

10-16-2006

Columbia Chronicle (10/16/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

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Will your voice be heard on election day?

Student turn-out lacks at polls

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant Campus News Editor

and

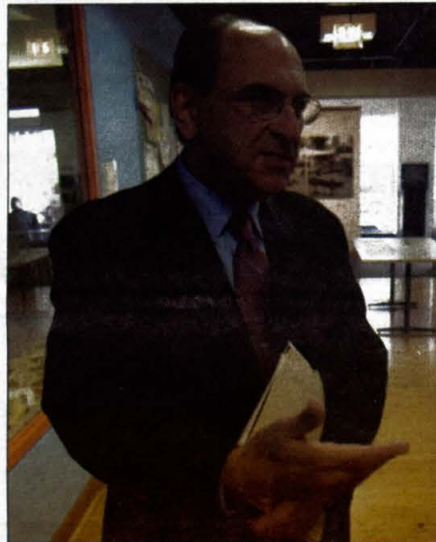
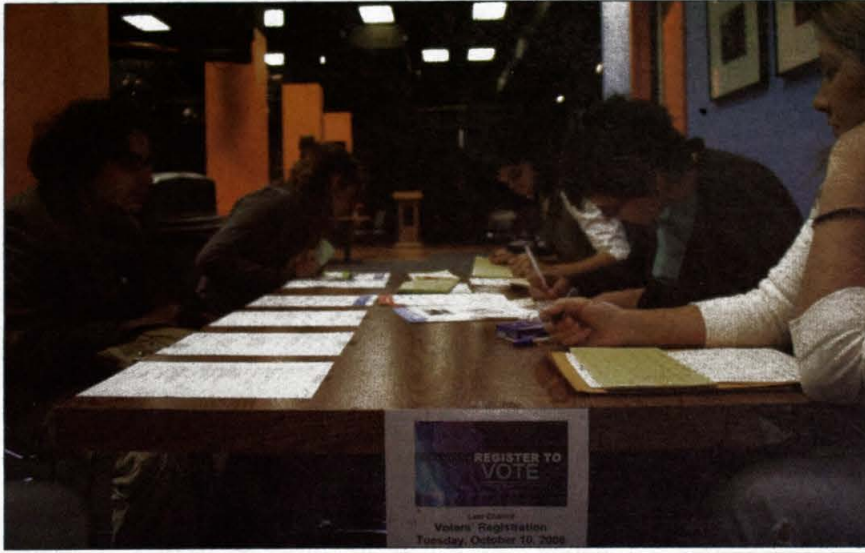
James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

The countdown has begun for the Nov. 7 midterm elections and the push to register young voters is as vigorous as ever. With the 18- to 24-year-old age bracket representing the lowest percent of voter participants, the push to gain student turnout at the polls has begun around campus.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's latest statistics on voting, only 47 percent of 18- to 24-year-olds voted in 2004. While young adults had the lowest voting and registration rates in 2004, they had the largest increase in both rates since the 2000 presidential election, with an increase of 7 percent in registering to vote and 11 percent in actual voting. What is still unclear, according to many experts, is whether the increase marks a reversal of a trend or merely a spike.

As part of an ongoing series investigating election issues that directly affect students, The Chronicle asked a number of political experts what barriers students face in becoming involved with the democratic process. With experts seeing the major challenges of gaining student votes revolving around young adults lacking apathy or understanding in politics, the question arises of whose responsibility it is to address these issues.

Terry Pickeral, executive director for the National Center for Learning and Citizenship, a policy institute that researches and engages students with local and national issues, said the



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Top: Ruth Anne Mazur, right, Megan Minnaert and Ashley Brown register students Stephanie McAuliffe and Phil Genofrio at the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Oct. 10. Bottom: Skokie state representative Lou Lang, left, from the 16th district spoke with students along with Dr. Eric Wallace, right, state senate hopeful from District 19.

See Elections, Page 38

Columbia donor linked to indictment

By Jim Jaworski
Associate Editor

William Cellini Sr., a Columbia donor and father of trustee William Cellini Jr., was identified as an alleged conspirator in the indictment of Tony Rezko, political adviser to Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

The Springfield Journal-Register reported on Oct. 13 that Joe Bauman, executive director of the Illinois Teachers Retirement System, confirmed the person referred to as "Individual A" in the indictment was in fact Cellini Sr., a Springfield broker.

The indictment alleges Individual A, among others, pressured investment firms into making political donations, threatening the firms that they would no longer be able to do business with the Teachers Retirement System. The TRA handles pension funds for teachers throughout Illinois, except Chicago.

The U.S. Attorney's Office would not comment on Cellini Sr. As of press time, he had not been charged with a crime.

According to Columbia's 2005 President's Report, Cellini Sr. and Julie Cellini donated between \$1,000 and \$4,999 to the college. Mark Lloyd, vice president of Marketing and Communication, would not give the specific amount of his donation, but he did issue a brief statement.

"Columbia College is grateful to all its donors," he said. "We assume that our donors are generous in a number of causes, including political ones, but we remain

See Indictment, Page 6

Student enrollment rises faster than planned

A Chronicle series on Columbia's enrollment policy

By Jim Jaworski
Associate Editor

In the late '80s, the Fiction Writing Department moved into the 12th floor of the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave. Young writers have used the space to refine their prose since then.

The department has risen in popularity, increasing at twice the rate of the rest of the college since 2000. More students means more instructors, but Randy Albers, chair of the Fiction Writing Department, faces an interesting problem—a struggle to find places to put his teachers.

"We are just very tight," he said. "We are a department that is people heavy, not tech heavy, and we need space for people."

Albers recognizes the problems he is facing are affecting the entire campus. He has made multiple requests over the last three years for more offices for his instructors and classrooms for his students. While

he has received some, it is still not enough. In 2005, when the Journalism Department moved out of its space one floor above, Albers saw an opportunity to get the extra tutoring spaces he needed.

But he wasn't alone. Four departments jumped on the opportunity. Albers received two of the offices, fewer than he feels he needs.

"I understand that space is tight but for a department that's been growing like this, we should get a little bit more than we have been getting," he said.

Columbia administrators laud the school's success in pulling new students from all around the country. Enrollment is increasing at a stronger rate than even Columbia officials predicted just a few years ago. Some departments, such as Fiction Writing, are either at or reaching capacity. The success of Columbia has revived a decades-old debate that murmurs through classrooms and offices: How many students are too much?

A large factor driving Columbia's

increasing enrollment is the administration's open enrollment policy. For the 2006 fall semester, about 6,100 prospective undergraduate students completed Columbia's admissions process, according to Murphy Monroe, executive director of Admissions. Only 62 applicants were denied, establishing Columbia's current acceptance rate at 99 percent.

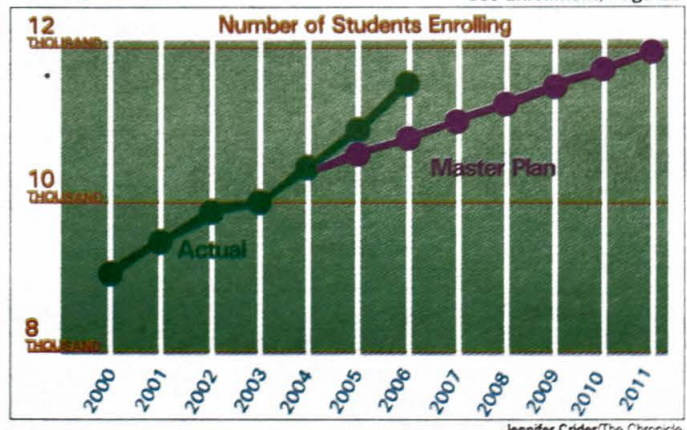
Roughly 150 applicants were accepted to the college's Bridge Program, which requires students to complete non-credit courses to eventually advance to degree-seeking status.

While the college is not technically "open enrollment," because some applicants are denied, the 99 percent acceptance rate is significantly higher than other Chicago area

private colleges and universities. DePaul University accepted 70 percent of its applicants for the fall semester; Loyola University had an acceptance rate of 69 percent, while Northwestern University accepted only 32 percent of applicants, according to each school's admissions office.

Generous admission policies like Columbia's are becoming extremely rare, especially amongst private schools, according to Barnak Nassirian, spokesman for the American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers, which offers admission

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Jennifer Crider/The Chronicle



Urinal? More like urinhell

By Hunter Clauss, Editor-in-Chief

I couldn't do it. Maybe it was the smell of stale farts or the fact that the person standing next to me was an acquaintance, who just had to seize the moment and tell me about how stressed he was with his homework. I tried tuning him out by closing my eyes and thinking of waves hitting a tropical beach, but then a phantom sneeze came from the far-end stall—where I assumed the bathroom's stench originated—and it broke all of my concentration, and somehow my bladder locked down like a maximum-security prison. No matter how hard I tried thinking of torrential downpours I couldn't force a prison break.

And this happens almost every time I step up to the white porcelain urinal in the men's room.

In the event that massive floods and white water rapids fail and nothing further can be done, I'll pretend I took a leak anyway. I'll exaggerate the fact that I'm shaking my dick, which wouldn't be surprising if someone mistook the act as me jerking off in the urinal, and then zip up my pants only to return 10 minutes later when the coast is clear. If it isn't, I just go into a stall and suffer the embarrassment of having everyone in the room hear me piss into a toilet.

I really do wonder how some guys can pee in front of others without feeling as if the universe is folding up around them like an origami swan. Are they in some kind of magical urinating zone that allows them to be unfazed by their surroundings? Let's say

that if some dude was in the urinating zone and a gigantic fire broke out in the bathroom, causing everyone inside to panic with their hands in the air as they flee for their lives, would that dude continue spelling out his name in the urinal cake without even knowing his death was quickly approaching? OK, so maybe there is no such urinating zone. If there were, any two-time crook would score big by swiping the wallets off a long line of peeing morons.

Now, don't get me wrong. I

and gas stations. As we walked into these refined cesspools, I would make a beeline to the stalls instead of joining Garrett at the urinals. He quickly put two and two together.

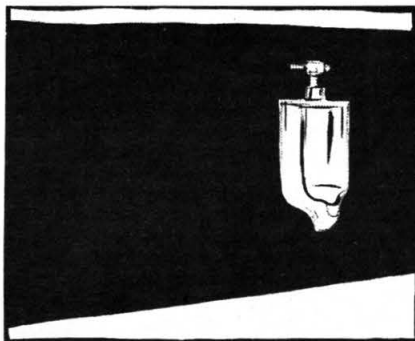
"By the end of this trip I'm going to make you pee in a urinal with me standing next to you," he said as we climbed back into his semi.

I told Garrett that it wasn't him—I can't pee in a urinal with anyone around. I mentioned my 21st birthday, and how I made my boyfriend at the time wait outside the men's room of a gay bar to hold off anyone wishing to enter. I was incredibly drunk—it would be the first and last night I would spend sleeping on the floor next to the toilet—and I was worried someone would come in and start checking out my ding-dong as I was in mid-pee.

Garrett called me a weirdo, and we both agreed my pee shyness would be a huge obstacle if I ever dated anyone into water sports. And I'm not talking about sports taking place in water. In the wonderful world of fetishes, water sports refers to the act of peeing or being peed on by a consenting adult.

What this whole mess boils down to is my love of privacy. I don't like people looking over my shoulder when it comes to reading, writing and peeing. So next time you're in the men's room and hear the machine gun loudness of someone peeing in the toilet, it's most likely me.

hclauss@chroniclemail.com



can use a urinal when I'm by myself. The only time I can't use it is when other people are around. This small yet significant detail has some of my friends worried and, perhaps, personally offended.

Over the summer I took a road trip with my friend Garrett, who is a truck driver. We traveled throughout the Midwest in this big red semi-truck, delivering shipments of frozen goods from anywhere like Detroit to Salt Lake City. Since we were on a somewhat tight schedule, our bathroom breaks were limited to the grimy bathrooms at rest stops

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Campus News
Arts and Entertainment
Commentary
City Beat

Announcements

Celia Herra Rodriguez: A Prayer to the Mother Waters for Peace

This Glass Curtain Gallery exhibition addressing issues of economics, war and ecology will be open to the public from Oct. 12 through Nov. 8 in conjunction with Columbia's Annual FOCO [In Focus] Festival, celebrating the contributions of Latinos in the arts. The gallery, located at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more information, contact Mark Porter at (312) 344-6643.

Big Mouth

Join monthly performers for an informal open mic night from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Hokin Annex, in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Performance formats include spoken word, poetry and music, with a rotating schedule of guest artists, emcees and musicians.

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

Conversation in the Arts: Up Close with Joan Lunden

Joan Lunden, the longtime host of "Good Morning America" and producer/host of the television series "Behind Closed Doors," will come to Columbia for an "Up Close" conversation at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 19. The event will be held at the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. Admission is \$50 and can be purchased through Ticket Web.

For more information, contact Michael Anderson at (312) 344-8673.

Snap to Grid

Columbia College partners with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in an exhibition opportunity geared toward students using digital media in their creative process. The exhibition runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 20 at the C-33 Gallery, in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

For more information, contact Nancy A. Julson at (312) 344-6856.

In Your Opinion

What do you think about Columbia's admissions policy?



"Some people are not qualified ... and are not too serious about it [college]."

—Sarah Boone, sophomore, dance



"It's bogus. If you can afford it, you can get in. It's racist, to a point."

—Christopher Anderson, junior, photography



"It was impossible to get in. I found it kind of difficult for grad school."

—Sarah Levi, graduate student, visual arts management



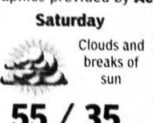
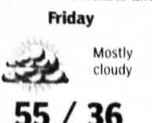
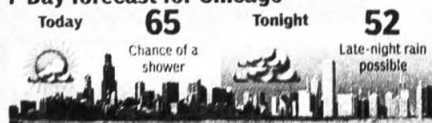
"I think it's a good thing because it's an equal opportunity."

—Evan Bero, senior, audio arts and acoustics

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

If you have an upcoming event or announcement, contact The Chronicle's news desk
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7-Day forecast for Chicago



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2006

College guarding against mumps

Record cases infect college campuses

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

The number of mumps cases has skyrocketed throughout the country this year. As the recent outbreaks at Wheaton and Elmhurst Colleges come closer and closer to Columbia's campus, college officials have been preparing for a possible outbreak.

By the end of September, more than 630 cases of mumps had been reported in Illinois. Chicago accounted for nearly a tenth of all cases in the state, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. Illinois has averaged 10 cases of mumps every year.

Wheaton College found itself in the center of an outbreak in early September. Throughout the month, the college battled the disease, which infected nearly 80 students.

When the news of mumps cases on campus first broke, the college quickly informed students and partnered with the DuPage County Health Department, according to Tiffany Self, director of Media Relations at Wheaton College.

By collaborating with the Health Department, the college has contained the outbreak. The cause remains unknown.

After Wheaton's mumps outbreak, Self gave simple and practical advice to other institutions and their students. Students should be aware of any outbreaks in the area and practice good hygiene, such as washing hands and using hand sanitizer, so they have less of a chance to contract the virus during daily interactions with others, she said.

Columbia officials have been monitoring outbreaks of mumps with help from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College Health Association.

The college made a move toward ensuring every student was vaccinated against the disease by requiring complete immunization records on file before a student can register for spring classes. Columbia officials decided on this policy change so the college would be less susceptible to an outbreak, according to Marvin Cohen, director of the Records Office.

Notifying students of their incomplete vaccination records is only one part of a three step process the college has created



Norma Madrid, left, grimaces as nurse Rosa Colman, right, of the El Paso's Le Fe Clinic, gives her one year-old daughter, Jenny, the fourth in a series of shots against infectious diseases like mumps, measles and rubella.

to protect Columbia from mumps.

According to Blair Odland, medical doctor for the college's Student Health Services at the Health Center, 731 S. Plymouth Ave., the college believes reminding students to get vaccinated will lead to a potential drop in the number of mumps cases.

Those in the Student Health Center have also been trained to identify and report any case of the mumps to the Chicago Health Department.

Lastly, Columbia agrees that infected students must be isolated for at least nine days. If the student cannot return home, Columbia will support students with temporary on-campus housing.

Although the disease is usually harmless, it can be spread easily and can lead to serious health complications. Managing mumps is more serious than nursing a cold or the flu, especially because signs of the disease don't appear until two weeks after it is contracted,

according to the Illinois Department of Health.

Some serious complications can include testicular infections and viral meningitis, said James Turner, executive director of the Department of Student Health at the University of Virginia.

Symptoms include swelling and pain in the jaw area, headaches and fever. Anyone who suspects he may have mumps should seek medical attention.

After Alexzondreya Hearn, a

See Disease, Page 6

Authors come to Columbia to celebrate nonfiction

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant Campus News Editor

The books are out, the authors are ready and the readings are beginning this week for Columbia's eighth annual Creative Nonfiction Week.

A variety of writers, faculty, students and alumni will appear around campus from Oct. 15 through Oct. 19 to celebration nonfiction, which Sam Weller, project manager for the event, said now outsells fiction and is a great medium of success for students.

"[Creative nonfiction] is a wide net of writing from a point of truth," he said.

Aside from being a full time teacher in the Fiction Department, Weller is the author of *The Bradbury Chronicles*, a biography on famed author Ray Bradbury.

"We all pull our creativity and artistry from our lives and creative nonfiction is all about that," Weller said. "No matter what major you are, we all are creating from our own experience and observing other people's experiences."

Michael McColly, author of *The After-Death Room: Journey Into Spiritual Activism*, will read excerpts from his book, which focuses on the presence of HIV and AIDS around the world.

While McColly reads, Vietnamese photographer Tuong Nguyen, who traveled to Vietnam with McColly, will display his photos of Vietnam that directly connect to the author's book.

"For people who are writers, creative nonfiction is an exploding area and genre," McColly



Photo by: Anne Leibovitz/ Courtesy of Rose Blouin

Jamaica Kincaid, author of *My Brother, Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalaya*, will be one of the featured writers speaking at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave on Oct. 18.

Weller said one of the many "all-stars" of the week is Newsweek's rock critic Lorraine Ali, who will appear at the Hot House, 31 E. Balbo Drive, on Oct. 17.

Ali is a native of Iraq and offers an interesting point of view about the now war-torn country, Weller said.

Author Jamaica Kincaid, another featured speaker, will appear Oct. 18 at the Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. She will read an excerpt from her book *My Brother, Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalaya*.

The English, Fiction Writing

and Journalism departments arranged the event together, keeping in mind what the faculty thought might attract students, Weller said.

"It really shows interdepartmental collaboration and creativity going on," Weller said.

And although Weller said faculty members have put student interests in mind while putting the event together, some still don't seem to about what the event.

"I would go if I knew what it was," said Jack Beggs, a sophomore, acting major.

Andy Kiel, a sophomore audio arts major, and Shunte McMillian, a graduate student in

arts and management, also asked what and when it was.

Despite some students being unaware of Creative Nonfiction Week, David Trinidad, a professor in the English Department, said he looks forward to hearing what his co-workers have to say during the faculty reading session scheduled for later on in the week.

"[Creative nonfiction] is through the filter of your personality rather than just sticking to the facts," Trinidad said. "It's not meant for your morning newspaper."

jzimmerman@chroniclemail.com

SGA seeks to improve Columbia experience

By Beth Palmer
Staff Writer

In the city of Chicago, aldermen seek to keep constituents satisfied in their wards; at Columbia, that job is mocked by the college's Student Government Association.

After consulting its senators and conducting a student census, Columbia's SGA has established its 2006-2007 goals. The goals outlined seek to help students save cash and improve the Columbia experience, especially for minorities and commuters.

"We will focus on unity among Columbia students and we will focus on the solutions to current problems," Brian Matos, president of the SGA, said. "I am about solutions and actions, not talk and complaints."

Current SGA goals include two of last year's initiatives that still need attention: a student center and a course fee transparency policy. Both issues require the SGA to communicate a sense of urgency to administrators who, last year, acknowledged the issues but made no concrete plans for change.

Matos, a junior radio broadcast journalism major, said the SGA Facilities Committee will continue to work on designing new student spaces and eventually a student center, with help from Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment.

See Government, Page 6

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Concert Hall Events

Monday October 9

Classical Guitarist Norman Ruiz in Concert
12:30 PM

Tuesday October 10

Sharon Carlson and Sebastian Huydts in Concert
12:30 PM

Student Piano Concert
7:00 PM

Wednesday October 11

Pianist Jeffery Jacob in Concert
(Reservations Suggested 312-344-6300)
12:30 PM

Pianist Jeffery Jacob Workshop
1:30 PM

Thursday October 12

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby
12:30 PM

CCC Jazz Ensemble in Concert
7:30 PM

Friday October 13

Saxophonist Idit Shiner in Concert
4:30 PM

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

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change

CREATIVE NONFICTION WEEK 2006



Jamaica Kincaid



Robert Boynton



Lorraine Ali



Michael McColly



Bich Nguyen

photograph: Brian Stappert, Photos by Bruce Field

● SUNDAY/OCTOBER 15

5 PM Fiction Department Alumni Reading
Featuring **Kathie Bergquist**, **Marianne Wolf**, **Joyce Wagner**. Alumni open mic immediately following
Conaway Center, 1104 S. Wabash

● MONDAY/OCTOBER 16

3 PM Student Reading
With **Jess D'Amico**, **William Brogan**, **Leslie Bradshaw**, **Hunter Clauss**, **April Newman**, **Geoff Hyatt**
Student open mic immediately following
Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan
6:30 PM Bich Nguyen
[*Stealing Buddha's Dinner*] readings and conversation
Ferguson Theater, 600 S. Michigan

● TUESDAY/OCTOBER 17

12 PM Buffet Lunch
Film Row Cinema Reception Area
8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash
1 PM Robert Boynton
[*The New New Journalism*] readings and conversation
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash
3 PM Cultural Criticism
With panelists **Ann Wiens** [art critic, *Chicago Magazine*], **Cheryl Reed** [book critic, *Sun-Times*], **Kelly Kleiman** [dance and theater critic, WBEZ], **Chris Jones** [theater critic, *Chicago Tribune*], and **Danny Postel** [senior editor, openDemocracy]
Moderated by **Steve Edwards** [host, 848, WBEZ]
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash
6:30 PM Lorraine Ali
[Senior editor, *Newsweek*, specializing in rock music, pop culture and Arab-American issues]
Followed by DJ
HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo

● WEDNESDAY/OCTOBER 18

3 PM Faculty Reading
Featuring **David Lazar**, **David Trinidad**, **Bryan Smith**, **Teresa Puente**, **John Schultz**, **Sam Weller**
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash
6:30 PM Michael McColly
[*The After-Death Room: Journey into Spiritual Activism*] readings and conversation
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

● THURSDAY/OCTOBER 19

3 PM Creative Nonfiction Pays
Publishers and writers discuss landing freelance assignments
S.L. Wisenberg [freelance writer and teacher], **Sam Jemielity** [editor, *playboy.com*], **JC Gabel** [editor, *Stop Smiling*], and **Jennifer Olivera** [freelance writer]
Moderated by **Jotham Burrello**
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash
6:30 PM Jamaica Kincaid
[*My Brother, Among Flowers: A Walk in the Himalaya*] readings and conversation
Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash

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Government: Students seek promises from administration

Continued from Page 3

They do expect the office of Campus Environment to understand Columbia students want a completed student center soon, SGA vice president Andy Breen said, vowing not to let the administration forget its promise in the 2010 Plan.

Breen said it would take a mandate, not a reminder, to get every teacher to abide by the course fee transparency policy, which requires teachers to list on class syllabi what is purchased with the course fee.

Last year, the SGA Academic Affairs Committee worked with the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs Steven Kapelke to ask faculty to stipulate where course fee money goes, and some faculty did, Breen said.

This year, the Academic Affairs Committee will continue to work with Kapelke, Matos said. Its goal is to have a course fee transparency policy written into department by-laws, Breen said.

Minority enrollment has decreased since 2002, a fact that concerns the SGA, according to the 2006 Fact Book.

"[Minority enrollment and retention] is a focus of the entire school," Matos said. "Diversity is part of what makes Columbia strong."

The SGA Committee on

Minority Enrollment and Retention will communicate with minority student organizations like the Black Student

Union and the Latino Alliance to better understand how the SGA can serve their needs, Matos said.



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

President of SGA Brian Matos and executive vice president Andy Breen listen in as Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, addresses the SGA on Sept. 26 at the Hub located in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

"Bottom line: The college can recruit minority students, but the current student population needs to ensure they are accepted and embraced," Matos said.

Results from the SGA 2005 Student Census showed students, especially minorities, expressed the need for longer computer lab hours and cheaper computer lab printing, Matos said, and the SGA has adopted both needs as 2006-2007 goals. He said the SGA is pushing the administration for free printing and a 24-hour computer lab.

The census was written by Matos and Breen and sent to every Columbia student last fall via OASIS e-mail. Matos and Breen received only 6.5 percent back.

The census revealed a need for SGA to work closely with Student Financial Services to provide better customer service. More than half of those surveyed disapproved of the job done by Student Financial Services. The SGA, in the census report, said its goal is for every student to walk out of Student Financial Services understanding their options.

The four remaining 2006-2007 goals come from SGA senators' suggestions. The goals represent commuters and those upset by textbook prices. According to the census, 44 percent of those surveyed take the Metra to Columbia. The SGA proposed looking into a discount

for Metra riders as an alternative to the local student commuter's U-Pass.

Senators will also form committees to research new scholarship opportunities and alternatives to textbooks.

"Diversity is what makes Columbia strong."

—Brian Matos, president of the Student Government Association

Dominic Cottone, director of Student Leadership, helps the SGA identify its major goals each year. Cottone said minority recruitment and retention was an important addition to the SGA goals.

"We need to continue increasing opportunities for all students on campus," Cottone said. "The

SGA can help with continuing the trend."

Columbia administrators now look to SGA, as it steps into more leadership roles, Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs said.

"Six years ago, the term 'student leader' was an oxymoron at Columbia," he said.

One of the SGA's most important accomplishments was last year's appointment of a student trustee on the Board of Trustees. The student trustee position opened the door to the first faculty trustee, he said.

Six years ago, Columbia did not have the SGA or the Student Affairs office, Kelly said. At that time, the administration addressed student needs through assumption, not fact.

"Since [the creation of] SGA, students' satisfaction with their experience at Columbia has risen dramatically," Kelly said.

chronicle@colum.com

Disease: Cause of spreading virus still unknown

Continued from Page 3

a freshman radio major, came down with a painful sore throat that lasted more than three weeks, she worried that it could be the mumps. Although she was not able to visit a doctor during that time, she doesn't believe she contracted the virus.

However, she continues to worry about catching it.

"You run into so many people in areas where you could catch it, when people go to restaurants even when they're sick or even standing behind you," she said.

While no one seems to know what may have caused more than 2,500 cases of mumps around the country, there are a number of theories.

One scenario suggests international travelers may have brought the virus into the States.

Since the United Kingdom has also recently experienced a mumps outbreak, it is considered a likely source.

"We detected in some of the cases freshmen are more likely to get infected because they usually live in dorms, and they have more close contact compared to other students."

—Gustavo Dayan, senior service fellow in the Division of Viral Diseases for the CDC

Gustavo Dayan, a senior service fellow in the Division of Viral Diseases for the CDC, believes that certain characteris-

tics of college life may have also led to the rapid spread of the virus.

"I think it depends on the way [students] interact," Dayan said. "We detected in some of the cases freshmen are more likely to get infected because they usually live in dorms, and they have more close contact compared to other students."

College campuses have become an ideal hub for an outbreak since the virus can be spread through the air, by shar-

ing utensils or drinking glasses and quickly affect a large number of people in close proximity.

Students should be cautious even if they are vaccinated against the disease.

According to Turner, although the vaccine protects people against mumps, measles and rubella, it is only 80 to 95 percent effective.

Turner also stressed the importance of receiving both MMR shots. Students who are not vaccinated should receive the shot immediately, he said.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

Dance, dance revolution



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Lin Hwai-min, artistic director of Cloud Gate Dance Theater of Taiwan, and moderator Andrew Patner discuss various topics related to dance, including calligraphy and martial arts, after a dance class in the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. on Oct. 11. Lin came to Columbia to speak about the U.S. premier of 'Wild Cursive,' at the Harris Theater, 205 E. Randolph Dr.

Indictment: Cellini Sr. linked to corruption case

Continued from Front Page

grateful for their generosity to us specifically."

Lloyd denied further comment.

Cellini Jr. is a member of Columbia's board of trustees and president of the Alumni Association.

Cellini Jr. graduated from Columbia's Film and Video Department in 1994. In 1998, Cellini Jr. produced *Stricken*, a thriller starring Jamie Kennedy. He later worked as an assistant post-production supervisor for the 2002 comedy *Slap Her... She's French*.

He is currently vice president of marketing for his father's business, New Frontier Companies, which deals in real estate. He has also given money to the college.

As of press time, Cellini Jr. had not returned The Chronicle's call.

janvorski@chroniclemail.com

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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FROM NATIVE AMERICANS TO THE COLUMBIA LACROSSE TEAM

According to Kevin Dunnigan, the Renegades Lacrosse team's president, Lacrosse was the first official sport in America and was adopted from Indian tribes. Taking after the Indian tribes, the Columbia lacrosse team hopes to do their part in uniting their community (Columbia College Chicago) together! In the spring the lacrosse team will be playing other college teams in the area including Northwestern, Depaul, and Loyola to name a few. Currently, the team has open practice for ALL Columbia students. Dunnigan encourages first time players and well seasoned players. The Renegades Lacrosse team practices every Friday off of Balbo & Congress (near the tennis courts) at 3:30 P.M.



★ CURRENT SPORTS

Baseball - Cycling - Soccer - Wrestling
Cross Country - Capoeira - Men's Lacrosse
Men's Basketball

★ CURRENT SPORTS INTERESTS

Tennis - Fast-Pitch Softball - 16" Softball
Volleyball - Women's Basketball - Kickball
Flag Football - Raquetball - Women's Lacrosse
Ultimate Frisbee - Swimming - Dance - Diving
Cheerleading - Rugby - Paintball - Gymnastics
Water Polo

<http://ATHLETICS.COLUM.EDU>

★ FITNESS AND INTRAMURALS

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

*Abs- Thursdays 6-6:30pm

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

*Aikido- Thursdays 6-8pm & Saturday 3-5pm

*Vinyasa Yoga - This is a 4 class series. Classes will be held every Wednesday between October 4th and October 25th.

★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cross Country

Cross Country meets at 30W building, on the corner of Wabash and Congress. Monday-Friday at 6:30 a.m. to run.

Soccer

Open practices are held every Tuesday & Thursday at 5:00PM in Grant (Columbus & Balbo).

Baseball

The Baseball team will be facing off against Michigan State in an exhibition game this weekend. Please check out their page on the Athletic's website for details.

Gymnastics

If you are interested in Gymnastics, they have practices EVERY Friday from 3-5pm at the Roosevelt Gym, located at 425 S. Wabash, 4th floor.

Men's Lacrosse

Men's Lacrosse meets every Friday in Grant Park (Balbo & Congress) at 3:00 p.m. If you are interested then simply show up!

Softball

If you want to play Softball this year then show up at the Conaway Center located on the first floor at 1104 S. Wabash on October 24th @ 6:00 P.M.

Cheerleading

Cheerleading has its first official practice/try out on Monday October 16, from 6:15 - 7:45 P.M. This is open to both women and men.

Capoeira

Capoeira is a Brazilian Dance/Martial Art. They have practices on Tuesday and Friday from 5-7pm at Roosevelt's Gym.

Contact the Renegades - 1104 S. Wabash Lower Level Office A - 312-344-6917 - ATHLETICS@COLUM.EDU

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Combo melds Latin, American jazz styles

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

Gabriel Vicens cradled his guitar, his lips moving to the rhythm of his fingers. He sang the melody of his solo, cast over drums, bass and piano. He's one of five Puerto Rican students in a foreign-exchange program between Columbia and the Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico and has spent the last week in Chicago learning about American jazz.

The five students' jazz combo, plus two faculty from the Conservatory, played Oct. 12 and Oct. 13 to full auditoriums at the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave. The students spent a week attending classes and rehearsals with Columbia student ensembles and private lessons taught by some of the city's most renowned jazz musicians.

The partnership between Columbia and the Conservatory began two years ago with the idea that students from Puerto Rico could come to Chicago to learn about American jazz and Columbia students could visit Puerto Rico to learn about Latin jazz.

"It changed my mind completely," said Mario Pereira, the Puerto Rican combo's drummer, about a

master class with jazz drummer Adam Nussbaum. "I had no idea about certain things; he explained them so simple."

Last year, the schools exchanged faculty jazz ensembles and spent a week playing with and learning from each other and local headliners.

"Both places have a guest jazz musician of great name value," said Richard Dunscomb, chair of Columbia's Music Department. "Theirs is a bass player named Eddie Gomez. He's one of the most well known jazz bass players in the world. And our counterpart is Jon Faddis. He's a jazz trumpet player who is also equally renowned."

The two schools have made a five-year commitment to the program, which is expected to expand in upcoming years, Dunscomb said. The student and faculty exchange will continue amidst the growing programs, including plans for a joint CD project and summer camps in both Chicago and Puerto Rico primarily available to high school students. Both additions to the program are being discussed, but no dates or specifics have been decided yet, he said.

While in Chicago, the Puerto Rican combo visited many jazz clubs. They went to the New



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Carlos Soto, an exchange student from Puerto Rico, plays with his fellow Conservatory of Music of Puerto Rico students on Oct. 12, at the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave.

Apartment Lounge, 504 E. 75th St., where they saw Chicago saxophone legend Von Freeman perform. They said Freeman heard they were there and stopped in the middle of his performance to invite them to play on stage while he stood in back listening.

"It was great," said Carlos Soto, the combo's trumpet player. "If we stayed there, we would have played until five or six in the morning, jamming."

At the Oct. 12 concert, the Puerto Rican combo played five songs, four of which were

arranged either by members of the group or as a collaborative effort.

Ryan Gray, a sophomore music major at Columbia, said he recognized some of the pieces they played and liked the way the group altered the melodies, giving them a "smooth Latin feel."

"That drummer didn't miss a beat," Gray said. "They were really well-rehearsed, but not at the expense of improvisation."

Marco Pignataro, director of Jazz Studies at the Conservatory, and Luis Marin, director of the Conservatory jazz combo, also per-

formed as guest soloists. Marin's fingers danced on piano keys, while Pignataro played the saxophone, his eyes shut and his body swaying.

"Those Puerto Ricans can play," said Tyler Berg, a freshman jazz studies major. "They were really solid."

Columbia will be sending about seven members of their Latin Jazz Ensemble to Puerto Rico in April 2007 for a week of lessons, rehearsals and a chance to perform in a Puerto Rico Jazz Festival.

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

SOC Workshops - This Week

New and Returning Org Recognition (Mandatory)

Tuesday October 17th - Noon

Wednesday October 18th - 3 p.m.

Thursday October 19th - 5 p.m.

Event Planning Workshop

Thursday October 19th 2 p.m.

All Workshops in the HUB

Basement of 1104 S. Wabash

SOC

Faculty cross borders for college's benefit

Columbia professors to attend several conferences abroad

By Amanda Maurer
Campus Editor

This past week, Columbia's office of Academic Initiatives and International Programs has hosted and plans to attend several international conferences.

Last week Mary Lennon, Siún Hanrahan and Tony Murry, faculty members from the Dublin Institute of Technology, visited Columbia and participated in the first of two joint symposia.

The Irish professors each gave lectures about how to teach the arts and media to the college in conjunction with Columbia faculty.

The three Columbia faculty members, Margaret Sullivan, Kevin Henry and Robert Lagueux, participated in the sessions last week at Columbia and will fly out to Ireland next year. The DIT will host the second two-day symposium in March, during which Columbia faculty will share their lectures again and hold workshops.

Gillian Moore, executive director of Academic Initiatives and International Programs, said participating in international conferences is important because it allows the college to share and learn innovative teaching and research methods.

According to Moore, the college has budgeted for the travel

expenses of faculty members during these trips. As of press time, a round trip ticket to Dublin cost around \$600.

Students also benefit from the conferences because professors can apply the methods they have learned in the classroom and become more effective teachers, said Sullivan, chair of the Marketing Communications Department, who also presented at the symposium.

Henry, a faculty member in the Art and Design Department, participated in the sessions last week and plans to attend the Dublin symposium in the spring.

"Learning new methodology, it's just like having more tools in your tool kit."

—Margaret Sullivan, chair of the Marketing Communications Department

Henry agrees that his future trip and symposium session will benefit more than just faculty.

"There is real value on so many levels of everyone, and obviously most importantly the students, as they directly benefit from us learning to be better teachers and extending the possibilities for them," he said.

"It is, of course, an opportunity for all of us here at Columbia College Chicago to serve as ambassadors by going to Ireland in March," Henry said. "We will be bringing a piece of Columbia culture to Ireland and spreading

the word of what we do and how we do it."

Henry said his presentation covered how the real world, technology and collaboration can combine and what they mean to design students. He spoke about two case studies students have worked on, one of which focused on the methods used to create user-friendly computer interfaces. The other explored how classroom interaction changes because of technology.

Before the symposium trip to Dublin, another group of Columbia officials will travel to Belgium for a conference.

During the week of Oct. 25, administrators including provost and vice president of Academic Affairs Steve Kapelke, the associate dean, the college's deans and Moore will travel to Gent, Belgium. Columbia representatives will attend a conference hosted by the European League of Institutes of the Arts, an organization that brings together more than 40 countries to discuss and promote the arts.

Moore believes that participating in such events will advance the college's global reputation which will not only bring in faculty of different nationalities, but also enhance the value of a Columbia degree.

"It will certainly raise the profile of Columbia College, both throughout Europe and internationally, and it'll give [the college] a very strong voice,"

Moore said.

This year's ELIA conference holds special meaning for the college. In July, ELIA's president and executive director visited Columbia and were inspired by Columbia's philosophy on teaching the arts and media.

Moore considers Columbia's recent symposia with the DIT to be a smaller version of the ELIA conference.

"It's important to be in a world community of people who

practice what you do, so that your mind isn't narrow," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said that while it's interesting to find out what others have researched, she believes it is just as important to learn how the research was conducted.

"Learning new research methodology, it's just like having more tools in your tool kit," Sullivan said.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

Jazzin' it up



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Marco Pignataro solos with the Chicago Jazz Ensemble, Oct. 12.

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Maine College of Art & Design
Memphis College of Art
Miami Ad School
Minneapolis College of Art
Mount Mary College
Parsons New School of Design
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
San Francisco Art Institute
Savannah College of Art & Design
Tyler School of Art
University of the Arts
Wayne State University

Schedule:
10am-3pm----- One on One Admission Advising
10am-10:45am----- Applications "How To"
11am-11:45am----- Visual Arts Admissions Packages
Noon-12:45pm----- Film & Television Admissions Packages
1pm-1:45pm----- Submitting Digital Samples*
(*Note: This panel is subject to change)
Check www.colum.edu/portfolio for updates about visiting schools & schedule.

RAs frustrated by increase in office hours

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

With more than 2,300 Columbia residents living in dorms, the school is depending on its RAs to mentor and guide students. But at the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., resident life may get filed away as RAs spend more time doing office and reception work, and some feel more like full-time employees.

"I just felt like I was being used and I couldn't do it anymore," said Andy Costello, a sophomore music major at Columbia and former University Center RA. "I couldn't work for someone who felt like they can just abuse me for profit."

Costello quit his job as an RA two weeks ago when his weekly service hours increased, despite the formal complaint he and other RAs had submitted the week before regarding schedule concerns.

Unlike other Columbia dorms, the University Center is owned and managed by U.S. Equities Realty, a Chicago-based real estate firm that has overseen the design and engineering of Millennium Park, as well as major retail, residential and corporate buildings around the world. Home to Columbia, Roosevelt and DePaul

students, the University Center is the first, and only, student-housing unit, run completely by U.S. Equities staff. The three schools rely on U.S. Equities to monitor all residents and staff, which includes hiring and employing 36 RAs.

At the beginning of the fall semester, the University Center has added five mandatory service hours a week to RA responsibilities, which include overseeing meetings, programs and activities, community development, peer advising, duty coverage and a floor of students, not to mention maintaining a required 2.5 GPA.

Service hours include a wide range of jobs. RAs can choose to work their hours in the mail room, resident services desk, conference center or management office. But some RAs feel they're spending more time working for U.S. Equities than assisting the residents on their floor.

"I was expecting more interaction with my students," said Myjoshi Jefferson, a junior pharmacy major at Roosevelt who considers herself a full-time RA after she added up all her duty hours at over 40 a week. "It seems like more office work is being done than interacting."

Jefferson considers her residents

her motivation. Interacting with them is the only thing keeping her at the University Center, she said. Otherwise, she would rather be an RA at Roosevelt's Herman Crown Center, 430 S. Michigan Ave., because the community, staff and RAs there were the best she'd ever seen.

"They are more focused on what's important," she said. "It's less about business over there and [they are] less concerned about money."

Janice Johnson, executive direc-

"I couldn't work for someone who felt like they can just abuse me for profit."

—Andy Costello, a sophomore music major and former University Center RA

tor of the University Center, said office work is not contrary to the job description of an RA.

"It's part of the community," she said. "Everything we do here is working to provide the best community and environment for our students. It's not easy to be an RA here at the University Center."

But administrators from other

Columbia dorms disagree.

"We all have office assistants," said Kelli Collins, associate director of Residence Life at Columbia. "But it's not at all in line with what the RAs do."

DePaul has also hired non-RA students as office assistants for their Residential Education staff. These students work 10 hours a week, said Deb Schmidt-Rogers, director of DePaul's Residential Education.

Just as they were adjusting to their schedules, management added an hour and a half more work two weeks ago, hours that Johnson said should have been there all along. There was miscommunication within the staff, and many RAs were working day duty as part of their service hours. The two were supposed to be separate, she said. With the change, RAs are now obligated to work six and a half hours in total day duty and service hours.

Still, Johnson said that RAs receive more stipends this year, legitimizing the extra hours. A University Center RA makes a \$100 stipend a month if living in a single room, or a \$200 stipend a month if their room is shared. Last year, RAs made a \$50 stipend. When the additional 26 service hours are accumulated and divided into the increased stipend, the RAs

are making \$5.77 an hour for their extra work. The Illinois minimum wage is currently set at \$6.50 per hour.

The news of the increase came during a group meeting two weeks ago. It was at this meeting that Costello resigned.

"People were going pretty nuts over this," he said. "Some girls were in tears."

He tried to speak at the meeting to address why he was leaving, thinking it would be a great opportunity to hear from a person who was not inhibited by the fear of losing their job, but said he was stopped and asked to leave before he could explain himself.

He now lives with his parents, a 20-minute bike ride from Columbia, and said all students don't have the same opportunity to leave.

"It's a shame, because they're really taking advantage of people and the fact that they're young, they're living on their own for the first time, and they don't want to be out of a home or out of a job," he said. "That's the kind of fear they play off of."

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

Enrollment: Space needed for Columbia's future

Continued from Front Page

and enrollment management services for colleges and universities.

"We are experiencing such a massive spike up in demand [nationally] that judgments have to be made when you have more takers than there are seats available," he said. "You have to make judgments on how you ration those seats. The basic, sort of instinctive reaction has been [that] if we have more people than we can accommodate, short of jacking up the price and simply saying come if you all can pay... is to be more selective."

Most schools that still maintain such generous admissions include public colleges and universities that have a mandate from local governments to be accessible, Nassirian said.

Columbia remains largely tuition-driven, with about 88 percent of the school's overall income and budget coming directly from students' tuition and fees, according to the Department of Education. When compared to other Chicago-area private colleges and universities, the acceptance rate for a particular school tends to drop the lower the tuition dependency. For example, Loyola, which accepted 69 percent of applicants, derived 53 percent of its overall budget from tuition and fees. Northwestern accepted 32 percent of applicants while relying on only 21 percent of students' tuition and fees.

Columbia's admission policy is not affected by factors such as overall enrollment and space, according to Monroe.

While acceptance does not necessarily mean students will ultimately decide to attend a college, recent enrollment trends have proven that Columbia is becoming an increasingly popular destination. This semester, total enrollment increased by 6 percent, bringing the

total student population to 11,499, the largest in the school history. While the increasing number of students has led to an increase in both revenue and overall prestige, space concerns have become a hot topic of discussion.

In 2004, Columbia released a comprehensive strategy, called the Campus Master Plan, to confront, among other issues, the school's need for more space.

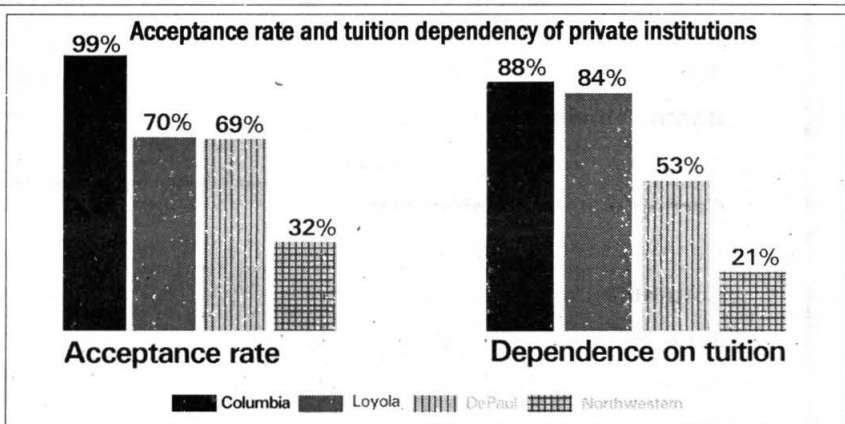
To calculate how much space will be needed for Columbia's future, administrative officials projected the student body to increase by 2 percent until 2015. Current trends, however, have gone beyond the plan's estimation. Since 2000, the Columbia student body increased by about 4 percent. Even the 2010 Plan, a collection of goals for the college released in 2003, estimated the average growth for Columbia to be about 3.25 percent per year.

While the difference may seem small, it creates a significant change over a longer period of time. For example, if the student population were to increase at the estimated 2 percent rate since 2004, Columbia wouldn't have reached its current population, 11,499, until 2010. The Master Plan also projected Columbia would reach 13,000 students by 2015. If enrollment continues to increase at the 4 percent rate it has been for the last six years, Columbia will break the 13,000 mark in 2010, five years ahead of the Master Plan's estimates.

Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment and a member of the Master Plan team, said the 2 percent estimate was "a conservative estimate" and that enrollment trends are hard to predict.

Based on the estimates, the Master Plan stated that Columbia would need to add 427,000 net square feet. Net square feet is considered to be all space that is not required for building services, such as elevators and stairwells.

According to the Master Plan, Columbia provides much less space per student than other institutions.



Jennifer Crider/The Chronicle

When the plan was released, Columbia provided 105 gross square feet per student, which is the total amount of space, wall to wall, in a building. Competing institutions, considered by the master plan team, like the Pratt Institute, in Brooklyn, N.Y. and New York University, among others, provided 337 gross square feet per student.

Columbia officials could not release the amount of space dedicated to classrooms and labs specifically by press time, making more direct comparisons impossible, according to Phyllis Grummon, spokeswoman for the Society for College and University Planning.

"It's just so fraught with politics and everything else. What you think would be straightforward is, in fact, purposefully muddled many times."

—Phyllis Grummon, spokeswoman for the Society for College and University Planning

Unlike most data pertaining to higher education, colleges and universities do not have to report space per student data.

"Informally, people who do space management know their counterparts at peer schools and can usually get them to share data," she said. "Trust me, do you really want to know that Purdue allots 20 square feet [of classroom space] per student and we only allot 13 square feet per student? It's just so fraught

with politics and everything else. What you think would be straightforward is, in fact, purposefully muddled many times."

The SCUP conducts a voluntary survey of classroom space to establish national averages and direct comparisons between similar schools. Columbia did not participate in the survey.

Columbia uses a collection of data called "academic space," which includes not only classrooms, but also theaters, production studios and departmental offices. Drawing a comparison between schools based only on classroom space would not be accurate, said Mark Lloyd, vice president of Marketing and Communications, because, while the other areas are not always used exclusively for classes, they are being used for educational purposes.

To alleviate some of the pressure put on Columbia by space issues, administrators have put a uniform start time plan into place. Starting in spring 2007, all classes will begin at the same times throughout the day.

Berg said Columbia needs to be cautious in acquiring new space because of the effect the cost may have on the overall budget and, therefore, causing tuition to rise further. She said space at Columbia is enough for now if used efficiently and

responsibly.

"It is unreasonable to not utilize what we have already paid for," she said.

Lack of coordination between departments has led to some of the space issues, she said, but she is confident that the new policies will cause significant improvements.

All Columbia respondents expressed confidence the administration is handling the problem well.

For the future, Columbia is looking toward space that will be added by the acquisition and construction of new buildings. The Spertus Institute for Jewish Studies, 618 S. Wabash Ave., will be available in 2008 and will provide Columbia with about 76,000 net square feet.

The college is also leasing space at 1112 S. Wabash Ave. and 218 S. Wabash Ave., where some Columbia offices, including various centers, will be moved from their current locations to free up classroom and department office space.

For new space, the master plan was also pointing to the campus center, a new building planned to hold student amenities, classrooms and offices, but no construction date has been officially announced.

jjaworski@chroniclemail.com

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Sunday, October 15, 7:30pm

Tuesday, October 17, 8:00pm

Wednesday, October 18, 8:00pm

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For questions please contact:

Kelli Collins - The Associate Director of
Res. Life at Kcollins@colum.edu

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Joan Lunden

Thursday October 19 1-2pm Ferguson Auditorium Free Admission

Longtime host of Good Morning America will be discussing her career and answering questions.

Video footage from her career will be shown.

Ms. Lunden's appearance is courtesy of Columbia's Conversations in the Arts: Up Close with... series.

Columbia

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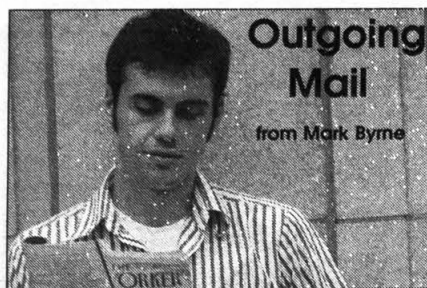


SCORE BIG IN THE ALLEY

A review of Chicago's finest lanes

Page 20





Outgoing Mail

from Mark Byrne

Dear adultorous yuppies,

We have a lot of interesting regulars at my cafe. Some of them are cool, some of them aren't. Ivan the Bulgarian contractor who drinks five to 10 double shots of espresso a day; he's cool. "Beastly Jane," whose appetite is probably the root of entire libraries of "Your momma's so fat" jokes; she's not cool. And then there's you two, who spend 10 minutes each morning drooling over each other. Well, you guys just need to get a room. Or at least go back to that hotel room that you regularly rent so that you can screw around without your spouses finding out.

Yeah, that's right; I'm on to you and your sick little affair. The entire damn staff is on to you. And why shouldn't we be? Every Monday morning, around 6:45 a.m., you roll up outside in separate cars. Then, you meet in front of the shop and shove your tongues down each others throats for a

minute or so.

But you don't leave it out there. Once you're inside, the making out only takes a momentary sabbatical while you flirt with each other in that hideous and blatant manner most of us forgot somewhere around middle school. Massaging hands, staring into each other's eyes, dragging fingers across your lover's face; not that any of this is inherently evil, it's just better left for lazy mornings-after

when you're naked and "in love" and there's no one around. The key part being that there is no one around.

And that's what really reinforces my affair theory. It's not just that you show up in separate cars at a ridiculous time in the morning. It's that no one is that infatuated with his or her loved one, unless there is a catch. Legitimate catches involve one party being on a tour of duty or fatally ill. I don't think you qualify for either. People are, however, infatuated with flings, especially ones who are off limits.

I'm not going to give any arguments for discontinuing the affair. I mean, you probably live with someone you've been dating or married to for God knows how long, and things got stale, like they tend to sometimes. So you started sleeping together; she would probably check out your package and shoot you a smile as you crossed in the

hallway, and he would glance at you during meetings and imagine you naked. That's fine. But you can't just go around acting like that in public, even if your respective spouses—and most of Chicago—are still asleep and completely unaware of it. It's not the infidelity that bothers me; I actually find it rather funny. I just think you two are completely intolerable.

So I've come up with a little plan for you. First, go home and buy a couple coffee machines. I don't know if you've realized this, but coffee shops rip you off. So figure out how to make your own coffee (it's really, really easy), and buy a travel mug so you can take it with you.

Then, find an alleyway somewhere. There are plenty of 'em, and they're easy to find, too: They run alongside practically every street. So find one you like, and make plans to meet there at 6:45 a.m. every Monday morning. Bring your coffee mug with you.

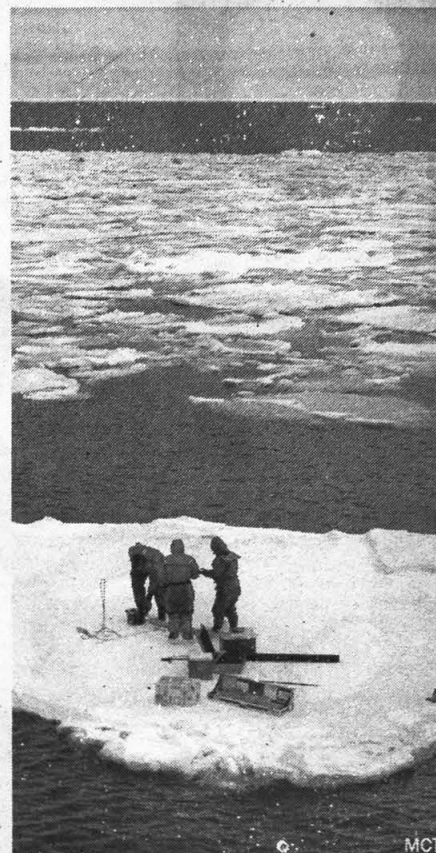
Then, go there and make out all you want. Take your clothes off for all I care. Talk about how your spouses don't suspect a thing. Put the seats back as far as they can go and pretend you're back in high school. It'll be fun, I promise. You may even get a little pride from the fact that you made your own coffee. But, most importantly, I won't have to be so thoroughly disgusted so early in the morning.

Thanks,

Mark

mbyrne@chroniclemail.com

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



MCT

Remember the fun summertime before school when every day was spent chasing cute butterflies and scoping out the hotties at the beach? Well, thanks to the dependably crazy weather of Chicago, those days seem like a distant memory from a past life.

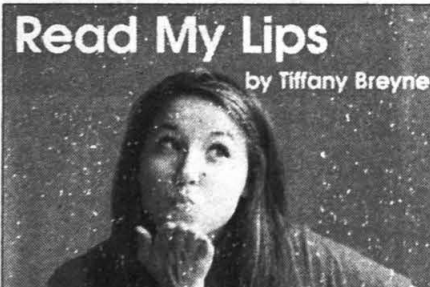
Last week Chicago experienced some ridiculously erratic weather when it went from the mid-70s over the weekend and on Monday to snow flurries and gusty winds on Thursday. So it's fun time with Frosty and friends? The Chronicle thinks not. We know it's inevitable that snow would eventually sneak its way into our lives, but here at The Chronicle we dread the thought of layering on our mittens, scarves, Ugg boots—because we're so stylish—hobo jackets and such when days before we could walk out of our apartments in just a T-shirt and jeans.

Now, we don't mean to be hatin' on anyone's mamas, but we have to give one big angry shout out to Mother Nature. What's the deal with that lady? We know she likes to keep us on our toes, but even Tom Skilling, the weather freak over at WGN, had his panties all up in a bunch about the weather change. According to a short weather report by Mr. Skilling, this was the second earliest snowfall in the past 71 years—yeah, it's crazy.

This is like when we used to track mud into the house and our parents made us rub our noses in it to see what we did wrong; wait, no, that was our dog getting punished for making poo-poo on the floor. Well, either way, this must be Mother Nature's way of punishing us for crapping on her land for the past thousand years.

We're sorry, Mother, for contributing to global warming and causing more extreme weather than normal, but you've just taken it too far. Quit being such a jackass and let us enjoy fall for a bit before we have to don our hats and gloves.

—T. Breynne



Read My Lips

by Tiffany Breynne

Pillow talk

Right now my eyes are on fire and I'm having trouble staring at the screen without my retinas burning and watering up. It's the torture I put myself through after passing out with my contacts in and only getting about two hours of decent sleep on top of that. I should have known better than to put myself through this, but I had more important things on my mind last night as I slipped into bed with my new guy I was ready for the sex, but not the discussion he brought with.

After plans to hang out last weekend fell through, I was more than happy when he made the drive up from the suburbs to hang out with me for the night. Though I've known him for at least two years, I'm used to hanging out with him and our group of mutual friends, and therefore still feel slightly excited and nervous when it's just the two of us. But for the most part, last night went great; he's a smartass and can dish back anything I send his way,

plus he's a good, attractive guy who I feel comfortable around.

As for the end of the night, that was even better. We were squished together pretty tightly in my teeny twin bed, so there wasn't really any way to avoid touching each other, which is what we did all night. There's nothing better than having good sex, falling asleep and randomly waking up in the middle of the night just

to do it all again. If I could wake up every morning by being felt up and kissed on the neck—by the right person, of course—my life would be a million times better.

In between the sex, random conversation and some sleep, the whole night was spent cuddling and giving cute little kisses. It was pretty awesome, in my book, though I know it sounds cheesy and gross for anyone not involved. I especially think it's fun to see what a new guy will be like in bed, both sexually and otherwise. I always wonder, "Will I orgasm? Will he snore and hog all the covers? Will he cuddle afterwards or just roll over and drool on my pillow?" Well, last night the answers went like this: unfortunately, no; I'm more of a cover-hog than he is; he obviously cuddles; and I didn't see any drool—a decent outcome by my standards.

The only thing now, though, is that he popped the question that night too.

We were lying there half-asleep when he said, "Tiff, I have a question. What's going on between us?" I froze and felt my stomach turn. It was 4:30 in the morning, and my mind couldn't wrap itself around such a question. My response: "Well, we're just hanging out. I like you, though."

Yikes. I'm an idiot. There's nothing wrong with the question, but that's obviously not the response he wanted, and not the one I wanted to give. I just wasn't capable of anything beyond sleepy rambling and pillow talk. Even if I could go back in time and change my response, I don't know what I would say. I obviously like him and want to keep seeing him more often, but my defensive instinct to run away from anything relationship-wise is fighting that feel-good aspect. My life as a single girl is busy and fun, and I like not being tied down, but I don't want to lose my chance with him. The pressure is on, and I don't know what to do. Just thinking about getting serious with someone right now is giving me anxious butterflies.

I'm hanging out with him in a few days, and without a doubt we'll have a lot of fun, plenty of sex, cuddle and be two people who are happily dating. I'll talk to him, hopefully straighten my answer out, and we'll go from there, one day at a time. But from now on, I'll be smart, think before I speak and definitely take my contacts out before our bedtime fun.

tbreynne@chroniclemail.com

Love us or hate us...

We'd love to hear from you. How to contact the A&E Desk:

Mark Byrne - mbyrne@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8969
 Mary Kroeck - mkroeck@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8971
 Michael Claire - rnclaire@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8982
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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.

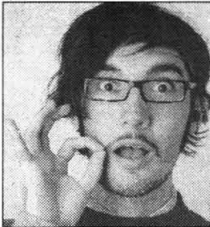
♥	Complete Crap
♥♥	Download It
♥♥♥	Pretty Entertaining
♥♥♥♥	Very Good
♥♥♥♥♥	Word Up.



Brent White



Cyryl Jakubowski



Hunter Claus

Top 5

My beard: I haven't felt this manly since I watched a cock fight in Mexico. And in case you're wondering, Octobeard—where men celebrate manhood in a non-chauvinistic way by refusing to shave their beards for the entire month—has an official website. Visit www.octobeardfest.com for all the latest updates on this groundbreaking event rapidly sweeping the nation.

Homework: Homework or The Chronicle? My professors know the answer to this question. Please, teachers, go easy with my grades this semester—especially you, Mrs. Barlow.

Homeless guy: After the Vietnam film and Fonda Q&A here at school, I was harassed and followed by a man demanding—not asking—for my change. He was nice enough to compliment my beautiful date (hi, Myriam), but told me he'd "pop me" if I didn't give him money for a burger. I consider myself considerate and thoughtful, especially to the less fortunate, but when you threaten me in front of a girl, then follow us to Got Pizza, I start picturing Edward Norton, Brad Pitt, brass knuckles and techno music.

Laundry: I haven't done it in a while ... sorry if we ride in a crowded elevator together.

Pablo Neruda: The greatest Spanish-speaking poet of the 20th century has been comforting me during those lonely nights when the wine and Bjork videos fail to suffice.

Deadlines: According to Thesaurus.com, a deadline is "the time by which something must be finished or submitted." In my definition, it's the time that prevents you from shooting yourself in the head due to stress. See stress.

Stress: What a great motivational tool. If it wasn't for stress, I wouldn't be heading for AA, smoking like a malfunctioning John Deere tractor and cursing during "Sesame Street" reruns. Nothing is better than feeling the pressure of classes and deadlines—they make life fruitful. Plus you can always refer to the film *Bad Santa* and say "I'm on my fucking lunch break!" when someone is giving you shit.

Archival porn: Through sources which will remain unnamed, I've acquired a nice collection of '80s Hustlers and '70s Playboys. Everything was hairy back then. The humor was right up my alley. And as Adam Sandler said in that 1996 movie *Bulletproof*, "This is a '70s porno. You know how I can tell? Because the guy's dick has sideburns."

What your mother warned you about: We used to play in playpens, now we play at gentlemen's clubs called Playpen's. Here's to gentlemen's clubs—as a reporter, that's where you see the true nature of humanity gone berserk. Plus, why does stripper perfume smell like, well, stripper perfume?

Hinckley Springs: After all is said and done, after all the booze has finished wrecking the liver, after all the smelly lap dances and smoked cigarette butts, water gets you clean, quenches all thirsts and gets that stripper perfume off your clothes.

Mustache rides: That's right. I'm officially a cross between a scrawny James Bond villain and a '70s gay porn star with this wicked 'stache.

Scruffy gay dudes: I recently went to a gay bar for the first time in almost a year. Aside from remembering why I avoid such destinations, I was frustrated by the lack of scruffy gay dudes and an abundance of guys who are different shades of the same terrible rainbow.

Death by cross-dresser: I almost got hit by a van the other morning when the driver was making a turn. He was too busy staring at the cross-dresser standing on the street corner and didn't realize he was about to hit me as I walked across the street. Thanks a lot, buddy.

Venture Brothers: The second season of this "Jonny Quest" parody has rocked out with its cock out. How could a cartoon with a Jackie-O-looking transsexual named Dr. Girlfriend and a Russian assassin named Molotov Cocktease not be awesome? Seriously, this season has been a wet dream come true with episodes including a Son of Sam lampoon of Scooby-Doo and Dr. Venture's bodyguard Brock Samson riding a pink dolphin in a sea of blood.

Liam Lynch: I know it's going to be an awesome day when I wake up to Liam Lynch's "United States of Whatever."

Exposure



Andrew Nellesi/The Chronicle

During a private service on Oct. 1, two friends of Seth Thomas, a 23-year-old photographer who was struck and killed by a train in Hobart, Ind., one week earlier, pause to view photographs of him. The unofficial service, organized by members of an Internet forum created by Thomas, was held in an abandoned church in Gary, Ind., frequently photographed by Thomas. The service was attended by more than 30 close friends and family members.

MONDAY / Yoko Noge's Jazz Me Blues play improvised jazz and blues music at The HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Drive. The show starts at 5 p.m. Admission is 21+ and costs \$5 for students, \$7 for everyone else. **TUESDAY** / Barack Obama reads from his new book, *The Audacity of Hope*, at Borders, 830 N. Michigan Ave. The reading takes place at noon, but it will fill up quickly, so come early. Admission is free. **WEDNESDAY** / Local Author Night at Book Cellars, 4736 N. Lincoln Ave. Authors include Patrick Somerville, Alpama Singh and Karen Russell. Starts at 7 p.m., and admission is free. **THURSDAY** / Star and Garter Burlesque performs at Fizz, 3220 N. Lincoln Ave. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$27.50. **FRIDAY** / The Super American Happy Fun Good Time Jamband play Kinetic Playground, 1113 W. Lawrence Ave. Doors open at 9 p.m. \$5 to get in. **SATURDAY** / The State Street Halloween Parade starts at noon on State and Randolph streets. It is free. Come in costume, bring your kids. Stephen Kellogg and the Silvers play Schubas, 3159 N. Southport Ave. This all-ages show is \$14 in advance, or \$16 at the door. **SUNDAY** / Sista Otis and the Wholly Rollers play Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. The show starts at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

October

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sketch comedy from hell

Chicago show parodies evangelical hell houses

By Mark Byrne/A&E Editor

When some Pentacostal churches set up "hell houses" filled with depictions of rape, sex, drugs and abortions, they want to scare their visitors into accepting their view of Christian faith. When an improv troupe in Chicago does the same thing, they're going for laughs.

Midnight Hell House, a production at the Playground Theatre, 3209 N. Halsted St., brings religious fanaticism to light in a humorous hour-long

parody of the real thing. The production, like the real hell houses, features characters committing sins like abortion and drug abuse. The messages, however, are drastically different: Traditional hell houses offer a study of sinners; with Midnight Hell House, that same focus is on the fundamentalist Christians who sponsor them.

The show, which is going into its third year, was inspired by the 2001 documentary *Hell House. A*

hell house, used by a handful of Pentacostal Churches and more common in the South, is often set up like a real haunted house, but filled with actors depicting sinners in order to clarify what an eternity in hell would be like.

Cholley Kuhaneck, the artistic director of the show, came up with the idea partly because hell houses are rarely found in this part of the country. Though it is a comedy, she said the show is not meant to be offensive to Christians.

"Basically, the characters are really, really earnest—they just don't know what they're doing," Kuhaneck said.

However earnest, though, some Christian groups aren't impressed.

"Theater companies hate the truth," said Flip Benham, the director of Operation Save America, a Christian group based in Dallas. "Hell houses expose the lie. They say, 'We want you to know the truth: When you die, you're going to spend an eternity in one place or the other, and perhaps it would be a good idea if you accept Christ in your heart now, and then you'll end up in heaven.'"

According to Kuhaneck, some people go to the shows with different expectations. Audience members occasionally show up thinking it will be a real hell house. Some people, she said,



Courtesy of Midnight Hell House

Actors Paul Brittain, foreground, and Todd Edwards tempt teens with the lure of alcohol abuse.

walk out when they find out it is fake. Others walk out because they think it is real.

Todd Edwards plays several roles in the production, including Satan and a rapist. He said that because they make the production seem so real, the audience is able to judge the hell houses for themselves. However, like most art, it is subjective.

"Some people will see it for what it is," Edwards said. "Other people have different takes altogether. And I'm fine with that."

Because it is a touchy subject, Kuhaneck concluded that a level of tolerance is needed to enjoy the show.

"Basically, if you are very dogmatic about one side or the other, you'll probably be offended by the show," Kuhaneck said. "However, if you bring an open mind, you'll probably think the show is hilarious."

For Benham, hell houses are a valuable part of the Christian

community because of their frankness about sin and an eternity in hell.

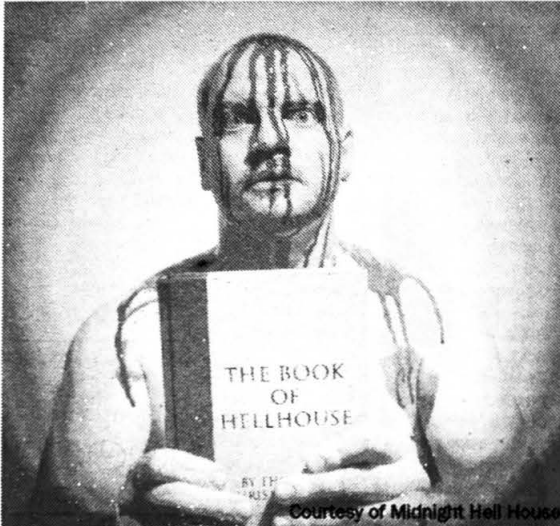
"Hell houses deal with the reality of what happens when sin is involved in a young person's life," Benham said. "You'll find kids committing suicide [and] pictures of mothers getting an abortion, killing little baby boys and girls. These things are awesome in their presentation."

Kuhaneck said that she and the theater company are not trying to make a mockery of anything. In fact, she agrees with some of their messages.

"Obviously, it's a bad idea to do drugs," Kuhaneck said. "There are things that are very true about what they believe. It's just, why do they go over the point that we normally feel comfortable? Why do they do that?"

Benham's answer: Because it works.

mbyrne@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy of Midnight Hell House

Actor Andy Buttermaker shows off the Midnight Hellhouse Handbook after a show.

KIRSTEN DUNST

MARIE ANTOINETTE

Written and Directed by SOFIA COPPOLA

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IN THEATERS
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O Elton! My captain! The bitch is back

New Elton John album is so-so sequel to 30-year-old classic

By Brent Steven White/Assistant A&E Editor

Elton John has established himself as one of rock's most flashy and flamboyant figures since emerging in the early '70s, and maintained a successful career by adhering to one basic, but effective, formula: writing good pop songs—which isn't as simple as it sounds. It's hard to name one solo artist still around

from the early '70s who can match John's profundity and consistency.

It's been two years since his last album, the polished and reflective *Peachtree Road*—a far cry from 2001's *Songs From the West Coast*, which dragged and received mixed reviews. Teaming up once again with

longtime collaborator Bernie Taupin, the duo has recorded a new album: *The Captain and the Kid*—a solid, cohesive record that rivals some of John's best work in years.

Though *Kid* doesn't produce any standout radio hits, it's still super poppy. "Wouldn't Have You Any Other Way," an ode to New York City, is heavily descriptive, catchy and sounds like something you'd hear played in the background of a Sept. 11 tribute movie. Crooning the lyric "They'll never sink this ship" feels like both a battle cry and reassurance to those who were in New York City that tragic day.

Yet John makes this song personable as he reminisces and remembers experiences he's had in NYC: "Turned up our collars to the chill of the wind/Caught an innocent smile/From a taxi at the lights/Not something you'd see on a New York street." Vulnerable yet revealing, "Wouldn't Have You Any Other Way" is easily this album's best track.

Things take a somber and serious turn on *Kid* with "Blues Never Fade Away," a reflective song that pays tribute to loved ones John has lost over the years—including one to AIDS "before it even had a name,"

John sings—and celebrates the living. John doesn't note any names, perhaps out of respect—though he was probably thinking of Princess Diana, for whom he re-recorded the monster hit "Candle in the Wind"—but that doesn't take away from the song's depth. Constructed around an incendiary and epic chorus, "Blues Never Fade Away" avoids falling victim to being another formulaic ballad.

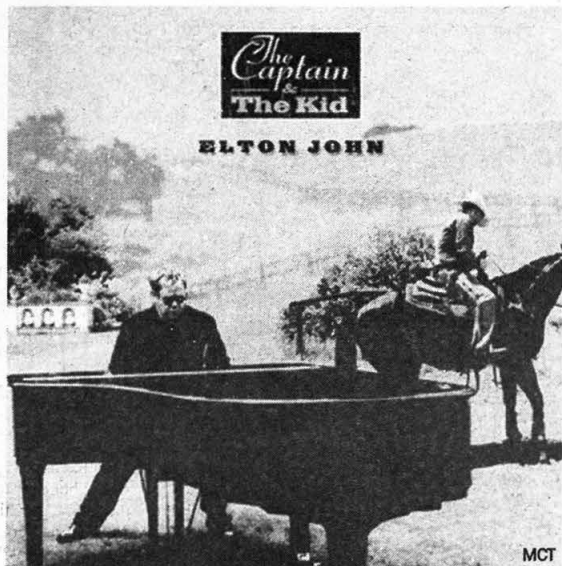
However, this album does have some filler. "I Must Have Lost it on the Wind" bleeds with a heavily clichéd hobo twang and a semi-sassy swing, sounding like it was written by a depressed Michael Bolton attempting to turn country. And "The Bridge" finds John abandoning his eloquent, well-expressed lyrics for vague metaphors—"I've seen the bridge/And the bridge is long" as a metaphor for life—and non-existent substance. Musically, this song picks up at the end with some nice piano work, but the coloring is overshadowed with words that sound like they were written by an inexperienced and reflective fifth grader.

But where the album fails is where it succeeds. *Kid* is the long-time-coming sequel to 1975's brilliant *Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt*

Cowboy, and deliberately distances itself from the old masterpiece. The former was a concept album which detailed the careers of John and Taupin. But here, the songs sound fresher, livelier and lyrically more direct than the predecessor. Naturally, the production is better, which creates a poised and polished feel.

Retaining his eloquence and not straying too far from his formula has allowed John to maintain a career through the decades and, most importantly, influence new generations of musicians. It would be remiss not to note his impact—which is indeed often overlooked when credit is paid to artists like Phil Collins, Marc Cohn and the Scissor Sisters—and admire his determination to craft the ultimate song, something which John fails to do here, but has done many, many times in the past.

bwhite@chroniclemail.com



'The Captain and the Kid,' in stores now, is the follow-up to 'Captain Fantastic and the Brown Dirt Cowboy.' 'Captain Fantastic' was the first album ever to enter the U.S. charts at No. 1.

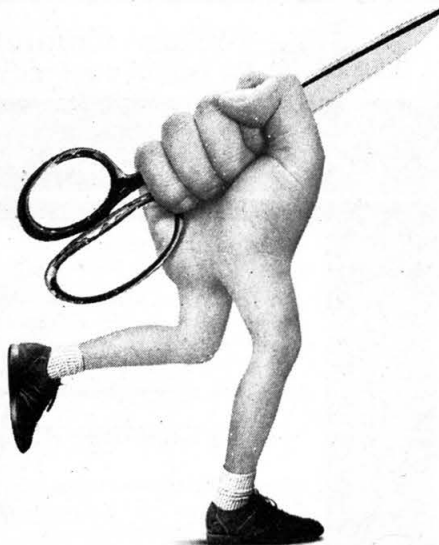
'The Captain and the Kid'
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No 'Trouble' getting published

A Chicago author's first book makes the trip from pen to print

By Mark Byrne/A&E Editor

Chicagoan Patrick Somerville has all the right ingredients for a career as a writer.

He studied English as an undergrad at the University of Wisconsin and went on to get an MFA in creative writing at Cornell University. The 28-year-old's first book, *Trouble*, a collection of short stories, is the cul-

mination of the two years spent studying at Cornell, and was released on Sept. 12.

However impressive, though, qualifications like that are unimportant in the world of book publishing.

Somerville said that going for an MFA in creative writing, even at Cornell, didn't open the doors to the publishing world that it was rumored to.

Programs like the one at Cornell and Columbia's own fiction writing major can develop a writer's technique, but many accounts suggest that a specific college education won't get him in the door at a publishing house.

While Somerville rec-

ognized that grad school certainly helped him grow as a writer, he said the most important step was being published in a literary journal.

"It's at least one credential to make some editorial assistant in a literary magazine slow down and read your stuff," Somerville said. He got a story published in a "pretty good" literary magazine called *One Story*, and after that, it became much easier to get an agent.

Somerville said he always wrote, but rarely showed it to others until midway through college. He started out a pre-med student, but realized that his passions lay elsewhere.

"I was sort of terrified of the idea [of becoming a writer] because you couldn't make a living doing it," Somerville said. "As college went on, it became clear to me what I really enjoy doing."

After college, Somerville moved to San Francisco and then New York. It was there that a few months of unemployment—and constant writing—made him decide to go to grad school.

According to an editor at Houghton Mifflin, a large publishing house in New York, educational background isn't really considered when reading a manuscript. This is because the author needs to first go through an agent, who then sends the book to different publishing houses. Most editors have a group of agents they work with.

After that, it can take anywhere from 24 hours to a couple months before it is moved on to the next stage. She said for most publishing houses in New York, it needs to go from an editor to an acquisitions committee, a board that decides whether or not the company is going to take it on. The board decides on the amount of the advance, and other specifics for the book's release.

Jonathan Messinger, co-owner of Featherproof Books in Chicago, reads plenty of manuscripts, and said there aren't really any definitive things in a book that will mark it as good or bad. However, there are a few things that he looks for, like a well-edited manuscript, because it shows the author put a lot of work into it. Messinger considers publication in a literary journal unimportant.

"It sort of catches our eye, but I really couldn't care less," Messinger said. "And I don't care where they went to college. It may get your feet in the door in some places, but it is mostly just about the work."

Trouble was published by Vintage, and Somerville has been pretty satisfied with the publicity the company has gotten him. But Randy Albers, the chairman of Columbia's Fiction Writing Department, said that is not always the case.

"I think that new authors get their first book published, but it's not given the publicity backup that it needs," Albers said. "It doesn't do any good for a book to be published if it gets [neglected] on the marketing."

Albers thinks there may be some focus on commercialism in the publishing process that makes it hard for new authors to get through. Their literary talent, he said, might not always take precedence above their marketability.

"I think it's gotten progressively harder as the publishers have been swallowed up by media conglomerates," Albers said. "They tend to look more at the bottom line, and they want books that are going to be blockbusters."

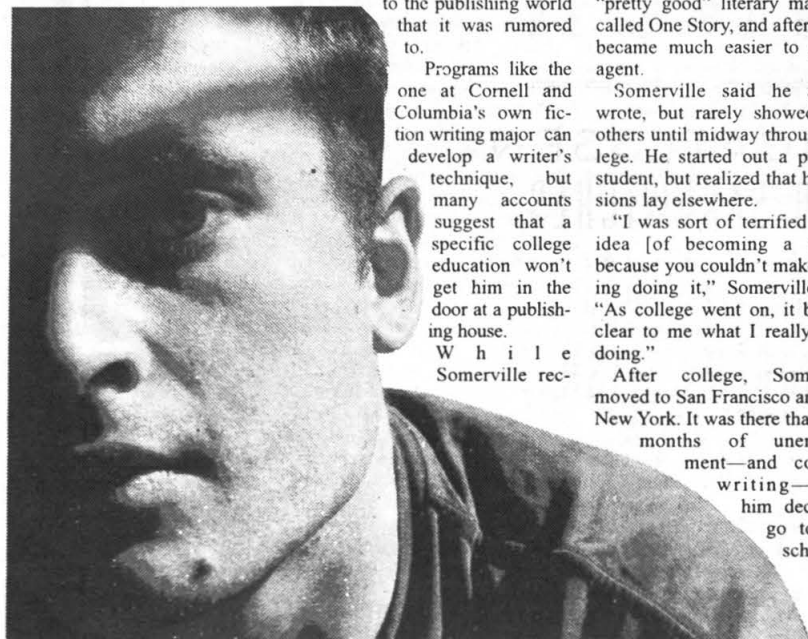
Currently, Somerville is an editor at Northwestern University and teaches creative writing at the Graham School of General Studies at the University of Chicago. He also taught English and creative writing at Cornell University following his graduation. Both schools have been lenient with his schedule to allow time for his book tour, which has taken him to New York, Boston, Minneapolis, Seattle and Portland. His most recent stop was for a book reading and an appearance on the local news in Green Bay, Wis., his hometown.

Regardless of his path toward publication or the details associated with it, he's just happy to have completed the process once.

"It's pretty spectacular to just have this object, this finished product," Somerville said.

And he's working on writing second.

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Patrick Somerville's first book, *Trouble*, a collection of short stories, was released Sept. 12.



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LOOPING THROUGH THE VARIOUS DOWNTOWN STREETS AND ALLEYWAYS, IT'S EASY TO ADMIRE THE DIFFERENT TWISTS AND THREADS OF STEEL AND GLASS THAT HELP CREATE SOME OF CHICAGO'S ARCHITECTURAL BEHEMOTHS. YET, SOMETIMES THE CITY'S TRUE SPLENDOR LIES NOT IN ITS SOARING ARCHITECTURE BUT IN ITS CRUMPLED DEMOLITION. THE MANGLED, DISCARDED LOTS THAT ROT WITH SMASHED CONCRETE AND BROKEN IRON HAVE THEIR OWN URBAN BEAUTY, AND OVER THE LAST DECADE THESE OPEN GRAVES HAVE BECOME A SANCTUARY FOR ONE OF AMERICA'S FAVORITE PASTIMES

bowling.

WITH CLOSURES OF SOME OF THE BIGGEST BOWLING ALLEYS IN THE CITY, LIKE MARZANO'S MIAMIBOWL, THE STATE OF BOWLING IN CHICAGO SEEMS TO BE IN DECLINE.

STORY BY MICHAEL CLAIRE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAURICIO RUBIO
GRAPHICS BY JOSHUA CHARRUBAS

"RIGHT NOW SOUTH SIDE BOWLING IS IN THE TOILET," SAID HARRY STATAM, MANAGER OF KING BOWL, 8010 S. KING DRIVE. "THIS CENTER IS UP FOR SALE."

But despite closures of alleys like Marigold Bowl and Des Plaines Bowling Lanes, many venue owners and managers have seen a surge in interest during the previous few seasons and many argue that Chicago bowling culture is actually finer than a good ol' sarsaparilla.

"Bowling has always been a popular activity here," said Phil Carneol, manager at Southport Lanes, 3325 N. Southport Ave. "But over the last couple of years we've experienced increased interest."

Bobby Kuhn, owner of Timber Lanes Bowling Center, 1851 W. Irving Park Road, for more than 20 years, has seen the fluctuations in residents' interest.

According to Kuhn, the heyday of Chicago bowling came after the construction of the bigger alleys like Diversey River and Waveland Bowl in the late '50s. The creation of these large alleys built a strong bowling culture that didn't begin to regress until the '70s. But like a welcomed acid flashback, bowling has once again graced Chicago's collective subconscious.

"Over the last three to four years it's gotten a lot stronger, people are getting more and more into it," Kuhn said. "We're starting to get a flux of younger kids coming to the lanes again."

The resurgence in Chicago bowling culture has become a visible trend with several swanky new bowling "boutiques" finding new downtown homes. Older locations have also invested more money into their lanes, with several alleys receiving major renovations. The Chronicle visited some of Chicago's finest lane locations and found that anyone can uncover an alley suited to their particular tastes. From the old-school bowling decor of the Seven Ten Lounge to the hip shakin' tunes of the Diversey Rock 'n' Bowl, the city's bowling scene offers some quality dude-approved action.

SOUTHPORT LANES AND BILLIARDS

The first alley The Chronicle visited is steeped in prohibition history. Originally conceived by boozehounds and rumrunners, Southport Lanes and Billiards, 3325 N. Southport Ave., is home to some of Chicago's oldest lanes.

"During prohibition, the business people here had to make money, legally and illegally," Carneol said. "Legally they constructed a miniature ballroom that could be rented out for meetings and parties, and then they built the bowling alley."

This multifunctional tavern has retained many of its outlaw roots with all the original bowling equipment, sexually suggestive murals and even the old Schlitz draft house globe above the entrance. Alley employees also still set the pins by hand.

"We're one of five businesses in the country that still does this," Carneol said.

Along with the traditional pin setting, Southport Lanes asks bowlers to: "Remember, if you see legs—Don't bowl!" With only four lanes, though, the lines tend to get log jammed, but waiting at the bar usually makes up for this small inconvenience. Bowling will run you \$20-\$30 per hour, with weekends usually being the most expensive times.

DIVERSEY ROCK 'N' BOWL

Another one of Chicago's oldest bowling alleys, the Diversey Rock 'n' Bowl, 2211 W. Diversey Ave., has undergone major renovations to attract a younger crowd.

"It's a fun place," said 28-year-old Eric Rite, a Diversey Bowl patron. "It's a good place to drink beer and come hang out with friends."

Despite Rite's accolades, the atmosphere is disappointingly suburban, but this is a true bowling alley with 36 lanes, pool tables and moderately priced pitchers of beer. Anyone who's ever bowled at a large corporate bowling complex will be familiar with the getup. Annoying black lights and cosmic designs pepper the walls and carpet, and the smell of nacho cheese, while not present, would not seem out of place. With no real aesthetic soul, the alley's plunge into mediocrity is saved only by the above average jukebox. "Our Lips are Sealed" somehow mixes well with "Ace of Spades" and other hip-shaking stand-outs. A lane will run you \$19-\$32, with the most expensive times usually during the weekend. With 36 lanes, however, this alley is perfect for league bowlers.

SEVEN TEN LOUNGE

Contrasting Diversey's huge league environment is another small Chicago bowling classic, the Seven Ten Lounge, 2747 N. Lincoln Ave. Seven Ten offers one of the best bowling atmospheres in the city and is Chicago's original lounge and bowl. With a Chet Baker sense of cool and the feel of a hip Brooklyn dive bar, the Seven Ten Lounge is the creme de la creme of Chicago bowling. The lounge and dining area are separated from the lanes so weary bowlers seeking refuge from the pin-crashing mayhem have the opportunity to do so. The lanes themselves have a classic bowling decor. With battered pins, vintage knuckled ashtrays and the old-fashioned ball returns, these lanes have some old-school charm. But with only eight lanes, the wait can grow quickly on weekend nights. Billiards is also offered, and with a full menu and more than 40 types of bottled beer, there truly is something for everyone. A lane will run you \$20-\$30 per hour, and billiards will cost you \$15-\$20 per hour. The only thing missing is Saddam handing you some sanitized two-toned shoes, a la *The Big Lebowski*.

10 PIN BOWLING LOUNGE

One of two new downtown bowling boutiques, the 10 Pin Bowling Lounge, 330 N. State St., entices customers with some expensive amenities. This upscale lounge exudes a Jackie Treehorn kind of elegance, with a posh mahogany bar and large flat-screen TVs. But class and elegance won't throw you a strike, and the music here won't get you on your feet. Although every song played has a video accompaniment, the jukebox is constantly lobbing turds like Eric Clapton's "My Father's Eyes" onto the screen. The menu is diverse, and the fries are simply magical. However, the space feels squished together with the lounge fighting for space amid the bowling lanes. The coziness does tend to amplify the noise, but that just makes the sound of a strike all the more satisfying. Bowling will run you \$4.95-\$6.95 per game. The various drink specials are a plus, and Monday's \$2 per game special is the true ringer.

LUCKY STRIKE LANES

The other new downtown boutique, Lucky Strike Lanes, 322 E. Illinois St., is located next to the AMC River East 21 Theater. Despite its pricey admission—bowling will run you \$4.95-\$6.95 per game and \$45-\$65 per hour—this L.A. import wins hands-down in the looks department. Visually the place mixes rockabilly undertones with some juicy Hollywood fluff. Contemporary designer couches are sprawled all over the large lounge/dining area and the lanes are spared the tacky cosmic graphics.

"This place digs into your wallet, but you can definitely see why," said Jonathan Casey, an out-of-state firefighter.

Looks aside, the place offers 18 bowling lanes, six of which can be privately reserved, and 11 billiards tables. Video monitors above the lanes sometimes display still photography and surreal videos from local artists. While the stylish atmosphere is fun to be immersed in, ultimately the whole place feels impersonal and pricey.



THE FIRESIDE BOWL

Over the last few decades the Fireside Bowl, 2646 W. Fullerton Ave., has become one of Chicago's more infamous alleys, yet the chipped paint, beer stained drop-ceiling tiles and punk rock bass thumps are all kaput. Fueled by neighborhood complaints and lackluster musical bills, the Fireside transformed itself back into a respectable bowling alley. Although barflies and spirits still line the bar and the large red sign still blazes outside, the soul of the place has been extinguished. Yet bowling here is cheap—\$15-\$20 an hour depending on the day of the week—which still makes the Fireside a great Friday night destination.

LINCOLN SQUARE LANES

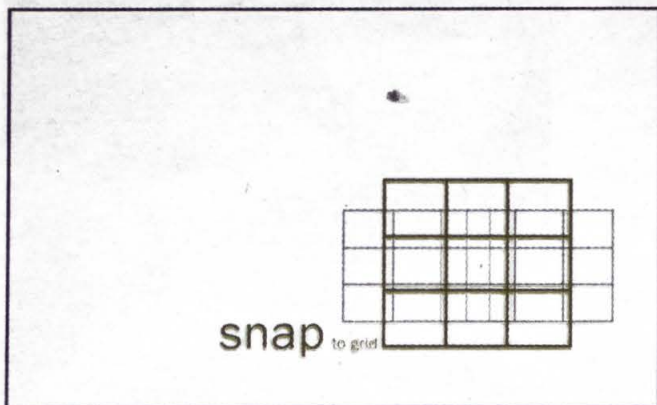
Lincoln Square Lanes, 4874 N. Lincoln Ave., is one of the city's more peculiar bowling venues. Located on the second floor of its Lincoln Avenue home, the natural bounce of the floor would usually be better suited for a dancehall or ballet classroom. Like Southport and Seven Ten, this bowling alley radiates an old-school type of feel. The benches and walls smother you in different variations of creams, oranges and browns. Forget the multi-colored gumdrop balls of other lanes: There are an unusual number of black balls that are just waiting to be thundered down the lanes. With league bowling and games costing only \$3.50, this alley is a great deal—just make sure you know how to pencil in your own scores.

With enough pin and ball action to satisfy even the craziest German nihilists, Chicagoans will always be able to find a great spot to bowl, even if it is on Shabbos.

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ALBERT P. WEISMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP EXHIBITION, OCTOBER 9 - NOVEMBER 17, 2006
RECEPTION: OCTOBER 26, 2006, 5-7 PM
BEST OF SHOW PRESENTATIONS: 5:30 PM

The Albert P. Weisman Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1974 to encourage both undergraduate and graduate Columbia College Chicago students to complete projects in all fields of communication. With projects spanning 10 disciplines from 47 artists, this year's exhibition cuts a creative swath across themes as divergent as the business of dying, professional wrestling, and synesthetic experiences.

C33 GALLERY, 33 E. Congress Avenue.

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

SNAP TO GRID, OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 10, 2006
RECEPTION: OCTOBER 24, 5-7 PM

CURATED BY TRACY TAYLOR, Alysia Kaplan, and Michelle Wasson

Snap to Grid is an exhibition conceived of and juried by three Chicago artists who currently teach digital media in Chicago's premiere college institutions- Columbia College and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Envisioned as an exhibition opportunity for students who currently use digital media as a tool in their creative process, the jurors selected artwork directly from their departments by students whose work exhibits exemplary craft and thought-provoking ideas.

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A PRAYER TO THE MOTHER WATERS FOR PEACE
OCTOBER 12 - NOVEMBER 8, 2006

In conjunction with the Columbia College Chicago FOCO Festival, The Glass Curtain Gallery presents the installation and performance *A Prayer to the Mother Waters for Peace* by Celia Herrera Rodriguez.

A Prayer for the Mother Waters for Peace thoughtfully addresses issues of economics, war and ecology. This multi-media installation and performance will be determined by the collaborative efforts of Celia Herrera Rodriguez, students of Columbia College Chicago and guest performers. On October 12, the exhibition will debut with an elaborate, multimedia ceremonial blessing using water collected from areas of conflict across the globe.

cspaces.colum.edu

Exhibit honors life through death

Chicago fine arts museum celebrates Days of the Dead

By Kristin Kalter/Staff Writer

Most people like to hide their skeletons in the closet, but not the Mexican artists and families who celebrate los Días de los Muertos, or the Days of the Dead, on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2.

For the Mexican holiday, skeletons and skulls symbolize relatives or loved ones who have passed away, and families honor them in art, offerings and altars and by visiting their graves.

The Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum in Little Village/Pilsen, 1401 W. 18th St., showcases art and other traditions associated with this holiday at their Day of the Dead exhibit, which runs through Dec. 10. Unlike years past, the exhibit is dedicated to the Chicago community in honor of the museum's 20th anniversary.

Many of this year's participants are not artists, but community members who celebrate the Day of the Dead in their homes, said Cesareo Moreno, visual arts director and curator for the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum. The relatives of those honored in the exhibit donated items and placed them on the altars.

"Going through this process is a journey," said Rita Arias Jirasek, who has an altar on display in memory of her mother, Carmen Maria Arias. "The best thing about it is that it helps us get over our loss by sharing her with the public. She loved people."

Arias, who worked as a social worker and activist, was 82-years-old when she died. Her altar includes her favorite foods—chocolate, tequila and tamales—pictures of her and her family and butterflies.

Two altars honor Eric Solorio, who was a Chicago police officer, and Jose Chapa, a pioneer of Spanish-language news radio in Chicago. Chapa's altar looks like a news desk, complete with a tape deck, typewriter, on-air light and his *Journalist of the Century* award.

On the West Side, at the Talcott Fine Arts and Museum Academy, 1840 W. Ohio St., students and staff had their own interpretations of the Day of the Dead. Each year, the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum chooses a school to set up a display at the exhibit. Talcott made a memorial for Mexicans who died while trying to cross the border into the United States. A fence gates off

their altar, the ground is sandy, and on the side walls of the display hang empty water cartons, through which skeleton heads can be seen. A stencil-like cutout hangs with a sign that reads, "Death of a Dream."

Nino Rodriguez, an artist and a Columbia interactive multimedia graduate, has a mural on display that he painted directly onto the drywall. The mural represents life and death, and at the bottom is Mother Earth, who is giving birth to life from darkness. Rodriguez said his styles range from graffiti art to cultural and religious Mexican art. He believes that not everyone may understand his creations.

"Mexicans who have been in the United States for 100 years might not get the same thing out of it as those that came here two days ago," he said.

Many people outside the Mexican community accept the holiday, said Crystal Barrios, tour guide at the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum.

"I think older people, or those who have lost loved ones, respond best to the exhibition," Moreno said. "It has very little to do with race or religion, but rather with one's personal experience."

Still, Barrios thinks that some might have misconceptions about it.

"People think Mexicans are not afraid of death, but that's not true—we just accept it as a part of life," Barrios said.

Aside from browsing the galleries, visitors at the museum can also take part in interactive displays that celebrate the holiday. A wall in the courtyard gallery at the museum is set aside where visitors can dedicate or remember a loved one by writing a message to them on pieces of paper set up there.

The Mondragon family from Mexico offers a sugar skull demonstration at the museum every day except Monday through Nov. 3. The sugar skulls are little skull candy heads, and have names written on them. It's tradition to give these to friends for the holiday.

"By accepting one, you are embracing death," Barrios said. "You eat it, but death will eventually eat you."

chronicle@colum.edu



A display honoring Jose Chapa who hosted a morning radio program called 'Serenata Matutina' for over 30 years. The display is currently being exhibited at the Mexican Fine Arts Museum, 1401 W. 18th St.

Reliving the 'Nightmare'

Burton's classic film rereleased for its 13th anniversary

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

"Twas a long time ago, longer now than it seems, in a place that perhaps you've seen in your dreams." Says the narrator at the beginning of Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, which premiered 13 years ago, and will be rereleased in IMAX and 3-D on Oct. 20.

The film, which has gained a cult-like following since its release in 1993, has kept a strong fan base due to its characters, story and use of stop motion.

"At the time the film came out, it took stop motion to the next level," said Ron Fleischer, a faculty member in Columbia's film department. "It was unique in the sense that it went from Tim Burton's designs, and made a statement using a technique no one was using at the time."

Many film buffs enjoy the animated feature because of its use of stop motion, a technique that uses puppets with movable joints and positions them in tiny increments to create the impression of action on film. Burton's puppets also had replacement heads to give each character different facial expressions.

For others, the appeal of *Nightmare* is the fact that it takes Burton's eye for the unusual and creates a story not just about the holidays but also about characters that have mostly good intentions, yet are dark and intricate at the

same time. There's Sally, the kindhearted creation of Dr. Finkelstein, who has a lot of affection toward the main character, Jack Skellington. Skellington is the eyeless, stick figure-like skeleton who longs for something more than Halloweentown, where he is from. His pet ghost dog, Zero, follows him wherever he goes. And, of course, there's the villain: Oogie Boogie, a sack of bugs who loves to gamble with others' lives on the line.

Tim Rogers, a Columbia film major, says he connects most to the character of Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloweentown.

"I totally relate to Jack because he's such a free spirit," Rogers said. "He makes a statement about society because he wants to explore and everyone can relate to that feeling of wanting to find something new."

Rogers is a big fan of Burton's work and said Burton was one of the reasons he went into film.

"[Burton] is my inspiration," Rogers said. "Production design is a big element in Burton's work. He has a very visual style. I like how dark the film is, yet it incorporates fantasy without being too morbid."

Last year, three of the animated films nominated for an Oscar used stop motion. Tim Burton's *Corpse Bride* was one of them.

Since its first release in 1993,

marketing for *Nightmare* has been widespread, from pins to t-shirts to toys of the characters.

There are also numerous fan websites dedicated to the film, including halloweentown.org and nightmarebeforechristmas.net, which is a virtual encyclopedia of anything related to the film, including the handedness of each character.

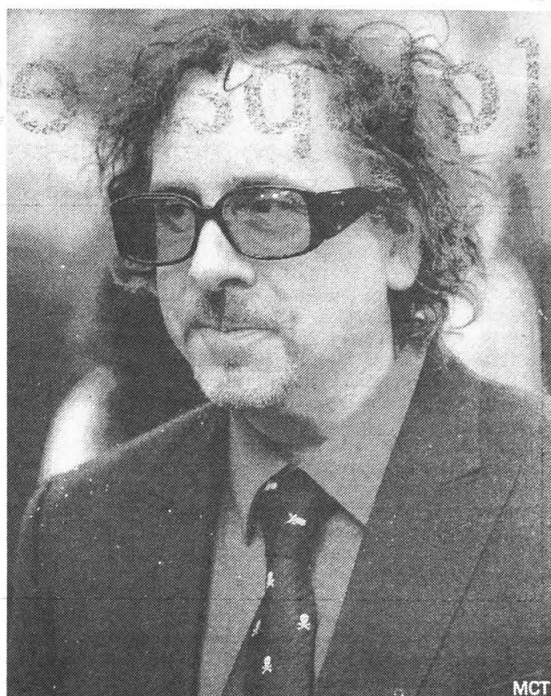
"The film was always popular," Fleischer said. "It spawned so much merchandise. I see kids in the animation department with bags that have the characters on them. It's never really gone away."

Even with all the hype that the film has received, including an Oscar nomination in 1994 for best visual effects, there are many who have never seen the film and some that still don't care to. Josh Aderhold, a Columbia film major, is one of them.

"I don't have the interest to see it," Aderhold said. "I've never seen it, and I don't even know if I've seen any of Burton's films."

Aderhold said he'd prefer to go see a film like the new Martin Scorsese film, *The Departed*, because he identifies Scorsese with more classic films, like *Goodfellas*. Aderhold is not alone in his opinion of Burton.

Christopher Bowen, a teaching assistant for Columbia's animation department, believes *Nightmare*



Director Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* will be rereleased in 3-D and IMAX on Oct. 20.

has a lot of problems.

"I hated it," Bowen said. "I thought the singing and dancing was repetitive. The character designs were OK. ... You get no clue of the character's history or how the town got started. I feel like Tim Burton owes me money after seeing this film. I want my \$8.50 back."

Yet, Fleischer thinks the re-release will be successful because it's gained a cult-like popularity

and the 3-D feature puts a new spin on it to bring audiences back.

"People will go see it anyway," Fleischer said. "The 3-D and IMAX feature may bring in 20 to 25 percent more of a draw. It's become a cult classic, a classic in its own right. ... It'll be really cool."

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Critic of everything

Chicago man reviews everyday items

By Colleen Mastony/MCT

The world has plenty of critics: film critics, restaurant critics, music critics. But Kevin Elliott, a 27-year-old Chicago waiter and bookstore worker, outdoes them all. He is a critic of everything.

Taxi rides across town, four loads of laundry at Spin Cycle, the card he bought for his grandmother's birthday. He scribbles opinions about them all, posting reviews seven days a week, nearly 365 days a year, on his website, consumatron.com. A head of iceberg lettuce, six-packs of Old Style beer, Soft Choice toilet paper. Elliott believes the mundane purchases add up. But there are some limits to what he reviews.

"I don't review rent and utilities," he said during lunch at Earwax Café, 1561 N. Milwaukee Ave., later rated 4.25 out of 5, in Wicker Park, explaining that he wants to keep some financial details private.

Earnest and introspective with shaggy blond hair and small, round, wire-rimmed glasses, Elliott said he's not out to change the world. He just wants to observe it and then give everything a score from 1 to 5.

"I think it's interesting to examine the everyday things in life," he said. "I don't want to get too preachy or deep."

The result is a consumer diary of sorts—Zagats, MySpace and Consumer Reports rolled into

one—all produced by the irreverent and energetic Elliott, a film-school dropout from Wisconsin.

The idea for the site came during a slow shift at the Artists Cafe, 412 S. Michigan Ave., where Elliott waits tables. He and another waiter, Josh Benedict, 25, were "talking about how much crap we buy," Elliott recalled.

Although there were many websites with reviews, the two waiters couldn't think of any place to find reviews of small, everyday things "like what someone thought of their toothbrush," Benedict said.

Elliott said the site gets only about 100 hits a day. His publicity campaign so far has consisted of Elliott riding a green bicycle around the city and leaving piles of small buttons with the Web address and logo in coffee shops.

Elliott writes reviews sitting on the sofa in his Bridgeport apartment. He hopes the venture eventually will lead to a paid writing job.

"Writing has always been my dream," he said.

So he knocks out his reviews: Camel Lights cigarettes (rating: 2/5), 12 gallons of gasoline (rating: 0.75/5), and a pack of Hanes premium tube socks (rating: 4/5).

Elliott sketched out a logo: an upraised fist clutching a wad of burning cash. "It was a joke at first," Elliott said. But within a few days, he was saving receipts

and dashing off opinions. In a small black notebook, he recorded every dime spent.

"I started doing it and I realized it was funny," Elliott said. "It said a lot about my personal habits and it made me think, 'Why am I buying all this junk?'"

The son of a computer programmer, Elliott had taken a web design class and knew how to set up an Internet site. Within a few weeks, he had established consumatron.com.

His first posting, a review of a tuna salad sandwich bought at 7-Eleven, appeared Oct. 3, 2005.

"The crack team of scientists at 7-Eleven laboratories struck sandwich-salad gold with their decision to add celery bits and pickle to the mix, which gives the sandwich a little bit of a zing," he wrote. He rated the sandwich 3.75 out of 5.

He bought a digital camera (rating: 4.75/5) and added photos. He carried the camera everywhere, taking pictures of his meals in restaurants, each item he bought in the grocery store, the beer he bought in bars and even a hotel room he rented during a vacation at the Wisconsin Dells.

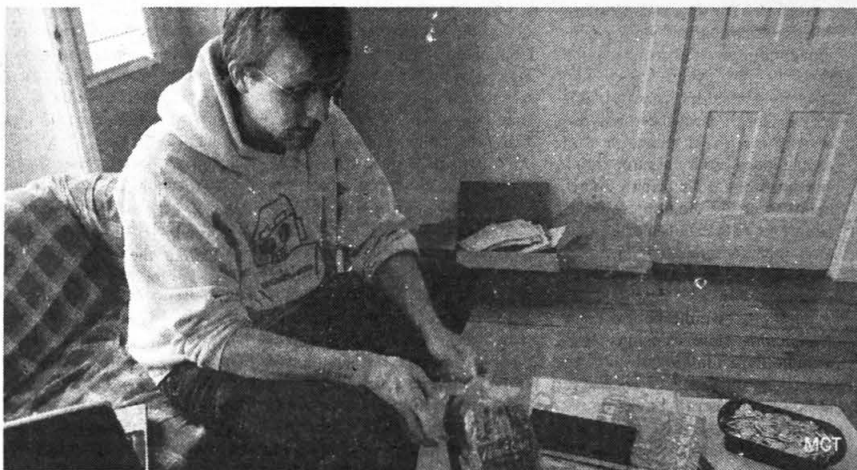
Although he observes a weekly "Buy Nothing Day," Elliott said the site isn't against consumerism or capitalism. "It's not anti-anything," he said. "I'm just a guy, and this [site] is about what I buy and why I buy [it]."

The site has made him more conscious of his spending and eating habits. While chronicling his

purchases, he said, he noticed a startling trend: He was polishing off many bags of peanuts and eating a disturbing number of sandwiches from 7-Eleven; he resolved to cut back.

October marks the site's one-year anniversary. On the Oct. 15th, he plans to hold a party at Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., in hopes of gaining attention, advertisers and—perhaps most important—readers.

Though the site started as a lark, Elliott said he found the writing "surprisingly satisfying." The project has kept him productive, forcing him to bang out several reviews a day. He has thought about going to journalism school. But in one big way, he already has accomplished his dream: The site has made him the writer he always wanted to be.



Kevin Elliott of Chicago reviews everything he buys, from lettuce to taxi rides and posts them on his website.



IMAGE: JOSHUA WINEGAR FROM THE SEDENTARY SERIES.

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Scorsese reconnects with 'Departed'

Another hit in star-studded mob film

By Matt Fagerholm/Film Critic

The giddy excitement that infiltrates the very core of my movie-loving soul envelops me the moment a new Martin Scorsese picture comes out. The anticipation level rivals that of a kid on Christmas Eve, while the customary "visions of sugarplums" are replaced with blood-spattered ballets in the boxing ring, homicidal patriots with penetrating glass eyes and loudmouth gangsters who dangerously inquire, "Do I amuse you?"

To see a film by Martin Scorsese is to revel in the sheer pleasure of cinema itself, and his latest film, *The Departed*, a remake of the 2002 Chinese thriller *Infernal Affairs*, is no exception.

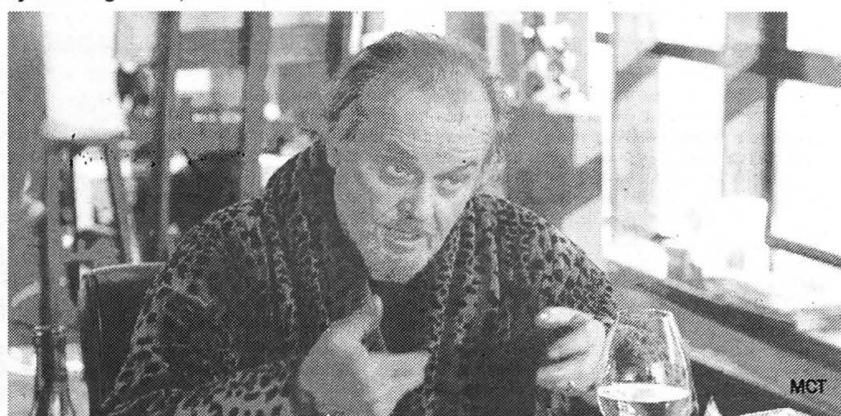
Put simply, the film is about two rats who find themselves at the center of a war between Irish Mafia lord Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson) and the Boston Police Department. Criminal Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon) serves as Costello's mole within the police force, while undercover cop Billy Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio) masquerades as Costello's new recruit. As would be expected, suspicions flare, tensions build and both men fall in love with the same woman, cop counselor Madolyn (Vera Farmiga). Yet William Monahan's ingeniously crafted screenplay takes unpredictable turns, and Scorsese infuses the film with his trademark cultural richness and visceral energy.

This is DiCaprio's third film for Scorsese, who must be applauded in saving the actor from a post-*Titanic* sentencing to teen-idol purgatory. Scorsese reveals dimensions of DiCaprio's acting that haven't been unearthed since *What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* (1993), and his latest performance is one of animalistic rage and naked vulnerability. Yet this is truly an ensemble cast, with every performer working at the top of their game.

As police Capt. Ellerby, Alec Baldwin delivers some motor-mouth soliloquies worthy of Vince Vaughn, while Mark Wahlberg is sensational as the irreverent partner of Capt. Queenan (Martin Sheen).

Damon is equally impressive, although his character's deceptive nature hits similar notes to that of his next film, Robert DeNiro's *The Good Shepherd*. And Nicholson devours the scenery as if it were an all-you-can-eat buffet, providing his larger-than-life character with shades of ironic humor that never compromise his formidably sinister intentions. Ray Winstone is also splendid as Costello's gruff henchman, while Farmiga makes an indelible impression as Damon's puzzled girlfriend.

Although *The Departed* lacks the gravity marked by Scorsese's best work, such as *Raging Bull* or *Goodfellas*, the film succeeds as a crackling suspense yarn. The director's longtime editor Thelma Schoonmaker provides her signa-



Jack Nicholson takes the screen as an Irish mob boss in 'The Departed,' which is in theaters now.

ture blend of impeccable pacing and frenzied jump cuts, which further boost the rhythmic intensity of any given scene. Scorsese's knowledge of the Irish culture adds an affectionate validity to observations like "Irishmen are impervious to psychoanalysis."

Unlike the trendy bloodbaths of exploitation hits such as *Hostel*, the violence in *Departed* is as measured, artful and genuinely fierce as many of Scorsese's films. There were moments during the film's final act when the entire audience jolted backward and screamed as if they themselves had been shot in the head.

The Departed truly symbolizes Scorsese's return to the type of unflinchingly raw, unapologeti-

cally profane and purely adrenaline-pumping cinema that characterized his earliest work, such as *Mean Streets* (1973). If there were any hint of disappointment at the film's final fade-out, it was due to the fact that no single character gripped me like the ones who usually populate Scorsese's filmic universe. Yet there simply isn't room for a Travis Bickle or a Bill the Butcher in a movie where the endlessly twisting plot is the real star. Nevertheless, this is a near-masterpiece that only intensifies the power of Scorsese's reign as America's greatest living filmmaker—a crown he arguably shares with Robert Altman.

At 64 years old, Scorsese has the bottomless exuberance and youthful excitement to match the

most passionate film student. He remains an inspiration, a cultural icon and a guy still capable of making one hell of a good thriller. As was true for Welles, Hitchcock and Altman, no Lifetime Achievement Oscar could ever do this man justice.

chronicle@colum.edu

'The Departed'
Directed by Martin
Scorsese



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Halloween
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The jack of all trades

Al Franken, you're good enough, smart enough, and gosh darnit, people like you

By Stephen Becker/MCT



Liberal satirist and Air America talk show host Al Franken lays back and enjoys a laugh.

Al Franken has gone from impersonating Henry Kissinger on "Saturday Night Live" to hobnobbing with him at high-powered social events. But even as he bends the former secretary of state's ear, he can't help dusting off a little of his old impression.

That scene and many others in the documentary *Al Franken: God Spoke*, capture the comedian-turned-political commentator's ongoing reconciliation between his former career and his current calling. As he sings a silly little ditty during the film while rolling around on the floor at Air America's New York office: "I'm a little bit showbiz! I'm a little bit journalism!"

"I think that obviously when people tune in to the radio show, they don't always want to be entertained, but it helps," Franken said. "I'm a satirist. If you look at 'The Daily Show' and 'The Colbert Report' and Bill Maher—people like to ingest their politics with a little sense of humor."

God Spoke follows Franken during a frenzied period in his life: He had just been sued by Bill O'Reilly for putting the Fox News host's picture on his book, *Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them*. Meanwhile, he was working to get Air America, the liberal radio network on which he hosts a daily talk show, off the ground in time for the 2004 presidential election.

Amid that busyness, he was approached by documentary makers Chris Hegedus and Nick Doob, who asked if they could film him.

"I was thinking the film, wouldn't be effective if they could only film when great things were happening,"

Franken said. "I instinctively felt that they just needed to be filming when they were able to film."

As the cameras roll, Franken covers the Republican and Democratic national conventions; stumps for candidates; debates his nemesis, Ann Coulter; and hopes that President Bush's unseating by Sen. John Kerry is on the horizon. That final plotline didn't turn out the way Franken had hoped, but it did influence him to consider yet another career move: from political commentator to politician.

Franken was a close friend of the late Minnesota Sen. Paul Wellstone, who died in a plane crash in 2002. At the time, he was locked in a re-election bid with then-St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman. Coleman, a Republican, went on to win the election against former Vice President Walter Mondale, who replaced Wellstone on the ballot as the Democratic nominee at the last minute.

As *God Spoke* nears its conclusion, Franken is left considering a run for the Senate against Coleman when his seat comes up in 2008. It's an election bid Franken said he is still contemplating, though he admits the jump from the peanut gallery to the stage is a potential minefield that would need to be navigated through careful self-reflection.

Franken says if he does decide to run for office, at the least he could find material for another book.

"I know if I ran for office I'd have plenty of spare time to write."

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Al Franken is an outspoken critic of the conservative right.

Reviews

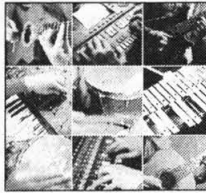
Music

Matt Costa Songs We Sing



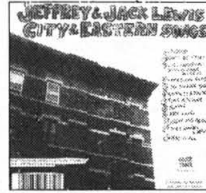
A gorgeous collection of energizing, upbeat and soothingly mellow songs, *Songs We Sing* will cure whatever musical woes ail you. Part indie, part folk, completely well-crafted. I'm still basking in the afterglow of my last listen. Hear for yourself: Matt's playing Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave. on Oct. 17. —*J. Fischer*

Squarepusher Hello Everything



The album cover says it all. A variety of instruments are thrown together in Squarepusher's new album, yet somehow it remains minimalist. Although the album drags at times, especially toward the middle, Tom Jenkinson once again delivers something solid. —*B. White*

Jeffrey Lewis Band City and Eastern Songs



More bi-polar lo-fi from Jeff Lewis and his brother Jack. At times, Jeff plucks his guitar against echoey soundscapes, only half-singing his irreverent lyrics. Other songs are heavily guitar-driven, with similarly ridiculous lyrics shouted. It's hard to pull off songs about comic books or being fucked by Will Oldham, but they do. —*M. Byrne*

Print

The New Yorker October 16, 2006 issue



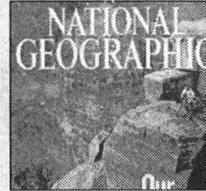
YouTube has been all over the news these days. *The New Yorker*, though, can present a familiar topic in a compelling manner, with profiles on some of the website's most intriguing video bloggers. In the same sense, another piece takes a new look at a worn out subject: Rupert Murdoch's political sway. "Will he move left in 2008?" they ask. —*M. Byrne*

Rolling Stone October 2006 issue



The sexed-up cover story about Jack Nicholson's wild lifestyle is an intriguing page-turner. He's had quite the study life. Robert Kennedy's article about rigged election polls is eye opening, but take it with a grain of salt—it is Rolling Stone. Overall, an easy read useful for spare time that would normally be spent picking your toenails. —*T. Breyne*

National Geographic October 2006 issue



This issue's story "Pollution Within" is a real wake-up call to what unavoidable chemicals and carcinogens people are exposed to every day. However, this story should come with a warning that reads: "After reading this article you may not be able to sleep in your own bed without wondering what types of chemicals are hiding in your mattress." —*H. Graham*

Film

No Hearts TCM: The Beginning Directed by Jonathan Liebesman



This prequel-to-a-remake substitutes character development and plot with gore and one-liners. If you're looking for something gruesome with a campy tint to make it all worthwhile, check out the 1986 sequel to the original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* starring a vengeful Dennis Hopper packing three chainsaws. Skip *TCM: The Beginning* at all costs. —*S. Baltrukonis*

Brothers and Sisters ABC



Calista Flockhart, Sally Field and Ron Rifkin have, thus far, given strong performances in this show about sibling rivalry, but the plot lines are fairly predictable. So, while the show is interesting, if there's something else to do on a Sunday night other than watch television, at least you don't have to feel guilty about missing an episode. —*M. Kroeck*

A Prairie Home Companion Directed by Robert Altman



Following the fictional final broadcast of Garrison Keillor's beloved radio show, this irresistible comedy from Robert Altman is jam-packed with brilliantly portrayed characters who choose to find life as a cause for celebration, all the way until death quite literally walks through the door. The DVD includes commentary and deleted scenes. —*M. Fagerholm*

Misc.

Not sweating



I sweat constantly. I can't seem to control my forehead and upper lip from shining like Tara Reid's nasty, cheap, frosted lip gloss. This 30-degree weather has my sweat glands halted and my hot flashes at a choke hold. Thank you, snow, for scaring the sweat demons out of me. It's a brutal life being this smokin' hot. —*C. Mahlmeister*

No Hearts Fire alarm



As if the inconvenience of a fire drill isn't bad enough, the piercing alarm that rang inside the 33 E. Congress Building Oct. 10 seemed like it could have shattered glass. Not only did you steal 15 minutes of my day, fire alarm, but you also gave me a headache. Thanks. —*A. Riggio*

Chicago wind



Winter's big F U to Chicago is the wind; it's harsh, cold, annoying and makes me seriously consider becoming an agoraphobic—look it up and learn something if you don't know what that means. Well, I say F U back, stupid winter wind. I'll punch you in the face, and then we'll see how strong you are. —*T. Breyne*

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

Sharks, who have only been together for about six months, put out sweetly melodic tunes that wouldn't feel out of place next to Belle and Sebastian or early Weezer albums. The band's members—Bridget Love, vocals; Ben Fong, guitar; Max Brooks, guitar; Paul Gullianelli, bass guitar; and Ryan Collins, drums make music in an old Harley shop below the Logan Square apartment three of them share. Love talked to *The Chronicle* about a variety of things, including the aforementioned Weezer comparison.

The Chronicle: Where have you guys played around Chicago?

Love: We mostly play at bars. We played at Bar Vertigo. We played a couple shows at this place in Logan Square called Ronnie's. They don't really typically do shows, but we're friends with them, so we play there.

Do you make music around the clock since you live with each other?

Our apartment is above our practice space, so we do a lot of impromptu stuff. It's actually this old garage. The guy that leased it before used to build Harleys, so it's really well-insulated because he used to make a lot of noise. I live with two of the guys and the other guys don't live too far away. So they're always over, and it's great.

What's the songwriting process like?

I don't really do much of the songwriting. We all kind

of sing. We all kind of do everything because we all play a bunch of instruments. As far as songwriting goes, I think we just get together and work it. Someone will come up with lyrics, but if they have the music first, we'll all get together and spend a few hours arranging it.

What are you listening to now?

I just got that new Beirut album [*Gulag Orkestar*]. I'm pretty impressed. I saw them at the [Empty] Bottle. It was amazing. I hadn't even heard the album when I went, but it was pretty stunning.

How about the other guys?

We're all really into Pavement. *Really* into Pavement. That's what we all share. But one of the guys is also going through a pretty serious heavy metal phase.

One of your songs, "The Kids Know Best," sounds like it could be straight from Weezer's *Pinkerton*. Exactly how much are you guys into that album?

Actually, we were at a bar one night and this girl came up to us and was like, "I just heard your stuff and you sound like Weezer."

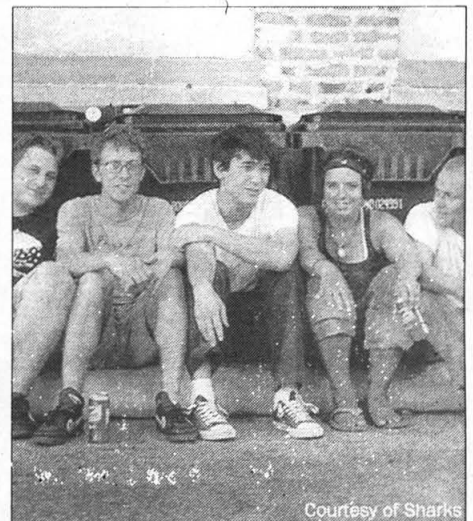
Is that a sore topic?

No, no, the opposite; I thought that [guitarist] Max was going to lean over the table and kiss the girl.

Where do you think you'll be in one year from now?

Probably sitting in our basement.

Sharks



Courtesy of Sharks

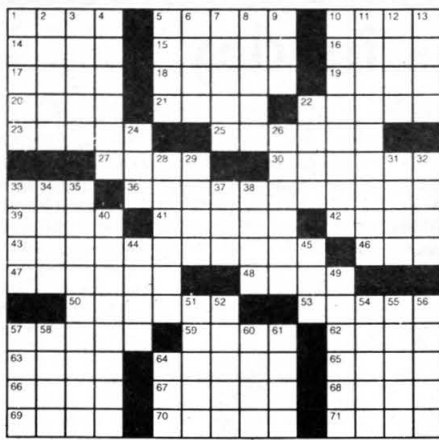
Sharks have a self-titled EP out. Their next scheduled show is at the Ice Factory, 526 N. Ashland Ave., on Nov. 18. Check them out at www.myspace.com/thesharks.

—*M. Byrne*

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Low-cut shoe
 5 Latrine
 10 Thick piece
 14 Copycat
 15 Popsye's gal
 16 Lima's place
 17 ___ of Wight
 18 Gun holder
 19 State boldly
 20 Atoll barrier
 21 Racketeer
 22 Tasty tidbit
 23 Vapor
 25 Naysaying president
 27 Tops of overalls
 30 "Epodes" author
 33 Dr. Leary's drug
 36 Awaken to
 39 Role for Ron Howard
 41 "Bolero" composer
 42 Noggin
 43 Erroneous warnings
 46 Genetic stuff
 47 Ribbed cloth
 48 Big ___ theory
 50 Doomed ones
 53 City in Tibet
 57 Wharves
 59 Motorcar, for short
 62 "Baseball Tonight" stn.
 63 Well, ___ that special
 64 "The Beverly Hillsbillies" star
 65 Bangkok native
 66 Spike, as punch
 67 Humiliate
 68 Backpacker's shelter
 69 Took a look at
 70 Color shades
 71 Greek mount

DOWN
 1 Duos
 2 Bent out of shape?
 3 Noisy fight
 4 Module classroom
 5 Banter teasingly
 6 Chorus voice



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10/16/06

7 Imperial Russian Ballet
 8 Avoid capture
 9 Calander abbr.
 10 Barbecue meat
 11 Bought on margin
 12 Vicinity
 13 Bacharach or Young
 22 Screwdriver, e.g.
 24 Bad: pref.
 26 ___ and Louise
 28 Tongue-lash
 29 Tight closure
 31 Detective Charlie
 32 Sicilian sight
 33 Artist's studio
 34 Practice boxing
 35 Persistence
 37 Dam-building grp.
 38 Alpert or Caen
 40 Accompanied
 44 Ages and ages

Solutions



45 NBC classic
 49 Presley hit, "In the
 51 Synagogue figure
 52 Lazy lady?
 54 Cigar droppings
 55 Bridges
 56 Hill or Loos
 57 Carpet feature
 58 How 'bout that!
 60 Part of LSAT
 61 Fifts of a five?
 64 Swallow

TO THE NINES

Jessica Conley, a 19-year-old fashion design major, takes a laid-back approach to her style.

"I like clothes that fit, not anything that's too tight," Conley said. "I dress for myself, not for anyone else."

When we came across Conley she was wearing a sweater from Old Navy, hand-me-down jeans from Express and a brown jacket from Target.

"I don't feel like clothes should be worn just because the celebrities say it's in," Conley said. "Like, green is the new black. I don't like stuff like that."

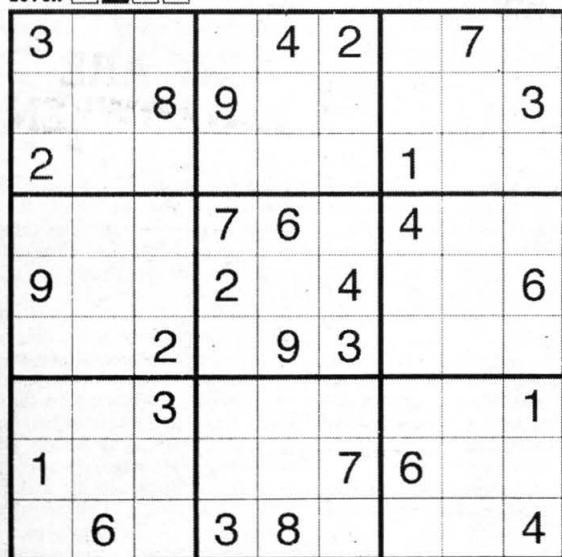


9'S

Rachael Strecher /The Chronicle

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: 1 2 3 4



4	2	5	9	7	6	3	1	8
3	6	8	4	2	1	5	9	7
7	9	1	3	8	5	6	2	4
6	1	9	7	3	8	4	5	2
5	3	2	6	4	9	8	7	1
8	7	4	1	5	2	9	6	3
2	5	3	8	6	7	1	4	9
9	4	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
1	8	7	5	9	4	2	3	6

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 Clauss



Aquarius (Jan. 21 — Feb. 19): You will overcome your pee shyness when a time-traveling, manic-depressive conquistador named Pablo Cortez emerges out of the toilet as you're just getting started.



Pisces (Feb. 20 — March 20): Congrats! You're pregnant with a parasite—I mean puppy—er, I mean baby. Actually, I mean depression. Goodbye future, hello bottle.



Aries (March 21 — April 20): Asking your friend how her abortion went is probably not a good idea, especially if it's in front of her parents.



Taurus (April 21 — May 21): Check out Frequency TV's awesome horoscopes. It'll probably tell you there's some wacky message awaiting you in the bottom of a burrito wrapper. How many of them?



Sagittarius (Nov. 23 — Dec. 21): The one question you'll keep asking yourself this week is why does your finger smell like that guy's butt?



Virgo (Aug. 24 — Sept. 23): In an attempt to cheat on your significant other, you will strike up a scandalous e-mail correspondence with a potential one night stand you saw on craigslist.org. The only pictures you have seen of him or her, however, are underwear shots. Depending on what day it is, this person can turn out to be a) the person you are cheating on; b) one of your teachers; or c) a sad-faced clown.



Leo (July 24 — Aug. 23): You will receive an e-mail that will reveal the truth about Barbara Streisand; she's a time traveling Muppet from the future that's made out of human flesh. And guess what—it's your skin she's made out of, but you're going to have to guess from where.



Libra (Sept. 24 — Oct. 23): Beware of stall number one in the bathroom—the toilet seat will be adorned with red rubies, if you know what I mean.



Scorpio (Oct. 24 — Nov. 22): Love is in the air for you. Oh wait. Scratch that. Genital warts are in the air for you.



Cancer (June 22 — July 23): A homeless man will reach into his green sweatpants and start playing with himself as you're eating at KFC. Don't worry, though. He won't jerk off on you as you pass by him on your way out.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 — Jan. 20): Telling your significant other about your "Oedipus Rex" fantasy won't be as awkward as their *To Kill A Mockingbird* fantasy.



Gemini (May 22 — June 21): Don't worry. It's not a hate crime if you're a part of the same minority.

Every dog has its day



By Hunter Claus
Editor-in-Chief

Every morning begins like the one before. But instead of the nagging monotone noise blaring from my alarm clock, I wake up at 6 a.m. to the hounds of Baskerville raising hell outside my apartment window.

And I have to curb my sleeping patterns because some jerk can't curb his dog.

I live right above a coffee shop that also acts as a douche bag yuppie magnet, attracting every smug asshole wearing a fleece vest and sandals with white socks. These no-goods walk their dogs in the morning before work and think, "Hey, there's a coffee shop. I'll just peek in and grab a latte." So they tie up their dog and disappear in the inner bowels of the Ani DiFranco-playing coffee shop.

I also have the pleasure of running into these super-awesome-cool dudes when I'm walking home from work. During the summer when the weather was nice, they would sit outside with their Powerbooks and chat it up with some babe they met on craigslist.org. It's always awkward to walk by them because they'll look up at me as if I interrupted some deep discussion on the latest episode of "Desperate Housewives."

But no matter how wonderful life may be, waking up is the most depressing situation to go through. That's why alarm clocks come with a snooze button. Unfortunately, dogs don't come with



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

snooze buttons.

I never get to see the dogs because I'm a.) tired and b.) blind without my glasses, which I'm too tired to grab off the nightstand. But revenge fantasies of throwing water balloons filled with pee, or some other unfortunate liquid, at the little runts give me some satisfaction. Enraged, I almost did it once, but then realized I'd get nailed with some animal cruelty ticket from the cops, and PETA would probably jump in and make some ill-conceived comparison to the Holocaust and my actions. Plus, I really don't want to hurt a dog. So I grit my teeth and try to fall back asleep to dreams of getting my revenge.

But then I was reading the newspaper the other day and noticed Denver recently passed a much talked about ban on pit

bulls, which is similar to bans proposed in other areas such as Kansas City, Mo., Decatur, Ill., and Ontario, Canada. It got me thinking: Why not enforce a ban on the parts of dogs we don't all agree with? If a constructive society were based on compromise, wouldn't this be a happy middle ground for pit bull lovers and haters?

Just ponder the possibilities. Poopless dogs, dogs that don't smell like a wet tuna taco and, my favorite, barkless dogs. With imaginary breakthroughs in genetic engineering, we could make it happen. If scientists can genetically fuse different kinds of fruit together in order to create super fruit, then why can't these same scientists concoct a dog that won't wake me up in the morning?

In some ways, barking dogs are like

crying babies. Only dogs are cuter, can do better tricks and won't get you in trouble if you shake them. But one thing that dogs and babies have in common is their ability to be easily abandoned.

When I was a kid, I had a friend whose mother had a Shih Tzu dog. Mike's parents never gave the dog a name, so they called him Shih Tzu. Well, the dog would never close its yapper, and Mike's mother couldn't take it anymore. One day while Mike and I were playing with our He-Man action figures, his mother told us to jump into the van—she had to make a few errands and didn't want to leave us alone by ourselves. Once we strapped ourselves in with our seatbelts, Mike's mom reopened the van door and in pranced Shih Tzu. We didn't give the situation much thought until Mike's mom pulled into an alleyway, stopped the van, opened the door and called Shih Tzu out.

"Where's the Shih Tzu going, Mom?" Mike asked.

"He's going to play with some friends."

The thought of Shih Tzu playing with his doggy friends, possibly playing a few rounds of doggy poker, made me smile. I didn't really put two and two together until I told my parents.

So thanks to the laziness of science, Shih Tzu is probably turning tricks on some street corner. If scientists were able to genetically grow tolerable canines, my buddy Mike wouldn't have had to go through the traumatic event of seeing his four-legged friend being abandoned in some alley. Science is clearly to blame.

Roamin' Numerals

\$40,000

The cost to correct a typo on Ottawa County's,

Mich., Nov. 7 election ballots. A total of 170,000 ballots will have to be reprinted because instead of the word "public," the word "pubic" appeared on them, according to The Associated Press.

13

The number of people injured after they were exposed to excessive doses of X-rays during prostate cancer scans at Epinal Hospital in France between May 2004 and May 2005. Another person died, according to Lorraine Regional Health Hospital Agency and "The 13 who felt ill suffered from rectal inflammation and needed surgery to fit an artificial anus."

422 pounds

The weight of a black bear that was killed by a northern Idaho babysitter with a 7 mm. hunting rifle according to an Associated Press story published on Oct. 12. The babysitter shot the bear after it broke into a backyard where three toddlers were playing.

Give 'em hell on Nov. 7



By Eric Kasang
City Beat Editor

Well, it's finally over. After a completely lackluster session, the 109th Congress has adjourned for the year to start campaigning for the midterm elections on Nov. 7.

Was there any real comprehensive immigration reform? No, but Congress approved a \$1.2 billion, 700 mile, double-layered fence at the border of Mexico before retiring on Sept. 29. And they do have two pending bills that would detain undocumented workers indefinitely and push immigration-enforcement requirements on cash-strapped local police agencies.

Did Congress debate the merits of overhauling Social Security? Well, actually, Republicans flip-flopped on various proposals ranging from progressive indexing, which adjusts a person's Social Security benefits based on the amount of their income, to an all-out privatization of the retirement safety net. They also spewed fear-inducing rhetoric about Social Security com-

pletely collapsing within the next 10 years. And the Democrats' contribution to the debate: nothing. Actually, that's not completely true. They did trash the Republicans' Social Security ideas and refused to provide any alternative proposals.

So why is this important? The reason is simple: It's going to be a cutthroat election this November. And every vote counts.

Right now the U.S. House of Representatives has 435 seats up for grabs; 33 Senatorial seats are on the block too—Illinois is only holding local, gubernatorial and House elections this year.

Currently, the Republicans control the House with 230 seats, while the Democrats hold 201 seats. Three vacant seats and one independent make up the rest of the positions. The Washington Post recently noted that Democrats will regain control of the House if they get 15 additional seats as well as keeping their 201 seats. As for the Senate races, Democrats are trying to protect 18 seats to the Republicans' 15.

The people, or at least the ones who

pay attention to politics, tire of the ineffectiveness of Congress. Instead of actually doing their jobs, each side blames the other for failing to whack Osama bin Laden; they offer no solutions on how to effectively reduce troop numbers in Iraq or curb a runaway budget deficit.

However, the political battlefield has evened out before the vote. While the Republicans previously enjoyed a strong backing from a large section of the population, partially by portraying Democrats as weak on security, the political culture seems to be changing. With Iraq currently buried in a civil war and the recent scandal with U.S. Rep. Mark Foley (R-Fla.) allegedly instant messaging sexually bawdy messages to underage pages, the Republicans are definitely hurting right now.

In a recent New York Times/CBS News poll, 79 percent of registered voters believed that the House Republican leadership was more concerned with its own political standing than the safety of teenage Congressional pages. Only 10 percent felt that the Republican leadership cared for the young go-getters.

The poll indicated that only 38 percent believed that the Republican party shared their moral values, as compared to 47 percent for the Democrats. Six percent said neither party came close to their moral values.

Regardless of your political affiliation, it's important to realize that before Nov. 7 representatives will be out campaigning and shaking hands. If you see your representative at a CTA station or Metra line, village hall, or hell, even a restaurant, call him or her out on certain issues. The representative needs your vote. Unless you are a complete tool who kowtows to either party, tell him or her about the screw-ups, even if you like the person. A representative's voting record is conveniently located at vote-smart.org.

Now is the time to look into your representative's track record and locate any campaign stops. If voters don't show their representatives why they should care about actually doing their jobs, when the 110th Congress convenes next year, our elected representatives will have no incentives other than to maintain another wasteful status quo.

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Editorials

Columbia should cap enrollment

Seven years ago The Chronicle ran an editorial called "Why open admissions is a problem that doesn't need solving." Some of the reasons given then dealt with the stance we usually had at that time: Columbia needs to give everybody a chance to succeed, artists are an eccentric group of people and "if students are denied a chance for higher education based on their performance in high school, where will that leave them?" Out of work and with a huge debt, perhaps?

Boy, how times have changed. The current space crunch is a big problem at Columbia and open enrollment is not the answer anymore. This is not 1999 and Columbia must come to terms with its affliction. With issues such as not having enough space, the college can't play the good grandmother who pats everyone on the back for minor achievements. The school owes it to students to challenge them but it also needs standards for who can actually attend Columbia.

It should be common sense by now that not everyone is meant for college, let alone success, even at a liberal education school like Columbia.

Professions in the arts

and media are more competitive these days. It's unfair to a take college kids' money—a whopping \$8,000 per semester—and feed them a fantasy about fortune and fame. That's not how things should happen here at Columbia. Fame is sparse, and fortune is left to a handful—the rest end up working hard jobs after school and never get "there." And by "there," we mean working with Steven Spielberg like Columbia graduate Janusz Kaminski instead of working at the IHOP down the street.

Most students work hard chasing their dreams while enrolled here. But it is a frustrating chase when there is no room to spread your wings.

The administration says it is trying to address the space issue. But the real culprit is our over-reliance on tuition. According to the U.S. Department of Education, 88 percent of Columbia's budget is from tuition and it accepts 99 percent of those who apply. One wonders who doesn't get in through the door. Tainted spinach, perhaps?

This tuition-driven model creates a vicious circle—more students requires more money to support students. Then more students are needed

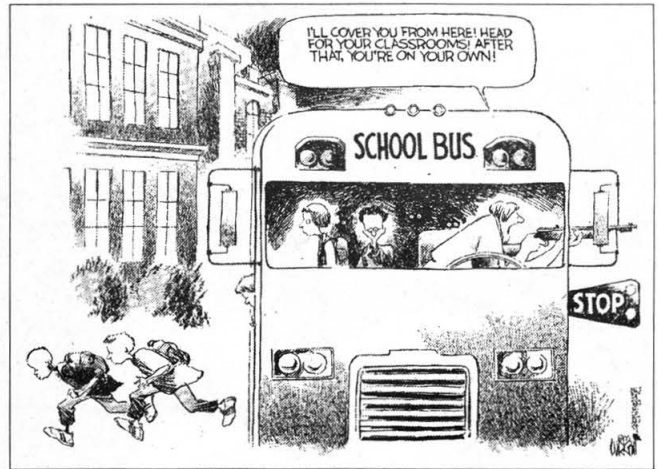
to generate more money for salaries and other costs. However, more money on space seems not to be a part of this cycle.

During a press conference Sept. 29, Dr. Warrick L. Carter said there are no plans to have an enrollment cap. We're sure Dr. Carter has a vision, but if Columbia wants to keep whatever prestige it already has, then it must stop behaving like a very expensive community college.

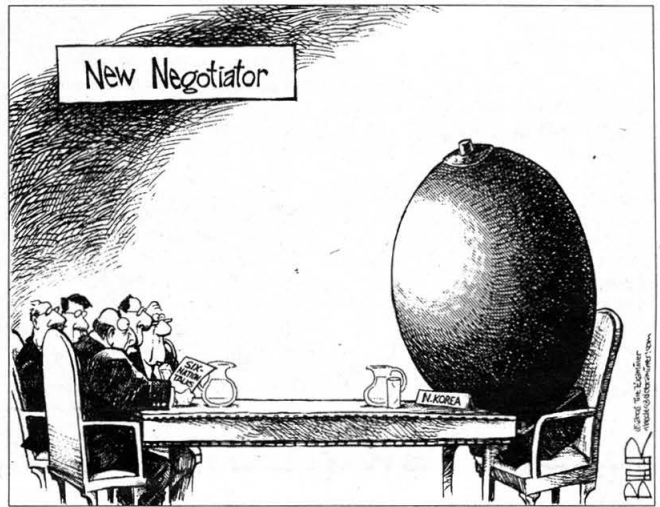
By capping enrollment, more time and effort can be concentrated on creating space for the students who already go or will come here. Limiting the number of students who attend Columbia is not a bad idea. Letting problems fester is worse. There is a 60 to 1 student-teacher ratio here, which causes the quality of education to be substandard.

The administration should concentrate on having an enrollment cap, divorce itself from being a tuition-driven school and give students the tools and space to do what they came here to accomplish—pursue their passions, network and learn from peers instead of paying up the fanny while waiting on elevators. The school owes us that.

Back from the Drawing Boards



Dan Wright/MCT



Nate Beeler/MCT



Dan Wright/MCT

Total recall, spinach edition

The Spinach Scare of 2006, as we'll call it, brought up many interesting questions about food safety and recalls in this country. Mass-produced leafy green food such as spinach and lettuce has a tendency to get tainted from time to time, so don't worry about it. That's what the government says.

The contaminated bagged spinach that, to date, has sickened almost 200 people and killed three across the country was one of the reasons why media outlets and editorial pages called for an improvement in our country's food safety guidelines, particularly with fresh market produce such as spinach and lettuce.

As the Christian Science Monitor pointed out in its Sept. 29 edition, there are differences between the safety of meat and produce. Compared to the meat industry, which is inspected by the USDA every day, the Food and Drug Administration has the resources to inspect facilities taking care of seafood, processed food and fruits and vegetables once every five years. USDA meat regulations are mandatory, while FDA regulations are more of what Captain Jack Sparrow

of *Pirates of the Caribbean* fame would call voluntary guidelines.

The U.S. is second in the world for producing spinach, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. California accounted for nearly 75 percent of the country's fresh market spinach from 2003-2005. And since the '70s, there has been a shift away from processed spinach to fresh one. Processed spinach usually comes in a can; fresh market spinach comes in a bag. America produced 680 million pounds of spinach in 2005—that's Popeye's lifetime supply.

That is why California gets uppity about these things. The Los Angeles Times reported on Oct. 10 that the 8,500 cartons of green-leaf lettuce that Nunes Co. in Salinas Valley recalled Oct. 8 due to the presence of E. coli has no connection to the spinach outbreak.

E. coli comes from animal shit—we refuse to use euphemisms such as cattle fecal matter. Since, the FDA has pinpointed the deadly E. coli to cattle manure near tainted spinach fields last week in Salinas Valley, perhaps cattle should be kept farther

away from crop lands—or at least their excrement.

However, it's ironic that meat is arguably safer in this country than lettuce or spinach. According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a nonprofit organization, more Americans are harmed by contaminated produce than by tainted meat. While the FDA has initiatives for the implementation of a more effective food safety system, we must realize that contamination is a big problem and commercial products get recalled all the time.

The government recalls goods, without the public hearing about it, regularly. In an Oct. 4 FDA Enforcement report, nearly 600 cases of bandages labeled sterile have been recalled because they were not sterilized prior to nationwide distribution.

Perhaps companies that mass-produce things for consumers should look at their own safety policies so there is no need to recall things in the first place. Granted, this will never happen—it's a statement about the times we live in that contrary to what mama said, we now have reasons to eat Salisbury steak instead of spinach.

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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Urban Excursions: Andersonville



By Jenifer K. Fischer
Managing Editor

Chicago's got its own little slice of Scandinavia on the North Side, complete with the presence of those iconic blue and gold Swedish flags and bright orange Dalä horses. It's not all lutefisk and cries of "uffida," though. Andersonville doesn't overflow with Nordic blonde maidens or reindeer, but it does hint strongly at its founders' ancestry amidst an eclectic gathering of cultures and lifestyles.

Most recently, Andersonville made headlines with a proposal to restrict the presence of big-name retailers in the neighborhood, which currently teems with the character only one-of-a-kind local

businesses can impart.

Swedish immigrants established the neighborhood in the mid-19th century; it started out as a suburb, but was later swallowed up by a growing Chicago. A trip to the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St., gives a glimpse into the lives of Chicago's early Swedish Americans, who were—and still are—a substantial population. After all, Andersonville is one of the most concentrated areas of Swedish culture in the United States, according to Andersonville.org, the neighborhood's Chamber of Commerce's website.

Of course, what makes all of Chicago's historic and ethnically diverse enclaves so special is the food. So the perfect follow-up to an inexpensive and rather brief educational museum excursion is nearby Ann Sather, a Chicagoland dining establishment with a handful of city locations, founded by a Swedish immigrant in 1945. The diner offers up a sensational Scandinavian breakfast feast that reminds me of my own Scandinavian grandmother's dining room, from the mismatched chairs to the smell of strong coffee and fresh-baked pastries. Known for its cinnamon rolls, Ann Sather also serves Swedish pancakes, light crepe-like creations topped with ligonberries, smoked salmon Benedict, Swedish meatballs and more traditional breakfast fare such as omelettes and sausages.

Another fabulous Andersonville eatery is Kopi A Traveler's Cafe, 5317 N. Clark St. This coffee house's menu consists primarily of vegetarian options. It also houses Jala Jalan, a boutique filled with travel books and international art and jewelry. For a more "American" or carnivore-friendly dining experience, Charlie's Ale House, 5321 N. Clark St., resides across the street. Charlie's menu includes more than 20 beers on tap, as well as burgers, ribs and steak.

Erickson's Delicatessen, 5250 N. Clark St., and Wikstrom's Gourmet Foods, 5247 N. Clark St., provide places to purchase Scandinavian classics such as pickled herring, ligonberry products, flatbread and lutefisk, the beloved jellied fish.

Once you've had enough dining and Swedish culture, there is plenty of shopping. Alamo Shoes, 5321 N. Clark St., sates any shoe-lover's appetite with cozy, funky and beloved brands like Ugg, Ecco, Haflinger, Merrell and Dansko. No visit to Andersonville is complete without a stop at Women and Children First, 5233 N. Clark St. This bookstore is not only lesbian and feminist friendly, it's also a hub for local authors' works, book groups and other bibliophile-related occasions. Andersonville is also home to some solid resale shopping at la Brown Elephant, 5404 N. Clark St.

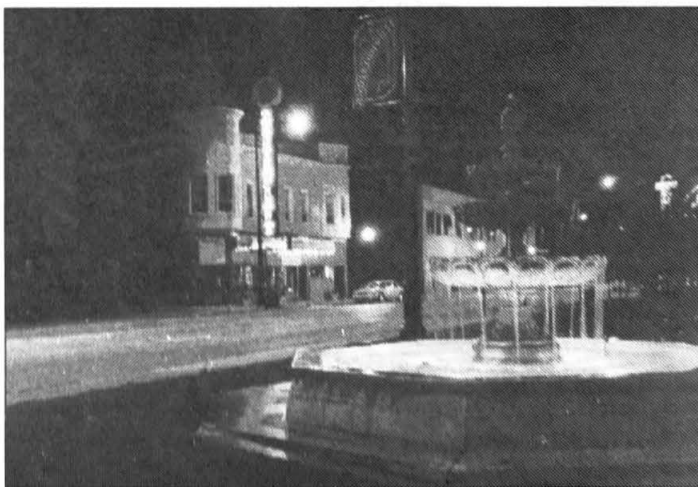
Take the Red Line to Berwyn and whether you decide to just stroll through Andersonville or stop to shop and dine, it's definitely worth the trip.

* jfischer@chroniclemail.com



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

La Baguette Panaderia, 5712 N. Clark St., above, offers baked goods for visitors and residents strolling through Andersonville.



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

A mini 'Buckingham Fountain' adorns Clark Street near Bryn Mawr Avenue in Andersonville, a Far North Chicago neighborhood.

Out of the personals

Chicago singles guru writes book on finding partners

MCT

Mayor Richard M. Daley had his moments, granted, but there's a good argument to be made that, from 1998 to 2005, it was Michael Baumier who was the most powerful man in Chicago.

If you needed a husband, a wife, a weekend fling or someone with whom to share your amorous response to Civil War re-enactments, your last best hope was the head of the personal ads department at the city's leading alternative newspaper, the Chicago Reader.

Singles turned to him with the most impossible of tasks: Help me craft the "I Saw You" ad that will locate the beautiful stranger that I glimpsed, ever so briefly, in a public place.

Newlyweds thanked him for supplying them with their soul mates.

Even pimps obeyed him when he told them to please take their business with the prostitutes placing ads for "adult services" outside the office.

Now Baumier, 39, has told all—or as much as most readers are prepared to hear—in his new book, *I Know You're Out There: Private Longings, Public Humiliations and Other Tales From the Personals*.

By turns sordid and sweet, this is the tale of Bill—names and some details have been changed—who placed at least 30 "I Saw You" ads, including three for three women he encountered on the same night, at the same place.

It's the story of Brad, who repeatedly placed racy ads for women, before abruptly "switching teams" and placing an ad for a man.

But it's also the story of Baumier's own romantic disappointments with a long-term boyfriend with whom he eventually split, and his dawning realization that he had something to learn from the personal-ads crowd's willingness to risk rejection, awkwardness and embarrassment.

"I went from watching the freak show [of people taking risks romantically] to finding myself in the freak show," Baumier said in an interview with the Chicago Tribune at a downtown coffee shop.

"[But] I think that there's just this thing about being human where, even when you're disappointed or your heart is broken or you get frustrated or it seems like finding somebody is an impossible thing, there's just this part of us that compels you to keep looking until you find [love]."

"And I honestly believe that people find it."

Beaumier, now a New Yorker and a contributor to public radio's "This American Life," grew up in Grand Forks, N.D., the fourth of nine children of a homemaker and an orthopedic surgeon. He went to college at the University of Iowa and attended graduate school at Ohio State before he landed in Chicago as a freelance writer.

His reason for taking the Reader job, for which he was originally paid \$28,000, was partly practical.

"I really wanted to eat, and health insurance was this far-off



MCT

Michael Baumier, former personals editor for the Chicago Reader, has written a book about his time spent helping singles and his own experiences in love.

dream," he said.

He was part editor, crafting singles ads from people's half-formed notions of who they were and what they were looking for in a partner, and part counselor, doling out encouragement and advice to the lovelorn.

When pimps tried to do business with the prostitutes placing ads in the "adult services" section—"Hey, baby, who's representing you?"—Beaumier saw it as his job to intercede.

"I don't want to say it's admirable, because I don't want to sound like I'm [endorsing] a system that's not pleasant, but I respected the fact that they seemed really informed about the choice that they had made, and I didn't judge," he said. "I

was never very judgmental about that kind of thing."

One of Baumier's most important tasks was editing the popular "I Saw You" ads in which people attempted to find strangers they saw or met briefly, maybe at a bar or on a train.

The newspaper got 50 requests a day for those ads, of which about a third were chosen for publication.

"Because those were ads that could very easily work or very easily not work, depending on what was said, there was always a lot of care that was put in those," Baumier said.

Beaumier would coax the relevant information out of the ad-placers as best he could: "Was she wearing red? Was she wear-

ing blue? Was she reading? Did she look at you?"

But even so, some of the ads worked a little too well.

"If the details were too neutral, you'd have 20 people calling saying, 'Oh, my God! I was on the Red Line this morning!'"

Beaumier, who left the Reader last year, unhappy with the lack of human interaction that followed the paper's switch to an Internet-based personal ad system, said that he has no way of knowing how many marriages he facilitated on the job.

But, during his tenure at the Reader, it was fairly common for people to meet him at parties and say, "I met my wife through the personals, but don't tell anybody here."

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Two pedestrians brave the snow on the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Adams Street Oct. 12. According to the National Weather Service, last week's snowfall was the earliest Chicago has ever experienced.

Smoking: Suburbs model law after Chicago ordinance

Continued from Back Page

already in place prior to March 15, 2007, will have the right to keep their own ordinances. This enables Chicago to keep its July 1, 2008 effective date.

Some Chicago residents have fled to the suburbs, where bans are not yet in place, in order to smoke and dine. Columbia junior Rebecca Michuda said she frequently visited Naperville in order to smoke after eating.

"I was pissed off when the ban went into effect," Michuda said.

"I used to meet other students for coffee and a smoke at Gourmand [728 S. Dearborn St.], but [since the ban went into effect] I've only been [back there] once or twice."

Michuda said the 15-foot no smoking rule for Columbia's entryways hasn't been a problem since the ordinance went into effect.

"You see the signs, but nobody takes them into consideration," Michuda said. "Smoking is a phase, and I won't be [a smoker] forever. There are too many rules."

The ban is of little concern to Todd Anderson, manager of the Hooters restaurant in Orland Park.

"[The smoking ban] is no big deal because the whole county will be affected soon," Anderson said.

He said the smoking ban has been positive for the Hooters restaurant located in downtown Chicago.

"Business has actually gone

up since the first of the year," Anderson said.

The ban has not been favorable for Gina's Cuisine, 424 S. Wabash Ave.

"Our business has dropped 10 to 15 percent since the ban went into effect," said owner Phil Ayed.

Ayed said he currently has no plans to win back the customers who smoke.

"It's a loss for smaller restaurants, but I guess everyone will eventually have to do it," he said.

The ban is also cumbersome for Chicago resident and smoker Joyce Barksdale who said she still dines out, but not as often.

"I usually try to find a place [to eat] with a smoking section, but they all have bars," Barksdale said.

Others are not bothered by the bans inside restaurants, but disagree with the outdoor smoking restrictions.

"I don't smoke and eat, but to

"[The smoking ban] is no big deal because the whole county will be affected soon. Business has actually gone up since the first of the year."

—Todd Anderson, Hooters restaurant manager in Orland Park

ban smoking at an outdoor Metra stop is ridiculous," said administrative law judge Winston Jackson, who is also a smoker.

Additionally, Jackson disagrees with banning smoking on Chicago beaches. The beach ban was proposed due to the burden of cleaning up cigarette butts left in the sand.

"If you ban smoking on the beaches, then nothing else should be allowed on the beaches, like food, because people leave trash behind," he said.

Fenton is not concerned with the prospect of the ban impacting Orland Park businesses negatively.

"People are more health conscious today. [The smoking bans] can work, if we give them a chance," she said.

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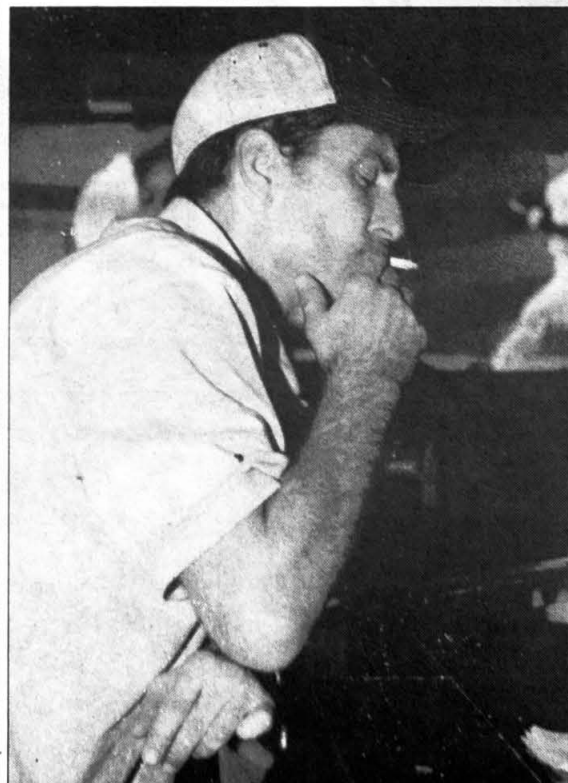
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Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Robert Lockman of Rogers Park takes a drag of his cigarette at Sluggers, 3540 N. Clark St., on Oct. 12. Taverns have until 2008 to install adequate ventilation or eliminate smoking.

Gardens take to the skies

Chicago doubles funding for green roof programs

By Katie Chor
Staff Writer

Some high-rise condos have a view of the lake, but now some will have a view of rooftop gardens. City dwellers are planting flowers, plants and even tall trees, spreading a little green in the concrete city.

The city of Chicago has doubled the amount in grants toward green roofs this year to \$200,000, according to Larry Merritt, spokesman for the city of Chicago Department of Environment.

The Green Roof Grant Program is an effort proposed by Urban Habitat Chicago, to improve the urban environment by planting gardens on city roofs. "It helps clean the air and water locally," said Dave Hampton, director of Research and Development for UHC. "It can remove pollutants from the air and water if you plant the right plants."

Plants naturally cool the air, and in a dense city like Chicago, the temperature is often higher than its surrounding areas. This phenomenon is called the "urban heat island effect," and according to UHC, this will decrease with more green. The soil on green

roofs can also absorb water and keep it from running off into a sewer. More plants will take out more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and filter the air.

And if the environmental aspect is not attractive enough, a green roof can actually save energy for the building and keeps the roof intact, according to Merritt.

"It extends the life of the roof," he said.

Merritt said building a rooftop garden would be easier and more cost-effective for roofs that currently need to be redone.

Green roofs have spread from Chicago's City Hall to homes and businesses and have inspired many other projects this year. But UHC would like to see every city building wearing a green hat.

"An area that's not planted is an area wasted," Hampton said.

Paula Companio, owner of True Nature Foods, 6034 N. Broadway, is implementing a green roof on top of her store in 3,000-square-foot increments. The UHC also saw an opportunity for urban food development for the store.

"You look at a big city where we can't sustain ourselves with food so we have to use our roof," Companio said.

In this case, the green roof will pay for itself since the store will sell the organic produce grown in the garden in addition to produce



KRT

Teresa Williams built a garden on top of her building in Bellingham, Wash. Along with Bellingham, other cities such as Chicago and Cleveland are adopting green roofs.

from independently owned farms. Although it won't be much use in the winter, the soil will keep the building insulated, making it warmer. Companio said she is looking forward to decreased utility bills and a better quality of organic produce that will cost significantly less, being grown right above her head.

True Nature Foods received \$5,000 from the city for its roof and is currently halfway through construction.

Harold Kung, professor of

chemical and biological engineering at Northwestern University, said although there are many benefits from green roofs, they help very little in a city like Chicago.

"A plant or tree helps take carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, but this is relatively small in relation to the carbon dioxide we consume in the city," he said.

The layer of soil on the roof does provide natural insulation and helps save energy, Kung said, but even if every house had

a green roof it would not be enough to combat the great amount of pollution that exists in the city.

"It's not going to change a lot, but I see the benefit for energy use," Kung said. "It also makes people happy to see green."

Applications for the green roof grant are due Nov. 3. For more information or to apply, visit www.cityofchicago.org/environment or call (312) 744-7606.

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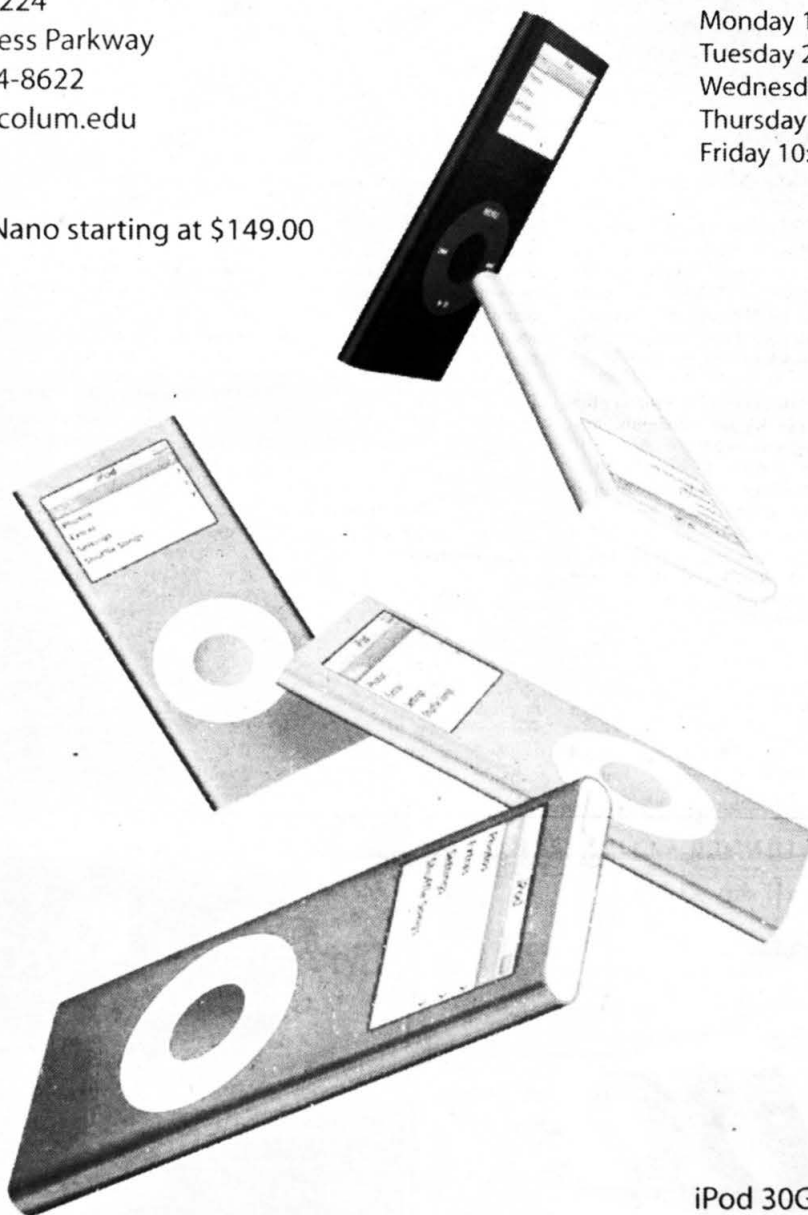
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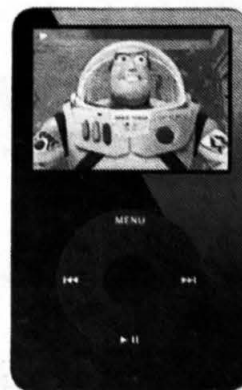
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Whitney: Candidate talks about healthcare, CTA issues

Continued from Back Page

You mentioned social services. Your webpage said you favor universal healthcare. With Illinois' \$3 billion budget deficit, how would you implement healthcare reform if you were elected?

What I advocate is a payroll tax. Based on a study that used Vermont as a model, they figured a single-payer system can work in one state based on a 5.8 percent payroll tax: 2.9 percent employer, 2.9 percent employee. And for that amount of money, [plus] a modest \$10 co-pay for health services, we could provide quality healthcare for everyone at far less cost than the overwhelming majority of [what] businesses are paying now. [Although] it does involve a tax, overall businesses would save hundreds of millions of dollars if we went to single payer and we would be able to provide better quality healthcare for all.

You support House Bill 750, a school reform finance proposal. What do you say to people who say there would be an increase in state taxes?

Well it's not just an increase. Some people call it the income tax for property tax swap. And that's what it is. It involves a decrease in property taxes. Yes, there is a net gain in revenue, but

we need a net gain in revenue given the state's fiscal condition right now. We cannot continue to pretend we're balancing the budget while we're not paying healthcare providers on time; we're cheating payments out of our pension system. This plan is a fiscally responsible plan to deal with the problem head on and makes our tax system more fair at the same time and it gives real property tax relief.

This is rather than trying to set up some type of gambling?

Yes. It's left me as the only candidate in the race who opposes state-sanctioned gambling. I realize we're not going to suddenly just lift ourselves away from that and suddenly go back to the pre-lottery days. But we need to start moving in that direction. And certainly not expand gambling in the state of Illinois. This is not the way; we can't gamble our way to fiscal health. And we shouldn't try, because in my view gambling is a hidden tax on the poor.

Does this education reform plan include higher education like colleges as well?

Yes it does. House Bill 750, if implemented or as currently projected, would raise about \$310 million in new revenue for state colleges and universities, which would allow us to finally start bringing tuition fees down instead of the current trend where they've been rising every year.

Along with keeping state colleges down, would there be an increase in grants?

I think it would be targeted directly to the general revenue of the university system so they

would not have to charge as much in tuition in the first place. Now the actual allocation is up to the legislature. It's possible some of that money could be diverted to grants and other forms of assistance. But I'd rather just see the tuition rates be brought down.

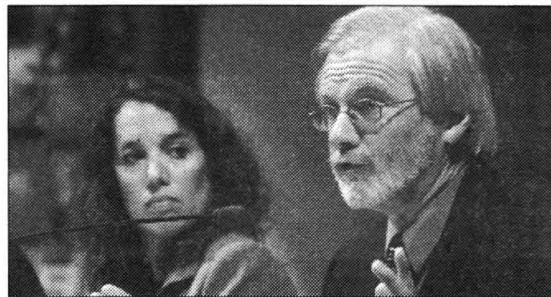
With the CTA and RTA experiencing a number of fiscal problems, how would your administration help keep costs in line?

We need a measure of commitment of public transit in this state and that's one of the things I'm running on; not just intra-city transit and regional transit but also high speed rail between cities. We have to do this and I would favor shifting some of our IDOT funds more in the direction of rail [and] looking at [additional funding] to assist the regional transit in the greater Chicago, metropolitan area. Oil prices are not going to get cheaper, except possibly at election time, which they are now. And the cost of road construction continues to go up.

This is not a sustainable means of transportation. We need to be getting away from constantly widening roads, constantly building new highways and start looking at ways of moving people from place to place that's smarter, more energy efficient, better fit for the environment and creates more jobs.

Just in 2006 alone, for example, the cost of road and highway construction nationally rose 16 percent because roads are made from asphalt, which is itself a petroleum product. So as the price of oil continues to go up, the cost of road building is going to continue to go up.

We need to start moving in



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Ginger Ostro, left, director of education reform for Gov. Rod Blagojevich, listens while Whitney debates education funding at the Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St., on Oct. 9.

more of the direction of smart urban planning and a greater emphasis on public transit.

Along those lines, you were mentioning environmental issues. Do you plan on implementing any emissions caps for the major industrial businesses to curb air pollution?

Absolutely. That would be one of the things we need to do. I'm not a big fan of the pollution trading system. I think we need to move more toward caps. One of the things we ought to be looking at are pollution taxes such as a greenhouse gas emissions tax because that's another way of raising new revenue. I don't have a specific proposal in mind, I'm just saying that's one thing we ought to be looking at in the future to help us combat the crisis in progress of global warming.

Are you still trying to set up a three-way debate with Gov. Blagojevich and Judy Baar Topinka?

Well, we're trying to set it up.

You know it really depends more on them. I've made it very plain, I'm willing to debate the other two candidates at any time either one-on-one or with all three. I'm really not the obstacle here.

One of the most remarkable things just recently is Blagojevich pulling out of the Oct. 26 WTTW debate. He provided absolutely no explanation for this. This is something that's been planned for months. Both candidates agreed to it. It was apparent that I was going to be invited because we're polling well enough and I suspect that may have to do with why he pulled out. I don't think he wants to debate me.

I don't think Judy Baar Topinka has as much problem as Rod Blagojevich does in including me in the debate. In fact, I'm quite certain of it that the objection is not really coming from [Topinka's campaign], it's coming from Gov. Blagojevich.

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Elections: Students lacking information on the voting process

Continued from Front Page

blame needs to be taken off students for not voting and placed it on policymakers and education leaders like himself for not taking the initiative to directly educate and engage younger voters.

"We haven't done a good enough job in our education system K-12 of engaging students and understanding about how real politics work," Pickeral said. "Not just 'how does a bill become a law?' in terms of some superficial set of motions, but 'how do you have a conversation with a legislator? How do you make the case to them that this is an important issue?'"

Pickeral said many young people are held back by not knowing the basics of the voting process. He said not having a complete understanding of voting only fur-



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Maureen Peabody, 21, a junior photography major at Columbia, said she's been voting since she was 18 years old.

ther disconnects youth and policymakers.

"When you think about policymakers and education leaders, if young people aren't voting, why is it in their best interest to engage them?" Pickeral said. "It's kind of

For more information on voting, the election and how the democratic process directly affects students, check out City Beat's ongoing series on the 2006 midterm elections.

In the mean time visit these websites to learn more about how and where to register along with information on the candidates:

- vote-smart.org - for information and voting records of candidates
- opensecrets.org - for financial contribution information
- fec.gov - for federal election information
- chicagoelections.com - for Chicago election information
- elections.il.gov - for Illinois election information

an easy out, but that's the reality. ... If college students, 18- to 24-year-olds, were voting in greater numbers, you would see much more youth-oriented press releases, messages and campaign slogans."

Many echoed Pickeral's opinion, but others said complicated laws about voting and registering are barriers.

Jennifer Pae is president of the United States Student Association, a student-led group that, according to its website, is the recognized student voice on Capitol Hill, in the White House and with the U.S. Department of Education. Pae said

not only do students simply lack the information on how and where to vote, but the specific state and federal laws regarding voting and registration are confusing.

Pae said because students are such a transient population, many do not know the different voting regulations for all the places they may move to.

"When it comes to actually turning out to vote and casting a ballot, we're finding that [polling places] are pretty inaccessible," Pae said. "The proper information and education is not part of the culture right now. I wouldn't say students are apathetic; I think it's more difficult, if anything, for students to get that information to register and then turn out to vote."

Pae, who attended the University of California, San Diego for political science, said the voting process should be especially important to students because of recent cuts in federal aid for higher education.

"In the end we need to make sure we're not only educated on the issues and we turn out to vote, but that we hold our elected representatives accountable to the issues we care about," Pae said.

In preparation for the upcoming elections, Columbia held a Rock the Vote event Oct. 10 in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., in hopes of accomplishing an increase in voter turnout. Although organizers of Rock the Vote did see a significant amount of students show-up to register, it was the only event on campus this year directly targeting voter participation, and fell on the last day of registration in Illinois.

Local politicians, faculty and students who participated in the event thought one of the main reasons students don't participate in elections is because of their overall lack of knowledge of city government. Ruth Anne Mazur, a sophomore audio acoustics major, worked as a registrar at the event after becoming involved through professor Monica Grayless' Intro to Management class. Grayless helped set up the Rock the Vote event. Mazur said some students don't see how consequential local elections are.

"The local elections are what affects us more with what goes on," Mazur said. "The school should be more interested in helping and finding events to get students to register."

Blake Hausman, president of the Columbia College Conservatives, said he is trying to arrange a debate with the anti-Bush organization World Can't Wait in order to help students become more aware of what the main issues are in the current elections.

"It's not just students but across the United States there are a lot of people that don't understand what these candidates stand for because they don't take the time to look it up," Hausman said.

However, Dominic Cottone, director of Student Leadership, said one reason why so many students aren't active voters can

largely be blamed on the corruption of local politics.

"Politics has become finger-pointing bitch sessions," Cottone said.

Students lack faith in government officials, he said, and don't realize how much of a voice voting will give them.

"You [have] people here at Columbia that have all sorts of different things that define who they are," Cottone said. "If you spend so much time defining who you are, then why not go out and vote and define who you are even more?"

Maureen Peabody, 21, a junior photography major at Columbia, said although she has voted since she was 18 years old, most students probably don't because they don't see the impact it has.

"Even if you see two people and you dislike both of them," Peabody said, "by not voting at all, you're voting toward the person you don't like at all."

According to Jay Stewart, executive director of the Better Government Association, the attitude of throwing up your hands and claiming your vote doesn't matter plays into the hands of corrupt politicians. The Better Government Association is a non-partisan organization that investigates political corruption and waste.

"To a certain degree it's a self-fulfilling prophecy if you say, 'I can't trust any of them,'" Stewart said. "I think you're just punishing the ones who want to do the right thing and in de facto rewarding the bad guys."

Stewart, who also teaches Media Ethics and Law as an adjunct professor at Columbia, said people need to realize that change doesn't happen instantly. He noted that the Better Government Association began investigating George Ryan when he was governor in 1982, and it took more than 20 years for him to be prosecuted.

Dennis Donovan, national organizer for public achievement for the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota, an institute that develops public policy initiatives around civic and politic issues, said it's not that students are disinterested in politics, but that our culture does not invite people to participate.

"When people have that feeling of contributing, they're more apt to do things like voting," Donovan said.

At the University of Minnesota, Donovan said his group is developing a campaign on campus that aims to have 10,000 kids wear a bracelet signifying their interests in citizenship, which would in turn initiate a dialogue among students.

"The first step in getting people to engage is getting people to know each other," Donovan said. "If you're wearing one of these bracelets that's a sign you're open to have a conversation with somebody."

Sandra Allen, chair of the Public Relations Department who teaches a social change and communications class, said once students realize how powerful their voices can be, the more they will vote.

"I don't know how you can be a catalyst for social change if you don't vote," Allen said. "They are the demographic everyone wants. They have such power and they are wasting it."

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jewert@chroniclemail.com

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Scoop in the Loop



By James H. Ewert Jr.
Assistant City Beat Editor

It's that time of year again when fall sets in and everything starts to die. Suffocating from a lack of warm oxygen, the brown little leaves turn yellow and politicians pour salt in the wounds they tore open with the nasty teeth of their campaigns.

To me, the air smells strangely reminiscent of childhood and just like every autumn, the nostalgia of Halloween pranks and games of kick the can and capture the flag linger. Unfortunately, there is no longer time for those activities and barely enough time to ponder such fantastic memories. With work and school and television shows, who would have time for things of that nature?

This is a time of year when obligations begin to bear down, political campaigns prepare for their viscous October surprise and school moves quickly past the "just starting" phase and into the "God I hate this" phase. In times like these it's easy to forget the point of studying or the goal you have at your job. All too often we

get caught up in the moment and overlook personal ambitions.

With that in mind, the American Academy of Pediatrics released a report last week emphasizing the importance of fun. The report stated that playtime acts as a crucial element to the growth and development of children and teenagers' cognitive, social and emotional well-being.

The report claimed more fun is needed to combat the increased demands made on academic and

its restrictions and limits on life as well as time's necessity for speed specifically. I watched people run around hurrying from one appointment to another without pause and I always wanted to stop them, to slow them down at least, and say to them, "What are you running for or from?"

On a busy street near my home, there was a crosswalk with a stoplight strictly for pedestrians. During summer and autumn days I would leisurely stroll over to the stoplight and proceed to press the walk button several times. Walking back and forth, I would

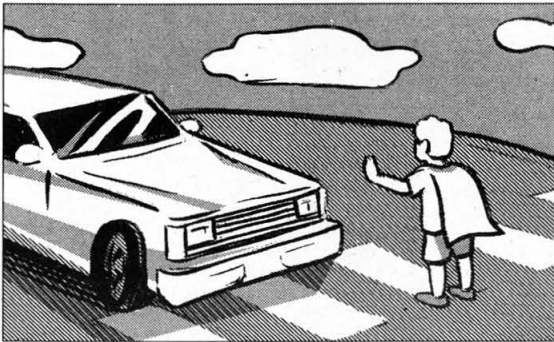
ders and arms as if to say, "Who cares?"

Today, people everywhere are moping around beneath gray skies, hacking up lungs, sick as sick gets. Just about everyone is ill with some stressful affliction, be it from school, work or politics. That is why the academy's report hits dead-on with what adults, not just children and teenagers, could use a lot more of—fun.

Being cynical and pessimistic is easier than being constructive and optimistic, sometimes even more entertaining. There needs to be a greater importance on seeing life with a sort of naïve eye, an adventurous and non-judgmental one. Placing too much undue importance on professional and academic aspects of life makes living much more stressful than it needs to be.

Yeah, sure, I may have pissed off some people and made others late, but maybe some of them understood what I was trying to do and took advantage of the extra 45 seconds they had to take stock of their lives. There aren't very many ways anymore to get a message across in a non-confrontational way. I was using that crosswalk as a vehicle to get my point out to people that sometimes in the midst of it all, you need to relax. While watching political campaigns this year and gearing up for midterms, the importance of fun and ambition cannot be stressed enough—pun intended.

jewert@chroniclemail.com



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

extracurricular endeavors—and I couldn't agree more.

When I was in middle school I fantasized about being a superhero in my playtime, but my vision was far from most children's. Instead of having X-ray vision or the ability to fly, I wanted to stop and slow down time. I wanted to fight time,

watch the cars piling up for hundreds of feet.

Everyone in their cars got all hot and bothered watching a cheerful red-headed kid with permanently chapped lips walk back and forth in front of them. I would sometimes look at my wrist as if I had a watch on and then shrug my shoul-

der. Many aspects of county government are also unnecessarily complex, according to Quigley.

Elsewhere in the country, most traffic violators are given the option to plead guilty, pay a fine and receive driving supervision, he said, noting that in Cook County, motorists must go to traffic school or court since both create more county jobs and revenue.

"Almost every other county in Illinois has the recorder of deeds as part of the county clerk's office, but here, they are two separate elected officials," Quigley said. "I could run through each department and say 'here's what's wrong.'"

Stewart acknowledged the difficulty that can come with being an independent voice within the government. He said reforma-

tion can be a difficult process when there is only one voice against many disagreeing colleagues.

Stewart added that there is also an unfortunate misconception among the voting public that a little bit of corruption can, or should, be tolerated simply because it's how the system works.

"For those who think it takes a little grease to go along, ask George Ryan how that theory worked for him," Stewart said. "Apparently in Illinois, that is, unfortunately, the primary vehicle for reform: people going to jail. When faced with unambiguous facts to the contrary [of an issue], then—and only then—will action be taken. It works, but it's very clumsy."

Another inherent problem

within most governments in general—not just Cook County—is the fact that they were designed many years ago and are structured for a world that no longer exists, Quigley said. Few have adjusted to accommodate drastic changes over time.

"[Many governments] couldn't stand on their own if they were a business," Quigley said. "Why don't they change? Because the status quo is protected by those in power."

Quigley added that it is difficult to initiate change even within the public—not just amongst politicians.

"The status quo is a warm, fuzzy blanket," he said. "We have to raise people's abilities to question just about everything."

ariggio@chroniclemail.com

In Public

Can't vote on Nov. 7? Then take advantage of early voting starting Oct. 16. Voters will be able to cast their ballots at the Cook County Clerk's Office, 69 W. Washington St., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, until Nov. 2. Go make City Beat proud!

Barack Obama will sign copies of his book *The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming the American Dream* at 57th Street Books, 1301 E. 57th St., on Oct. 17. Lines will form at 8 a.m.; the signing is from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, visit semcoop.com or call (773) 684-1300.

The Neo-Futurists bring their North Side performance "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind" to the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Poetry Center, 112 S. Michigan Ave., Oct. 18. The performers try to finish 30 plays in 60 minutes. The show starts at 6:30 p.m., and tickets are \$8 to \$10. For more information, visit poetrycenter.org.

You can't go wrong with Amy Sedaris. The "Strangers With Candy" alumna will sign her new book *I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence*, at Borders Books and Music, 830 N. Michigan Ave., at 7 p.m. Oct. 18. The event is free. For more information, call (312) 573-0564.

Looking for a nature walk in Chicago? Then check out the Fall Tree ID at the Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., at 10 a.m. Oct. 20. Those interested should meet Jim DeHorn in the conservatory lobby. For more information, visit garfieldconservatory.org.

Change: Debt, corruption still plague county government

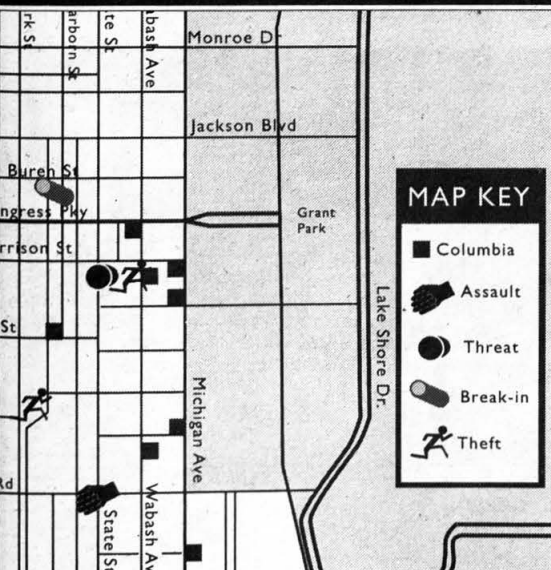
Continued from Back Page

Quigley exposed at his UIC lecture.

The Sheriff's Department currently polices unincorporated Cook County territory, a concept originally instated to provide police presence in areas where neighboring towns had no jurisdiction, Quigley said.

Unincorporated Cook County is now half the size it used to be; however, the police force has remained the same size, he said.

Off the Blotter



Jennifer Crider/The Chronicle

Is the customer always right?

A 45-year-old woman assaulted a Walgreens store manager after becoming upset in a dispute over a refund Oct. 9. The manager told police that the woman struck her with both hands, pushing her in the chest. The offender then fled the drugstore, located at 2 E. Roosevelt Road. The store manager refused medical attention.

Weekly verbal abuse

A Chicago Transit Authority security guard informed police that she was threatened by a 20-year-old man Oct. 8 at the Harrison Red Line station, 608 S. State St. The guard said the man told her to "come out of the booth, bitch, and I'm going to rob you." The man then tried to open the door of the booth, but fled when the guard reached for her telephone. The guard told police the man comes through the station at about the same time every Sunday and consistently makes negative comments to her. This was the first time that he tried to make physical contact with her, she said.

Skullet on the loose

The owner of Manhattan's, 415 S. Dearborn St., reported a break-in at the tavern on Oct. 6. The owner was working near a staircase that leads to the second floor when he heard a series

of bangs followed by shattering glass. Upstairs, the owner found a man climbing through a broken window from scaffolding outside the building. The owner yelled at the man, whom he described as bald in the front with a mullet in the back. The intruder climbed back out the window and fled northbound on Plymouth Court.

Never let it out of your sight, ladies

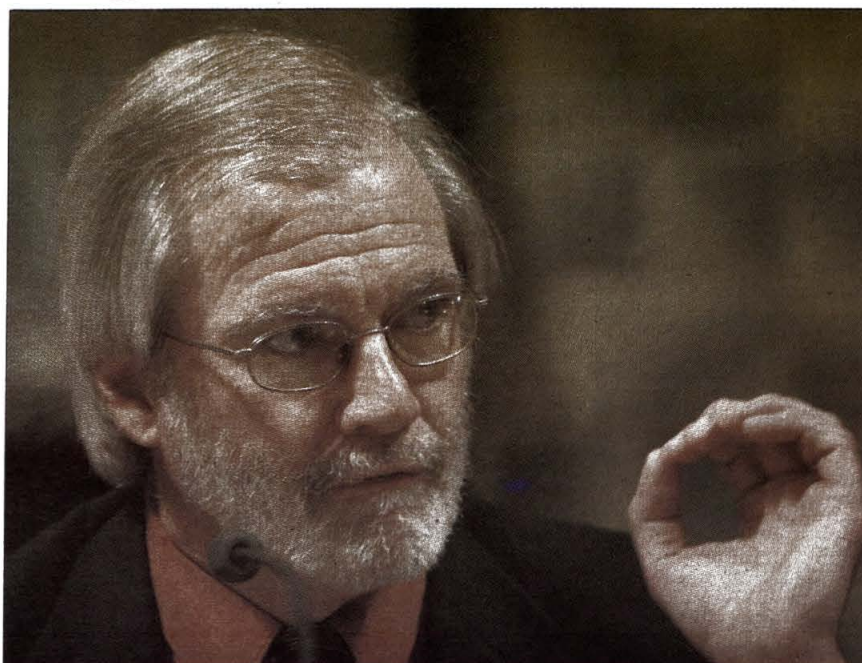
A 26-year-old woman had her purse stolen Oct. 7 while picking up food from a restaurant at 612 S. Wabash Ave. The woman told police she was conversing with a 35-year-old man whom she had just met while waiting for her order. She went to retrieve her food and left her purse on the table only to discover it—and the man—had vanished. The woman told police she had \$300 and various credit cards in the purse.

A job high

A resident on the 900 block of South Park Terrace was out some money Oct. 4 when he let an electrical worker into his house to check his electrical box. The worker asked the man for \$69 to get the necessary parts to fix the problem, but the man told police the worker never returned to finish the job. The man tried calling the fraudulent worker and noted to police that the man sounded high on drugs.

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

A gubernatorial alternative



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Green Party candidate for governor Rich Whitney debates education funding at the Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St., on Oct. 9.

Green Party candidate Rich Whitney speaks about party's platform

By Eric Kasang
City Beat Editor

Green Party gubernatorial candidate Rich Whitney has made it quite clear about his chances of becoming Illinois' next governor: "In a three-way race, you can win

with 34 percent of the vote."

Whitney, a Carbondale, Ill., attorney who works on employment and civil rights cases, recently won the right to be listed on the Nov. 7 ballot as the Green Party candidate.

Before debating about education funding reform at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut St., on Oct. 9, Whitney spoke with The Chronicle about

creating universal healthcare, funding public transportation and being snubbed for gubernatorial debates.

The Chronicle: How do you campaign to people as an alternative vote to the two-party system?

Rich Whitney: To some extent, just being out there, people come to me. One of the things I try to

impress upon people is this is not like a lot of other third-party efforts. We're serious about this. We're not a single-issue party. Many people associate us with the environment, but we're about a lot more than just that. I'm not a protest candidate.

I am running to win. I have well thought out policy proposals on a wide variety of issues facing the people of this state. And if people look at the stuff we're producing and the stands that I've taken, they will see that. So what I try to impress upon people is the Green Party is not a "flash-in-the-pan"; we're here to stay.

Some people complained about Ralph Nader splitting the Democratic vote in 2002 and Ross Perot doing the same thing to the Republican vote in 1992. Have you come across people accusing you of splitting the Democrats' vote in the upcoming election?

There have been a few that have raised that question, but it's very few. And I think the reason for that is you just don't find any but the most die-hard Democrats who are really very enthusiastic about Rod Blagojevich. And if you look at what's happened to the budget under the current administration, what's happened with education in our state, what's happened to social services [and] failure to make progress on clean energy, he's not very well-liked even within his own party.

See Whitney, Page 37

Smoking ban spreads to the south suburbs

By Kim Driscoll
Staff Writer

Since Chicago's controversial ordinance banning smoking in most public places went into effect earlier this year, several surrounding communities have decided to join the city in creating a smoke-free environment.

On Oct. 2, south suburban Orland Park passed a smoking ban similar to the Chicago ban that went into effect Jan. 16. Neighboring Tinley Park is expected to follow suit later this month.

The Chicago ordinance bans smoking in public restaurants, with the exception of freestanding bars and taverns, and within 15 feet of any entrance where smoking is prohibited, until July 1, 2008.

Taverns and bar areas inside restaurants have the chance to trump the Chicago ordinance after July 1, 2008. These businesses must provide ventilation or air filtration systems to make air quality at least as good as what second-hand smoke exposure would be outside. Orland Park Trustee Kathy Fenton said the Orland Park ordinance was drafted in collaboration with its township, Tinley Park, and numerous other communities.

"We took the Chicago and county ordinances and comprised our own," Fenton said.

The Orland Park smoking ban goes into effect Jan. 12, 2007. Although there are no freestanding bars in Orland Park, the ban mirrors the Chicago ordinance, except smoking will be permitted in village restaurants with outdoor seating.

A countywide ban requiring most public spaces in Cook County to be smoke free will take effect March 15, 2007. The county ban includes restaurants, bars, workplaces and sports venues.

Under the county ban, municipalities with smoking bans

See Smoking, Page 34

Lone commissioner calls for change

Lecture focus on budget reform, county corruption

By Allison Riggio
Assistant City Beat Editor

Mike Quigley has often been a lone voice for the reform of county government as a commissioner on the Cook County Board. Quigley, who is commissioner of the 10th district that spans the northern lakefront, shared his ideas for change during a lecture at the University of Illinois at Chicago on Oct. 11. The lecture was part of a series aimed at examining local governments.

"[Working within] this government in Chicago ... you quickly learn that there are no shades of gray," Quigley said. "God bless the mayor, but you're either with him or against him."

According to Jay Stewart, executive director of the Better Government Association, Quigley's ideas for reform are being increasingly heard, though not necessarily being acted out. November's election for Cook County Board president will determine the fate of many of Quigley's soapboxes, including an expanding debt within the county.

"Most of his ideas didn't get anywhere, but at least they got out there in public debate," Stewart said. "Many of those issues are

now being debated both in the political [field and] also in the governmental area in Cook County."

One of Quigley's efforts to initiate reform occurred in September when Todd Stroger, Democratic candidate for Cook County Board president, accepted Jennifer Koehler, Quigley's chief of staff, as his campaign manager. She will work with

Stroger until the November election, according to a Sept. 20 Chicago Sun-Times editorial.

Dick Simpson, head of the Political Science Department at UIC, thinks Koehler's place on Stroger's campaign is a good way to ensure that government reform is a key issue to whomever is elected board president next month.

"I think it is a good move to try and promote the ideas that [Quigley] has had and, of course, his chief of staff helped develop them," Simpson said, adding that an expanding county debt will likely be a main concern to the future board president.

Debt, however, was only one of many county government issues

See Change, Page 39

Protesters heckle the president



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Dozens of antiwar and anti-Bush protesters line up along the east side of Michigan Avenue Oct. 12 as President Bush and House of Representatives Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) attend a Republican fundraiser at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave.