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Columbia College Chicago

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Columbia tuition below average, aid even lower

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus Editor

Though the sticker price of an education at Columbia is below the national average for four-year private institutions, Columbia students receive less financial aid and therefore spend about as much as most other students.

The average price for full-time students at private four-year colleges is \$22,218, according to the College Board 2006 Trends in Higher Education report released on Oct. 24. The average has increased nearly 7 percent since last year. In comparison, Columbia's tuition climbed 4.75 percent to a total of \$16,328 this year.

An average four-year private college student receives approximately \$5,700 in institutional grants from the student's school, according to the College Board report, which makes up about 26 percent of the average tuition.

The sticker price of average tuition this year is \$22,218, minus the \$5,700 per student, leaving a net total of \$16,518 to come from state and federal aid, loans or students' pockets.

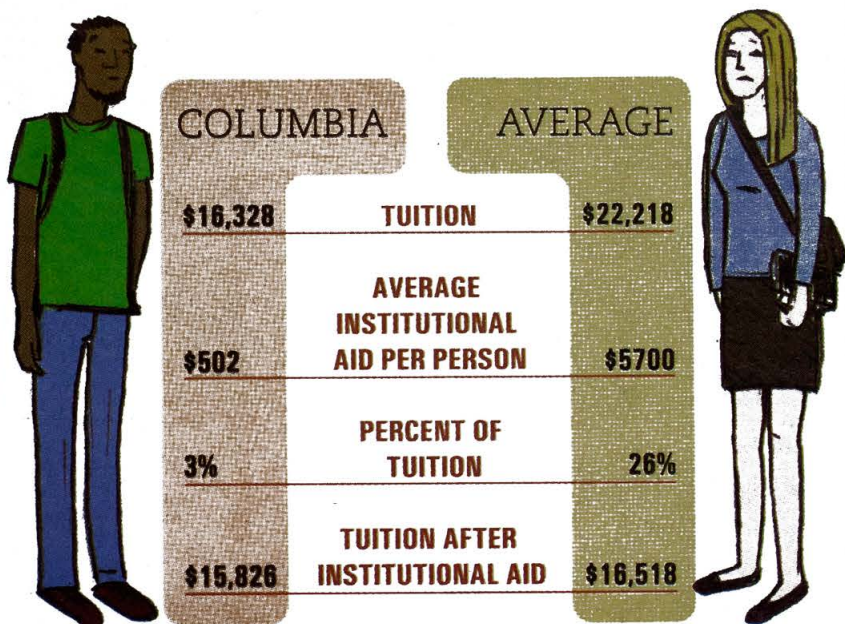
Columbia's institutional fund totals more than \$5.7 million this year, but when divided amongst the entire student body, it amounts to only \$502.22 per student. This makes up about 3 percent of tuition costs, creating a total of \$15,826.

"The college has never really sought a lot of outside funding or individual giving," said Micki Leventhal, Columbia's director of Media Relations. "It's through that individual giving that you get scholarship endowments. That is not a pattern historically that the college has looked toward."

For the past six years, Columbia has been working to remedy its dependence on tuition, Leventhal said. Tuition and fees

See Tuition, Page 12

INSTITUTIONAL AID'S EFFECT ON TUITION



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Student-to-faculty ratio puts strain on instructors

By Hayley Graham
Editor-in-Chief

Dawn Larsen has been a full-time faculty member at Columbia for more than 10 years and has seen the quality of student and faculty interaction decline as enrollment at the college continues to grow at an astounding rate. She believes instructors are being left with less availability for students.

"I used to be able to spend

more time with my students and to actually get to know them better and to actually get to be more effective mentoring them than now," said Larsen, who is vice president of the Columbia College Faculty Organization.

Larsen is one of 16 full-time faculty members in the Arts Entertainment Media Management Department, which has one of the highest student to full-time faculty ratios on campus at 74 to 1, according to the Fall 2005 Fact Book, the

most recent one published. This ratio is far above the collegewide student to full-time faculty ratio, which is 35 to 1.

"It's not as good for the students because they don't get to develop those one-on-one mentoring relationships that should really be taking place," she said.

Martin D. Snyder, research director at the American Association of University Professors, which advocates for academic freedom and quality

education, said it is hard to pinpoint an industry standard because the ratios rely heavily on the nature of the departments and classes.

Columbia, like most other schools, hires mostly part-time faculty who are not responsible for and may not have the extra time to spend advising students outside of the classroom. Part-time teachers comprise 78 percent of Columbia's faculty, and teach 78 percent of the credit hours.

Snyder said most institutions are hiring mostly part-time faculty because of economic pressures. He said from the administration's point of view this is more efficient because the institution gets more product for the money, but the question is whether that provides a good education.

"Running an institution has become much more expensive and there is little federal and state funding," Snyder said. "The corporate insistence on a high level of productivity is much more present today than it has been."

Joe T. Berry, an adjunct-labor specialist at the University of Illinois at Chicago, said this trend is relatively new and has only been occurring for the past 30 years.

"[Colleges] have become addicted to contingent faculty for economic and flexibility reasons," Berry said. "[Administrators] are running these institutions on [adjunct faculty's] backs to a great extent and students backs [because of tuition dependency]."

See Ratio, Page 7

Students question course fees

By Jim Jaworski
Associate Editor

Students have to pay for tuition, books and, in some cases, dorm costs in order to earn their degree at Columbia. It is pretty clear where that money goes. However, how the college spends course fees is unclear.

Course fees are charges applied to each student's financial statement on top of tuition. The fees, typically between \$25 and \$100, are decided by each department's chair and vary per class. However, it is not clear what course fees are spent on, leaving many faculty and students wondering where the money goes.

Brian Matos, president of the Student Government Association, asked the Office of the Provost at Columbia's College Council meeting on Nov. 3 for more transparency into what the charges are and where the money is being spent. One possibility, Matos said, is providing the information on class syllabi to inform the student enrolled in the class.

The fees are a sore subject amongst many students, Matos said. He added that paying the extra money would not be a problem if the administration was clearer about its intent.

"When the students know what they are paying for,

See Council, Page 10

Diamond damage control



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Clean up and demolition was still in progress the afternoon of Nov. 1 at 630 S. Wabash Ave. On Oct. 24, the George Diamond Steak House caught fire and it wasn't put out until later that week.



I'm a shopaholic, but it's not because I'm female

By Hayley Graham, Editor-in-Chief

Money comes and goes, but my shoe and jewelry collections could be in my closet years from now. Or at least that's what I tell myself each month right around the first and the 15th when I get paid.

Last week my bank account got a refill, and what did I do besides pay off whatever neglected bills I had lying around my apartment? I went shopping for material items that I convinced myself I "needed": boots (to add to my closet piled with shoes), a jacket (to hang beside my other four jackets) and necklaces (that I might wear once every couple of months).

It's not even like I'm bringing in a fat check or fed an allowance from super-wealthy parents each week. And, like my dad always painfully reminded me whenever I asked him for money while growing up, I certainly don't have a tree in my backyard sprouting an endless supply of Benjamin Franklins.

Like most other college students, I'm sitting on a bunch of loans that are going to take many excruciating years to pay back. But for some reason this semester I've been spending money like an overrated, filthy rich pop-princess on the cover of *US Weekly*.

When I was in high school I would save half of my pay checks from my part-time, minimum wage Dairy Queen job. Now I'm lucky if I have 50 bucks left by the end of the two weeks as I wait for my next paycheck. However,

knowing that I can go shopping and still manage to scrape by with what little cash I have at the end of the pay period keeps me spending.

I bet Dr. Phil would tell me that I'm blowing through my money in order to fill some sort of dark void in my life or to regain some sort of self-control from some terribly depressing situation. However,



I can confidently say that this is not the problem. I'm pretty sure that I didn't feel a wave of relief or some Band-Aid type of happiness for 20 minutes after I bought my latest pair of Levis.

Most people seem to think it's pretty typical for a female to be plagued with a jewelry addiction and a shoe fetish. Am I more likely to suffer from a compulsive buying disorder simply because of my gender? After all, diamonds are a girl's best friend ... right?

Well a study conducted by

the Stanford University School of Medicine that was published in the *American Journal of Psychiatry* last month says otherwise.

The study, a random nationwide telephone survey of 2,513 adults, found that more than one in 20 people are addicted to shopping, and it affects males and females at nearly the same rate. The survey found that 5.5 percent of people suffering from the disorder are male and 6 percent are female, which negates the stereotype that it's women who love and are addicted to compulsive shopping trips.

These statistics make sense considering that most of the guys I know like to spend their paychecks on material things just as much as I do, just not necessarily on shoes and purses, but on records, movies and music. Even one of my ex-boyfriends used to head directly over to the

mall to blow his money after cashing his checks on Fridays. Now, I'm not even that bad.

However, my ex-boyfriend would never admit to anyone else that he ran out and blew his paycheck every week. And I think that may be where this stereotype that females love to shop more than men comes from. So even though both men and women love to spend money on things they don't need, the difference is that we can admit it.

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In this issue

1/13
14/15
17/34
36/44

Campus News
Commentary
Arts and Entertainment
City Beat

Announcements

War Fare

The Museum of Contemporary Photography presents *War Fare*, a new exhibit exploring the imagery behind war. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 6 in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

For more information, contact Jeff Arnett at jarnett@colum.edu.

Lunchtime Drum Circle

Columbia hosts the monthly drum circle series that featuring a variety of drum leaders from around the campus. Students and faculty are encouraged to join in. The event takes place from noon to 2 p.m. on Nov. 7 in the Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Admission is free.

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

Big Mouth Open Mic

Students can watch their peers perform anything from spoken word to poetry from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Hokin Annex located in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

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

Student Performance Night

Columbia students will show off their dancing abilities during a performance night that features dance students' work created outside of the classroom. A panel of faculty and student work will also be present to showcase their own work. The event will be held at 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. Admission is free.

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

Correction

In the Oct. 30 edition of *The Chronicle*, the article, Activity fee increase delayed three years, incorrectly stated that students won't face an activity fee increase for three years. The fee will increase by \$15 for full-time and \$10 for part-time students for the fall 2007 semester. The increase freeze will start after that and will last three years.

In Your Opinion

Are you going to vote with an absentee ballot for this upcoming election?



"Yeah, I'm registered. It's important to me now because I'm from here now."

—Caitlin McDonald, sophomore, photography



"No, I already got my stuff switched [to vote here]."

—Richard Santiago, graduate student



"Yeah, I think it's important to take a stand on what you believe in."

—Laura Elwood, sophomore, fine arts



"I was going to, but apparently it's sitting on a bureau in Rhode Island."

—Molly McWilliams, sophomore, advertising

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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

One trashy exhibit

Artists transform junk into cultural snapshot

By Jessica Galliant
Staff Writer

Junk mail, fast food wrappers and old love letters are trashed daily without much thought. But an exhibit at Columbia's Center for Book and Paper Arts, in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., showcases how artists took one man's trash and turned it into another man's art.

"Exalted Trash" features collaborated works by Chicago-based artist Marc Fischer and Paris-based artist Bruno Richard.

The exhibit shows how two artists can take everyday junk mail, magazine clippings and random photographs from the Internet and see them in a different way. Installations by Chicago-based artist Patrick Miceli focuses on taking recognizable materials, mainly fast food packaging, and demonstrating ways to re-contextualize them.

Fischer developed an interest and curiosity in Richard's somewhat hard-to-get art, after

seeing a few of his published drawings and works.

Fischer wrote Richard to request more access to his art, and the two began to send each other books and other items that were hard to get in both countries. This partnership eventually sparked a nine-year correspondence between the two, resulting in mountains of drawings, fliers, clippings and photographs that Richard thought would interest Fischer.

"It started out because [Fischer] couldn't get some things [Richard] published," said Bill Drendel, exhibitions coordinator for the Center for Book and Paper Arts. "Then it just progressed to this madness."

The exhibit displays the contents of several packages Fischer received from Richard, separated by wallcasings. The pieces capture a variety of moments including children with gags to people engaging in acts of bondage.

"When I met with Bill, I knew that some of the things might be kind of challenging, but it's sort of a shared risk," Fischer said. "I could show the most explicit things [Richard has] drawn, but I wanted it to be honest."

Drendel and Fischer both



Keith Bishton/The Chronicle

Among the many items on display at the exhibit Exalted Trash in the Center for Book and Paper Arts, in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., are selected publications by or featuring Bruno Richard or Elles Sortie with Pascal Doury.

said they expect some controversy from the artwork, specifically from the lesbian bondage art, but haven't received any yet. A few drawings on transparency film in a section of the exhibit are a little "explicit," but Drendel found ways to avoid censoring it by mounting

the pieces 14-feet high.

Curious visitors can use binoculars on pillars to view the explicit material.

In a way, the controversial nature of the exhibit has helped to attract people, according to Drendel. In the front window on the first floor of the 1104

Center, a display for the exhibit has a small white sign cautioning visitors that some material in the exhibit may be offensive to some people, which is also on the front door to the gallery.

"We even put [the sign] in the

See Exhibit, Page 10

Academic, financial program keeps students in check

By Amanda Maurer
Campus Editor

Columbia may be known as one of the city's art colleges, but it's not all gallery walks and finger-painting.

While students may consider Columbia to be lenient because of its open admissions policy, some students still do poorly. The college's Satisfactory Academic Progress program helps hundreds of students stay on track each year.

The Satisfactory Academic

Progress program is nothing new, but for students who occasionally experience a difficult semester, it helps them recover academically and reclaim financial aid eligibility.

As many as 600 to 1,000 students fall out of compliance each year; however, most of the student body fulfills the requirements and may never have to worry about it.

The regulations apply to all students as soon as they begin at Columbia. In order to comply,

students must successfully finish two-thirds of their attempted credit hours each semester, not take more than 186 credits, or 60 classes, in a college career and maintain a GPA of 2.0. The GPA is especially important at the end of a student's fourth semester at Columbia because it allows them to remain eligible for financial aid.

Each consecutive semester a students fail to comply, they reach a more serious warning: mild, strong, probation and dismissal.

Students can only face dismissal if they do not comply during four consecutive semesters.

Only about 20 to 30 students face dismissal each year, according to Jennifer Waters, service operations director in the office of Student Financial Services.

Most students only reach the first stage, mild, when they fall out of compliance after their first semester, according to Waters.

Only two or three students reach that point each year, she said.

While Emily Capdevielle, a freshman journalism major, was glad to know Columbia had academic and financial standards in place, she thought the compliance qualifications could be stricter.

"I think the GPA should be higher, because 2.0 is kind of on the low side," Capdevielle said. "They should set their standards a bit

higher and face a hold on their OASIS account. Students who have a bad semester and discover they have a mild status should see their adviser immediately.

"It sort of puts a check on that so they're really effectively using their funds toward degree completion," Waters said. "We don't want to just take money from people without them progressing toward the end."

Waters and Janet Talbot, associate director in the Advising Center, help students financially and academically with the Student Academic Progress program.

But bad grades aren't the only way students can find themselves in academic and financial trouble; too many grades can be just as problematic. The school limits degree-seeking students to acquiring 186 credits before their financial aid is cut off and they have to leave the college.

Talbot said advisers can help a student figure out what they need to do in order to get back on track both academically and financially. Sometimes that can be accomplished by repeating a class; however, financial aid may be withheld. Other factors that could also restrict the amount of financial aid received include dropping or withdrawing classes.

For more information, visit www.colum.edu/advising

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

Breakfast of Champions



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) attends a breakfast meeting with Columbia President Warrick L. Carter, Nov. 1. He later attended Stephanie Shonekan's "Contemporary Africa" class.

"We don't want to just take money from people without them progressing toward the end."

—Jennifer Waters, service operations director, Student Financial Services

But, for those who receive mild status, it is usually because of a reason that clears up on its own. One common problem that places students on the mild list occurs when professors fail to turn in grades on time. But students

don't need to worry about the status remaining.

"When a grade comes in, we adjust their status, so the student doesn't really pay a final penalty for that," Waters said, adding that while a non-compliance status does remain on a student's transcript, students do have the option to appeal it.

Students who fall out of compliance receive a written notifi-

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All Music Student Convocation 2:00 PM

Tuesday November 7

Joseph Pruitt Senior Recital 12:30 PM

All Music Student Convocation 2:00 PM

Wednesday November 8

R&B Ensemble Recital 12:30 PM

Thursday November 9

Jazz Gallery in the Hall 12:30 PM
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CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL & OUTREACH SERVICES

Columbia 'anchors' South Loop community

As school continues to expand, more stereotypes are born

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant Campus News Editor

Surrounded by high rises, the El tracks, and businesses feeding off of its students, Columbia is known as more than a college, it's also the anchor of the South Loop community.

However, as the school continues to grow, more students are facing the stereotypes made by students from surrounding schools.

Since 2003, the number of students living on campus has grown from 500 to 2,300, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

And with these students come visitors.

Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment said Columbia alone brings in close to 300,000 people to the South Loop community annually.

With such a large number of students and visitors, Kelly said many South Loop businesses have benefited economically by having Columbia as their main clientele.

"Everything from businesses opening in the University Center to Gourmand to the [Eleven City Diner]; I think business are very aware of the economic impact that Columbia represents and they are more and more looking to serve Columbia students to connect to them," Kelly said.

Restaurants like Chicago Carry-Out, 63 E. Harrison St., practically shut down for one to two weeks during Columbia's winter break and shorten their hours during summer months, according to owner, Paul Youkhana.

With a majority of carry-out's business being Columbia students, they often base their hours on the school's schedule.

"They are one of our top two customers," Youkhana.

Sandmeyer's Bookstore, 714 S. Dearborn Ave., has also accommodated the growing number of Columbia students in the South Loop by expanding its film section because of how many students are interested in

or studying film.

"Since Columbia has started mushrooming we have adjusted our inventory a little bit towards the needs of students," said Ulrich Sandmeyer, owner of the bookstore.

The HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Ave., also profits from Columbia's growing student body. According to Michilla Blaise, a spokeswoman for the HotHouse, it recently partnered with Columbia, agreeing to host some its upcoming events and rent out space to the college's students.

Every month it is booked with different Columbia events and is just trying to keep up with the fast-paced growth in the student body by having space available.

"[We have seen a] 10 percent increase [in business] every year as an organization," Blaise said.

However, as Columbia continues to expand as a major player, some opinions are not as kind.

Students like Alessandra Barrutia, a

freshman communications major at DePaul University, said after touring Columbia following her acceptance to the school last year, she sensed not everyone could fit in at the school.

"I felt like I would be a minority at Columbia," she said. "Everyone had piercings and pink hair."

Chae Ohn and Tae Kim, both freshmen at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, also see Columbia's typical fashion sense as more urban and trendy in comparison to their own school.

"The Art Institute [students] have more individual styles and [are] not just following the trends," Kim said.

However, Sebastian Brzek, a senior graphic design major, said the different type of atmosphere Columbia students have created in comparison to other schools' campuses is what keeps him hooked on the Columbia vibe.

"People like to say that this is

a university of 'freaks' or [we] are depicted as the 'other school,'" Brzek said. "But the people here make the college, and I love the people!"

Awilda Rodriguez, a first year graduate student, also said that Columbia's diverse crowd goes beyond just what people wear.

"The reason why the school is like this is because it does value individuality," Rodriguez said. "You can express yourself."

Then again, not all stereotypes are as simple as the way students dress at Columbia; some expand all the way to the value of education Columbia produces.

Melissa Fontanesi, also a DePaul freshman, added that Columbia seems to set its standards for acceptance much lower than other universities.

"It's easy to get into and expensive," she said.

However, Kelly said these labels simply don't fit Columbia's standards.

When it comes to Columbia's open admission policy, he said the school identifies it as "a generous approach to admissions" rather than open.

Kelly also said the school follows a strict curriculum that they expect students

to follow.

"We probably work our students harder and that's where we place our emphasis," Kelly said.

Kelly also added that DePaul's tuition is much higher than Columbia's and although DePaul does offer more scholarships, Columbia students end up paying less than a DePaul student.

This year DePaul's tuition averaged out to be a over \$24,000, according to their website. Columbia's averages out to about \$16,000, much less than DePaul's.

Even for Columbia students, the stereotype that it is an easy school is hard to take.

Elena Tenner, a freshman music business major, said with Columbia having open admissions, other students assume the classes are easy.

"This is an art school and in general it is what you make of it," Tenner said. "It gives you a good opportunity and it is up to you to take advantage of it."

As Columbia continues to be judged institutionally and externally, Dominic Cottone, director of Student Organizations, said people need to see beyond the common label society has created for Columbia students.

"Something that is fatalistic is that you can't classify students by the institution they go to," he said. "They are individuals, they are people, they have a whole bunch of different interests."

And as the influx of students continues each year, many residents continue to also dive into the benefits that Columbia brings to the neighborhood.

According to South Loop Neighbors, an organization dedicated to helping preserve the South Loop area, with students come more restaurants and beneficial change.

Paulette Boyd, president of South Loop Neighbors, said she hasn't heard of any complaints



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Kevin Faber dressed up as his own character, the Scholtz, for Halloween. Faber participates in Columbia sports and believes not every student fits the artsy stereotype held by other surrounding schools.

from local neighbors about students. And with places like Panera Bread, 525 S. State St., and the KFC on Wabash Avenue moving in, it is nice to have more places interested in coming to the South Loop for business.

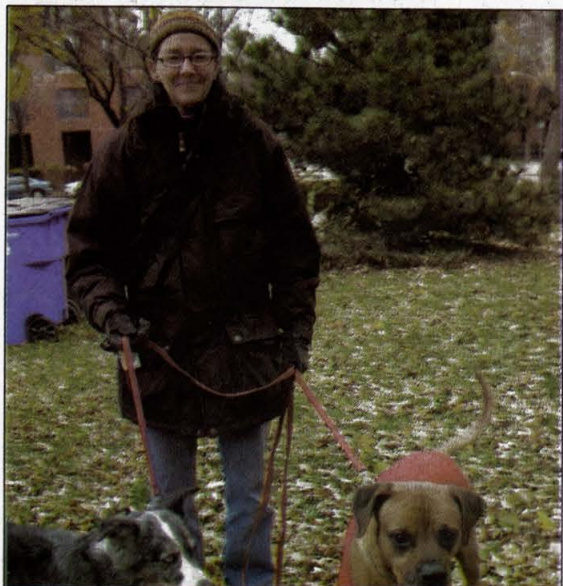
"With the expansion of the school and with them moving all the way down now to 14th or 16th street they are taking spaces and doing great things with them and broadening their outreach to the community," Boyd said. "I can't say that

[their presence] is anything but a positive impact."

With the South Loop once being a "corporate headquarters site," according to Berg, Columbia has helped change the neighborhood into a new community.

"We have absolutely remade the whole entire South Loop experience," Kelly said.

jzimmerman@chroniclemail.com



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

"I like having the college here," said Meg Burns, a South Loop resident. It's nice to have the feeling of a campus town."



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

South Loop residents, Paul Bowles (top right) and Kim Serritos (bottom right) both think Columbia students benefit the neighborhood. But students like Elena Tenner think students from other schools inaccurately judge Columbia students.

Congratulations!

All-Staff Arts & Media Award Competition 2006

PARTICIPANTS

Amy Mitchell
Bob Blinn
Mary Blinn
Anita Strejc
Janet Talbot
Dominic Cottone
Bob McWilliams
James Kinser
Pam Herrmann
Eric Laschinski
Peter Radke
Lee Gerstein
***Melissa Lawrenz**
Susan Sindlinger
Andrea Schumacher
Ned Schechter
***Kevin Riordan**
John J. Murray
Dieter Kirkwood
Sallie Gordon

Pegeen Quinn
Yvonne Sode
Justin Schmitz
Maureen Herlehy
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Christopher Peak
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The All-Staff Arts & Media Award is a private and local, Illinois-based Award funded by The Office of Human Resources of Columbia College Chicago. The purpose of the All-Staff Arts & Media Award is to recognize the artistic achievements of Columbia College Chicago staff, simultaneously maintaining the College's commitment to professional development.

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The 2007 competition form will be available in spring 2007

Please check future Columbia Chronicle editions for opening dates for this year's All-Staff Arts & Media exhibitions.

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Ratio: Students complain about contacting part-time faculty

Continued from Front Page

Even though most colleges and universities across the country rely heavily on adjunct faculty, some private liberal arts schools comparable to Columbia have much lower student to full-time faculty ratios.

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Rhode Island School of Design both have ratios of 16 to 1, according to total enrollment and full-time faculty numbers in fall 2005. At Savannah College of Art and Design, the collegewide undergraduate student to full-time faculty ratio during fall 2005 was 17 to 1.

Steve Kapelke, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said Columbia's high student to full-time faculty ratios are one of the first things that he recognized when he came to the college five years ago, but said he has not heard any complaints from students that their instructors are not as available as they would like.

Larsen said although she has

not heard any complaints directly from students, other faculty members in her department have said students are noticing that faculty members are not always as available as they would like them to be.

"The high full-time faculty to student ratio has an effect on the student experience here at Columbia," Larsen said. "The lower the numbers can get, the better the student experience will be, and I think that's what we should be striving for."

Since it's the job of full-time faculty members to formally advise students, which includes clearing students for registration, when there is a high student to full-time faculty ratio, that decreases the amount of time instructors can spend with students outside of the classroom.

Kapelke recognized that if full-time faculty members have too many advisees it's difficult for them to maintain a high quality of advising.

"The lower the [full-time faculty to student ratio] numbers can get, the better the student experience will be, and I think that's what we should be striving for."

—Dawn Larsen, faculty member in the Arts, Entertainment Media Management Department

"[Part-time faculty] is not there to give the extra help and give the advising, and the burden of that falls on the full-time faculty or it

doesn't get done at all," Snyder said. "It's not that [adjunct professors] aren't good; they aren't given the kind of support, the pay and the facilities to be present and do so."

Student and Full-time Faculty Ratio

AEMM	74:1
ART AND DESIGN	43:1
PHOTOGRAPHY	45:1
THEATER	29:1
FILM AND VIDEO	59:1

SOURCE: COLUMBIA'S FALL 2005 FACT BOOK

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Larsen said four adjunct faculty members who have been working in the AEMM Department for a while have been trained to do advising to take the load off the full-time faculty in the department.

Vanessa Cervantes, a freshman audio arts and acoustics major, said most of the time she can get in touch with instructors if she needs to. However, Cervantes and Laura Lane, a freshman journalism major, agreed that it's hard to contact an instructor if it's not through e-mail, and OASIS e-mail is often unreliable.

"If e-mail isn't working then there's no way to get ahold of a teacher," Lane said.

Chair of the Marketing Communication Department Margaret Sullivan said the work load for full-time faculty is extremely high because they are responsible for advising. Marketing has one of the highest student to full-time faculty ratios at 70 to 1.

Many of the added pressures put on adjunct faculty when there is a high student to full-time faculty ratio have to do with the limited amount of space adjunct faculty have on

campus to use for meetings with students. Berry, who is also a part-time faculty member at Roosevelt University, said it can be alleviated.

"The pressures are not just on [part-time faculty]," Berry said. "Our working conditions are the students' learning conditions."

Christine Pfeiffer, who is an adjunct faculty member in the English Department and is on the steering committee of P-FAC, Columbia's part-time faculty organization, agreed that as the college continues to grow, space is a main concern among

See Ratio, Page 8

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Visit www.colum.edu/portfolio for more information about our programs.

UPCOMING GUESTS

November 7th @ 10am

i4 DESIGN

Design Director Amy Kosnick will review design portfolios and is seeking talent for a spring package design intern. Open to product and graphic design juniors, seniors and Spring '06 grads.

November 8th @ 10am

WDRV (97.1 FM "The Drive")

Program Director Patty Martin will meet with radio students who have a working or budding aircheck or on-air demo.

November 8th @ 1pm

MANUELA GUIDI LLC

Creative Recruiter Allison Sagehorn will be here to review portfolios for students preparing for a career in ad-creative.

November 10th @ 10am

GRIP DESIGN

Principals (the creative type, not the disciplinarians) Kelly Kaminski and Kevin McConkey will review graphic design portfolios.

November 14th @ 10am

TOM LINDFORS Photographer

Tom is an accomplished photographer whose body of work includes architectural, location and portraiture for a variety of publications and commercial applications.

November 15th @ 10:30am

JODIE ZEITLER Artist Rep

Jodie is an alum ('93) who will review photography and illustration portfolios for those with commercial aspirations.

November 16th @ 2:30pm

DRAFT FCB

Art Buyer Sari Rowe will review photography portfolios from the perspective of an agency buyer.

PORTFOLIO CENTER

TALK TO
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Ratio: Faculty running out of space

Continued from Page

faculty. She said the college needs to get serious about providing more space and facilities for adjunct faculty, so that they can be better available on campus.

"That's a continuing concern that we have because space is a premium at Columbia," Pfeiffer said. "There is not adequate office space for faculty at Columbia."

Berry said adjunct faculty need to be treated the same as full-time faculty because adjuncts are doing most of the work and in most cases under worse circumstances, like not having offices, less pay, no benefits and no sick leave.

"There is a movement out there struggling against these conditions," Berry said. "That's the direction that solutions are going to come from."

Larsen also said that sabbatical replacements would help. Every six years tenured faculty members have the opportunity to take a sabbatical, a year-long paid

leave to work on a project for professional development. Next year there are going to be three full-time faculty members in the AEMM Department out on sabbatical, leaving a heavier workload for the other faculty members, Larsen said.

Berry said since adjuncts don't have permanency of employment it's much harder for them to plan and for students to know who their teachers will be. He also added that adjuncts are not in a position to give advice, have casual conversations get to know students as they should.

Another concern of having a

majority of part-time professors, Berry said, is that since they do not have the same job security as full-time, tenured faculty have limited academic freedom. He said that adjuncts are not going to teach their classes, or speak the truth in the same way, since there is a fear that they could lose their jobs.

"You can't separate student academic freedom from faculty academic freedom because it all takes place in the same room," Berry said.

This fall the number of students in the Marketing Department increased 50 percent more than expected, putting extra strain on the faculty. However, Sullivan said the growth is positive.

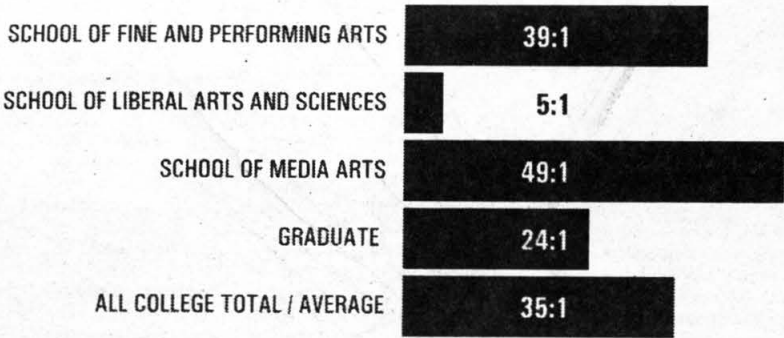
"Our extraordinary growth is testimony to the reputation of the college in general, and of the fields we teach, in particular," Sullivan said. "So I am proud that our growth has spiked so profoundly."

Sullivan said Doreen Bartoni, dean of the School of Media Arts, is escalating searches for new faculty, and granted the Marketing Communication Department a new full-time position. Since the department only has nine full-time faculty members, Sullivan said this will sig-

nificantly help manage the workload for the current faculty.

Larsen said hiring more full-time faculty is the most important solution, which the college is in the process of doing. Even though the AEMM Department has been hiring new full-time faculty, Larsen said it is not happening quick enough, which she attributes largely to budget issues. The department is currently searching for two new full-time faculty members, but Larsen said the problem is that it doesn't

STUDENTS TO FULL-TIME FACULTY RATIOS



SOURCE: COLUMBIA'S FALL 2005 FACT BOOK

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

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

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Chicago, IL 60605

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Kamoinge [a group of people acting together]

was formed in New York in 1963 to address the under-representation of black photographers in the art world. The group was founded by Louis Draper, Ray Francis, Herbert Randell and Albert Fennar, with Roy DeCarava serving as its first director. Kamoinge's body of work spans the past thirty years and includes numerous images of daily life in black America during the last half of the twentieth century. To preview works in the *Working Together* auction visit www.colum.edu/kamoinge.

The Kamoinge-Ferman Scholarship will provide ongoing scholarship funds for International Educational Study. The Kamoinge-Ferman Scholarship is provided through the Liberal Educational Department to students who have excelled in African-American Studies and or made contributions to the African-American Community.

Council: No standard use of course fees

Continued from Front Page

[they] can be surprisingly willing to pay if they know where the money is going," Matos said.

Currently, course fees are distributed into a pool of money in each individual department's overall budget, according to Steve Kapelke, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs. While the fees are intended to be used directly for the class itself, there is no guarantee that they will be.

Department chairs are ultimately in control of the money, and in many situations, course fees are used by the department for various expenses, such as supplies.

"It's fungible," said Bob Thall, chair of the Photography Department. "It's in one big pot."

Students, however, are left to guess what the money is used for.

"Handouts?" said Scott Whipkey, a senior painting major. "I would hope that it is used well. It's all given in good faith."

Kapelke said this problem has come up before, and vowed to address the issue further over the next few months.

"It's something we're struggling with..." he said. "It's not being ignored. I'm a little frustrated with it as well, quite frankly."

jjaworski@chroniclemail.com

Exhibit: Artists examine society's 'throw- away culture'

Continued from Page 3

hoping people would check it out," Drendel said.

Fischer has been in Chicago for about 15 years and is part of the project space Mess Hall, 5932 N. Glenwood Ave., and the art ensemble Temporary Services. He said he enjoys working with other artists, because it allows him to express an interest of his that is not shared with other people.

"I think when two people work together it's much richer," Fischer said. "[We] get the benefits of sharing each other's interests."

Miceli carries on the theme of "Exalted Trash" in his area of the exhibit, mostly using fast food packaging to show how easily materials are made, used, discarded and lost. He said the trash is almost like snapshots of our culture.

"The stuff is pretty abundant," Miceli said. "There's an instant context there when I start using something of that nature."

Drendel said the two exhibits are a perfect match because both show America's "throw-away culture."

Miceli said he started out as a "very mainstream" artist interested in paintings, drawings and photography. He eventually

began working with objects he found.

"I have an eye out for stuff," Miceli said. "I would just look in garbage cans just to see what's in there. It's not unusual to find a half-drawn drawing or a variety of things. They become like archaeological relics."

In one installation, Miceli used fast-food packaging to cre-

ate pieces resembling environmental core samples, which are samples pulled from the ground to study what is being put into the earth, Drendel said.

Miceli's piece has the same concept as the core samples but shows how fast-food packaging is easily disposed of and put back into the earth where it came from.

"A millennium from now, this is what will come up," Drendel said.

"Exalted Trash," located on the second floor of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., opened Oct. 7 and runs through Dec. 9 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

chronicle@colum.edu

Dead and loving it



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Sophomore Yorvi Moreira has his face painted as a part of the Day of the Dead festivities at the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Nov. 1. The event was put together by the Latino Alliance and lasted from noon until 10 p.m. It started with a series of altar processions that were held at every Columbia building and culminated in a festival at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

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SPRING 2007

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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 (since 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.

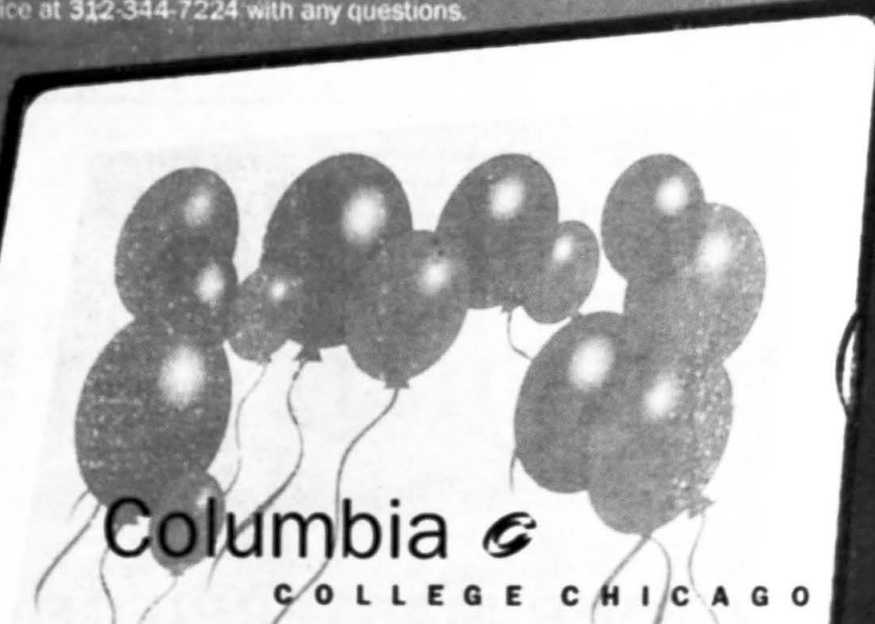
Students who are not current on their balance will be restricted from registering. Log into OASIS to check your balance on your Course and Fee Statement, or your registration hold status on Student Profile - Holds. If you have questions regarding your account balance, or need to review your options to 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



Tuition: Columbia tuition has doubled over the last decade

Continued from Front Page

at Columbia currently make up 88 percent of its overall income, rendering it unable to assist students with their financial needs.

"It's a very long-term kind of process and people don't necessarily understand that," Leventhal said. "They say, 'Well, why don't we have this money now?' Well, because we have not had it, and it takes a long time of courting the kinds of wealthy people who are going to care about Columbia's mission."

In the meantime, Columbia's tuition and fees have more than doubled in the last 10 years, from \$8,135 in 1996 to the current \$16,328, according to a report done by the office of Research, Evaluation and Planning. Throughout this decade, the national average tuition for four-year private institutions has increased 32 percent.

The rise of tuition and accessibility to higher education for lower-income students is becoming a major concern across the country.

In a study done by Noel Levitz, a higher education consulting group that has worked with public and private institutions for more than 30 years, the 162 private colleges surveyed showed a trend in

tuition growth around 24 percent in the last five years. Despite the growth, aid hovered around 33 percent. The surveyed schools included Pratt Institute, an arts and media college in Brooklyn, N.Y., North Park University in Chicago and Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., among others.

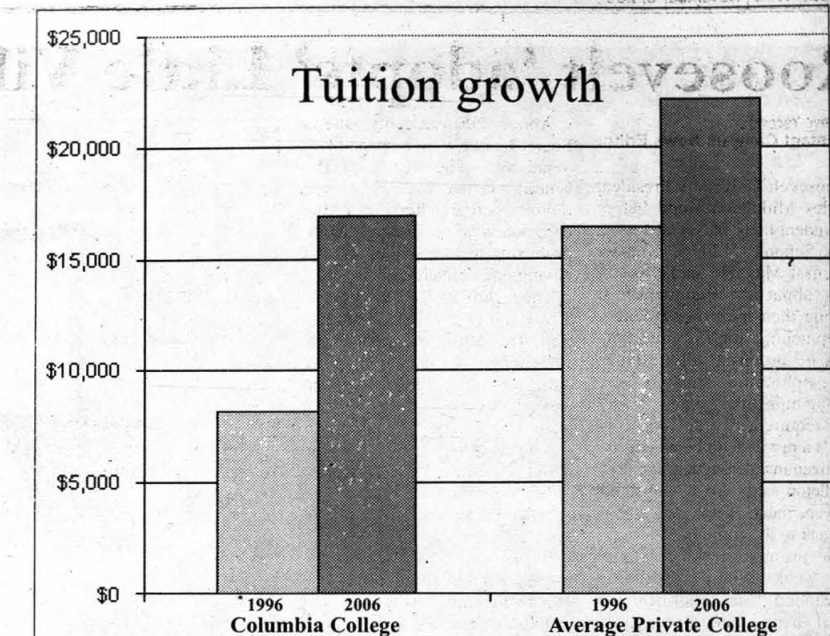
James Mager, associate vice president of Noel Levitz, said the tension comes from wanting to ensure access to education and giving back to the community while increasing the quality of school's higher education.

"In a time where the education in other countries is taking off, the United States doesn't want to fall behind on the quality of what they're offering," Mager said. "When an institution is raising their tuition in this time of inflation, most of that money continues to go back to supporting the institutional priorities."

For years, Columbia has sought to provide an education in arts and media, "not one that starts deeply in debt," according to its website. The site also calls Columbia the "most affordable of private arts and media colleges."

Though lowest in sticker-price tuition, Columbia has ranked among the lowest in financial assistance compared to other arts and media schools nationwide.

According to the most recent data of from the National Center for Education Statistics, in the 2004-2005 school year, about 9 percent of Columbia students received financial aid from the school, not including loans, state or federal grants. If the money Columbia spent in finan-



cial aid that year was distributed evenly across the student body, it would have totaled \$350 per student.

That same year, 80 percent of all students received institutional aid at Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, averaging \$3,660 given by the school per student. Similarly, 61 percent of all students received institutional aid at Pratt Institute, averaging \$6,045 per student.

"We are presenting our best price based on real costs," Leventhal said. "Other schools

bump up their sticker price, knowing full well ... it doesn't really reflect their real cost. They can afford to discount [tuition] because their sticker price is inflated."

She said that merit- and need-based scholarships have increased proportionally to the growth in tuition, but no data were available at the time of publication.

Spencer Sanz, a junior graphic design major, has felt the pressure of rising tuition. Transferring from Northern Illinois University this year, he

works at Best Buy to pay for his nearly doubled tuition.

"I think it'd be smart to have fixed tuition, so for four years you pay what you did when you started," Sanz said.

He said he will count on Columbia's help for job placement, and is concerned about graduating and immediately starting to pay back his student loans.

"It's ridiculous," he said. "It's like higher education is only for the rich."

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Image: Joshua Winger from The Secondary Series.

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Roosevelt 'adopts' Little Village high school

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

Roosevelt University President Charles Middleton stood before the student body of Social Justice High School, 3120 S. Kostner Ave., last May. He spoke to students about the importance of keeping their eyes on academics and pursuing higher education. Then he promised all freshmen and sophomore students full scholarships if they graduate with entry requirements for Roosevelt.

"It's a privilege to be an educated citizen in a democratic society," Middleton said. "To whom much is given, much is required in giving back to the community."

The promise became official last week when Middleton announced the adoption of Social Justice, one of four Little Village high schools, ensuring financial support for all students of the classes of 2009 and 2010 who graduate with at least a 3.0 GPA and score a 20 on the ACT.

"Faculty members were in tears," said Katherine Hogan, educational director at Social Justice. "The idea of going to a private institution like Roosevelt University is really not something that students and their families can imagine as a tangible objective, but when you eliminate the money factor and say 'As long you really work hard in your classes we will make sure that you have a college education,' that's huge."

About 200 students attend Social Justice, which opened two years ago. The vision of the school started in 2001 when mothers and grandmothers of the community were tired of the city promising them a school and not having one delivered.

They did an 18-day hunger strike and two years of community dedication and petitioning for a school. Its name is its mission, providing education in an poverty-stricken area, Hogan said. Out of the 70 percent of Latino students at Social Justice, about a third are undocumented, making it impossible for those students to receive any state or federal aid.

Roosevelt will raise the money needed for the scholarships through individual and corporate donors willing to be a part of the adoption program, Middleton said.

Roosevelt's current tuition is \$10,796, less than half the national average of \$22,218.

But Middleton said the problem higher education is more complicated than just lowering tuition.

"I think that the bigger issue here is not so much financial," Middleton said. "The bigger issue here is that most of these students do not come from families where college has ever been an opportunity taken, and if you don't know in your family how to go to college, you don't know what's available to you."



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Dr. Charles Middleton has been president of Roosevelt University since he came from the University of Maryland five years ago. Middleton put a plan in place with Little Village's Social Justice High School to give students the opportunity to earn a free ride at Roosevelt.

As part of Roosevelt's adoption program, the college will send personnel to meet with students in their junior year and families to assist them in their preparation for college.

"The program has to include more than just 'Here's some money—if you can make it over

here you'll be taken care of,'" Middleton said. "It's got to be 'We want you to come here, so let's make sure you make it over here.'"

Hogan said the scholarship will be an incredible incentive for students to do well in their classes, and urged other universities to use their resources to

assist low-income students.

"It's all a big experiment," she said. "I really think the biggest obstacle has been taken away from us and we can concentrate on purely the academics."

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Tired of getting dirty fingers?



Bongiorno for Christian porno



By Cyril Jakubowski
Commentary Editor

I stood in a 7-Eleven buying a celebratory Chicago Bulls victory six-pack, contemplating pointing at the forbidden rack of smut and telling the clerk, "Let me get this month's Hustler." Not out of any imminent need, but out of spite to what I lay witness to the day before.

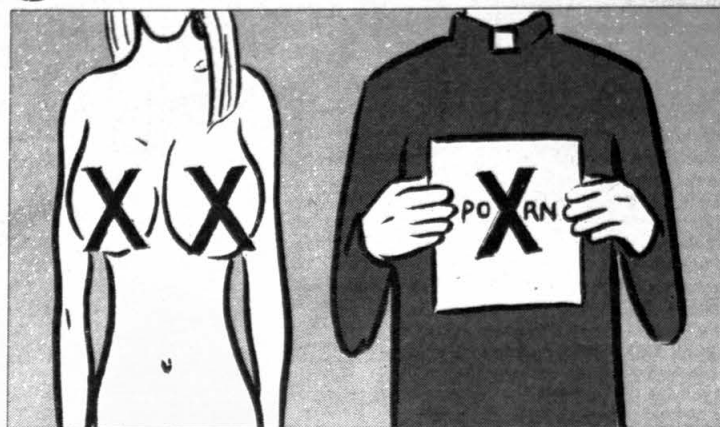
I attended "Porn Nation: Naked Truth," last week at Columbia's Film Row Cinema. I went because I expected pole dancers, 70s porn music, and tits. I was expecting it to be uncensored, controversial and above all, a provocative venture through the world that is pornography and its effects on American culture—both positive and negative.

I wasn't alone. The theater was packed. But when a man walked on stage, I felt a brief chill. Something was telling me this wouldn't fulfill my expectations, either.

"Porn Nation: Naked Truth" was a presentation by former sex-addict Michael Leahy, who, with the help of video segments, talked about porn and its effects. Leahy lectures college students around the nation's campuses about the dangers of "sex syndrome," a term he coined when talking about the idea of porn desensitizing the American culture. Leahy said that prolonged exposure to porn causes a lack of ability to experience intimacy. In his example, his wife wasn't fulfilling his needs apparently.

Pornography is a \$57 billion industry worldwide, and the U.S. makes a \$12 billion profit. Leahy said the industry makes more money than all professional football, baseball and basketball franchises combined. He also said that there is more adult bookstores than McDonald's franchises. Thank God—one of these days there should be a drive-through option when it comes to adult bookstores. I'd call it a snatch and run.

Leahy said that with "sex syndrome," watching porn yields to building up toler-



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

ance to dopamine, which is a chemical in the brain that controls pleasure centers. He said that the user of the "material" must find more arousing images to get the same rush, a "high," if you will.

While Leahy's message is a cautionary tale, he was preaching to the wrong choir. College students generally like porn and while Leahy's message was that future meaningful relationships are affected by pornography, he was still referring to his marriage. The longer I sat in this darkened theater and listened to Leahy's story about how he lost his 13-year marriage, I couldn't help thinking about the word "pontificate." Mid-lecture, many students sitting in the middle section got up and left. Then I discovered that this presentation was sponsored by Campus Crusade for Christ and there was an agenda for all of it.

Leahy paused the lecture for four minutes at the end to let people know there would be a discussion on spirituality and they were welcome to leave if they didn't like to hear that. Many left. I stayed. I had to cover this righteously.

The sermon began, but I had a hard time identifying with what Leahy was saying, partly because guilt is not my problem

when it comes to porno. Jesus takes a lunch break when I watch porn. And even in Leahy's case, he said there were other choices that led to the collapse of his marriage, partly him cheating.

Addiction to porn and the issue of personal accountability are two different things. Porn use should be in moderation.

I asked Leahy during a Q&A at the end if alcohol abuse had any part in his dealings with "sex syndrome." He said, no, but he did "drink in college." So is that a yes?

But what struck me was that Leahy prefaced the entire lecture with a definition of pornography, which according to WordNet, a Princeton database for the English language, is "creative activity (writing or pictures or films etc.) of no literary or artistic value other than to stimulate sexual desire."

Late comedian Bill Hicks often talked about pornography. He came up with the answer for what causes sexual thought—"It's having a dick." While he was obviously speaking to the males in the audience, I'd have to agree with him. We spend too much time defining what pornography is instead of realizing that putting a label on something that is changing is useless. The definition of pornography is too broad in the first

place. There are many kinds of porn these days and some of it is not even pretty anymore. But alas, people's sexual desires get perverse. What blows your socks off doesn't even put the clothes on to rinse in other cases. Playboys from the '50s and '60s are considered tame by today's standards. If Leahy is suggesting that continued exposure to porn leads to deviation, then I'd have to agree to disagree.

The porn industry can be viewed through a different prism. Porn itself is an aesthetic. I've got Hustlers from the '80s, and say what you want about Larry Flynt, but that shit was art. The publication, when viewed as a whole, was a cultural document commenting on sex, politics and the First Amendment. While Leahy did say that his presentation wasn't concerned with free speech, I thought he was using his right of free speech to pound home his message that porn has dire consequences.

Ask a soldier in Iraq if porn is bad. Ask Jenna Jameson, who is makes a decent living acting in adult entertainment, if it is bad that porn is available, affordable and anonymous. However, if your computer has a tera-gig of porn, I'd think about limiting stroking your Wookiee to, say, once every couple of hours. Seriously, maybe it can be hard to overcome, but give me a break. That's not a question of pornography being the culprit, but rather an element of personal responsibility. Most relationships and marriages fail not because of porn, but because of a lack of communication.

Porn is obviously in demand and here to stay. If there is anything that can be improved with porn, it is to bring it back to the old days, circa '70s or '80s, and make it less graphic, and more suggestive. It seems that porn had more respect for women than it does now. Remember, when Playboy first came out, Hugh Hefner was considered a firm believer in women's rights. It was about the beauty of women and not about, you know, just showing tits.

So I didn't buy the new Hustler. I've got better ones at home.

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Roamin' Numerals

50 The number of years that Bob Barker has worked in the television industry. Barker, host of "The Price is Right" for 35 years, is retiring in June according to The Associated Press. "I'm just reaching the age where the constant effort to be there and do the show physically is a lot for me," Barker said.

625 Number of condoms that can be put on a dildo, according to a study done by researchers from myscienceproject.org. After 200 condoms were put on, the reservoir tips were stacking up and giving the dildo a missile-like shape. The 1 lb. dildo weighed 3 lbs at the end of the experiment. The researchers concluded that this would result in severe penile injury on a real penis.

5000 The number of pairs of shoes that were confiscated from a warehouse in Moriyama-ku, Japan on Nov. 1. Masashi Kamata, 28, is suspected of stealing the pairs of shoes in order to enjoy their odors. "I was enjoying their smell," he said, according to Mainichi Newspapers.

The acuity of promiscuity



By Hunter Clauss
Editor-in-Chief

The saying "mo' money, mo' problems" has received a new meaning thanks to a recently published study in the U.K. medical journal Lancet. The study, conducted by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, compiled data from 59 countries and concluded that while monogamy is on the up and up around the world, promiscuity was rampant in Western countries.

But is this necessarily surprising? In a nation governed by politicians who can't even commit to a resolution in Iraq, why should we westerners commit ourselves to a relationship?

Even Iraq seems like a one night stand, but

she's not the attractive woman we met at a bar, shared a few drinks with, took home and "found the night" with only to suddenly discover she's a psychopath—calling at all hours of the night, wondering where we are as she sits by the phone with mascara stained tears running down her cheeks.

This picture may be a more accurate portrayal of the Republican party's pollsters at the moment, trying feverishly to calculate the possible damage Tuesday's election may bring to the party's firm grasp of Congress. They, too, are quickly realizing that some crucial voters aren't as committed to party lines as previously believed.

But is the issue of promiscuity totally reflective of America's fickleness toward relationships? After all, America is completely schizophrenic when it comes to sex. Television shows like "Desperate Housewives," "CSI" and "Grey's Anatomy"

depict the sexually frustrated while reality-based dating shows like "Flavor of Love" capture the desperate competing for some glimmer of affection.

It has gotten to the point where a celebrity's love life overshadows what she/he wears to the Oscars. We have become so obsessed with the sexual escapades of the rich and famous that we've gone as far as guessing the sexual orientation of fictional characters like SpongeBob SquarePants and Superman.

But American politicians, on the other hand, face the firing squad when their own lipstick-stained collars are exposed. Former U.S. congressman Mark Foley resigned after sending one too many suggestive e-mails to young pages, and former President Bill Clinton's second term in office became stained when the world discovered a few stains he made on a dress belonging to an intern.

Promiscuity is the cat's meow for the industrial Hollywood complex and the death rattle in American politics. And that's how it should be. If things were different, the mere thought of Oscar night being switched with the State of the Union is just creepy. The image of that beef jerky corpse known as Joan Rivers pulling aside Dick Cheney asking him what he's wearing can make anyone cringe.

But the idea that a nation primarily founded by Puritans sleeping around brings a smile to anyone fed up with the prudish sensibility of the status quo. Does this mean that we're embarking on a new age of sexual freedom? Will Americans get over their bad selves, not having to muster up the courage to say simple words like "rim job?" Maybe once we finish what we started in Iraq, then we can figure it all out.

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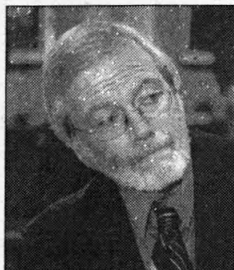
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Editorials

A viable alternative



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

It is time to vote. Expect the escalating tête-à-tête between Illinois gubernatorial candidates, Democratic incumbent Rod Blagojevich and his Republican challenger, Judy Baar Topinka, to get nastier and seedier. Truly, kindergarten kids behave better when they are finger-painting. As the candidates skewered each other on accusations of "pay-to-play" politics in Springfield and acquaintances turned felons, the people of Illinois tire of the finger pointing.

However, this gubernatorial election has a viable alternative: Green Party candidate Rich Whitney. And The Chronicle endorses Whitney for governor.

Whitney's universal healthcare reform plans go with what we envision as the right step regarding healthcare. Healthcare funding is a problem, and not just for businesses but also for students, who sometimes don't have insurance. Whitney supports single-payer healthcare and not insurance reforms.

Although this involves payroll tax, businesses would save hundreds of millions of dollars if the tax money went to single payer insurance.

Current healthcare is ridiculous, with people paying sometimes more than \$100 a month. Taking out close to 3 percent from payroll and using that money to have universal insurance could save money and provide more options to people, such as being able to go to any doctor.

He believes that government-funded healthcare can concentrate on better quality care at a fraction of the cost that consumers and businesses are spending on mediocre care.

There is a caveat before pulling the proverbial voting handle for Whitney. He is a strong proponent of gun rights and even promoted the idea that a citizen "with appropriate objective training, licensing and background check requirements" should be allowed to openly carry a weapon, according to his website.

While The Chronicle does not necessarily agree with his views on gun control, his views on universal healthcare, public transportation and education reform will pull the governor's office out of a systematic pay-to-play and the "business as usual" mentality.

Whitney also favors a shift from highway construction to high-speed rail and public

transit. One always hears this in Illinois: "Why aren't the roads being fixed?" And when they are, complaints surface about why it's taking so long. We don't need more roads. Gas prices fluctuate constantly, and building more highways or widening roads is not sustainable in the future.

Whitney wants to consider energy efficient, environmentally friendly ways of transit in the Chicago area. Smart urban planning and emphasis on public transit would greatly improve the state of Illinois.

When people see a Green Party candidate, they automatically think environment, but what strikes us is that Whitney generally wants to do more for this state than just save the trees.

Concentrating on transportation and healthcare are some of his platforms, but the man has something else going for him—he's new to politics. Some argue that Whitney has no experience with government, but his position as an attorney at a law firm could provide a fresher perspective to Illinois government.

While Topinka and Blagojevich keep reaching new lows in name calling, Whitney seems to concentrate on actually debating the issues and implementing new ideas, instead of on trash talking, stepping on bodies and winning at all cost.

Cook County needs a change

We endorse Tony Peraica, Republican candidate for Cook County Board President. Though we do understand that seeing the word "Republican," especially in Illinois, is grounds for pulling the handle for a Democrat based on tradition, we think he is the more qualified person for the job.

The situation leading up to putting Todd Stroger on the ballot just screams disorganization. Who is Todd Stroger, except an heir to the throne? Does the man speak out on issues at all? Besides a family name, will his election be just putting another cog into the machine known as Cook County government?

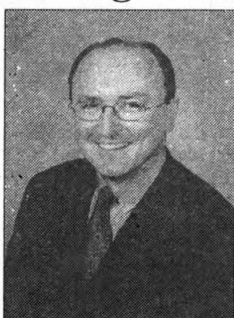
When former president John Stroger became ill this March, news of his medical condition, as well as who would be his replacement, were addressed with much delay.

On the local level, having someone like Peraica to dismantle corrupt city politics could change the nepotism

driven nature of this city. There hasn't been a Republican Cook County Board president for almost four decades, and if there is anything to be said about an old system it is this: Giving Peraica a chance could actually do more good than harm.

The Chronicle suspects, however, that in the general state of voting in this country, with negative smear campaigns filling valuable time slots on television on a regular basis, voter turnout will most likely be low. But in a highly energized political environment like Cook County, the name Stroger shouldn't ring a bell, but instead sound a giant radical blow horn about the need to change things.

If voters don't show up to vote, Stroger, despite what various polls suggest, will win the position. We would hate to see votes being wasted on a candidate who acts like a puppet. There is no guarantee that cronyism and

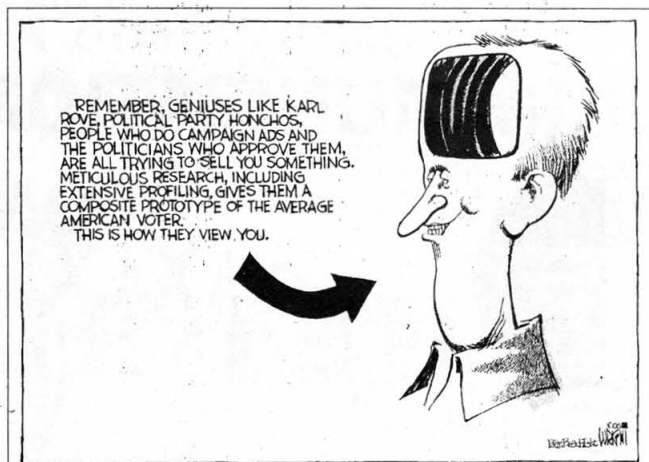


Eric Kohn/Urquhart Media, LLC

nepotism will be eliminated in Cook County. But from what we have seen so far about Todd Stroger, Cook County wouldn't bode well with him in charge. From the way he was chosen as a candidate, he is not ready for the position. He isn't even qualified for the job. His career so far has been lackluster, and it seems the man has nothing original to say.

Therefore, The Chronicle proudly endorses Tony Peraica for Cook County Board President.

Back from the Drawing Boards



Dan Wright/MCT



Nate Beeler/MCT



Louis Coppola/MCT

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 15 you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

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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/>

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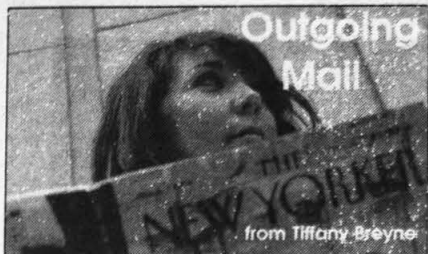
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle

VACANT CHURCHES IN THE CITY ARE FINDING A NEW PURPOSE AS HIGH-END LOFT APARTMENTS. PAGE 22

CONDOS in God's House



Dear obnoxious moviegoers,

I'd like to know what small fraction of your brain you two were using when you decided it was a good idea to bring a sack dinner into the theater. Was it that monetary voice in your head that was shouting, "Save money, bring that soda can"? Or maybe it was your taste buds telling you that a meaty sandwich would be more filling than a box of Milk Duds. Either way, you disgust me.

To jog your memory, I'm going to do a run-through of that night. My roommate and I were sitting in the awesome reclining seats at the Kerasotes Webster Theater, waiting for *Marie Antoinette* to begin and making fun of everyone around us, because that's what we do for entertainment. As the lights dimmed down, we shut up and stared patiently at the screen. Excitement pumped through our veins and our happy eyes sparkled as the movie started—and then you guys, the happily trashy married couple, showed

asses. As I scooted out of my warm and comfy seat to the cold, vacant one next to me, the words of "Full House"'s Stephanie Tanner rang through my head, "How rude!"

But, I decided to forgive and forget; maybe you missed your train or bus, which can happen to anyone. What happened a few minutes later, though, is unforgivable. As I watched cute little Kirsten Dunst bounce around the screen in her fancy French dresses, I caught a whiff of something, a pungent odor that I recognized but couldn't quite name. One more inhale later, I realized what it was: mashed potatoes with sour cream and chives. As a self-proclaimed mashed potato fanatic, the scent usually results in feelings of hunger and joy. This time, though, I was confused.

Why was I being graced with this delicious aroma of down-home cookin'? I look to my right; nothing. I look ahead and see the back of some

couple necking and cringe. Then I look to my left and I see the two of you, sitting there with a fork in one hand and a Tupperware container full of sour cream and chives mashed potatoes in the other.

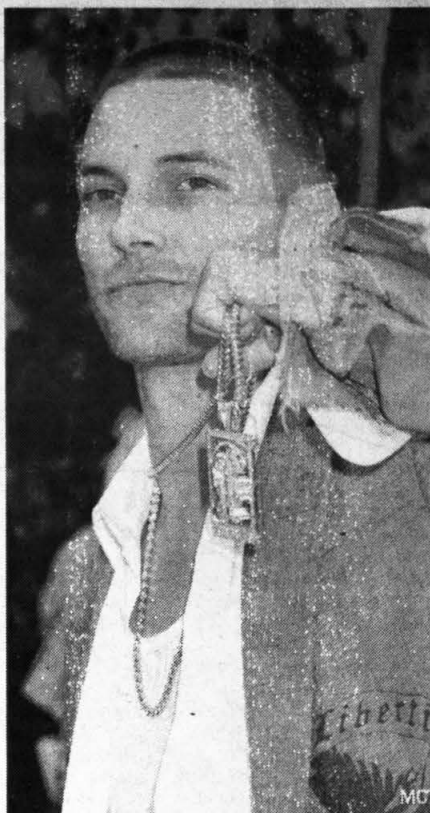
I wanted to scream. I wanted to reach over and grab a handful of mashed potatoes and smear them all over your faces. Well, maybe not—I wouldn't want to actually touch you. I was so confused and pissed off at the fact that two people found it socially acceptable to bring soda cans and Tupperware containers full of cooked food to a movie. I understand the need to save money; I've been known to bring my own box of delicious Sno Caps into a theater as a slap in the face to "the Man's" crappy and expensive treats.

But I was too much of a wimp to say anything to you guys as I progressively got more and more nauseated and angered at your inconsiderate behavior. Now I wish I would have, because I'm still full of rage. I know that someday you'll get your comeuppance, though. Whether it be choking on a chicken wing during the new *Tenacious D* movie or being publicly humiliated in front of a whole theater of people, you will pay for ruining my movie experience.

And thanks to you jerks, the sweet smell of mashed potatoes now carries with it a bitter memory of idiocy and anger.

tbreyne@chroniclemail.com

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



Kevin Federline is possibly the most oblivious human being on earth. A single rap song was leaked off of his debut album—now in stores, beware!—and was shredded to pieces by everyone who heard it, yet he continues to exude total confidence in his musical abilities. He is also referred to as Mr. Britney Spears, because at least her name carries some substance, albeit trash-talking gossip substance. Does he care? Nope, not so much. As long as he can land that sweet record deal and make money off being the P-I-M-P that he is, Federline doesn't care about much.

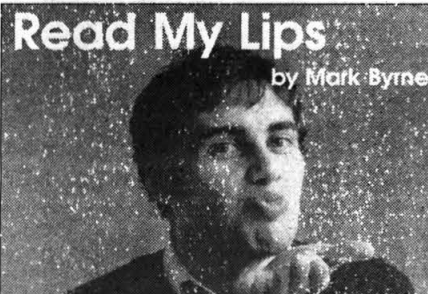
But The Chronicle can't hate on him too much. His obliviousness keeps us entertained and gives People magazine something to write about each week. In fact, his latest interview with the magazine was plenty entertaining: The man wants to travel to Africa because he likes watching the Discovery Channel and is "into the safari animals and all that stuff." How cute. But it doesn't stop there. He also wants to write a book about his life before Britney. For some reason he thinks people care and want to understand him better. Oh, you grew up break dancing? Sweet. You smoke a lot and have four kids with two different women? Awesome. We want to hear all about it.

Unfortunately, Federline wants to have a ghostwriter helping him out. We don't think he needs one at all because he really has talent. To prove our point of his amazing writing skills, here's a sampling of lyrics from his most popular song, "Popozao":

"I want to see your kitty and a little bit of titty / Want to know where I go when I'm in your city?"

We rest our case. We can't wait till this jackass's book comes out.

—T. Breyne



Sobering realizations

Last weekend, I was the soberest person at a party. This was by no means my fault—in fact, I walked around with a bottle of Makers Mark, taking swigs throughout the night, and I killed three-quarters of the thing by the time I made it home. But still, there I was, relatively sober, surrounded by drunken college kids at a party in drunken ol' Lincoln Park.

This was new to me. Usually at parties, I'm "that guy." You know, the guy who whips his shirt off and wraps it around his head like a turban. But at this party, I was sober enough to step back and come to a realization: Too much alcohol turns girls into whores.

As a point of contrast, too much alcohol turns me into a blackout slob. But women appear to have a far different reaction. They seem to abandon common sense, set their sights on getting ass—and then proceed to make asses of themselves.

The first hint came early in the night. I had been talking to a friend-of-a-friend, and noted that she was extra touchy throughout the conversation.

board game and she landed on one of those squares that throws the piece way ahead. Like in Candyland, except more alcohol-based and sexual.

"I'm not going to kiss you," I said, and then left.

At the next party, where I ended up shirtless I started picking up on similar trends. One girl in particular would not back off, and I attribute the persistence to the jungle juice in the kitchen, because I make it pretty clear when I'm not interested.

She came up to me and first commented on my Volvo tattoo. She liked it, or something. I said thank you and then turned around. It wasn't that I didn't think she was cute; it was just such a boring pick up line.

"I like your tattoo." Thanks. Obviously, I do, too.

About 20 minutes later, she came around again. This time she complimented me on the whisky bottle I was sipping on. I hadn't put the thing down all night, so obviously she saw it the first time we interacted. Yet 20 minutes later, she felt it appropriate to mention

how awesome it was that I was drinking Makers Mark. As if I were responsible for something more than just buying the whisky. Like I had a hand in the process of making that batch, like I'd been in Kentucky to help distill it and I hand picked that specific bottle after an extensive tasting session. Who compliments someone on a bottle of booze? I bought it at CVS. It was \$19.99. To whom, exactly, is that impressive? Horny drunk girls, that's whom.

It didn't stop there though. Again, she came up to me even later in the night, presumably after more jungle juice, and paid another awkward compliment. This time it was about my Vonnegut tattoo. At this point, she threw a conclusion on the series of shameless flirts; she said, "Wow, everything about you is awesome." At that point, I ripped my pants off and threw her against a wall in a fit of lust, because I was just so blown away. Just kidding.

This kind of trend is hard to pick up on when you, the male, are also drunk. We just take it for granted. "I'm drunk; she's drunk—great! We're going to have some hot, awkward sex later!" But when I looked at it through clear, sober eyes, I was able to note the contrast. Men turn into clumsy assholes, and women turn into clumsy floozies.

I know that it isn't the case with all girls, but on that particular night, it seemed like not a single girl was on her game. Perhaps, when I too am drunk, it is easy to disregard. But as I stood there, regrettably sober, I thought, "Wow, this is pathetic." So I drank the rest of the whisky, and everything was all right again.

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Ratings Guide

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

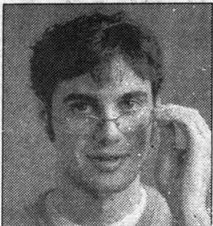
Complete Crap

Download it

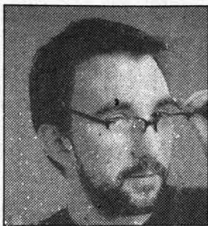
Pretty Entertaining

Very Good

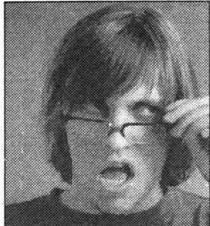
Word Up.



Mark
Byrne



Brent Steven
White



Michael
Claire

Top 5

Florida: It is easy to forget that this haven of sunshine and retirees is a part of the Deep South. When I visited last weekend it became overtly obvious again; nowhere else can one see pickup trucks full of empty beer cans.

Warm weather: While I was in Florida, I was able to forget—for about three days—that Chicago is donning its scarf, hat and parka in preparation for winter. I, meanwhile, was at the beach.

Winter biking: Oh, shut up. It's really not that bad. Just because it's a little cold out doesn't mean you can't ride; you just have to know how to dress for it. Much like skiing.

Late night Craigslist purchases: While I ride this winter on my old Schwinn, I'm slowly gathering parts for a sexy new Motobecane that I'll break out this spring. By gathering parts, I mean that I'll be up late and something will catch my eye on Craigslist or eBay and then I'll buy it without a second thought.

Not thinking: See Florida. If I didn't go there over the weekend to visit my grandparents and clear my mind, I might have gone into a stress-induced coma. The other day, I sent a text message to a friend. It said, "It's going to be another epic night with my whiskey." It was Wednesday. Enough said.

Subway musicians: Aren't they great? Most of them are talented musicians, but the most talented dude I've seen since moving here was playing at the Jackson Street Blue line stop the other day. A violinist, the guy was playing Rachmaninoff and Mozart pieces with absolute procession.

Online poker: I've been good with managing my finances lately. As a reward to myself, I decided to deposit a little on FullTiltPoker.com and play some tournaments. So far, I've done poorly. I haven't played seriously since last summer and that's why I suck now.

The United States' position on online gambling: Congress recently passed the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, and the poker world reacted with hysteria. Many online poker sites, including PartyPoker.com, now refuse to deal with U.S. customers, fearing that their companies will crumble. But this bill doesn't change the legalities surrounding online gambling. Rather, it puts pressure on pre-existing online gambling laws. But the U.S. needs to take a different approach to this matter by regulating online gambling.

Cannibal Holocaust: The uncut version of this movie is the most disturbing, distasteful and gruesome film I've ever seen. Some of the footage looks more real than segments of *Faces of Death*.

Chicago's recycling program: Mayor Daley finally pulled his head out of his ass, announcing plans to do away with the blue bag system and expand curbside recycling.

Bar banshees: Usually a dumpy female administrative assistant who uses her Pomeranian and a jar of peanut butter to make up for lackluster Friday nights.

Pimples: Although these mounds of puss naturally seem gross, they can actually be quite fun. Nourish some of the bigger ones until they're ripe and pulsating, then stand in front of the mirror for some bubble wrap-type fun. Save the juice that you get on the mirror as your own personal trophies.

Da Bears: I haven't felt this good about my favorite sports team since the Curtis Conway and Eric Kramer era. The Bears are finally redeeming themselves for Rick Mirer, Steve Stenstrom, Moses Moreno, Shane Matthews, Cade McNown, Chris Chandler, Henry Burris, Brian Cox, Rashaan Salaam, Marc Colomabu, Todd Sauerbrun, Curtis Enis, David Terrell, Alonzo "Zo" Spellman ...

Portnoy's Complaint: "I pass wind as I sit in the bath. She bends over to kiss the bubbles." God, I love this filthy little slut, er, book.

Chicago Comics: This shop, at 3244 N. Clark St., is one of my favorite places to pick up really hot chicks. Where else can I waste money on male nurse action figures?

Exposure



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

It is amazing what can be left behind and forgotten in the ever-changing urban environment of Chicago. Buildings that once were essential mechanisms in the city's massive urban composition are now left vacant and ignored, slowly returning to nature by natural means or with the assistance of vandals. With this process of decay comes a certain beauty in watching a massive man-made structure slowly being deteriorated by the elements, gradually returning to the location's natural form. The address of this location is being kept confidential due to recent damage by vandals and scrap collectors.

MONDAY / Spend the morning at the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, 1852 W. 19th St., and watch "Martinetas de la Esquina—The Circus." A troupe of puppeteers presents this show in English and Spanish. The show begins at 10 a.m. Admission is \$5. **TUESDAY** / "47 Artists on 47th Street," a group show, features work from artists focusing on life in Chicago's South Side. The show is displayed at Little Plack Peral Art and Design Center, 1060 E. 47th St. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free. **WEDNESDAY** / The film *El Favor* is showing at Columbia's Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., as part of Reeling: The 24th Chicago Lesbian and Gay International Film Festival. The film begins at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for members of the festival, \$10 for non-members. **THURSDAY** / Dance Chicago presents the New Moves Festival at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15-\$25. **FRIDAY** / OK GO plays at the Logan Square Auditorium, 2539 N. Kedzie Ave. The show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10. **SATURDAY** / "Uhu Roi" opens at Columbia's Gatz Theater, 72 E. 11th St. The play begins at 7 p.m. Admission is free for Columbia students; tickets are \$14 for adults, \$7 for students and seniors. **SUNDAY** / Check out the improv show "Secret Mission" at the Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St. The show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

November

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Goodbye ambition, 'Bonjour Laziness'

French author criticizes corporations, argues for idleness at the workplace

By Brent Steven White/Assistant A&E Editor

A French book recently translated into English denounces big business corporations, asserting that they take advantage of their employees and advocates that these employees become "actively disengaged" at their workplace.

Bonjour Laziness, published in France in 2004 and in the United States this past September, is written by Corinne Maier, part-time economist for EDF—France's main distributor of electricity—and practicing psychoanalyst.

Maier argues in *Bonjour Laziness* that big business corporations in both France and the U.S. exploit their employees, and through fear manipulate them into overworking, often for meager pay. She notes the recent surge of financial scandals in both countries as proof that big businesses fail to function effectively and benefit those involved.

Maier encourages workers to turn the tables and take advantage of their companies by doing "as little as possible at their jobs." She cites that work in consultancy, appraisal, research and study allow a person to keep out of sight at their jobs.

She also argues that people who work in these jobs "are of no consequence whatsoever to corporate pressure."

Sabine Eckle, assistant publicist for Vintage & Anchor Books, which published *Bonjour*

Laziness, said that despite its subject matter, the publishing company didn't have any reservations about releasing the book in English. Eckle also said she believes the book wasn't written "to be taken literally."

"It's kind of a joke book, really," Eckle said. "I think it's written very tongue-in-cheek. How could you possibly take something like that seriously?"

Maier admits in the introduction that the book is "intentionally cynical," but *Bonjour Laziness* does address important questions about the model of big business, disenchantment at the workplace and why people feel the need to work lots of hours.

John D. Moore, certified addiction counselor and chief counselor officer at Second Story Counseling in Chicago, 4003 North Broadway, said he believes that people in today's business world often have problems balancing work with personal relationships.

"It's hard to detach ourselves from work because we live in such a digital age," Moore said. "I tell my clients to shut off their cell phones and computers at 7 or 8 o'clock."

Moore also noted that Maier addresses vital questions about the way big businesses treat their employees.

"I would say [people should use] caution [at work], and follow

the author's advice," Moore said. "In our culture today, there is no loyalty from companies to their employees, and people do need to realize that."

Maier got the idea for *Bonjour Laziness* after becoming "disenchanted" with working in big business, she writes in the book.

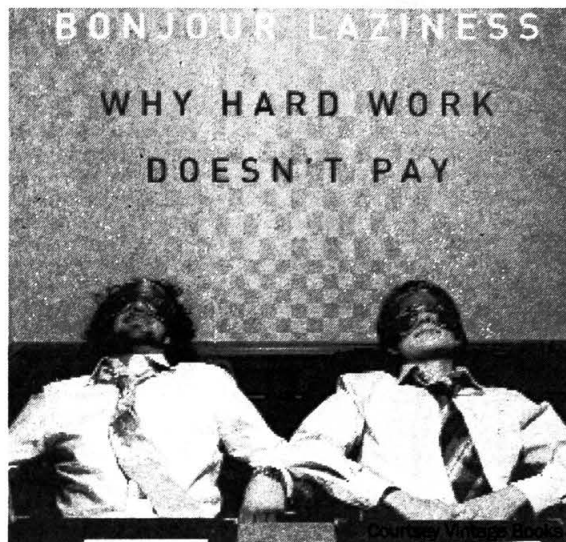
In addition to arguing that individuals should take advantage of their companies by actively disengaging from work, Maier contends that people in the business world wrongly look for "self-fulfillment" at their jobs.

Moore said he believes working hard is embedded in American culture, and anyone who uses work as their sole social outlet is setting themselves up for problems.

"We already know that Americans tend to work longer hours and take less vacation than our European counterparts," Moore said. "I don't think work should be the place for self-fulfillment. I think it should be part of it."

Columbia professor Joe Roberts, who teaches Managerial Economics, said that the idea of finding self-fulfillment at the workplace is subjective, noting that some people define the concept by either making a lot of money or using their skills to the best of their ability.

"Companies hire individuals hoping that they already have a



French author Corinne Maier is the author of 'Bonjour Laziness.' The book, Maier's ninth, is critical of big corporations.

pre-defined sense of accomplishment, rather than expecting that people will find it in their work," Roberts said.

At the end of her book, Maier declares that the typical wage-earner is a "modern-day slave," and that the corporate world "does not make us dream," despite being the primary area where people energetically accomplish things.

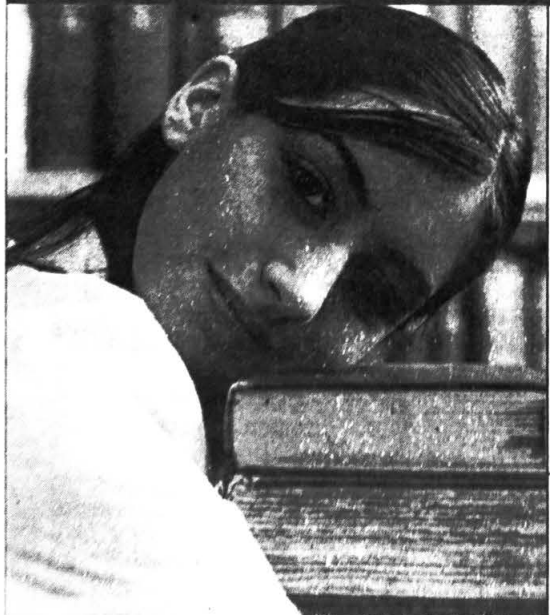
Moore acknowledged that sometimes a person's ambitions at

the workplace can take priority over other areas in life. For clients with this problem, Moore said he presents them with an important question:

"When you're on your deathbed, you want to ask yourself this question: 'Whose dreams did I make come true, the company's or mine?'"

bwhite@chroniclemail.com

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CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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Ultimate Frisbee - Fresh Out of the Box

If you are interested in Renegades Ultimate Frisbee then sign up tuesday, November 7th, at 5:30pm in the Conaway Center.

Co-President Aaron Patkin and Co-President Daniel Wolf are looking forward to answering any questions you might have. They would like you to know that even if you have not played the sport before, give it a try! It's a lot of fun to be had in the name of Columbia's student community!

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★ CURRENT SPORTS

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

★ Fitness Week

Monday . Strength Day
12-7pm Barbell Chest Press
Men: 225 lbs, Women: 115lbs
Most reps wins!

Tuesday, Cardio Endurance Day
730am-9pm Treadmill Run
Men: 9.0 mph, Women: 7.0mph
Longest time wins!

Wednesday, Flexibility Day
730am-9pm - Sit and Reach
Longest Reach wins!

Thursday, Basketball Skills Day
630pm start time - Slam Dunk Contest & 3-point
Shoot-out - Must register in advance!

Friday Muscular Endurance Day
730am-8pm. Pushups: Most pushups wins!
Wall-Sits: Longest time wins!

★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flag Football

On Halloween weekend, the Renegades Flag Football team dominated the Roosevelt Lakers!

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.

(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.

Men's Basketball

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

Men's Lacrosse

Open practices held on Mondays 11 am to 1 pm, Thursdays 3 pm to 5 pm, & Fridays- 3 pm to 5 pm. Practices held at Balbo & Columbus (near tennis courts).

Capoeira

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

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



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CHICAGO RESIDE

STORY BY MARK BYRNE GRAPHICS BY JENNIFER CRIDER PHOTO

The former Catholic church at 916 N. Western Ave. has been vacant for years, and it shows. Five of the eight windows on the old parish's second floor are boarded up, and the cracked wood door is padlocked. On the corner, a scratched-off sign hangs above a statue that once read: "Our lady of Good Counsel Church."

In the coming months, this scene will change. It will barely be detectable from the outside, but the windows and door will be replaced, and the yard will be cleaned up. On the inside, however, a big transformation will take place. This former house of God will transform into a house for man.

The church is the latest of more than a dozen in the Chicago area to make the conversion. With living space at a premium, developers have their eyes set on vacant churches to build. And everyone—from the Archdiocese of Chicago to historic preservation groups—is apt to help them.

Claudia Shabo, an assistant to the manager of the real estate department of the Archdiocese of Chicago, said developers now come straight to them to purchase unused churches.

The archdiocese owns a number of vacant parishes in the Chicago area, mostly, Shabo said, because too many churches were built when people moved into the city around the turn of the 20th century. Now, as residents—and former parishioners—move outward to the suburbs, many churches sit empty and in disrepair.

The church at 916 N. Western Ave. is a good example. It is in Ukrainian Village, within only a few blocks of more than five other Catholic churches. It was built in 1889, and closed exactly a hundred years later, as parishioners moved out of the neighborhoods and the congregations shrunk. Four blocks away, on Oakley Avenue, a successful church condominium sits next door to a parish. The two once competed with each other.

"Before, there was a different church on every corner representing different ethnic groups," Shabo explained. "Now it's not so much separated as people are coming together so we don't have a need for those four churches on every corner."

The trend is noticeable in Lakeview as well. Just a couple blocks south of the Belmont Red Line stop and just east of Racine Street, Shabo's example is a reality. Four churches, including a red structure at 3101 N. Seminary Ave., now all serve as condominiums.

Other examples are scattered around the city, though most are on the North Side.

Since a great number of the churches in Chicago were built in the 19th century, many are protected by both city and state historic registry regulations. Because of that, developers face certain regulations concerning what exactly can be modified. When a developer buys a church, Shabo explained, the archdiocese collects the stained glass windows and other "sacred items" like crucifixes and altars. They are then redistributed to other churches. The exterior and main structure must also remain intact.

Twenty years ago, Jim Peterson and his architectural firm were approached by developers with the conversion project of the Little Sisters of the Poor chapel near the DePaul University campus.

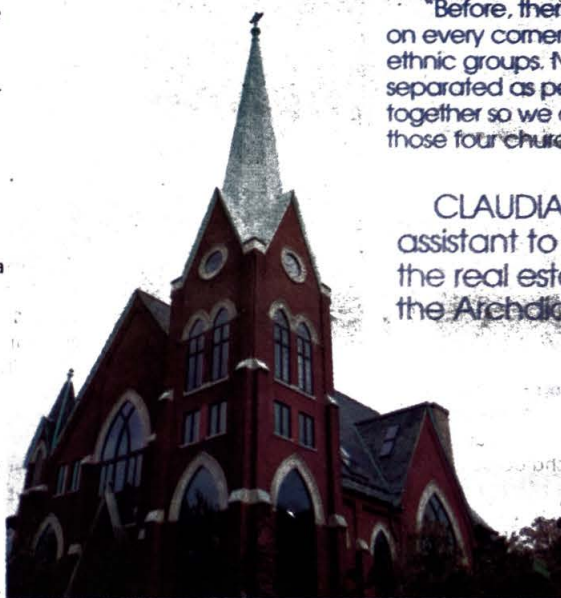
Peterson, who is the president of Chicago-based Hasbrouck, Peterson, Zimoch and Sirirattumrong architecture firm, recalled that at the time he had never heard of such a thing being done. Peterson was at the forefront of the trend in Chicago. Because of that, he was one of the first in the area to experience the difficulties of working within such strict boundaries.

"It was a historic building, so we were very limited in terms of what we could do to the stained glass windows, which were very narrow," Peterson said.

The four condominiums he created ended up being slim, and almost three stories tall.

Churches often have one lofty open space and extremely large windows. Because of that, the conversion of a church into a residence presents an awkward challenge for architects. Loft spaces are popular these days, but they are often converted from cube-shaped factories, creating a blank slate for architects. With churches, that is almost never the case.

"We couldn't change the exterior appearance of the windows at all," Peterson said. "We were taking this large space inside and had to incorporate this three-story-high window into an apartment, which was an unusual situation."



"Before, there was a different church on every corner representing different ethnic groups. Now it's not so much separated as people are coming together so we don't have a need for those four churches on every corner."

CLAUDIA SHABO,
assistant to the manager of
the real estate department of
the Archdiocese of Chicago

NTS go home to church

GRAPHY BY MICHAEL JARECKI AND ANDREW NELLES



According to Peterson, DePaul bought the chapel. And that made an impression: So far, there are at least a dozen Catholic churches in Chicago that have been converted.

Jonathan Fine is the president of Preservation Chicago, a volunteer-based group that petitions to save historic buildings threatened with demolition. He said the need for living space motivates the church conversion trend.

"The problem with church preservation or religious building preservation is that it's very hard to save large open auditoriums in this climate," Fine said.

Tuomi Forrest, the associate director of Partners for Sacred Places, a Pennsylvania-based group that helps save churches from demolition by converting them to community centers, sees this trend all across the U.S.

"In many cities—Chicago included—the real estate values have certainly increased dramatically in recent years, making a lot of these properties attractive to developers," Forrest said.

Forrest's organization prefers it when the buildings remain used for religious or community purposes. That way, he explained, they can often keep their interior architecture.

"Ideally, that's what they are built for," Forrest

said. "If they can remain open in some public context, whether as a community center or art center or something of that nature, that's nice as well because again the architecture is beautiful and the spaces are still accessible to the public."

The archdiocese agrees. While they do facilitate developers when they call looking for vacant buildings, the ideal situation is always to keep the building as a religious institution.

"We sell to everybody, as long as they're open about what they're doing, we have no problem," Shabo said. "We like to sell it to another denomination, but there's not a big issue with [condominium conversions], as long it being used in a respectful manner."

"The residence approach is more common now," Forrest said. "Basically, a developer is able to buy the parcel and sink a lot of money into rehabbing an old building with a lot of deferred maintenance. So there is a lot of capital investment in that."

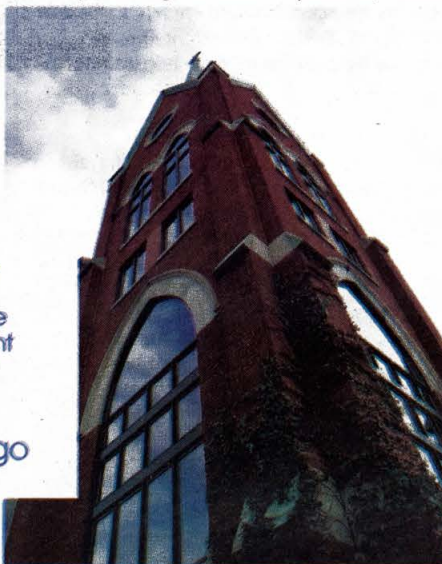
"What do you do with (a vacant church)?" Fine asked. "We've got some real challenges. And a church conversion can be done well, if it's done by the right people, and they're paying the right attention."

JONATHAN FINE,
president of Preservation Chicago

Fine only considers it a partial loss when a church is converted into a condominium. In one sense, the beautiful and often ornate interior is lost. But without that sacrifice, many churches could—and do—face demolition.

"What do you do with [a vacant church]?" Fine asked. "We've got some real challenges. And a church conversion can be done well, if it's done by the right people, and they're paying the right attention."

Forrest agreed. "It's better than it being torn down."



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RECEPTION: NOVEMBER 9, 2006, 5-7PM
BEST OF SHOW PRESENTATIONS: 5:30PM
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The Albert P. Weisman Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1974 to encourage both undergraduate and graduate Columbia College Chicago students to complete projects in all fields of communication. With projects spanning 10 disciplines from 47 artists, this year's exhibition cuts a creative swath across themes as divergent as the business of dying, professional wrestling, and synesthetic experiences.

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SNAP TO GRID, OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 10, 2006

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RESCHEDULED! RESCHEDULED! RESCHEDULED! RESCHEDULED!

CURATED BY TRACY TAYLOR, ALYSIA KAPLAN, AND MICHELLE WASSON

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

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CELIA HERRERA RODRIQUEZ

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

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

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

cspaces.colum.edu

'Cocaine in a can'

New energy drink like illegal drug

By Kale Chor/Staff Writer

Twenty-four-year-old Jon Geers doesn't work the typical nine-to-five job. He works 12-hour overnight shifts as a truck driver and is not one to sacrifice work for sleep. But through his strenuous jobs of driving long hours or fixing heaters and air conditioners, one thing has remained constant in aiding his survival: energy drinks.

Every year more energy drinks fill the coolers at gas stations and food stores around the country. Whether a worker needs energy to get through a shift or a student needs a pick-me-up for an all-night study session, energy drinks are available for a quick fix.

"I love energy drinks," Geers said. "They make me energetic and giddy."

Comedian Dave Chappelle even performed a skit about an energy drink in his show, calling it "cocaine in a can." The audience of Chappelle's Show thought the slogan was a funny joke, but a new energy drink coming out makes it a little harder to laugh at.

"Cocaine—the legal alternative" is the slogan for a new energy drink which the makers, Redux Beverages, say has bigger and better results than the ones currently on the market. The drink, simply named "Cocaine" after the notorious drug, is said to be 350 percent more powerful than Red Bull and have about five more milligrams of caffeine than a Starbucks grande coffee, according to the drink's website. It is also said to have a special ingredient that produces a light numbing effect in the back of the drinker's throat to mimic the effects of cocaine.

The controversy over the new drink has halted distribution. Its availability is sporadic; few stores sell it in California and New York and the demand continues to rise. Cases of 24 cans are being auctioned off on eBay with starting bids ranging from \$40 to \$87.99.

Although the drink is not available outside of New York and California, it has created quite a stir with its page on Myspace.com. Mostly teenage members have posted comments on the page, asking when it will be available in their hometown and begging for it to be soon.

While Geers doesn't believe he is addicted, he said when he goes part of a day without having an energy drink, he doesn't feel right and gets the strong desire to quench his thirst with a can or two. He admits it can get a little unhealthy as he recalls the negative experiences he has had with the products. He said he once had four energy drinks in a day to keep up with his work, but the drinks gave him a bad headache.

Geers said he has also mixed energy drinks with alcohol. Cocaine's website includes recipes that mix different types of alcohol with the drink. Although it provides these recipes, it does state that Redux Beverages does not encourage mixing the two.

Whether or not this liquid Cocaine is more unhealthy or addictive than the other energy drinks on the market, many people are protesting it based solely on the name.

Joseph A. Califano Jr., president of the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, issued a statement on CASA's website condemning the product, which he calls "disgraceful."

Califano stated that Cocaine glamorizes the illegal and addictive drug, which is irresponsible and reprehensible. He said the product is obviously marketed toward children and teenagers and urged all retailers to refuse to sell the product.

Jamey Kirby, owner of Redux Beverages, said the energy drink market is generally aimed at 20- to 25-year-olds and doesn't recommend children under the age of 16 drink Cocaine. But Kirby said it is up to the FDA to enforce a law about energy drinks.

Kirby also said all the media attention Cocaine has initiated discussions about illegal drugs that would otherwise be taboo in American society.

"It awakens a social conscious," he said. "This brings the name out into the public."

Kirby said it is not his intention to glamorize the drug, and points to music, movies and video games that obviously make cocaine seem appealing. None of them, Kirby said, have gotten as much heat as him. Among his examples was Eric Clapton's song "Cocaine."

But there is still concern over how impressionable children and teenagers are over an energy drink called Cocaine, and many people are predicting that easily-influenced youth will drink it up.

The Washington, D.C. based Pew Research Center conducted a survey in 2001 asking what influenced teenagers to try illegal drugs. Eighty-two percent thought peer pressure was a major factor. Fifty-five percent thought the portrayal of drug use in movies, music and TV were also major factors.

"Young adults aren't stupid," Kirby said. "If parents raise their kids right they'll know the difference between an energy drink and a Class A narcotic."

chronicle@colum.edu



MCT

A lot of controversy surrounds the new energy drink, Cocaine, which is said to have some of the same affects as the illegal substance and is said to be 350 percent more powerful than Red Bull.

Partying like it's the 13th century

Live like it's the Middle Ages; avoid the bubonic plague

By Kelly Bryan/Contributing Writer

During the week, 32-year-old David Roland of Melrose Park is a legal assistant in downtown Chicago. On the weekends, he pretends to be a Scottish swordsman from the 13th century named Ian the Green who faces opponents on the Field of Honor. Through the Society for Creative Anachronism, Roland and his friends are able to act out their medieval fantasies weekly at Ida Noyes Hall on the campus of the University of Chicago in Hyde Park.

Jim Lai, a 29-year-old corporate attorney from Rogers Park and a fencer in the society, described the organization as "a little more like a martial arts class than a Civil War reenactment."

Born out of a literature class at the University of California at Berkeley in the 1960s, the Society for Creative Anachronism aims to teach members about medieval history by living a piece of it.

"Learning by doing is really our hallmark," Roland said.

As an international society that includes chapters in North America, Asia and Europe, the SCA created a hierarchy of kingdoms to keep the different groups organized. The South Side Chicago chapter is known as the Shire of the Grey Gargoyles, which has a membership of 20 to 30 people.

Members learn a variety of medieval skills and art forms, including calligraphy, heraldry,

manuscript illumination, dance, cooking, costume making and fencing. But one of the group's more popular activities is heavy fighting. Opponents don home-made armor, weapons and shields and fight one-on-one or in a melee-style group battle.

As in the Middle Ages, knights must follow a code of chivalry, and battles are won on the honor system. If a knight delivers a blow that in real battle would be lethal, the opponent must shout "Dead!" and drop to the ground. If a flesh wound is inflicted that in real battle would take off a limb, the opponent must drop to his knees and continue to fight without legs.

Unlike the Middle Ages, however, the SCA always stresses safety first, even at the expense of historical accuracy. Combatants use weapons made out of rattan, a material similar to bamboo. These weapons are also wrapped in duct tape, and the battle is halted if anyone is injured. Rattan was selected as the weapon of choice because when broken, the sword will go limp rather than shattering.

Like Roland's Ian the Green, many members also choose a persona to fight under rather than use their real name. In fact, many members do not know their fellow knights' real names.

A persona is often based on something personal the member identifies with.

Dexter Wandel, a 20-year-old game software development major at Westwood College and a relatively new heavy fighter, is creating a character who wandered across the world and collected fighting skills and armor from his travels, which have taken him as far as Japan. His inspiration? According to Wandel, his last name is German for "to wander."

Heavy fighting battles create quite the public spectacle, whether the battles take place outside on the Midway Plaisance in fair weather or inside Ida Noyes Hall, where the slap of rattan on plastic armor echoes through the corridors. Passersby stop in to fulfill their curiosity, which is a helpful recruiting method for the society.

Caitlin Tulloch, a 19-year-old second year political science major at the U of C, who goes by Caillech Inghin Saigart at meetings, said she found out about the society when she was "on the [U of C bus] one day and saw the guys in armor fighting and thought 'This is a sign.'"

It must have been a sign that Tulloch would find her niche. Not only was she able to improve her sewing technique and learn heavy fighting, but she also finds the SCA fulfilling on a deeper level.

Tulloch enjoys the "emphasis on making things with your hands the way people have done for hundreds of years and the emphasis on

chivalry that you don't often find in other communities."

Other members such as Sarah Watson, a 20-year-old third year English major at the U of C, enthusiastically described their favorite part of the SCA as the fact that "It's war games with my friends in 3-D, in real time." Watson also noted that the "honor and glory and things" that follow victory are appealing, too.

Others, like Wandel, admit heavy fighting is not only fun, but is also a good way of dealing with pent-up aggression.

Christina von Nolcken, associ-

ate professor in the department of English Languages and Literature and chair of the committee on Medieval Studies at the U of C, finds the SCA's approach to do-it-yourself medieval recreation very positive.

"I get professional medievalists who get their start doing creative anachronisms," she said. "I have respect for them and what they're trying to do, I think it's a very positive start."

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A group of enthusiasts in Hyde Park reenact a skirmish of knights from the Middle Ages

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Baked pleasure

Chicago welcomes second all-cupcake store

By Michael Claire/Assistant A&E Editor

Fall weather has finally gripped Chicago, and old man winter isn't far off. The winds off the lake are already starting to bite like cheap vodka, and the temperatures continue to plunge from summer ales to stout lagers. By now, these seasonal changes have seeped into most aspects of the city, from the richly colored foliage to the seas of manly breads and mobs of parkas and scarves that are seemingly everywhere. But despite the cooling temperatures and reliance on warmer accessories, a hot new trend has arrived around the DePaul campus area that should cure any bout of seasonal depression—gourmet cupcakes.

Opening less than a month ago,

Swirlz Cupcakes, 705 W. Belden Ave., is Chicago's second all-cupcake bakery. Following Cupcakes', 613 W. Briar Place., lead of providing customers with a product that is both nostalgic and cute, Swirlz's tasty peach-sized treats have become a huge hit among DePaul students and other Lincoln Park residents.

"The store's really cute," said customer Debra Ham. "It's nice because you can't get the red velvet anywhere else."

All-cupcake bakeries have become a national trend, with people on both coasts lining up to enjoy these pleasurable morsels. In Beverly Hills and Manhattan these specialized bakeries are hugely successful and their

Chicago counterparts are findings similar success as well.

Located under the soft green glow of its neon sign, Swirlz stocks its display cases daily with 10 different kinds of freshly made cupcakes. Their everyday flavors include vanilla, chocolate, a buttermilk-based red velvet, chocolate on vanilla and vanilla on chocolate. In addition to their five standard flavors they also rotate daily flavors, as well as gluten-free cupcakes and sugar-free ones for those customers who have a dentist in the family.

"One of our owners has celiac disease, so they can't have wheat," said Swirlz employee Jesus Manteca.

Although most people are unfamiliar with celiac disease, also known as gluten intolerance, this genetic disorder actually affects 1 in 133 Americans, according to the Celiac Disease Foundation.

"We had a couple come all the way from Michigan because we have gluten-free cupcakes," said former Swirlz manager Dotti Glenn.

Located a little more than a mile away, Chicago's original all-cupcake bakery, Cupcakes, offers customers more than 70 different distinctive flavors and combinations including red velvet. Committed to using only the freshest seasonal ingredients, Cupcakes offers customers the option to completely customize their own cakes, even digitally



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Freshly baked everyday, these sinfully good gourmet cupcakes are available at Swirlz Cupcakes, 705 W. Belden Ave., and Cupcakes, 613 W. Briar Place.

imposing a picture onto the frosting to creating large wedding-cake like sculptures.

"We're constantly experimenting and trying to come up with unique combinations," said Cupcakes owner Adam Ghould.

And while all cupcakes may be arguably delicious, Swirlz said that their cupcakes stand out for their presentation.

"If you look at Sprinkles and Cupcakes, they do very handmade, homemade types of cupcakes, things that you'd think your grandma would make," Glenn said. "Ours are a little more upscale, they're all identified by the swirls."

Typically these Italian buttercream-frosted swirls are stacked on top of each other, with the classic bottom swirl creating a base for the more floret top swirl.

Both stores offer their own tasty treats for \$3 a cake, but a large all-cupcake franchise, Sprinkles, is scheduled to open a Michigan Avenue location in the near future.

Despite the simplicity of their ingredients and baking directions, these small sugary morsels have long been a favorite dessert and snack to even the most notoriously embattled grinch.

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Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Jeremy Sher, the pastry chef at Swirlz Cupcakes, creates a combination package of holiday themed cupcakes.

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The beginning at the ending

Mission of Burma guitarist Roger Miller talks about musical differences from past to present

By James H. Ewert Jr./City Beat Editor

There is a line in Mission of Burma's song "Fame and Fortune" that says "the beginning at the ending," and that line may mean more now than it ever did. Their music has been described as punk, punk rock, post-punk and even pre-post-punk, but guitarist and songwriter Roger Miller said the labels didn't matter then and still don't more than 25 years later. After a rare hearing disorder forced Miller to stop playing such loud and abrasive music, the group disbanded in 1983. The members continued playing separately until 2002 when they reformed, something Miller explained as, "a total fluke." Since then the results have been surprising to not only their fans but to the band themselves.

After coming out with two critically acclaimed albums, the band toured all summer, sweating one out in Chicago at the Pitchfork Music Festival. Now they have a new DVD, *Not A Photograph*, chronicling the band's reformation and resurgence, coming out Nov. 21. Miller recently talked with *The Chronicle* about the strange time warp the band seemingly went through from the early '80s to the early 2000s, as well as cultural influences on the current state of music.

The Chronicle: Many of the lyrics on the band's latest two albums seem to have a lot of self-

reflection in them. Did it seem like there was unfinished business after the bands premature breakup in '83?

Miller: It's obvious that there was unfinished business, but none of us knew it. As soon as we plugged back in, we all brought a new song. That was one of the things we agreed on—we were each going to bring in something new so that we weren't just trotting out the old war horses, which we also did. But as soon as we did it, it was like, "yeah, great, this is how Burma works," and then we got a couple more gigs and we brought in more songs and I was like, "Wow, I didn't realize Burma was still able to do this," and we found that it was, mostly by stumbling.

How different is it now playing to thousands of people, many of whom weren't even born when the band began, compared to playing for bartenders in empty clubs when the band started?

At this point the surprise has kind of worn off, but it's extremely gratifying. And obviously affecting this generation of people, that's the age when you really believe in this stuff the most. If we're affecting them, we must be doing something right. We never expect anyone else to care—we never did; in the entire history of the band it never surprised us

when people didn't like us. So I guess it is a surprise in that sense, it's like, Wow, we must be doing something right.

How does it make you feel, getting so much more recognition now as opposed to then?

After the first night of shows in 2002 at Irving Plaza where everybody was singing along to our most obscure songs, I went back to my hotel room and I cried. It just unlocked this thing that I didn't know was there, and I was like "These people actually understand what we were doing." It was just overwhelming, and now we're getting used to it. We never felt that affected as we did after that first night. You just don't realize what's still inside you and it just got unlocked and it was like, Wow.

Do you think the band would have had a different fate when it began had Myspace and iPods been around?

It's not part of my culture now, because I didn't grow up with it. If I was that age I would probably be using Myspace. It's really hard to put what we were then and project it into now.

The band now has a Myspace site. How often do you check it?

I didn't used to go on the site at all and then Clint would go, "Someone on the site wanted to



Courtesy Matador Records

Mission of Burma (from right): Roger Miller, guitarist; Peter Prescott, drummer; Bob Weston, engineer; Clint Conley, bassist.

talk to you," and it would be my nephew or something. So I started to go on a little bit, and when *The Obliteratti* came out, I kind of felt like I believe in the record, I kind of believe in the band, so it would kind of behoove me to go there and interact with people. So it's kind of a habit now. It's a little scary, [but] it seems at the moment that it's part of my job description.

Since popular music today is more available than ever, will it have the same impact as music made during the '60s, '70s and '80s?

There's so much of everything, and it's all so available. When the British Invasion hit, there was this new type of energy, an innocent

sexual energy. That blossomed and turned into psychedelia because you had the baby boom. Then, in the '70s everything turned into disco and classic rock, and all the good ideas were repressed, and it was allowed to fester until it became violent, and then it became punk rock.

Now there is so much accessibility to everything, there is no way for things to stay hidden for long enough and isolated to blow up. Everything is siphoned off and siphoned everywhere. So anybody at anytime can get anything, and that's not how revolutions happen. That's how you just get this miasma of gray.

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The New York Times

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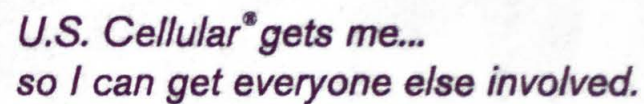
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Decorating in the big house

Inmates design conceptual furniture

By Lini S. Kadaba/MCT

The goal had apocalyptic overtones: to design furniture for survivors consigned to tight, temporary shelters after a natural disaster.

To carry it out, social activist and conceptual artist Peggy Diggs turned to a population that is familiar with compact living: prison inmates.

Over more than 18 months, the 60-year-old instructor from Williams College in Massachusetts commuted to Montgomery County, Pa., and brainstormed with 15 residents, most of them lifers, at maximum-security Graterford Prison in Skippack Township.

WorkOut, an exhibit that ran through Oct. 25 in the appropriately cramped foyer of the Broad Street Ministry in Center City Philadelphia, reveals the fruits of their collaboration: five graphically vivid, expandable desk/storage containers.

Each unit is made of thick cardboard done up in bold colors and intricate patterns designed and painted by the prisoners.

Over the project's long and bumpy haul, the inmates refined

their concepts and revealed a humanity the artist hadn't expected.

"I had the picture of foaming-at-the-mouth people who would hurt me the minute I came in," Diggs said. Instead, the prisoners were eager to use their talents and insights to benefit a world few will see again.

"They did all these fancy handshakes with me, so I gathered that was a good sign," Diggs said of an early encounter.

Eddie Ramirez, 29, and already 10 years into a life sentence for a robbery-homicide, was intrigued by the chance to make something useful.

"I was a destroyer of things," the former graffiti artist said in a collect call from Graterford. "Now I'm a builder of things."

Ramirez conceived the concept for the desks, which expand from 3 to 6 feet and contain shelf space.

About 40 pieces were constructed by Diggs and a helper, then donated to the Riverview Home for the Aged, a city-run personal-care facility in northeast Philadelphia. Diggs has not tallied the costs involved but expects

grants to cover the expense.

The inmates can't see the exhibit. But they applied their graphic designs to the cardboard pieces, and they "looked beautiful," said Ramirez, who created a locking-S pattern inspired by wrought iron.

"I got to do something for people in that shelter," he said proudly. "I got to use my brain."

Practical projects such as these connect prisoners to society, said Jane Golden, director of the city's Mural Arts Program. "This process, thinking about furniture, how it would benefit others' lives, was really a wonderful exercise in empathy ... in reconciliation."

The inspiration for WorkOut came to Diggs in a 2004 article in a London publication. The story was about a "secret report" predicting the effect a drastic climate change might have on Europe. Sea levels could swamp major cities, the report warned, causing famine, riots and widespread population dislocation.

The dire scenario gave Diggs her idea. With an initial grant of \$10,000 from New York's Creative Capital Foundation, she contacted Golden, who introduced Diggs to some of the Graterford inmates who had worked on city murals.

"Everybody is expert at something," Diggs said. "I like to seek out populations we normally consider unworthy of attention."

The artist's previous projects have tackled intentional poverty among those who opt for a simpler life (Quakers, for example) and what preparing for a terrorist attack entails for the modern consumer.

For WorkOut, "my goal had been to have several fabulous, far-

ranging objects that I could get patents on, and that I could get into production so that these guys wouldn't feel like toss-offs," she said.

Diggs envisioned selling the prefab furniture and turning profits over to the prisoners' families. "That was the big plan."

She quickly ran up against reality.

Inmates are prohibited from profiting from their prison endeavors. On top of that, early models were too crude to interest industrial designers. And Diggs was unsure whether or not the furniture designs had enough whimsy.

Despite initial enthusiasm, some inmates wouldn't complete the "homework" assignments she gave them during her visits every three weeks. And occasionally, tempers flared. At nearly every turn, Diggs said, she thought, "Oh, no, this isn't going to happen."

"When she came in, I was skeptical," said prisoner Darrell "Van" van Mastrigt, 38. But "she's very energetic. She's a big motivator."

One lifer from the Pittsburgh area who was convicted of first-degree homicide made a model of a bed that also serves as a desk and storage space. He also created a complex design with another inmate and spent hours in his cell painting copies on material that can be applied, like a decal, to a surface.

In the exhibit, the graphic appears in silver on a red desk, a stunning combination, though Diggs had to persuade van Mastrigt that "normal, nice people" would appreciate the tattoo-inspired motif.

As months passed, Diggs dis-

covered that prisoners are problem-solvers "because they have to be." The project became less about a polished object to be mass-produced and more about "the authenticity of these men's experience."

Many use cardboard to create storage space in their 6-by-10-foot cells. With its connotations of deprivation, cardboard became the material of choice for the project.

The lavish graphic designs afforded those behind bars a luxury.

"It's a way to communicate," van Mastrigt said. "We can't go out there, but we can send our ideas out through our art."



Artist Peggy Diggs with a piece that started out as a hand-painted image. Diggs got help from Graterford prison inmates when deciding to design furniture for those living in confined spaces.

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All hail the 'Queen'

Mirren's unforgettable portrayal reigns over this impeccable drama

By Matt Fagerholm/Film Critic

Nothing gives humanity a more jarring wake-up call than sudden death. As news bulletins spread word of what happened that August night, people from all over the world found their hearts breaking for a woman many had never really known. Princess Diana, killed by the heartless media who pursued her in life, became a symbol for both motherly devotion and stubborn conviction against the conformity of royal tradition. The new Prime Minister Tony Blair's labeling of Diana as the "People's Princess" seemed justified by the countless citizens who left a garden of flowers at the palace gates, while Elton John's rendition of "Candle in the Wind" haunted her crowded funeral. Yet in the midst of Diana's mourners, there stood an old, emotionless woman who inspired frowns from the public, as her restrained eyes peered out from giant, impenetrable spectacles.

This woman was Queen Elizabeth II, and she's the subject of this exceptional drama from *High Fidelity* director Stephen Frears. Elizabeth is played by Helen Mirren—Emmy-winner for this year's *Elizabeth I*—who transcends the boundaries of mere performance, and triumphantly embodies this individual by unearthing her off-hidden humanity. Like Marie

Antoinette, Elizabeth began her reign at a young age, and like Sophia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette*, *The Queen* generates much amusement from the laughably rigid etiquette and ancient formalities she strictly follows with learned discipline.

With every movement and uttered syllable, Elizabeth seems to live her life by following instructions on a protocol sheet. Mirren's genius is in how she conveys Elizabeth's emotions through the subtlest nuance and the smallest pause. It's a towering performance that doesn't draw attention to itself, thereby staying true to Elizabeth's own mannered nature.

Frears' film focuses on the seemingly endless week following Diana's death in the summer twilight of 1997. As the proud figurehead of an iconic monarchy, Elizabeth decides that the tragedy is a private matter, and she refuses Blair's requests for a public statement on the subject.

Criticism spreads like a plague through the English public convinced that Elizabeth's silence is a sign of her cruelty toward Diana, who garnered much monarchical resentment for her untamed nature.

There's an immensely powerful moment when the public's passionate applause infiltrates the stifling silence of Diana's funer-

al. The cheers become, in essence, the animalistic rumbling of life Elizabeth has practiced to quell her entire reign.

Yet Frears, along with screenwriter Peter Morgan, doesn't invite the audience to either judge or sympathize with Elizabeth. Their cinematic portrait is all the more fascinating in its own dramatic restraint, by delving into Her Highness' psyche without a trace of sensationalism.

Although the youthful, seemingly progressive Blair, played by Michael Sheen, is initially exasperated by Elizabeth's resistance to his demands, he eventually has an inexplicable change of heart that seems to be more easily comprehended by Elizabeth herself. Her line, "the headlines will happen to you too," has an eerie resonance now that Blair's own popularity has faltered with his support of the Bush administration.

Sheen is one of several marvelous character actors populating Frears' stage, which also includes Sylvia Syms as Elizabeth's astute mother and a wonderful James Cromwell as Elizabeth's fiercely ignorant husband Philip, whose idea of a great tragedy doesn't seem to extend beyond a shallow curtsy and a cold cup of tea.

Elizabeth's determined struggle to live "quietly and with dignity" gradually proves to be



Lead actress, Helen Mirren, at the premier of "The Queen." Directed by 'High Fidelity' director Stephen Frears, the film is in theaters now.

exactly what the public, who loved Diana all the more for her "weaknesses," doesn't want.

The Queen's single emotional outburst is witnessed only by a stag, the corpse of which Elizabeth later finds hanging in a neighbor's house near her summer estate. As she gazes into the hollow eyes which once belonged to a wild spirit cut down in the prime of its life, only then can Elizabeth seem to admire and mourn the deceased princess. Such subtext might have been impossible to deliver with any other actress, but Mirren has the ability to communicate an

eternity in a single glance.

She single-handedly makes *The Queen* one of the year's best films, and one of the finest character studies ever made.

"The Queen"
Directed by Stephen
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Deftones: Dull and directionless

'Saturday Night Wrist' takes a step forward, but lacks cohesiveness

By Brent Steven White/Assistant A&E Editor

If one '90s nu-metal band has managed to retain their integrity and credibility, as the rest of the acts from the decade have practically been laughed out of the fickle industry, it's the Deftones.

Acquiring a rabid fan base with their infectious grooves, chunky, roughhouse riffs and lead singer Chino Moreno's languidly haunting vocals, the Deftones have

become one of the biggest-selling rock acts around. And they're no strangers to success: Five albums into their 15-year career, little is left for the Deftones to accomplish that they haven't already conquered.

The band's last album, 2003's *Deftones*, featured the group shifting modes and experimenting with softer sounds by not

being afraid to explore more sonic subtleties. But the album also didn't spawn any crushing singles like its predecessor—2000's brilliant *White Pony*, which debuted at number three on the Billboard charts and gave the band the huge FM hit "Change."

It's been three years since we've heard anything new from the Deftones, and by the looks of things, these California natives are beginning to grow apart.

The band's new album, *Saturday Night Wrist*, is quite an enigma of concepts and styles, and a testament that the creative juice in this group may be running low. Lacking any semblance of cohesiveness, much of the album sounds like it was written with two different objectives in mind.

Guitarist Stephen Carpenter has always had a knack for thick riffs, generally bringing the heavy approach to the band's music, while Moreno operates at the opposite end of the spectrum, bringing to the table his smooth, semi-jazzy vocals that could easily fit with most Depeche Mode songs.

On previous Deftones albums, this polarity of styles blended smoothly and created music that was both experimental and accessible. Most songs were cohesive.

But here, the differing styles don't mesh well with each other and instead clash, creating songs that fail to feel complete.

Consider the track "Beware." Carpenter is practically absent from this song until the last minute where a heavy, albeit out-of-place, riff comes out of nowhere to end it. "Xerxes" is another example of differing directions conflicting with each other. Along with a dull refrain and a melody that sounds out of key, Carpenter's contributions feel out of place and disingenuous to Moreno's vocals.

But *Saturday Night Wrist*'s worst moment comes with "Pink Cellphone" which, in the beginning, sounds like Euro-techno trash, then segues into a Freudian-inspired spoken-word performance from Giant Drag's Annie Hardy. Hardy can barely keep a serious tone when she begins to talk about a "belief in the one-two power," and "greasy, filthy hand jobs at truck stop restrooms." Hardy starts to laugh, well, heartily when she struggles to speak about "going to the Hot Carling Academy to learn how to butt fuck." What a stupid song.

Yet this album does have a little innovation. The brutal "Rats! Rats! Rats!" features a crushing riff reminiscent of something

one would hear on Meshuggah's EP 1. This song sounds like it was written during the band's *Around the Fur* days. Moreno's ability as a vocalist really comes through, as he simultaneously sounds like Bono and Carcass growling lead singer, Jeff Walker. On this track, Moreno proves to be a rock singer few can keep up with.

Despite much of *Saturday Night Wrist* sounding like it was written by a band finding its direction, it does feel like a step forward from the Deftones' last effort.

And there's something to be said about doing things on your own terms and by your own standards—a dogma that the Deftones have followed continuously throughout their entire career, and will likely follow in the years to come.

bwhite@chroniclemail.com



'Saturday Night Wrist' is the Deftones' fifth studio album, and is in stores now. Courtesy Warner Brothers

Deftones' 'Saturday Night Wrist'



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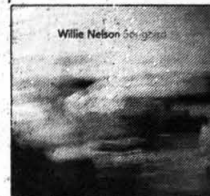
Like a Tennessee old-timer strumming out tunes and spitting out chew, Califone knows how to create great music. Blending porch-inspired folk with some big bad city blues, this album stands out as one of their finest. Best enjoyed in front of an aquarium with a fat blunt.
—M. Claire

The Killers
Sam's Town



While *Hot Fuss* had a track list that fans could appreciate, the band might have been trying a little too hard on this album to turn every song into a hit. However, tracks like "This River is Wild" and "Bones" come close to making the album worth it.
—M. Kroeck

Willie Nelson
Songbird



Spicy and sweet like a fine Tennessee bourbon, Nelson's latest album proves some things just get tastier with age. With soulful covers of classics such as "Amazing Grace," the Grateful Dead's "Stella Blue" and Fleetwood Mac's "Songbird," it's a perfect blend of alt-country, blues and honky-tonk sound.
—J. Fischer

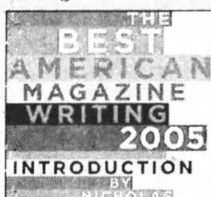
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The New Yorker
Nov. 6 issue



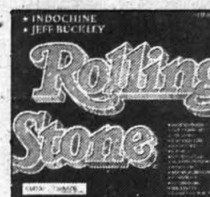
Reading *The New Yorker*, one of the more sophisticated magazines, while engaging in one of the more unsophisticated acts of humanity—taking a shit—is in itself mind-blowing. The Nov. 6 issue has a decent commentary about congressional elections and a good review of the *Borat* movie, which fits the lowbrow mood perfectly.
—C. Jakubowski

Best American Magazine Article
Writing of 2005



This collection, though a requirement for some Magazine Writing courses, is worthy of purchase by any major. The stories chosen are really spectacular, and the writers are at the top of their games. Check out the profile on Johnny Cash, "American Communion," but really, all the stories are worth reading.
—M. Byrne

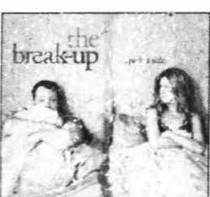
Rolling Stone
Nov. 2 issue



Rolling Stone continues its tradition of great in-depth political reporting with its cover story on why the 109th Congress is the worst in history. The feature also includes profiles of the top 10 most corrupt representatives, including Illinois' own Dennis Hastert. I recommend picking this up before Tuesday's election.
—K. Haburn

Film

The Breakup DVD
Directed by Peyton Reed



Don't rent this expecting a slapstick comedy. It is funny in a more relatable way—and with a solid storyline. From beginning to end, it captured the true essence of a serious relationship breakup. Enjoy the Chicago backdrop. And the DVD has bonus features that are worthy of being called such.
—J. Fischer

Shortbus
Directed by John Cameron Mitchell



This comedy about befuddled New Yorkers works as both a joyous celebration of sexuality and a revolt against American Puritanism. The film's warmth compensates for its shallow characters, and while its graphic sex is a positive alternative to the dismemberment of *Saw 3*, some may claim it's just as stomach-churning.
—M. Fagerholm

Little Children
Directed by Todd Field



Its trailer is the best I've seen. Its director is Todd Field of *In the Bedroom*. Its cast is excellent, including Kate Winslet at her finest. It's a mesmerizing, darkly funny portrait of suburban adults stuck in childhood. It's a shame it didn't lose the annoying narrator and tidy ending.
—M. Fagerholm

Misc.

Red Auerbach
Boston Celtics Coach



There you were, Red, smoking a big fat cigar right after another Celtic victory was in the bag. You are the image of NBA coaching, building a dynasty for the ages and instilling Celtic pride. No other coach will come close to what you did from 1950-1966. Your legacy will live on, Red.
—M. Rubio

Smashing pumpkins



No not the band, the act! In a recent drunken stupor, I had the urge to take the pumpkins at my house and destroy them. But I quickly remembered I wasn't 14 anymore. So I just punched my roommate in the face instead.
—B. White

Carol Rossi Jug of Wine
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Nothing settles my mind after a stressful day like a big ol' glass of Carlo Rossi Chianti wine. At \$8.99 a jug, the brand does a fine job of bringing my noisy and busy day down to a whispering night filled with visions of daisy fields and fluffy clouds.
—T. Breyne

Rachel Bilson loves pigs

'O.C.' actress taking bigger role in show

By Daniel Fienberg/MCT

There are certain things that Rachel Bilson can say that others couldn't sell.

Take, for example, Bilson's reply to a question about whether she shares any of the campus radical political beliefs discovered by her character early in the fourth season of "The O.C."

"I am a big believer in all of this stuff and I think that they've done such a good job with everything that she believes in," Bilson said. "I have a pet bunny on the show, so that helps the awareness of cruelty to animals. I don't eat pigs because I love them, so there are definitely some similarities."

Others could not say that we don't eat pigs because we love them and expect to get away with it, Bilson can. Perhaps that's why she was also able to temporarily steal an older man from his pregnant girlfriend in this summer's sudsy *The Last Kiss* without seeming like a harpy. And perhaps that's why Bilson is ready to step out as the female lead on "The O.C." this fall in the after-

math of the moderately tragic death of Mischa Barton's Marissa Cooper.

Of course, Bilson would never boast about taking control on the Fox teen soap.

"No, we definitely have a lot of strong single characters on our show," she said. "I would never think that my character is in that position because everyone does their fair share and has interesting story lines. We have a really good female cast, as well as male of course, but yes, I think everyone shares the limelight so to speak."

Certainly, no character on "The O.C." has evolved more than Bilson's Summer Roberts. A dizzy background figure in the pilot, Summer quickly became a cast regular, one half of the show's most beloved couple and a stealth intellect capable of acceptance at Brown. This season's early episodes are a showcase for Bilson, as Summer deals with the death of her best friend.

"I really like the direction they sort of pointed her in," Bilson

said. "Dealing with her best friend's death, she turns into sort of a tree-hugger, which I think is nice to see on a TV show, especially with such a young audience that it might raise awareness."

In addition to testing new emotional waters with Summer, Bilson is dealing with a suddenly hot film career. She'll be pulling double-duty this fall zipping from "The O.C." set to the Canadian shoot of the new Doug Liman franchise pic *Jumper*. That doesn't mean, though, that Bilson is pointing herself in the direction of her post-"O.C." career.

We don't know that it's the final season," Bilson said. "We're just having a lot of fun and trying to make the best season we can and go from there. No one thinks it's over and doesn't want it to be over, because we have a really great thing and why would you want something like that to end? So we're just doing the best we can and having fun doing it."



Rachel Bilson stars in Fox's 'The O.C.' The program airs Thursdays at 8 p.m.

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Give 'em what they want

**Neo-Futurists seek audience input
for new play**

By Kim Driscoll/Staff Writer

An online questionnaire gauging people's likes and dislikes in a play is asking for the survey taker's feelings about violence and nudity; physical humor; and violent, physical humor done in the nude.

Greg Allen, founding director of the Chicago-based Neo-Futurists, is writing "You Asked for It," a play based on America's most and least wanted plays, giving fans a chance to see their ideas acted out on stage.

The company is an avant-garde theatrical group that conveys the actors' personal experiences and ideas by fusing current events, sport and poetry in a non-illusory, interactive performance.

Allen, an award-winning playwright, borrowed the concept for "You Asked for It" from Russian emigrant artist team Vitaly Komar and Alex Melamid, creators of "America's Most Wanted and America's Least Wanted" paintings. The artists created "People's Choice," an exhibit in New York's Alternative Museum that reflects the 1993 survey results of 1,001 adults' aesthetic preferences and tastes in paintings. Komar and Melamid have surveyed more than a dozen other countries, including France, Kenya and Russia, and have provided paintings for those countries, as well.

Playwrights traditionally exercise artistic discretion by presenting their own ideas instead of offering material based on public demand. "All of our characters are our selves," is clearly shown on the Neo-Futurists website.

The Neo-Futurists' signature show, "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind," which was written by Allen and first performed in 1988, is the longest-running show in Chicago. A montage of 30 plays presented in 60 minutes, "Too Much Light..." combines high-energy with audience participation.

One of the group's more serious plays, "20,687", recently opened with five actors slowly dropping sheets of paper to the floor that contained the names of troops wounded in Iraq, along with their injuries. Meanwhile, between reading out loud some of the listed injuries, the narrator informed the audience that, "They're here with us but most have trouble sleeping." The play, ended with the narrator pointing to the paper on the floor and asking, "Do any of these belong to you?"

"You Asked for It" will most likely resemble "Too Much Light..." and other Neo-Futurists plays that are all based on personal experiences, mixing comedy and drama.

"It's like brain candy," said Randy Zea, a 26-year-old Northeastern Illinois University student who took the survey and looks forward to the resulting play.

Zea said most of the survey questions for "You Asked for It" are multiple choice, but the open-ended questions allowed him to detail his likes and dislikes in a play.

"I think it's a great idea," Zea said. "I would like to see if any of my ideas are used."

Stephanie Shaw, former Neo-Futurist and Columbia Theater Department faculty member, is also interested in seeing what Allen will do with the survey.

"This idea seems negligible because acting out their personal interests is what people have liked about the Neo-Futurists," Shaw said. "They [the Neo-Futurists] don't pander to the audience, and that makes it art and not a sitcom."

However, some believe that Allen is trying to make a statement about why artists need to work without the influence of a public audience.

Sean "Spike" McGuire, a junior and Columbia theater major, said that if "You Asked for It" turns out to be a bad idea, then "Allen will have shown what can happen when you don't give us [actors] our full artistic range."

Shaw said a Neo-Futurist survey asking for public opinion about plays is of interest because Allen has never worried about what the public wants.

"That's a huge compliment [to Allen] because it shows he has an authentic voice," Shaw said. "I will definitely go see the new play."

Dina Connolly, artistic director for "Too Much Light..." and Columbia alumnae, said she is excited about "You Asked for It" being added to the Neo-Futurist current line-up.

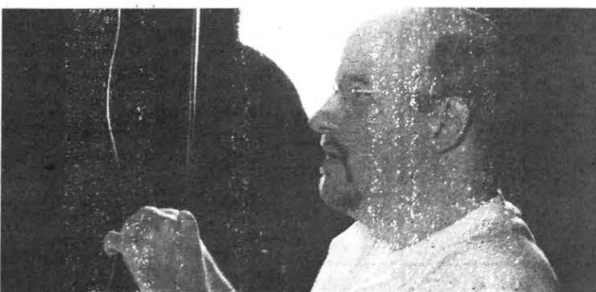
"Greg [Allen] has received about a thousand surveys, so far," Connolly said. "He is trying to get [survey] results from all fifty states and then he will begin writing."

Connolly said Allen only lacks input from about seven states. "You Asked for It" runs Jan. 25, 2007 through March 3, 2007.

Neo-Futurist fan and Chicago resident Gavin Meinschein is also looking forward to possibly having input for "You Asked for It."

"I like the serious mixed with comedy that is portrayed in 'Too Much Light...' and would like to see the same in the new play," Meinschein said.

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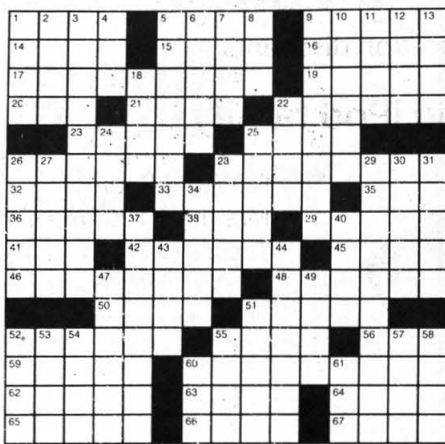


Greg Allen of the Neo-Futurists invites the general public to take a survey about what they would like to see in a play. Some of the answers will be used in the new play "You Asked for It."

Crossword

- ACROSS
- Wholly absorbed
 - Neighbor of Sudan
 - Papas' partners
 - Taj Mahal site
 - Kachina doll maker
 - Get up
 - Aircraft with pontoons
 - French menu
 - Tent stake
 - Quizmaster Trebek
 - Detonation din
 - Doled (out)
 - Spy Mata
 - Turkish inn
 - Tyrant
 - Pre-coll. exams
 - Ho Chi Minh City, formerly
 - Andean gold
 - Loos or Ekberg
 - Full-house sign
 - Asian country
 - Govt. jurists
 - Command
 - Enzyme endings
 - Gathered into a single book
 - Most fitting
 - Lupino and Cantor
 - Villain's look
 - Young woman
 - Kinds
 - Attorney's deg.
 - Public uproars
 - Opinion piece
 - Improvise
 - Business image
 - Actress Archer
 - Type of laugh or dance
 - Broadway dud
 - My word!

- DOWN
- Gravelly voice
 - "The African Queen" screenwriter James
 - Matter-of-fact way
 - Keg feature
 - Alpine lodges



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11/11/06

Solutions



- 6 Fine tuned
7 Highest point
8 Roman Pluto
9 Tubular pasta
10 Jordan's language
11 Spanish painter Joan
12 Regarding
13 Appear
18 After the bell
22 Green Hornet's sidekick
24 Formerly, formerly
25 Sci-fi awards
26 Asimov of sci-fi
27 Chutney fruit
28 Broadcast
29 "The Twilight Zone" host
30 Zodiac sign
31 Hot bread
34 Grate collection
37 Adheres to
40 Thurmond of basketball
43 Israeli airline
44 Relative of a T-shirt
47 Flower organ
49 Cancun coin
51 Irish seaport
52 Ho-hum
53 Subordinate
54 Gangster's gal
55 Pedestal topper
57 Singer Cantrell
58 Ran in the wash
60 Brownie
61 "Norma"

TO THE NINES



Jessica Kartca, a 20-year-old fashion design major, tries to keep her style hip and comfortable.

"I try to keep up with stuff in magazines, as much as my budget allows me," Kartca said.

When *The Chronicle* ran into her on the street she was wearing a fleece jacket, worn jeans and self-described "comfy" shoes.

Kartca enjoys clothes from designers Marc Jacobs and Zac Posen, and her personal "Project Runway" winner from last season—Uli.

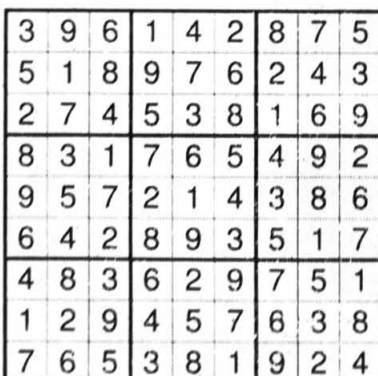
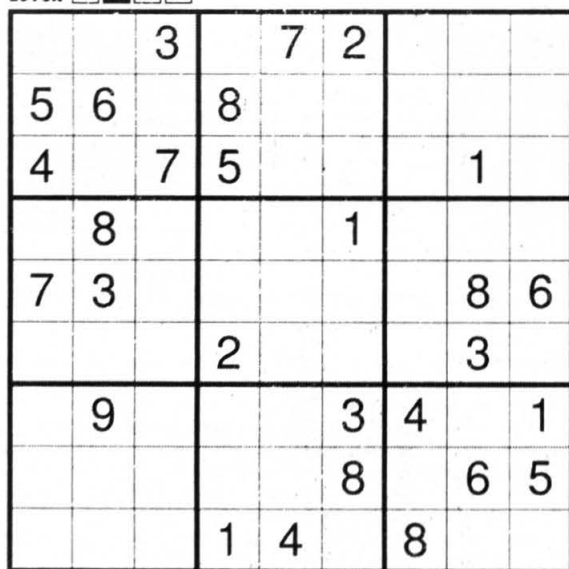
"I hated Jeffrey, he was so mean," Kartca said.



Andrew Nelles / The Chronicle

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: 1 2 3 4



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

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Horoscopes

by Hunter Claus



Aquarius (Jan. 21 — Feb. 19):
Cottage isn't a cheese.



Pisces (Feb. 20 — March 20):



Aries (March 21 — April 20):
A heartless friend will expose your super secret crush on Helen Keller by whipping out an erotic biography of her book entitled *Voices in the Darkness*.



Taurus (April 21 — May 21):
Beware! Danger lurks around the corner in the form of smooth jazz. While standing in line at the grocery store, you'll get lost in it, slowly busting a move as if you're a well-lubricated cat burglar. You'll become so entangled in the bold saxophone solos that you'll never snap out.



Sagittarius (Nov. 23 — Dec. 21): Remember when you did that one thing in your friend's apartment? Well, there was a two-way mirror in the room and everyone saw it.



Leo (July 24 — Aug. 23):
Your sunshine, puppy dog, rainbow worldview will come crashing down on you when you realize everyone makes fun of you for calling "it" a "b-rub."



Scorpio (Oct. 24 — Nov. 22):
Whoever you may have a crush on this week—yeah, they're gay. And if you're gay, they're straight. And if you're bi, they're a transsexual. And if you're into fisting, they're into cuddling.



Libra (Sept. 24 — Oct. 23): A one night stand will take a turn for the worse when you find out they're into role playing as a mime. It's a good thing you're into gut punching.



Virgo (Aug. 24 — Sept. 23):
You'll discover why your significant other has "Man Candy" tattooed above his/her butt.



Cancer (June 22 — July 23):
Your genitals will develop an intelligence of their own, which works out perfectly when no one else wants to play video games with you. Slowly over time, however, they will turn on you, forcing you to do their bidding.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 — Jan. 20):
A gust will blow 3rd Ward Alderman Dorothy Tillman's magical hat off of her head and onto yours, thereby granting you all of her aldermanic powers, which do include the ability to fly.



Gemini (May 22 — June 21):
Topinka is not a medical term for a woman's vagina.

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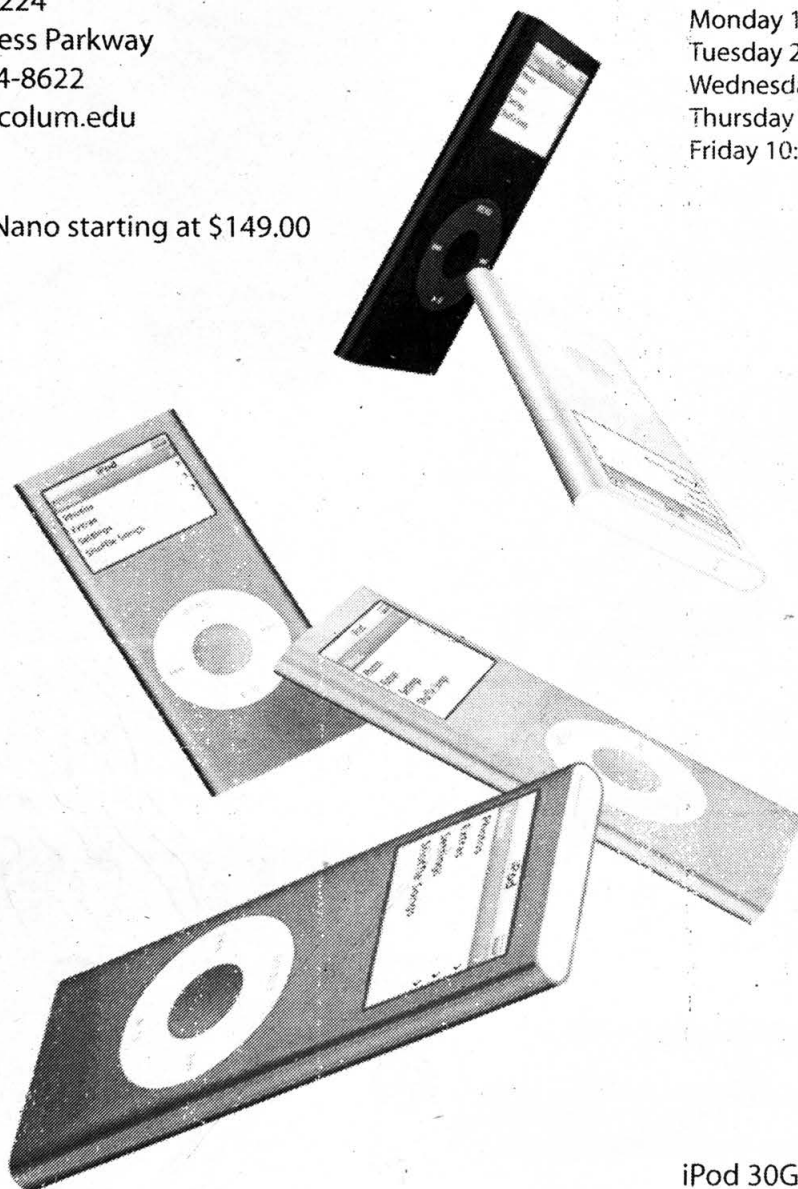
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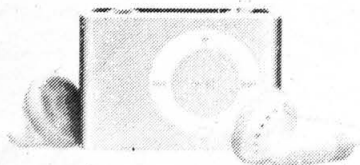
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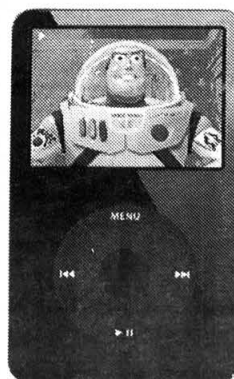
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Exhibit offers worldly menu

Chicago museum showcases cultural food consumption

By Beth Palmer
Staff Writer

While covering the war in Iraq for Time magazine, photographer Peter Menzel became frustrated with the Bush administration's censorship of what journalists were allowed to see in the war-torn country.

To turn around this feeling of helplessness, he and his wife, writer Faith D'Aluisio, were inspired to tell an uncensored story to the world.

The idea for the couple's fifth book, *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, came from a report from the World Resources Institute that said the number of overfed people equaled the number of underfed people for the first time in history. The book is now an exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive.

To publish the book, Menzel said they took out a mortgage on their house in California and self-funded their travel to 24 countries. In each country, the couple stayed with a family to document what they eat in a week. At the end of their stay, Menzel took a family portrait that included the week's groceries.

The couple stayed with a total of 30 families when they went to several locations in the U.S. and China.

The exhibit is four rooms of Menzel's photos, enlarged to the

size of picture windows, displayed on vibrant orange walls. Next to each family/food portrait is a list of the price and description of their weekly food purchases, categorized by food type and added to total weekly expenditures.

The exhibit also shows comparisons between the living conditions and the amount, converted to U.S. dollars, each family spends per week on food.

In the first room of the exhibit hangs a picture of a German family of four that spends \$500 a week on food, juxtaposed with a family of nine in Chad who

"I'm concerned the developing world is missing a step—nutrition."

—Faith D'Aluisio, co-author of Hungry Planet: What the World Eats

spends \$25 a week and a family of six in a refugee camp in Chad who spends \$1.23 a week.

The pictures are coupled with D'Aluisio's commentary about how and why eating patterns in the pictured country have changed in the past 10 years. Globalization is bringing fast food to the underfed Philippines and Africa, for example, but this is only a new form of malnutrition, D'Aluisio said.

"I'm concerned the developing world is missing a step—nutrition," D'Aluisio said.

Processed and convenient foods are deceptive because they appear to be cheaper, Menzel said. Bulk groceries are



Erin Ramsey, 5, checks out the Hungry Planet exhibit on Nov. 2 at the Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive.

much cheaper in the long run, but they take more time in the kitchen, he said.

"There are certain trends going on," Menzel said. "Where people have more income, they move from basic staples to more fat and sugar."

Jill Coenen, 38, from Wisconsin, said she found the exhibit on China interesting. The poverty of some of the families compared to the wealth of others was thought-provoking, Coenen said.

"It's so eye-opening," she said. "It makes me feel blessed, and I feel ashamed."

But Coenen said she noticed the families, no matter the quantity of food in the picture, were always smiling.

Anne Rashford, director of temporary exhibits at the museum, said the exhibit fit right in with the museum's history of bringing in real and educational material.

"It's important to understand that we are what we eat," Rashford said.

The exhibit's reputation for being popular with children was attractive to the museum because a huge percentage of the museum's audience is school groups, Rashford said.

"A lot of us are doing a real disservice to our children," D'Aluisio said in reference to increased dietary health problems among American children.

D'Aluisio said she is pleased to hear children are taking interest in the exhibit because tastes and eating habits are developed during childhood.

"Food is a common denominator; everyone can understand," Menzel said.

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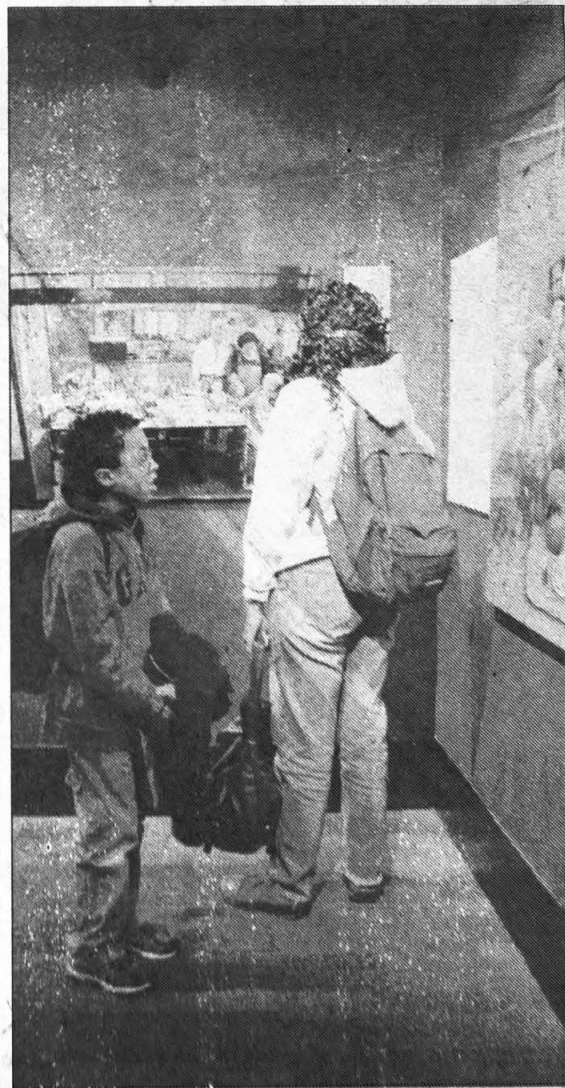
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AN ARMY OF ONE



Jalem Cope, 9, checks out the exhibit Nov. 2 with his mom, Linda. Hungry Planet will be on display until Jan. 2.

Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

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Book them now

Holiday travel prices jump as demand climbs

By Julie Johnsson/MCT

The 2006 holiday travel season is shaping up as costly and crowded for passengers headed to popular tourist destinations. Aviation experts expect a record number of travelers to take to the skies this Thanksgiving and Christmas, besting the previous peak travel crush seen in 2004.

Those who've procrastinated in booking trips to Florida and other vacation hot spots are in for sticker shock.

Experts say in general that discounted holiday fares will be about 10 percent higher than last holiday season. But more significantly, those cheap seats are hard to find, leaving travelers with the disheartening prospect of paying full fare.

Economy-class, round-trip seats from Chicago to Orlando, for example, are selling in the \$600-\$700 range, and even as much as \$1,311, for travel between Christmas and New Year's, according to BestFares.com.

Even the best round-trip fare on discount carrier Southwest Airlines tops \$528. Those smart enough to have booked early paid half that amount. The reason for the pinch is that most major airlines have curbed the number of flights they offer within the U.S. over the past two years, and now supply simply exceeds demand. That's enabled carriers to hike fares about 20 times since early 2005, travel experts say, while also reducing the number of deeply discounted seats that they offer during peak travel periods.

With price wars not as frequent and consumers eager to fly, the airlines are enjoying their best business performance since Sept. 11. United Airlines, for example, this week recorded its second consecutive quarter of profitability.

"Obviously, fares are tied to demand and demand is strong," said Robin Urbanski, spokeswoman for United Airlines.

A hallmark of the turnaround is that for the first time since the Sept. 11 attacks, large numbers of travelers locked in vacation plans months in advance of their travel date.

"I'm not having any luck right now," said Evanston, Ill., resident Stacy Gardner, 27, who has scoured the Internet for the past month looking for affordable Thanksgiving fares to Jacksonville, Fla. "It's kinda frustrating."

Passengers willing to brave the higher prices should also prepare for crowded planes and longer security lines in airports, particularly as infrequent fliers navigate new carry-on rules.

"It's probably going to be a record holiday travel year," said airline expert Terry Trippler, predicting many cheek-by-jowl

experiences. "It's definitely a 'love thy neighbor' travel season."

Holiday travel remains robust even though some economists expected the slowing economy to dampen demand. The strong holiday market reflects a return to old buying patterns of travelers moving early—very early—to snap up the lowest fares. Customers of Chicago's Windy City Travel Inc., for example, started booking year-end trips as early as this March, said Gary Trick, the travel agency's manager.

"We're definitely seeing a rise in pre-bookings for holiday travel," added Steve Weiner, chief operating officer of FCM Bannockburn Travel. "It's been strong since Labor Day."

As a result, passengers who grew accustomed to picking up last-minute holiday deals in the years after the Sept. 11 attacks are in for a surprise. "Leisure fares are probably, on average, \$30 to \$35 higher than they were a year ago," said Trippler, of MyVacationPassport.com. "So, a \$300 ticket may be going for \$330. But when people go to book it, they find the only fare available is \$800 to \$900."

Good deals are still available, travel experts say. But to get them, customers must be willing to move their trips to times when school is in session and families are still at home.

Round-trip fares from Chicago to Orlando, for example, drop to \$184 for travel the week of Jan. 9, according to BestFares.com.

"If you haven't made your reservations and want to travel on the [peak] demand days, then expect to pay more money," said Tom Parsons, CEO and founder of BestFares.com. "My suggestion is you send a Christmas card and travel after the holidays."

Airline and security officials say they plan to beef up staffing during the busiest travel times this Thanksgiving and Christmas to avoid a replay of the long lines and overflowing lobbies that plagued travelers last year.

The Transportation Security Administration, which oversees airport security, will also pass out fliers to update passengers of the new security rules before they get into security lines. Passengers are allowed to carry toiletries onto flights, provided the goods weigh no more than three ounces and are contained in a single, quart-sized, Ziploc bag.

Trick, of Windy City Travel, suggests that passengers arrive two and a half hours in advance of international departures and at least 90 minutes before scheduled domestic departure times to ensure they don't miss their flights. It's better to have too much time, he added: "You can always sit back and have a cup of coffee or enjoy a glass of wine."



AP

A United Airlines flight approaches O'Hare International Airport Oct. 31. Many airlines have hiked fares within the last year, making cheap holiday seats hard to come by.

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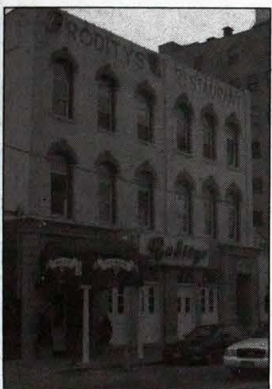
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Urban Excursions: Greek Town



By Jennifer K. Fischer
Managing Editor

Just west of the Loop lies a taste of the Mediterranean—feta cheese, savory olive oil, delicate lamb. Chicago's Greek Town, though relatively small on the scale of Chicago neighborhoods,



Left: Rodity's Restaurant, 222 S. Halsted St., is one of many colorfully decorated buildings in the Greek Town neighborhood. Right: The corner of Halsted and Van Buren streets is one of many locations in the neighborhood displaying Greek-themed architecture.

boasts big flavor.

What started out as an enclave of Greek immigrants now comprises a blend of inhabitants of varying ages and ethnicities. However, the original Greek presence remains proudly on display in the neighborhood businesses. Bright blue and white Greek flags adorn area restaurants and shops, as does Greek writing.

Surely you'll think of the movie *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* as you walk by the many neighborhood eateries. Then you'll be transported back to ancient times when you spot the pillared pavilion at Halsted and Monroe. It's an area as colorful as its on-screen depiction and



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

is as magnificent as the stone structure you'll pass.

Stepping into Greek Islands, 200 S. Halsted St., makes you feel as though you've left Chicago—and the country for that matter. Faux cobblestone floors, balconies and shuttered windows create a village-like decor. The restaurant serves traditional fare such as feta and spinach pie, gyros and dolmades—grape leaves stuffed with rice, ground meat and herbs—Greek wines and fresh Mediterranean seafood at moderate prices.

Other neighborhood dining staples include Zorbas House Restaurant, 301 S. Halsted St., an authentic Greek favorite amongst college students on a budget; Greektown Gyros, 239 S. Halsted St., a great place for a quick gyro; and Pegasus Restaurant, 130 S. Halsted St., a more expensive sit-down establishment offering traditional Mediterranean dishes.

Pan Hellenic Pastry Shop, 322 S. Halsted St., entices you with rich Greek coffee, flakey baklava and sugary Greek wedding cookies. Artropolis Bakery and Cafe, 306 S. Halsted St., also serves up fresh bread and Greek pastries, or if you're so inclined, regional entrees, salads and soups.

Nearby, the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, 801 W. Adams St., provides a glimpse into the lives of Greek Americans past and present. In addition to exhibits, the facility provides a place for live experiences such as



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Above: Customers enjoy their meals at Greek Islands Restaurant, 200 S. Halsted St. Below: Employees prepare food at the restaurant, which imports many authentic ingredients from Greece.



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

lectures, as well as dance and musical performances.

Though dining dominates, Greektown provides an enjoyable shopping experience as well. Athenian Candle Co., 300 S. Halsted St., peddles an array of candles and trinkets of religious and secular significance. Greektown Gift and Music, 330

S. Halsted St., has a substantial inventory of CDs in addition to Greek gifts, cookbooks and art.

Getting to Greek Town from Columbia takes little time. Take the Blue Line to UIC and walk two blocks north. Opa!

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Bringing in peace

Artists interpret Dalai Lama's vision in exhibit

By Rashauna C. Hull
Staff Writer

More than 88 artists from 30 countries came together recently to spread a message that transcends borders: peace.

"The Missing Peace: Artists Consider the Dalai Lama," now showing at the Loyola University Museum of Art, 820 N. Michigan Ave., is an international multimedia art exhibition that is intended to inform the public of the urgency of world peace and exemplify the principles of the Dalai Lama.

The exhibit brings together celebrated and emerging artists, such as Americans Chuck Close and Bill Viola, who were chosen based on their previous artworks of peace and unity. Featured art media includes fiber art, painting, photography, animation, video, installation, sculpture, electronic and performing art.

"When we look at TV there is a lot of news about disasters and war, but we need more news about peace," said Salustiano Garcia, an artist from Seville, Spain, who created the piece "Time to Destroy, Time to Connect." "The one way to spread peace for an artist is through a beautiful painting."

One piece at the exhibit is a

15-minute musical composition by Dyuichi Sakamoto called "Sonic Madala," which has Tibetan singers accompany his piano playing.

Many visitors feel enlightened by the spirituality of the exhibit.

"Most artwork [outside of this exhibit] I've seen is horrific," said Sherly Budnik, a viewer of the exhibit, from Comstock, Mich. "I came here to find beauty and peace."

The show lends its name to the 14th Dalai Lama, birth name Lhamo Thondup, who is both the spiritual leader and head of state of Tibet, which has been under Chinese control since 1950.

The Dalai Lama tried to free Tibet of Chinese rule while creating peace between the two countries and throughout the world. In 1989, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace for his nonviolent approach.

His principles and teachings are reflected in the two foundations that organized the exhibition, the Dalai Lama Foundation and the Committee of 100 for Tibet. The mission of the Dalai Lama Foundation is to spread peaceful and ethical education based on the principles of the Dalai Lama, and the Committee of 100 for Tibet is mission is to focus on peaceful resolutions for Tibetans.

"We decided to spread his message through the arts

because the arts have a way of touching people on an international level," said Darlene Markovich, the executive director of the exhibit. "Regardless of our race, gender, religious background, we are all one."

The exhibit runs through Jan. 15. For more information on prices and museum hours, visit www.luc.edu/luma/.

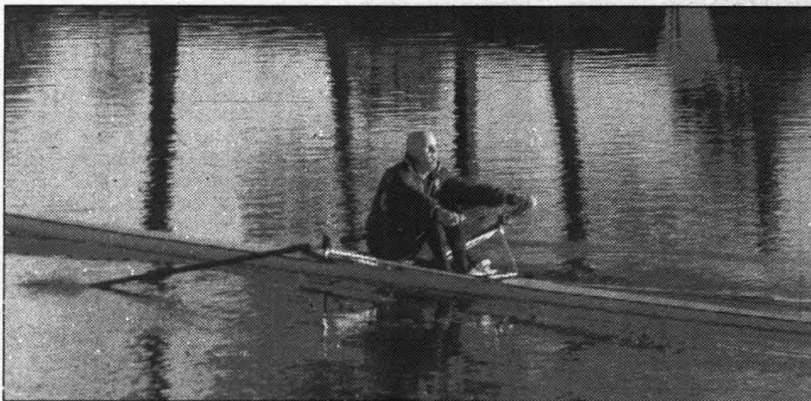
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Keith Bishton/The Chronicle

Pam Martinez studies a piece at the 'The Missing Peace: Artists consider the Dalai Lama' at the Loyola University Museum of Art, 820 N. Michigan Ave.

Early morning row



Keith Bishton/The Chronicle

David Miller, from the Lincoln Park Boat Club, 2200 N. Cannon Drive, rows along Lincoln Park Lagoon during the early morning hours on Nov. 1.

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CHRONICLE
October

Photographer captures aftermath of 9/11

Exhibit chronicles months following 2001 disaster

By Rashauna C. Hull
Staff Writer

Joel Meyerowitz was one of the many photographers who traveled to ground zero to capture the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy through his camera lens.

While at ground zero, Meyerowitz slowly raised his camera to his face to take a picture. He suddenly was tapped on his shoulder by a policewoman, who told him he could not take a photograph. For the officer, ground zero was a crime scene off limits to the public.

"When she poked me and told

me I could not take a picture on a public sidewalk, I felt like she did not have the right to do that," Meyerowitz said. "It was this experience that made me realize that the government was trying to limit our knowledge of what occurred at ground zero."

Compelled to document the aftermath of 9/11, Meyerowitz went on to create an 8,500-piece photographic archive of ground zero. Part of this collection can be viewed at a new exhibit in Chicago.

Entitled "Aftermath: Inside the Forbidden City," the 9/11 photography showcase is part of the 2006 Chicago Humanities Festival. This exhibit is currently being shown at the Newberry Library, 66 W. Walton St.

Meyerowitz's exhibit reflects more contemporary American history.

"There are, of course, many significant photographs within the history of photography that document the aftermath of war, the landscape of battlefields, as well as the sentiment and glory of the hero," said Catherine Gass, photographer for the Newberry Library. "There is no doubt that the images produced from September 11th will do the same."

The 28 large-scale, full-color photographs mounted on the walls of the R.R. Donnelley Center at the library chronicle the painful, slow recovery of ground zero over a nine-month period.

"The photographs are very gripping and realistic," said Tim

Travers, an associate member of the Newberry Library, who visited the exhibit because of its intriguing title.

One of the photographs, called "Flags on the Facade of the World Financial Center" shows flags on the World Financial Center that appear to be burning. Actually, they are distorted to look smoky and the bright lights in the windows of the center resemble flames. Another photograph captures several firefighters searching through the debris of the North Tower for remains.

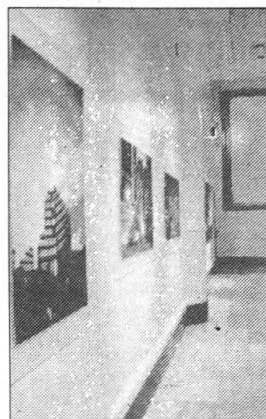
Many visitors of "Aftermath: Inside the Forbidden City" appreciated the poignant photography of ground zero.

"It's a different view from what we usually see, which is the actual crashing of the planes," said Jan Holzheimer.

Lawrence Weschler, the CHF artistic director, selected Meyerowitz as the featured artist since his work is relevant to the festival's theme: peace and war.

The Newberry is not the first place Meyerowitz has exhibited his Sept. 11 works. In 2002 the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department asked him to create an exhibition called "After September 11: Images from Ground Zero."

In the three years following its creation, nearly four million people from more than 200 cities and 60 countries, including Afghanistan, Peru and China viewed the exhibit.



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle
Photographer Joel Meyerowitz took more than 8,500 photos of the aftermath of 9/11.

After his world tour, Meyerowitz published a book in September 2006 to coincide with the fifth anniversary of 9/11 called *Aftermath: World Trade Center Archive*.

He hopes that people will see the importance and value of ground zero through his "Aftermath: Inside the Forbidden City" exhibit.

"Go there without prejudice, just to see as if you were getting a free pass to ground zero," Meyerowitz said.

Joel Meyerowitz will speak at the Art Institute of Chicago, Fullerton Auditorium, 111 S. Michigan Ave., from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 12. Admission is \$5; free for students.

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Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

"Aftermath: Inside the Forbidden City" is at the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St., until Nov. 12. Photographer Joel Meyerowitz captured images of ground zero after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

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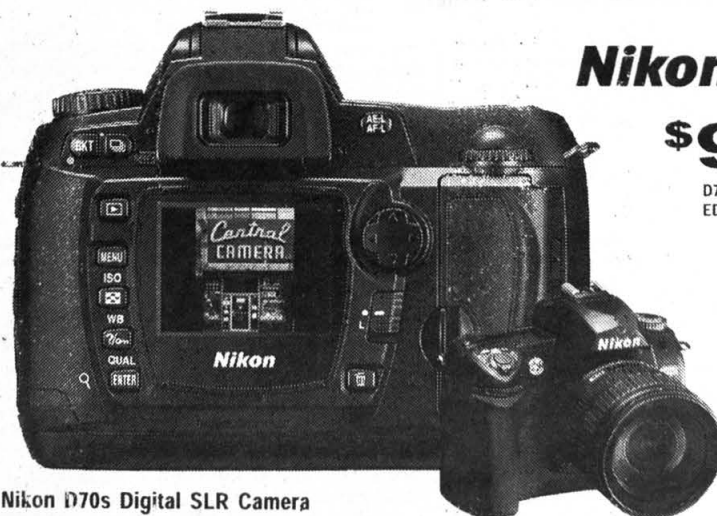
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County: County government 19th largest overall in United States

Continued from Back Page

Science Department at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Along with its \$3.1 billion budget, Simpson said the county has three main functions that include providing free healthcare at three county hospitals and 30 clinics for people without health insurance, running the Cook County court system, county jail and Sheriff's Department and maintaining the 68,000 acres of forest preserves.

Simpson, who served as a Chicago alderman for the 44th Ward during the 1970s, said the county receives its funding from property taxes, sales taxes and part of a person's income taxes.

The board has 17 district commissioners who oversee the various healthcare, judicial and park services. While there's currently a vacant commissioner seat in the 4th District, all the positions are up for election, according to the Cook County Clerk's Office. The Cook County Board of Commissioners website counted 138 municipalities and around 5.3 million people within its borders.

While multiple municipalities reside within Cook County, the government does not run like a city or village hall.

"County government is an administrative arm of the state," said David K. Hamilton, chair of the Political Science and Public Administration Department at

Roosevelt University, "whereas [local residents] govern their communities and decide what should be done."

Hamilton, said the state is responsible for handling certain services like healthcare and the judicial system but delegates these duties to the Cook County government. He also said the county controls the unincorporated areas within its borders too.

Each candidate is trying to use these services to convince voters they are most qualified for the position of Cook County Board president.

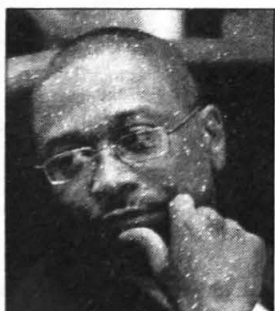
"I think that our message of equal rights for all citizens of Cook County, fair treatment of women in our healthcare system [and] sensible gun control is resonating with the voters," Koehler said.

For Peraica's camp, convincing the voters that he is right for the job includes defending the candidate's character. Kohn said Stroger's "right-wing conservative" label of Peraica is nothing but a smokescreen; in fact, he said, both candidates are not going to change abortion services at the county hospitals and not tamper with the same-sex couple benefit registry.

"I think voters are realizing that guns, gays and abortions are not what this election is about," Kohn said. "It's about corruption, it's about high taxes, it's about government that serves the people."

For more information on each candidate, visit strogerforpresident.com and votetony06.com.

ekasang@chroniclemail.com



Democratic Cook County Board presidential candidate Todd Stroger is trying to switch from City Hall to county government.



Republican Cook County Board presidential candidate Tony Peraica wants to become the first GOP county head in almost 40 years.

Voting: Parties claim votes for Greens come from both sides

Continued from Back Page

[green voters] pull aside from one party or the other," Gibbons said. "It's people that are not really loyal to a party, and I can't say it's more democratic or republican."

Polls show the Green Party candidate receiving support from both Democrats and Republicans, according to Dave Sacks, office manager for Whitney's campaign.

"It's coming pretty evenly from people who identified strongly as one of the two major parties," Sacks said. "We've got platform positions and issues that Rich Whitney is running on that are appealing to both Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives."

Political scientists, however, argue the similarities between the Green Party and the Democratic

Party can, in fact, cause a shift among voters who may have typically voted along Democratic Party lines.

Chris Mooney, professor of political studies at the University of Illinois at Springfield, said political ideologies can be explained as a bell-shaped curve. Mainstream Democratic and Republican views are in the middle, while more extreme, or narrow, views are represented at the curve's tails on the left or right. Anytime an extreme left or right candidate enters a race, voters on the tails can be less attracted to mainstream candidates in the middle, Mooney said.

Though Blagojevich is leading by 10 to 15 percent in preliminary polls, remaining undecided voters and voter dissatisfaction leaves the outcome of the gubernatorial race in question to many experts.

Scandals surrounding Blagojevich's indicted fundraiser Tony Rezko and convicted former Gov. George Ryan's association with Topinka might make both candidates unfavorable to voters, Mooney said.

Poll Watching

*If a candidate has two poll watchers, one must be a registered voter in the ward in which he or she is poll watching.

Two poll watchers per candidate*

Two poll watchers per political party*

One poll watcher per qualified civic organization

One poll watcher for proponents and opponents to a proposition

Source: Board of Election commissioners, City of Chicago

Poll watching: Civic organizations allowed 1 watcher; parties get up to 4

Continued from Back Page

Illinois law grants each political party two poll watchers for every precinct, with an additional two per candidate who is running in the district. In Chicago, one of the two poll watchers must be registered to vote in the ward in which he is observing.

State law also allows one poll watcher per precinct for independent civic organizations. In order for a group to be considered eligible for poll watching, it must go through a series of legal hurdles before receiving authorization from the state. For example, any organization must be at a level of involvement in the investigation or prosecution of election fraud that satisfies the state Board of Elections.

The authorization, however, can keep some organizations from engaging in poll watching. For example, in the 2004 election, the Illinois League of Women Voters

was denied legal access from the state because it did not have some variety of the term "the prevention of election fraud" in its mission statement, said Richard Means, an Oak Park attorney who specializes in election law.

Illinois law is still more generous toward independent organizations than most other states, Burt said. Most states only allow individuals with credentials from political parties or candidates to be poll watchers.

"Obviously with the current and historical election [problems] that have come up in Illinois, I'm sure that there would be non-partisan observers who would love to sit and watch it unfold," she said.

With civic organizations still only being allowed one poll watcher per precinct, compared to the maximum of four a political party and its candidate can have combined, some shady political maneuvering and tactics can become commonplace on election day. For example, "vote buying" is a complaint that comes up every so often.

"Somebody stands outside the polling place, handing out a piece of literature," Means said, "and when the voter comes out and reports that he voted the way he

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

was told, they give him a dollar, two dollars, five dollars or a turkey or ham. That's not at all unusual."

The Chicago Board of Elections receives thousands of complaints about poll watchers on election day, but most of them are minor. Means said while he was in charge of the Cook County State's Attorney's election fraud prosecutions, 107 poll watchers were convicted of felonies over the span of five years.

While civic organizations need to be granted access for poll watchers, political parties only need a name on the ballot, and the participants do not need any type of training or experience in elections or election law. While parties and candidates tend to send their most knowledgeable and seasoned experts to precincts where they predict a tight vote, for the most part, the only qualification necessary is political allegiance or knowing the right people.

"If you went down to the Stroger campaign they would probably say 'Who sent you?'" Means said. "And if you didn't have a good answer for them or you say nobody sent you they would reply with the standard Chicago reply, 'We don't want nobody nobody sent.'"

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of winning this election.

The Green Party recognizes the difficulty present when trying to run a relatively unknown candidate against an incumbent.

"People do stick with what they know, but as we're getting our message out a lot more ... people are more than open to the idea of another candidate and another political party," Sacks said. "Some people say 'Oh all politicians are crooks, [so] go with the crook you know rather than the one you don't.'"

On a much larger scale, the desire among voters to maintain the status quo is part of the problem within an inherent two-party system, according to Lisa Disch, a professor of political science at the University of Minnesota.

"Our system is especially unforgiving to voters' attempts to get more diversity for themselves and their political choices," Disch said. "There are many ways that the two-party system protects itself against third-party challengers."

According to Sacks, Whitney's participation in this election can help change a two-party system in

need of balance. Substantial competition would mean a victor could come out on top of the races with 20 or 30 percent of the vote, rather than the 51 percent required of the two-party set up, he said.

The lack of competition makes it much easier for the two-party system to thrive year after year, Disch added.

"Unless a race is competitive, a third party can't make a mark [and] it can't influence the kind of issues that the major parties take up," Disch said. "The races should be competitive because this is a democracy."

Mooney predicts that Whitney's campaigning will likely get him into double-digits on election day, which will be unusual for a third-party candidate in a two-party state like Illinois.

"Politics in Illinois is not about ideology," Mooney said. "It's about where [you are] going to pour the concrete [and] who gets to give their idiot brother-in-law a job. It's not about casting a vote in order to stand up for principles."

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Scoop in the Loop



By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

If you find yourself too apathetic to vote this Tuesday, but care deeply about the country and where it's headed, then why don't you evaluate your options? If voting isn't the solution, is it really possible that not voting is?

I sympathize with you non-voters, I really do. Sometimes when I take stock of the political system, I too feel depressed, desolate and deflated. But despair not, for there is still the hope for revolution! Now I don't want to advocate terrorism or anything, but there is a reason we have the Second Amendment and more checks to balance than our asses can cash.

After all, it was one of our founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson, who said "the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants." Jefferson meant, although he may not have said it in these same words, that when people grow so dissatisfied with the government and the public's desire for reform is not being actualized, one must take drastic action. The public must do whatever is necessary to bring about the change themselves and yes, that can include killing, murdering and maiming.

A lot has changed since

Jefferson said that: We have a globalized world with a few more billion people, so an armed takeover may be difficult, especially considering citizens can't own tanks or working bazookas. But politicians have changed as well and so have their mindsets. Instead of being passionate rich men vying for power and influence to bring about change, they have become ravenous and scavenging scoundrels who will stop at nothing to fill their goblets with blood before it hits the tree's trunk.

Politicians have mutated into conniving and grossly out-of-touch rich men and women bidding at celebrity and fame. Their utter lack of intensity and fire has them hoarding the passion of the people and claiming it for themselves. There was a time when politicians and statesmen actually believed in violent and bloody revolutions when voting wasn't doing the trick.

The time of real passion in candidates is gone, and in its place is bitching and moaning about bitching and moaning. In its place is the stiff posture of Todd Stroger and the rigid smugness of Joe Birkett, Topinka's lieutenant governor.

In 1858, Abe Lincoln and Stephen Douglas had seven emotionally charged debates for one of Illinois' U.S. Senate seats. During those impassioned debates, the candidates spoke for hours with the race's historical significance in mind. This year, our lovely candidates for governor in Illinois, only managed one formal debate and it didn't even include Green Party candidate Rich Whitney. He did, however, manage to get about half



AP

Republican gubernatorial challenger Judy Baar Topinka speaks at a press conference on Nov. 1. Prior to jumping into the race, Topinka served as Illinois' Treasurer.

the time Judy Baar Topinka got last week on WTTW's televised sit-down with the candidates for governor, which Rod Blagojevich was too busy to attend.

Hearing Topinka or Blagojevich speak about political office is like listening to stock brokers discuss when and where to buy and sell shares. They pander to demographics and are devoid of sincerity. Truth is, if someone were to mention revolution to them because of their lack of effort, they would laugh that person off the face of the earth and maybe even have them arrested.

In actuality, though, maybe the time for resistance is upon us. If not now, when will there ever be a time for revolution? With so many issues in the political spectrum becoming skewed and misguided, it seems like bureaucrats are intentionally turning voters off.

According to a recent Chicago Sun-Times article, nearly \$160 million has been spent on negative campaign ads and only \$17 million on positive ads. This is alarming, not because of the discrepancy between money spent on negative ads compared to positive ones, but because candidates are spending \$177 million on campaign ads.

Negative campaigning is part of the game; if one opponent deserves to be ridiculed, then so be it. That is nothing new. This is about using hundreds of millions of dollars for frivolous publicity; chances are candidates would get much better exposure by participating in debates.

Across the country there is a strange push to replace paper ballots with electronic ballots. Some say this effort is being undertaken so that evidence can be destroyed,

others say it's happening because it will be quicker and easier. Neither side's argument is entirely true, but what is true is that for some reason we can't seem to count votes without having trouble. It may be time to erect a giant board in each municipality so that residents can come and place a dash next to their candidate of choice so the entire public can see the votes.

Another issue that may give non-voters reasonable ammunition is that election day is not a holiday. This fact is, by all accounts, absolutely ridiculous! The United States of America, the symbol and beacon of hope, freedom, liberty and all that other crap can't seem to give its citizens the day off to vote, but it can give people the day off after Thanksgiving to shop? Give me a break, if this isn't reason to revolt, I don't know what is.

In each of these issues there is an obvious effort on behalf of the politicians and government to make voters feel insignificant and dumb. The public debate about each issue misses the point entirely. Saying there are problems with campaigning, the voting system and democratic process is like saying global warming is a real threat—it's not even a question, it's a distraction.

People who say they don't vote because it doesn't do anything imply that they want to take part in something that does. Therefore, if you are pissed and won't vote, do what the Founding Fathers would have done—take revolutionary action against the powers that be. The choice is yours: vote, obey, civilly disobey or violently revolt.

jewert@chroniclemail.com

In Public

City Beat will cry if you don't vote. So get out to your local polling place Nov. 7 and make us proud! For more information on polling places, visit chicagoelections.com.

Thanks veterans. Celebrate Veterans' Day with the city of Chicago on Nov. 11 at Soldier Field, 1410 S. Museum Campus Drive. Doors open at 10 a.m., the program begins at 11. For more information, call (312) 744-3315.

No plans Nov. 9? Head to DePaul University's Monroe Hall, 2312 N. Clifton Ave., to hear from one of the nation's leading progressive Iranian scholars. "Defending Civil Liberties and Resisting the Empire," a forum with Hamid Dabashi, takes place at 7 p.m. For more information, call (773) 269-1187.

Not your typical SOFA. The International Expositions of Sculpture Objects and Functional Art is on display at Navy Pier's Festival Hall, 600 E. Grand Ave., Nov. 10-12. The event showcases three-dimensional decorative and fine art. Tickets are \$15 for one day and \$25 for a three-day pass. For more information, visit sofaexposition.com.

Backstage pass. Ever wanted to get a behind-the-scenes look at a famous Chicago entertainment spot? Then head to the Chicago Theatre, 175 N. State St., to get a tour of the architectural and historical highlights of the building. Tours are available every Tuesday at noon and the third Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and noon. Admission is \$5 and tours last roughly one hour. For more information, visit thechicagotheatre.com.

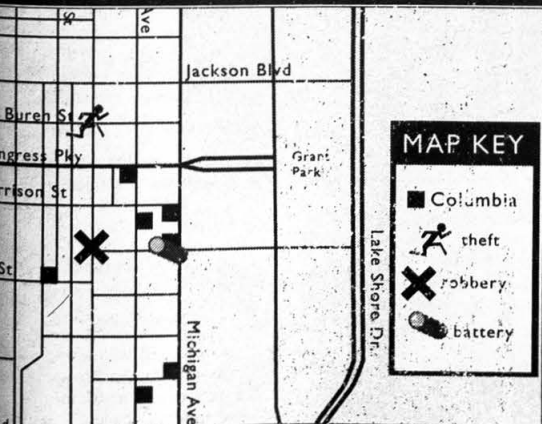
Looking for a way to create trippy, experimental music? Then check out the circuit bending class at the Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 12. Learn how to convert children's electric toys into far-out musical instruments. The price is \$40. For more information, visit oldtownschool.org.



AP

Illinois Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich chats with reporters at Chicago's Columbus Day parade on Oct. 9. The incumbent will face Republican and Green party candidates on Nov. 7.

Off the Blotter



Jennifer Order/The Chronicle

Run out of money

After returning from cross-country training, a 19-year-old male student from Robert Morris College found his locker broken into at the school's 401 S. State St. building. Among the things missing were \$21, his U-Pass and his Social Security card.

Not paying attention on the CTA

On Oct. 24, while riding the Red Line, a 55-year-old woman noticed that her purse had been taken from the seat next to her. The black leather Coach purse was valued at \$300 and included \$60, the victim's state ID, Social Security card, voter registration card and credit card inside.

Peek-a-boo, I see you

A 24-year-old parking lot attendant was robbed while working at 11 E. Balbo Drive on Oct. 27. The victim saw a man looking into parked cars in the lot and when the victim approached, the offender told him that he was going to rob him and indicated that he had a weapon. The victim handed over his wallet, which contained \$693 and his state ID, to the unknown man, who then fled south on State Street.

A flick of the wrist

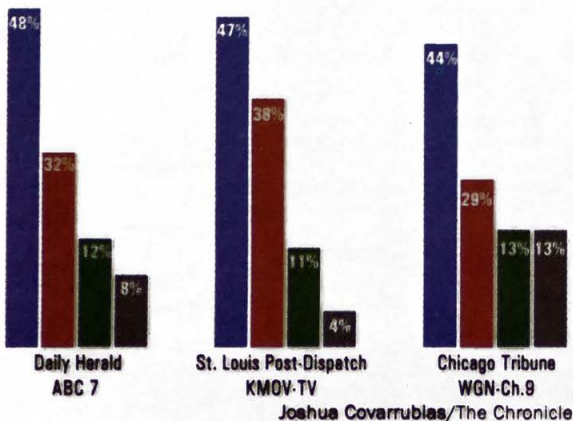
On Oct. 30, a 25-year-old woman reported battery at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, 720 S. Michigan Ave. The victim claimed that a co-worker slapped her hand after making a mistake on the computer and then proceeded to pick up the victim's wrist and hit it on the countertop. Police have the 23-year-old suspect's name but no follow was made as of press time.



ELECTION COVERAGE

Caught Green-handed
Election Polls

■ Blagojevich ■ Topinka ■ Whitney ■ Undecided

Experts blame 2-party
system for Green
'vote-stealing'

By Allison Riggio
Assistant City Beat Editor

On Nov. 7, Illinois voters will make many choices for political offices across the state. Only a handful of those offices up for

election, however, will list more than two parties on the ballot.

According to the Illinois State Board of Elections, only about 3 percent of offices up for election this year have a third-party candidate in the race. Rare as they may be, third-party candidates have taken flack in recent years, accused of "stealing" votes from mainstream candi-

dates on the ballot.

Many placed blamed for Al Gore's 2000 presidential loss on the shoulders of Green Party candidate Ralph Nader. This was one of few times in U.S. history where a close race was affected by the presence of a third party on the ballot, according to John Jackson, a political science professor at Southern Illinois University.

"Had they not had Nader on the ballot, Gore would have undoubtedly won," Jackson said. "That's [a] pretty well-established fact and not a myth."

Most experts agree, however, that Illinois is primarily a two-party state usually unaffected by third parties in elections.

Illinois' current gubernatorial race, however, shows Green Party candidate Rich Whitney pulling 11 percent to 13 percent in preliminary polls. Whitney is the only third-party candidate on the gubernatorial ballot in the last three election cycles, according to the Illinois State Board of Elections.

"In real tight races almost anything makes a difference," Jackson said. "Two or 3 percent—much less 5 to 11 percent—can easily be the balance of power."

Three different preliminary voter polls show Gov. Rod Blagojevich ahead, averaging a 10 to 15 percentage point lead over Republican Judy Baar Topinka. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch/KMOV-TV and the Daily Herald/ABC7 polls indicate 4 percent and 8 percent of voters, respectively, as undecided in the gubernatorial race. A Tribune/WGN poll shows 13 percent were undecided. All three polls surveyed 600-800 likely voters statewide and have a margin of error of about 4 percent.

The Democratic Party, however, feels that Green voters tend to come from both the right and the left sides of the political spectrum, according to Cady Gibbons, executive director for the Cook County Democratic Party.

"I don't know, per se, that

See Voting, Page 42

Election Day spectator
sport: poll watchingParty politics playing a
pivotal role in age-old
citizen tradition

By Jim Jaworski
Associate Editor

A sound democracy must make every effort to keep elections as clean and fair as possible. To help reach that goal, independent citizens are allowed to observe the legitimacy of voting in every precinct in Illinois.

However, odds are that the role of the poll watcher is simply played by a cog in each political party's campaign machine.

Poll watchers are citizens appointed to keep a close eye on precincts to prevent any wrongdoing and promote clean and

legitimate elections. However, with limited access granted to independent civic organizations, poll watching can be as partisan and politically motivated as the campaigns themselves, some election experts say.

"The partisan observers are there to protect their own, make no doubts about it," said Barbara Burt, the director of election reform for Common Cause, a non-partisan voters' rights group.

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no doubts about it."**

—Barbara Burt, director
of election reform for
Common Cause

Poll watchers are granted certain privileges and duties that allow them to observe the actions of election officials from a distance. For example, poll watchers can witness election judges initialing and depositing voting ballots, inspect vacant voting stations and challenge voter qualifications, according to Sean Greene, spokesman for Electionline, a nonprofit election information group.

Poll watchers are prohibited by law to instruct voters either inside or within 100 feet of the polling place, handle any election materials or be generally disruptive.

See Poll watching, Page 42

Too close to call

Candidates for Cook
County president
seek board reform

By Eric Kasang
City Beat Editor

Against a backdrop of negative campaigning and political rhetoric, Democrat Todd Stroger and Republican Tony Peraica, who are running for Cook County Board president, have both pitched themselves as county budget reformers. And despite their verbal jabs at each other, the candidates have presented their reform ideas to the public.

"[Todd Stroger] is there to protect the patronage hires, to protect the minority contract abuses, to protect the insider deals," said Eric Kohn, campaign manager for Tony Peraica. "Tony Peraica is running so we can have clear, transparent government that actually serves the taxpayers and is a good steward of the taxpayers' money."

Kohn said Peraica, the Cook County Board Commissioner for the 16th District, which represents part of the western suburbs, has built a Democratic-Republican coalition on the board within the last four years that defeated more than \$400 million in tax increases sought by John Stroger Jr., father of the

County Board's Democratic candidate for board president.

However, Jennifer Koehler, deputy campaign manager for Todd Stroger, said the Democratic candidate does have a plan for Cook County budget reform.

"He's going to take a look at the budget line item by line item with all the respective elected officials and make it very clear to all of them that they have to go back to their core mission [as Cook County Board Commissioners]," Koehler said. Koehler explained that Stroger, who's currently the 8th Ward alderman, also wants to take a closer look at the billings and collections system at Stroger Hospital, named after his father.

"Some improvements have been made, but we really need to collect adequate patient data, [so] when people use our services, we can get reimbursed for those services," Koehler said.

For students and Cook County residents, the government provides many essential services for its various communities.

Currently, Cook County is the 19th largest governmental agency in the United States, according to Dick Simpson, professor and head of the Political

See County Board, Page 42

2006

Candidates

Governor & Lieutenant
Governor:

Rod R. Blagojevich
Pat Quinn (Dem)

Judy Baar Topinka
Joe Birkett (Rep)

Rich Whitney
Julie Samuels (Gm)

Attorney General:

Lisa Madigan (Dem)

Stewart Umholtz (Rep)

David Black (Gm)

Treasurer:

Alex Giannoulis (Dem)

Christine Radogno (Rep)

Dan Rodriguez-Schlorff (Gm)

Secretary of State:

Jesse White (Dem)

Dan Rutherford (Rep)

Karen "Young" Peterson (Gm)

Cook County Board
President:

Todd H. Stroger (Dem)

Tony Peraica (Rep)

Cook County Clerk:

David D. Orr (Dem)

Nancy Carlson (Rep)

Cook County Sheriff:

Thomas J. Dart (Dem)

Peter Garza (Rep)

County Board
Commissioner 2nd
District:

Bobbie L. Steele (Dem)

Scott W. Kummer (Rep)

INSIDE:
Previews of three
different museum
exhibits exploring the
human condition...
Pages 36-41