

11-20-2006

Columbia Chronicle (11/20/2006)

Columbia College Chicago

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Backline takes front stage



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Local band Probably Vampires was one of six bands to perform during the first Backline, a battle of the bands-style event hosted in the Conaway Center, in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The event offered a collection of prizes to the winners; artist Matthew Santos took first place and won eight weeks worth of lessons from the Old Town School of Folk Music, among other prizes.

College course crosses Pacific

Class traveling to Shanghai during 2007 J-term

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

Throughout the years, Columbia students have traveled to Florence, Dublin and Prague. Coming this January another city will be added to the list: Shanghai.

The college's study abroad program heads to Asia this year, where nearly 20 students and faculty from various departments will participate in a two-week trip to China during the J-term.

While in Shanghai, the group will partner with BizArt, a non-profit arts center that works to promote upcoming Chinese artists in its country and abroad, and which has organized most of the group's meeting and outings. The group will visit tea houses, temples, galleries, museums and a local arts and media university.

While there were prerequisites for the trip, Elena Valussi, a faculty member in the Liberal Education Department, who initialized the trip said they were flexible. Most participating students have taken an Eastern humanity, philosophy or history class. In addition, before students leave they will have required reading on the country and culture as well as a mini crash-course.

"We want a common ground of knowledge, because most of our Columbia students have not traveled abroad," Valussi said. "If they're going to such a far away place as China, I would rather they have a little bit of understanding before we get there."

Valussi once lived in Shanghai and became inspired to travel there with students when she started teaching at Columbia a few years ago.

Although she had hoped to make this trip during the college's first J-term last year, department chairs asked her to wait another year to plan the trip.

Valussi will co-teach the class with Natasha Egan, associate director of the Museum of Contemporary Photography.

The two paired up after the MoCP hosted the "Made in China" exhibit last winter. Valussi asked Egan if she knew anyone interested in Asian culture and history who would like to travel abroad, and Egan volunteered herself.

Egan has traveled to

See Shanghai, Page 4

Hit me with your best mumps shot

By Jim Jaworski
Associate Editor

A new immunization policy finally brought the student body to state-recognized compliance, mostly because it had no choice.

The Columbia administration enacted a new policy that prevents students who do not have the proper immunization records from registering for future semesters. As of press time, the compliance rate, or percentage of students with the required medical records, rose to about 85 percent, up from roughly 60 percent last year. The state of Illinois recommends 90 percent of a college's student body be compliant.

"I am very pleased with the effort on our part and students finally doing what they need to do," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

After the new hold policy was announced, many students who had the immunizations simply brought in the records, immediately clearing them for registration, said Ray McMillan, assistant registrar and immunization officer. For those who either could not find their records or never received the required shots, Columbia offered immunizations on campus.

Before the new policy, about 4,000 students did not have the necessary forms. After the completion of the vaccination services, 1,700 students were still left with immunization holds, according to McMillan. He's happy with the students who came by to get the shots they needed, because there weren't any problems or complaints about the policy.

"Everybody was very understand-

ing," he said. "We were hoping for lines out the door, to be honest."

Columbia also offered blood screenings to test if a student was already properly immunized.

While the State of Illinois College/University Immunization Law requires colleges to reach the 90 percent rate, there is no specific penalty for schools that fall below that. The law is rarely, if ever, enforced, Kelly said. This left schools to administer their own policies and procedures to make sure

students have the proper shots.

Columbia was not under any technical obligation to increase the compliance rate, but initiated the new policy due to recent mumps outbreaks at other area schools. The low compliance rate in previous years was a result of a lenient policy, officials said, which only penalized a student with a fine.

"It's not as if we didn't care," McMillan said. "The effects of an outbreak here could be catastrophic. We just needed to get this done."

While some students may grumble over the inconvenience of registration holds, the new policy brings Columbia up to speed with universities. Almost every local school, such as DePaul, Loyola and Roosevelt universities, has a similar registration hold policy.

While Illinois law does require students to have the immunizations, there is still some flexibility

See Policy, Page 4



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Simon Bieliz, a junior arts, entertainment and media management major, receives his immunization shot on Nov. 16 in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.



A thankful wake-up call

By Hayley Graham, Editor-in-Chief

Last week I went to a terrible high school class reunion ... well, kind of. A friend and classmate passed away suddenly, which brought me back to my hometown for the memorial service. I saw all of my old friends that I grew up with, and for some it was the first time we'd seen each other since graduating nearly four years ago.

After visiting we all agreed that we should have kept in touch a little better, so that we wouldn't have had to be reunited under such a tragic circumstance. Being with them made me miss them more than ever, and wish that I hadn't taken their friendships for granted and had put more of an effort into keeping them.

The entire experience made me think more about what I take for granted from day to day and about how things can change so unexpectedly. There I was eating with a friend at Panera Bread, complaining about some stupid problem I was having, when I got the terrible phone call. It has put things into perspective and made me really think more about what's important to me, rather than some insignificant problems I may be dealing with.

So since Thanksgiving is this week, I've been thinking about some of the things that I'm thankful for. Here are a few of the things I've come up with:

My parents

Talk about awesome people. My parents know that I was practically born with a press pass in hand and have been there for me every step along the way toward achieving my goal of becoming a journalist. I've never been so happy and grateful for the support they give me, especially at this

my shell. Even though I'm still nervous and shy around new people, I'm much more confident and better at making conversation than before.

The Chronicle

I am forever in debt to this newspaper. It's been a truly invaluable experience working here, and I definitely would not be the journalist that I am today if I hadn't worked here. Sure, I

get terribly stressed out and drive myself crazy trying to keep up with my homework and Chronicle responsibilities, but it has been absolutely worth it. And the staff is amazing. I love you guys! This will probably be the most quirky and fun staff that I ever work with. Mick,

Jim and Chris are the best advisers and mentors I've ever had. Thanks for everything!

Sometimes it takes a really miserable situation to act as a wake-up call. It tells you that life is short and it's important to be thankful every day for the people or things that make you happy.

So even though I'm not really a fan of the Thanksgiving holiday, this year I'm going to use it as a chance to really be thankful for being as fortunate as I am. So I suppose that's the silver lining I've found during a really bad week.

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extremely busy and stressful time in my life. There's no way I would have been able to accomplish everything up to this point without them. Sorry if I take too long to call you back sometimes or don't come home as much as you would like—see

The Chronicle

Friends

Words can't express how much I love my friends. I came to Columbia socially awkward and too shy to meet new people. I tried, but I seemed to learn more about how not to meet people after several awkward attempts. Since then I've made some great friends that have really helped break me out of



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Working Framework

Come to the third and final installment of the Working Framework Exhibition at the C33 Gallery, 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, and the Conway Center, in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The exhibition runs from Nov. 17 to Jan. 5. The Conway Center hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The C33 Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.

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

Dress Up Against AIDS

Come see the Glass Curtain Gallery Exhibition "Dress Up Against AIDS" from Nov. 16 to Jan. 5. Brazilian artist Adriana Bertini will display dresses she designed using thousands of colorful condoms in an effort to promote HIV prevention.

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

Black Student Union Meeting

The Black Student Union meets at 6 p.m. every Monday to discuss cultural, academic and social connections for black students. Stop by this week's meeting at the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave, in room 311. All Columbia students are welcome.

For more information, contact African-American Affairs at (312) 344-7994.

An My LA: Small Wars

The Museum of Contemporary Photography, located in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., will explore the Vietnam War and the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The photographic series called "Small Wars" is by An My LA, who was born in Saigon, Vietnam, before coming to the U.S. as a refugee in 1975. Her exhibit runs 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily until Jan. 6.

For more information, contact Jeffery Arnett at (312) 344-7779.

College concert united for Darfur

Columbia students get a chance to give back during the holiday season. A variety of bands performing at the HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Dr., from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. on Dec. 10, will be raising money for the Darfur region. Admission is \$5 and only students 21+ can get in.

For more information, contact Dimitri Moore at (312) 344-6896.

In Your Opinion

What are you not thankful for this holiday season?



"The immunization records because I have everything in but my account is still on hold."

—Rimi Duque, sophomore, fine arts



"The war in Iraq."

—Anna Beck, senior, fine arts



"The wind. I like the cold it's just when you try to walk and get that gust."

—Grace Hanel, sophomore, fiction writing



"I'm not thankful for the cold weather."

—Jon Flynn, junior, audio acoustics

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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

When breaking news happens
We're your source for information

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE
WWW.COLUMBIACHRONICLE.COM

International students give thanks

By Kim Driscoll
Staff Writer

Since Thanksgiving is a nationally celebrated holiday, Columbia's international students may feel left out.

However, on Nov. 16, the Office of Student Affairs hosted the college's annual International Student Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building,

623 S. Wabash Ave., to show the students what the holiday is about.

About 170 international students from 46 countries study at Columbia, not including the international faculty and staff.

"Columbia College is diverse on many levels," said Gigi Posejpal, assistant dean for International Student Affairs. "We wanted to introduce the international students to an

important part of our culture ... and thank them for choosing Columbia."

The international students were treated to a traditional Thanksgiving meal, including turkey, stuffing, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie.

Several school administrators, including provost and vice president of Academic Affairs Steven Kapelke, were present to celebrate with the international

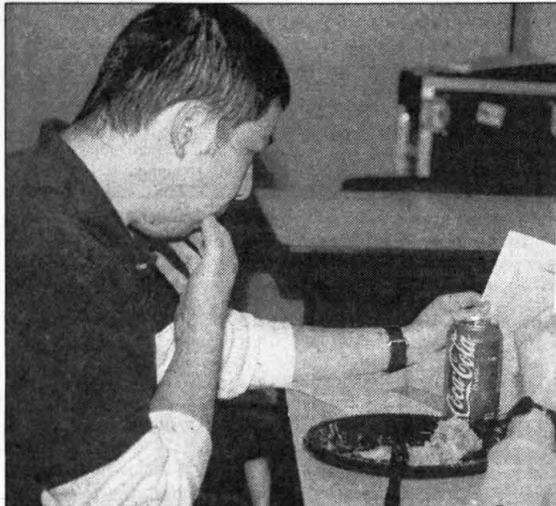
students.

"We can't stress the importance your presence on campus means to Columbia," he said to the students.

Kapelke said the experience of interacting with international students is rewarding for everyone.

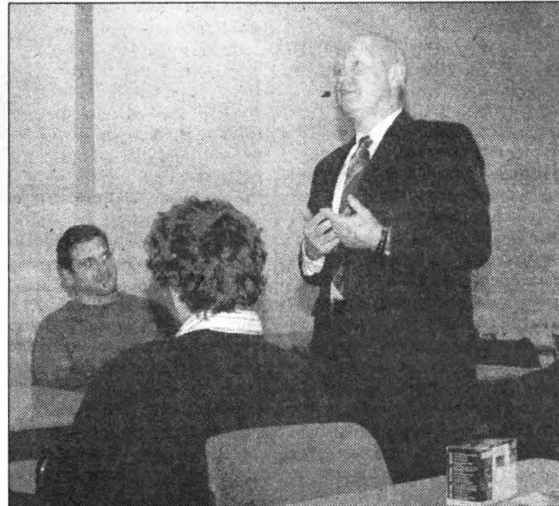
"Every time we come into contact with other cultures, it is

See Holiday, Page 7



Keith Bishton/The Chronicle

Jason Sun, from Vancouver, Canada, views statistics on studying abroad in the United States during the 2006 International Student Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration held Nov. 16.



Keith Bishton/The Chronicle

James Atkinson listens to Steve Kapelke, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, at the International Student Thanksgiving Dinner in the Hokin Annex, in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Students design college's holiday greetings

By Kristin Kalter
Staff Writer

Soon refrigerators will be decorated with obligatory holiday cards, and Columbia has prepared to send out its own, thanks to the student winners of the second annual holiday greeting card competition.

Janelle Olson and Jodi Adams, each senior photography majors won \$500 and the chance to display their art on greeting cards sent out to Columbia faculty and staff, as well as academic leaders around the country.

The president's office sponsored the event and required contestants to submit work that pertained to the holiday season—as long as it did not contain religious content symbolizing a specific holiday.

To promote the competition, e-mails were sent to Columbia faculty and deans asking them to encourage student participation.

See Competition, Page 6

Class curates South African AIDS posters

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

At Columbia, art students don't just learn about curating exhibits—they borrow 60 South African posters and design an exhibition in the A+D Gallery while they do it.

In collaboration with Columbia's Critical Encounters, the exhibition, "Pandemic in Print," features a series of AIDS awareness posters used in southern Africa.

In Africa, the posters were most likely posted in bathrooms, community centers and other public locations, said Erin Polley, a junior cultural studies major and student in the theory and practice of art exhibitions class designing the exhibit.

"It's not what people are going to expect to see," Polley said. "They're not beautiful posters; some are what you'd expect to see in a clinic somewhere."

Northwestern University library loaned Columbia the posters, which have never been showcased, said Kate Ezra, founder and professor of the class. She developed the course when she came to Columbia in 1994, after curating African art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Ezra wanted to create a class that would give students a hands-on experience in the conceptual and practical construction of an exhibition.

In the past, the class used objects loaned from the Art Institute of Chicago, the Field Museum, the Museum of

Contemporary Art and some private collections. However, the course can only be offered every two to three years or sometimes longer because of the difficulty in asking museums and collectors to constantly lend objects for exhibitions, Ezra said. The class was last offered to Columbia students in 2000 with the theme of contemporary African art.

"It's a lot of work," Ezra said. "It offers [students] a taste of what it's actually like to work in a museum."

This semester, students spent 10 weeks immersing themselves in the study of HIV/AIDS in Africa and around the world in order to become "experts" on the subject before designing the exhibition. Polley said. Together they wrote a four-page catalogue describing HIV/AIDS issues to be published with the posters, serving as a permanent record of the exhibit.

The class was also divided into three groups to create educational programs that enrich the exhibition. One group is choosing the music, videos and websites that will be available to viewers in the gallery. They will also provide additional information and background on the objects presented.

Another group will research ways viewers of the exhibition might eventually take action on some of the ideas being presented and a traditional educational group will provide resources for viewers who want to learn more through reading lists, books, articles and other information that may complement the exhibition.

Ezra said she emphasizes

group projects because working at a museum involves collaboration. Though many of the students are not sure they want a museum vocation, some see cooperation as one of the most challenging aspects of the course.

"It's difficult working with 16 different people," said Amanda Ferris McKenzie, a junior art history major. "It's really

intense learning experience."

Despite the challenge, all the students look forward to sharing these posters with the public and hope to inspire viewers to take action, either personally to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, or to help the situation in Africa, Ezra said.

"I really think this is an amazing opportunity to teach the Columbia community, not just

about AIDS, but Africa in general," Polley said. "We in the United States do not get the same kind of education about Africa that people around the world get."

This exhibit will be free to the public and will run from Jan. 11 to Feb. 17 in the A+D Gallery, 616 S. Wabash Ave.

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Keith Bishton/The Chronicle

Kate Ezra talks with her students at the A+D gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave., about their upcoming exhibit "Pandemic in Print: Africa HIV/AIDS." The class, Theory in Practical Art Exhibition, is designing the exhibition that will run from Jan. 11 to Feb. 17.

Policy: Compliance now 85 percent

Continued from Front Page

for those who have reasons to decline.

Since certain vaccinations can be physically dangerous to some people, schools allow medical waivers. Pregnancy or severe allergic reactions are the most common reasons why vaccinations should be avoided. In the event of possible medical reactions to shots, students are urged to meet with a physician and submit documentation to Columbia. Any registration hold would then be immediately lifted.

Another common reason for waivers is religious objection. The Church of Jesus Christ for Latter Day Saints, among others, has strict beliefs about the purity of blood, viewing vaccinations as immoral.

"We certainly don't want to encourage students to just [avoid the shots]," said Marvin Cohen, registrar and director of the Records Office. "We hope that students do it based on deep religious feelings."

While the vast majority of colleges and universities do not allow general philosophical or moral objections as valid reasons for a waiver, Columbia is a bit more lenient. Officials are willing to work with students with such objections, McMillan said, so long as the reasons are legitimate.

Columbia has about 100 students with vaccination waivers.

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Shanghai: Students to visit tea houses, galleries

Continued from Front Page

Shanghai and has a background in Asian history and religion. She has also studied abroad and is glad that Columbia is taking this step.

"The more you can open up people's eyes to the world, particularly a world we're heavily involved with ... to put that right in front of you, I think it's the best thing Columbia can do," she said.

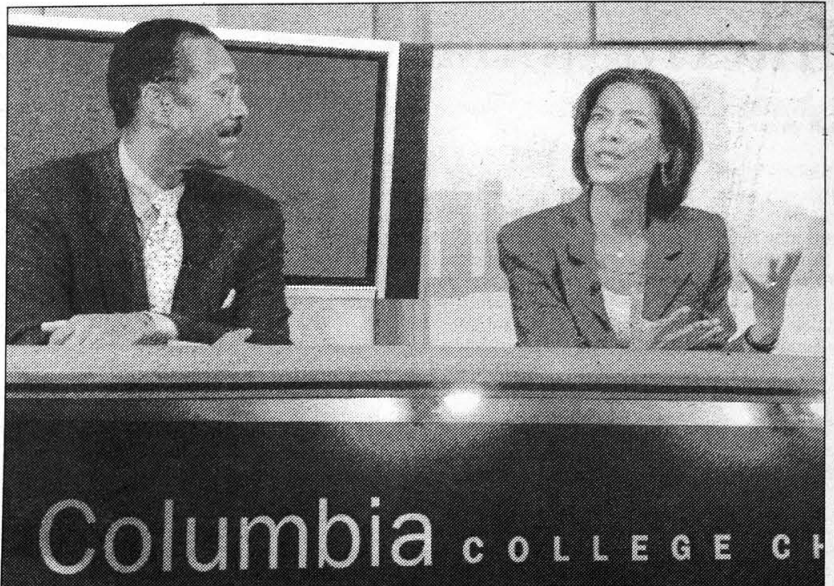
The group going to Shanghai consists of about 12 students, Valussi and Egan. Elizabeth Chilsen, a faculty member in the Photography Department, and Sabina Ott, chair of the Art and Design Department, will also be traveling with the group.

During their trip, the students will work on academic and artistic journals. In one, they'll report on each day's events and their required readings. The artistic journal will give them an opportunity to express themselves creatively, which will become a project using any method they choose, once they return.

The college did not formally approve the program until October, preventing some students from going because they were not able to put their finances in order. However, Valussi planned ahead by recruiting students earlier in the year.

Valussi said the trip costs

It's all in the family



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

News anchors Karen Jordan, of ABC-7, and her father Robert Jordan, of WGN-9, spoke to aspiring journalists in the journalism convergence newsroom on Nov. 14.

around \$2,300, which includes the plane ticket, hotel bill, most meals, transportation costs and museum fees. The separate tuition fee for the three-hour class also applies.

Senior radio major Jake Malone's interest in China was sparked after taking an Eastern Humanities class with Valussi.

"[The] Chinese thought, how they face the world, is so much

different than how we face the world in the West, and I just think that's so interesting," he said. "I'd like to find my happy medium in between those."

Malone said the trip to Shanghai would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience at a great price. As China emerges as a superpower, Malone said he can't wait to explore the country.

"Wal-Mart's over there now," he

said. "It's about time for me to get over there too."

The group will meet one last time before J-term 5:30 p.m. Dec. 6 in the Museum of Contemporary Photography in the Alexandroff Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave. Students interested in participating in future years are welcome to come.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

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

Concert Hall Events

Tuesday November 21
Voice and Piano Concert
12:30 PM

Ian Tomele Senior Recital
7:00 PM

Wednesday November 22
Groove Band 2 Recital
12:30 PM

Dan Larson Senior Recital
7:00 PM

Happy Thanksgiving
from the Music Dept.

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

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CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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

COLUMBIA RENEGADES RUGBY

The Renegades Rugby team was recently recognized by Columbia as an official club sport!

The object of the game is that two teams of fifteen players each, should score as many points, as possible, by carrying, passing, kicking and grounding the ball to win!

The Renegades Rugby team holds open practices from 3-5pm on Fridays in Grant Park (Balbo & Columbus).

<http://ATHLETICS.COLUM.EDU>

★ CURRENT SPORTS

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

★ CURRENT SPORTS INTERESTS

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

★ FITNESS AND INTRAMURALS

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

*Abs- Thursdays 6-6:30pm

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

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

★ ANNOUNCEMENTS

Softball Tryouts!

This Tuesday from 5-7PM at the Roosevelt Gym.

Cycling

Monday the 20th at 7:30pm we will have the first Cycling workshop. We will be covering winterization, changing tires/fixing flats, and basic bike part vocabulary. Afterwards we'll go for a ride to either coffee or food. Meet at 624 s. michigan, 14th floor.

Cross-Country

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

Men's Volleyball

Start a Men's Volleyball team by visiting the Renegades website at

<http://athletics.colum.edu>

Happy Thanksgiving!

Have Fun Columbia!

Men's Lacrosse

FROM NOW UNTIL IT SNOWS Practices @ Grant Park (near tennis Courts)
 Mondays = 11 am to 1 pm
 Thursdays = 3 pm to 5 pm
 Fridays = 3 pm to 5 pm

Capoeira

Capoeira is a Brazilian Dance/Martial Art. They have practice this Tuesday 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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 1-888-buy-uscc

Competition: Students win the chance to show- case their art on holiday cards

Continued from Page 3

Fliers were passed out and taped up in hallways, and a website was created in attempt to draw students to compete.

"When faculty encourages students, they are more likely to enter," said Brenda Berman, director of Marketing, whose office designed and promoted the competition. "But I understand that students and faculty both have a lot going on."

Only 13 students entered the

contest, submitting a total of 28 pieces. Last year 23 students submitted work in the competition, Berman said, adding that the number of individual pieces was the same in both competitions because more students turned in multiple entries this year.

"This is an opportunity to send out [students' work] to influential people," Berman said. "Students might not realize [that]."

Olson's winning photo of a pile of white, tangled lights lying on blue wrapping paper will appear on a card that Columbia President Warrick L. Carter will send to peers and other academic leaders. The other first-place photo was Adams' double-exposed black and white outdoor collage, and will appear on the card that

Columbia administration will send to faculty and staff at the college.

All 13 students who submitted art received awards. Two semi-finalists were given local restaurant gift certificates, and the other nine honorable mentions received a certificate for Columbia's bookstore. The students were also invited to a reception at Carter's town house on Nov. 13 to honor the winners and encourage all who participated to take every opportunity to expose their work.

"There's a lot of risk in being a creative person and being proud of your work and feeling like it's worth enough to make others aware of it," Berman said.

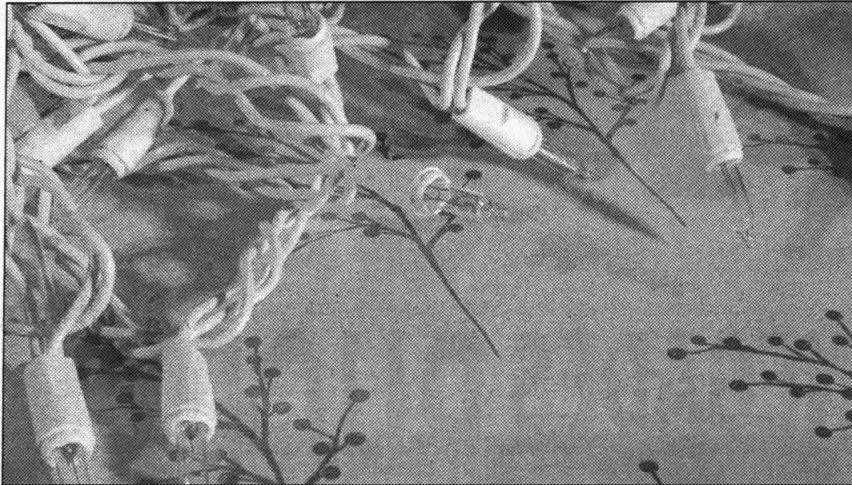
Semi-finalist Michael Meyer, a sophomore photography major, entered photos of his and his girlfriend's apartments uti-

lizing light from the sunrise and sunset through their windows. His photos were showcased in the C-Space Honors Exhibition in the Hokin Annex on the first floor of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., before they were entered into the competition.

Meyer said one of his instructors encouraged him to compete

and that he entered the contest because he was willing to take a chance.

"If you apply yourself and look for it, there are many opportunities to showcase your work," he said. "Probably a lot of students don't think they are ready or that they don't have a chance."



Courtesy Janelle Olson

Janelle Olson's photo was one of two winners and will appear on President Carter's seasonal cards.



Courtesy Jodi Adams

Jodi Adams' photo was one of the two winners and will appear on holiday cards Columbia will send to its faculty and staff.

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

ARE YOU CURRENT ON YOUR STUDENT ACCOUNT BALANCE?

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

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

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

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

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

Student Financial Services
600 S. Michigan Room 303
Chicago, IL 60605

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Holiday: International students share Thanksgiving feast

Continued from Page 3

a lifelong learning experience for all of us," he said.

The student Thanksgiving dinner is a part of International Education Week, Nov. 13-17, a joint initiative between the Department of Education and Department of State to bring awareness to the importance of understanding other cultures. Last year, 77 countries and all 50 states observed the program.

In observance of this year's International Education Week Columbia's International Student Organization held an international movie marathon to highlight artistic work from different countries.

"To understand that the world, through technology and different forms of media, is becoming smaller and smaller, you need to understand other cultures," Posejpal said. "This is especially important during this time when there is so much unrest and we need world peace."

"It is going to be up to education to broaden our horizons and understanding of other cultures so that we can, in fact, achieve world peace."

Several international students were excited to celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States.

Juan Galindo, a junior music major from Guatemala and president of the International Student Organization, said this was his second Thanksgiving dinner in the United States.

"We don't really celebrate anything like this in Guatemala," Galindo said. "This is a great opportunity for family to come together and celebrate their heritage."

Other international students compared the Thanksgiving holiday to celebrations in their home countries.

"We have food holidays, but nothing like Thanksgiving," said Andrea Osp Karlsdottir, a sophomore theater major from

Iceland.

Karlsdottir also wondered about the truth of the Thanksgiving story.

"I heard that the Indians were treated so badly by early Americans; [perhaps] we should not be celebrating," Karlsdottir said.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, explained the history of the holiday to the international students and said it was based on different races and

cultures coming together.

"This country is defined by all of the different cultures here," Kelly said. "This is what makes us celebrate what we have at Columbia."

Vlady Osziel, a senior film and video major from Romania, has been in the U.S. for two years and looks forward to celebrating Thanksgiving in coming years.

"Even though the holiday has been commercialized, people should remember how American Indians helped the Pilgrims,"

Osziel said.

Paul Chiaravalle, associate vice president and chief of staff at Columbia, said the presence of international students at Columbia offers all students a better understanding of other cultures in the global community and workplace.

"We are blessed to have this kind of international group of students at Columbia," he said.

chronicle@colum.edu

Designing against domestic violence



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Dave Snyder, a junior fine arts major, reads one of several dozen shirts on display for the Clothesline Project in the Hokin Annex, in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The project is a visual representation intended to increase awareness of violence toward women by describing the personal testimonies and thoughts of violated individuals.

The Center for Teaching Excellence and the Office of Human Resources extend their **congratulations**

to the following faculty and staff members who received a partial fellowship to study Spanish and Mexican arts and culture at

The Kukulcan Educational Spanish Community in **Cuernavaca, Mexico**

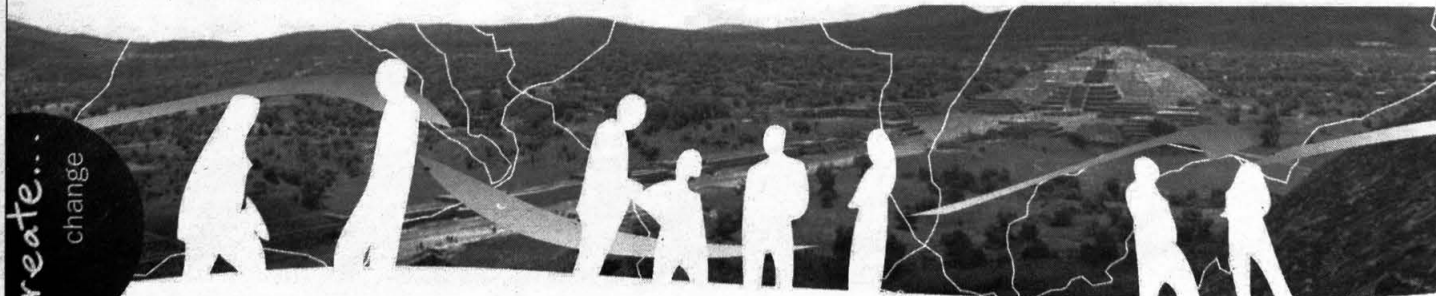
J-term, January 6-20.

Faculty

- Katie Mahalic, Film/Video
- Deborah Ann Snead, Film/Video
- Tone Stockenström, Photography
- Jennifer Shook, Theater
- Mary Pat Garr, Educational Studies

Staff

- Nichole Chakalis, Fiction Writing
- Genesis Pasquesi, Photo



We invite additional faculty and staff to participate in this program.
Registration is open to faculty, staff, and their family and friends through November 22.

For further information contact
RoseAnna Mueller, Liberal Education
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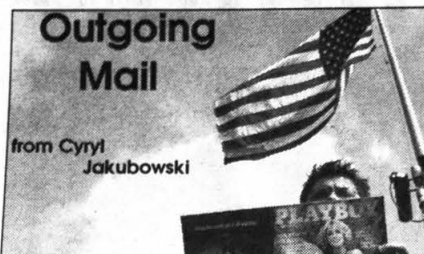
An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle

Internet Warfare

A former Pilsen flower-shop-turned-computer-lab
changes the face of activism

Page 14





Dear Department of Liver,

"I'll have a Bloody Mary," I say to the waitress. "Make it spicy, please." And with that I sat at a family restaurant, smoking and drinking, contemplating my rebuttal to my liver. You bitch. How dare you talk this much trash?

The Sunday morning breakfast at a family restaurant is one of the last American traditions that old people adhere to. It's also my favorite place to cure a hangover.

Last week my liver wrote me a letter of complaint. She blamed the Polish Heritage Advancement Committee within me for lobbying for more drinking. But I've got stock in Gatorade; it's all good, baby. Further, she spoke of a disconnect between other departments within my body.

Liver, the bureaucracy you spoke of last week is ridiculous. There is no bureaucracy down there—if I want a drink I'll have one. Society allows it and there really is nothing you can do about it. And why are you bitching? You are, after all, the only organ that is able to regenerate up to 25 percent of its tissue.

Leave it to the yuppies in the Department of Liver to be vocal about my private habits. They will probably form an alliance with those rednecks in the Department of Lungs, and write about cancerous tumors while scream-

ing "YOU GONNA DIE!"

Dear Liver, the love of my life, if you weren't happy with the way things were going, you should have talked to me in private. Most relationships fail due to lack of communication. I'm a good listener and have the power to compromise, albeit slightly. However, running a smear campaign against me, in public nonetheless, is totally uncalled for. Listen, if you want to wage war—you don't know who you're messing with. Remember those Ten High bourbon nights? Dry heaves don't scare me as much as they used to, so think about that.

Leave it to the Department of Liver to get stuck in an abusive relationship. Granted, yes dear liver, there were instances when I treated you like an Olympic contender for the Heavyweight Championship of the World—and for that I am sorry. Olympic boxing contenders get spanked more than Beavis' monkey.

But what about all the times when I was easy on you?

Well, scratch that. I'm your Tom and you're my Katie Holmes. Divorce is not even an option. You're doing an admirable job; all four lobes do. It's not like we have kids or jaundiced eyes. You whine as if there is a secondary metastasis of cancer in the Department of Liver—there isn't.

Can you imagine what would happen if those dickheads from the Department of Cock started writing letters? This isn't abuse in the least. Pipe down. You set a precedent with your letter. Now the Moral Department will start asking me about my futile attempts at trying to

score with career waitresses.

"I'll have a second Bloody Mary," I tell Sheila, the waitress. I think she says "Help me, help you," but I realize it's just the booze fucking with me. She brings the check instead.

It goes without saying: Liver, you complete me. I love Jerry Maguire.

Let me be frank with you. The reason why the Polish Heritage Advancement Committee has so much clout down there is because of the funding. Booze isn't cheap, and you know, they are actually helping. Otherwise we could be drinking Dimitri Vodka—and you know how bad that is. Even Russians named Dimitri don't drink that shit. Hell, I've seen homeless folks stay away. You don't see homeless livers writing letters.

Through the valiant lobbying efforts of the Committee, you've had the privilege of filtering out some of the best spirits the world has to offer. Bourbons and tinctures that tear down light fixtures and concoctions which turn "pass out" into "deadly sleep auctions." Arguably there are better bourbons than Wild Turkey, but what about the time we stayed up all night drinking Bushmills? Or Chivas? Or Jameson? How easily we forget.

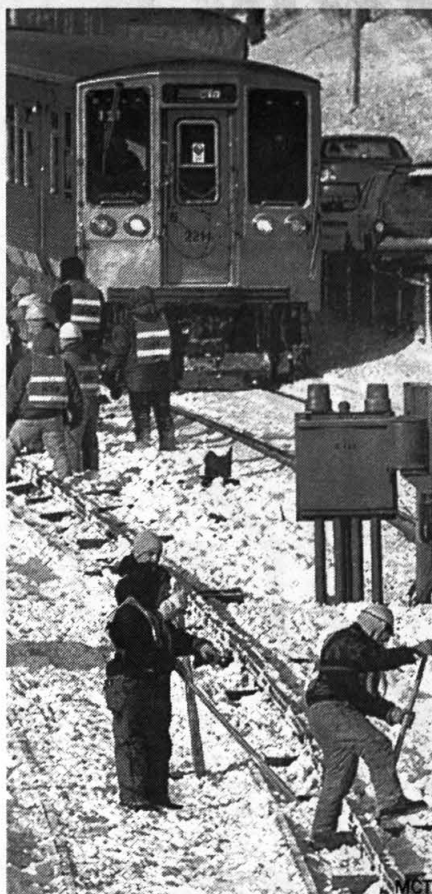
But seriously, it's your choice to be running the place down there like a metropolitan sanitation department. Up here, there are other stimuli that enforce drinking behavior. And it does have something to do with having a lot of crazy journalist friends who can definitely go the distance. I can't wait to read the letters from their livers.

Liver, it is with your support that we will win the fight against sobriety.

Sincerely,
Cyril Jakubowski
Commentary Editor

cjakubowski@chroniclemail.com

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



Chicago Transit Authority? More like Careless Transit Authority! All right, so that's not very funny, but we think our point is made. Ever since the CTA announced its intention to start renovating tracks, buses and stations, traveling around the city resembles hell more and more. Not only are the trains and buses unpredictable, they stink and run incredibly slowly, which we at The Chronicle fear makes us stinky as well. There's no way to escape the stench of an el car that reeks of urine, moldy Chinese food and puking sorority girls after sitting in it for an hour.

Some of the latest CTA kickers have involved the Red Line. First there was the closure of the Washington stop on Oct. 23, which is still fishy. The train won't stop there, but the station isn't actually closed. Right. Then there was the messy derailment near the North and Clybourn stop that stalled trains for hours on Nov. 11 and left commuters confused and upset. Some reported seeing a fire on the tracks; some sat in unpowered underground cars for at least an hour. Without power on the trains to circulate air, imagine how bad the stench would be then. Bad CTA.

On top of all this, the CTA's latest announcement is that if we think the trains are slow now, then we've got another thing coming because it's going to continue to get worse! Due to oh, about a \$500 million shortage in funds, slow zones are increasing on the Red and Blue lines, causing more late trains and pissed off Chicagoans.

We don't know what else to do, CTA. We ride your trains and buses on a regular basis; we pay you a lot of money—though not too much, thank you U-Pass!—and we try not to pee or puke too much on the el cars. Short of actually driving the buses and trains ourselves, we need you to stop being a jackass and get your butt in gear, for real!

—T. Bryne

Read My Lips

by Hunter
Claus



Nothing says hot like a black eye

If I don't have one bruise somewhere on my body after doing the nasty, then why do I even have a dick? Well, maybe that's a bit of an exaggeration, but if sex doesn't include biting, hair pulling or underwear wrestling, then I might as well French kiss an electrical socket.

But just because I enjoy these things doesn't mean I'm into all forms of rough play, like fisting. Jesus Christ, I'd be afraid I'd lose my wrist watch or actually get my hand stuck. I mean, I freak out when my hand gets pinned by the vending machine when I'm

reaching down for my bag of Doritos. I can't fathom being unable to retract my hand from some dude's anus.

But if you think fisting is a bit freaky, there are some fellows who have graduated from fisting to, uh, feeting, which is when a dude literally puts his foot up someone else's ass. Yeah, I'd really like to meet the guy who put the two worst parts of the human body together in one fetish.

But there is no formula to use when deciphering what rough and tough escapades turn a person's crank. During a recent bar outing, a friend of mine told me he once tried slapping a girl during the heat of the moment. She apparently liked having her hair pulled. He took things one step further by pulling her hair and then slapping her in the face. The gesture wasn't appreciated and he got an earful.

My friend was utterly confused, which is somewhat understandable. Why would someone who likes her hair pulled not want to be slapped around? Well, it's an assumption and

those never work out well for anyone. While I also like having my hair pulled, I would never let some random dude slap me in the face. In fact, I'd probably head butt the jerk in the crotch. But how can we distinguish what a person's limits are?

The easiest answer is to talk it over before the heat of the moment. It wouldn't be a bad idea to mention your sexual interests over dinner or drinks. If you're into rim jobs, the act of sticking your tongue up your partner's butt, then don't be afraid to say, "Wow, this burrito is amazing. By the way, I really like giving rim jobs."

But if you forget to mention how you're a big fan of being punched in the face right before climaxing, which always seems to slip my mind, then try out my method of attack, which is to simply start with the light stuff. If the person moans when you bite their nipples and they begin to bite yours, then you've got that base covered. It might not be a bad idea to just leave it at that and discuss what else they may like later on.

On the flip side, keep in mind that just because you like one thing doesn't mean you have to like everything else—like cuddling.

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



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Brent White - bwhite@chroniclemail.com - (312) 344-8970

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.

1 heart	Complete Crap
2 hearts	Download it
3 hearts	Pretty Entertaining
4 hearts	Very Good
5 hearts	Word Up.

Line redefined

MCA presents retrospective of post-minimalist Richard Tuttle

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

Pieces of wire hang off of light gray walls in various shapes. As light hits them, shadows form, making the wire more than just a wire. It becomes part of the real world and the world of infinite space. Another room contains multicolored sculptures. Some are hung on the wall, while others are placed on the floor. All are put together with various materials—paper, wire, wood, light bulbs, etc.

This is the work of Richard Tuttle, a post-minimalist artist known for returning a human aspect to minimalism, and thus, forming a whole new genre. His relationship with the elements of line and space, as well as the convergence of several forms of art such as painting, sculpture and drawing are his trademarks. Tuttle's work is now on display in a retrospective show at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.

"Line, the true primitive nature of the line, as a servant of representation, has been going on for 500 years or so," Tuttle said at a preview of the show on Nov. 10. "When you return it to its freedom, you're back to a kind of truth, joy, because the line has been allowed to be free."

Though Tuttle's work combines the aesthetics of line, shape, found material, paint, wood and wire among other elements, he believes it is the relationship to line that

connects everything in art.

"Line is the biggest toy we have from birth until we end," Tuttle said. "Someone may see the work and say 'gee, this doesn't look like art.' But line is so fundamental. It's the basis of nature. That's what the work tries to do—bring line back to its natural state."

Tuttle began working in this style in the mid-1960s when he was in his late teens and early 20s. From a very early point in his career, Tuttle style has been seen as innovative as well as challenging to many in the art world, including Madeleine Grynsztejn, curator of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

"There is a combination of art and life in Tuttle's work," Grynsztejn said. She helped organize Tuttle's touring retrospective. "In terms of the wire pieces, the wire belongs to the art world, but its shadow belongs to our world."

Cory Postiglione, a professor of art history at Columbia, said minimalism was an artistic movement that stripped down various elements of design to their most basic forms. It was very logical and rational work that would often rely on systems like mathematical concepts.

Postiglione said Tuttle is in a different category from other minimalists because of his interest in breaking down and changing the definition of sculpture. While

Tuttle's work was at the forefront of the post-minimalist era, Postiglione believes it is hard to categorize him as one.

"Tuttle, in a way, is everything the minimalists are not," Postiglione said. "Tuttle is poetic, random, quirky. All those adjectives would describe Tuttle. He flirts with a lot of different things, like constructivism. It's even hard to call Tuttle a post-modernist because he plays with such formal issues."

The MCA chose to house the exhibit because it already has some of Tuttle's work in its permanent collection and has had a good deal of post-minimalist art exhibits in the past.

"I think we're showing [Tuttle's work] because, in his own way, he's trying to break the rules of how to make art as well as show art," said Julie Rodrigues Widholm, an assistant curator for the MCA. "Tuttle calls a challenge to young artists and asks them 'How are you pushing the limits?'"

Wesley Miller, an assistant curator for Art:21, an organization based out of New York that recently did a documentary on Tuttle, said one of the things that makes a Tuttle exhibit stand out from other shows is that he is so active in the process of putting it together.

"Tuttle is so personally involved in his shows," Miller said. "It's so



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

MCA visitor Geoffrey Charlton-Perrin looks at Richard Tuttle's 1966 work titled *Wheel*. Tuttle is framed within his work as he talks to students and members of the press on Nov. 10.

rare. A lot of curators respond well to his feelings of the work. The nature of the work requires a bit of performance. It's not artwork in a bubble that you can pack up and move around. It's site dependent, and that impacts how the work is received."

Miller went on to say that much of Tuttle's work is about the aura of the art and there are always different ways to look at it. Many of Tuttle's pieces are made of fragile materials like paper and Styrofoam. The character of Tuttle's work is humble in the sense that much of it is made from simple materials. Miller believes this a strong reflection of the artist and his personality.

Tuttle, however, believes his work is not yet where it needs to be and his ideas of art may take years for people to understand.

"The idea of transforming art space to the world space is a fundamental beginning of a new art epic," Tuttle said. "It takes 40 years for some ideas to sink in. Yet, they're very simple, but not very revolutionary."

"The Art of Richard Tuttle" runs through Feb. 4, 2007, at the Museum of Contemporary Art. For more information about the exhibit, visit www.mcachicago.org.

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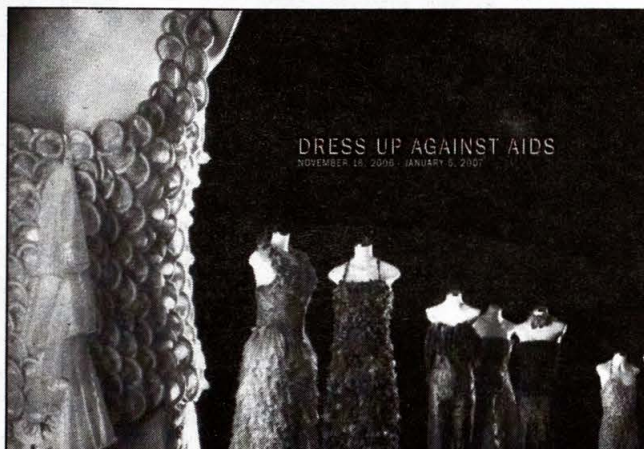
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Celebrate World AIDS Day, December 1, 2006



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Hours: 10 am - 5 pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 10 am - 7 pm on Monday and Thursday

DRESS UP AGAINST AIDS, NOVEMBER 16, 2006 - JANUARY 5, 2007
WORLD AIDS DAY RECEPTION: DECEMBER 1, 4:30 - 6PM

This week!

[C]Spaces is proud to present the work of Brazilian artist Adriana Bertini and her exhibition Dress Up Against AIDS. Bertini uses thousands of condoms per garment to create beautiful evening dresses in an effort to promote HIV prevention. "My idea is to promote condom use not as a commercial fashion but as a conceptual fashion," says Bertini. The artist's use of the condom in a repetitive manner evokes Bertini's belief that if condoms become more commonly seen objects, people will be more likely to use them.

In 1994 the artist worked with HIV positive children as a volunteer for an AIDS prevention group. Over 10 years she has researched and executed several processes to work with this unique form of latex. Her years of commitment in AIDS prevention evolved within her background in fashion and ultimately led to the inception of this project in 1997. Since then, her work has been exhibited in the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona, Toronto and Bangkok. The showing at Columbia College is the national premiere of the collection.

C33 GALLERY, 33 E CONGRESS AVENUE

Hours: 9 am - 7 pm Monday - Thursday and 9 am - 5 pm on Friday

WORKING FRAMEWORKS, November 17, 2006 - January 5, 2007

[C]Spaces is pleased to present the third and final installment of the traveling exhibition Working Frameworks in the C33 Gallery and the Conaway Center. Exhibition Coordinator Saul Appelbaum describes the exhibition as "a cross-disciplinary/cross-institutional/tri-state art network. Working Frameworks is a space-specific exhibition demonstrating the alignments and displacements, oth allegorical and material, occurring when an object of art moves from one locale to another." Originating at Cornell University in New York, moving to the Knowlton School of Architecture in Ohio and concluding at Columbia College Chicago, the exhibition features interactive and site-specific works by over 40 artists.

Working Frameworks features Mark Van Fleets Van Gallery, a family van converted into a mobile art gallery and the Control Room created by Gene A. Felice II and Nathan Ober. The Control Room is an interactive kiosk that displays the progression of the exhibition and posts the finds on www.workingframeworks.com.

HOKIN GALLERY, 623 S WABASH AVENUE

Hours: 9 am - 7 pm Monday - Thursday and 9 am - 5 pm on Friday

PICTURING HOPE: THROUGH THEIR EYES, Photographs by Children Affected by HIV/AIDS

November 29, 2006 - January 10, 2007

Reception: World AIDS Day, Friday, December 1, 2006, 7:30 - 9 PM

Curated by Craig Bender, Founder, Picturing Hope

This exhibit of photographs, taken by children in Burkina Faso, India, Malawi, Romania and Tanzania, provides a close look at how the global AIDS epidemic is shaping everyday lives through children's eyes. The images are selected from Picturing Hope, a program that provides resources to children affected by AIDS to explore their feelings, strengthen their sense of self and find a voice through which to tell their stories. For more information on the program, please visit: www.picturinghope.com

HOKIN ANNEX, 623 S WABASH AVENUE

Hours: 9 am - 7 pm Monday - Thursday and 9 am - 5 pm on Friday

WA-POP! The Invasion of Japanese Pop Art, November 29, 2006 - January 17, 2007

Reception: Thursday, November 30, 5-7PM

Curated by Yusuke Tanaka, Art and Design Major, Columbia College Chicago

WA-POP! The Invasion of Japanese Pop Art presents Pop Art by Japanese artists who are actively working in the States and by the students of Columbia College Chicago. The exhibition title is a playful expression that asks among other things, "What pop?" This eye-popping and often delightfully irreverent exhibit offers provocative ideas that explore a genre of art that is perceived very differently in Japan than in the United States.

cspaces.colum.edu

This week!

Paper, scissors, rock you like a hurricane



Chicago man tries his hand at worldwide competition; gets cut early

By Matt Woronko/Staff Writer

Chicago is known for many things: deep dish pizza, blues music and the Magnificent Mile. But what about a world champion rock, paper, scissors player? Jason Kieronki of Albany Park hoped that would be the case.

Unfortunately, he was eliminated in the first round of play.

Kieronki was one of 500 competitors to make the trip to Toronto for the fifth annual World Rock Paper Scissors Championship. The competitors came from countries all around the world, such as Norway, New Zealand and the Cayman Islands.

But Kieronki didn't just decide to go north of the border once he found out about the tournament via the Internet. He was a big fan of rock, paper, scissors before learning about the World Rock Paper Scissors Society.

"I looked it up on the Internet a couple of weeks after last year's tournament," Kieronki said. "It fit my personality and called out to me, so I said, 'Why not?'"

The tournament was sponsored by the World RPS Society, which has nearly 2,000 members. The tournament uses a system known as best three of three. This means that a player must win two matches out of three in order to move on.

Kieronki practiced for the tournament by not only playing the kids at the middle school where he teaches gym, but by taking on complete strangers. He said one day over the summer he set up a stand at Michigan Avenue and Randolph Street, encouraging strangers to challenge him to a game.

In addition to the members of the society, anyone off the street can compete as long as they buy a ticket for the tournament. Tournament Director Graham Walker said the open policy is to encourage the growth of the game.

"Not many people get a chance to become a champion," Walker said. "It also can be the biggest excuse in the world to take a road trip."

Walker said more than 40 media outlets were scheduled to witness the competitors battle for the \$7,000 prize. He also said that rock, paper, scissor championships have been covered by mainstream media outlets such as CNN and Japanese television.

Despite the prize money, Kieronki said he was already a fan of rock, paper, scissors because of its effective way to end conflicts in the gym class he teaches. Conflicts that might have taken 10 to 15 minutes of class time could be solved much faster.

But the problem-solving aspect of rock, paper, scissors was only one reason why Kieronki decided to compete. The T-shirt that came with his membership into the World RPS Society helped as well.

"I'm a huge T-shirt fan and the reaction I get with it is great," Kieronki

said. "Stickers came with it too, so I said 'Why not?' It was a no-brainer."

The game has even spread to areas outside of competition. For instance, a Japanese businessman had Sotheby's and Christie's auction houses play a game of rock, paper, scissors to determine which house he would do business with. Another instance occurred in Florida where Judge Gregory Presnell made two Tampa attorneys play rock, paper, scissors to figure out where the deposition was going to take place.

Strategy is a big part of the competition as well. Though many players try to psyche their opponents out by telling them what they are going to throw beforehand, Kieronki had a plan to counter that. He wore a suit and sunglasses and listening to his iPod, rather than his competitors' comments.

Even Captain Morgan wanted in on the tournament. Walker said that the rum company called him and asked if the captain could play, and he said sure. Though the organization has been around for nearly 100 years, Walker said the tournament really took off when the general public was allowed to partake.

"It wasn't as well organized, but in 2002 the general public was allowed to compete," Walker said. "It's a game 364 days of the year, but only one day is it a competition."

Walker is also the author of the official strategy guide that can be found on websites such as Amazon.com. An aspect addressed in the book is something called "gambits," which are predetermined throws that are supposed to prevent a player from falling into a pattern.

One example is "The Crescendo," which starts with paper, then goes to scissors and finishes with rock. Another is "The Scissors Sandwich," which begins with paper, then goes to scissors and finishes back with paper.

Kieronki said that with men, he avoids rock since he said they tend to be more aggressive in their throws. Women, he said, differ in their approach.

"I think females think it's obvious to get away from rock, since their hand is already in that position," Kieronki said.

Having the same throw as your opponent is not bad either, Kieronki said. Ties give the player more throws and more of a chance to see a pattern develop.

Though he didn't win the tournament, Kieronki said that the trip was worth it since Toronto is a city he has always wanted to see. But the tournament interested Walker for other reasons.

"It's amazing when you get 500 people who have three things in common: rock, paper, scissors," Walker said. "It's a recipe for magic."

chronicle@colum.edu

Civil Disobedience in the Form of a Virtual Sit In

Situated in the dank and cold of a room in Pilsen, within the exposed infrastructure of wires and ceiling beams, about 14 recycled, donated and salvaged computers sit amidst a web of tangled cords. Inside, dozens of Chicago's most tech-savvy computer experts and programmers battle with hackers in Chile and Spain in a capture-the-flag game of global proportions.

The objective: Capture and retain the opponent's flag without being caught in the act. But this game doesn't take place in backyards and works in a slightly different way.

Each side places a "flag" in computer programs they set up with known system vulnerabilities. They then attempt to sneak into each others' systems without being detected. They are playing for nothing more than bragging rights, but they can't see, talk or touch each other. Their purpose: to practice their hacking skills.

The game is being played entirely via computers in a type of Internet warfare that reflects much more than simply child's play; rather, it represents the kind of computer knowledge that is leading some to use their skills as a form of activism-hacktivism.

Although a computer capture-the-flag game may not typically be associated with hacking, the game uses the same strategies one would use to break into any personal computer. It allows practice cracking computer codes, and anything from disrespecting copyright laws by downloading music to using open-source software like Linux, which may be freely altered, can be considered hacktivism. At its roots, hacktivism refers to large-scale website defacements and virtual sit-ins, which have users slow down a website by overflowing its server. If the United States Congress decides to allow private companies control over aspects of the Internet, as it is debating currently, it could give

activists another reason to abandon traditional forms of protest for a more cutting-edge style of resistance.

This past July, Jake Elliot, a slender and eccentric School of the Art Institute of Chicago dropout moved into a storefront at 2159 W. 21st Place, along with several other current and former students. They call the place "The Flower Shoppe" because of the building's former use. A slightly rusted green "Flower Shoppe" sign still hangs high above the building's front entrance and the greenhouse in back is now filled with couches and a curtain for screening video art projects.

There, Elliot and his friends started Dai5ychain, pronounced "Daisychain." On one level, the place is a community computer lab, open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. every weekday. It offers free Internet access and open-source software for anyone to use. On another level, it is a staging ground for hacktivism.

On Oct. 13, Elliot and several other organizers put on the first Chicago hackmeeting at Dai5ychain, a weekend-long seminar that included presentations and workshops on a variety of hacking techniques on topics like hacking music players and the computer version of capture the flag.

The idea for the computer lab originally began as an art project, but quickly evolved into much more, Elliot said. At its most basic, it is a place for people to use computers with recycled hardware which were either donated or salvaged from dumpsters or thrift stores. As the lab opened up to the community, Elliot said he found many people simply needed access to computers and the Internet.

David Eads, a freelance computer programmer and web designer who helped set up the hackmeeting, said about 40 to 50 people came throughout the course of the weekend. He said the talk at the event wasn't as technical as it was political.

"I think you are seeing more tech people embracing the political field, at least in Chicago," Eads said. "I know in Europe and in certain parts of Latin America, the culture goes back a little farther, but when issues like net neutrality come up I think you're going to see a lot more of that."

Net neutrality is the movement to keep the Internet free from regulation while the U.S. Congress debate proposed bills allowing private companies and service providers to charge premium fees for a higher bandwidth. What has many proponents of Net neutrality worried is that if the Internet is privatized, it

"I think you are seeing more tech people embracing the political field, at least in Chicago. I know in Europe and in certain parts of Latin America, the culture goes back a little farther, but when issues like Net neutrality come up, I think you're going to see a lot more of that."



will no longer provide the unfettered access to information that made it the global connector it is today.

"Originally [hacking] meant the dude or lady who liked to crack open an electronic device to see how it worked," Eads said. "To the extent of disrespecting copyrights and that stuff, it becomes sort of a political thing at that point."

Eads said computer activism could increase dramatically if Net neutrality is harmed since the companies regulating the Internet would become more of an opponent to hackers. But just like any other cultural or political movement, Eads said, hacktivism has interior conflicts as to what tactics to use and how far to take them.

"As far as hacking in the malicious sense, that was sort of a minor part of the discussion," Eads said. "Definitely some people in the community are interested in and skillful in it, but it's not necessarily something that everyone embraces."

He said there are numerous websites dedicated to supporting hacktivism, but Dai5ychain provides a physical place which would help bring Chicago to the forefront of the movement in the U.S.

Elliot said the forum Dai5ychain provides is for learning about issues related to hacktivism and hopes that despite the implications of Net neutrality, he hopes the lab won't be effected.

"Net neutrality I'm not real excited about; not for either party am I passionate," Elliot said. "It could make it very difficult and expensive if something happens in the future with the Internet, materially, but this project wants to operate outside of [Net neutrality]."

Even though Elliot said he doesn't practice explicitly malicious hacking, he does support hacktivism culture, something which is evolving beyond just tactics. The movement has even spurred its own political party, the Pirate Party. The party has political brochures and a website, pirate-party.us. In the brochure and on the website the party explains what it supports and hopes to disrupt through political and computer activism.

Jeremy Hammond, a hacker, Chicago native and supporter of the party, was recently convicted of felony computer fraud for hacking into protestwarrior.com, a right-wing activist group. He obtained credit card numbers from the website and had the ability to charge political donations on them. He faces jail time at his sentencing in December.

Hammond, who created the website, hackthissite.org, and distributes Hackthiszine, practices the type of hacktivism that could increase if the Internet is privatized like many hackers fear. He said ultimately the purpose is fundamental change in the way information is disseminated and distributed. If they topple the existing hierarchal structures for information and culture that are fed from top down, people must have a form of infrastructure to revert to, and that is where the underground hacktivist community comes in.

"There are virtual sit-ins, website defacements, they're all part of hacktivism, but the whole culture revolves around the free and open spread of information," Hammond said. "Things like Indymedia are an example of how [computer activism] has evolved. That might be harmed if Net neutrality is damaged."

Indymedia is an independent media organization that has expanded rapidly over the past decade, mostly through the Internet. Hammond said oftentimes people hear of stories from Indymedia they never would have if they relied on common forms of information gathering like traditional news services owned by private companies.

Hacktivism, however, is not without its skeptics. Kalle Lasn,

editor of Adbusters Magazine and media foundation said the Internet is one of the reasons for the recent decline in effective activism. He said activism and liberalism have dwindled to finger-pointing and whining partly because, "People think that they can sit in front of their computers with their hand on a mouse and think they've done something."

Adbusters and Lasn are known for starting the Culture Jamming movement, which centers on a kind of direct and immediate action that can include vandalism and destruction of property. They are known for spoof ads and campaigns like TV Turn-Off Week and Buy Nothing Day. Lasn said that after 20 years of dedicated activism, he's worried that the people of Canada, America and Europe are "mindfucked" to the point of uselessness.

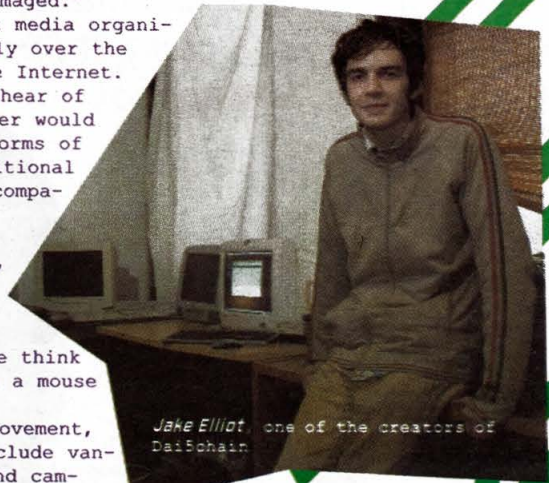
"On one hand, [the Internet] is an incredibly powerful tool that allows activists to come together, but it has a bad side to it," Lasn said.

Lasn credited the Internet by saying it was one of the reasons many of Adbusters campaigns are international. He said he doesn't want to discourage hacktivism, but said it is not a solution. The only type of change worthwhile is a fundamental change, and computer hacktivism will not bring that about, he said.

"People are sort of caught in this huge swirl of information that keeps on going round and around," Lasn said. "People read it and get a little excited, but ultimately fuck all is happening because the only thing that is happening is that the information is being circulated."

"People are sort of caught in this huge swirl of information that keeps on going round and around."

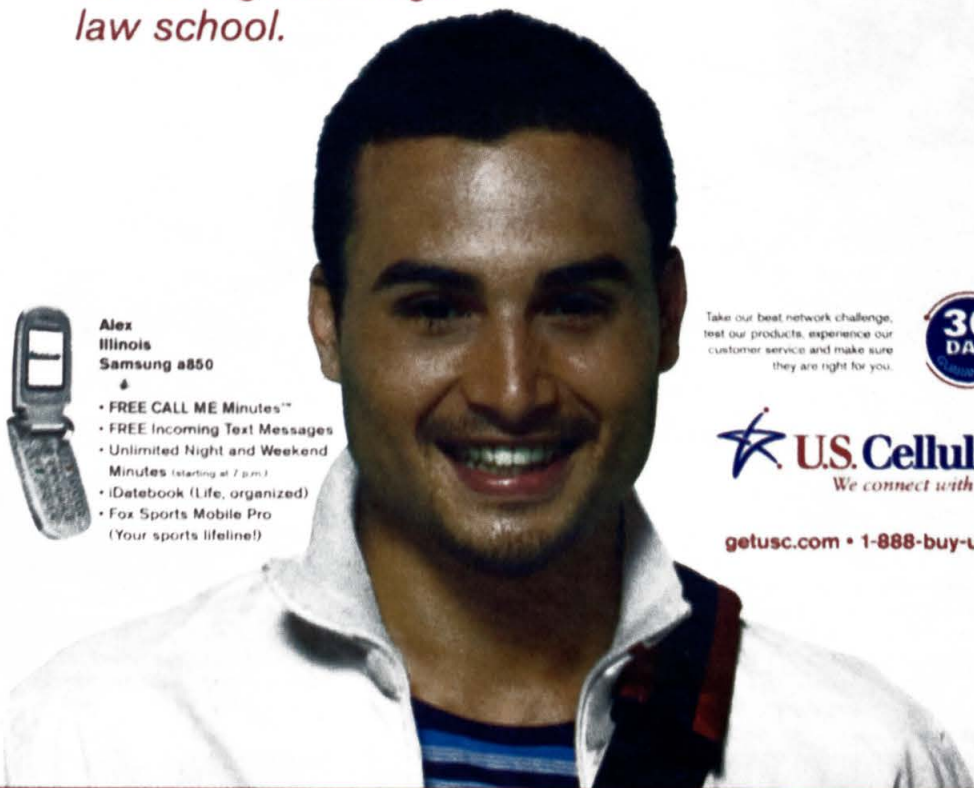
"There are virtual sit-ins, website defacements, they're all part of hacktivism, but the whole culture revolves around the free and open spread of information."



Jake Elliot, one of the creators of Dai5ychain



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A poet on poetry

Rick Meier talks about his new book, being unbalanced and keeping a fresh perspective

By Brent Steven White/Assistant A&E Editor

Adhering to an admittedly unbalanced lifestyle while writing wild, elaborate prose that often requires a reread, Rick Meier is a poet's poet.

His new book, *Shelley Gave Jane a Guitar*, features poems that place memories with present circumstances, while romantic failures and erotic longings—common themes even the amateur poetry reader can digest—weave in and out of narration. The book, released this past September, is a step forward from his first book, 2001's *Terrain Vague*.

In conversation, Meier—a Melrose, Mass. native who teaches both in Chicago public schools and a workshop course at Columbia—speaks like his poems read, constantly examining new ideas within a present context, never seeming totally sure of his position.

But there is a certain method to his madness, as his style and approach to syntax make him one of the strongest voices in modern-day American Romantic poetry.

The Chronicle spoke to Meier recently about his new book, why he retires to a Wisconsin farm every summer and what he values most in poetry.

The Chronicle: How has your writing evolved from your last

book to this new one?

Meier: I wrote *Shelley Gave Jane a Guitar* in one place and in one stretch of time over a period of a couple of years. So it was kind of a continuous motion, whereas the first one was poems written over a period of eight or 10 years. It had a lot less continuity to me. In the new book, I think poems became less about how to write a poem and more about how to think inside of poems; it's closer to what I want to do with poetry.

What is it you want to do with poetry?

Write the next poem. Not to be facetious, but I really think about this a lot and I don't have a clear answer. Every time I sit down to write I'm trying to figure out how to write a poem. Now, it's less about reaction and more about the things I'm reading, the things that are happening in the world and being aware of those things so that the poem can somehow be aware.

Many of the poems in the new book suggest romantic loneliness and breakups, which for some poets can be a cliché. How do you approach these common themes as a writer and maintain a fresh perspective?

I guess part of the answer is

that I don't approach them as being [cliché]. Another answer is that they work against the tension of the way the "personal" in poems can dominate the experience or dominate the poem. The poems are certainly about finding circumstances that seem like they have an explanation or seem like they're a familiar story to people, when the story actually has nothing to do with the actual experience.

You often work on a farm in the summer. How does this affect your writing, and why do you do it?

Like most things, it's something that I sort of stumbled into. It wasn't an attraction to "Oh I want to be a farmer." The difficulty and drudgery of farming affects my work because it's very particular, and it's an immediate sensation to be outside and working for eight hours. It isn't pleasant.

Would you say working on a farm breaks the monotony of teaching, and helps to balance you as a writer?

No, I think it helps unbalance me as a writer, which is more important than [being] balanced.

Pablo Neruda once argued

that a poet "must maintain a balance between solitude and solidarity." What do you make of this statement? Do you agree with it?

Yeah, it seems like a statement that is difficult to disagree with. It's certainly a struggle to move back and forth between solitude and solidarity.

How do you do it?

I don't. Some things I do, like working in the Chicago public schools, feel less solitary than writing poetry, and seem like small gestures toward trying to be aware of various things, like the government and the war. But [those things] feel so unethical sometimes that one hesitates to claim solidarity.

What do you value most in poetry?

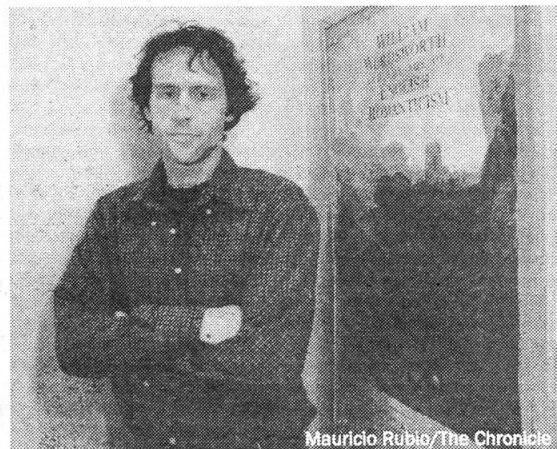
The state of mind that it puts me in when I'm reading it. The content and the ideas sometimes seem to come far after I've been

completely transported by the poem. It's the sheer sensation of reading a poem that is another way of re-entering the present moment. For as much as reading takes you away from the moment, it produces a sort of heightened awareness. It's very much on the level of feeling—not emotions, but sensation.

What advice would you give to a poet who wants to be successful and get published?

I would tell them to read all the poetry they can, read all the books they can and write to and from that. But also, the idea of being a professional poet is kind of an absurdity. I think there's far too much emphasis on getting published, or being professional or having a career in poetry. When those concerns become primary to the poet, poetry suffers.

bwhite@chroniclemail.com



Poet and part-time teacher Rick Meier is the author of two poetry books, *Terrain Vague* and *Shelley Gave Jane a Guitar*.

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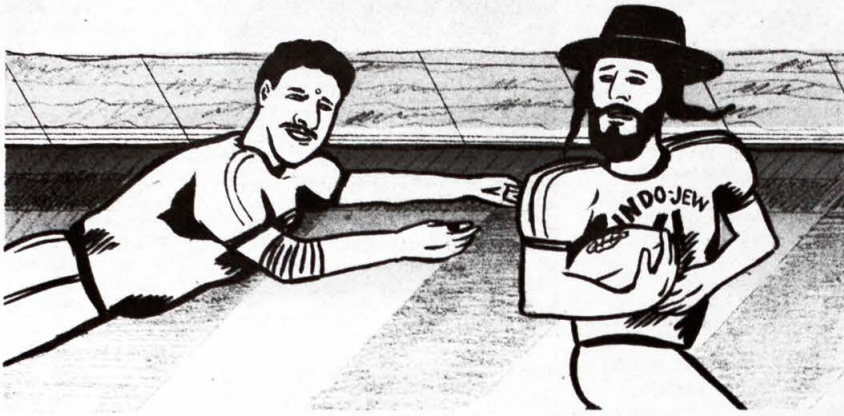
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Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

Moses leads his people to touchdown



7th annual Indo Jew Bowl a big mitzvah in Skokie

Story by Mark Byrne/A&E Editor Graphic by Joshua Covarrubias

Matthew Robins lives in Chicago, but on Thanksgiving he makes a trip back to his hometown of suburban Skokie to take on the Indians.

In football, that is. For the past six years, Robins and his friends—who are mostly Jewish or Indian, though there is at least one Catholic exception—participated in the Indo Jew Bowl, an annual football game they created in order to keep in touch after graduating from high school.

Though the game is still a meeting of 20 or so friends from Skokie and Lincolnwood, its crowd has grown significantly, as has its purpose. After the third year, they started to collect cans of

food and sell T-shirts to benefit local charities. More than 100 people came out to watch the 2005 game despite the cold, and even more are expected this year.

The traditional coin toss, too, shows the scope of the game's progression. Two years ago, George Van Dusen, the mayor of Skokie—who is Jewish—flipped the coin. This year, the honor will go to the Niles Township Indian community president Vipul Shah.

"We're trying to celebrate diversity, not knock it at all," Robins explained.

He and his friends, all graduates of Niles North and Niles West high schools, grew up as a tight-knit group who hung out and

played sports together. The fact that they were split between two distinct cultures was unimportant.

"When you're young, you don't realize who your friends are as far as their backgrounds," Robins said. "In high school, you start to notice. It just kind of happens."

Robins described how his group of friends formed, from grade school all the way to high school graduation. He became friends with some Jewish guys, and they then grouped together with Indian guys. "Together we formed a real great group of people."

The football game celebrates their friendships by pitting the groups against each other in the most superficial way. The players

recognize their cultural differences, but they all come together as friends who enjoy a good game.

But it isn't much of a coincidence that the cultures are Indian and Jewish, at least not in terms of the village's population.

"It's not rare to be Jewish or Indian and grow up in Skokie, that's for sure," Robins said.

The village of Skokie has a notable Indian population and is known for its even larger Jewish one. In fact, because of the number of Jews, white supremacists attempted to march through the town in 1978. The resulting court case determined that more than half of the almost 70,000 citizens were Jewish.

But if there is any indication that the diverse population is well-accepted—at least by the community—it's the Indo Jew Bowl.

Mayor Van Dusen only flipped the coin one year, but said he has attended all of the games to show his support.

"They're young men having a good time," Mayor Van Dusen said. "They get a good crowd."

Rabbi Ira Youdovin, the executive vice president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, hadn't heard of the game, but he thinks the tradition has some charm.

"This sounds like a friendly game," Youdovin said. "If it was a vicious confrontation, it wouldn't have gone on for six years."

Robins does recognize that pitting two cultures head-to-head could be the source of dispute, but he doesn't think that the game has made anyone angry yet. And if it does, he's prepared to stop.

"We're Indians, and we're Jews," Robins said. "And we try

and collect cans of food for Indian and Jewish charities and raise money for Indian and Jewish food pantries. We hope there's not a problem, because if there is a problem, I guess we'll stop doing charity work."

But Mayor Van Dusen doesn't think that will be necessary.

"It's done in good nature," Mayor Van Dusen said. "If you watch them playing, you can see that they've all gone to school together and they're all personal friends. They're just having some fun with their ethnicity."

Youdovin said that finding racial issues with the game would be a stretch.

"It's a cute story; it's a very cute story," Youdovin said. "But I think to make it anything more than a cute story is distorting."

The next game will take place on Thanksgiving Day at Niles North High School, from which Robins graduated in 1998. The ceremonial coin toss will be at 11:50 a.m., and the game is set to go on for about two hours. Admission is free, but they will be collecting cans of food, and hot chocolate and T-shirts will be sold to benefit the charities. For the seventh year in a row, the teams will line up head-to-head and show each other who's boss—all in good fun, though.

"We played the first year and the Indos pretty much destroyed us," Robins said. That was 2000, and Robins hopes the game will keep up for a while.

But that's easy for him to say; the Jews have won every year, since.

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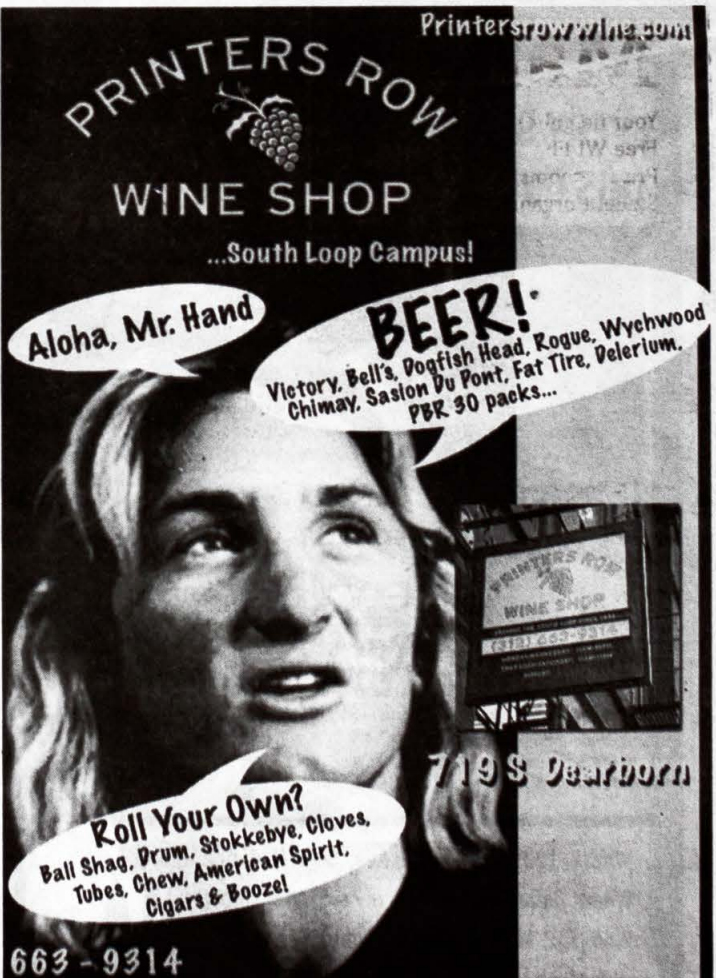
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Oh, Babel, it's a wide world

Another compelling, '21 grams' director

By Matt Fagerholm/Film Critic

Have you ever had a dream where your life was suddenly in immediate danger? You look around desperately for help and discover a figure walking in the distance. You attempt to cry out, but the only thing that comes out of your mouth is dead air. Try as you may to scream and wail, your vocal chords release nothing more than an empty silence, and the remote stranger remains ignorant of your dilemma before finally disappearing. The failure to communicate leads to your certain doom. This is precisely the predicament faced by all the characters in *Babel*, a multi-cultured ensemble piece that plays like an escalating nightmare.

Widowed businessman Yasujiro, played by Japanese superstar Koji Yashuko, gives a gun to Moroccan villager Hassan—Abdelkader Bara—who barters it for livestock from his neighbors, a family of shepherds. Although the gun is meant to protect their animals from nearby predators, the family's two mischievous boys decide to practice their marksmanship with different targets. One of their stray bullets hits a bus of American tourists, severely injuring Susan—Cate Blanchett—whose vacation with her husband, Richard—Brad Pitt—had already gone sour.

As Richard struggles to find

medical attention for Susan in the middle of the Berber desert, their prolonged absence at home forces nanny Amelia—Adriana Barraza—to drag the couple's small children to a family wedding she's due at in Mexico. While being driven back to America by inebriated nephew Santiago—Gael Garcia Bernal—they become the subject of suspicious scrutinizing from police officers at the border crossing. Meanwhile, Yasujiro's deaf teenage daughter, Chieko—Rinko Kikuchi—utilizes her budding sexuality to ease the pain of her motherless, adolescent loneliness.

For most filmmakers, there are enough plotlines here to satisfy half a dozen narratives, yet for Mexican director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, this densely layered, fractured structure is entirely commonplace. As in his previous work, *Amores Perros* and *21 Grams*, Inarritu studies how a seemingly coincidental tragedy can powerfully link the lives of complete strangers. But unlike last year's Best Picture winner *Crash*, Paul Haggis' parable on racism, *Babel* is far more complicated and bleak in its portrait of global miscommunication. While *Crash* was aimed directly at the audience's emotions, *Babel's* singular focus on its enormous plot detracts from the character development neces-

sary to fully engage viewers on an intimate level. This leaves the audience with considerably more questions than answers at the final ambiguous fade out.

What we're left with, however, is a collection of excellent performances, and some of the most singularly riveting moments to be seen in a movie theater this year. Blanchett and Pitt make the most of their limited screen time and underdeveloped roles, while Kikuchi scorches the screen with her fearlessly raw American debut.

Perhaps the most devastating performance is from Barraza, who also co-starred in *Amores Perros*, and infuses her angelically contrived role with tremendous amounts of maternal warmth and authentic humanity. There's a sequence where she wanders hopelessly in a desert, clad in a festive red dress, while flailing her arms to attract the attention of a far-off vehicle. Rodrigo Prieto's cinematography photographs her to look like a red smudge on a desolate sandy landscape, and the resulting image is as stark and haunting as any nightmare you could imagine.

But the best thing in the film is the editing by Douglas Crise and Stephen Mirrione, which somehow manages to thematically unify the characters' struggles, while rarely ever allowing the



In 'Babel,' Brad Pitt plays an American tourist in Morocco.

audience to become confused. The editor's mastering of pace also allows the audience to catch its collective breath between moments of agonizing intensity. With a storyline so detailed, however, it was probably inevitable that Guillermo Arriaga's script would fail at allowing the characters to develop naturally as individuals before becoming twisted around by the pretzel-shaped plot. *Babel* is therefore intellectually and viscerally stimulating, but falls short of capturing the heart.

By addressing so many relevant issues, such as the faceless threat of terrorism and the persecution of illegal immigrants, Inarritu is unsuccessful at truly doing any of them justice. His anti-Bush stance is clear, as a picture of the president is seen in the office of monstrously ignorant border patrolmen who come off as nothing more than villainous

caricatures. But there is truth in the filmmaker's indictment of world cultures who would rather talk over each other before making any attempt to mutually communicate. *Babel's* overall idea seems to be that the majority of world conflicts are a product of miscommunication, and considering the cultural entanglements of the present, it's an idea worth considering. Although truth is a function of language, as Tim O'Brien once said; isn't it possible that our varied languages may be attempting to communicate the same truth?

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Reviews

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

...And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead
So Divided

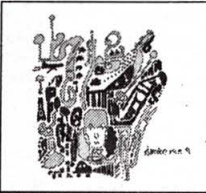


Music

And so damn climactic, too. This album climaxes more often than Clinton during final-round interviews for a new secretary. *So Divided* is certainly among the more accessible Trail of Dead albums, but it doesn't sacrifice the sheer enthusiasm the band delivers so well.
—M. Byrne

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥


Damien Rice
9



Thoughtful and often harsh lyrics intertwine with acoustic guitars, drums, orchestral accompaniment and melodic harmonies in the second studio album from Damien Rice. It may, however, leave you wanting more than what's given.
—M. Kroeck

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

Say Anything at the Metro
November 16



In my old age, jumping into the mosh pit doesn't hold the same appeal, but *Say Anything* made it pretty damn tempting. Max Bemis is energetic, a little flamboyant and totally talented. The majority of the songs were played with the same enthusiasm displayed on their record. Catchy pop-punk never sounded so good.
—T. Breyne

♥ ♥ ♥

Newsweek
Midterm Aftershock



Print

As is usually the case with themed issues, the topic gets cold and boring after the third or fourth story. Fortunately, the magazine revives itself with interesting sidebars, such as a breakdown of both Democratic and Republican likelihs for the 2008 presidential election. Governor of Iowa, huh? I'm intrigued.
—M. Byrne

♥

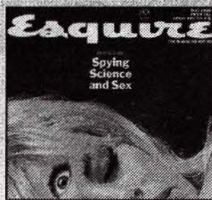
O Magazine
November 2006



Oprah's ego manages to get even bigger with this issue, a feat I wasn't sure was possible. With articles such as "The Best Way to do Almost Everything" and "Better Sex: The 20-minute Rule"—picturing Oprah having sex gives me nightmares—it's clear that it's Oprah's way or the highway.
—K. Haburn

♥ ♥ ♥

Esquire Magazine
December 2006



This year's genius issue is pretty delightful, though it's not the most compelling issue they've ever produced. "The Manifesto of Ascendancy for the Modern American Nigger," is a good look at how one man perceives race and politics today. That alone makes the issue worth picking up.
—T. Breyne

♥ ♥

American Dreamz DVD
Directed by Paul Weitz



Film

This cheesy caricature of American pop culture and our government could have been better. Its plot revolves around a TV show a la "American Idol," terrorist sleeper cells and a buffoon of a president, and they all meet up for one crazy ending. Hilarity does ensue, just far too slowly.
—J. Fischer

♥ ♥


Fast Food Nation
Directed by Richard Linklater



Richard Linklater's film really nails it in the gut, literally. From the graphic silencing and dicing of cows, strange story plots and unusual sex scenes, this is one movie where audiences will want to pass on the popcorn or risk throwing it back up. Casting Avril Lavigne and Wilmer Valderrama really killed the seriousness of the film.
—J. Zimmerman

♥


Feast
Directed by John Gulager



John Gulager, the doughy director in "Project Greenlight 3," makes his directorial debut with *Feast*. The film is a clever concept on a dead-tired genre, but the novice direction makes this one a stink palm. Don't feast your eyes on this. I still don't know what Henry Rollins and Jason Mewes are doing here. Talk about favors.
—C. Jakubowski

♥

Dunkin' Donuts on Van Buren and State Street



Misc.

Since the fire, The Chronicle has had to go elsewhere for its cheap breakfast sandwich fix, and it's not pleasant. The croissants are always stale, and the service somehow manages to suck more than the Harrison and Wabash Dunkin' Donuts. The leather couches are a nice touch, but ultimately pointless.
—M. Byrne

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

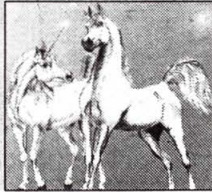
Cheap perverts at Tower Records



Watching all the weird perverts flock to the porn section of the soon-to-be-closed Tower Records is frightening and hilarious at the same time. Nothing shouts excellent Friday night delight like a half-off price tag! These guys probably crawl out of their basements twice a year, and judging by their smell, it's been awhile nce the last trip out.
—T. Breyne

♥

No Hearts Trinkets



OK, grandma, I get it. You like unicorns jumping over rainbows, but do you really need 100 of them to prove your point? I hate tiny objects in general; they're completely useless, but decorative small things? I'm seriously gagging just thinking about them infiltrating glass cabinets everywhere.
—C. Mahlmeister

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local musicians

The thought of "metal band" usually brings to mind loud, inaudible lyrics, blaring guitar riffs and an occasional melodic tune—i.e. Metallica's "Unforgiven." But local Chicago band Epic the Iron Philharmonic is stepping out of the stereotype and doing what metal does best—shattering ideas into pieces. Using the instruments of metal and many of the styles and riffs of the genre, the band focuses on instrumental compositions, which is something atypical for metal. The band consists of Ed Pszeniczka on piano and guitar, Jay Jurcenko on drums and percussion, and Charles Mulvey, who the band brings in to do guitar solos. Pszeniczka and Jurcenko spoke to *The Chronicle* about their band and their whirlwind of a year.

The Chronicle: How did the band form?
Pszeniczka: Basically we started [working together] in early 2004. We were just friends who got together and found out we were able to work well together.

How would you describe your sound?
Pszeniczka: We use classical piano, progressive rock, heavy metal and whatever other musical genre we need at the time to make a musical statement. We don't use any computer-driven or sequenced mus. Our music is never negative, but at the same time, it's not overly positive. I would best describe our music as both intense and dramatic.

What are you trying to achieve through your music?
Jurcenko: We're just trying to make the best music we can. We want to make music that will stand the test of time.

What do you feel has been your greatest accomplishment, musically, thus far?
Pszeniczka: We've had a good year. Our music's been featured on both TV and film. Our song "Voice of the Theatre" is the theme song for the Dish Network extreme sports TV series "Nomads." Our music has also been featured in the movie *Waiting Game*, which aired on primetime TV. We've also recently received an official entry for nomination for the 2007 Grammy Awards in two categories—best music used in TV and film and best short form music video. We've had a pretty decent year.

What would you like an audience to get out of listening to your music?
Pszeniczka: Whatever they want to get out of it. That's why we write instrumentals, because it's true that sometimes words get in the way. Like the old Aerosmith song says, "Let the music do the talking."

You have a new EP out and are working on a new album. Will that be your first full-length album?
Pszeniczka: We're planning a full album release in the

Epic the Iron Philharmonic



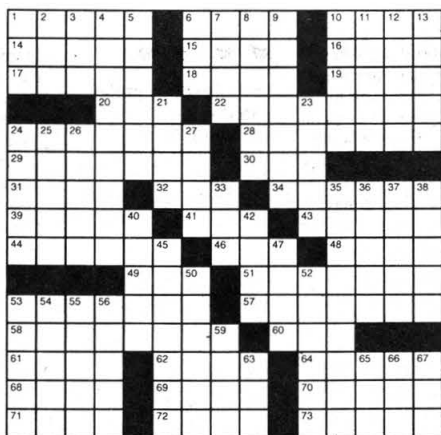
first quarter of 2007, and we're in the studio working on it right now. The working title for the new CD is *Opening Night*. It will be our first full length album.

What venues have you performed at?
Pszeniczka: None, actually. Epic is really a studio band. We wouldn't rule out playing live, but so far we're doing just fine without playing a single gig.

For more information on Epic the Iron Philharmonic, visit their website, www.cdbaby.com/epicrock.

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ms. Bernhardt
 - 6 Sketch
 - 10 Taxis
 - 14 BP merger partner
 - 15 Actress Plato
 - 16 Comic Sandler
 - 17 Beer giant
 - 18 Hits the slopes
 - 19 Evergreen
 - 20 NY gambling parlor
 - 22 Wisply delicate
 - 24 Hanna's partner in cartoons
 - 28 To blame
 - 29 Coated with crumbs
 - 30 Big __, CA
 - 31 Gallant guy
 - 32 Actress Ruby
 - 34 Grew to be
 - 39 Up to
 - 41 __ Lanka
 - 43 "Ave "
 - 44 Nextel Cup org.
 - 46 Period of time
 - 48 Forwarded on
 - 49 Dawber or Tillis
 - 51 Total lack
 - 53 "Love in the Time of __"
 - 57 Seeker
 - 58 NFL Panthers
 - 60 Make lace
 - 61 Actress Kudrow
 - 62 Shower square
 - 64 Soap actress Susan
 - 68 School collar
 - 69 __ vera
 - 70 Mexican adieu
 - 71 \$5 bills
 - 72 Archibald of the NBA
 - 73 "Eight Miles High" group
- DOWN**
- 1 Pouchlike structure
 - 2 Latin lesson word
 - 3 Australian joey
 - 4 Like gymnastics
 - 5 Acted as emcee
 - 6 Lic. to pull teeth
 - 7 Yard-work tool
 - 8 Loos and Louise
 - 9 Old-time laundry device
 - 10 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
 - 11 French farewell
 - 12 Commonplace
 - 13 Small silvery fish
 - 21 Spawned
 - 23 Actor Zimbalist
 - 24 Toy weapon
 - 25 Field of endeavor
 - 26 Landlord's revenues
 - 27 Fruity drinks
 - 33 Afore
 - 35 Model analysis
 - 36 __ you the clever one!
 - 37 Chop into small pieces
 - 38 Diner
 - 40 Collar part
 - 42 Baghdad land
 - 45 New Jersey river
 - 47 Touch upon
 - 50 Philippine city
 - 52 Marine facility
 - 53 Staff sign
 - 54 Land of Port-au-Prince
 - 55 Actor Welles
 - 56 Bank deals
 - 59 Scads
 - 63 Wide shoe
 - 65 Geometric fig.
 - 66 \$-due mail
 - 67 NASA outpost



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11/20/06

Solutions



TO THE NINES



Urosh Cicmil, a 25-year-old fashion retail management major, caught us off guard with his classy suit amidst a sidewalk filled with ripped jeans and oversized parkas.

His fashion inspirations come from Oscar de la Renta, and he only goes shopping about five times a year.

"I don't go shopping here," Cicmil said. "I only shop when I travel, like to New York, and I just buy tons of things."

Cicmil was covered head to toe in H&M clothing: a gray suit jacket, black crew-neck tee and gray skinny slacks.

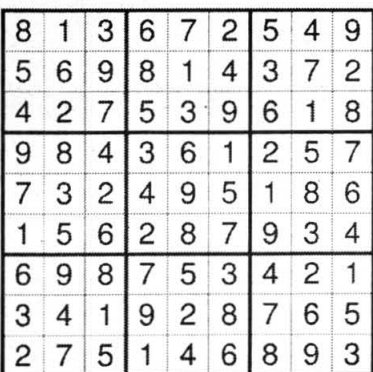
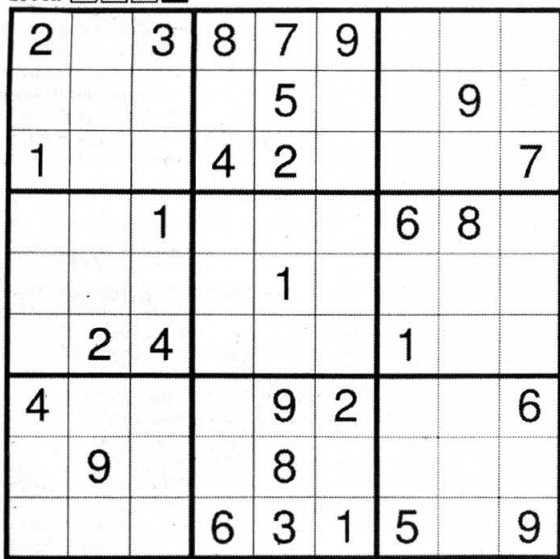
"The shoes aren't from H&M, they were \$100," Cicmil said. "But the rest of it was about \$70. Now that's what I call smart shopping."

—C. Mahlmeister

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.

Sudoku on Mobile. Enter 783658.com in your mobile Web browser. Get a free game!

Some carrier charges may apply.

Horoscopes by Hunter Claus

- Aquarius (Jan. 21 — Feb. 19):** Your love life will be a fire-escape door that just won't open. Sorry, but you're going to burn alive on this one.
- Virgo (Aug. 24 — Sept. 23):** The greatest aspect to having a "go nowhere" job, which requires you to work weekend nights, is the possibility that a terrorist will detonate a nuclear bomb, and your final moments on earth will be of an anorexic, overly tanned yuppie chewing you out for not finding some "ironic" T-shirt in an XXS.
- Pisces (Feb. 20 — March 20):** Don't trust anyone wearing a top hat this week. They're most likely hiding something, like the fact that no one likes their smug top hat.
- Aries (March 21 — April 20):** Remember that time when you found a transsexual porno in the back alley and, feeling curious, decided to watch it in the basement only to have your mom walk in on you? Yeah, that's going to happen again.
- Taurus (April 21 — May 21):** Forget about ordering a breakfast sandwich at Clarke's. The restaurant that has taken mediocre food to new levels has employed a chef who refuses to "assemble" any such thing, the waiter will tell you.
- Gemini (May 22 — June 21):** Finding the head of a dead horse in your bed doesn't mean someone thinks you're a stallion.
- Cancer (June 22 — July 23):** Hooray! You're now one day closer to death.
- Leo (July 24 — Aug. 23):** Nothing says "God bless America" like a pregnant lesbian.
- Libra (Sept. 24 — Oct. 23):** Congrats! You're a pregnant lesbian. What better way to come out of the closet?
- Scorpio (Oct. 24 — Nov. 22):** Your discriminatory views on babies—they're all poop machines who whine too much—will bite you in the rear end when you research your family history and discover you're 30 percent baby.
- Sagittarius (Nov. 23 — Dec. 21):** You will harness the power to vomit on cue this week. This mighty ability will come in handy when you're at Rainbo and some douchebag L.A. rejects walk into the bar, immediately complaining about the lack of Madonna songs being played.
- Capricorn (Dec. 22 — Jan. 20):** The zombie apocalypse only comes once in a lifetime, so you better appreciate sinking your teeth into someone's flesh before it's too late.

'Till success do us part



By Jenifer Fischer
Managing Editor

First, the news that golden couple Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillippe split broke on the heels of the demise of Whitney and Bobby's "crackpot" marriage. The collapse of Britney and K-Fed's doomed-from-the-get-go partnership instantaneously followed, creating an all-you-can-eat gossip buffet for those who find entertainment in the marital trials and tribulations of entertainers.

This latest crop of love gone awry may even demand the attention of those who don't care about celebrity mating habits. It has, after all, once again dredged up a topic that has long been a media favorite: marriage and the successful woman.

Right now tabloids and mainstream newspaper columnists are having a heyday with the "Curse of the Best Actress Oscar." Six female Oscar winners, six failed relationships, seven years. Has anyone kept track of Academy Award winning men and their romantic failures in the months that followed? Surely the numbers are equally staggering. Why the obsession with female winners?

Society loves to see its career gals dumped, heartbroken and alone, even in 2006. Why? It means that they aren't perfect and can't have it all. It means they

can't possibly keep a relationship—which is what every woman still wants, right, a man to please and have lots of babies with—if they're too busy enjoying personal achievements.

Depicting this in film and highlighting pop culture examples sends a message to men that they'd better steer clear and to women that they'd better not try too hard if they want a love life.

Forbes' Michael Noer incited fury in guys and gals alike by telling men not to marry career women in an Aug. 22 story. His reasons included backing from social scientists who say a powerful woman doth a rocky marriage make, and he wrote that, according to a study published in a research journal called *Social Forces*, such a woman would be happier if her husband were the primary breadwinner. Noer used studies to argue that women who earn more than their husbands tend to be unhappy and that, gasp, they keep a dirtier home. Please.

To be fair, Noer did generalize later on, referring to published literature when saying that highly educated people have more extramarital sex and those who earn more than \$30,000 per year are more likely to

cheat. He used gender-neutral statistics but still warned men to avoid such women.

Women may want to avoid such men, also. Forbes later published Noer's column as a point-counter-point featuring a rebuttal by Elizabeth Corcoran who points out, using 18 years of personal experience, that men and women can play nice in a marriage while keeping careers. Corcoran

warns: "Don't marry a lazy man."

But who says every degree-clutching or Oscar-toting woman pines for a big fat diamond ring? Our culture demonizes those who don't or assumes they just *have* to be lesbians. It's a colossal double standard. Hollywood's eternal bachelors, such as George Clooney, don't receive that sort of scrutiny; he's loveable and doesn't care to be tied down, and though there's prodding about when he'll marry, it comes with a wink and a smile as if to say "you sly old dog."

But consider Oprah Winfrey. The woman receives constant criticism and speculation for her unmarried status. Likewise, actresses bad-girl Angelina Jolie

and under-the-radar Katie Holmes both received glowing adoration once they got shackled up and knocked up by A-List men. It's also interesting that rumors have Ryan Phillippe shagging a little-known actress a la Jude Law leaving Sienna Miller for the nanny. What's with the insecurity, guys?

All of this could be dismissed as a ridiculous discussion. Everyone who wants to be in a blossoming career and a lasting relationship should balance them and put the effort it takes into both. Those who just want one or the other should be respected. The fact of the matter is both men and women are at times insecure in relationships. Both men and women become too engrossed in something other than their partner. We would like to think it's that simple.

But it really is not. Our fascination with celebrity love lives and two-career relationships clearly reveals society is grappling with something deeper. By obsessing with famous folks we aren't simply hoping to collect on that bet regarding the longevity of a starlet's third marriage. By using statistics to prove a woman's place is in the home or that men can't handle a strong spouse, we aren't simply trying to keep the other sex in its place. We are perhaps trying to understand our most essential needs: to feel accepted, loved, secure and happy. And despite the times, we still like to believe in the fairytale.



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Roamin' Numerals

2 Number of Jedi knights who called for the acceptance of their "religion" at London's UN headquarters. John Wilkinson, 27, and Charlotte Law, 24, both self-proclaimed Jedi, want their faith to be recognized as the fourth-largest religion in the United Kingdom according to the Sun newspaper. There are 390,000 followers of the Jedi order according to a 2001 U.K. census.

\$100 million Price offered for the Britney Spears and Kevin Federline porn tape by celebrity porn merchant David Hans Schmidt. Schmidt is the porn peddler behind the Dustin Diamond video. A 19-second clip was allegedly leaked online showing Spears performing a blowjob, according to contactmusic.com.

\$250,000 The minimum salary that eligible bachelors must make in order to go on a cruise in Shanghai with women who are "attractive in every category," said Xu Tianli, the cruise organizer, according to All Headline News Corp. Thirty out of 1,000 women who applied were accepted for the match-making trip that is this month.

Jump-starting Latin American death squads



By Eric Kasang
City Beat Editor

Apparently, the United States has added a new twist to its long-running pissing match with Venezuela and Cuba: foreign military training. USA Today recently reported that the United States granted a waiver to kick-start military training on U.S. soil for 11 Latin American and Caribbean countries. While the article did not mention specific countries receiving the training, it stated that Venezuela and Cuba will remain barred from receiving military training.

This is a horrible idea because military training could jump-start military-backed death squads that plagued Latin America in the 1970s and 1980s. These death squads, or secret police, silenced political dissidents and associates through intimidation, torture and murder.

According to the Nov. 10 article, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice received an Oct. 2 presidential memo allowing the United States to lift a military training ban on 21 countries, including the 11 Latin American ones. The administration wanted to reach out and establish some "goodwill" toward Latin America after the recent spate of countries electing socialist or left-leaning presidents.

It's also an attempt to isolate Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez—whose caustic,

anti-American rhetoric included calling President Bush "the devil"—by pitting U.S.-friendly Latin American countries against him.

However, since Venezuela was the eighth-largest oil exporter in 2005, according to OPEC, and the United States takes first place in oil consumption, this country needs to continue dealing with Chavez. And now, the Bush administration is trying to stick it to him, but still keep the oil flowing.

Here's where the U.S.-Venezuelan spat began. The United States and Venezuela belong to the Organization of American States, a multinational group that encompasses the United States, Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean nations—excluding Cuba. This organization mandates that each member has to acknowledge a democratically elected president. Even if this person is an autocrat—like Chavez—a country can't support any illegal activity against this official.

In 2002, a military coup briefly overthrew Chavez. In a diplomatic snafu, the Bush administration praised the coup, which was illegal because Chavez was democratically elected.

Chavez regained power within 48 hours and was upset with the United States. Actually, "highly pissed" better describes Chavez's mindset. Thus Chavez started his chronic, anti-American rhetoric as well as forging strong relationships with various

Latin American presidents.

If the United States wants to "jam it" to Chavez, reducing its dependence on oil would be a major step. When Chavez's opponents tried to legally oust him from his presidential position in a 2004 recall vote—similar to the one used to get Arnold Schwarzenegger elected the governor of California—he used cash from the high oil reserves sold to the United States and dumped it into programs for the poor. In return, the people ran out and voted for Chavez, who survived the referendum.

If the cash flow to Venezuela stops, the United States could create disenchantment among the country's population and watch Chavez tank in the next election. This is a much more viable option than starting military training for armies in other countries. This is not the first time the United States has tried to influence regional politics by way of the gun.

When Chile democratically elected socialist president Salvador Allende in 1970, a fear permeated the Nixon administration that Latin America would transform into a communist region like Eastern Europe during the Cold War. With a CIA-sponsored coup on Sept. 11, 1973, Chile's military murdered Allende and installed Augusto Pinochet as the country's dictatorial ruler. Pinochet ran the country under a campaign of fear, secret police and death squads until being ousted in 1990.

The United States also attempted to overthrow the leftist Sandinista adminis-

tration in Nicaragua during the 1980s by illegally supplying monetary funds to Contras, a right-wing insurgency group. Col. Oliver North, an aide to the National Security Council, helped sell weapons to Iran and funneled the money to the Contras. Thousands of innocent civilians died during the U.S.-sponsored insurgency.

The Bush administration's fight against "leftism" in Latin America serves no purpose other than continuing to smear this country's name in another region of the world. While U.S. government officials worried that such lefties like Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva and Argentina's President Nestor Kirchner would destabilize their respective countries with socialist economic policies, they've actually engaged in pragmatic socio-economic strategies.

And if the United States starts sponsoring military training Latin American countries, a future Secretary of State may end up apologizing about the U.S. intervention like then-Secretary of State Colin Powell had to do in 2003, according to BBC News. The British news agency reported when a Black Entertainment Television reporter questioned Powell about the 1973 U.S.-sponsored coup in Chile, Powell responded: "With respect to your earlier comments about Chile in the 1970s and what happened with Mr. Allende, it is not a part of American history that we're proud of."

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Editorials

Applications of donations

Even Kid Rock, while not really a bastion of philanthropy, said "You get what you put in and people get what they deserve." His mentality is laudable because it is true. However, philanthropic efforts at Columbia could use more polishing.

With increasing costs and skyrocketing enrollment, Columbia is looking for extra in-house cash through donations. This isn't a bad idea, but the college shouldn't rely primarily on donations for extra funding.

Eric Winston, vice president of Institutional Advancement, told *The Chronicle* last week that he hopes faculty, alumni, staff and trustees will get more financially involved. Internal donations are necessary for future fundraisers, Winston said in the article. Promoting fundraising ventures in the future is great, but the college should shoot for stabilizing tuition in the future also.

Students want quality classes, better opportunities and more teachers available for advising, more space and, ultimately, just degrees. With this in mind, extra money should come from donations, but that money should fund more grants and scholarships in order to benefit students more. If there is a way to get more money through dona-

tions to stabilize tuition, then the college should put that on the list of priorities.

Faculty, alumni, staff and trustees collectively donated \$300,000 last year in contributions. But this only accounts for roughly 10 percent of Columbia's total contributions. Alumni donated less than 1 percent, and trustees donated nearly 6 percent. However, nearly 70 percent of donations to Columbia come from outside sources—about \$2,730,000—and that's a lot of money.

Upper administration donations ranged from \$1,000 to \$4,000. President Warrick L. Carter contributes more than \$6000, according to '04-'05 990 tax forms, a figure that is about 2 percent of his total salary which was nearly \$284,000 last year.

Granted, philanthropy is not a calling, nor is it a duty or an obligation. But in-house donations are also good PR for getting others from the outside of school to donate too.

People give what they can, when they can, and sadly sometimes that means never. Certain members of the faculty on campus have expressed the idea that they would contribute more if they got paid more. But that is not the solution. Donors usually want results. However, just

because people get paid more doesn't mean that they will give back more.

More fundraising programs are necessary to put a wooden stake in the heart of this tuition-driven model. But even fundraising is difficult. With more than 11,000 students here, scholarships and capital campaigns should raise more money that directly benefit students. Sometimes donations are used as PR instead of actually serving a purpose.

While it would be ideal to think that people donate money out of the goodness of their hearts, the truth is that donations are given because a certain outcome is desired. Donations benefit students because they help pay salaries and facility fees. And if teachers are happy, students are happy—usually.

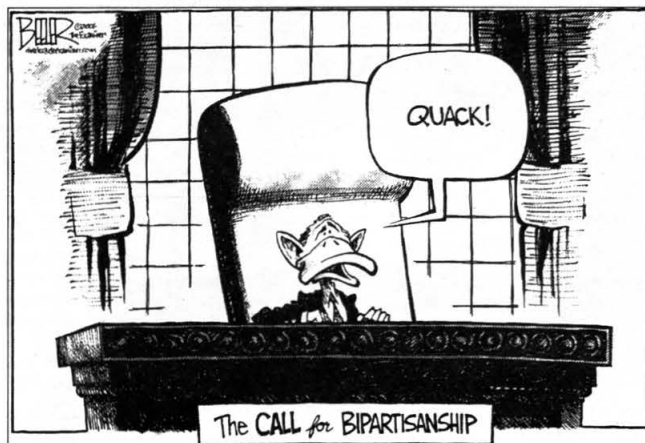
However, donations don't reduce tuition and certain students are still struggling to pay for schooling. Students crave results and above all, want what they pay for. And students eventually become alumni who can give back.

But it's a bit disheartening that 1 percent of Columbia alumni gave back to the school last year. Is this a statement about school pride, or is this a wake up call about donations in general? Or are alumni too busy paying off their school loans?

Back from the Drawing Boards



Dan Wright/MCT



Nate Beeler/MCT

The skid for the Olympic bid

It's never too early to start cobbling about how great it would be for the city of Chicago to host the 2016 Summer Olympics, but let's get real here. Chicago is not ready to host the Olympics yet. Sure it might be ready in a decade, but current transportation and budget problems, as well as the stale taste of corrupt politics that is running through Cook County should be fixed before the Games—otherwise that might cost us the bid, or even turn Olympics into a joke.

Last week San Francisco bowed out of the Olympic bidding war, leaving Chicago and Los Angeles the only U.S. cities that still will bid for the games. Los Angeles is arguably favored to win because it has hosted previous games and has an Olympic stadium. Chicago has favorable odds because it has never hosted Olympics.

Mayor Daley said last week that the city is looking like the better choice between Los Angeles because of airports and transportation. However hosting the Olympics in a decade seems a bit far-fetched. Chicago is not ready.

The CTA by now should

have a new motto—slow is here to stay. Major newspapers reported last week that commuters should make it a habit to allow for extra travel time because the CTA doesn't have enough money to fix slow zones that are affecting the Blue and Red lines. We have problems with transportation in Chicago now and that's not exactly a great point when it comes to bringing Olympics here in the future. Fixing transportation first and then going after the world stage seems wise.

There is no denying that the Olympics in Chicago would be a tremendous economic boom for the city. Putting Chicago onto an international stage would boost tourism, dining, parking and the hotel industry exponentially, as well as writing its name in the history books. However, is this really what would make Chicagoans cheer, or make them say "fucking Olympics" in conversations involving traffic downtown?

In terms of actually pulling this off, Chicago can't handle a fire of a legendary building or an immigration march, or even fight Taste of Chicago congestion without creat-

ing gridlock.

If Chicago is serious, it needs to look past political gain and promises and concentrate on private fundraising. Nothing this big is free.

There are construction companies, security firms and hordes of workers that need to be hired. Daley said last week that construction would be "temporary," meaning it could be put up rather quickly, and the mentioned this would be funded by the private sector.

However, local citizens need to be assured that this will not come out of their pockets in the long run. One can imagine the Cook County budget plan in 2017 talking about how "Olympics put us in a jam."

If Chicago does manage to miraculously convince the International Olympic Committee it can do the job, raise money and handle this colossal task effectively and safely, then so be it. Fix transportation, prove Los Angeles is less worthy and get the bid.

But Chicago's World's Fair Columbian Exposition was a long time ago. We should get the Dan Ryan moving faster, and then handle the Olympics.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



Give what you can

Thank you for highlighting my efforts at fundraising on behalf of the Center for Asian Arts & Media at Columbia College Chicago in the recent article "Columbia seeks 'family' financial support." I am always grateful when attention is brought to our center, and hope to clarify one or two points relating to its mention in the article.

First, what I intended to convey about donors to the center is that the average individual gift we receive is in the range of \$250 to \$500. My own giving to the center exceeds that range considerably, partly because of my personal commitment to the center and its programs, and partly because of my

commitment as trustee of the college.

Further, I wanted to suggest that whatever my level of giving, I shouldn't expect anyone else to give at the same level, but rather at a level that is comfortable to them. My point about driving a Jetta instead of a Mercedes underscores my own choice; a recent graduate of Columbia might not think he or she has much to offer, but can choose to give up the occasional latte. Everything helps, and sometimes being engaged is the most important thing.

On the same subject, I couldn't help but think about these same points while reading the other front-page article regarding rising salaries within the ranks of our administrators and faculty. I extend a personal challenge to the college's highest-paid employees in particular to demonstrate their own commitments to our collective cause through their financial support to the college and its programs.

—Nancy Tom
Executive Director, Center for Asian Arts & Media at Columbia College

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 23 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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Gallows: Chicago History Museum to bid on county relic

Continued from Back Page

Mahoney also expressed concern that the gallows remain intact once they are sold and ensured they would become a part of the Chicago Historical

Society's permanent collection if the museum wins the auction.

"I don't know what someone else may do to [the gallows]," Mahoney said. "No matter how we would exhibit [them], we would always keep all of the pieces intact."

Since the auction is open to anyone approved by Mastro, individual collectors—not just museums and organizations—could feasibly purchase the gallows, Marren said.

"There was an individual who—whether he'll bid on it I don't know—thought of cutting

it up for souvenirs and selling off pieces of the historic gallows," Donley said.

Due to the size of the item, Marren thinks the gallows will probably be more desirable to institutions, as opposed to individual bidders, but said it could go either way.

Mahoney visited Donley's Wild West Town to examine the condition of the gallows, and noted that the platform had been replaced but the gallows were otherwise in original form.

"Having seen the gallows first hand and having spoken with the owners and knowing their importance to Chicago history, I certainly do hope that we're able to acquire them," she said.

Mahoney would not disclose the maximum amount the Chicago History Museum plans to bid for the gallows. Items like this have the potential to climb significantly from their original minimum bidding price, Marren said.

"We've had some really odd-ball things in the past and sometimes they take on a life of their own with the bidding based on the publicity," Marren said.

Donley, who has no control over who bids on the gallows, said he is not concerned about profiting from the sale. He said he hopes to see the piece preserved as an important display of the death penalty.

"It's a piece of our history, and rather than see it swept under the rug, let people learn from it and make their own judgments," Donley said.

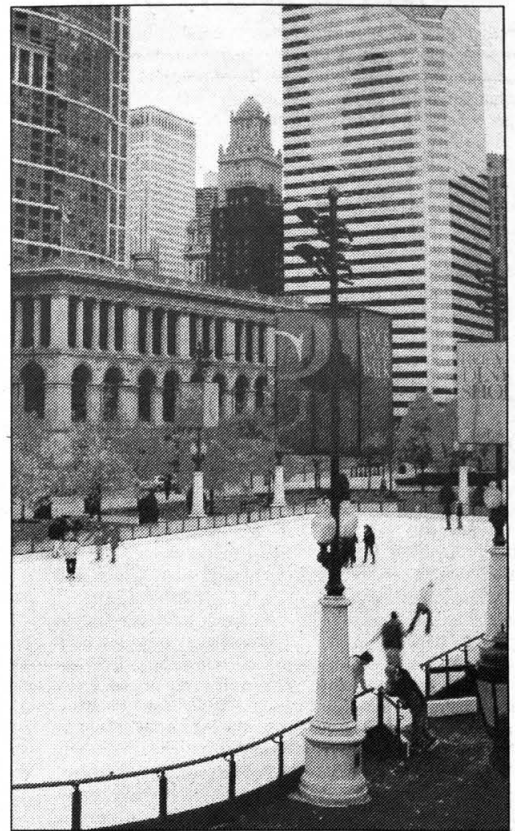


Courtesy Mastro Auctions

Donley's Wild West Town's gallows sits in Union, Ill., waiting for the online bidding to start Nov. 20. The auction ends Dec. 6.

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Early winter start



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Skaters enjoy the free ice rink at Millennium Park Nov. 16. The rink opened for the winter season on Nov. 15.

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Clean up the bull

A Chronicle sports analysis

By Caryl Jakubowski
Commentary Editor

and

Mauricio Rubio
Assistant Photo Editor

The NBA opener between the Chicago Bulls and the Miami Heat gave us plenty of reason to gush about the upcoming Bulls basketball season. And gush we did. Who knew that the only thing that comes to mind now about "Tyson" and "Curry" is frozen chicken?

Lost in the midst of Bear fever, the Chicago Bulls entered the season as quiet contenders for the top spot in the NBA. The spectacle was nothing short of amazing. Bulls fans cooed, seeing their new team take on the last year's finals champions. Finally, after all the hoopla of acquiring former Detroit badass Ben Wallace in the summer, we trampled over the Heat by 42 points—the highest in the Bulls franchise history against that team.

But that excitement was quickly quelled when the Orlando Magic served up some voodoo on Nov. 1 and the Bulls couldn't stop their big man Dwight Howard.

The Bulls must realize that while they have the potential to be champs, they have to be consistent—and that will take them to the Promised Land. Inconsistency is a hallmark of Chicago sports, and this season the Bulls are living

up to that reality.

Yes, it is too early to tell how the rest of the season will turn out, but in the house that Paxson built, "get ready to be surprised" should be a mantra somewhere on a wall in the United Center. At times the Bulls look like a dominant force, stampeding over their competition with the ferocity that is found in the bulls of Pamplona, and, at others, they are mere cows.

The brutality of Chicago fans, particularly when it comes to being a fan of this team, is renowned. Long ago, there were times when even the garbage cans on the streets had to be nailed down out of fear of riots. But the throes of the Jordan era are over. Beside those banners hanging off the ceiling, the only reminder of that golden era is when Phil Jackson comes to this town to kick our ass.

The acquisition of center Ben Wallace and his enormous 'fro has been invaluable, and the team around him needs to score and capitalize on the defense he brings. Same as last season, the Bulls have been unable to consistently play well on the offensive side, evident in their Nov. 11 win over the Indiana Pacers where they struggled to shoot 38 percent from the field.

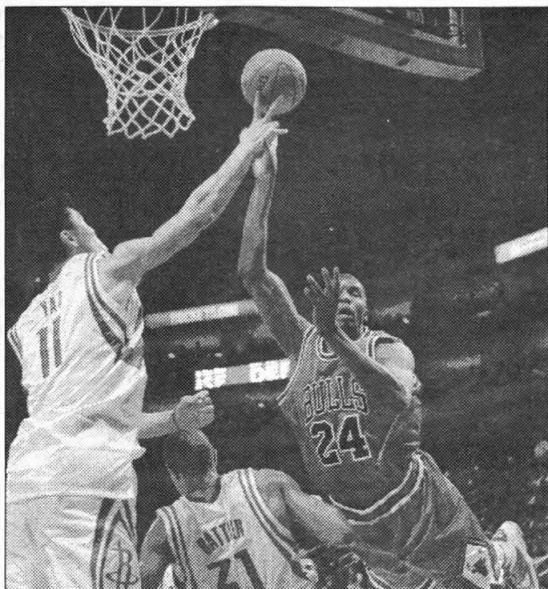
The team's success depends largely on its key role players. Other than Wallace, the Bulls have no real superstar—no Kobe, Shaq or D-Wade and no sex scandals. If the Bulls are going to win the NBA crown, the pieces to the puzzle must come together seamlessly. Otherwise they will not survive

past the first round again this year—which would be like a Three Peat in reverse—not exactly what we should shoot for.

Andres Nocioni, by many standards, is one of the more exciting personalities on the team. He may look like Shaggy from Scooby Doo, but he's got an Olympic medal under his belt. The Argentinean is a great defensive and offensive player. His contributions to the team are greatly underplayed as he brings intensity to the team. But it is his ability to step up as aggressor, along with Kirk Hinrich's and Chris Duhon's ball chemistry as well as Luol Deng's athleticism that show the Bulls are onto something here. Nocioni fights tooth and nail for rebounds, loose balls and points. He needs to play more.

These Bulls must find their offensive identity, and that will hinge on the play of Kirk Hinrich. Captain Kirk's court vision was the reason the Bulls were able to make the playoffs last year and the year before. Now his job is to keep everybody but Ben Wallace involved offensively. They have struggled against fast teams and tend to lose energy in the 4th quarter. That's when Ben Gordon usually came into play.

This season, Ben Gordon must pick up his game and stay there for the Bulls to stay afloat. Gordon entered the NBA with a bang during the 2004-2005 season, earning the sixth Man of the Year award. He was the go-to guy in the fourth for the Bulls during last season, seemingly scoring at will. This year he showed promise, scoring



AP

Tyrus Thomas (24) turned over control of the ball to the Houston Rockets' Yao Ming (11) on Nov. 16. The Bulls lost on the road that night 100-101.

37 points against the Bucks on Nov. 6 and the Rockets on Nov. 16. Bulls broadcaster Johnny "Red" Kerr last season made an on-air spat calling him "Ben Jordan."

However, Gordon is an inconsistent player that the Bulls wanted to rely on ever since his starting line-up place at the end of last season. Even though he was taken out of the line-up this year because of early poor performance, the kid will get his game back and when he gets it together, it will be magic on the ball court.

Paxson and coach Scott Skiles

have been building their road to a comeback for more than three years now. This season is definitely not a fluke; however, a serious reexamination of priorities and roadmaps is in order if the Bulls want to be champions. If the Bulls want to seriously compete, now is their chance. The UC needs to start humming "No-ci-oni. No-ci-oni," again.

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Urban Excursions: Oak Park



By Jenifer K. Fischer
Managing Editor

Many Chicago neighborhoods provide a feast for the senses, more often than not thanks to their gastronomic offerings. But just west of the city, the village of Oak Park provides visual pleasures in the form of fine art and architecture.

Founded in 1835 as Oak Park Ridge, the settlement became Oak Park in 1872. The area grew following the Chicago Fire of 1871, when people moved there and constructed homes.

It wasn't incorporated until 1902, and today it's a pleasant place to spend a weekend afternoon just wandering; no need to save up a small fortune, just grab a U-Pass and go. Visitors gain as much enjoyment browsing store windows and admiring the historic homes and buildings as they do from paid tours and shopping.

Though a lot about modern-day Oak Park screams "yuppie haven" from the Borders Books dominating the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Lake Street to the overabundance of other chain retailers and trendy boutiques in the downtown area, it retains some less-polished character. One such quirky place is the Lake Theatre, 1022 Lake St.

The art deco style movie theater beholds a classic walkup box office. Though it has multiple screens, it harkens back to simpler times before monstrous megaplexes started swallowing up hometown movie houses.

In addition to cinema, Oak Park emanates the arts. It's home to several groups, including Circle Theatre, Oak Park Festival Theatre and Village Players Theatre as well as dance company Momenta.

No specific cuisine rules over Oak

Park's dining options, but there are plenty of choices from Chicago staple Bar Louie to national chains such as Chipotle to independent joints like the Jerusalem Cafe.

One of the village's most well-known fast food places is Mickey's Gyros and Ribs, 525 N. Harlem Ave. This place retains Oak Park's highly visual theme, just in a kitschier low-brow sense. Hand-written signs advertising specials plaster the windows and some of the "dining room" walls are covered in mirrors, while others boast old framed photographs of Chicago around the time of the 1893 World's Fair. The food is cheap and tasty and, like any true Chicagoland carry out dining facility, the man at the register barks out orders to the kitchen in the intimidating way that reminds patrons they came here for the quality eats, not the service.

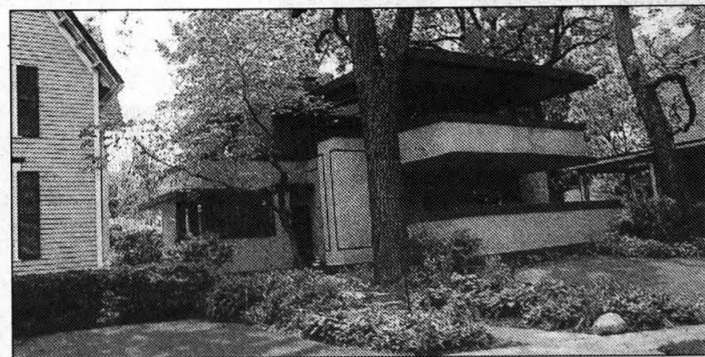
For a more intimate, low-key meal, what is often touted as Chicago's best Indian cuisine, Khyber Pass, 1031 Lake St., serves up healthy, authentic dishes, including an array of Tandoori specialties cooked in the traditional Tandoor clay oven over charcoal. Vegetarians and carnivores alike will find plenty to drool over here.

But no visit to Oak Park is complete without taking in a little Frank Lloyd Wright. Arguably America's most well-known architect, he settled here with his wife and six children. His presence in the community from 1889 to 1909 remains everywhere today, from the many homes he designed to municipal structures such as pillars and lights constructed in simple fashion.

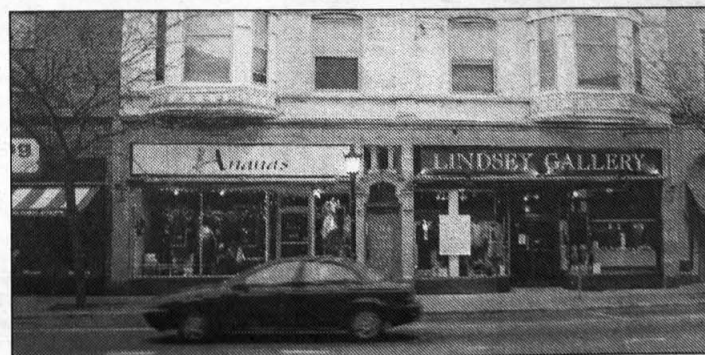
His home and studio, 951 Chicago Ave., with its wood shingles and peaked roof, look nothing like the prairie-style creations Wright is famous for. However, touring them reveals what served as a sort of laboratory, where he tinkered with different elements like natural, Japanese, leaded glass and clean, open spaces. Oak Park visitors can also tour Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, 875 Lake St., and the Ernest Hemingway birthplace and museum, 200 N. Oak Park Ave.

How to get there: Take the westbound Green Line and get off at the Oak Park Avenue stop.

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A home designed by celebrated architect Frank Lloyd Wright resides in Oak Park. Wright settled in Oak Park with his family in the early 20th century.



Boutiques pepper Lake Street, between Oak Park Avenue and Euclid Street, in Oak Park's downtown area.

Scoop in the Loop



By Allison Riggio
Assistant City Beat Editor

Thanksgiving is here, which means schoolchildren around the country will cringe at the thought of writing yet another "What I'm Thankful For" essay. There's a reason kids hate writing that garbage every year: They don't have any idea what they're thankful for.

And it's not just because they're kids. Most adults don't know what they should be thankful for either. Our lives are hectic, and sometimes we need someone else to point out the things that we may be taking for granted.

Let's examine the fine city of Chicago, for example. Don't get me wrong—I love this city and the people in it. But most of us could use an eye-opener when it comes to appreciation and thankfulness. It may seem like Chicago runs like a well-oiled machine, but it's only because of all the grease on the wheels.

Cook County government, for

one, should be thankful the FBI's subpoena of hiring records for several county departments didn't hurt the chances of former Cook County Board President John Stroger's son, Todd, from being born into—err, I mean elected into—office as the new president on Nov. 7.

County officials should also be thankful that Chicago voters, like most in the country, tend to vote for names they know—scandal or no scandal. Todd Stroger's success this election season was undoubtedly thanks to his father's stint as Cook County Board President. The proof of this lies in the fact that John Stroger would have been on the ballot if it weren't for a debilitating stroke he suffered just after winning the March primary election.

Yes, Cook County government. You should be thankful for the nod, wink and nudge that allowed Todd, an alderman in Chicago's 8th Ward, to somehow magically rise from the depths of City Hall as the most suitable candidate to replace his father in the general election for the Democratic Party. And Todd, be thankful for the Democratic Party—which apparently possesses the power to make nods, winks and nudges actual vehicles for political reform.

And speaking of Democrats, the left-wing takeover of Congress probably left Mayor Richard Daley thankful that two potential candidates for the February mayoral election—candidates that had a real chance of ousting the corruption-ridden mayor—have bowed out of the race.

U.S. Representatives Jesse Jackson Jr. and Louis Gutierrez both said their positions in Washington will require more time, energy and dedication come January when the Democrats officially take office as the majority in Congress.

Which means Jackson and Gutierrez should probably be thankful, too. Being part of the Democratic Party next year leaves the potential for moving up to higher, more powerful positions on committees and subcommittees in Congress. Those two owe their voters a "thank you" almost as much as Daley does.

Still in the mayoral race, however, are Clerk of Cook County Circuit Court Dorothy Brown and Bill Walls, who was once an aide to former Mayor Harold Washington. Both will have to run pretty strong campaigns if they want to beat out the Daley machine, though the mayor hasn't even officially announced he will run for re-election.

Mr. Mayor, enjoy your turkey; but with all due respect, thank your lucky stars the GOP lost the

upper hand in Congress.

And then there's former Gov. George Ryan, who will begin his six-year sentence for racketeering and fraud in federal prison on Jan. 4. Ryan should be thankful for ... well ... I'm not quite sure he has much to be thankful for at this point. Perhaps enjoying one last holiday season before spending the next six behind bars might be the silver lining to the cloud surrounding the 72-year-old convicted politician.

Though Ryan may not be thankful for his situation, recently re-elected Gov. Rod Blagojevich sure should be. Blagojevich enjoyed months of negative campaigning against Republican candidate Judy Baar Topinka by tying her to Ryan's mess of an administration while governor of Illinois.

So Chicago politicians, might I suggest you pick up a package of thank-you notes before heading to Aunt Ida's house for turkey dinner? Many of you have a lot to be thankful for this year, whether you realize it or not. Be thankful your political offices govern a city like Chicago, where corruption not only occurs, but is practically accepted.

And I, too, am thankful for the city of Chicago. If it weren't for the scandals, lies and corruption, what would I have to write about?

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In Public

Who will win Indo Jew Bowl VII? Stop by Niles North High School, 9800 N. Lawler Ave., Skokie, at noon Nov. 23 for the football game. The coin toss is at 11:50 a.m. Bring a few cans to help out the food drive. The event is free. For more information, visit indojewbowl.com.

Celebrate a traditional German Christmas at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St. For 11 years, Christkindlmarkt has offered handmade gifts and ornaments. People can try German foods like brats, potato pancakes and goulash; there's even gluhwein, a spiced wine. Admission is free and it runs from Nov. 23 through Dec. 24. For more information, visit cityofchicago.org.

Put aside that bitter cynicism (or maybe not) and check out Chicago's 93rd annual tree lighting at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 24. The actual lighting starts at 5 p.m.

Take a ride with Critical Mass. (Check out the tree lighting beforehand.) The ubiquitous bike movement will meet at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 24. Dress warm and explore Chicago. For more information, visit chicagocriticalmass.org.

Lights, ice sculpting, Santa Claus and tigers. Celebrate Christmas a bit early at the Lincoln Park Zoo, 2200 N. Cannon Drive. The zoo's annual "Zoolights" festival will feature an ice carving stage where artists will carve everything from skylines to animals. "Zoolights" will be open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday Nov. 24 to Nov. 26, Dec. 1 to Dec. 3 and Dec. 8 to Dec. 10. The festivities will be open 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. every day from Dec. 15 to Jan. 1, excluding Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. Admission is free.

Ethanol: CPS to study alternative fuel

Continued from Back Page

While the O2 diesel-ethanol blend creates less auto emissions, the cost to add any fuel adapters needed to run buses on ethanol-based fuel is not in this year's budget, according to Chester Tindall, general manager of student transportation for the Chicago Public School system.

These adapters, also called "spark arrestors," fit from the vehicle's gas cap to tank, according to Thomas Sopko, spokesman for O2Diesel.

Tindall said since the technology is still new, the school system plans on studying the level of pollution emissions from buses running on ethanol-based fuel versus the regular diesel fuel.

Although the ethanol-diesel fuel creates less pollution, diesel emis-

sions are still carcinogenic.

"We'll sit down and evaluate what are the long term impacts of reduction of the emissions as well as the cost of these items both to the private fleet managers and to the school system itself," Tindall said.

Right now, the school system does not require bus companies that are contracted with the school district to use ethanol-based fuels, according to Michael Vaughan, press secretary for the Chicago Public Schools. He said that any details involving the buses and ethanol-diesel fuel are between the two companies.

This is not the first environmental program attempted by the Chicago Public School system. Duncan noted during his speech that the school system has a recycling program that has kept a large amount of paper goods out of landfills. He also said more than 600 buses are already fitted with devices to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

"That's more buses than any other school district in the coun-



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

David Domovic, left, principal of Louisa May Alcott School, and Chicago Public Schools CEO, Arne Duncan, exit one of the 25 buses using ethanol-diesel fuel as part of a CPS study.

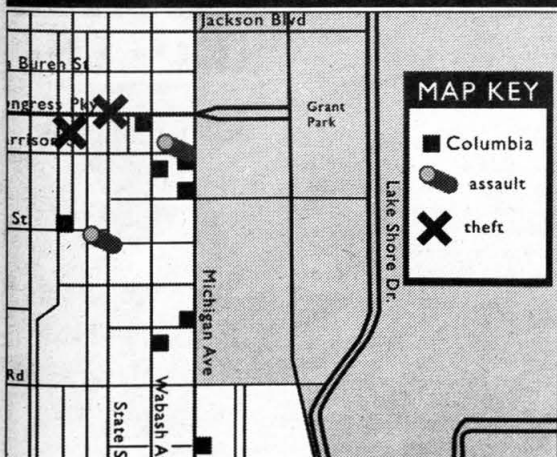
try," Duncan said.

While the school system studies the effects of the ethanol-running buses, Thomas Slunecka, executive director of the Ethanol Promotion and Information Council, believes that this program will set a tone for other educational institutions to follow suit. And in turn, it will clean up the air.

"By choosing ethanol we are reducing 7.8 million tons of carbon monoxide [from being released into the air] each year," Slunecka said. "That's the equivalent of taking off 1.8 million cars off our environment."

ekasang@chroniclemail.com

Off the Blotter



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Late night ruckus

Police were called around 3:30 a.m. Nov. 11 after an 18-year-old woman claimed she was assaulted by a resident of the 2 E. 8th building. The victim said a 19-year-old man became violent with her after a verbal altercation. The offender grabbed her by the arms, pushed her against a wall and choked her. The man was charged with battery and issued a court date.

Pregnant woman attacked

A student at East-West University, 616 S. Michigan Ave., was walking near Harrison and State streets with a friend when an unknown man approached the two women and began conversing with them on Nov. 7. The 19-year-old victim said the man, who was wearing a full-length leather coat with a fur trim, started to walk away but turned around and kicked the victim in the back. The 25-year-old offender fled the scene and the victim headed home and alerted police. The woman, who is four-and-a-half months pregnant, complained of minor back pain but declined treatment.

Got a thing for phones?

A 31-year-old man made off with more than \$2,200 worth of loot from Touchvelocity, 557 S. Dearborn St., on Nov. 8. The man entered the Internet cafe appearing to be a customer, then demanded money from the register and safe by scribbling his demands on a napkin and handing it to the cashier when he approached the counter to purchase a 16 oz. Monster energy drink. The cashier gave the man \$87 from the register and \$2,105 from the safe. The man also stole the video surveillance tape, one employee's cell phone, the batteries from others' cell phones and the handset from the retailer's wall telephone before leaving.

Don't you know the library is FREE?

An 18-year-old woman was arrested on Nov. 13 after attempting to leave the Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., with a book she did not check out. A library security guard called police for assistance after the theft sensors went off as the woman exited the library. A book was found in the woman's bag.

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

Bidders 'hanging' online

Historic Cook County gallows ready to be auctioned on Internet

By Allison Riggio
Assistant City Beat Editor

Several unknown bidders have already expressed an interest in owning a rather interesting piece of Cook County history: The original gallows used to hang more than 40 convicts from 1887-1927.

Bidding for the gallows will start at \$5,000 and will run from Nov. 20 to Dec. 6, according to Brian Marren, vice president of Mastro Auctions, the company running the auction. Bidders must register with Mastro before placing any bids, he added, to ensure only serious offers are made.

"It's not like eBay where you can just jump on and start bidding," Marren said. "The average lot price of [our] sales is like \$4,000 to \$5,000. [Bidders must] have references [that] they bought from other auctions in the past—[that] they bought from high-end auctions."

The gallows spent nearly 30 years on display at Donley's Wild West Town, a family-friendly Wild West theme park in Union, Ill. Owner Mike Donley said he, his father and his brother always had an interest in Chicago history

and bid on the gallows in the late '70s when they were originally auctioned.

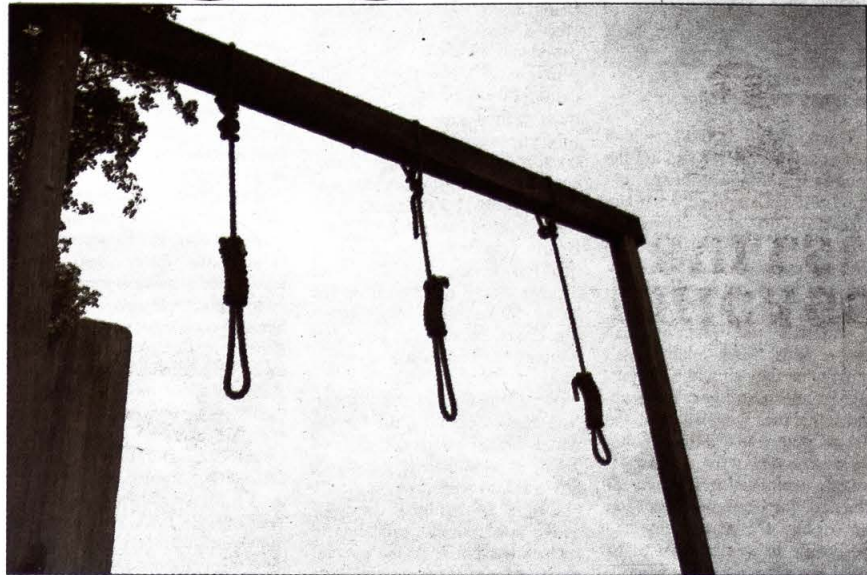
"I was standing in the supermarket checkout line and it was [the] front page headline of the Sun-Times [that they were] getting rid of the gallows," Donley said.

Donley's Wild West Town, which opened 32 years ago as more of a history museum, has taken the shape of a children's theme park over the years, Donley said. He decided to sell the gallows since they no longer fit in with the other attractions at the tourist spot.

"The gallows [have] sort of stood there in the corner of the park, and nobody really pays any attention to it anyway," Donley said, adding that exposure to the weather was taking its toll on them.

The gallows were built in 1887 for the execution of several protesters involved in the Haymarket Square Riot—a workers' rights rally that ended in the deaths of several policemen and activists when an unknown individual tossed a bomb into the crowd.

Roughly 40 people were hanged on the gallows until 1927 when the electric chair became the means of capital punishment in Illinois. The gallows were stored in the basement of the



Courtesy Mastro Auctions

A 19th century gallows waits at Donley's Wild West Town, 8512 S. Union Road, Union, Ill. The theme park decided to auction the gallows online starting Nov. 20 through Dec. 6.

Cook County Jail until a judge finally ordered their removal in 1977—when Donley made the purchase.

Donley and Marren both said they heard from several potential bidders interested in the gallows, but neither could say who those buyers were. Many historical

societies and museums nationwide that have Illinois or death penalty exhibits have mentioned they may bid on the gallows, Marren said.

The Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., plans to bid on the gallows, according to the museum's chief curator, Libby

Mahoney.

"It's an important piece of Chicago history," Mahoney said. "Right now it is on public display so anyone can see it, so this would keep it in the public domain if it came here."

See Gallows Page 24



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

A Falcon Transportation Inc. school bus idles before driving off full of elementary students at Louisa May Alcott School, 2625 N. Orchard St., on Nov. 14. Chicago has started a new program to study the environmental effects and costs of buses that use an ethanol-diesel fuel blend.

Going green in Chicago

Pilot program to study ethanol-based fuels in Chicago

By Eric Kasang
City Beat Editor

While environmentalists, climatologists and various governmental administrations argue about the actual effects of global warming, the Chicago Public School system is attempting to go "greener."

Packed into a tiny classroom on Nov. 14, Chicago Public Schools CEO Arne Duncan announced a pilot program for using a cleaner-burning fuel in buses. Duncan spoke about the new plan to use an ethanol-diesel fuel blend for its bus fleet at Louisa May Alcott School, 2625 N. Orchard St.

"It will make an immediate positive impact on the environment with no additional cost to our busing program."

The new project focuses on a team-up with Falcon Transportation, Inc., a contracted bus company for the Chicago Public Schools, and O2Diesel, an ethanol fuel company.

Falcon, which transports about 1,600 of the 30,000 Chicago public school students around Chicago daily, is testing 25 of its fleet of 69 buses with the ethanol-diesel fuel blend. The O2 fuel consists of 7 percent ethanol and the rest diesel

fuel, according to Alan Rae, president of O2Diesel.

Ethanol is an alternative fuel "produced by fermenting and distilling starch crops [like corn] that have been converted into simple sugars," according to the U.S. Department of Energy website. Microbes in a controlled environment feed on the sugar; the byproduct of this consumption produces ethanol and carbon dioxide. The ethanol is then purified and blended into gasoline for a cleaner-burning fuel.

Rea said that the ethanol-based fuel reduces particulate matter in vehicle emissions by about 40 percent. Particulates are tiny particles in vehicle exhaust that can cause asthma problems in people.

Children are more prone to respiratory illnesses due to pollution because they spend 50 percent more time outside than adults, according to a 2000 study by the American Lung Association. The ALA wrote that almost 27.1 million children 13 years old or younger are exposed to unhealthy ozone levels.

The study also noted that minority children are especially vulnerable; 62.9 percent of Hispanic children and 61.3 percent of black children reside in unhealthy ozone areas in the United States. Still, more than 50.8 percent of white children live in places with poor air quality.

However, the amount of reduced pollution depends on the type of equipment used on the buses. Brian Urbaszewski, director of environmental health programs for the American Lung Association, explained

that the equipment on the test buses will reduce sulfur particulates but better devices exist.

"It's not the best technology in cleaning up the soot," Urbaszewski said. "But it cleans up 25 to 30 percent of the pollution."

He said that better particulate-cleaning devices can reduce soot by up to 90 percent. While current school buses don't have this equipment, the 2007 diesel-using models will automatically have these devices.

Urbaszewski also said that recent federal laws mandated oil refineries to start producing an ultra-low diesel fuel; this may also contribute to reduced emissions whether its combined with ethanol or other bio-fuels.

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