. John McLoughlin on the set of *'World Trade Center.'*

Country star goes to the movies. Yeehaw!

Toby Keith talks about his new film, his costars and friends who don't support the war

By Wade Tatangelo/MCT

Toby Keith throws the biggest party in country music.

Keith is most famous for the rousing patriotic anthem "Courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue (The Angry American)." The most controversial tune of 2002, it crossed over from No. 1 on Billboard's Top Country Album chart to reach No. 25 on the Hot 100 pop survey and made Keith a megastar.

The semi-pro football player turned singer/songwriter also excels with saloon songs, scoring major hits with titles like "I Love This Bar," "Whiskey Girl" and "Get Drunk and Be Somebody," which is from his latest album, *White Trash with Money*.

But Keith will display a gentler side of his oversized personality when he stars in *Broken Bridges*, a dramatic film which was released by Paramount Pictures on Aug. 29th. The movie finds the real-life country music titan playing a faded star who returns home to find his high school sweetheart, Kelly Preston, and a daughter, Lindsey Haun, who he never knew existed. Keith is confident the movie will appeal to his fan base despite its subdued subject matter.

"Military people and Southern people and country people from all over, there's a certain thread that runs through, and it's about liking to have the heart strings tugged at and this movie does that," Keith said in a recent phone interview.

Broken Bridges also features appearances by Willie Nelson and Burt Reynolds. Although Keith is often lumped together with right-wing Republicans, he maintains a friendship with Nelson, one of popular music's most outspoken liberals.

A concert favorite of Keith's is the humorous narrative "Weed with Willie," in which he sings "Don't knock it 'til you tried it/I tried it my friend/and I'll never smoke weed with Willie again."

"I learned that a long time ago," Keith replied with a laugh when asked if he avoided Nelson's trailer during filming in Georgia. "But I think Burt [Reynolds] slipped over to Willie's trailer."

All joking aside, Keith was quick to praise Nelson, the man who joined him on the hit "Beer for My Horses."

"Willie is a very unique human being," Keith said. "He's got the sweetest heart in the world and never says an unkind thing about anybody. Willie is just a hippie. He's as comfortable playing with me as playing with The Dead. It was my choice to have him in the movie."

Keith also gushed about Haun, who plays his daughter on screen and in real life is touring with him in between making an

album on his record label Show Dog Nashville. In concert, Haun will sing with Keith on her new single "Broken" and "Broken Bridges," both of which are included on the soundtrack album, which came out last week.

"She's dynamite," Keith said. "She's the only name people won't recognize when they see the movie credits, but she's great. People should go to see the movie just for her, in my opinion."

Despite his overwhelming success, many people will never forgive Keith for bashing the Dixie Chicks and singing a lyric like "We'll put a boot in your ass/it's the American way." That said, no conversation, interview or story about Keith is complete without discussing the troops overseas. For starters, his song "American Soldier" is one of the favorites among the young men and women stationed in Iraq, according to an informal poll recently released by Rolling Stone magazine.

"Every spring I try and go for 17 days," Keith said. "We've been shot at, mortared at and had to get up in the middle of the night to go to a shelter."

Keith revealed that the "biggest reality check" took place during a flight from Afghanistan to Kuwait. On board, next to their gear, was a coffin containing the remains of a fallen soldier, Lt. Eric McCray.

"I said to myself that until the day I die, I will never forget his name," Keith said. "He was the same soldier who had been at our show two nights before, and there he was, deceased."

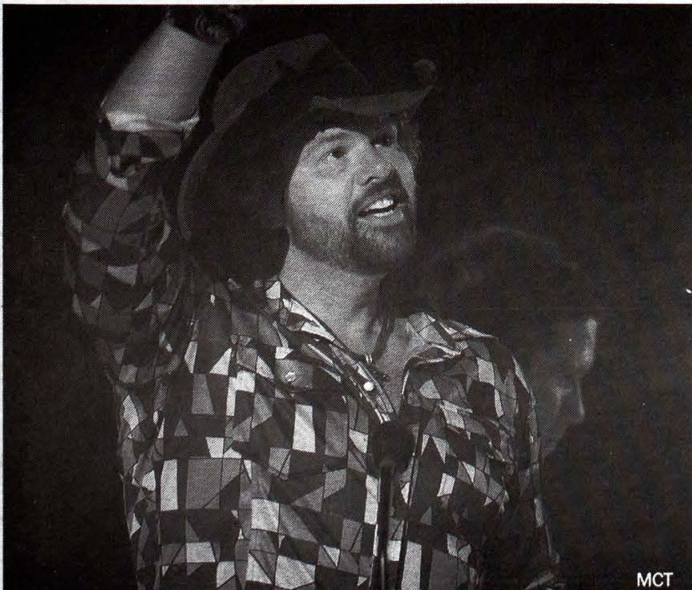
Merle Haggard's critically acclaimed 2005 release *Chicago Wind* includes the ballad "Some of Us Fly," a duet with Haggard and Keith. The same album also features the track "America First," in which Haggard argues that we need to get our troops out of Iraq.

That was the setup for asking Keith his thoughts on the Iraq war.

"Well, Merle and Willie are very close friends, and everyone is entitled to their own view," Keith said. "Myself, I feel I'm not educated enough to make a call on why we're there. With Afghanistan it was clear ... With Iraq, I never understood and never said I did, but still support the troops no matter what."

Keith said that he has a lot of friends—including Haggard—who don't support the Bush administration but do support the troops.

"People make the mistake of confusing the two things," Keith said. "We won't know for 15 or 20 years if this war was necessary."



Toby Keith, a well known country singer, stars in 'Broken Bridges' which is in theaters now. Keith has won numerous Country Music Awards.

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Graphic novel tells Iraq's story via lions

Graphic novelist Brian K. Vaughan follows in the footsteps of 'Maus' with 'Pride of Baghdad'

By Bill Radford/MCT

The real-life escape of a pride of lions from the Baghdad Zoo has become a political allegory, a contemplation of freedom and liberation and sacrifice—all with talking animals.

Pride of Baghdad, a graphic novel by Brian K. Vaughan, was inspired by news reports about four lions that fled the zoo during a bombing raid in spring 2003 and were killed by U.S. soldiers.

"I'd been looking to do a story with anthropomorphized animals because it was so different than anything I had done before and because comics have a really rich tradition of doing that well," Vaughan said. As examples, he pointed to everything from Scrooge McDuck to *Maus*, the Pulitzer Prize-winning graphic novel by Art Spiegelman that portrayed Jews as mice and Nazis as cats.

At the same time, he said, "I also had been hungry to talk about my conflicted feelings about the Iraq war."

So when he read about the escaped lions, "sort of immediately all of the pieces fell into place."

Pride of Baghdad, published by Vertigo, DC Comics' mature-reader line, is set for release Sept. 13.

It follows four main characters as it builds toward its inevitable ending: Zill, head of the pride; Safa, the "old woman" of the

group; a younger lioness, Noor and Ali, her cub. Each has a different view of life behind bars and the promise of freedom.

"Zill is sort of the benevolent opportunist," Vaughan said. "He's the guy not so concerned about the politics of the world that he's living in. He's just concerned, 'Is my family fed, are they taken care of, are we safe today?'"

Safa, who remembers the dangers of living in the wild, "thinks that living in captivity is a small price to pay for living safely and always knowing where your next meal is going to come from."

Noor yearns for freedom, Vaughan said, "but wants it on her own terms. She thinks it is something that the people have to rise up and gain for themselves."

And Ali represents the children who don't know what to make of the change.

Before writing, Vaughan researched his subject, borrowing his wife's membership card to the San Diego Zoo and talking to, among others, Mariette Hopley, head of an emergency relief team dispatched to the Baghdad Zoo by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

"I always try and find out as much about my subject matter as possible," Vaughan said. "I didn't want it to be a fairyland fable.

It is a metaphor, but it's also very grounded in the real world."

Canadian artist Niko Henrichon proved to be the perfect artist for the book, Vaughan said. "We didn't want it to be too Disney; we didn't want it to be too cartoonish, but we also wanted the animals to have the flexibility to be expressive. That even though they were realistic, they would have personalities."

Henrichon was great to collaborate with, Vaughan said. "Since we weren't under the

pressure of monthly deadlines, we just took the time to make sure that every panel was exactly the way we wanted it to be."

Elsewhere, though, Vaughan has plenty of deadlines to contend with. He is the writer of *Y: The Last Man* and *Ex Machina*, two ongoing series from Vertigo, and Marvel Comics' *Runaways*. He's also writing an upcoming Marvel miniseries featuring Doctor Strange and a Dark Horse miniseries, *The Escapists*, inspired by Michael Chabon's

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay.

And he recently finished his first draft of a screenplay for a *Y: The Last Man* movie for New Line Cinema.

It's just enough, he said, "to keep me busy and not feel like I'm hacking anything out."

"It's really not work," he said. "Having had crappy jobs in the past, I can say getting to sit around in your underwear and type stories about people kissing and fighting, it's just a joy."



'Pride of Baghdad' was inspired by these lions, which escaped from the Baghdad Zoo in 2003.

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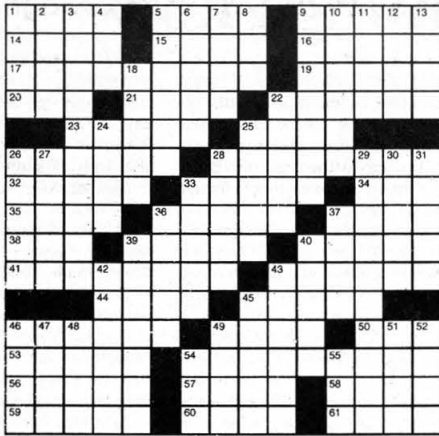
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 - Zodiac sign
 - Lanka
 - Sacred
 - Police informer
 - Jesus and Moises
 - Automaker Ferrari
 - Natant
 - Black-and-white
 - Tag-player's shout
 - Mud smears
 - Bygone Eur. realm
 - Smile broadly
 - Infiniti rival
 - Observes
 - Orch. section
 - Certain kinds of sharks
 - Actress Witherspoon
 - Poe poem
 - Indy sidelines?
 - Mine output
 - Artistic theme
 - Hawkish
 - "The Sweetest Taboo" singer
 - FedEx rival
 - Piece of antiquity
 - King David's capital
 - Colgate rival
 - Not "fer"
 - Bolt
 - Reverberating instruments
 - Reserve
 - Greek harp
- DOWN
- Drains
 - Debtor
 - Goodyear purchase
 - Storm's heart
 - Leave at once!
 - Some exams
 - Nothing but
 - Plaines, IL
 - Poem divisions
 - End of a sentence
 - Bypass
 - Cartel acronym
 - Satisfy the munchies
 - Little piggy
 - Ignores
 - Beef cut
 - Shaffer play
 - Gut-wrenching feeling
 - Onward in time
 - Part of WASP
 - Without a care in the world
 - "Am not!" retort
 - Fix an open seam
 - Fake-out moves
 - Rod of tennis
 - Alien-finding grp.
 - Percussive pair
 - Time-honored practices
 - Using oars
 - Unimportant town, slangily
 - Singer Lanza
 - Goody-goody
 - Bank takeback
 - "The Good
 - Earth" heroine
 - Utah lily
 - Equal
 - Captain Hook's flunky
 - Setup punch
 - CIO partner



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9/18/06

Solutions

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8 ZODIAC SIGN
9 LANKA
10 SACRED
11 POLICE INFORMER
12 JESUS AND MOISES
13 AUTOMAKER FERRARI
14 NATANT
15 BLACK-AND-WHITE
16 TAG-PLAYER'S SHOUT
17 MUD SMEARS
18 BYGONE EUR. REALM
19 SMILE BROADLY
20 INFINITI RIVAL
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25 POE POEM
26 INDY SIDELINES?
27 MINE OUTPUT
28 ARTISTIC THEME
29 HAWKISH
30 "THE SWEETEST TABOO" SINGER
31 FEDEX RIVAL
32 PIECE OF ANTIQUITY
33 KING DAVID'S CAPITAL
34 COLGATE RIVAL
35 NOT "FER"
36 BOLT
37 REVERBERATING INSTRUMENTS
38 RESERVE
39 GREEK HARP
40 NOTHING BUT
41 PLAINES, IL
42 POEM DIVISIONS
43 END OF A SENTENCE
44 BYPASS
45 CARTEL ACRONYM
46 SATISFY THE MUNCHIES
47 LITTLE PIGGY
48 IGNORES
49 BEEF CUT
50 SHAFFER PLAY
51 GUT-WRENCHING FEELING
52 ONWARD IN TIME
53 PART OF WASP
54 WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD
55 "AM NOT!" RETORT
56 FIX AN OPEN SEAM
57 FAKE-OUT MOVES
58 ROD OF TENNIS
59 ALIEN-FINDING GRP.
60 PERCUSSIVE PAIR
61 TIME-HONORED PRACTICES

DOWN
1 DRAINS
2 DEBTOR
3 GOODYEAR PURCHASE
4 STORM'S HEART
5 LEAVE AT ONCE!
6 SOME EXAMS
7 NOTHING BUT
8 PLAINES, IL
9 POEM DIVISIONS
10 END OF A SENTENCE
11 BYPASS
12 CARTEL ACRONYM
13 SATISFY THE MUNCHIES
14 LITTLE PIGGY
15 IGNORES
16 BEEF CUT
17 SHAFFER PLAY
18 GUT-WRENCHING FEELING
19 ONWARD IN TIME
20 PART OF WASP
21 WITHOUT A CARE IN THE WORLD
22 "AM NOT!" RETORT
23 FIX AN OPEN SEAM
24 FAKE-OUT MOVES
25 ROD OF TENNIS
26 ALIEN-FINDING GRP.
27 PERCUSSIVE PAIR
28 TIME-HONORED PRACTICES
29 USING OARS
30 UNIMPORTANT TOWN, SLANGILY
31 SINGER LANZA
32 GOODY-GOODY
33 BANK TAKEBACK
34 "THE GOOD

TO THE NINES

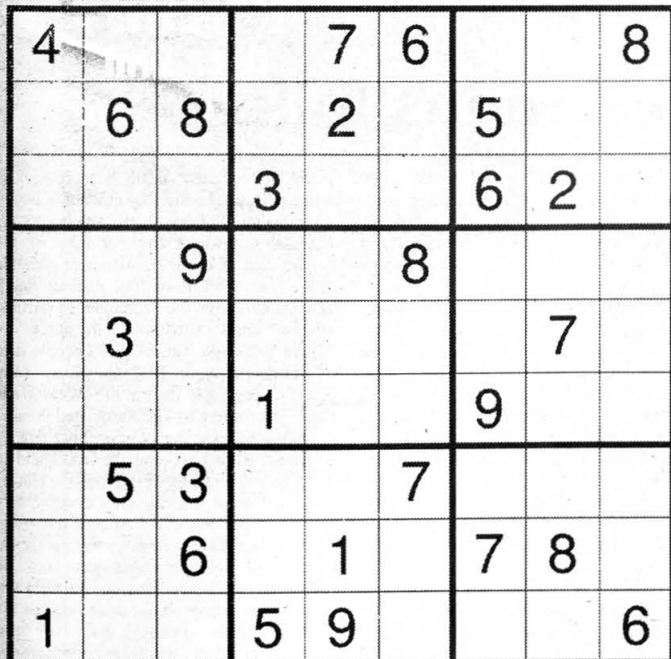


We spotted Kevin Sparrow walking down Wabash Avenue on break from work in a bright blue Abercrombie & Fitch sweater and a salmon-colored Old Navy shirt, and he was hard to miss. "I like to have clothes that are form-fitting, but loose," said Sparrow, a film and video major at Columbia. "I think it looks good when people wear clothes that are appropriate for their body type." Although Sparrow was wearing brand name clothes, he likes to shop anywhere he can find clothes that aren't mass produced. He has one exception to that rule. "I like Target clothes," Sparrow said. "They're pretty amazing."

Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: 1 2 3 4



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.
Sudoku on Mobile. Enter 783658.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game! Some carrier charges may apply.

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Horoscopes by Hunter Claus



Aries (March 21 — April 20): While dancing at a goth club, you decide to start a conga line to Fischerspooner's "Emerge" with your group of friends. The goth kids are none too happy about it and ignore you as they talk about things that are black.



Taurus (April 21 — May 21): After seeing an overweight derelict wearing a thong—and only a thong—you decide that your life really isn't that bad. Little do you realize, however, is that the thong-wearing homeless person is you from the future.



Virgo (Aug. 24 — Sept. 23): It's like I've always said, "The smaller the dead midget, the funnier."



Scorpio (Oct. 24 — Nov. 22): If a homeless man can play with himself in public and not get in trouble, why can't you?



Gemini (May 22 — June 21): Declaring your apartment as a sovereign nation will lead to disaster when your roommate builds a wall to separate the east and west ends. The easiest solution to this predicament is to invite a keyboard-tie-wearing David Hasselhoff over to sing his rendition of "Hooked on a Feeling."



Sagittarius (Nov. 23 — Dec. 21): Your newfound fascination with Victorian-transgender-fisting porn will lead you to a life of success with the hit skin flick, *Dandy if I Don't*.



Aquarius (Jan. 21 — Feb. 19): Hungry Hungry Hippos is a pastime and not a way of life.



Cancer (June 22 — July 23): Beware! As you're leaving for work, you will pick up your cat to kiss on the belly. What would have been an innocent act goes terribly wrong when the cat sprays you with ass juice, which hits you all over your face. The smell will eventually leave in two weeks, but the horror will last a lifetime.



Leo (July 24 — Aug. 23): Instead of throwing your pennies into a mall fountain for good luck, try throwing them at stripers.



Pisces (Feb. 20 — March 20): Asking your vegetarian friend if he or she needs a "hot beef injection" will only get you so far.



Libra (Sept. 24 — Oct. 23): And Rosebud was a sled.

Let's not be lemmings now



By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Editor

This commentary is for all those who believe it's ludicrous to even entertain the idea that the events that took place on Sept. 11, 2001, were either perpetrated by the United States government or the negligent noses of those in charge. It's for those who subscribe to the "with us or against us" propaganda supporting the dehumanization of people the government arbitrarily deems "terrorists."

This commentary is not providing justifiable proof that there were ulterior motives behind possibly one of the most influential events in American history. What this commentary is doing is giving reason to doubt, reason to be skeptical and reason to consider that since the U.S. government has planned to conduct much stranger and truly horrifying operations before, it might do it again.

Let's say, for example, there is this completely imaginary government that wants to invade another country, but has absolutely no right to do so whatsoever. What the imaginary government does to give it the pretext for a justified invasion is secretly concoct a fake terror plot on itself, thereby framing the other country.

Sounds pretty twisted, right? Sounds like a bunch of dishonest and utterly corrupt politicians lying to their own citizens, abusing their power and committing, by all accounts, acts of "terror."

Well, if you didn't guess it already, the imaginary government is the U.S. government, and those liars were the joint chiefs of

staff under President John F. Kennedy. The information is from a document called "Operation Northwoods," part of a larger military plan called "Operation Mongoose," that had the U.S. discussing possible activities to justify a military intervention in Cuba during the heart of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The report, which can be obtained online through the George Washington University-affiliated National Security Archives, outlines in gruesome detail suggestions on how the Kennedy Administration planned to fool the American public into believing Cubans committed hostile actions against the U.S., when in actuality it was the U.S. itself.

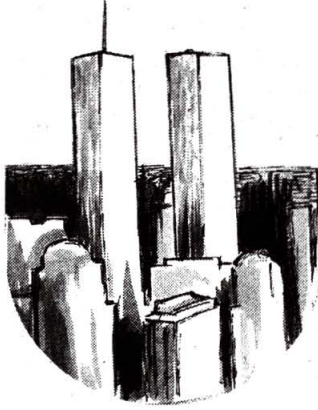
The 1960s were definitely a different time, but circumstances then and now are frighteningly similar. Between conflicts in Vietnam and Iraq and the administrations painting pretty pictures of the situations, civil rights suppression then and now seem to blend together. At the time, just like now, people snubbed their noses at any indication of conspiracy. But since a conspiracy of comparable magnitude has been discussed before, many believe it so now whether it is in the form of the government flying jets into the buildings themselves, strapping bombs to the plane's undercarriage or simply letting the attack happen knowing what would

be the outcome.

Some of "Operation Northwoods'" finest recommendations included things like lobbing mortar shells into the United States' Guantanamo Bay base and blaming Cubans, sinking U.S. ships in the bay and staging "funerals for mock-victims," so that casualty lists would be produced in American newspapers, and developing a "Communist terror campaign" in the Miami and Washington areas aimed at Cuban refugees who were seeking haven in the U.S.

Then the operation starts to get serious, with one suggestion about actually harming real people in an effort to further the fake pretext for war. The operation gets blatantly cruel and savage when there is discussion about hijacking a U.S. commercial airliner, transferring the passengers to another plane and having a drone fly the commercial airliner over Cuba so that it can be blown up by U.S. forces to blame Cubans.

With knowledge of "Operation Northwoods," ask yourself this question: If members of the U.S. government planned a conspiracy before, could they possibly do it again? Not *did* they do it again, but *could* they?



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Roamin' Numerals

The bill over which a scuffle erupted in Santa Barbara, Calif. September 2 and resulted in the death of a San Francisco accountant, according to The Associated Press. David Klotz protested when a dancer at an adult cabaret demanded the said amount for a 70-minute session in a private room.

\$960

550 lbs

The weight of a World War II Mark 17 mine that a U.K. fisherman caught in his nets. According to the Exmouth Journal, Nathan Ould of Tourquay was calmed down by Ministry of Overseas Development officials because that type of mine would have to be hit "very hard to go off." The mine was detonated later by the Royal Navy.

35

The number of boxes of macaroni and cheese Ben Boughton, a Minneapolis man traded on the city's Craigslist for a bicycle. According to WCCO, a CBS affiliate, Boughton found the mac and cheese in a dumpster.

Death not only for famous folks



By Cyriel Jakubowski
Commentary Editor

Last week's tragedy involving the death of the Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin, didn't come as a shock. It just made me think about death in general and how, in some cases, people die doing dangerous jobs without making headlines. But whether it involves a stingray, grizzly bears or dangling over or falling off highway overpasses, death is a cold reality everywhere. It is sometimes simplified by the frigidity of numbers, especially around the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

When I first saw Steve Irwin jumping on the backs of riled-up crocodiles and dodging the world's most venomous snakes, screaming "Crikey!" I watched with my cereal spoon in mid-air thinking, "This guy is crazy."

I was not surprised when I heard the news of Irwin dying and everyone calling it a tragedy. The man wrestled dangerous animals for a living. It was the unusual manner in which he died that was the surprise. That's why we loved Steve Irwin. His optimistic

enthusiasm, fearlessness and animal conservation efforts made him internationally famous, but it's that voyeuristic notion that some of those crocodiles were wild, violent and could snap one day that had kids and adults alike glued to the Discovery Channel.

But people remember those who die in unusual ways. For every Steve Irwin there is a Timothy Treadwell. Remember Treadwell, the bear enthusiast who lived with grizzly bears for 13 seasons and was the subject of last year's documentary *Grizzly Man*? Poor Treadwell, how didn't he see that one coming? They found only his lonely rib cage.

Last year, nearly 5,700 people died in the U.S. from fatal occupational injuries, (you know, at work) according to the Department of Labor's preliminary statistics. That means we're still counting. You don't hear about those people.

We also tend to trivialize death when we turn it into numbers. Last year, nearly 43 percent of workplace fatalities stemmed from "transportation incidents."

I'm sure some trucker on a highway out near Wyoming refers to the 90 mph skid down a slippery road, possibly jack-knifing a row of cars, as a "transportation incident."

The U.S.' population is reaching 300 mil-

lion, according to July 2006 estimates from the CIA World Fact Book. While 5,700 deaths may seem low, we're talking about almost 6000 people. When 1,200 people die in the construction industry, the casualty of the workplace turns death into numbers. Those "numbers" had names and families—families that leave one dinner plate empty now.

And it's not only in the workplace, but the carnage on our nation's highway is jaw-dropping. According to the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 43,200 people died on the nation's highways in 2005, up from 42,636 in 2004.

Unusual deaths translate well to stories because they are weird in the first place. Irwin's death surprised me, because Irwin didn't die in the jaws of a crocodile, but by the barb of a stingray. While numerous media outlets poured out Stingray 101 articles and reported that painful stingray injuries are rarely fatal, the only thought that kept coming back to me was: That Bengal tiger should have gotten Roy from Siegfried & Roy instead. Perhaps there is a baseline irony about the eventual conclusion of a lifetime of working with animals.

Wildlife is exactly that: wild. But in a world of "Jackass," death is more serious when it happens nationally and not in isolated incidents. Stingray barbs are one thing, but going through the numbers of the Department of Labor statistics and glancing at the note "Data from 2001 exclude fatalities resulting from the September 11 terrorist attacks," sends a shiver down my spine.

Five years ago, almost 6,000 people died by accident at work. That same year, nearly 3,000 more people died at the World Trade Center, according to The Associated Press.

During tragedy, our basic instinct tells us to celebrate life. Last week the world held on to the memory of a fearless Crocodile Hunter who died while working on a documentary about animals that kill. And now five years later, perhaps this week our attention should be taken from people whose death could be prevented, (as in, stop messing with wild animals) to the people whose deaths couldn't.

What's to say about 9/11 that hasn't been said before? People will remember that tragic morning five years ago. People might even remember Steve Irwin, Crocodile Hunter. But will we remember the thousands of people that die each year at home and in the military abroad? I hope so.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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Editorials

A penny saved and time lost

On C-SPAN, sometimes the image of members of Congress working looks like the busy rumblings of an anthill, with the exception that in an anthill something gets done.

For example, before the tragedy of 9/11, there were talks in Congress to get rid of the penny.

But five years later, that same issue is back in Congress. This just screams "You have too much free time."

This debate has been rolling like a nickel through Congress since 2001, when the Legal Tender Modernization Act, a bill proposed by Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) opted to phase out the penny by rounding to the nearest nickel. This summer, the "COIN" Act, a newer version of essentially the same bill, fell on the Congress floor like a jar of quarters. Somebody should stop this nonsense.

Of course, nonprofit organizations such as Citizens to Retire the Penny, favor this bill, while others, such as Americans for Common Cents, want to keep the penny in circulation. They have time to rally behind an issue that's just not practical.

According to the ACC, nearly 8.7 billion pennies will be produced in the 2006 fiscal year. The ninth annual Coinstar National Currency Poll, a consumer study that polled the U.S. population

throughout 2005 to explore the practicality and popularity of the penny, found that 79 percent of people will pick up a penny off the ground, and 66 percent of Americans still want to keep the penny as legal tender.

Some groups have even thrown around the idea of getting rid of the dollar bill. Surely, that's exactly what the working girl at the local "dance club" down Mannheim Road wants to hear—"Hey Sheila, sorry, we're out of singles."

According to The Week Magazine, the anti-penny movement is a communist plot, in a sense. China's economic boom makes the penny more costly to produce, and zinc prices have soared. Because China consumes great quantities of zinc, which pennies are made of, the U.S Mint will spend 1.23 cents to make a penny.

This is ridiculous; on that note, why single the penny out? What about other obsolete things such as VHS tapes or soap on a rope? Most have outlived their uses, but are still viable options in everyday life, especially in prisons. But just think, when that Blockbuster DVD, which is more scratched up than D.J. Jazzy Jeff's vinyl LP, fails to work, what do you turn to—the VCR to watch reruns of "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"? No, the march to the Blockbuster is infuriating, but

the exchange is worth it.

But whether one wants to keep the penny or leave the penny, the debate is just a real waste of time. The U.S. Mint says the penny generated \$1.77 billion in revenue in the 2005 fiscal year and contributed \$775 million to the U.S. economy.

Here's an idea, how about shaking down the coin collection industry for their ghastly commemorative editions of coins and plates. Case in point, to mark the fifth anniversary of Sept. 11, the National Collector's Mint is releasing a double-dated World Trade Center commemorative coin with 24 karat gold and "0.999 [percent] pure silver recovered from ground zero."

There's something inherently evil about making a buck from a national tragedy. That's capitalism pandering to a grief stricken culture. The sheer amount of pennies that will flood the U.S. this year should make it clear that efforts shouldn't be made to wage war on those old copper Abe Lincolns. Rather Congress needs to manage time better. The point is, much like some people feel nostalgic about "The Wonder Years," the penny is like that old friend who doesn't leave, nor wants to. Keep the penny or leave the penny, Congress has too way much time on their hands addressing silly issues.

Meddling with vending

Students stand with handfuls of shiny rustling change, with quizzical "What's going on here?" looks, repeatedly pressing the various buttons on the vending machines; those poor wretched souls. Nobody had the heart to tell them their mid-class snacks and drinks will leave them a bit shortchanged this semester.

"\$1.35 for a bottle of water, it's ridiculous," said Ashley Ferry, a junior art and design major while purchasing a bottle of water and talking on the phone with her mother. Even though this was at 623 S. Wabash Ave., this incident can be found all over campus.

Amid the slow hum of the row of vending machines on the third floor of the 33 E. Congress Parkway building, Nelson Robinson, a senior audio arts and acoustics major, bought a Cherry Coke and some pretzels. "What's the point in changing it?" he said about the prices.

What indeed? No student, freshman or returning, wants to shell out even more money

for the amazing delicacies that the wonderful world of vending-machine has to offer.

Since last year the company Mark Vend, which is responsible for the price increase, signed a five-year contract with the college that gives them control of the vending machines on campus.

The president of Mark Vend told The Chronicle that having "refreshments conveniently located" on the facilities benefits the students. Of course it does how could it not? Because when we think of bright young minds, we think Coca-Cola and Skittles.

He mentioned that increases were in line with similar products being sold in the neighborhood. While this doesn't mean the price is less, it is still apparently a "fair to good value."

Some students like, Robinson, go down to the local liquor store to get snacks because it's cheaper.

Facilitating change has been Columbia's motto, both in terms of image and the inner workings of the col-

lege. Last week The Chronicle reported Columbia's growing pains concerning policy changes.

Columbia's decision to drop the "confusing four-week drop period," is notable because it gives students more time to make their decisions without penalizing them financially. Removing the \$50 fine for not turning in immunization records on time and replacing it with a hold on their accounts is also commendable because it forces students to do what's asked of them.

While there maybe be certain health benefits that stem from more expensive junk food, the real stale taste in our mouths has to do with paying more and getting less.

"I can't believe it went up 10 cents," said Lauren Dornbush, a junior advertising art direction major after buying a bottle of water from the very same machine Ferry did earlier. While a 10 cents increase is not huge hit to student's pockets, it is still a gleaming symbol of the growing expenses at Columbia.

Back from the Drawing Boards



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 31 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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Chicago landmark buildings honored

Wrigley Field, Harry Caray's Restaurant among the recognized

AP

Twenty-one landmark buildings, homeowners and businesses were honored Thursday for preserving historic Chicago, and among the projects recognized was an expansion of Wrigley Field's bleachers.

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks presented the Chicago Landmark Awards for

Preservation Excellence during a ceremony at the LaSalle Bank Theater. The theater, formerly called the Shubert, recently completed a \$40 million year-long restoration and was among the 21 honorees.

Wrigley Field, home of the Chicago Cubs, was built in 1914 and is the second-oldest major league ballpark in the country. The boomerang-shaped bleachers were added in 1937.

The Wrigley alterations were completed by opening day this spring and increased bleacher capacity by almost 1,800 seats.

The Cubs' proposal prompted some community opposition, especially among the owners of rooftop bleachers that overlook the field and neighbors who worried about increased congestion. Negotiations dragged on for years.

The Commission on Chicago Landmarks praised the expansion for improving circulation in the bleacher sections, increasing the numbers of bathrooms and greatly improving access for people with disabilities.

At the same time, the design "preserves the 'stepped' profile and scale of the bleachers and maintains the characteristic views looking out of the ballpark," according to the citation.

Mike Lufano, vice president of community affairs for the Cubs, said the owners take pride in the park's history, but also must make changes to keep it viable for modern-day fans and players.

"We've been good stewards of the ballpark for 90 years, and this shows that working in cooperation with the city, we were able to expand the life of our ballpark," Lufano said.

Among other honorees was the State Street building housing the Carson Pirie Scott department store. It was designed by famed architect Louis Sullivan in 1899 and owner Joseph Freed & Associates restored its missing terra cotta cornice, and made repairs to masonry and the windows.

Last month, Carson's owner



Courtesy MCT

Fans flock to Wrigley Field, 1060 W. Addison St., for a Cubs game. The Commission on Chicago Landmarks recently honored homeowners and businesses for preserving historic parts of Chicago.

announced it is vacating the space. Joseph Freed & Associates said it will be searching for new retailers for the lower levels and tenants for office, school and entertainment space on the upper floors.

Another honoree was Harry Caray's Restaurant, named for the late Hall of Fame baseball announcer. Located in the 111-year-old Chicago Varnish Company Building, the restaurant's owners replaced the multi-gabled brick clay and tile

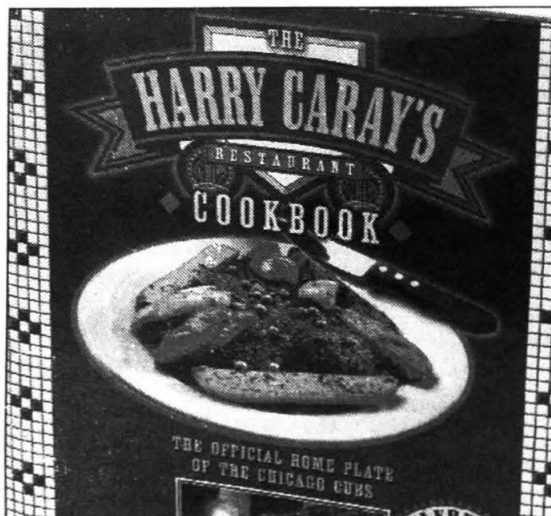
roof and rebuilt its stepped parapets.

Dutchie Caray, Caray's widow, said it's appropriate that his restaurant is located in a Chicago landmark building.

"I think it fits his personality very well," she said.

As for the bleacher expansion at Caray's beloved Wrigley Field, she said she believes he would approve.

"He probably would be holding court more often out there," she said.



Courtesy MCT

Along with a book paying tribute to Harry Caray's Restaurant, 33 W. Kinzie St., the Commission on Chicago Landmarks also honored the business named after the deceased Cubs announcer.

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Where's the 'designer beef?'

Grass-fed cows offer a higher level of dining in Chicago

AP

Fashionistas who want the latest in couture can go to Paris, but for cow-ture, the place to be is Chicago.

The city once known for its stockyards is at the center of a hip food trend: designer beef.

Today, diners at a handful of restaurants can select a steak that in its cow days ate nothing but sweet, tall grass. They can sit down in a restaurant where every steak comes from cattle that shared the same father. Or they can enjoy a piece of beef that is exactly like one famous designer Ralph Lauren dines on at his Colorado ranch.

Bill Kurtis, owner of Tallgrass Beef Company and a longtime Chicago news anchor who now hosts A&E's "American Justice" and "Cold Case Files," said he knows of nowhere else where brand-name beef has gained such a foothold with discriminating diners.

"This is kind of the belly of the beast right here," said Kurtis, whose grass-fed beef from his Kansas ranch is now sold in a handful of Chicago-area restaurants, upscale markets and even a school. "I think of it as the meat capital of the country."

The reasons begin with the city's place in the history of meatpacking. For decades Chicago was home to the world's largest meatpacking district. And for

more than a century, much of the beef eaten throughout the United States was slaughtered in the city.

Today, more than 30 years after the last major slaughterhouse closed, the city still loves its beef. Chicago is also the largest city in the Midwest, where as recently as last year the USDA found the per capita consumption of beef was at least 7 pounds more per year than any other part of the country.

Jason Miller, executive chef at David Burke's Primehouse, only has to look outside to see he's in a place where people know and appreciate beef.

"There aren't very many small people walking around Chicago," he said.

Since Chicagoans know and love their beef, it was easier for Primehouse owner Burke to spend a quarter-million dollars last year for a prize black Angus bull, named Prime 207L or simply "Prime," to produce offspring that become the restaurant's steaks.

The purchase made perfect business sense, he said, because by inseminating heifers with semen from the same bull, the restaurant guarantees its steaks are of the highest quality.

"We bought his genes, basically," said Burke, whose customers tell him his steaks are the best they've ever eaten.

Not only that, but because the semen is collected several times a week and frozen, Burke expects that a decade after Prime dies he will still be in the fathering business. A photograph of Prime hangs in the restaurant's kitchen.

Tallgrass Beef Company, which opened last October, touts the

nutritional benefits of grass-fed beef. Kurtis says his company's beef is lower in cholesterol, higher in omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin E and free of growth hormones and other chemicals found in the beef from cattle raised on many traditional feed lots.

Customers get it for about the same price as corn-fed beef, said Grant DePorter, president of Harry Caray's restaurant, 33 E. Kinzie St., which has been serving Tallgrass' beef since November.

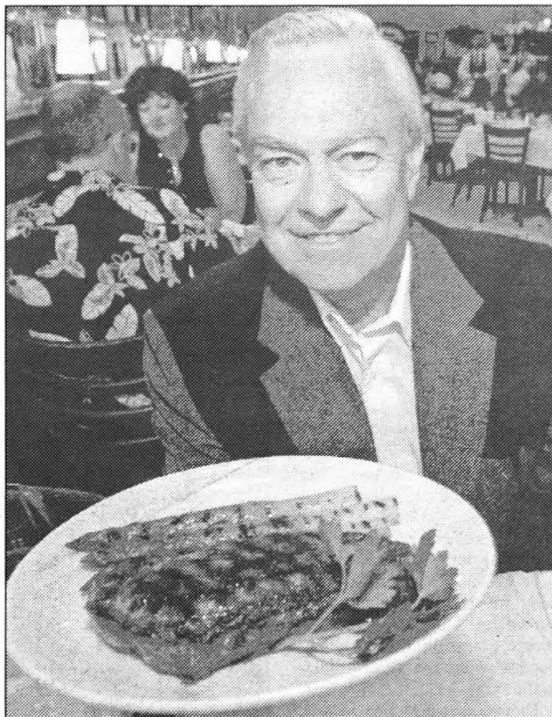
"Food critics have said it can go head-to-head with prime steak," DePorter said. "I think out of 4,000 portions, we had only two [customers who] said they prefer prime."

DePorter wouldn't be surprised if the handful of restaurants serving Tallgrass' beef grows substantially, judging by the competitors he said he's spotted coming into the restaurant to sample it and the way they've praised it, not knowing that his wait staff was within earshot.

None of the accolades surprise Ted Slanker, who owns Slanker's Grass-Fed Meats in Texas with his wife. What does surprise him, though, is that Tallgrass has made inroads in the restaurant market.

It's one thing, he said, to sell to health-conscious consumers on the Internet, as he does. But it's another to get people to spend a lot of money in a steakhouse on a steak that doesn't look, taste or feel quite like the kind of steak they're used to.

"It's like being forced to eat kale and collards to people who are used to eating iceberg lettuce," he said.



AP

Bill Kurtis, a former Chicago news anchor, shows off his 'designer beef' Aug. 31 at Harry Caray's restaurant, 33 E. Kinzie St.

That may be where Kurtis comes in. In Chicago, people literally grew up watching Kurtis on the local news.

"They trust me; they know me," he said. So when they see his company's steak on the menu, they are willing to give it a try, he said.

Meanwhile, the chef at Ralph Lauren's RL restaurant, 115 E. Chicago Ave. in downtown Chicago, says diners there may

order his special steaks to feel a little more like the glamorous designer. RL serves steaks from Lauren's ranch about four months a year.

"It is a true feeling here [that] they are getting something kind of personal to him," chef Isaac Holzwarth said. "You're not hanging out with him, but it's like you are sharing something with him."



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Tower: Development to block natural light

Continued from Back Page

buying there," VanderKloot said in an e-mail.

Concerns listed on the websites include an abandoned project to build a "much-needed city park and community center" at the location. Chicago Public Schools owned the land on the immediate corner of State Street and Congress Parkway, but could not fund plans for a park.

"It really isn't safe to have a park on that corner—there's a lot of traffic from Congress," said David Radomski, president of Lennar's urban division.

The developer agreed to do a land-swap with the Chicago Public Schools and is donating a public park, which will be built on the corner of State and Harrison streets, essentially behind Library Tower and removed from the high-traffic area.

Though that puts one issue to rest, VanderKloot also noted problems that would arise for the Mergenthaler and Peterson buildings. Both are between five and 10 stories high and located on the 500 block of South Plymouth Court—just 12 feet west of the soon-to-be 17-story Library Tower.

Usually a loss of picturesque eastward views is the cause for concern whenever a tall building goes up in the South Loop. However, these historic Printer's Row buildings have a different reason to be worried.

"I wish that somebody would say it is not about the views—there never have been any views from our building," said Kathleen Miles, president of the Peterson Lofts condominium association. "When you get a tall building



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Marty Carrol navigates his way through the broken terrain on Sept. 7 where Library Tower is being built at State Street and Congress Parkway. The development has caused concerns with residents of surrounding buildings.

that's only 12 feet away, you effectively deplete all the natural light."

The Peterson and Mergenthaler buildings will essentially lie in the shadows of the taller development.

"In my unit, we have 10 large windows that will now be 12 feet away from a towering condo building," VanderKloot said. "I say 'towering' because it's going to be about [three] times the height of our building."

VanderKloot, who lives in the Mergenthaler building, said he thinks most residents with east-facing units are likely concerned about the loss of light.

According to Dennis McClendon, a board member of

the South Loop Neighbors, a nonprofit neighborhood organization, this issue arose long before construction began.

"Our organization pushed pretty hard, and we got the developer to agree to ... a much shorter building that doesn't overwhelm the University Center of Chicago or the [Harold Washington Library Center] north of it," McClendon said.

According to Radomski, negotiations left all parties involved satisfied. He added that it can be difficult to depend on natural light since the city develops so rapidly.

"I don't think anybody—unless you live on Lake Shore Drive or

across from Millennium Park or something—can count on [natural light]," Radomski said.

The shortened height of Library Tower was one cooperative success that resulted from many meetings with the developer prior to construction, McClendon said.

"We also really pushed [Lennar] to dedicate the additional right-of-way to make that a 20-foot alley instead of a 12-foot alley, but the developer declined to do that," McClendon said.

Though construction is still at ground level, Miles said she is planning alternatives to the Peterson building's inevitable loss of natural light in the near future. Plans have not been made yet, but creative interior lighting will likely be necessary, Miles said.

"The way we have addressed it in [the Peterson Lofts] is to retain some lighting consultants on

behalf of the building," Miles said. "We'll be rolling out a program as the height of [Library Tower] goes up."

Though this is a concern for residents in the Mergenthaler and Peterson buildings, McClendon noted that they would not be the only ones in the dark.

"Remember that all the people who buy units on the west side of Library Tower have exactly the same situation," he said.

According to McClendon, the South Loop Neighbors and Lennar have met concerning other developments in the area, since plans and neighborhood negotiations were finalized for Library Tower.

"As a result of the experience on Library Tower, we have a very good and serious working relationship with Lennar," he said.

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Skateboard: Grant Park skate plaza more geared for street skating

Continued from Back Page

"The reason why we wanted to use [Peterman] is we wanted to show people that art and skateboarding can work together and it can be a magical and beautiful thing," Kodjavian said.

Kodjavian explained that the plaza is more oriented for

street skating with small obstacles and a flatter surface and is not to be confused with a skate park, which is usually much larger and meant for a wider array of uses. He also said the plaza will be free to the public and will not require pads.

Ian Hultquist, a freshman film major at Columbia, said he believes downtown skaters like himself would use the plaza when it's open. Hultquist, who commutes from

north suburban Buffalo Grove, said he mainly uses his skateboard on campus for transportation because other Chicago skate parks are as far north as Wilson Avenue and Lake Shore Drive or as far south as 31st Street. But Hultquist admits that every once in a while he finds a place to skate illegally.

"I go to the Wilson [Wilson Avenue and Lake Shore Drive] one all the time and have been to others," Hultquist said. "[The new plaza] seems like a really great idea, a place I would definitely skate between classes."

However, Hultquist did not know there is a law in Chicago prohibiting skateboarding in the central business district both on the sidewalk and in the street. Chicago's business district is bounded on the north by Division Street, to the west by Chicago Avenue, to the south by Roosevelt Road and to the east by Lake Michigan.

Many skaters do not know of the law, especially those that come downtown from the suburbs. Most of those who are aware there are restrictions to skateboarding in Chicago believe it only pertains to vandalism and skating on private property.

The law has left many skaters who use their boards mainly for transportation wondering why it is banned completely on streets and sidewalks.

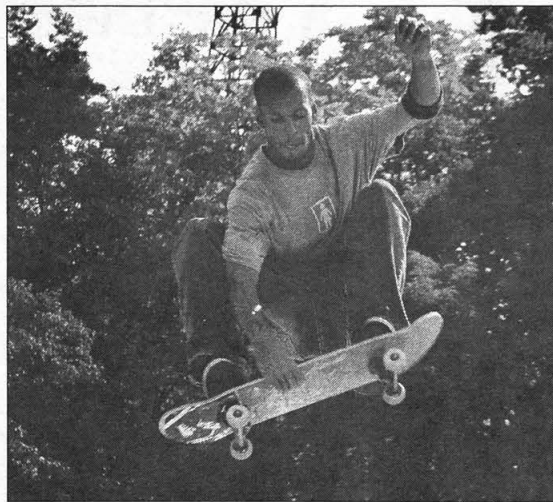
"If people are using bikes down here, then we should be able to use skateboards for transportation too."

—Ian Hultquist, film major at Columbia and skater



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Brian Anders hangs in the air for a split second on Sept. 7 at the free skate park at Wilson Avenue and Lake Shore Drive.



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Arlington Frierson launches off of a ramp at the free skate park at Wilson Avenue and Lake Shore Drive, on Sept. 7.

"If people are using bikes down here, then we should be able to use skateboards for transportation too," Hultquist said.

O'Neil said the idea is that skateboarders will walk or take a bus to the plaza and there are plans to install signs at the plaza informing skaters of the law.

"[The law] was brought up at the meetings that they're going to have to take a bus or walk their skateboard over [from the train to the park], a lot of them do it illegally anyways, but we're not condoning that," O'Neil said.

Patrick Camden, spokesman for the Chicago Police Department, said police are not actively trying to educate skateboarders on the law.

"Ever hear that ignorance of the law is no excuse?" Camden said. "I would think that the people who skateboard would have enough sense to realize

[there is a law]."

Kodjavian said he and other skateboarders and retailers have not yet made attempts to alter the law before the park is opened because of concerns that another ordinance preventing them from changing it might be passed beforehand.

"If they put the park there, we can actually have some leverage to say 'Look, just let us skate from point A to point B, but skating [on] private property and recklessly would still be illegal, not transportation,'" Kodjavian said. "You expect me to walk all the way from the Blue Line or the Green Line [to the skate plaza]? That's really unfair, because that's just transportation."

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Scoop in the Loop



By Eric Kasang
City Beat Editor

Throughout China's history, the ruling dynasty believed in the "Mandate of Heaven," a concept that gave the emperor the legitimate right to govern and tax the people. No ruling timetable existed for a dynasty as long as it provided for the people. However, the ruling elite lost their power if they ignored the people or fell into corruption.

With 8th Ward Alderman Todd Stroger jockeying for the Cook County Board presidency, he's going to need more than empty rhetoric and ambiguous promises of reform to keep the Stroger Dynasty going.

This should matter to anyone who lives or works in Cook County. With the Board allocating funds for Stroger Hospital and social services as well as tax collections, the person handling the purse strings could reform Cook County—or send it further into a debt-ridden sinkhole.

Todd Stroger, whose father, John Stroger Jr. served as the Cook County Board president until he was incapacitated by a stroke in March 2006 and resigned in July, received the Cook County Board Democratic Party's blessing to run as the Democratic candidate for the Nov. 7 elections. Todd's father battled accusations that many of his political hires were unqualified and that these jobs bloated the already cash-strapped county budget.

Now Todd, who recently referred to himself as a "Bill Clinton Democrat," claimed he would clean up the political patronage. According to an August Sun-Times report, Cook County hired close to 1,300 new employees since John Stroger's stroke. This, of course, occurred during a hiring freeze.

If Todd really wanted to reform various Cook County departments, he would support a federal monitor to review the recent Cook County hires.

Last year, a judge appointed Chicago attorney Noelle Brennan to supervise City Hall's hiring practices. However, Todd said it best in a Sun-Times article, "The county has the ability to do its own business."

If the county is allowed to continue to "do its own business," county residents will probably see an increase in glut and cronyism.

It's also this "do its own business" mentality that turned a blind eye toward the terrible conditions at the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.

According to the Chicago Tribune, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit against the center in 1999, alleging filthy living conditions and violence against the youths. After several years in and out of court, the center developed a reform plan in 2002 but failed to abide by it. The ACLU filed suit again, claiming that nothing had changed at the center.

Despite reports from the Tribune noting that unsanitary conditions still existed at the detention center, John Stroger attacked the newspaper and refused to address the problem. Recently, interim County Board President Bobbie Steele, who took the Board's helm on Aug. 1, hired J.W. Fairman to clean up the detention center's management staff.

Although appointing Fairman, who previously held the position of County Public Safety Director, to clean up the detention center's management staff, is a step in the right direction, this is only the beginning of any real reform.

Although Fairman said on Aug. 3 that five top-level detention center employees would be forced out, according to the Tribune, three of them would still wind up with other cushy county jobs. That's not really reform in action; it's just shuffling a problem to another

high-paying job that does nothing.

If Todd wins the Cook County presidency, he will become heir to his father's throne. But he will also inherit a \$3 billion county budget—the third largest county budget in the United States. He will also take over a detention center housing troubled youths who need experienced and educated professionals to help them, not political hires receiving their high-paying rewards.

It's not unusual or surprising that elected officials pack various positions with friends and family. For example, many players in the Bush Administration, like Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Cheney's chief-of-staff, David S. Addington, have known and worked with each other for years.

However, it is when people in power appoint unqualified friends through nepotism or political favoritism that the public suffers.

Just like Mayor Daley, if Stroger wants the family dynasty to continue, he needs to show the people that he's serious about rooting out corruption. That starts with hiring a federal monitor to review the Board's hiring practices and making sure the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center has qualified leaders to help its residents.

Scoop in the Loop is a weekly commentary in City Beat.

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In Public

Watch Chicago's aldermen in action. Several committees will meet at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., 2nd Floor, on Sept. 11. The Committee on Transportation and Public Way and the Committee on Parks and Recreation will meet in room 201-A at 9:30 a.m. The Committee on Budget and Government Operations will meet in Council Chambers at 10 a.m. The Committee on Traffic Control and Safety will meet in room 201-A at 11 a.m.

City Council will meet at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., 2nd Floor, on Sept. 13 at 10 a.m.

Chicago Police CAPS program is holding a special forum for people living in high rise residential units. The program will focus on people working together on issues like crime and quality of life. Contact William Townsell at (312)747-9984 or william.townsell@chicagopolice.org to register. Some dates and locations are: 6 p.m. Sept. 12 at the Chicago Public Library, 2505 E. 73rd St.; 6:30 p.m. Sept. 13 at 20th Police District, 5400 N. Lincoln Ave.; 6:30 p.m. Sept. 14 at 17th Police District, 4650 N. Pulaski Road.

The Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., is opening a new exhibit, "Women of the World: A Global Collection of Art." The exhibit showcases 179 works from women around the world. The exhibit is free and runs through Oct. 29. For more information, call (312)744-6630.

The 10th annual Celtic Fest Chicago takes place Sept. 16 and 17 at Grant Park. Celtic music, dance and art will be showcased on multiple stages and entertainment areas. For more information, visit www.cityofchicago.org.

The 57th Street Children's Book Fair will take place between the 5600 to 5700 block of South Kimbark Avenue from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 17. For more information, call (773)619-8371 or

Blue Bikes: CTA has not heard of artist's shared bike proposal

Continued from Back Page

getting fee back from friends.

Kaempf said he's collecting the blue bikes, painted with the color inspired by the Blue Line. Kaempf has received donated bikes and has pulled bikes from the trash. He's also hired Upgrade Cycle Works, 1130 W. Chicago Ave., and Uptown Bikes, 4653 N. Broadway, to help repair the bicycles. He said that he's covered the repair and paint costs himself.

The concept of a shared bike program is not new. The Village of Lake Villa, Ill., received 20 donated bikes from Dasani, a bottled water company owned by Coca-Cola, to help kick off DuPage County Bike Day in June 2005. Similar to Kaempf's idea, a person could borrow a bike from a locked storage area.

However, people have to sign a waiver, present identification and give a \$10 refundable deposit to obtain a Villa Park bike.

Sue Matthews, a Villa Park Parks and Recreation employee, said, "Last year [the number of renters] was mediocre, but this year, it's picked up quite a bit."

According to Matthews, about 16 to 18 bikes are rented at a time. A person can rent a bike for up to 72 hours, but the average person has it for 36 hours. She also noted that if someone needed an extension, a phone renewal would suffice.

Matthews explained that after a person signs a waiver and presents an ID and a deposit, a swipe card is issued to unlock a bike from a storage container. People are allowed to rent bikes from April 1 to Nov. 1. After that, the bikes are housed for maintenance.

Matthews said one problem with the Village's bike program is storage box damage. She said that Dasani only has one maintenance person in the entire coun-

ty authorized to repair the lock box. Currently, Villa Park has one damaged storage locker, and the village is still waiting for it to be repaired.

Although Kaempf is still fine-tuning his program, he admitted that he has



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

not approached the CTA with his plan. CTA spokeswoman Wanda Taylor confirmed that "as of the moment, the CTA has not been approached by the People Powered."

Taylor said currently the CTA's Bike & Ride program

allows riders to attach their bikes on any CTA bus's front rack for free. Bicycles are allowed on CTA trains except during rush time hours of 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday through Friday. She also said 75 CTA stations have indoor bike racks and 94 have outdoor racks.

Taylor said the CTA also welcomes unsolicited ideas for bicyclists as well as other riders' concerns.

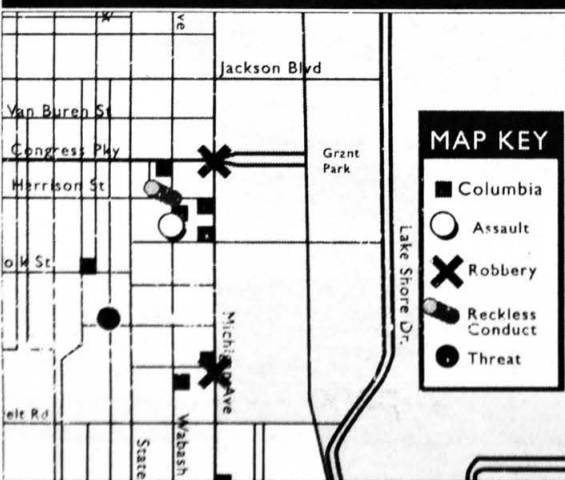
"Customers and bike enthusiasts regularly e-mail suggestions and comments at the Customer Care Center," Taylor said.

As for Kaempf, he feels if nothing else, the People Powered exhibit will generate some feedback about his shared bike proposal.

"At this point, I'm trying to illustrate what it might actually look like," Kaempf said. "And I'm using the exhibition as an opportunity for some publicity for the idea."

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Off the Blotter



Jennifer Crider/The Chronicle

Why the middle finger?

On Sept. 5, a 21-year-old man got into a fight with his 23-year-old boyfriend in front of 459 W. Wabash Ave. The 21-year-old pushed his boyfriend and then bit his right middle finger. The finger-biter fled the scene; police were unable to locate the 21-year-old. Police gave the 23-year-old information about where to get help for domestic violence and the police report number.

Rough night: Part I

A 25-to-30-year-old man entered the Best Western, 1105 S. Michigan Ave., on Sept. 4 and said he was looking for an available room. The man then pointed a handgun at the 25-year-old clerk and said, "Give me the money." The assailant then jumped over the counter and stole \$300. The police canvassed the area but did not locate the robber.

Rough night: Part II

On Aug. 31, a man around the age of 25 approached a 25-year-old flight attendant at 500 S. Michigan Ave., and indicated that he had a weapon in his hooded sweatshirt. He said, "Give me your

wallet." The woman refused, and he then demanded, "Give me your money." She gave the man \$80 and later realized that her driver's license was in the wad of cash. The woman, who was staying at a South Loop hotel, had to catch a morning flight. Police did not find the man.

Worst pick-up line ever?

An unknown woman flagged down police at 421 S. Wabash Ave. on Sept. 2 to report a lewd comment. The woman pointed to the man and he fled south on Wabash Avenue. He then started running on Congress Parkway, which turns into the Eisenhower Expressway. The man almost caused several accidents. Police arrested the man and charged him with reckless conduct.

A little verbal sparring

In the midst of a verbal argument on Sept. 3 at 899 S. Plymouth Court, two women in their 20s threatened a 27-year-old woman and 48-year-old woman with bodily harm. Police arrested the two offenders and charged them with assault.

Urban Excursions: Chinatown



By Jenifer K. Fischer
Managing Editor

Growing up in small-town Minnesota, the local Chinese buffet provided my typical experience with Asian culture. So I felt a little—or a lot—out of place upon arriving in Chicago's Chinatown. I had some idea, but never truly realized, how small my personal version of Chicago actually is. I frequent the same handful of places and follow the same path to work, school and home on a regular basis. How could I have missed this treasure?

Stepping off the Red Line at Cermak-Chinatown is like entering another land altogether, and it's only two el stops from the Harrison station near Columbia. On one side of the tracks lies typical city scenery: apartment buildings, chain-link fences and parking lots. But on the other lies a bustling community surrounded by signs in both English and Chinese, Asian-inspired park benches and the brick red, pagoda-style buildings that are synonymous with China.

This community, settled by immigrants in the late 19th cen-

tury, hosts numerous celebrations throughout the year, including the Double Ten Parade celebrating Chinese independence on Oct. 8.

The main drag lies just south of the intersection of Wentworth Avenue and Cermak Road where stop lights and stop signs suddenly disappear. Everyone seems to know everyone else; people greet one another on the street. Shopkeepers smile at you when you enter their stores and no one seems to be in a hurry, yet the sidewalks are far from desolate.

The stores overflow with everything from lucky bamboo to kimonos to art, trinkets and jewelry ranging from the cheap, plastic sort to gorgeous jade creations. Ten Ren Tea and Ginseng Co. of Chicago, 2247 S. Wentworth Ave., delighted the tea-lover in me. The entire place is filled with fresh and packaged tea leaves, ginseng and snacks such as wasabi edamame—green soybeans seasoned with the Japanese horseradish sushi fanatics everywhere know and love. And then, there's more food. It's everywhere.

Bakeries filled with treats like chocolate fortune cookies and sesame cookies seem to appear every few steps. Grocers sell fresh vegetables, fruits and meats, and you'll discover anything you could possibly need to create your favorite Asian dishes—including the cookware.

I was thrilled to find Pocky, addicting chocolate covered bis-



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

A lighted Chinatown gate at Cermak Road and Wentworth Avenue welcomes visitors.

cuit sticks; gummy candies in several flavors, including lychee fruit; candied plums and ginger chews.

There is no shortage of restaurants, either. Sushi places, noodle joints and eateries boasting authentic Chinese dishes make it difficult to decide where to stop.

I ended up at Emperor's Choice, 2238 S. Wentworth

Ave., which received accolades from diners and publications citywide. After scanning the menu for a good 10 minutes, I forewent the Village Specials, which included a disclaimer noting these dishes may need an acquired taste. Perhaps I will try serpent soup or Mandarin ostrich on another trip. Instead, I took the boring route and

ordered sweet and sour chicken. It was blissful, and the attentive wait staff was equally enjoyable.

After stopping at a bakery for a bag of the aforementioned chocolate fortune cookies and a small ceramic lucky cat, I stepped out of Chinatown and back to the Loop.

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Skating down a bumpy road

Grant Park skate plaza may cause rise in skating citations

By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

After more than a year of planning skateboard riders in Chicago's downtown area will finally have a safe haven. On Sept. 30, the skate plaza in Grant Park, south of Balbo Avenue and west of Columbus Drive, will open to the public, according to Vache Kodjavakian, representative of a group of Chicagoland skateboard retailers who are helping to develop the skate plaza.

The plaza is funded by the Chicago Park District and was developed and designed with help from the Grant Park Advisory Council, a nonprofit group that helps to plan, promote and assist future developments in the park. Along with the group of skateboarders and retailers, Chicago artist Dan Peterman, who designed benches in front of the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., is also helping.

According to Kodjavakian, who is also the president of Affiliate Skateboard Company, 1821 W. Hubbard St., the benches were a big hit among local skaters and when the time came to develop a plaza, Peterman was brought in to design the obstacles, ramps and rails.

Because Peterman was designing the obstacles, Kodjavakian said it has delayed the original timetable set to finish the plaza,



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Zandy Roth, 17, performs a grind on the lip of a bowl at the public skate park at Wilson Avenue and Lake Shore Drive. Because of Chicago's law banning skateboarding on the streets and sidewalks of the business district, skaters may have a hard time getting to the park.

which, according to the Chicago Park District's website, was scheduled to be completed by July 2006.

Bob O'Neil, president of the Grant Park Advisory Council, said the idea of creating a skate park in Grant Park has been discussed for a decade. O'Neil said a major con-

cern was that skateboarders wouldn't use the park.

"We had to make sure we had something that would accommodate skaters that are destroying the plazas downtown," O'Neil said. "It was [the Grant Park Advisory Council's] idea to get them together

and ask them 'What is it that you would use? Because we're not going to go through all this and then have you not use it.'"

O'Neil said the project, which will cost upwards of \$100,000, has taken a while to materialize because of the detail put into cre-

ating a plaza. He said one of the most interesting aspects of the plaza are the obstacles Peterman is designing because they can be moved around by the skaters themselves.

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Can you spare a bike to ride?

Part of The Chronicle's ongoing series on Chicago bicycling

Local artist proposes blue bike sharing program for Chicago

By Eric Kasang
City Beat Editor

Although it may seem like a distant dream, if Chicago artist Kevin Kaempf has his way, Chicagoans could be pedaling on free bikes by next summer. The idea, dubbed "Shared: Blue Bike," would allow people to essentially borrow a bike at a particular el stop. And the crux of the proposal: A person can use the bike indefinitely for free.

Currently, the Museum of Contemporary Art, 225 E. Chicago Ave., is displaying Kaempf's blue bike prototypes under the title "People Powered" as part of the "12 X 12: New Artists" series.

The blue prototypes consist of an array of bicycle styles; some have a 1970s feel, while others appear more modern. Most of them have attached baskets. Exhibit curator Julie Rodriguez Vidholm said each artist show-

cased in the New Artists series had 12-by-12 spaces to exhibit their visions of a "substantially better use of environment" through less waste and recycling.

Although Kaempf ran across several "blue bike" programs that involved community cycling, he said the inspiration for the color came from elsewhere.

"I was thinking about how [a shared bike program] might happen in Chicago," Kaempf said. "I was thinking about linking it up with the CTA Blue Line."

Kaempf said that Chicago's blue bag recycling program also served as a color inspiration and that the color blue connoted a sense of environmentally friendly means of travel.

He said he would like to initially focus on one area like Logan Square because he used to live in the Northwest Side neighborhood.

This would establish a visible bike presence within a particular area. He said that people would see the blue bikes on and off and be able to access them.



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

He said that the bikes would be locked at a particular station and people could access the bikes with a universal code obtained by either a 1-800 number or through a yet-to-be-named website.

Upon receiving the bikes, people may use them as long as needed. They may even share it

with their friends. People would return the bikes once they finished with them.

Kaempf said that he's working out certain details in his program like the number of bikes per CTA station and how to keep track of the bicycles. And he's

See Blue bikes, Page 38

Sun sets on Printer's Row

17-story high rise set to tower over South Loop residences

By Allison Riggio
Assistant City Beat Editor

"Beware! Don't buy in Library Tower."

This is the message greeting visitors to librarytower.com, librarytower.net and librarytower.org—none of which are associated with Library Tower, a condominium building going up in the South Loop.

Lennar Corporation, the developer constructing Library Tower, has seen some resistance from neighboring residents about the construction. The development, which broke ground in mid-August, is going up at the corner of State Street and Congress Parkway.

Dave VanderKloot is one neighbor who won't be thrilled when Library Tower moves in. After registering the websites against the development more than a year ago, VanderKloot said he is no longer actively trying to stop the building's construction, though issues remain.

"I put up a message that I thought should be heard for people who might be interested in

See Tower, Page 36