

10-30-2006

## Columbia Chronicle (10/30/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc\\_chronicle](http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle)



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](#).

---

### Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (10/30/2006)" (October 30, 2006). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. [http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc\\_chronicle/685](http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/685)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the College Publications at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in Columbia Chronicle by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago.



# Fire shuts down South Loop



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Firefighters battle an extra-alarm fire in the vacant Wirt Dexter Building, 630 S. Wabash Ave., on Oct. 24. The blaze temporarily shut down five of Columbia's campus buildings, two of which may remain closed the week of Oct. 30.

**Classes canceled, businesses closed, transportation rerouted as landmark building goes up in smoke**

By Caryl Jakubowski  
Commentary Editor

and

Jim Jaworski  
Associate Editor

The George Diamond Steak House became a smoke house last week, creating chaos in the South Loop. Trains were rerouted, businesses were shut-down and classes were cancelled, as firefighters worked tirelessly to put out a stubborn fire at the Wirt Dexter lofts, 630 S. Wabash Ave., on Oct. 24.

"It started in the basement, that's where [firefighters] first saw fire," said Rich Rosado, a fire department official. There were nearly 355 firefighters at the scene eventually and the alarm was raised from a 2-11 to a 5-11 with an EMS Plan 1.

A 2-11 is an alarm that requires a response from four engines, two trucks, one tower ladder, two battalion chiefs, one district chief, one air mask truck and media affairs. As the levels escalate, additional companies are added on the assignment.

"At 5-11 you've got a lot of fire equipment coming in there," said Kevin MacGregor, spokesman for the Chicago Fire Department.

However, the fire was only the beginning of the story, as of the end of last week the South Loop was still in rebuild mode at the time of this publication. Local businesses were shut down in the closed-off Wabash area, as demolition of the remains of the building were underway.

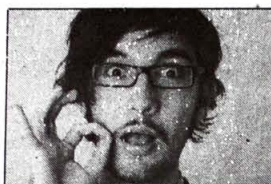


Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Throughout last week, demolition crews worked to tear down the remaining walls of the 630 S. Wabash Ave. building. As of the morning of Oct. 27, the west wall stood despite a number of recurring flare-ups.

See Fire, Page 13





## Life is just one big comic book

By Hunter Clauss, Editor-in-Chief

When I was a wiener of a kid, I read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and believed the government would start lighting books and old women on fire. So, like Montag, I began memorizing all of my favorite books. Instead of choosing such snoozers as the Bible to remember, I picked whole issues of Spiderman, Superman, The Flash and Batman. In the process, however, my life became a comic book—for better or for worse.

There's enough evidence to suggest that my fragile mind has been terribly warped by the multicolored panels of my favorite crime fighters. For starters, I'm a glasses-wearing, scrawny book-worm reporter who finds himself in homoerotic situations—mainly because I'm gay and partly because I'm inept. Keeping those traits in mind, let's look at THE superhero—Superman. His alter-ego, Clark Kent, is also a glasses-wearing, not-so-scrawny reporter who finds himself in homoerotic situations with spandex-clad musclemen. Superman isn't gay, but a case can be made with Brian Smith's *Superman Returns*.

But gayness has always plagued superheroes since the publication of *Seduction of the Innocent*, written by the infamous Dr. Fredric Wertham in 1954. In his book, Wertham alleged that comic books influenced young readers into committing crimes and becoming homosexuals—maybe I should start bringing stacks of Detective Comics to the bar and see how many straight dudes I can bring home.

Of course, his research was beyond flawed. Some of the young adults he interviewed for

the book were locked up in mental institutions and, on more than one occasion, the good doctor didn't even cite where he got his research from.

But that didn't stop the masses from getting a stink up their butts, which would eventually conclude with a self-imposed censorship committee known as the Comics Code Authority.

But despite how irrational and manic the uproar over *Seduction of the Innocent* was, one of the greatest things to come out of it was the onslaught of female characters to hit the pages in order to counteract the inherent homoerotic undertones of this medium.

One such character would be the magenta-clad vixen known as the Star Sapphire. Transformed by a mystical sapphire, Carol Ferris was turned into a man-hating super villain. Ferris received her powers from the Zamarons, a race of women ruled by a queen. When their leader dies, the Zamarons travel through space, searching for another broad who looks just like their recently deceased queen. It just so happened that Carol Ferris fit the bill and was bestowed with the Star Sapphire.

The only obstacle to the Zamarons' plan, however, was Ferris' love of a man—the superhero known as Green Lantern. Since the Zamarons hate men, blaming them for all of the world's problems and calling them "man-creatures," they gave her the Star Sapphire, which not only gave her powers but caused her to become a man-hating cocktease.

But Ferris was in love with the emerald crime fighter, Green Lantern, who in real life was Hal Sparks, a test pilot working for

Ferris' father. Ferris didn't know Sparks and Green Lantern were one in the same, and Sparks didn't know the truth about the Star Sapphire and Ferris. To make it more of a mind fuck, the Star Sapphire hated Green Lantern, and Green Lantern had some sort of strange crush on the Star Sapphire. Yeah, how could this not make you gay?

I once dated a Star Sapphire for almost three years. The terrible thing about being gay is that, like superheroes, most gay dudes begin to blend in and ultimately become the same stereotypical nightmare. This doesn't mean that most gay guys are awful people. I just don't enjoy anything Madonna has produced in the last decade, nor do I enjoy tanning salons or "Will and Grace." Not only did my Star Sapphire share the same disinterests, but he also loved Bruce LaBruce, Adult, and "Strangers with Candy."

But that all came crashing down when some of my friends discovered he was flirting with other guys online. Shortly thereafter, I broke up with him by throwing up all over his new apartment after getting terribly wasted at last year's Manifest party. It wasn't intentional. I didn't want to vomit all over the place, but if there was ever a moment of divine intervention, I can't think of a better example.

I don't blame comic books for being gay—I blame that on God. I also don't fault anyone for being a Star Sapphire—they're just being controlled by lesbians from outer space. If anything, the subtle hilarity of life should be compared to the colorful flamboyancy of comic books.

hclauss@chroniclemail.com

### In this issue

1/11  
Pull-out  
16/17  
19/28

Campus News  
Arts and Entertainment  
Commentary  
City Beat

## Announcements

### Halloween Dance Party

Columbia's annual dance party will take place Oct. 31 from 7 to 11 p.m. in the Student Lounge, 731 S. Plymouth Ct. The evening will include free food, surprise performances and tarot card readers, as well as a big hair, mohawk and 80s icon impersonation contests with the chance to win a \$200 prize.

For more information, contact the office of College Wide Events, (312) 344-7459.

### Day of the Dead

Join the Latino Alliance on Nov. 1 for food, dance and costumes commemorating death and Latino ancestors. The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the corner of Wabash Ave. and Harrison St.

For more information, contact Ana Maria Soto at (312) 344-7812.

### Porn Nation

Come for a 90 minute multi-media presentation examining pornography, sexuality and our hyper-sexual culture on Oct. 30. The event begins at 8 p.m. in Film Row Cinema on the eighth floor of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, contact Tony Arnold at (312) 344-7188.

### Art Directors' Club Awards\*

The Art Directors' Club is hosting its annual awards exhibition and competition from Nov. 2 through Dec. 9 at the A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave. There will be an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m., Nov. 2. The competition, or the "Big Cube," will identify and honor the best work of the year in print and broadcast advertising, interactive media, graphic design, publication design, packaging, photography and illustration.

For more information, contact Jennifer Murray at (312) 344-8686.

### World Can't Wait film screening\*

World Can't Wait will host an event featuring guest speakers and a screening of *Shocking and Awful*, a documentary about the occupation of Iraq. The event will take place in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 1.

For more information, contact wvstudentschicago@yahoo.com

\*Due to the fire at 630 S. Wabash Ave., please confirm times and locations of all events scheduled in the 623 S. Wabash Ave or 619 S. Wabash buildings.

## In Your Opinion

What was your favorite Halloween costume?



"Last year I was a sock and my boyfriend was a plug."

—Jennifer Spisler, sophomore, film



"As a kid I dressed like a marching band member. I was probably 5 or 6."

—Warrick L. Carter, president of Columbia



"I was an insane-asylum patient dressed as Little-Bo-Peep with blood all over."

—Jasper Evermore, graduate student, graphic design



"I was Sally from The Nightmare before Christmas."

—Kristine Kurtzman, senior, advertising art

**When breaking news happens  
We're your source for information**

**THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE**  
WWW.COLUMBIACHRONICLE.COM



## Vaccine policy halts student registration

### College takes shot at mumps prevention

By Steve Yaccino  
Assistant Campus News Editor

Mumps are on the move and with approximately a third of Columbia students out of immunization compliance, school officials are withholding spring 2007 registration for any student without the vaccinations required by state law.

In Illinois, college students are required to have two shots for measles, mumps and rubella, plus a tetanus diphtheria shot that lasts 10 years. About 4,000 students at Columbia are either out of compliance or have not turned in records of their vaccinations, according to Columbia administration.

As of Oct. 23, the school will not let students register for the spring semester until they turn in proof of their vaccination to the Records Office.

"Having so many students out of compliance really puts our student body at risk," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. "It's not new, but the stakes are higher and we're absolutely going to follow through on our end."

In the past, Columbia has fined students \$50 a semester for not turning in their records, generating around \$300,000 a year. The Illinois Department of Health recommends a 95 percent compliance rate for college students;

however, there is no state penalty issued to schools that do not meet this standard. Despite Columbia's fine, only 70 percent of its students have received the necessary vaccinations, said Kelly.

"One would think [fines] would be enough, over time, to get students to comply, but it has not," Kelly said. "Now, we are working with students in more deliberate ways so they understand the impact of not being in compliance."

**"Having so many students out of compliance really puts our student body at risk."**

—Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs

Dr. Blair Odland, Columbia's medical director for Student Health Services, said most students are vaccinated, but can't, or haven't bothered, to prove it. He said the recent policy change is a response to the number of mumps cases reported across the country, but also because of a change in the number of mumps vaccines recommended for students. He said a person with one mumps vaccine is only 80 to 85 percent immune and that the state now recommends students receive two.

"The mumps vaccine isn't anywhere as effective as other vaccines," Odland said. "We need to

have as many people vaccinated as possible so it doesn't catch hold and start to spread within the population."

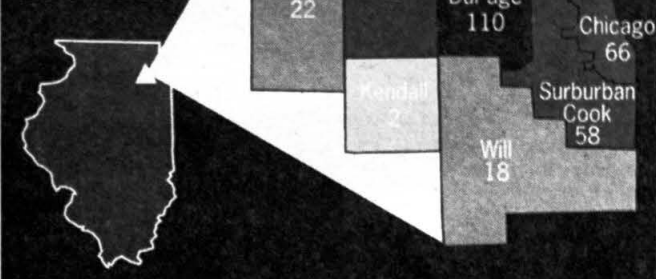
Since an outbreak in Iowa universities last year, more than 630 cases of mumps were reported in Illinois by the end of September, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health, with a tenth of all outbreaks in the state occurring in Chicago.

Marvin Cohen, director of the Records Office, said health issues have changed dramatically due to these outbreaks and Columbia's residential growth after it opened two dorms, University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St., and 2 E. 8th in 2004, warranting the shift in the school's disciplinary tactics.

In preparation for spring registration, which starts on Nov. 6, Cohen said letters and e-mails have been sent to students as part of a campaign to raise awareness for the necessary vaccinations. There is also a new link on OASIS where students can check their immunization records.

The campaign is working, with

### Number of Mumps Cases in Chicago Counties



Jennifer Crider/The Chronicle

more than 60 students faxing or delivering proof of their vaccinations during the first 24 hours since the holds began, Cohen said.

"We're doing better," Cohen said. "We're much more concerned now."

Columbia is offering vaccination days Nov. 1, 2, 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the sixth floor of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, with nurses and medical practitioners available for students who need to be immunized. Shots will cost \$45 for the tetanus diphtheria and

\$95 for measles, mumps and rubella. The costs will be charged to students' tuition so they don't have to bring money on the immunization days. Although Columbia will be prepared to immunize 800 to 900 students over the four days, only three medical personnel will be administering the shots and Odland said he is hoping for a good turnout, just not all at once. "That would be a nightmare," Odland said.

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

## Activity fee increase delayed three years

By Amanda Maurer  
Campus News Editor

Some costs in life are unavoidable; however, Columbia's Student Government Association has decided to delay an increase to the student activity fee for three years.

When the increase goes into effect, the current rate of \$60 per semester will raise to \$75.

Part-time students, who currently pay \$30 each semester, may face a proposed \$10 increase, but has not yet been approved by administrators.

On Oct. 24 the SGA agreed to

increase the activity fee for all students and came up with the idea for a fee freeze so students wouldn't think it would be an annual increase, said Brian Matos, president of the SGA.

The freeze prevents the increase for another three years, unless the SGA decides the college needs the additional funds before then. The SGA agreed on that time frame so current students wouldn't experience multiple increases during their time at Columbia.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, originally

approached the SGA with the proposed increases after administrators reevaluated future costs. They came up with the \$15 raise after agreeing it was a modest but valuable amount, he said.

"We saw a trend in the college and realized that as much money as \$60 a student, full-time, brings in, in the next three to four years, it's not going to be enough," Matos said.

The college divides up activity fees for three groups of recipients. The SGA, Student Athletic Association and student

organizations receive about 20 percent of all fees this year, which topped \$240,000. Next year the college hopes to give them a quarter of the fees.

Chris Schroeder, president of the Student Athletics Association, said the organization is happy to receive the needed funding.

Twenty-five percent of the fees more than \$337,000 will go toward collegewide events. These include Convocation, Manifest, Big Mouth, the Senior Party and a handful of other programs.

Lastly, half of the fees will be used for the management and maintenance of student spaces, including C-Spaces; the Underground Cafe in the Alexandroff Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave.; the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court; and when space is completed in the Spertus Building, 618 S. Michigan Ave.

Although Sarah Bixeman, a sophomore journalism major, does attend a few college events each year, she doesn't think the price increase will be worth it.

"It's ridiculous," she said. "It's already really expensive to go here."

While some students may grumble at the mention of increasing college costs, Columbia's activity fee is among the lowest of local and similar institutions. Roosevelt University has one of the lowest annual fees at \$50, whereas activity fees at the Maryland Institute College of Art and University of Chicago fall around \$200. Loyola University charges students an annual activity fee of \$560.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

## Vending increases questioned by SGA

By Amanda Maurer  
Campus News Editor

After students were greeted with a number of college cost increases this year, Columbia's Student Government Association has decided to work on lowering the recently raised vending machine prices.

This semester students discovered their loose change wasn't enough due to price increases of ten cents or more.

Officials at Mark Vend, Columbia's vending provider, attribute the rising costs to higher business expenses. Prices of the items in vending machines are similar to those purchased at convenience stores around campus.

While the SGA has not called for a vending boycott, members want to reveal alternative ways students can purchase their favorite snacks. They hope students will be less inclined to buy items from the vending machines, which will send a message to Mark Vend that Columbia students will not tolerate the higher prices.

"We just feel that it's too much—enough is enough," said Andy Breen, vice president of the SGA. "We can only spend so much money throughout the course of a day."

Students will soon find fliers on

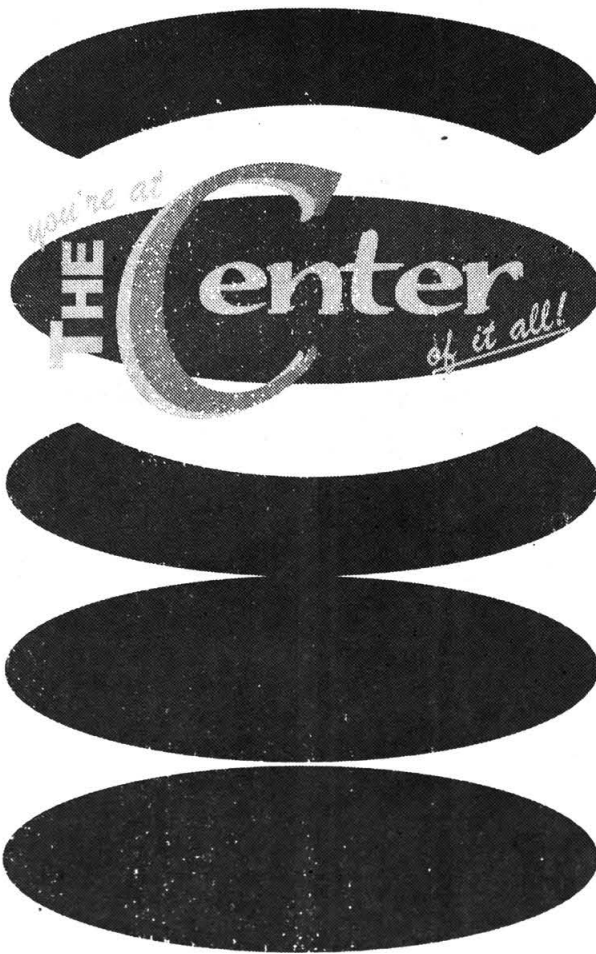
See Increase, Page 11



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Chris Schroeder, representative for the Interactive Arts and Media department, seeks to modify the current amendment on the activity fee increase. The SGA decided on a \$15 raise for full-time students and \$10 for part-time students Oct. 24.





# Attention Columbia Students

The Center Dining Club at University Center has openings for dining plan memberships at the University Center. Dining with friends is an integral part of your college experience. Whether it's a quick bite or the go or a casual sit-down with your friends, a dining plan at University Center makes it possible to refuel and reconnect. Concentrate on school and leave the cooking to us!

**Enjoy great tastes in a great atmosphere by joining today.**

Please contact Center Dining Services at 312-924-8126 to enroll or receive further information.

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

## Concert Hall Events

### Monday October 30

Musician Studio  
with special guest  
Maestro Paul Freeman  
3:30 PM

### Tuesday October 31

Student Jam  
with Gary Yerkins  
12:30 PM

Student Concert Series  
7:00 PM

### Wednesday November 1

Chuck Webb in Concert  
12:30 PM

### Thursday November 2

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby  
12:30 PM



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

# MAKE IT A HABIT, PITCH IN.

for more information contact [recycling@colum.edu](mailto:recycling@colum.edu)

COLUMBIA COLLEGE RECYCLING PROGRAM

we now recycle  
paper, glass,  
aluminum, plastic  
look for recycling centers  
throughout campus



Columbia  
COLLEGE CHICAGO

dceo  
A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE



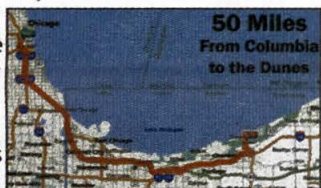
# CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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

## Renegades Cycling - Annual Bike to the Dunes Trip

On October 14th, the Renegades Cycling team had their annual 'Bike to the Dunes' trip. The trip consisted of the team biking from Columbia's campus to the Indiana Dunes, which is an easy 50 mile bike ride for the cycling team. The team camps out for a night before biking home. Visit <http://athletics.colum.edu> for more information.



**Renegades**  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

### ★ CURRENT SPORTS

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

### ★ CURRENT SPORTS INTERESTS

Tennis - Fast-Pitch Softball - 16" Softball  
Women's Volleyball - Women's Basketball  
Men's Volleyball - Kickball - Flag Football  
Raquetball - Women's Lacrosse Swimming  
Dance - Diving - Gymnastics - Cheerleading  
Rugby - Paintball - 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- Thursday 6-8pm & Saturday 3-5pm

### ★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### (W) Volleyball

The Women's Volleyball team is hosting Tryouts on November 8th at 7:15 PM. Tryouts will be at the Roosevelt Gym, Located at 425 S. Wabash, 4th floor.

#### Soccer

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

#### Cross-Country

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

#### 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.

**Happy Halloween!**  
**Have Fun**  
**Columbia!**

#### Men's Basketball

Every Tuesday and Thursday Men's Basketball meets at Roosevelt Gym at 7:00 P.M.

#### 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!

#### 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](mailto:ATHLETICS@COLUM.EDU)

 **U.S. Cellular**  
We connect with you.

[getusc.com](http://getusc.com)  
1-888-buy-uscc



# Ben Harper, Buddy Guy ease tuition costs

## XRT CD sales set to go toward college's Al Parker scholarship

By Jenn Zimmerman  
Assistant Campus News Editor

Jamming out to radio station 93.1 XRT will really pay off for one Columbia student next year.

On Oct. 23, Chicago's "finest rock station" released its newest edition of live music on its CD *ONXRT: Live from the Archives: Volume 9* in Chicagoland Borders stores with Columbia's Al Parker scholarship set to receive a portion of the proceeds from the album's sales.

The scholarship was set up by Columbia in honor of Parker, the former chair of the Radio Department for almost 30 years, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

"[Parker] was a revered figure in radio broadcasting," Kelly said.

According to Jen Hildenbiddle, sponsorship director at XRT, the Al Parker Scholarship was selected along with the after-school program at Metropolitan Family Services, an agency that helps strengthen families through different community-based programs, to split the proceeds fifty-fifty.

"We typically try to pick something primary to what's

going on," Hildenbiddle said. "But we always try to have an arts education element to it."

This will be the first year a university has been selected to be one the beneficiaries of the ONXRT album. In the past, charities tied with tsunami relief or Hurricane Katrina have been among those selected to receive a portion of the sales.

Barbara Calabrese, chair of the Radio Department, said the scholarship was set up shortly after Parker's retirement in '99 and is usually only given out to one student each year.

Calabrese first mentioned the scholarship to XRT last year during one of Columbia's radio advisory meetings.

Michael Damsky, vice president and general manager of the station, attended the meeting and later contacted Calabrese with the idea for the scholarship to be one of the beneficiaries of the album's sales.

Hildenbiddle said the Al Parker Scholarship seemed like a nice fit for the ONXRT album because of its personal Chicago connection. Al Parker's son, Neil, once worked at XRT, plus the station wanted to set up its own scholarship to give out to radio students. However, when the idea came up of having the Al Parker Scholarship be one of



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Students working at Columbia's radio station WCRX host Friday's broadcast. Radio students can now apply to receive the Al Parker scholarship. The college set up the scholarship in Parker's name shortly following his retirement and death in '99.

the recipients of the proceeds from the ONXRT album, it seemed like an easier route.

"[We wanted to find] a scholarship that really fit with XRT that it is still a Chicago-based school," Hildenbiddle said. "And combined with that it was radio and then it turned out that we had this personal connection."

Artists ranging from Ben Harper to Chicago's Buddy Guy are featured on the CD, which

contains live tracks taken from various XRT events.

Sales for the CD should be promising, according to Tom Lisack, director of new media at XRT, who said the previous volume raked in close to \$38,000. And the sales from the first day "topped the pace of the last few years."

Calabrese said the scholarship is worth \$1,500, but is subject to change depending on how much

money can be contributed to the scholarship.

"This is the single largest donation we have had," she said. "We are very pleased and proud."

Students can still apply to receive the scholarship that will take effect starting next fall. Any radio student who is not a freshman can apply.

jzimmerman@chroniclemail.com

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

**Latino foco**

LATINO CULTURAL AFFAIRS

# DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Live Altar Procession at 12-3pm leaving from 623 S Wabash St

Live Mariachi Band & DJ

Traditional Food

Featuring photo exhibition by Mary J. Andrade

Wednesday  
November 1st  
**6-10** 2006 pm

1104 S. Wabash  
at Conway Center

**FREE**



# EMERGENCY INFORMATION

**If necessary, Columbia College Chicago will relocate classes** and administrative and student services located in the 623 and 619 S. Wabash buildings for the **week of Monday October 30.**

This plan will be put into effect should the city of Chicago Office of Emergency Management decide that the College will not have access to the sidewalks around 623 S. Wabash.

Go to **<http://colum.edu/students/>** for daily updates.



Columbia 

COLLEGE CHICAGO



# It's only a drill

## Fire-drill evacuation time brings college's safety into question

By Dana Nelson  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of students crowded two stairwells in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., during a routine fire drill on Oct. 10. They shuffled along, moving slowly down the stairs while keeping upbeat conversations and making jokes with each other. After nearly fifteen minutes, all of the students and faculty were out on the street below where they awaited the approval of the fire marshals to let them back in.

While students may not take fire drills seriously, real fire emergencies and evacuations that resulted from the fire at 630 S. Wabash Ave. on Oct. 24 may mean some students could be in danger.

"It takes too long to get down," said Schuy Jewell, a faculty member in the Science and Math Department, who teaches on the 14th floor. "By the time we finally make it to the ground, we'd be dead."

According to the U.S. National Fire Protection Association, approximately 3,700 people died in fires in the United States in 2005 and 22,000 serious injuries were reported.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

reported that fires in buildings can be more dangerous than those in open spaces. Smoke is trapped by the ceiling, spreading through open spaces and into other parts of the building through holes in the walls. Temperature is also a concern, as heat is trapped within the building and gradually increases as the fire spreads.

Ashley Pflaumer, a junior fiction major who has most of her classes on the 12th floor of the South Campus Building, doesn't think she'd be able to get out in time if there was a fire.

**"You cannot calculate an actual disaster."**

**—Jose Zuniga,  
Chicago Police  
Department officer**

"If it were above me, I'd be fine, but I doubt it would have been OK if it were quickly spreading, considering how slowly everyone was meandering down the stairs," she said.

However, she said she's not worried because she knows she can't do anything about it.

Part of the problem is the construction going on in the alley behind the building, forcing everyone to exit through the front, rather than utilize the alley, said Jeff Wade, the fire marshal on the 14th floor of the

South Campus Building. The other problem is that of the four stairwells to the ground below, only the two internal ones are used during a fire drill, he said.

"We've had people use the exterior exits, but we suggest the interior [stairways] first," said Martha Meegan, director of Campus Safety and Security. "People sometimes have fears of heights, or they wear shoes that could get stuck. But as always, the exterior exits are available."

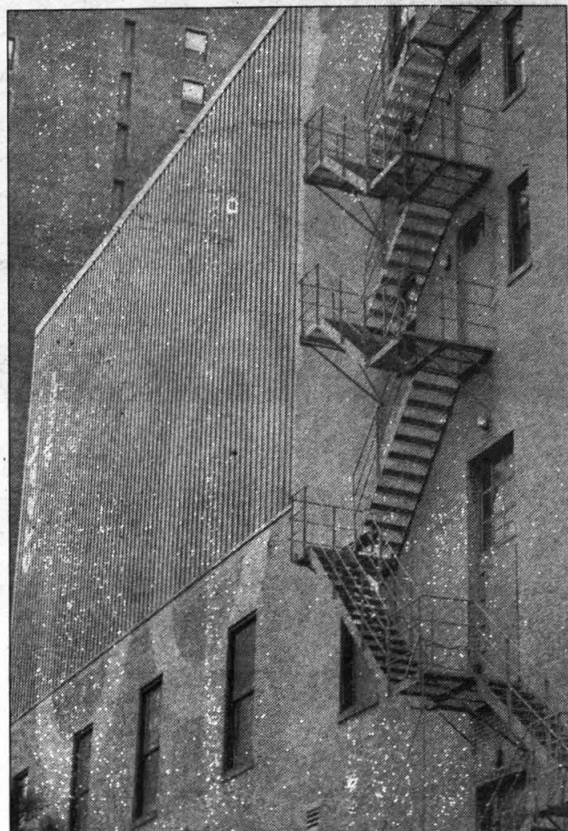
Fire drills are conducted once a semester, including the summer terms, and are as random as possible; however, a drill has never been conducted after 2 p.m. Only Meegan and North and South Campus managers Mike Guidotti and Pat Baker know when the fire drills will occur.

The South Campus Building averages 11.1 minutes to evacuate, according to Campus Safety and Security's records of drills since 2003. When summer semesters are excluded, the approximate time jumps to 12.6 minutes.

Meegan said the time could be cut down anywhere from two to 10 minutes by using exterior exits.

"You cannot calculate an actual disaster," said Chicago Police Department Officer Jose Zuniga. "Milliseconds turn into incredible amounts of time."

Zuniga said in the case of an actual fire, the length of time it takes to evacuate a building is



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

The fire escape stairs at the 11th Street Campus, 72 E. 11th St., and other Columbia buildings are not utilized during routine fire drills.

going to be much longer because the panic of people trying to escape could add on minutes.

"In a moment of panic, no one thinks clearly," Zuniga

said. "All you think about is surviving. Few people would let their lives be lost for others."

See Evacuation, Page 11

## Karma.



## Viva Volunteerism!

Columbia College Community Expo

**When:** Wed. November 8th, 11-2  
**Where:** Hokin Annex,  
623 S. Wabash  
**Who:** Community Partners. Lots  
& **What:** of free food. And you.

DEVELOP ...  
your portfolio and career.

CONNECT ...  
with other students and network with community partners.

ENGAGE ...  
in real world experience.

ENJOY ...  
free food, fresh faces, and the chance to make a difference.



Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO





We thank you for your commitment to the mission of Columbia College Chicago. Your efforts make it possible for our students to experience a supportive and stimulating academic environment!

## 30 Years

ANN KENNEDY, Accounting

## 25 Years

MARY BADGER, Theater  
RICHARD JULIA, Film & Video  
MARY MATTUCCI, Radio  
DEBRA MCGRATH, Enrollment Management  
SUSAN SINDLINGER, Transfer Evaluation  
JEFFREY WADE, Science Institute

## 20 Years

DOREEN BARTONI, School of Media Arts  
MARVIN BOLER, Facilities & Operations  
CHARLES CELANDER, Film & Video  
MICHELLE FERGUSON, Office of Academic Research  
CASIMIR KALINOWSKI, Facilities & Operations  
SHERLENE MCCOY, Marketing  
THOMAS NOWAK, Photography  
DAVID PUSZKIEWICZ, Theater  
VICKIE REAVES-HAYES, Student Employment  
LENA RENTERIA, Journalism  
PATRICIA SMITH, Admissions  
PAUL WOZNIAK, Television  
SEMEI ZAKE, Library

## 15 Years

ROBERT BLINN, Advising Center  
FREDERICK RIFRIG, Library  
WILLIAM FRIEDMAN, Advising Center  
MAUREEN HERLEHY, Enrollment Management  
VIVIAN HERNANDEZ, Accounting  
DENNIS KEELING, Film & Video  
DAVID SMITH, Television

## 10 Years

LAURIE ANN BENDER, Instructional Records  
MARY BLINN, Music  
EILEEN DOMINICK, Film & Video  
STEPHANIE CONAWAY, Museum of Contemporary Photography  
DAVE DENNIS, Radio  
GARY FERGUSON, Information Technology  
ANITA GARZA, Book & Paper  
JASON GRADY, Student Financial Services  
MICHAEL JACKSON, Student Financial Services  
JOAN MCGRATH, Film & Video  
GABINA MORA, Office of Human Resources  
KEJIE PU, Information Technology  
MARK QUILHOT, Interactive Arts & Media  
MARK SRAMEK, Facilities & Operations  
JOHN THOMASSON Jr., Theater  
JULIE TRAINOR, Center for Instructional Technology  
DIANA VANEGAS, Photography  
NIKOLA VLAHOVICH, Film & Video  
ANTHONY WARD, Television

## 5 Years

JAMES ABRAMS, Film & Video  
MARLON BILLUPS, Art & Design  
IVAN BRUNETTI, Webmaster  
LYNN CACHEY, ASL-English Interpretation  
CLARA CARR, Science & Math  
CHARLES CASTLE IV, School of Media Arts  
JO CATES, Office of Academic Research  
PAUL CHIARAVALLE, Office of the President  
SALLIE DOUGLAS-GORDON, Art & Design  
JANET DURAN, Upward Bound Program  
MARY ELLINGSEN, Purchasing  
IRMA FRIEDMAN, Center for Arts Policy  
NANCY GAHAN, Student Financial Services  
STEVE HADLEY, Music Department  
ROLAND HANSEN, Library  
LYDIA JOHNSON, Records  
STEVEN KAPELKE, Office of Provost/VP of Academic Affairs  
ANNICE KELLY, Office of the General Counsel  
LEONARD LEHRER School of Fine & Performing Arts  
JOHN LITTLEJOHN, Admissions  
LETICIA MARTINEZ, Administrative Services  
CYNTHIA MARTINEZ, Admissions  
DAVID MARTS, Graduate School  
DENNIS MCGUIRE, Library  
AMY MITCHELL, Admissions  
JOHN MOSS, Library  
NICHOLAS RABKIN, Center for Arts Policy  
CATHY SHEMASH, Services for Student w/Disabilities  
ELIZABETH SILK, Research, Evaluation & Planning  
DEBORAH SNEAD, Film & Video  
JOANNE VENA, CCAP  
JULIA VOLKMANN, Office of the President  
DARNELL WHEATON, Student Financial Services

create...  
change

The Office of Human Resources congratulates the following employees for their years of service, dedication and contributions to Columbia College Chicago. These individuals will be honored at the annual Service Award Luncheon on November 1, 2006 at the Chicago Hilton & Towers.



# Second City teams up with college for comedy semester

By Jessica Galliant  
Staff Writer

Starting in January, Second City and Columbia's Theater Department are teaming up. Students will have the opportunity to study at its Training Center for the semester-long program Comedy Studies and earn college credit in the process.

Comedy Studies is a program students can take to study comedic performance, history, writing and improvisation. The class will count for 16-credit hours at Columbia, spanning the 15-week spring 2007 semester.

"There's nothing else like it," said Rob Chambers, president of The Second City's Training Center and Education Program. "We always offered these one or

two week summer courses that are mostly populated by college students. From our perspective, this was a natural jumping-off point."

All students in the program will take on the same work load, including classes such as Writing Comic Scenes, Creating Scenes Through Improvisation and Context for Comedy. Classes will be taught by faculty

selected by Second City and Columbia's Theater Department. It will be located at Second City's Training Center, 1616 N. Wells St.

"The program is a broad range of study and immersion in the area of comedy," Chambers said. "It's really interesting. You're not going to get it anywhere else."

Students will be encouraged to attend Second City rehearsals, shows and improvisation sets by other troupes in addition to attending classes full-time.

Brian Shaw, associate chair of the Theater Department, said students in the program will have "really intense, busy days." The students will be scheduled for classes from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. three days a week. The classes will be only for the 16 students accepted into the program, he said.

"It will be a pretty intense experience on their time and thought," Shaw said. "It's really different from the Columbia class structure where you see different people every day. There will probably be some inevitable personality clashes."

At the end of the semester, students will be able to develop and showcase their own work completed while at Second City.

Columbia has had a long relationship with Second City, Shaw said. Sheldon Patinkin, chair of the Theater Department, was one of the original founders of Second City and many of its members teach comedy classes

at Columbia.

"This is exciting for Second City, to create an in-depth curriculum," Shaw said. "They don't really get to do what colleges do."

Applicants for the program must have completed three prerequisite courses or their equivalents to be eligible: Improvisation Techniques I, Acting II: Advanced Scene Study and English Composition II. They must also be juniors and have demonstrated an interest in performance, comic writing and improvisation.

"The prerequisites themselves are to make sure we are at a certain level with students," Chambers said. "We don't want people who are just beginning."

The deadline for applications, originally Oct. 16, was moved to Nov. 1 to allow students more time to apply, Chambers said.

Second City Conservatory student Brian Graf studied at Columbia for a year before leaving to attend the Conservatory. He said Columbia's Theater Department is very good at making connections, but Comedy Studies sounds like a great idea.

"Anybody at Columbia interested in comedy would jump at the opportunity to work or study at Second City," he said. "The training you get at Second City is not only useful in improvisation but it teaches you to think on your feet."

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

## ... And all that Jazz



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Jacob Worley-Hood, a graduate student majoring in interdisciplinary arts, left, sits out for a song and watches Alex Mariani, a freshman music composition major, play in the lobby of the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave., Oct. 26.

## Who wants to be a RA?

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A PEOPLE PERSON?

DO YOU LIKE TO PLAN ACTIVITIES IN WHICH STUDENTS CAN PARTICIPATE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A STUDENT LEADER?

Come on out to:

### Resident Assistant Selection Information Session

You will obtain information on what a RA position calls for

Sessions will be held:

**Sunday September 5th 7:30pm**

Community Lounge 731 S. Plymouth Ct.

For questions please contact:

Kelli Collins - The Associate Director of Res. Life at [Kcollins@colum.edu](mailto:Kcollins@colum.edu)



\*You must attend a session to obtain an application.



## Increase: Mark Vend reps to speak with SGA

*Continued from Page 3*

or near vending machines requesting them to limit or stop their usage of the vending machines, he said.

Daniel Stein, vice president and co-owner of Mark Vend, said this is the first time a school or organization has asked the company to lower its prices.

Stein and Micki Leventhal, Columbia's director of Media Relations, say students already have alternatives to snacks from the vending machines.

"The college supports our students' right to 'shop' anywhere they wish," Leventhal said in an

e-mail. "There are a growing number of alternative locations offering food and snacks on and near campus. The vending machines are, and have always been, supplied as a convenience for students, faculty and staff and no one is in any way obligated to use them."

Representatives from Mark Vend have agreed to hold a meeting with the SGA to discuss the students' concerns.

While SGA members would like to see vending item prices lowered, they would also like to be at least conferred with during the annual vending price review process.

Brian Matos, president of the SGA, said he would have liked to have been consulted last summer when officials from Mark Vend and Columbia agreed on raising the costs.

"Anytime there's a price

increase of any kind, it would make sense to us that we'd at least be notified," Matos said. "If we can't be in the decision-making process, at least give us an opportunity to send a message to the students that [prices are] going up and here's why."

However, Leventhal said it would not be possible to have the SGA approve future price increases because of standard business practices.

But some students feel the SGA should be spending its time on different endeavors.

"I think [lowering] tuition is way more important than vending machines," said Courtney Thompson, a junior radio major. "You don't have to use the vending machines, but you have to go to school."

Matos would like to see students support Columbia organizations

and businesses in the South Loop for their snacking needs.

"It's cheaper, it's reasonable, you still get a great product," Matos said. "It's just that you don't have to pay as much."

Matos believes if Mark Vend continues to raise the costs of its vending items, a decreasing number of students will be willing to pay the high prices. This may push the company to lower its costs as an incentive for students to purchase more.

Stein was not able to comment on the possibility of a price decrease, but said he was confident they would work everything out.

"We are very concerned about the students and their well-being," Stein said. "We really do everything we can to keep it as cost effective as possible, but our operating costs go up."

When Latoya Hines, a junior

journalism major, returned this year, she was surprised to see the raised prices and appreciates the SGA's efforts to lower them. As a student who uses the vending machines often, she likes the convenience but wishes the costs weren't as high.

"If you're in the building and you have a class that day, it's faster to just go downstairs [to the vending machines] than to go all the way to 7-Eleven," she said.

Matos said the SGA would like to be informed about the price increase process so they can explain it to the students.

"When you hear students complaining, you want to give them an explanation," Matos said. "But we have no explanation. We have nothing to tell them, nothing."

[amaurer@chroniclemail.com](mailto:amaurer@chroniclemail.com)

## Evacuation: Fire marshals play key roles in drills

*Continued from Page 8*

Chicago Fire Department spokesman Kevin MacGregor said there is no timetable set for evacuations because it depends on the structure of the building being evacuated.

"You should probably be more concerned about trying to stagger floors so you don't clog up stairwells," MacGregor said. "Try to start with the top floors and bring people down at different intervals."

Fire marshals are appointed in each building and are responsible for making sure everyone

gets out. There is at least one fire marshal for each floor in all the buildings at Columbia adding up to more than 75, Meegan said.

Fire marshals are taught fire prevention and safety methods and are required to maintain the building fire codes, which include maintaining proper fire exits by making sure they're marked and clear of obstacles, keeping fire extinguishers in accessible places and properly storing flammable materials such as cleaning supplies.

Fire marshals also are responsible for identifying students and faculty with disabilities, Wade said. They then notify building or fire rescuers to come to the floor using the emergency elevators, which are powered by

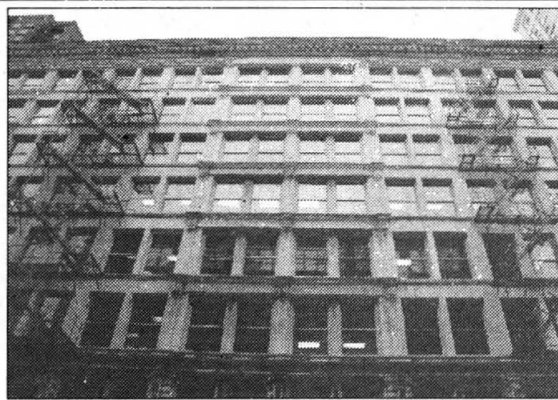
generators in the case that the power goes out.

Any person who may have trouble getting down the stairs because of illness, exhaustion or old age, should go to the point of emergency rescue assistance, Wade said.

Meegan works with the fire marshals to document the conditions of the building and any problems that may have arisen during the fire drill in order to improve the time it may take to evacuate a building.

"We're proud of our fire marshals," Meegan said. "They do a good job getting people out and reporting the conditions. Our cooperation and communication is really good."

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



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

The two fire escapes of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., give students a number of alternatives to exit the building when an emergency occurs.

# {{{{{{ATTENTION STUDENTS!}}}}}}

ARE YOU CURRENT ON YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT BALANCE?

If you're not, you will be restricted from registering. Student Financial Services placed REGISTRATION HOLDS on student accounts that are not current on their balance. Students were notified through their MyOASIS email accounts and called by the SFS Help Line.

In order to have your hold removed, your SFS account must be current!

Check your current balance or financial aid status by logging into OASIS.

Payments can be made through CCCPay, in person at the Cashier Window at 600 S. Michigan 3rd floor, or by mail to Student Financial Services' contact information listed below.

If you have any additional questions or need to review your financing options, contact Student Financial Services by dialing our toll free Help Line at 1-866-705-0200 or visit our Customer Service Options Page - Go to [www.colum.edu](http://www.colum.edu) - click on Current Students - Student Financial Services.



# SPRING 2007

## It's almost time to REGISTER!

Your registration time slot for the Spring semester can be obtained by going to the Register for Classes screen on OASIS (the Students tab, CX- Student Enrollment Portlet, Register for Classes). Set the Current Option Setting to Spring 2007. Time slots are based on the total of your cumulative earned and in-progress credit hours. An e-mail with your registration time slot, and other registration information will also be sent.

Registration time slots do not apply to graduate students. All continuing graduate students register beginning November 6.

**Your OASIS e-mail login format is as follows:**

**Firstname.Lastname**

**Example: Joseph.Smith would be your full e-mail login**

Your e-mail password is the same as your original default OASIS password (until YOU change it). Remember, changing your password in OASIS does NOT change your e-mail password, and vice versa. If you have problems logging into your e-mail account, please contact the Student OASIS Help Line at 312.344.7788.

**Continuing degree-seeking undergraduate registration begins**

**Monday, November 6**

**Open Registration, (all students including degree-seeking & students at large) begins Saturday, January 13**

The above time slots will remain open for registration until Saturday, January 27 at Midnight (CST).

**Orientation for new freshman and transfer students will be in the week of January 8.**

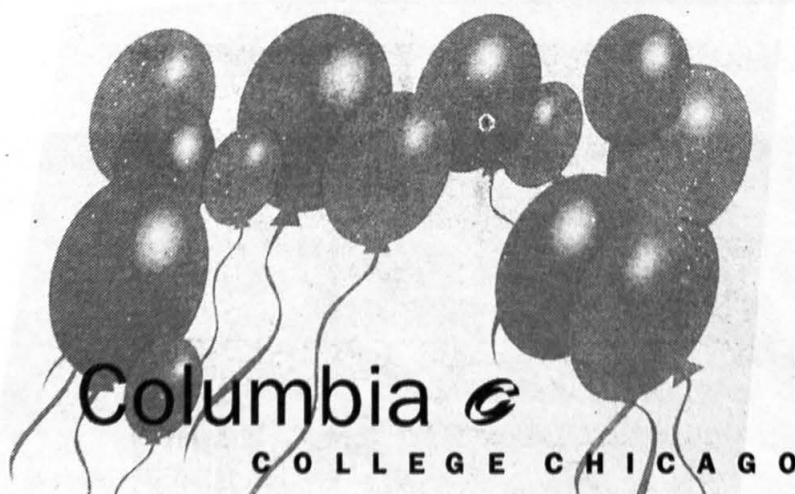
Students who are not current on their balance will be restricted from registering. Log into OASIS to check your balance on your Course and Fee Statement, or your registration hold status on Student Profile - Holds. If you have questions regarding your account balance, or need to review your options to resolve your account, please contact Student Financial Services toll-free Help Line at 1-866-705-0200.

- Check with your major department to determine if faculty advising is required. If so meet with a faculty advisor before your registration time or as soon as possible.
- You will be required to update your Emergency Contact information before you can register. You can also check and update your other addresses.

**Students who do not have a complete immunization record on file with the Records Office will not be allowed to register.** Check the Holds screen on OASIS for an immunization, or any other Hold. Contact the Records Office at 312-344-7224 with any questions.

create...  
change

Photo by Bryan Serafini





## Fire: Some classes canceled, relocated

*Continued from Front Page*

After the fire began on Oct. 24, all classes held in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., were canceled. Another Columbia building, located at 619 S. Wabash Ave., was also closed. A few hours after the fire began, the spreading smoke led to the evacuation of three other Columbia buildings, including the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.; the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave.; and the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, canceling classes in those buildings as well. Columbia officials said the evacuation of the five buildings went relatively well, with no one at Columbia injured as a result of the fire.

"It went pretty smoothly, all things considered," said Mark Lloyd, vice president of Marketing and Communications. "I think we did quite well [considering] that nobody was injured and [there was] no damage to property so far."

The building closures have had a significant impact on the Columbia community. About 1,000 faculty and staff have been affected by the closures. On the day of the fire, 209 classes were canceled, with a total of 3,600 students impacted in some way, according to Lloyd.

Classes remained canceled throughout the rest of the week in the Wabash Campus Building and the 619 S. Wabash Ave. building due to the closures. The buildings were in the collapse zone, the area which can be damaged if the Dexter building were to fall. The three other evacuated buildings were reopened the next day, and classes were no longer adversely affected.

Columbia has developed a contingency plan for classes held in the Wabash Campus Building, by relocating classes temporarily in other Columbia buildings. The solution is not perfect, Lloyd admits, because many departments in the Wabash Campus Building are dependent on

technology not available at other locations.

"As you can tell, there are 120 sections, approximately, per day that would require some kind of rescheduling," Lloyd said. "That's a pretty big logistical load to try to lift."

Curricula will be adjusted by department chairs and instructors to make up for any time lost in the classroom.

Updates on the status of the two buildings are being posted on Columbia's website, [colum.edu](http://colum.edu), OASIS and at residence halls.

"We're using any available mechanism we know of in order to be able to communicate [with students, faculty and staff]," Lloyd said.

For students who have courses in the Wabash Campus Building, a schedule of relocated classes will be posted at [www.colum.edu/students](http://www.colum.edu/students). Students, faculty and staff can sign up for an e-mail list for updates on rescheduling.

As of press time, Columbia officials were unsure when the two closed buildings will be safe enough for students to occupy. The college remains in close contact with Chicago's Office of Emergency Management to establish when the remains of the Dexter building no longer pose a risk to Columbia's buildings or pedestrians.

"It's an ongoing process," said Kevin Smith, spokesman for the Office of Emergency Management. "We're

going to make sure the demolition goes as safely as it can, and when it gets done then we'll be able to move forward into other areas."

Demolition of the Dexter building

ing began on Oct. 25, and as of Oct. 27, the Dexter building remained in "imminent danger of collapse," according to Micki Leventhal, director of Columbia's Media Relations Department. Functions vital to the college, such as the phone center, have been temporarily moved to other Columbia buildings. Other administrative functions have been temporarily suspended.

"We're in a crisis situation," Leventhal said. "We are handling it and doing the best we can ... we will be reassessing as the situation changes."

Peter Scales, spokesman for Chicago's Department of Buildings,



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

A firefighter makes his way up a ladder at the site of the vacant Wirt Dexter building, 630 S. Wabash Ave., on Oct. 24.

said the remaining front facade of the building, as of press time, has shifted by about a foot and there were worries that it might collapse.

"It's very unstable," Scales said. "It could fall into the street. It's kind of leaning over."

Another concern was the flooding of nearby buildings due to constant drenching of the Dexter building along with worries about debris from the demolition falling onto the CTA tracks, which crews covered with scaffolding to prevent damages.

"There are a couple of basements flooded and we're helping to pump those out," MacGregor said. "They were pumping those out a couple of days ago after the immediate glut of water, since then I don't know if the sewers are taking it."

One problem officials are still trying to solve is when the CTA can use the tracks that run behind the building again, Smith said.

The George Diamond Steak House used to have quite the reputation in the South Loop. It was a landmark building that over the years had fallen on harder times.

"You could tell that it was a place that at one time was very elegant," said Leonard Strazewski, a journalism professor at Columbia who had eaten there before it closed down in 1999. "It had the red velvet booths, paintings. It was the kind of place that 35 to 40 years ago would be considered very fancy." Strazewski said the steak house used to charbroil everything, even vegetables, and butter used to be homemade.

As the symphonies of wailing sirens died down, the smoke continued to linger in the sky throughout the week. The demolition itself posed a few problems for the construction crews last week and the scheduled timelines were pushed back.

"It just keeps flaring up," said Peter Scales, spokesman for Chicago's Department of Buildings. "They've got 16-inch timbers there and when it's all buried in rubble and it can still smolder. Once other things get cleared away it has a tendency to reignite. It's a common thing." Scales said he is not sure of an exact timeline for the completion of the demolitions but thinks it's going to take two weeks.

According to Scales, the demolition of the building was problematic because of its age and construction. It had very large timber beams and floors made of wood that were more than 100 years old, which tends to burn easily, he said. The demolition, as of Oct. 27, involved the removal of an elevator shaft, which was a problem because of its size and the amount of steel.



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Firefighters spray water onto large flames that had engulfed the roof by 5 p.m. from one of several ladder trucks. By 6 p.m. the roof of the building had almost entirely collapsed.

[cjakubowski@chroniclemail.com](mailto:cjakubowski@chroniclemail.com)  
[jjaworski@chroniclemail.com](mailto:jjaworski@chroniclemail.com)



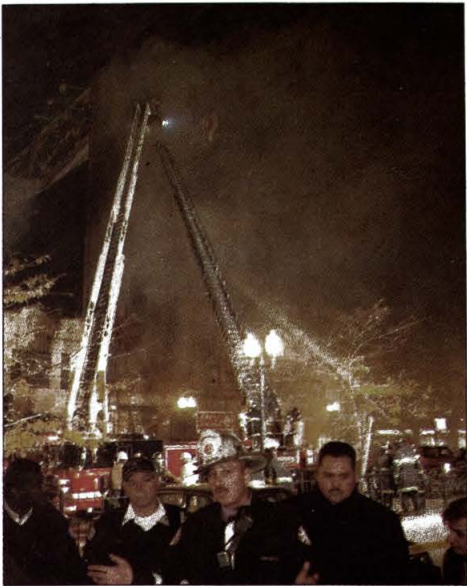
# Up in smoke

*A photo essay*



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Deputy District Chief of District 1 Tony Romano talks on the radio while other firefighters battle the extra-alarm blaze at the Wirt Dexter Commercial Lofts in the South Loop on Oct. 24.



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Fire Commissioner Raymond Orozco speaks to the press while firefighters battle the extra-alarm fire at the vacant building.



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

A firefighter from District Two breaks windows to gain entry to a fire on the upper level of the historical building



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

A firefighter from Ladder 5 yells down to other firemen on Wabash Avenue during the Oct. 24 blaze.





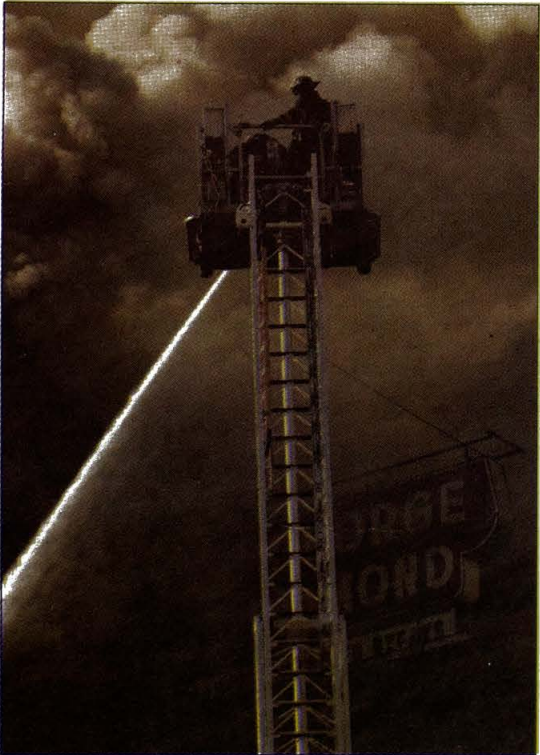
Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Firefighters from Engine 1, the first to arrive on the scene, prepare to fight flames on the west side of the vacant Wirt Dexter Commercial Lofts.



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Chicago firefighters from Engine 8 cover their mouths as smoke rushes out of the east side of the burning building moments before they were ordered to evacuate.



Michael Jarecki/The Chronicle

Firefighters battle an extra-alarm fire on the former site of George Diamond Steakhouse on Oct. 24.



# The CTA held my U-Pass hostage



By Cyril Jakubowski  
Commentary Editor

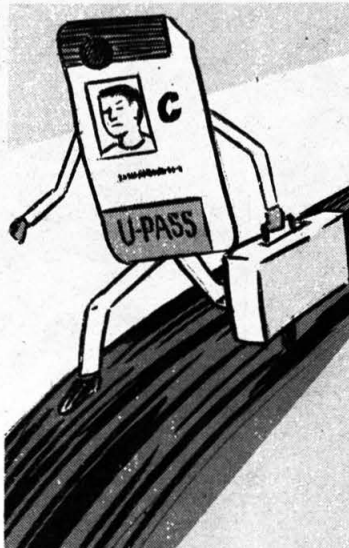
Let me preface this by saying that I'll try to keep this professional and refrain from using any obscenities or various forms of unnecessary vulgarity. But when my U-Pass was captured by CTA turnstiles two weeks ago, it sent me up the fricking wall. It was such a maddening experience that to this day I'm still riding the rails with money out of my own pocket because the "courtesy 5-day pass" that the CTA provides when this happens is done and gone. If this never happened to you consider yourself lucky.

It was Oct. 18, and being the well-respected journalist that I am, I tried to get into the office early and get the drop on looming deadlines. It was 7:50 a.m.—the coffee hour—and I inserted my U-PASS into the turnstile. Usually it perks back up like a middle finger in heavy traffic. However, this time, it wasn't a middle finger; instead, nothing reappeared.

I was stuck in limbo between a bright future of getting to work on time and a dark, lousy day blocked by those fare turnstiles.

So I clicked my heels together and yelled "garçon" in my best French accent and waved at the CTA customer service attendant at the Cumberland Blue Line stop to help me out. The man started to bang lethargically on the box and I thought "I could have done that."

But his efforts were futile and eventually he said, "Oh, we're going to have to do paperwork."



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Apparently I'm not alone and it's not just Columbia students whose passes get captured. 40 U-Passes were captured last semester, according to Darcy Wittberger, student activities coordinator in Columbia's Office of College Wide Events, and that's not counting lost or stolen ones. Since January of this year, 985 U-Passes were captured by the CTA according to Wanda Taylor, CTA spokesperson. In the case of a captured U-Pass, a student must fill out a Fare Discrepancy Report, which verifies that his card was captured.

The Fare Discrepancy Report doesn't

solve anything and, apparently, further action is required. Now, when they say "further action required," they mean I have to take time out of my busy schedule to trek up to the CTA General Offices at 567 W. Lake St. to report my own incident. The CTA says this is to verify that the U-Pass belongs to you.

Now, I'm filling out the form and thinking, "Why can't we just open the turnstile and get my U-Pass out?" But this is the CTA, and things are never that simple. The guy hands me a new fare card for two rides and urges me to file the report. I was already late for work at that point.

"CTA apologizes for your inconvenience," the report said on the first line. I think they stopped being sorry when the honorable mention was given to postal workers for their services. They don't call it snail-mail for nothing.

The trek was daunting on Oct. 23, because a warehouse fire disrupted the Green Line, so I opted to walk. I was out of breath as I crossed the Chicago River, winking at the Chicago Sun-Times building. Upon arrival at the general offices, I climbed the stairs to the second floor, where I waited. And waited. And waited. I wasn't waiting because there was a line, since there was no one there on that bright Monday morning besides the cashier.

Finally, she motions for me to step forward, and I fill out a U-Pass Incident Form, which lets CTA know where to send my U-Pass.

Now all I have is time. It takes five to seven days for the U-Pass to get back to me once the report is filed and the U-Pass is mailed to the school, in this case to Columbia's Office of College Wide Events,

which gets packages of U-Passes every Monday. Failure to fill out and report the form could mean that it can take more than 2 weeks to get the precious U-Pass back.

I say precious because, really, the U-Pass is the only gem that a commuting college student has—if you don't count spare beer money and optimism. And the CTA knows this.

The CTA implemented the U-Pass program in 1998, generating from 1.7 to 2.8 million new riders that year, according to a 2003 report published by Transportation Research Board, which serves as an adviser to the government. With the success of the program meant to attract more riders and persuade post-college students to use the CTA in the future—satisfaction with the program has been increasing. About 90 percent strongly agreed for the continuation of the program, according to surveys in the document.

While the U-Pass definitely makes travel on the rails easier and less expensive, these captured U-Pass procedures are outrageous. According to the same report, turnstiles require considerable maintenance to work smoothly.

On average 1.5 million rides are taken daily on the CTA. More so, 93,000 students participate in the U-Pass program at 41 participating college and universities, so you know, that equipment gets used more than Prozac at Woody Allen's house. I know maintenance men check the equipment regularly and there is no way to make this equipment flawless. But the process of getting your U-Pass back should be improved. Perhaps new turnstiles are in order. Either way, my answer to "CTA apologizes for the inconvenience," is not fit to print.

## Roamin' Numerals

57

The percent of Americans who support a federal law to ban cigarettes within the next decade, a poll claims. The poll, conducted by Zogby International and Drug Policy Alliance, said that in the 18-29 demographic, nearly half would favor that idea, according to kxan.com, an NBC affiliate.

300

The number of Liberty High School seniors who were taking their commemorative photographs in Seattle, WA when they were attacked by a swarm of yellow jackets that went wild after a student stepped on a nest "big enough to fill a five-gallon bucket," according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. After the Oct. 25 attack, 44 students had yellow jacket stingers left in them.

1000

The weight of a giant roll of toilet paper that caught on fire in the back of a semi trailer in Miami, Fla., according to The Associated Press. It took Miami-Dade firefighters more than two hours to extinguish the fire. Firefighters had to use a forklift to get it off the semi-trailer.

## Who watches the watchmen?



By Steve Baltrukonis  
Copy Editor

Two reporters for the San Francisco Chronicle, Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams, are currently fighting a federal subpoena which forces them to make a difficult choice: reveal the source of leaked grand jury testimony or face an 18 month stay in a federal penitentiary. What did these two publish, drawing so much attention from our courts?

It was testimony from Barry Bonds stating that he had taken steroids.

If we can't take a source where it's found—so long as said source is reasonably legitimate, as in this example specifically—without losing sleep over a potential stay in the big house, how can we be expected to watch the watchmen in the first place? It is the duty of journalists to play the whistle-blower when it is necessary, and today that duty is threatened.

Sadly, those two Frisco sports writers aren't alone in their recent problems concerning journalistic rights.

A freelance journalist, Jarvie Kalven, lived in a South Side housing public housing

development called Stateway Gardens. His experience led to research which culminated in a 17-part piece called "Kicking the Pigeon." It made some harsh claims dealing with abuse perpetrated by Chicago police officers against citizens of that community, and more specifically, complaints of sexual abuse made by a woman named Diane Bond.

A civil rights lawsuit followed his articles' publication, during which Kalven was subpoenaed by the Chicago Police Department asking him for all notes relating to all individuals involved in the case—officers and otherwise. The police had already called Kalven forward as a witness; a fact which would have conflicted with his involvement in Bond's case. Kalven refused, citing the First Amendment as his defense. But two petitions soon found their way to a judge requesting to know why Kalven wasn't being held in contempt of court.

Abdon Pallasch's story is similar. In the process of writing a book, Pallasch faced jail time for refusing to surrender notes and recordings dealing with one subject involved in his book, who happened to be an FBI mole. Initially Pallasch declined to release his notes, but caved in order to keep the presiding judge's opinion on the matter from damaging further rights of journalists. But

the harm was done in the initial refusal, and now Illinois journalists have fewer shields—laws concerning a journalist's ability to keep a source anonymous—than ever before.

To illustrate my point on the necessity of journalist's rights, take the example of a British journalist by the name of Stephen Grey. Grey recently appeared on NPR's Fresh Air, claiming that dozens of terror suspects are still being held in secret prisons for interrogation by the CIA, which Bush had recently denied.

But on Oct. 17 a bill was enacted that further rolls back the rights of so-called "unlawful enemy combatants." This pretty much means that congress now supports Bush in what he was doing behind their back all along. Now individuals can officially be held without charge indefinitely, and there are even fewer rights protecting against methods of interrogation involving torture. Politicians continue to lie to us, and as long as they do, journalists should strive to expose it. But nowadays those in a position to expose the lies are in a precarious place: expose the lie and expose oneself as a tattler in the process or keep the public in the dark.

Something is wrong. In high school we all learned that it takes three branches to check and balance a government, but I am of the

opinion that's a misleading statement. The early 1970s-era Watergate debacle taught us that there is an unofficial fourth branch of the government: the press. Woodward and Bernstein risked a lot to expose Nixon's backhanded tactics, and by doing so, crumbled a corrupt administration. They exposed something very wrong, and they did so through the use of an unnamed source. Anonymous sources aren't just useful; they've proven to be downright necessary; more so the higher one climbs the political ladder.

And here people are facing federal prison stays for not revealing a source dealing with baseball. Journalism is in a shabby state. Fox airs opinion shows masquerading as hard-core news almost every night of the week, blindly supporting the current administration and damning just about everyone but the Republicans (for more, see *Outfoxed: Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism* by Robert Greenwald). It's become increasingly clear over the last few years that something is broken at the top of the ladder politically. If there's a time for journalists to take leaks where they can find them to expose what they can, the time is now. But it's also never been a scarier time for a journalist to have to withhold the source of a leak.

## THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

www.ColumbiaChronicle.com

Hayley Graham  
Hester Clavess  
Editors in Chief

Eric Kasang  
James H. Ewell Jr.  
City Beat Editors

Cyril Jakubowski  
Commentary Editor  
Jim Jaworski  
Associate Editor

Jenn Zimmerman  
Steven Yaccino  
Assistant Campus Editors

Mary Kroecke  
Michael Claire  
Brent Steven White  
Assistant A&E Editors

Michael Jarecki  
Photo Editor

Jon Jones  
Advertising Manager

Charles Sievert  
Webmaster  
Kim Habum  
Copy Chief  
Steve Baltrukonis  
Christine Mahmeister  
Copy Editors

Christopher Richert  
General Manager

Tiffany Brynne  
Jennifer K. Fischer  
Managing Editors

Allison Triggs  
Assistant City Beat Editor

Amanda Maurer  
Campus Editor

Mark Byrne  
A&E Editor

Jennifer Crider  
Joshua Covarrubias  
Graphic Designers

Mauricio Rubio  
Andrew Nelles  
Assistant Photo Editors

Katherine Neville  
Account Executive

Mink Dumke  
Jim Sukai  
Faculty Advisors



# Editorials

## Columbia makes valiant effort

Fire lover and rogue author Hunter S. Thompson once wrote, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro." Dr. Thompson's famous line, albeit a bit vague, still applies. Things turned weird on Oct. 24, when the six-story landmark Wirt Dexter loft building, which once housed the George Diamond Steak House, went up in smoke.

What seemed like a minor fire early Tuesday afternoon, with hundreds of Columbia students snapping photos from their cell phones, turned into a full-blown 5-11 Energizer bunny of a fire which was still smoking on Oct. 27. If the administration was waiting to test its Emergency Response Plan, it got the chance, and for what it's worth it delivered.

Confusion, particularly with this situation, was expected, both from the city and the college. At the beginning the Chicago Police and Fire departments ran the show. But as more fire engines showed up and more streets were shut down, the administration evacuated most of Columbia's buildings north of Balbo Drive before city officials said to.

Charcoal filters and class contingency plans aside, we can't applaud an initial knee-jerk reaction to a situation that could have been dangerous. While this is in no way an

attempt at creating doomsday scenarios, this was a test of Columbia's abilities in emergency response. While the administration stood in the face of danger, there are bigger issues to address here, mainly dealing with readiness for whatever may come in the future.

Hypothetically speaking, if there was a true catastrophe that threatened students' lives, would the administration be able to respond effectively?

What can we learn from this? For one, this is the perfect time to think about implementing something as simple as a public address system. Yes, it's an old idea, but it works miracles in hospitals and high schools. Not everybody has access to OASIS for latest campus news. In fact, nobody checks OASIS in the first place.

While Columbia did respond, the situation created much confusion. The city also needs to consider this as a test of readiness. And while the stubborn fire was the topic of water cooler talk throughout last week, it still begs the question: If a six-story building fire can shut down the entire South Loop, how prepared is the city of Chicago, or even Columbia, if something bigger happens?

When the immigration protests in May shut down most of downtown, that too was a test. The truth is that

when anything happens that requires emergency response, the downtown area suffers. Cars gridlock the area, the CTA reroutes trains and, of course, there are heavier travel times on the Eisenhower—the primary worry of your average downtown commuter.

While most of the community was shocked by the fire, it was a sad sight to see it being torn down last week because it was deemed unstable by Chicago Fire Department officials.

Either way, spectators lined State Street and watched wrecking crews take apart the remaining skeleton of the legendary building. However, truth be told, landmark or not, the place was beat up. Some have even said that it was a frequent refuge for vagrants.

The Loop is changing, with new redevelopment projects sprouting up regularly. In George Diamond's case, yes, the landmark building fell into bad times over the years, but aside from landmark status, what good was it serving beside sitting and waiting for this fire?

Landmark status buildings are hard to redevelop. One can't simply tear them down and build something new. Likely, the demolition of the building will do more good than harm for the South Loop as well as the owner. Four words: Property values in the South Loop.

## Crime has a silver lining

Columbia likes to fly the concept of an "urban campus." Big city, bright lights. But our residence in the South Loop neighborhood comes with all sorts of strange problems.

The Columbia community resides in one of the most dangerous cities in the nation, and we are in a neighborhood, while nice in some areas, is a bit dicey in others. With all of the problems that we are presented with everyday, we, as a community, gain a perspective that is not possible in many other colleges and universities across the country.

As a campus, we are surrounded by crime. Some classes end late, and stories are told of near-muggings on the dark path to the el. An overly aggressive homeless man can quickly turn into a terrifying experience for those who make their homes in safer places.

Everybody has a story about South Loop crime. Or, at the very least, has a friend with such a story. Yet, everybody seems to fear entering the "real world." Perhaps it won't be so intim-

idating when we realize that we are already halfway there.

No, not from a career standpoint. Columbia students still exist under the same protective academic bubble that exists at any other college or university.

Where we are is the "real world," the world outside that bubble.

Going to school in the city offers a perspective that cannot be duplicated in the typical college town. While some have complained we are robbed of a "college experience," also known as 17 keggers per square mile, we may just become adults a bit sooner.

Most of us have been to college towns, such as Carbondale or Champaign, to visit a friend or hit up a party. In these strange lands, reality seems to stand still. Everybody is your age. Everybody is drunk. It is a world unto itself, that once you leave, you will never see a place like that again.

Sure, we can move to the suburbs, or even Lincoln Park, and still live in the same glass bowl that is protected from the rest of the

world. We can avoid the poor places, if we try hard enough.

But here at Columbia, we can't, and that is a lesson worth learning. To see the harsh reality that is the city of Chicago is to experience all of the harsh realities of humanity.

With that comes a maturity, a certain sense of aging before our time. The things we see around here can depress even the sturdiest of souls. We can easily ignore the crime and the homeless, but these things we should never forget. Hell, maybe we can even help out.

As we trudge forward through our lives, it is important to remember the plight of the human race. The most tragic and ignorant fault we can develop is a lack of humility.

Sure, typical college towns are safer. Parents worry and they get peace of mind knowing that. But our experience in the real world is something no instructor can teach and, unlike some classes, gives knowledge that doesn't fade in a few short months.

It's scary out there, but we're better people for it.

## Back from the Drawing Boards



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



### Representing student voices

As I pass students on campus I'm often congratulated for receiving the position of student representative on Columbia College's Board of Trustees. The people who stop me have seen my picture in *The Chronicle* and know I'm doing something noteworthy. Too often, that's all they understand about my involvement.

This position on Columbia's Board is the first of its kind in the past 30 years. The purpose of the position is not necessarily common knowledge to our student population. It should be. Why, you ask? Because it's a big deal for our student population.

The Board of Trustees makes every major decision at this college. It decides the budget, which includes voting on what new property the school acquires, and the amount of money dedicated to a specific academic program. They're the individuals that will decide Columbia's tuition rates in the coming years, whether or not to cap enrollment, and when our school can financially afford to build a campus center. It even chooses who will sit as the president of our institution.

With that said, having a student representative is an amazing opportunity. My job is not to report back to the students with what I've learned from attending board meetings. In fact, that isn't even an option. Most, if not all, information is confidential.

Instead, it is my responsibility to reach out to students and gain a better understanding of their experience and impres-

sion of Columbia. To do that, I need to ask the tough questions. How do you feel about our schools' financial assistance through grants and scholarships? Are you academically interacting with other majors? Why or why not?

Although I do not have a vote, it is my job to help the Board of Trustees make decisions based upon what I believe is best for the school. However, an aspect of my decision-making process is also what is best for the general student population.

I communicate with a variety of Columbia students already, as my position includes being an executive board member of the Student Government Association. But I firmly believe that the more students I interact with, the more informed I will be as a student representative. I encourage anyone and everyone to let me know about their Columbia College experience.

The Board of Trustees often addresses issues that deal with the bigger picture at our school and so not all issues brought forward to me may apply to my position. However, the Student Government Association has representation on nearly every administrative committee at Columbia and I am more than willing to pass on information to the appropriate individual.

I am available on Tuesdays from 4-9 PM and Thursdays from 1-6 PM in the student organization HUB, located in the lower level of 1104 S. Wabash. At those times I can also be reached by phone at (312) 344-6657. You may also e-mail me any time at [studenttrustee@colum.edu](mailto:studenttrustee@colum.edu).

So please don't hesitate to contact me. I'm a "college kid" just like everyone else and would love to have a conversation about our school.

Annie Kelly, Student Trustee

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

Why not write a Letter to the Editor? At the bottom of Page 17 you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

The Columbia Chronicle is a student-produced publication of Columbia College Chicago and does not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, the views of college administrators, faculty or students.

All text, photos and graphics are the property of The Columbia Chronicle and may not be reproduced or published without written permission.

Editorials are the opinions of the Editorial Board of The Columbia Chronicle. Columns are the opinions of the author(s).

Views expressed in this publication are those of the writer and are not the opinions of The Columbia Chronicle, Columbia's Journalism Department or Columbia College Chicago.

Letters to the editor must include full name, year, major and phone number. All letters are edited for grammar and may be cut due to a limited space.

Letters can be faxed to (312) 344-8430, e-mailed to [Chronicle@colum.edu](mailto:Chronicle@colum.edu) or mailed to The Columbia Chronicle, 33 E. Congress Parkway Suite 224, Chicago, IL 60605-1996.

Press releases  
[Chronicle@colum.edu](mailto:Chronicle@colum.edu)

Advertisements  
[Chronicle@colum.edu](mailto:Chronicle@colum.edu)

The Columbia Chronicle  
33 E. Congress Parkway  
Suite 224  
Chicago, IL 60605-1996

Main line: (312) 344-8999  
Advertising Fax: (312) 344-8032  
Newsroom Fax: (312) 344-8430

[www.ColumbiaChronicle.com](http://www.ColumbiaChronicle.com)



# Apple Store - Columbia College



## Sounds good. Does good.

### iPod nano (PRODUCT) RED™

1,000 songs, 4GB, \$199.

create...  
change




Apple will give \$10 from the purchase of your iPod nano (PRODUCT) RED Special Edition to the Global Fund to fight AIDS in Africa.

Suite 224  
33 East Congress Parkway  
(312)-344-8622  
[www.colum.edu/applestore](http://www.colum.edu/applestore)  
[applestore@colum.edu](mailto:applestore@colum.edu)  
Facebook Group: Columbia Apple Students

Fall Store Hours  
Monday 10:00 am - 6:00pm  
Tuesday 2:00pm - 6:00pm  
Wednesday 1:00pm - 6:00pm  
Thursday 2:00pm - 6:00pm  
Friday 10:00 am - 6:00pm

For every \$100 in-store purchase of Apple products, you can enter to win an iPod speaker system\*  
\*expires November 15th

Columbia   
COLLEGE CHICAGO

 Authorized Campus Store



## Referenda: Proposals gauge public opinion on various issues

Continued from Back Page

The Center for Citizen Advocacy, based in west suburban Elmhurst, often promotes citizens using referenda as a way to bring specific issues to the forefront. Terry Pastika, the organization's executive director, said what the center does, among other community organizing strategies, is guide people through the process of drafting a question and getting a petition signed.

Pastika said Illinois has two types of referenda: advisory, which can only recommend or suggest a measure; and binding, which is legally effective, but

**"Advisory referendums are kind of a more direct democracy. It's a lot different then just circulating a petition..."**

—Terry Pastika, executive director of the Center for Citizen Advocacy

binding referenda are rarely used. She said the referenda system in Illinois offers a narrow margin for passing binding referenda because it must regard a constitutional issue, unlike the system in California, where voters can change the tax structure. "Advisory referendums are kind of a more direct democracy," Pastika said. "It's a lot different than just circulating a petition because when you circulate a petition, you kind of have control in terms of who signs the petition, but when you have the ballot question it's putting the question directly to the voters."

Pastika said her group has gotten numerous advisory referenda onto the DuPage County's ballot over the past few years, including one that set up a township government in Downers Grove.

The center has also worked with community organizations in placing referenda regarding the withdrawal of troops from Iraq in several areas. This year four different communities in Cook County have referenda regarding the withdrawal of troops from Iraq.

Generally, much of the referenda placed on the ballot involves questions about school funding of

specific taxing suggestions.

In the cities of Park Ridge and Prospect Heights, there are referenda asking if the city should restrict the number of aldermen to one per ward to seven and five respectively.

In Schaumburg, there is an option to allow voters participating in primary elections to avoid having to declare a party affiliation.

Pastika said bringing the results of a referenda to political leaders is much different than bringing them a signed petition because referenda are questions posed to the entire community.

35th Ward Alderman Rey Colón used a referendum earlier this year in his ward's Logan Square neighborhood to get an idea of how his constituents felt about the big box ordinance.

"The ordinance received something like 84 percent of the vote and that is why I refused to flip on the issue when the veto came up," Colón said. "That was before both sides of the argument were really heard, but I think even now the majority would support it."

Colón said he has used referenda in the past to poll his constituents about affordable housing, Chicago's smoking ordinance, gambling and landmarking status. In each case Colón said he has found the referenda measure extremely effective in gauging public opinion, but said no other aldermen has done the same.

On the upcoming ballot for several precincts in the 35th Ward is a referendum asking whether or not Colón should continue the eminent domain process he started at the site of Mega Mall, 2500 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The building was previously cited for building code violations, but the issues have since been corrected. Colón initially began the process to install a park at the site, but is reconsidering. Colón said the referendum is being used by his political opponents as a political wedge.

"I've used [referenda] in the past as a poll of sorts, but now it's being used for leverage against me," Colón said.

[jewert@chroniclemail.com](mailto:jewert@chroniclemail.com)

## South Side playtime



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Anthony Smith plays around with his dog, Mama, on the corner of 38th Street and King Drive on Oct. 25. Smith has owned Mama for about two months.

**Perform for a semester. Make memories for a lifetime.**

### WE'RE LOOKING FOR TALENTED STUDENT PERFORMERS!

The Disney Theme Parks & Resorts College Program is seeking **Animated Characters** and **Parade Performers** to perform at the **Walt Disney World® Resort** near Orlando, FL.

Special consideration will be given to Disney Animated Character "look-alikes" and individuals 4'8" – 5' and 6' – 6'3".

Applicants must view an online presentation and attend an audition.

Check out our Web site at [www.disneycollegeprogram.com/entertainment](http://www.disneycollegeprogram.com/entertainment) for further details and an online application.

### AUDITION

**Saturday, November 4, 2006**

Lou Conte Dance Studio

1147 W. Jackson Blvd. • Chicago, IL 60607

**5:00 pm**

Please arrive 30-60 minutes before the audition time to register

MINIMUM \$5,000 COMPENSATION

### EGG DONORS NEEDED!

Help Make A  
**Dream  
Come True.**



The Center for  
**EGG  
Options  
LLC**

Our egg donor program is completely anonymous and is owned and operated by our professional and caring nursing staff. We are in need of healthy, non-smoking females between the ages of 21-30 years old. Local physicians and gas reimbursement are available.

- Matches made quickly.
- 24/7 donor support.

**847.656.8733**  
**773.490.EGGS**  
[www.egg411.com](http://www.egg411.com)  
[info@egg411.com](mailto:info@egg411.com)



EDE • Drawing Creativity from Diversity • ©Disney



Receive a

\$25

Gift Certificate

..... for any

# PRINTERS ROAST CAFE

when you open a FREE Checking Account  
at Dearborn Location only.\*  
47 W. Polk Street, Chicago



**Chicago Community Bank.**  
Be part of our family.

47 W. Polk Street, Chicago - Dearborn Station  
180 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago

1110 W. 35th Street, Chicago  
1800 S. Halsted Street, Chicago

(773) 927-6200 [www.chicagocommunitybank.com](http://www.chicagocommunitybank.com)

\*New money only. Must open a Free Checking Account with minimum deposit of \$100 to receive offer. Offer only available at our Dearborn branch, 47 W. Polk Street. Offer subject to change without notice. Gift Certificate may be substituted with item of equal or greater value. Gift Certificate is considered taxable per IRS rulings and is reportable on IRS Form 1099-BIT. Limit one per customer. Limit one per household. Limited time offer. Offer valid until 12/31/06 or while supplies last. We reserve the right to cancel promotion at any time.



## Creepin' up the menu

### Insects featured on hors d'oeuvres at Chicago museum

By Eloise Marie Valadez/AP

Care for a cricket with your pinot grigio? How about some sauteed dandelions with your sauvignon blanc? Guests who attended a recent reception at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive in Chicago tested their adventurous spirits and palates as they feasted on elegantly presented, albeit creepy crawly, hors d'oeuvres.

The snap, crackle and pop heard while they chewed, however, had nothing to do with Rice Krispies and everything to do with wings, antennae and seasoned thoraxes.

Those exotic appetizers were the stars of "Off the Eaten Path," an event sponsored by the Explorers Club, an international organization dedicated to promoting field research, and Redwood Creek Wines, a California winery.

Gene Rurka, a chef and the club's exotic foods chairman, said the menu he produced wasn't designed to shock anyone or deliberately make them squeamish.

"We have to look at alternatives to our food sources sooner or later," Rurka said. "These are things we never considered, but if we had to we could."

He added there are many creatures, as well as plants, seeds and other flora, that can be adequately used as food.

"This is sustenance," Rurka said, pointing to the array of dishes on a display at the reception. "What's on the plate there can feed a family of 10 for a week."

Among items concocted by Rurka were fried yucca root and flower pancakes, black currant and roasted ant tarts, rosemary rattlesnake cakes, spicy fried cactus pods, baked worm pretzels, scorpions served on sun-dried tomato cream cheese and endive with North American cricket served with pear cactus jelly.

He explained that all of the insects used in creating the evening's dishes were farm-raised.

Appreciating insects and unusual plants and flowers, for most people, is definitely an "acquired" taste, but Rurka believes we can all stand to "expand our horizons."

The Explorers Club, founded in 1904, promotes education and research in physical, biological and natural sciences.

According to the club's website, members have been the first to get to the North Pole, South Pole and scale Mt.



AP

Peggy Notebaert indulges in one of the many insect-inspired hors d'oeuvres at 'Off the Eaten Path.'

Everest, among other notable feats.

Prior to the reception, Richard Wiese, past president of the Explorers Club, led guests on a hiking tour through a section of Lincoln Park to see what plants, bark, berries and insects would make good culinary fare.

Wiese told guests that the club's mission is to show people the multifaceted face of food and how nature can provide us with what we need.

"It's less like 'Fear Factor' and more of a celebration of [natural] food and how we can use it," Wiese said.

He said people's acceptance of out-of-the-ordinary foods is often based in how they view the dishes.

Wiese also noted that if people closed their eyes and tasted one of the samplings, not knowing exactly what it was before eating it, it might not be that bad.

That's exactly what one participant had to do when taking a first bite of the baked worm pretzels. Dipped in a mustard sauce and seasoned with salt, the "delicacy" was somewhat tolerable.

"Who here has tried bee vomit?" Wiese asked. "Of course, it's just honey."

We love shrimp, lobster and crab, he said. But just mention a tarantula, and people say, "Oh my God!"

George Koziol of Chicago joined a few friends at the reception.

"I wasn't afraid to try anything," Koziol said. "But, I did have second thoughts about the mealworms in the tomatoes."

Koziol didn't think the cricket was bad but felt the scorpion was overpowered by the endive.

"And I did not like the roses," he said, adding that they were quite bitter.



AP

Roasted ant tarts, worm pretzels and rattlesnake cakes are a few of the exotic delicacies featured in 'Off the Eaten Path' at Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive.



# Mayors protest Bush administration's gun policy

By F.N. D'Alessio/AP

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and Milwaukee Mayor Thomas Barrett had harsh words Oct. 25 for the Bush administration and the gun lobby's influence on Congress.

"When Washington makes bad decisions to protect criminals rather than the public, we suffer the consequences," Bloomberg said at a news conference outlining the agenda for the Oct. 26 Midwestern summit of Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a group Bloomberg founded with Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

Bloomberg said he had hoped to have 50 of the nation's mayors on board by the end of this year, but 109 mayors from 44 states already have joined.

"These cities represent more than 44 million Americans," the New York Republican said.

Daley, Bloomberg and Barrett—accompanied by counterparts from a number of smaller cities—all complained that inaction by the executive branch and the influence of the gun lobby, particularly the National Rifle Association, on Congress have left local officials to combat the problem of illegal weapons.

"Mayors know that illegal guns have nothing to do with the Second Amendment, and everything to do with law enforcement," Bloomberg said.

"But cities can lead where Congress won't," he said, adding that the goal of the mayors' group is to "hold Congress' feet to the



MCT

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, pictured here at an anti-gun rally held several years ago, spoke out in Chicago last week about the gun lobby's influence on Congress.

fire."

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said violent crime has been reduced significantly in recent years, especially in many large cities.

"A lot of the credit for that goes to mayors and law enforcement personnel and cooperation at the local, state and federal levels," Fratto said in an e-mailed statement. "Enforcing gun laws that are on the books is an essential facet of our efforts."

"If the mayors were serious about reducing crime, what they would do is they would work with

city prosecutors to enforce gun laws as opposed to having press conferences," said NRA spokesman Andrew Arulanandam.

Daley said Chicago police have confiscated 10,803 illegal handguns and assault weapons so far this year. He said the city still steers firearms violators into the federal court system whenever possible, because federal sentences tend to be harsher, but agreed the gun lobby has a disproportionate influence at the federal level.

"We've had to work hard to keep Congress from making things even worse," Daley said, referring, among other things, to federal

attempts to restrict cities' access to tracing firearms data.

Bloomberg said the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives keeps its own records of multiple firearms purchases and attempted purchases, but denies that information to local authorities.

Democrat Barrett said mayors are closer to the problem and have a better view of it than legislators.

"We are the individuals who receive the phone calls from the police saying someone has been murdered," Barrett said. "We are the ones who attend the funerals."

The mayors—including Tulsa, Okla., Mayor Kathy Taylor and

Rockford, Ill., Mayor Lawrence Morrissey—spoke at Chicago Police Headquarters from behind a table loaded with illegal firearms seized by police in recent months. Most were rapid-fire automatic pistols, but there also were automatic shotguns, military-style assault rifles and even a Prohibition-style Thompson sub-machine gun.

The Midwestern mayors were to meet in an all-day conference Thursday to discuss legal and technological strategies. Bloomberg said Menino would hold a similar conference in Boston Nov. 9 and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin would hold one in her city Nov. 30.



AP

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, left, and Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley are just 2 of the 109 mayors that have signed on to the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition since April of this year

**EVERY GENERATION HAS ITS HEROES.  
THIS ONE IS NO DIFFERENT.**



Become stronger, smarter and more prepared to face any challenge. With over 150 careers to choose from, the Army is your chance to make a difference in your life and in the future of your country. Find out how you can become An Army Of One at GOARMY.COM or call 1-800-USA-ARMY.

Visit or call an Army recruiter today to find out about Tuition Assistance and Reimbursement

Where: 1239 N. Clybourn Ave. Suite 226 Chicago, IL

When: Call or visit your Army recruiter today

Who: Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Villalobos (312) 202-0430

©2003. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

AN ARMY OF ONE





# IMMUNIZATION HOLD ON YOUR ACCOUNT? GET RID OF IT!



The majority of college students have already received all or most of the required immunizations. Illinois Public Act 85-1315 requires all students enrolled for six credit hours or more to provide the college with proof of immunity against tetanus-diphtheria, measles, mumps, and rubella.

**To have your registration hold removed, all you have to do is submit proof of your required immunizations!**

To view a record of which specific immunizations you may be missing:

- Sign on to Oasis
- Click the Student tab
- Click on the Immunization link in the student profile portlet

To obtain a record of immunization

- Contact your parents or your doctor to request that they fax proof of immunization to 312.344.8073 or 312.344.8091. Please be sure fax includes your full name and Oasis ID.
- You can receive up-to-date immunizations on campus prior to the beginning of registration at Columbia Immunization Days.

## **Columbia Immunization Days**

Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Dates: November 1 - 2 & 6 - 7, 2006

Location: 33 East Congress, 6th floor

Cost per vaccination\*

- Tetanus \$45
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) \$95 each (2 measles vaccines are required within your lifetime. If you need both, you must wait 28 days between the first and second shot)

\* Payment is not required at the time of vaccination. The charge/s will be applied to your Student Financial Services account.

For questions about immunization requirements, or for doctor referrals please contact the Columbia Student Health Center.

Hours: 12-5 p.m., Monday-Friday

Location: 731 South Plymouth Court, first floor

Phone: 312.344.6830

If you have any additional questions, call the Columbia Student Immunization Hotline at **312.344.7390** or visit <http://www.colum.edu/go/immunization/>

**Columbia** 

C O L L E G E C H I C A G O



Power:

Chicago to use  
wind power on top  
of Daley Center

Continued from Back Page

However, national critics of wind turbines, like the Bat Conservation International, said they kill bats and birds by destroying habitats and colliding with birds. Village President Gene Marks said there has been no backlash for Northbrook.

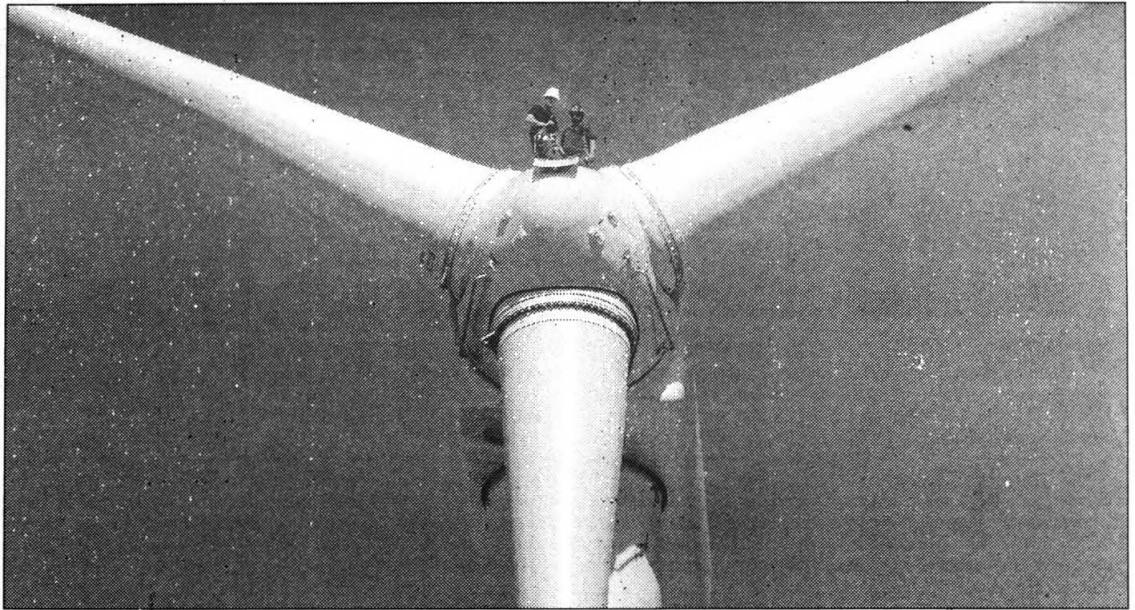
"I didn't think we'd see much," Marks said. "I think a few cities on the West Coast had some people complain about birds flying into them, but nobody here has complained."

Marks said Northbrook buys energy credits from a company downstate and that a very minor portion of the water plant used wind power before Reynolds spoke with the board of trustees.

Reynolds said he didn't see a lot of change happening at the federal level, which motivated him to push for wind power.

Northbrook has had several environmental plans before, like passing the Tree Preservation Ordinance in 1999, said Reynolds. The ordinance protects all trees that are six inches in diameter at the breast point, the point on a tree that is 1.37 meters high.

Northbrook has started using more electric cars within their city departments, Marks said. He added that the city is consid-



MCT

Two technicians perform routine maintenance on a GE 1.5 wind turbine on the Sweetwater Wind Farm in Sweetwater, Texas. The Village of Northbrook recently began using wind energy as an alternative to powering its water plant.

ering installing green roofs, similar to Chicago.

Chicago has plans to use wind power as well. Mike Johnson, project coordinator for the city's Department of the Environment, said four smaller versions of wind turbines will be put on the four corners of the roof of the Daley Center.

"The plan is to have the turbines bolted to the corners of the penthouses on the top before the end of the year," he said.

Johnson said the city is look-

ing into the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., as another location where wind turbines could be located. The turbines are going to be five feet in diameter and 10 feet high, with protective mesh around the top of the turbines to prevent bird mortalities.

"We've engaged the Bird Conservation Network as well, so we feel like we've demonstrated the design is safe," Johnson said.

The turbines on top of the

Daley Center could also help the city find a place in the alternative energy game. Demand from city residents would be vital to the growth of renewable energy, Johnson said.

"The governor has required that 8 percent of electricity sold in the state come from renewable resources too," Johnson said. "But, if there's no demand, then there's no growth."

Marks said Northbrook is even considering getting a windmill with a few other

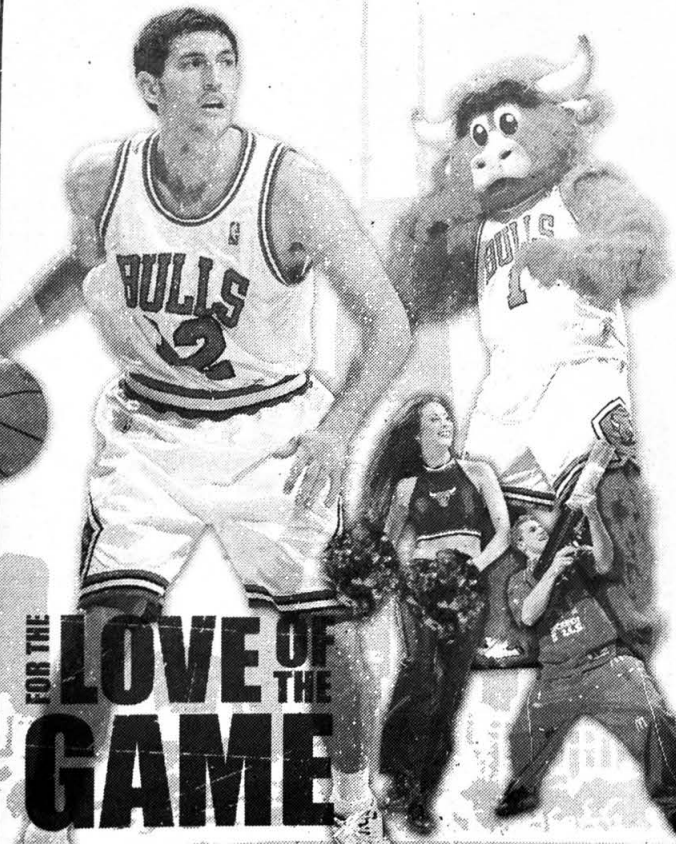
neighboring towns, like Buffalo Grove and Arlington Heights, but nothing is official yet.

Reynolds and Marks are optimistic about the future. Marks said he hopes other cities will follow Northbrook's lead, while Reynolds said having wind turbines helps complete the puzzle.

"Not only do the turbines reduce petroleum products, but it's one more piece of the puzzle to help protect our fragile Earth," Reynolds said.

chronicle@colum.edu

# Columbia College Half Price Nights!



Indiana Pacers • Mon., Dec. 11th  
VS. Seattle SuperSonics • Wed., Dec. 13th

Both games held at the United Center • 7:30 p.m.

On these special nights all Columbia College students, faculty and alumni have the opportunity to purchase tickets at half price! Tickets priced at \$40 are available for only \$20.

IMPORTANT: To order tickets, this form and payment must be received by the Chicago Bulls (by mail only) no later than three weeks before the first game ordered. Please note that tickets are subject to availability and due to high demand, please mail this completed form as soon as possible.

Mail this form with payment to:	Game Date(s)	# of Tickets	Ticket Price	Total Price
Chicago Bulls 1901 W. Madison St. Chicago, IL 60612-2459 Attn: Columbia College Nights	12/11-Pacers		@ \$20 (regularly \$40)	
	12/13-Sonics		@ \$20 (regularly \$40)	
			Total Enclosed	\$

There are no refunds or exchanges. Tickets will be mailed to the address below approximately ten days before the game date. For a United Center seating diagram, visit Bulls.com.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Or: ☐ Enclosed is a check or money order payable to the Chicago Bulls.



# Urban Excursions: Bronzeville



By Jenifer K. Fischer  
Managing Editor

I groan with utmost disgust upon hearing "I don't go past Harrison on the Red Line after dark." Please, people. Can you hear yourselves?

The ignorance of self-proclaimed "city folk" never fails to amuse me. My challenge to you—and you know who you are—with this column: Think beyond

Wicker Park and Lakeview.

This patchwork of history and ethnic enclaves we call Chicago teems with pride for its citizens' diverse heritage, but also draws some clear-cut racial boundaries that those citizens don't venture across.

Sadly, that means missing out on a lot of what makes this city what it is today. For instance, Bronzeville. Taking the Red Line to 35th doesn't have to mean a Sox game. If you walk a few blocks east toward the lake, you find yourself in the heart of Bronzeville, where—most heavily—in the early 20th century, blacks migrated from the South in search of a better, less oppressive life.

Heading southward from there, down the fairly residential Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, you will encounter gorgeous gothic-style

gray stone homes. But they represent more than just another example of breathtaking Chicago architecture.

At 3624 S. King Drive, you encounter a signpost signifying that this particular home demands more attention than the others. This is the former home of civil-rights activist, women's rights activist and journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Wells-Barnett was also instrumental in establishing the NAACP.

In this neighborhood, take a walk by 3435 S. Indiana Ave., where you will find the original home of the Chicago Defender. Established by Robert S. Abbott in the earliest years of the 20th century, the newspaper became the nation's most influential black weekly newspaper, a newspaper that thrives today.

Scattered about are churches



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

The former home of Ida B. Wells-Barnett, located at 3624 S. King Drive in Bronzeville. Wells-Barnett was an activist and a journalist in the early 1900s.

and barbershops, some lined up in a row. And while admiring the neighborhood, people will take the time to look you in the eye and greet you when you pass them.

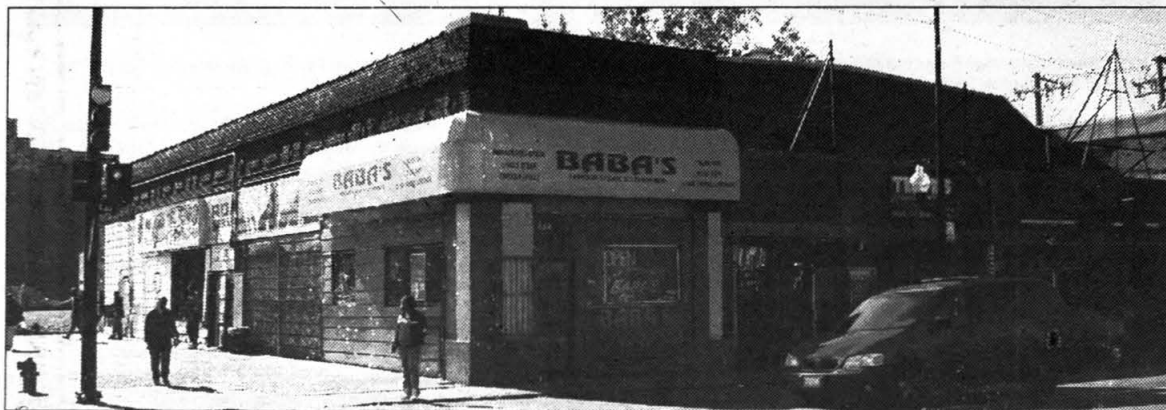
Yeah. I can see why people fear going south of Harrison Street.

Considering how "friendly" people in the Loop are, it was a shock when I was actually greeted with smiles and hellos on the sidewalks of Bronzeville.

Exploring this historic area, like everywhere else, made me long to know what the neighborhood cuisine was like. I stopped by BaBa's Famous Steak and Lemonade on the corner of King Drive and Pershing Road where I enjoyed hot wings just the way I like them: meaty on the inside, crispy on the outside and slathered in hot, tasty sauce. I don't think there was a single patron with whom I didn't interact, either.

There is nothing like being an outsider somewhere that people acknowledge one another and "community" is not an idyllic notion, but a way of life.

[jfischer@chroniclemail.com](mailto:jfischer@chroniclemail.com)



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

BaBa's Famous Steak and Lemonade, located on the corner of Pershing Road and King Drive, offers a personable atmosphere in Bronzeville.

*Happy Holidays*  
**PEARL™**  
The World's Largest Discount Art Supplier  
SALE IS FROM NOVEMBER 1ST THROUGH DECEMBER 31ST, 2006

PEBEO Children's  
Artistick  
Reg. \$14.99

ALVIN® CraftMaster Hobby Station

your  
choice  
**\$9.99**

**SALE**  
**\$129.99**

Choose from:  
Natural or Cherry  
Reg. \$156.99

CHICAGO STORE: 225 WEST CHICAGO AVE. • 312-915-0200

Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 9:00am-7:00pm - Sunday noon-5:00pm

**COUPON VALID ONLY**  
**from 11/24 through 11/26**

**20% OFF**

**YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE**

cc:121421602 Coupon valid at any Pearl Store and Internet Orders. Coupon good toward the entire purchase. Can't be combined with any other promotion. Coupon does not apply to Custom Framing orders, Pearl Gift Card purchases, nor Jack Nicholson Cassels. Coupon not redeemable for cash. Must present coupon at the time of purchase. For online orders, enter the coupon code at check out. COUPON IS GOOD ONLY FROM NOVEMBER 24th THROUGH NOVEMBER 26th, 2006

DANIELA'S  
*Hair Studio Spa*



- Hair Cut & Style
- Hair Coloring
- Facial
- Waxing
- Manicure
- Pedicure

**\$10.00 OFF**  
WOMEN'S HAIR CUT & STYLE

BRING IN COUPON TO REDEEM OFFER ONE COUPON PER VISIT NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER LIMITED TIME ONLY FIRST TIME CLIENTS ONLY

**\$10.00 OFF**  
ANY COLOR SERVICE

BRING IN COUPON TO REDEEM OFFER ONE COUPON PER VISIT NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER LIMITED TIME ONLY FIRST TIME CLIENTS ONLY

**\$5.00 OFF**  
MANICURE OR PEDICURE

BRING IN COUPON TO REDEEM OFFER ONE COUPON PER VISIT NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER LIMITED TIME ONLY FIRST TIME CLIENTS ONLY

**\$5.00 OFF**  
ANY WAXING SERVICE

BRING IN COUPON TO REDEEM OFFER ONE COUPON PER VISIT NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER LIMITED TIME ONLY FIRST TIME CLIENTS ONLY

**312-583-9100**  
705 S. Dearborn Chicago, IL 60605

**\$25.00**  
MEN'S HAIRCUT

NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER OFFER



# OLD SCHOOL =ALL DAY= DINER

{ Wabash at 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET }



**Student, Staff  
and Faculty  
DISCOUNT**

just show us your  
valid i.d.

DELICATESSEN  
COLD SANDWICHES

*THE ORIGINALS*

THE MELT SHOP

BURGERS, FISH

A NICE PIECE OF FISH

PASTA

HALF ROASTED CHICKEN

BREAKFAST

SERVED **ALL DAY**

EGGS, BAKERY

LOX BOX

GRIDDLE

PASTRAMI HASH

APPETIZERS

AND

NOSHES

SOUPS

**BIG SALADS**

SODA FOUNTAIN

FROM OUR

IN-HOUSE SODA JERK

COFFEE AND TEA

PIE AND CAKE SERVICE

*Eleven*  
CITY DINER

1112 South Wabash Chicago 60605 TEL 312 212 1112

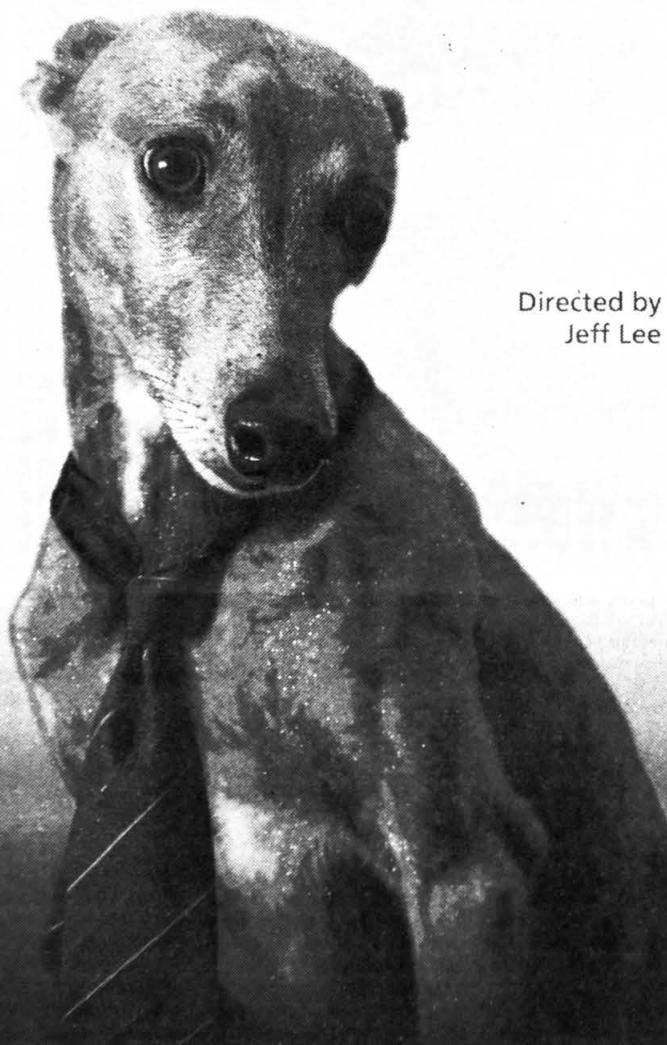
MONDAY—THURSDAY 7:30am—10:00pm FRIDAY—SATURDAY maybe 2am SUNDAY 9:00am—9:00pm



**BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN!**

Loving husband.  
Devoted father.  
Dedicated attorney.

So, why does he think  
he's a whippet?



Directed by  
Jeff Lee

One Way Out Productions  
and QuietAgent.com  
Present

# Transference

A THERAPEUTIC COMEDY BY LEE SCHEIER

*Everything is going to be OK.*

**The Mercury  
Theater**

3745 North Southport Avenue  
(self and valet parking available)

DINNER PACKAGES AVAILABLE  
WITH BLUE BAYOU and  
CULLEN'S BAR & GRILLE

BOX OFFICE  
**(773) 325.1700**

**ticketmaster**  
(312) 902.1500

**group  
theater**  
TIX

For groups of 15  
or more, call  
(312) 423.6612

Transference-ThePlay.com

**START HERE.  
GO FAR.**

**Advance Your Career  
With PeopleScout**

**Professional Recruiters**  
Interview Candidates Nationwide  
From Our State-Of-The-Art Office

**Earn up to \$10.00/HR**

- Weekly Pay, Career Advancement
- Immediate Bilingual English/Spanish Positions Also Available
- Flexible Hours, Close to Red Line
- Open 7AM-11PM, 7 Days a Week

**1-800-367-1386**

Ask for ext: 827-08R

**www.jobs.peoplescout.com**

Media Code: 827 Job Code: 08R

**Bilingual Positions**

Ask for ext: 827-08D



**peoplescout.**  
right people. right now.

**www.Columbiachroniclassifieds.com**  
only .25 per word with a \$5 min. All classifieds are due on Thursday for the Monday pub date.

2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo to let at 1600 s. indiana. 17th floor, new. all appliances, washer/dryer, balcony facing navy pier. handicapped accessible shower. parking space available. eilevin@drl-ent.com

INSTALLER Medical Alert Systems Must be 18 with own transportation. Various IL locations. Background check. Will train. skukowski@health-watch.com (800) 226-8100 ext. 2084

Marketing Rep-On Call Place Movie Posters In Stores \$10/hr+Gas+Bonus Need Car/Camera (800) 852-6250

**got something to sell?  
get classified's.**

Columbia Chronicle has an on classified service to help you make a little extra money when you can't get a hold of your parents.

[www.columbiachroniclassifieds.com](http://www.columbiachroniclassifieds.com)

**www.Columbiachroniclassifieds.com**  
only .25 per word with a \$5 min. All classifieds are due on Thursday for the Monday pub date.



# Scoop in the Loop



By Allison Riggio  
Assistant City Beat Editor

Recess may be on, ahem, "recess" in most Chicago Public Schools, but as terrible as that may be, Chicago is still ahead of some cities when it comes to the rationalization of diminishing free play.

The city cut recess from daily schedules during the 1980s, citing reasons such as a lack of supervision, the danger of allowing children outdoors in unsafe neighborhoods and the need to utilize the time for educational purposes.

While I don't necessarily agree with cutting out recess entirely, I will honor the fact that children's safety and education should take priority over fun. This rationalization, however, only gets you so far.

Just when you thought this country couldn't get more ridiculous in its attempts to nurture and shelter young children, a new law was set. This year elementary schools across the country have been banning games like tag from recess for fear of injuries during such, uh, high-impact contact activities.

Take away the toy guns because those lead to violence. Take away the bloody video games because those lead to violence. But take away games like tag at recess because those lead to violence? What's next, banning those pesky notebooks that lead to violent paper cuts?

Some elementary schools in Wyoming, Washington, Kansas

and California—to name a few—have banned "contact" games like tag, touch football and soccer during recess periods. The schools claim the games can result in students' colliding with one another, can warrant unnecessary pushing and/or shoving and can lead to fights on the playground.

The most recent school to blacklist tag and other chasing games was in Connecticut, according to a report in the Hartford Courant. According to the school's principal, such

Some Chicago public schools have individually decided to resurrect recess; however, accommodating the midday break without eliminating educational focuses can be tricky.

The Chicago Tribune reported that it would require a committee of the principal, three teachers, three parents and a teachers' union official to vote on a schedule change allowing recess after lunch. This would require extending the school day to allow for the added playtime and finding supervision for students while teachers are on their lunchtime break, the report said.

This leaves an important deci-

the issues plaguing a couch-potato generation of inactive children. While gym class provides some exercise during the school day, some experts argue this isn't enough to foster well-rounded social development.

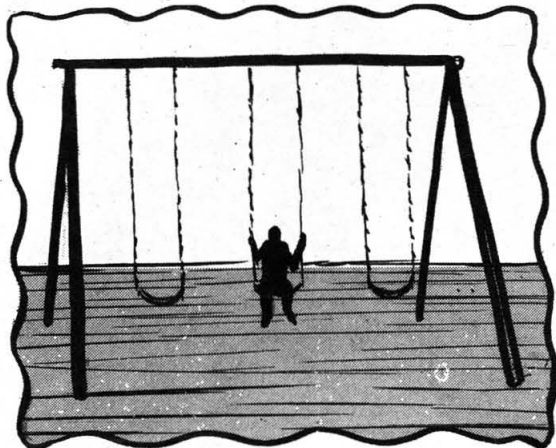
Unstructured play helps children learn problem-solving and conflict resolution skills, according to the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, a health and physical activity advocacy organization. Recess offers an opportunity for kids to communicate and interact with one another without adult involvement.

The Tribune reported that recess was so important to one West Side school that its new principal was actually chosen based on his support of midday play. In the article Mitchell Elementary School principal Luis Soria said that restoring recess took some "creative scheduling," but added that the reformation has been successful thus far.

Recess is more than an excuse for teachers to take a smoke break; it really does help kids learn some important life lessons. Falling on my face during recess made me who I am today. You have to scrape a few knees before you learn to watch your step. You don't know sportsmanship until you've been the first—and last—picked for kickball. Where else but at recess can you be "king of the hill," hopscotch champion and red-rover all-star in a matter of 20 minutes?

I, for one, commend you, Mitchell Elementary, for returning to your students the God-given right of recess. I can only hope other Chicago schools will follow suit in the near future—they just better not get any fancy ideas about banning tag.

[ariggio@chroniclemail.com](mailto:ariggio@chroniclemail.com)



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

games were always technically banned from the school; however, this rule had not previously been enforced.

Nor should it be, sir. At least here in Chicago we don't tease our schoolchildren by dangling recess in their little faces, only to turn around and ban any activity they might choose to play. We nip it in the bud and eliminate recess altogether—duh.

Seriously, though, as ridiculous as it may be to ban tag, I'll be the first to admit it's arguably worse to have no recess at all.

sion resting on the shoulders of most educators: Is making time for play really worth all the fuss? Or is it just easier to maintain the status quo and ensure education is the priority?

To all the Chicago public schools that have yet to reinstate recess, I see your point, and I understand the task might be easier said than done. But I can't help but wonder what happened to the importance of physical health and social development in school, too.

Countless research points to

guide on which candidate is qualified or recommended. Along with each group's respective webpages, people can find the voting guide on [vote4judges.org](http://vote4judges.org), a nonpartisan resource site.

For Margo Alpert, judicial project manager for the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, a nonpartisan group promoting better voter education, it's uncomfortable confronting a ballot full of unfamiliar candidates.

"I think what happens is that

people are overwhelmed by the number of names [on the ballot]," Alpert said. "And not enough information on the judges."

Alpert said people should bring in a voters guide to help deal with the large number of judicial candidates. Even if they don't have a guide with them, they can memorize the small listing of non-recommended candidates.

"[A person can] look at who gets really bad reviews," Alpert said. "It's easier to remember

three to four bad judges versus 80 good ones."

Still, when people go to vote, the association wants them to know it doesn't have to be an intimidating experience.

"You can take the guide into the polls," Heacock said. "It's completely legal."

For more information on the different bar associations' reviews, visit [vote4judges.org](http://vote4judges.org) and [chicagobar.org](http://chicagobar.org).

[ekasang@chroniclemail.com](mailto:ekasang@chroniclemail.com)

## In Public

Looking for some more politicking on the Bush administration? New York Times columnist Frank Rich will discuss and sign his new book *The Greatest Story Ever Told*. The book is about the Bush administration's spin campaign. The event will take place at the Harold Washington Library's Cindy Prizker Auditorium, 400 S. State St., at 6 p.m. on Oct. 30. The event is free. For more information, visit [chipublib.org](http://chipublib.org).

**Bored on Halloween?** Then check out the free North Halsted Halloween parade in Boystown at 7 p.m. on Oct. 31. Watch costumed marchers begin at 3200 N. Halsted St. and end at Cornelia Avenue. Anyone who wants to dress up and stroll down Halsted should register by 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [chicago-events.com](http://chicago-events.com).

**What has City Beat all geared up?** It's another City Council meeting. Watch aldermen spar over various issues at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St., 2nd Floor, at 10 a.m. on Nov. 1. For more information, visit [cityofchicago.org](http://cityofchicago.org).

**Celebrate the Day of the Dead in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood.** From 4 to 7 p.m. on Nov. 2. Pros Arts Studio is hosting a free celebration, which includes a procession starting at Dvorak Park, 1119 W. Cullerton St., and ending at Casa Aztlan, 1831 S. Racine Ave. For more information, visit [prosarts.org](http://prosarts.org).

**Dig that late '80s/early '90s band the Pixies?** Then check out the new documentary *loudQUIETloud: a film about the Pixies* at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. The film, which chronicles the band's 2004 reunion tour, runs until Nov. 9. For ticket prices and screening times, visit [musicboxtheatre.com](http://musicboxtheatre.com) or call 773-871-6604.

## Judges: Election guides allowed in booths

*Continued from Back Page*

Collectively, the Chicago Bar Association, along with nine other legal groups, encompasses the Alliance of Bar Associations for Judicial Screenings. This collection publishes a simple

guide on which candidate is qualified or recommended. Along with each group's respective webpages, people can find the voting guide on [vote4judges.org](http://vote4judges.org), a nonpartisan resource site.

"I think what happens is that

people are overwhelmed by the number of names [on the ballot]," Alpert said. "And not enough information on the judges."

"[A person can] look at who gets really bad reviews," Alpert said. "It's easier to remember

three to four bad judges versus 80 good ones."

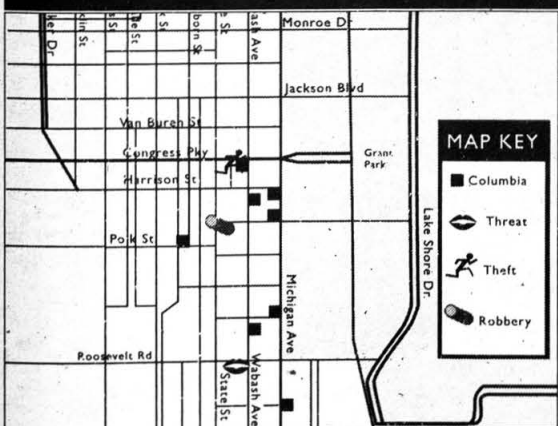
Still, when people go to vote, the association wants them to know it doesn't have to be an intimidating experience.

"You can take the guide into the polls," Heacock said. "It's completely legal."

For more information on the different bar associations' reviews, visit [vote4judges.org](http://vote4judges.org) and [chicagobar.org](http://chicagobar.org).

[ekasang@chroniclemail.com](mailto:ekasang@chroniclemail.com)

## Off the Blotter



Jennifer Crider/The Chronicle

### Disgruntled employee

On Oct. 18, two Jewel employees aged 27 and 30, escorted a 35-year-old man who had been suspended from his job at a Jewel-Osco, 1224 S. Wabash Ave. The suspended employee turned to a younger employee and said: "I'm going to find you and get you outside of work." Police will follow up on the threat.

### Early evening robbery

On Oct. 21, a man, 25 to 30 years old, asked a 23-year-old cashier walking down the street for some money to ride the CTA at 700 S. State St. The cashier opened his wallet and a second man, around 25 years old, flashed a gun; a third man, around 25 years old, pulled a knife. The first robber, dressed in a black cap and black overall jumpsuit, said: "You gonna have to give up the wallet homie." The men stole the wallet and fled east on Harrison Street on foot. The victim started walking north on State Street when the same men pulled up in a car and threw the victim's wallet back at him. Police canvassed the scene but couldn't locate the suspects.

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

### Attempted robbery

On Oct. 21, an unknown man approached a 22-year-old man smoking a cigarette. The man first asked the smoker for a cigarette, then demanded \$100. The smoker said he had no money; the man grabbed the smoker's jacket and slammed him into a wall. He stuck his right hand into the smoker's jacket's left pocket looking for money then fled the scene. A witness told police that he recognized the assailant and that he is known to hang out at Pacific Garden Mission, 646 S. State St.

### Theft hits Columbia

At the 33 E. Congress Parkway building, a 51-year-old woman had her black nylon bag stolen from behind her desk on Oct. 20. Among the stolen items were a cell phone and two check books. No security cameras were present.



# Moments from the marathon

*A photo essay*



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Tyler Byers, 24, of Reston, Va., races on Adams Street near the 14 mile marker during the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon on Oct. 22. Byers finished fourth in the wheelchair marathon with a time of 1:41:48. Joshua George of Champaign, Ill., placed first with 1:38:31. See the marathon photo essay on Pages 9 through 12.

## Blowing through energy

**Northbrook uses wind power over traditional sources**

By Matt Woronko  
Staff Writer

While traditional energy sources like nuclear, coal and petroleum still power U.S. cities, alternative energy is seeping in as a potential replacement. A move by the Village of Northbrook and a plan from Gov. Rod Blagojevich has opened a spot for one renewable energy source: wind power.

Last month, the Village, with a population of 33,000, became one of the first U.S. cities to purchase enough wind energy to run its water facility. The city now consumes 4,500 megawatts of power to run its water plant, up from 155 megawatts the previous year.

Jim Reynolds, director of Public Works in Northbrook, recommended switching to wind power from conventional energy to the Northbrook Board of Trustees and was given permission to pursue it. The most notable change is that Northbrook residents now pay an average of \$4 to \$5 more per year for water.

"We are paying a premium for wind energy," Reynolds said. "It uses 1.65 cents more per kilowatt hour. It costs a lot of money for investors to install the turbines, rent the land, build the feeder to the grid, etc."

He said it would cost about 3.5 cents per 1,000 gallons, or \$4 to \$5 for the average customer.

Reynolds said wind turbines work by generating electricity and then storing it in a grid. Northbrook then buys electricity from that grid, which means that other industrial facilities, like coal plants, don't have to burn anything.

"The [wind] plant has made us the first in the state to fully power a water facility," Marks said. "It's equivalent to 783 cars off the road, 1.9 million pounds of coal not being burned and 400,000 trees being saved [a year]."

Wind power works by using blades that move when wind rushes through them. The blades then spin a shaft, which connects to a generator to make electricity.

Wind power is still new to the United States, though cities such as Seattle, Madison and Denver have used wind power plans similar to Northbrook. Each city's plan cost consumers anywhere from an extra \$4 to \$12 each year on their electric bills.

"To the best of my knowledge, the system is the same [as other cities using wind power]," Reynolds said. "The location may be different. Our wind generators are located about 100 miles or so from here."

Reynolds said the turbines Northbrook uses are located near Princeton, 128 miles away from Northbrook. In addition to Illinois, Wisconsin, Colorado and Washington also offer wind power to residents.

See Power, Page 23

## Judging the judges

**Nonpartisan legal groups provide info for judicial elections**

By Eric Kasang  
City Beat Editor

Chicago attorney Carrie K. Huff understands the daunting task people face when voting for judges.

"There's a large dropoff from the top of the ballot to the judicial elections," she said.

Huff, the president of Chicago Council of Lawyers, a nonpartisan legal public interest advocacy group, noted that citizens tend to vote for judges by name recognition, gender, randomly or simply skip the judicial elections.

However, Huff's organization, along with other groups like the Chicago Bar Association and the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, are simplifying their reviews, for the public, on judges running for the first time or re-election. They are also providing free information about the judicial elections on the Nov. 7 ballot.

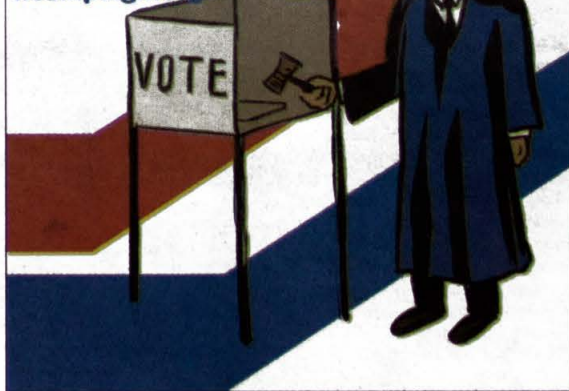
Seventy-one sitting judges are running for retention or re-election; two for the Illinois Appellate Court and 67 for the Circuit Courts in Cook County, according to the CBA, an organization consisting of lawyers and judges. Twenty-five first-time candidates are campaigning for the Circuit Court positions.

However, the CBA's Judicial Evaluation Committees deemed seven judges seeking retention as "unqualified" and didn't recommend five judicial candidates who are running for the first time. Linda Heacox, director of public affairs for the CBA, said each judge is meticulously reviewed by several bar members. Along with their court rulings, judges submit written questionnaires to the review committees. Judges who decline are automatically given a "not recommended" by the CBA.

"If they don't appear before their peers, then their peers aren't going to recognize them," Heacox said.

Heacox said her organization looks for at least 12 years of legal

[chicagoappleseed.com](http://chicagoappleseed.com)  
[chicagocouncil.org](http://chicagocouncil.org)  
[voteforjudges.org](http://voteforjudges.org)  
[chicagobar.org](http://chicagobar.org)  
[ilcampaign.org](http://ilcampaign.org)



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

experience in a person running for a judicial position. The organization looks at other factors like temperament in the courtroom, the ability to preside unbiased over a case and organizational skills in keeping order in the court.

If a candidate feels the "not recommended" rating is unjustified, the CBA allows the person to appeal the evaluation.

See Judges, Page 27

## Referenda on ballot for Nov. 7 elections

**Voters to decide on assault weapons ban, minimum wage hike**

By James H. Ewert Jr.  
City Beat Editor

In the dawn of what appears to be a very influential election, campaign staffers everywhere are scrambling to gauge the public consensus on everything under the sun, but the results

offer little more than selected opinions. That is what leads some citizens, civic organizations and aldermen to place referenda on the ballot to more accurately determine the public groundswell on a specific issue.

Cook County voters stepping into polling places Nov. 7 will see much more than a simple list of candidates and judges—they will also see three separate county-wide referenda. One

offers the question of banning the sale of military-style assault weapons in Illinois, another asks whether Illinois should raise the minimum wage from \$6.50 an hour to \$7.50 and the other asks whether or not the United States government should immediately begin withdrawing troops from Iraq, starting with the National Guard and reserves.

According to Kelly Quinn,

spokeswoman for the Cook County Clerk's office, placing referenda on an election ballot requires a petition signed by 8 percent of the voters who participated in the previous cycle's governor's race. Quinn said if no one objects to the referenda or challenges the signatures, then the referenda go on the ballot.

See Referenda, Page 19