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Columbia Chronicle (01/29/2007)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

January 29, 2007 Volume 41, Number 17

Best learning tool might be you

Chicago public high schools use DNA to help worldwide genealogy project

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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Brian McKay, a European history teacher at the Charles Allen Prosser Career Academy, swabs the inside of his cheek under the guidance of Dr. Spencer Wells to collect a DNA sample for the use in the Genographic project. The DNA sample kits are then sent for analysis to determine heritage.

Sin-agogue city

Traveling church casino attracts teens

By George P. Sleo
Assistant Campus News Editor

Kevin Quillin said he watches the pros play Texas hold'em on TV all the time; he said it improves his game when he plays with friends. But when Quillin goes into his local synagogue, he raises the stakes—and walks away with more than a \$1,000.

And he's only 19 years old.

While the legal gambling age in Illinois is 21, Quillin and his friends have found their own casinos—fundraisers commonly known as Las Vegas Nights. Labeled as charity events, Las Vegas Nights are held at churches and synagogues and feature games like no-limit Texas hold'em, blackjack and roulette. Because it's for charity, anyone older than 18 years old can play. Three weeks ago, Quillin was one of many teens who packed inside the Congregation Shaare Enet synagogue in Des Plaines,

located in the northwest suburbs.

Inside the synagogue, Quillin was greeted with more than 30 poker tables, each hosting no-limit Texas hold'em tournaments. Because all of the tables were filled, Quillin had to sign up for a tournament. After 40 minutes of waiting, his name was called.

"Kevin Q, you're at table 23. Kevin Q, table 23," a voice said through the speakers inside.

Standing at 5'6", Quillin said he uses his childish looks as an advantage when playing with older players.

"I play a lot of hands and just know how to read these fools," he said.

Quillin was seated with 10 other players, some of whom were three times his age. The tournament carried a \$115 ante from all players. Similar to poker, no-limit hold'em allows players to make a series of bets through four rounds; opponents can either call or fold once bets are made.

"Me and my friends play every day in my basement, and after a while you just know what to do in certain situations," Quillin said.

After getting pocket aces three times throughout the tournament, Quillin was chip leader, and within an hour and a half he walked away as the winner. The charity

See Synagogue, Page 37

Lessons in fellatio

Female-only workshop teaches women oral sex techniques

By Brent Steven White
Associate Editor

As the old adage goes: Great lovers aren't born—they're made.

But, as a local sex shop is showing women, experience isn't the only way to learn how to become a tiger in the bedroom.

Early to Bed, 5232 N. Sheridan Road, is hosting a women-only workshop where attendants are educated about the various effective ways to please a man—specifically with oral sex. The event, dubbed "Men Below the Belt," which is one of several workshops the sex store hosts, takes place Feb. 6. It costs \$10 for students and \$15 for everyone else.

Searah Deysach, owner of Early to Bed, said she believes this workshop benefits women because, in addition to talking about different oral sex techniques, it also focuses on both the importance of masturbation and understanding a man's body.

"Unlike other workshops that are like, 'Hey, here's how to give the best blow-job in the world,'

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Rachel Strecher/The Chronicle

Searah Deysach, owner of the sex toy store Early to Bed, poses at her place of business on Jan. 24.

See Grants, Page 5

Pell Grant recipients eligible for new grants

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

Thanks to the government's creation of two new grants, students receiving the federally-funded, need-based Pell Grant could be eligible to receive additional aid this year if they excel in school or study a certain major.

Last February the Academic Competitiveness Grant and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent, or SMART, Grant were created in conjunction with the Pell Grant. About 600,000 students nationwide will receive \$750 to \$4,000 from the \$850 million dedicated to new grants this year. Last year nearly 800 Columbia students received one of the grants, of the 2,200 who receive the Pell Grant.

These grants came after the Pell Grant's funding continued to shrink during the 2005-06 school year to \$12.7 billion, down from \$13.1 billion the year before.

The Pell Grant is based on a student's financial need; however, the latest grants take a new approach by rewarding students in certain fields of study or those who have excelled academically.

"They're a mix of need and merit, which the federal government hasn't really jumped into before," said Jennifer Waters, service operations director for Student Financial Services.

The Academic Competitiveness Grant was created for first and second year students who completed "rigorous" high school careers. This could include the State Scholars Initiatives program, or a high school career which included four years of English, three years of lab science and math, two years of a foreign language and three and a half years of social studies.

However, Waters said the aid may not necessarily be reaching those who need it most.

"What you most often see is that students who are from a rather needy background don't exactly get to attend the best high schools, so that's where it works against itself," she said.

Waters estimated up to 800 students at Columbia are eligible for the Academic Competitiveness Grant every year. First year students receive up to \$750 each year, and second year students receive \$1,300. This past year,

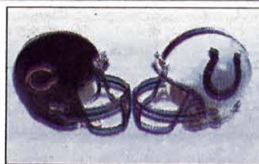
In this issue



The official student newspaper at Columbia College Chicago and Chicago's South Loop



Itchin' for stitchin'
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Bears or Colts?
Guest writers duke it out point for point

Page 11



Flying cars? Not just yet.

By Hayley Graham, Editor-in-Chief

I'll admit it: I'm addicted to the Internet. But who isn't these days? Between frequent e-mail checks and the regular Facebook stalking, I use the web multiple times a day to stay current with what's going on in the world and in my social life.

The online medium is thriving on the exploding popularity of blogging and social websites like MySpace, and people often wonder where the future of print journalism is headed.

Some people even predict that newspapers will be obsolete within the next 20 years and the Internet will become the primary source of news. But didn't people predict by the 21st century that there would be robots and flying cars? Maybe in 20 years people will be sitting in flying taxis still reading newspapers. No one really knows.

And since I don't have a crystal ball or some mad psychic skills like Miss Cleo, I'm not sure if the stories I'll be reporting in a few decades will be published virtually or in some old-school newspaper.

In the meantime, The Chronicle will continue to keep our readers informed the good old-fashioned way: through our weekly newspaper

distribution, as well as our online edition. However, as this semester gets rolling, there are going to be a few additions to our website. We're hoping that the new features will make the website more interactive and entice our readers to offer more feedback.

are on our minds and our current interests.

This is not just an opportunity for you to learn more about us, but it will be a space for you, the reader, to give the staff feedback and comments. The more we know about you, the better we can tailor the paper to hit the topics you want to read about each week.

We're always open for reader responses and input for improvement.

The Chronicle website will also include links and videos that will complement the stories we're printing. Soon, after picking up each weeks paper, our readers will be able to visit the site for additional information revolving around some of the issues we cover.

So until the death of newspapers and a total virtual overhaul of the journalism industry, The Chronicle will continue to ink-stain the fingertips of Columbia's community every Monday morning.

But if you would rather check us out between watching the latest YouTube videos and trying to log into the eternally problematic OASIS, check out our online edition at columbiachronicle.com.

hgraham@chroniclemail.com



Are you curious to learn more about the students behind the bylines in The Chronicle? If so, you're in luck. You've seen our names in the paper each week and may even recognize us around campus, and now we are going to let you know a little more about ourselves. Within the next couple of weeks we will be adding staff blogs, which will include information about issues that

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City Beat

Calendar

Jan. 29 - Feb. 3

Body and Sound Panel Discussion

Columbia will host a panel discussion presented by the Dance Center and the Experimental Station to consider the connection between sound and movement. The panel will take place on Jan. 29 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Experimental Station, 6100 S. Blackstone Ave.

For more information, contact Alycia Scott at ascot@colum.edu.

Robben Island Singers

Three ex-political prisoners who were incarcerated with Nelson Mandela will visit Columbia for The Robben Island Singers Film and Concert Project followed by a Q&A session. The multimedia presentation will take place on Jan. 30 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Film Row Cinema located in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, contact Kimberly Weatherly at (312) 344-7664.

Exploring Writers' Portfolios

Students will have a chance to meet Lauren Viera, editor of Time Out Chicago, and Louie Calvano, copywriter from Upshot, for a discussion about writing career options and how to put together a portfolio. The discussion will take place Feb. 1 at 11 a.m. in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 307.

For more information, contact Kristin Scott at (312) 344-7647.

SHOW OFF: Digitas

Digitas, a marketing firm that employs a host of web designers, flash designers, interaction designers and code experts, will provide feedback for students pursuing a design career in the interactive arts. Students must bring portfolios to the event, which takes place on Feb. 2 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Portfolio Center in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., suite 307.

For more information, contact the Portfolio Center at (312) 344-7280.

Corrections

In the story "Evaluations move online, students may benefit," the president of College Council was incorrectly named. Peter Hartel is the current president.

In the Jan. 22 issue, a photo on page 33 was incorrectly credited to Adam Brooks. The photo should be credited to Greg Stimac.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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

In Your Opinion

How much credit card debt do you have?



"I'll be done paying them when I'm 62. I probably have more than \$10,000 in debt."

—Peter Skvara, junior, poetry major



"I have two credit cards but no debt so far. I just pay them off."

—Maria Gololobova, junior, art and design major



"None. I don't really use credit unless it's an emergency."

—Brittany McClendon, freshman, arts and entertainment management major



"\$3,000 between two credit cards."

—Laura Galindo, senior, art design major

When breaking news happens
We're your source for information

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE
WWW.COLUMBIACHRONICLE.COM

They sing for more than Dr. King

Columbia begins Black History Month with gospel music celebration

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

The setting sun shined through the windows of the third-floor choir room onto 35 students dancing side-by-side and singing together. The bright blue and orange walls matched the joy in their gospel song as they clapped in unison, shouting and laughing

between verses.

These students at Choir Academy Charter School of Chicago were practicing for their performance at a Columbia gospel music event Jan. 29. The celebration, held at the Conaway Center inside the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., will kick off Black History Month and commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Although Dr. King's birthday was Jan. 15, the event was scheduled for the second Monday of Columbia's spring semester so

more students could attend. It will be hosted by gospel music authority Pam Morris from WVON 1690 AM, with guest performance by Shekinah Glory Ministry, a nationally-acclaimed gospel choir.

Other choirs will be performing from Roosevelt, DePaul and Lewis universities.

Tristian Hatter, an eighth grader at the academy, sings tenor in the choir and said he is excited to perform and share a musical experience with those who attend.

"I believe we impress people because of our age," he said. "They don't expect us to be so loud."

The academy's choir is made up of students from ages 10 to 14 years old and will sing four songs with a new Columbia gospel choir formed this semester. Both choirs are taught and led by the same conductor, Brad Raymond.

"[This event is] a great way to kick off the [Columbia] Gospel Choir," Raymond said. "We're very excited about it. I think it will be a lot of fun for the children and the adults."

Last year, a march was organized to remember Dr. King's historic march on Washington. Columbia students walked from the Wabash Campus Building, 623

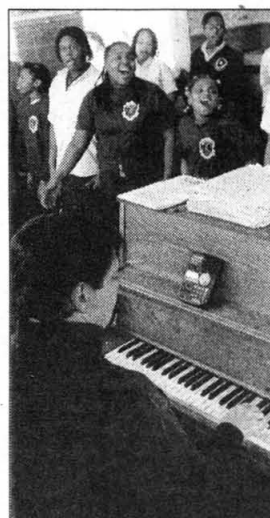
S. Wabash Ave., to Columbia's Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave. Following the march was a speech by Congressman Bobby L. Rush (D-Ill.).

"[The event] changes every year," said Kimberly Weatherly, director of African-American Cultural Affairs. "There's so much to celebrate, so many segments of black history, that every year we can do something different."

Columbia is hosting events for its month-long African Heritage Celebration, including civil rights era rappers "The Last Poets" and a brunch and rap session with the Tate brothers, known for their roles in movies such as *Menace to Society*, *Crash* and *Barbershop*.

The Black Student Union will meet before the gospel festival at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, and will walk to the event together. Celeste Ball, president of Black Student Union, said the event is about more than remembering a great man.

"It's not celebration for black people. It's not a celebration of black people. It's a celebration of how we began to move forward through the civil rights movement," she said. "By acknowledging his birth we're acknowledging his life and accomplishments."



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle
The Choir Academy Charter School of Chicago gospel choir belts out a song Jan. 25 while accompanied by Donald Neale.

For Briawna McCall, an eighth grade soprano in the academy choir, it's all about belting out notes.

"In other music, there are rules," she said. "All the emotion that you're feeling inside can come out when singing gospel music."

syaccino@chroniclemail.com



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

The Choir Academy Charter School of Chicago gospel choir practices Jan. 25. It will be performing with the Columbia College Gospel Choir Jan. 29 to kick off Black History Month.

College to launch new ID card

Campus Card to act as debit card used at bookstore, print labs

By Amanda Maurer
Campus Editor

This fall, Columbia's students, faculty and staff will start the year with a fresh student ID, which is currently receiving a facelift and technological upgrades.

In an effort to make several actions more cohesive on campus, the new Campus Card will act like a debit card that students can use at print labs, the Plum Cafe and the bookstore. The card will be introduced this summer throughout orientation and initially given out to first year students. Throughout the semester all students, faculty and staff will receive the new card.

"Our goal is to make life a little easier for students with all the different cards they have," said Jeff Edwards, manager of the Campus Card office in Student Financial Services. Edwards came to Columbia this past year after having worked in Loyola University Chicago's Campus Card office.

He described the card's use as that of a debit card, which students could put money on and then spend at certain locations around campus. However, he said it would continue to sport current features like the barcode used by the library.

"I think it's just one more part of the steady maturation of services for students," said Mark

Student headed to L.A. says film saved his life

By Beth Palmer
Assistant Campus News Editor

The producer of *Analyze This* and *Analyze That*, the screenwriter of *Real Women Have Curves* and the cinematographer of *Schindler's List* and *Saving Private Ryan* are just three Columbia alumni who made it in the daunting Hollywood industry.

Jeff Crooks, a senior film major, could be the next to join that list of notable Columbia alumni, according to two teachers and a Los Angeles screenwriter, who said he has natural filmmaking talent and drive.

"His writing is very clever and very original," said Crooks' Screenwriting II professor, Jennifer Lauren. "I will not be shocked at all to see his name up

on the screen in the next eight years."

Crooks is going to Los Angeles in May to work pre-production on a new film, *The Second Coming*, starring Bill Paxton from "Big Love" and written by Donal Logue from "Grounded for Life" and Jeff Kitchen, a Chicago/Los Angeles author and teacher whom Entertainment Weekly called a "screenwriting guru."

"I have a legitimate chance to make something of myself," Crooks said.

For Crooks, making it in Hollywood is not a question; film gave him purpose when he felt he had lost everything.

Back in 2003 his dad's job moved the Crooks family from Cleveland to Geneva, Ill.

In Cleveland, Crooks left

behind a lifetime of friends, a long-time girlfriend and any prospect of a serious soccer goalie career, which ended right before he moved when he tore his ACL, a knee ligament.

Depressed in his new town, Crooks slipped as low as a person can possibly get, he said.

"I had a great family with great support—and I still sunk that low," Crooks said.

On his way back up from low times, Crooks won an award at Geneva High School for a one-man show script, written primarily about his life, which he wrote and performed as a type of therapy while in Students Against Destructive Decisions.

"My parents—they got me through that time, and getting the award made me think, 'I have to

go to film school just so I can pay my father back,'" Crooks said. "Film saved my life."

Crooks subsequently joined the television program where Cheryl Klein, the television studio director at Geneva High School, first recognized his talent in screenwriting, directing and editing.

"One of the first projects was an independent silent video," Klein said. "I was three years into the job and I saw how he edited. It was one of the best projects I have ever seen from a student. He had a vision; he was constantly fine-tuning."

When she made Crooks the director of the final class film, the responsibility further ignited his untapped creative ability, Klein said.

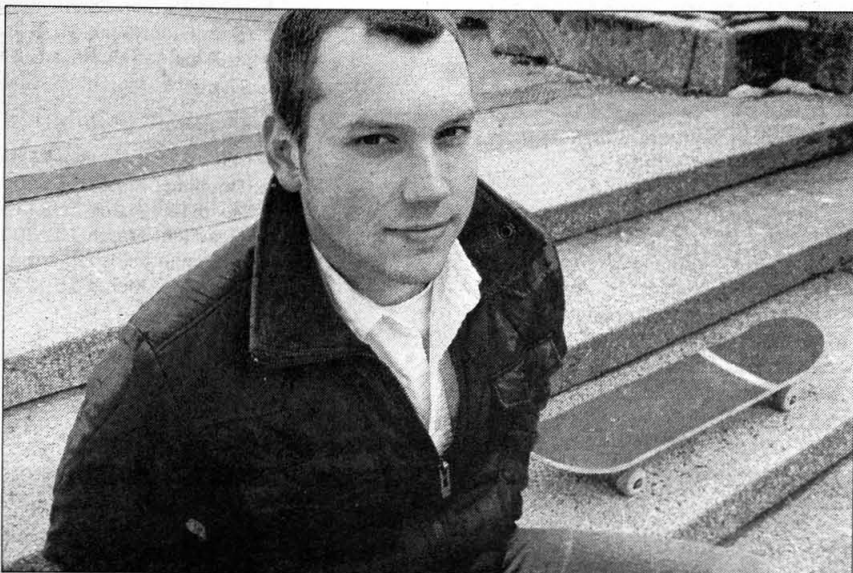
"It was like someone turned a light bulb on," Klein said. "He demanded a lot from people and people did what he asked. He just has an innate instinctive ability with film."

Crooks worked the red carpet at the 2004 and 2006 Chicago International Film Festival. There he spoke to Will Ferrell, Liam Neeson and Dustin Hoffman and shook hands with *Crash* director Paul Haggis.

"I asked Paul Haggis who he called first when he found out he was nominated for the Academy Awards. He said his dad," Crooks said. "That's exactly who I'll call; I want my parents at my first premiere."

In eighth grade, Crooks used money received from the legal proceedings of a car accident to buy his first camcorder, a standard Sony Hi8, typically used for home videos, which he used to make amateur skateboarding videos.

Now, using Canon XL2s, a



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Jeff Crooks, a film major, poses with his skateboard in Grant Park on Jan. 24. He first fell in love with film while making amateur skate videos in seventh grade.

See Card, Page 7

See Crooks, Page 7

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

visit COLUM.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS

Open to all majors

- Albert Weisman Scholarship (Deadline: December 15, 2006)
- Alumni Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Bob Enrietto Scholarship/Semester in L.A. (Deadline: March 2007)
- David Rubin Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Helen Fong Dare Scholarship (Deadline: March 16, 2007)
- Hermann Conaway Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Hillary Kalish Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- John Murbach Scholarship/Designer-in-Residence (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Ron Pitts Scholarship (Deadline: April 3, 2007)

Department scholarships

ART & DESIGN

- Pougialis Fine Arts Award (Deadline: April 2007)

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA MANAGEMENT

- The Make A Dent Scholarship (Deadline: April 27, 2007)
- The Chuck Suber Scholarship (Deadline: April 2007)

ASL - ENGLISH INTERPRETATION

- Michael Fryzlewicz Scholarship (Deadline: June 1, 2007)

DANCE

- Forest Foundation Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Joan and Irving Harris Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)

FICTION WRITING

- John Schultz and Betty Shiflett Story Workshop Scholarship (Deadline: Spring 2007)
- Sylvia McNair Travel Story Scholarship (Deadline: Spring 2007)

JOURNALISM

- John Fischetti Scholarship (Deadline: March 9, 2007)
- Irv Kupcinet Media Arts Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)

MARKETING COMMUNICATION

- The Patricia McCarty Scholarship Fund (Deadline: April 1, 2007)

MUSIC

- Music Department Scholarship (Deadline: February 10, 2007)

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Kodak Scholarship (Deadline: April 2007)

RADIO

- Irv Kupcinet Media Arts Scholarship (March 15, 2007)

TELEVISION

- Al Lira Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Thaine Lyman Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Irv Kupcinet Media Arts Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)

THEATER

- Betty Garrett Musical Theater Scholarship Fund (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- David Talbot Cox Scholarship Fund (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Freshman Achievement Award (Deadline: March 15, 2007)

create...
change

Columbia 

COLLEGE CHICAGO

Pell Grants

2004-05 \$13.1 Billion

2005-06 \$12.7 Billion

2006-07 \$790 Million

Additional Grants for **06-07**

Academic Competitiveness Grant
National SMART Grant

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Grants: Federal aid given to good students in certain majors

Continued from Front Page

\$200,000 was awarded to those students.

The National SMART Grant awards up to \$4,000 each year to third and fourth year students who major in math; technology; engineering; physical, life or computer sciences; or a language considered important for national security. These include Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Russian.

"The whole purpose of these programs is to encourage academic excellence and encourage students to get into these high-need fields," said Beth Guerard, a corporate communications representative for Sallie Mae, a nation-

al student loan provider. "There has been a gap in the need versus how many students are actually going into these fields."

While the grant could be available to a large number of students at other colleges and universities, only one major at the college meets the requirements. This past year, the National SMART Grant was awarded to four of the more than 70 students majoring in digital media and technology at Columbia.

"[The U.S. Department of Education is] trying to solve many problems," Waters said. "They're trying to give money to needy people, to put more students in math and science and raise the standards of high schools."

Guerard said the fall 2007 school year will be the grants' first official year, since students were originally informed of their eligibility halfway through the awarding process last year.

While the grant money will pro-

vide additional funds to Pell Grant recipients, some believe it's not fair to create specific qualifications for additional federal aid.

"Anytime you can see any sort of money go toward need, we're happy for that, but I think that one of the drawbacks of these programs is so many restrictions ... it really narrows the pool down," Waters said.

While it's too late for Christina Ingram, a sophomore art and

design major, to have a chance at receiving the Academic Competitiveness Grant, she said the additional available funds are great because students can receive more aid. However, Ingraham, a Pell Grant recipient, wasn't as happy to hear about the stipulations for the third and fourth year funding through the major-specific National SMART Grant.

"It's not fair to only help those people," she said. "Other people

want and need that money too."

However, both Waters and Guerard said students miss out on the free money simply because they never fill out the FAFSA.

"The stakes are definitely higher this year," Guerard said. "There's \$950 million in new grants up for grabs, and the only way to qualify for any of it ... is to fill out the FAFSA."

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Exploring exhibits



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Michelle Molitor, a senior cultural studies major, and her teacher Carmelo Esterrich examine the Pandemic in Print exhibit located in the A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave., on Jan. 25.

What's Happening In the Concert Hall



Wednesday January 24

All Music Student
Convocation
12:00 PM

Classical Guitarist
William Kanengiser
In Concert
7:00 PM
General Admission \$15
Students \$10

Thursday January 25

All Music Student
Convocation
12:00 PM

*It is required to attend one of
the convocations.

All Music Events are Free, Unless Otherwise Noted.
Concerts Are Held at 1014 S. Michigan

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ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

House takes 'first step' toward college affordability

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

For the third year in a row, Columbia student Caroline Voss has taken out a federal Stafford loan to help pay for her college tuition. Unlike some of her friends, whose parents assist with the rising cost of an education, she is on her own. Without the money she receives in loans, she could never afford a college education.

Thanks to legislation passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 17, Voss, a junior arts entertainment and media management major, is one of approximately 6,200 Columbia students who could save about \$4,400 each on their Stafford loan interest rates over the next five years.

"It's a great bill. I applaud it," said Timothy Bauhs, executive director of Columbia's Student Financial Services. "There's no question that our students will benefit greatly by it."

The College Relief Act of 2007 was introduced by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee. It passed the House by an overwhelming 365 to 71 vote.

If passed in the Senate, where it is sponsored by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), and signed by the president, the bill would cut federal need-based loan interest rates in half over the next five years, from its current 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent by 2011.

Once fully phased in, the legislation would affect more than 5 million students nationwide and save the typical borrower with an average \$13,800 in need-based federal loan debt about \$4,400.

Voss said the bill would be a relief if it passed, because she doesn't expect her parents to help her pay for college. However, the thought of her amounting federal loans haunts her as she watches her older friends deal with college debt.

"Some of [my friends'] first payments were \$1000," said Voss. "I can't imagine getting out of school and having to pay so much so fast without being in a stable job."

The average tuition for full-time students at private four-year colleges increased to \$22,218 this year, about 6 percent more than it was in 2005, according to a College Board 2006 Trends in

Higher Education report. While Columbia's tuition, at \$16,328, is below the national average, Columbia students receive less financial aid and therefore pay about as much as a typical private four-year college student. The average college graduate leaves school with \$17,500 in total student loan debt, according to the House Education and Labor Committee.

"There is, without question, a national crisis of student affordability and the amount of loan debt that students leave college with is just frightening," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Columbia's Student Affairs.

The bill comes less than a year after the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, which raised interest rates from 5.3 percent to its current 6.8 percent.

"We now urge the Senate and the president to act quickly on this proposal, which is supported by close to 80 percent of the American public," said the Committee's Deputy Communications Director Rachel Racusen in an e-mail.

The president's administration has already issued a statement opposing the bill because it would assist college gradu-

ates more than students or families with current academic expenses. Instead, the administration suggested directing funds for the program toward federal grant support for low-income students.

But in President Bush's budget plan for 2007, he requested \$54.4 billion for the Department of Education, decreasing the amount \$1.6 billion since last year and a total of \$2.9 billion since 2005. Under the current budget plan, the maximum Pell Grant, the largest federal grant for need-based students, will remain the same for the fifth year in a row.

Racusen said lowering interest rates is a "first step" toward making college more affordable. She said Democrats plan to raise the maximum Pell Grant scholarship and work to examine increasing tuition costs.

"It's a step in the right direction," Kelly said. "But it hardly grapples with what I think is a looming crisis of [college] affordability."

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

INTERsections SPRING 2007

A meeting place to explore the complexity of contemporary culture & the arts

PRESENTED BY
THE CULTURAL STUDIES PROGRAM AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
AND THE CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 7, 2007, 6:00-7:30 PM

DEATH AND DYING

Dying and death are universal human experiences. Although dying and death have been perennial topics for philosophical and religious speculation, many commentators, both scholarly and popular, have labeled the predominant attitude toward death in modern society as "death avoiding" and "death denying." Few have had the opportunity to reflect on dying and death in a disciplined and humane way. Yet, given the central place of death and dying in human life, an inquiry into the nature of the end of life experience is most deserving of disciplined exploration as well as being one of life's necessities. We will focus on an understanding of the processes of death and dying, facing and coming to terms with the end of life as we know it, and constructing a philosophy that allows individuals and families to experience and understand these powerful events in our lives in meaningful ways.

PRESENTERS: Kairol Rosenthal, Performer, writer and cancer survivor; Paula Epstein, Midwest Palliative and Hospice Carecenter Certified Nursing Assistant and Volunteer and Columbia College Chicago Reference Librarian; Neal Grossman, University of Illinois Professor and author; Louis Silverstein, Columbia College Professor and author

MARCH 7, 2007, 6:00-7:30 PM

AN AFRICAN HEROINE: NEITHER DISNEY PRINCESS NOR LION KING

Young audiences are familiar with Snow White, Cinderella, Belle, and more recently, Pocahontas and Mulan. However, there has been little or no attempt made by the mainstream film industry to represent people of African descent as dignified, complex, and competent individuals. "Disney-type" depictions usually exoticize the continent by using animal characters (Lion King, Madagascar, Tarzan, Mighty Joe Young). Therefore, young people are left to think of Africa in the usual lopsided stereotypical way: Characters are four legged; heroes are Europeans; and women are silent! *Lioness of Lisabi*, a screenplay written by ethnomusicologist, Stephanie Shonekan, attempts to establish a new trend. Set in the small busy Western Nigerian town of Abeokuta during the 1940s, *Lioness of Lisabi* is a fictional story based on the life of women's rights activist Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti, who led a market women's revolution by bravely confronting deep-rooted traditions, colonialism, imperialism, and religion in a society that was embattled by these controlling but often conflicting forces. Appropriately, she became known as "the Lioness of Lisabi," an indication of the power she wielded and the respect she earned. *Lioness of Lisabi* captures Kuti's coming of age and her dramatic arrival at the threshold of leadership. It is therefore not surprising that she influenced her son Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, the legendary exponent of Afro-beat.

PRESENTER: Stephanie Shonekan, Ph.D., Professor of Humanities and Cultural Studies; Director, Black World Studies, Columbia College Chicago. During this presentation, Shonekan will discuss the inspiration for this project. She will explain the creative process by presenting a demo portion of the movie, as well as the original musical pieces that have been created for *Lioness of Lisabi*.

APRIL 4, 2007, 6:00-7:30 PM

ART AND ACTIVISM AND AIDS

In the fall of 2006, Columbia College Chicago unveiled an initiative to make tangible its commitment to civic engagement. Critical Encounters seeks to stand as a tangible model for effective civic engagement at the college level; it is both an implication and explication that the community is a part of the mission of Columbia College. For its inaugural year, the Critical Encounters focus has been HIV/AIDS. Following a brief overview of the events and classroom activities from the year to date, each roundtable participant will speak briefly on their own personal understanding of the relationship between art and activism as it has been affected by their participation in Critical Encounters. Overall, the hope is to use specific examples from our year's work to further explore the relationship between art and activism, in the context of a particular social crisis, HIV/AIDS.

PANELISTS: Facilitator: Amy Hawkins, Ph.D., English Department, Critical Encounters Faculty Fellow, Columbia College Chicago. Roundtable members: Shanita Akintunde, M.B.A., Arts and Entertainment Media Management Department, Columbia College Chicago; Corrine Calice, Ph.D., English Department, Columbia College Chicago; Peter Carpenter, M.F.A., Dance Center Faculty, Columbia College Chicago; Kimberly McCarthy, Ph.D., Liberal Education Department, Columbia College Chicago; Cynthia Tucker, Director of Grantmaking, AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND OCCUR AT THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER, 78 EAST WASHINGTON (AT MICHIGAN), 1ST FLOOR WEST MEETING ROOM

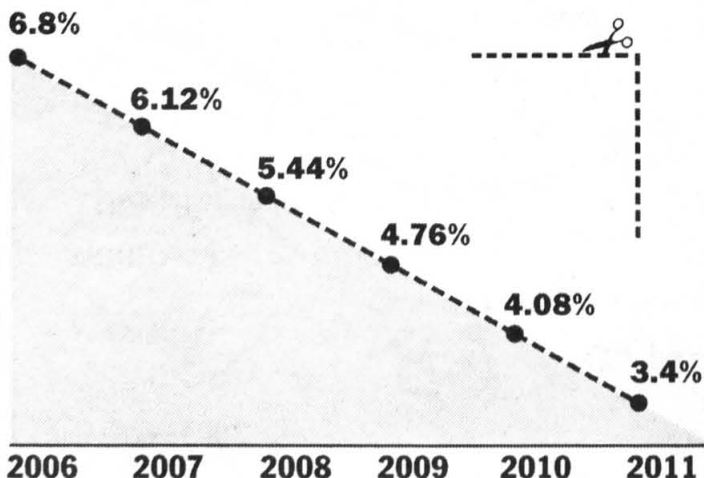
For additional information about intersections please call 312 744 6630 or visit: www.intersections.colum.edu

For more information about the Cultural Studies Undergraduate Program at Columbia College Chicago visit: <http://culturalstudies.colum.edu>

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

City of Chicago, Richard M. Daley, Mayor
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The College Student Relief Act would cut interest rates in half



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Card: Other ID uses to come soon

Continued from Page 3

Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. "It will make navigating Columbia and the neighborhood much easier for students as all of

the features are put in place."

Cardholders would be able to access their accounts by visiting a website where they could add value to the card. Students would have the option to give their parents access to their accounts. While there isn't a required minimum balance, Edwards said a maximum amount of \$1,000 could be added to the card each day due

to banking regulations.

If a cardholder didn't have sufficient funds for a purchase, the transaction would be denied.

While students, faculty and staff can expect the Campus Card to work in conjunction with the bookstore and Plum Cafe this fall, Edwards said other applications, like in the print labs, would be phased in eventually.

Students with balances on current print cards would be able to either transfer the amount to the new ID card or simply receive time to drain the card's current balance.

"We don't want to cause too many waves and try to replace everything at once," Edwards said.

Ruby Rivas, a sophomore graphic design major, is excited about the new card's versatility, especially since it will make printing in Columbia's labs easier.

"I think it's great, especially since other colleges have it," she said. "I always wondered why we didn't have it here."

Edwards said there has been some discussion about additional uses for the card, poten-

tially including the vending machines. However, the plans are not definite.

Kelly said the college plans to ask local businesses if they would partner with the Campus Card program. An agreement may be reached where a business could be invited to Convocation, if they provided students a discount. Art supply stores and Dunkin' Donuts are future possibilities, he said.

Before break, Columbia signed a contract with Blackboard, a supplier of technological equipment to schools and corporations and the provider of the Campus Card system. Edwards said the new transaction system will be installed throughout this semester.

As the Campus Card becomes integrated around campus, new technology will be purchased that will work with the card. New registers for the Plum Cafe and bookstore are expected; however, Edwards could not reveal the cost of the new equipment.

Loyola implemented its campus card system around 10 years ago, Edwards said. However, its

card is used much more often by students for access to buildings and meal plans, among other regular uses.

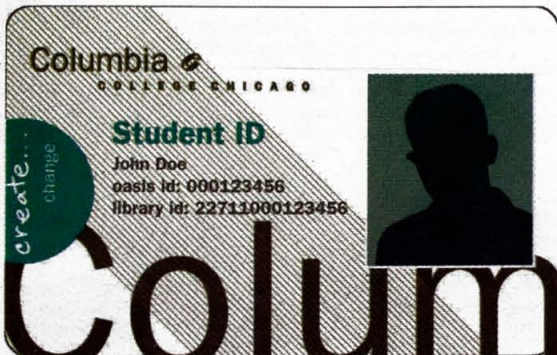
"It's surprising that [Columbia] doesn't have one yet," Edwards said. "It seems kind of rare to find a school that doesn't have a program like this."

However, Edwards said the novelty and specific functions of the card could be downfalls. Some students may find they can live without the card, since Columbia students will be given the option to use the card at the Plum Cafe and bookstore and won't be obligated to use it daily like at Loyola, Edwards said.

"I think there's going to be a period of time when students are going to need to become accustomed to [the card]," Edwards said.

If a card is lost, the owner can go online and freeze his or her account. While there will be a replacement fee, which has not yet been established, it would be less than Loyola's replacement fee of \$25, Edwards said.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy Creative and Printing Services at Columbia

Along with the technological upgrades, Columbia's ID card will be redesigned.

Crooks: Student holds onto film passion

Continued from Page 3

filmmaker's camera with many lens options and technological capabilities, he has created two mixed-genre films at Columbia's production center. He is currently writing two feature-length scripts on his own time and works as a part-time doorman at the Hotel

Indigo, 1244 N. Dearborn St.

"The films I've made at Columbia, I'm proud of," Crooks said. "But my proudest accomplishment is working with one of the best screenwriting teachers in L.A., Jeff Kitchen."

During his sophomore year at Columbia, Crooks took some time off and went to Los Angeles where he worked on one of his scripts with Kitchen during a private two-day intensive screenwriting workshop. Kitchen offers seminars, workshops and consultations to help writers fine tune their scripts

and has written two books on the subject.

Although he helps screenwriters, Kitchen said he never recommends getting into the industry because it's so rough.

"The only way to survive is to have the kind of drive to be able to run your head into a brick wall every day and keep going—and Jeff has that drive," Kitchen said.

Crooks worked with Kitchen at the 2004 and 2006 Annual Screenwriting Expo, which is a weekend of keynote speakers, workshops and vendor booths in

Los Angeles, where aspiring screenwriters come to mingle with the likes of Oliver Stone, William Goldman and David Koepf.

At the expo, Crooks helped sell Kitchen's screenwriting book, *Writing a Great Movie*, and assisted people who approached the booth with their scripts by applying Kitchen's method.

Crooks is moving permanently to Los Angeles this December to devote his life to filmmaking.

bpalmer@chroniclemail.com



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle
After experiencing personal lows, Jeff Crooks made a come back by succeeding as a film student.

U - P A S S

**U-Pass distribution takes place on Columbia's campus:
Conaway Center, 1104 S. Wabash**

Monday, January 29

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 30

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

New students or students who did not have a U-Pass the previous semester must have a new photo taken. Registering late may require you to take a new picture even if you had a U-Pass the previous semester.

You must bring your schedule & student I.D.

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AFRICA.dot.COM
DRUMS TO DIGITAL



GLASS CURTAIN GALLERY, 1104 S WABASH AVENUE

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

AFRICA.dot.COM, DRUMS TO DIGITAL

January 15 - February 28, 2007

Reception: Thursday, February 1, 5 - 8 pm

The Glass Curtain Gallery of Columbia College Chicago is proud to present Africa.Dot.Com, an exhibition that visually and interactively explores the collision of modern culture and technology on cross-cultural communication. Against the background of traditional African "talking" drums, dance and oral traditions, powering of the voice through electronic media has altered these long-established customs. New technology has strengthened and reinforced the assimilation of African expressive culture into vibrant new forms in America.

Unlike classical African art exhibitions, Africa.Dot.Com focuses on representing Africa as part of the modern world, with cultures that have navigated into new media alongside the global community. Since the 1960s, dramatic changes have taken place as a result of African independence, and access to new media, computers, digital technology and mobile phones is growing at a rapid rate. Anthropologists currently encounter all types of digital media in both urban and rural settings, and the charting of innovative, varied practices within a range of media has only just begun.

Africa.Dot.Com is curated by Columbia College alumni Deborah Stokes, who currently teaches African art history at the University of Illinois Chicago and has completed field research in Nigeria and Kenya.

C33 GALLERY, 33 E CONGRESS AVENUE

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

ETHNIC DRESS: Art & Culture

January 15 - February 23, 2007

Reception: January 25, 5-7 pm

Ethnic Dress: Art & Culture showcases twenty-five garments from around the world, selected from the Fashion Columbia Study Collection to explore the interrelationships of technology and aesthetics through the material culture of dress. The exhibition demonstrates how the universal techniques of embroidery, printing, weaving and appliqué are used by diverse societies to clothe the body and express cultural identity.

Ethnic Dress: Art & Culture represents the collaboration of Columbia College Chicago graduate and undergraduate students in the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management and the Liberal Education departments. Coordinated by Robert Blandford's Exhibition Management class.

HOKIN GALLERY, 623 S WABASH AVENUE

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

BOOMBOX with power speakers

January 22 - February 28, 2007

Boombox is an art collective of three Chicago artists: Dustin Harris, Joel Maximé Jr., and Lea Pinsky, all affiliates of Columbia College Chicago. The collective shares an interest in contemporary urban life, current and historical socio-political issues and popular culture. Their name reflects the ambience, playfulness, action and universal voice in their work. Between the three artists, they incorporate graffiti and graphic painting styles, manipulate images from popular culture and current events and offer bold commentary on the state of social and racial politics in the U.S. Together, their work responds to the character of urban life, all the while remaining fun and buoyant, vibrant and alive—like a boombox.

HOKIN ANNEX, 623 S WABASH AVENUE

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

[RE]COLLECT

January 25 - March 1, 2007

[RE]COLLECT is an intimate grouping of 15 works from the [C]Spaces permanent art collection. This exhibit is a selection of paintings and prints that highlights some of our recent acquisitions. Exhibiting these works as a single body brings focus to underrepresented media that often get overlooked in the larger photo-based collection. Special exhibitions like [RE]COLLECT ensure that all types of media from the [C]Spaces permanent collection are uniquely represented. Furthermore, it extends our commitment to developing a collection based on the Columbia College students' diverse bodies of work.

[C]Spaces has been proud to collect student artwork for the Collect for nearly two decades. The collection is made available to campus offices and centers through our new Artwork Lending Program. Each piece is a treasure and building block to expanding Columbia's rich visual history of student work.

For more [C]Space information, including employment opportunities, exhibition opportunities, workshops, and artist lectures, visit: cspaces.colum.edu

Students face post-holiday credit debt

By George P. Sleo
Assistant Campus News Editor

Columbia sophomore Ashley Hilt wanted to buy her friend a laptop as a graduation present, but couldn't afford it. Her solution: just charge it.

"When I turned 18 years old I got all these credit card applications through the mail and I applied to all of them," the journalism major said. "I had eight [credit cards] total and within a year I was over \$7,000 in debt."

The average college student is \$3,000 in credit card debt by the time of graduation, according to Spokesperson Tanisha Warner for Money Management International, a non-profit credit consolidating group.

In addition, a 2006 poll published by Consumer Reports magazine revealed that 26 percent of Americans charged their purchases over the holiday season—totaling more than \$63 billion.

Hilt, like many college students, charged her way through the holiday season and isn't sure how she's going to pay off her debt.

Hilt's charges included a \$300 pair of jeans from Macy's in New York, her cell phone bill and a lot of Starbucks purchases.

Hilt said she thought she could handle her credit card payments with her \$8.50 an hour job, but over time the bills kept piling up and she became overwhelmed in debt. Her solution was to apply for an \$8,000 loan through Chase bank and her dad cosigned so she could get approved. Because Hilt used a student loan to pay off her debt, she can wait to make payments until six months after she graduates.

"I'm going to worry about it later, at least until I get a real job," Hilt said. "I only have one credit card now, and it's maxed out."

According to Consolidated Credit Counseling's website, a non-profit credit counseling service, 44 percent of consumers are still paying off their debt from last year's holiday season.

Elaina Rosa, a graduate student, charged more than \$1,000 to buy presents for her fiancé and his son during the holiday season.

"I charged two Playstation Portables and bought all the games and accessories," Rosa said.

Rosa, unlike Hilt, paid her debt off within a month of her purchases.

"I didn't charge everything," Rosa said. "I made sure I paid cash for some of the gifts."

Warner said students who are in debt should stop using their credit cards, create a budget and keep track of spending.

"In the beginning of the year we see more consumers apply with us because it's after the holiday season," Warner said. "Many of them get themselves into a bind."

However, some college students may apply for credit cards and not understand all of the consequences.

"College students especially are the largest target by credit card companies," she said. "It is important to establish credit, but at the same time understand what you are getting into."

Warner said credit card companies attract college students by offering them a teaser rate such as zero percent interest but after six months interest rates increase by up to 20 percent.

It would take a student over 30 years to pay off a \$5,000 debt with an interest rate more than 20 percent if only the minimum monthly payment is made, Warner said.

"[Students] need to read the fine print, and they need to think before they buy," she said.

gsleo@chroniclemail.com

Credit Numbers

30 for a student to pay off
years \$5,000 with a 20% rate

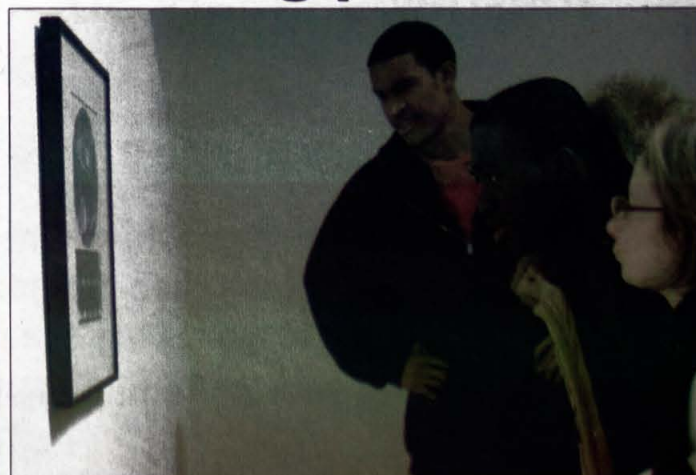
26%
Americans charged their
holiday purchases.

63 billion
Total of holiday purchases

44% consumers still paying
off their debt from last
year's holiday season

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Consuming passions



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Freshmen graphic design majors from Robert Morris College with their digital photography teacher Mary Russell, front, check out photographs from the exhibit Robert Heinecken 1932-2006: Sex and Food on Jan. 26. The exhibit is located in the Museum of Contemporary Photography, in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave.

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iLife	99.00	59.00	39.00
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COLLEGE CHICAGO

 **Authorized Campus Store**

Editorials

Mo' money less problems

If it wasn't for the Super Bowl, certain lawmakers wouldn't find it necessary to lift a smoking ban in the suburbs.

Last week Orland Park, Oak Forest and Tinley Park lifted their smoking bans inside bars and restaurants until mid-March. The reason: Many smokers did not come into non-smoking establishments during Bears' playoffs because business owners were losing revenue.

The law seems to bend when money is involved—a loop hole celebrities and athletes have been exploiting for years.

Coming down from the excitement of the Bears NFC win, a Cook County judge in Skokie ruled that Tank Johnson could attend and play in the Super Bowl this week despite his home confinement. This shows no regard for rules whatsoever.

Johnson was arrested last year for gun possession charges after police raided his home in Gurnee and found many unregistered weapons. Letting him go to the Bowl is another example of the law going easy on celebrities—especially since the Bears need him.

It says something about our justice system when we keep

letting celebrities walk.

Paris Hilton was sentenced to three years of probation and a fine last week after getting busted for a DUI last year. Ordinary folks tend to get convicted or get sentenced to take alcohol education—something Paris Hilton seems to need. She pleaded not guilty and blamed the ordeal on the notion that she didn't eat, and the margarita she had raised her blood alcohol level to 0.08, the legal limit. So she was speeding because the burger joint was going to close? Justice: 0. Paris Hilton: 1.

But law, it seems, is selective. Haley Joel Osment, the little boy from *The Sixth Sense* crashed his '95 Saturn last year and was sentenced for a DUI and other charges. He copped a plea deal and it involved rehab and probation. Now, Osment only acted with Bruce Willis in a movie when he was young and still has to drive a '95 Saturn. No money, for a lawyer? Justice: 1. Osment: 0.

Snoop Dogg was also recently nabbed on drug and gun charges. Snoop gets busted for drugs and guns all the time, but justice turns a blind eye. Now in Snoop's case, it's the principle of the matter. There can be no leniency in

the law. That's what it's there for. The law serves no purpose if there is no enforcement. Having money for lawyers and basically buying your way out of trouble sets a dangerous precedent.

We treat celebrities like golden statues who are above the law. As if life was a fairy tale and law was just something celebrities can't be bothered with. This is not the pirate's code. Lady Justice must have had Lasik eye surgery and can now see the color of money.

What we need are more stern judgments and not slaps on the wrist. Put the people who break the law in jail.

It seems justice does pick on people that truly deserve it, like Steve-O from "Jackass." Of course, when Steve-O got arrested a couple of years ago for drug possession, that was like saying National Lampoon's uncle Eddie was back out of prison. Even the realm of fame doesn't apply to Steve-O—and that's saying something since the man taunts authorities to put him in the slammer.

No one is above the law. Celebrities need to be punished the same way a regular working person does. Lady Justice got socked in the eye. Maybe she should fight back.

Americans need answers

It was a defining moment for America, but politics as usual when Sen. Hillary Clinton unpersuasively announced her intentions to run for president in a taped address posted on her website.

She may be "in to win," but Sen. Clinton offered no concrete ideas on how to solve the multitude of problems piling on Americans. Instead, she stressed seven times her interest in starting a "conversation" with citizens by holding real-time chats via the Internet. Her motivation, she said, was to open a dialogue with Americans. Does she think Americans aren't informed about the issues and dilemmas facing our country? Perhaps. Or maybe it's just her who's in the dark.

Compared to Sen. Barack Obama's recent taped announcement expressing his interest in running for president, Sen. Clinton's video felt like an infomercial. Watch the video closely and you'll see many awkward and obviously deliberate pauses between sentences, an unnecessarily desperate tone in her voice

and the age-old finger pointing game. Yep, politics as usual.

Watch this video and you might feel uncomfortable, uneasy and unsure about what exactly Hillary plans to offer as president. This raises a question: How can we vote for a candidate who begins the race to the White House in this way? It may have felt like a commercial, but Americans aren't buying it—at least not yet.

Besides her hokey demeanor, Sen. Clinton just didn't seem honest in her statement. Her overly emotional candor conveyed nothing moving or informative. Perhaps she should have taken a page from James Carville's famous decree: "Keep it simple and stupid," not ambiguous and disingenuous.

It may be early in the race, but that doesn't mean Sen. Clinton couldn't have laid out a platform to stand on later. If she was serious about her bid for president, she should have directly addressed what she plans to bring to the White House in '08 if elected, rather than presenting more questions

for Americans.

And what's with the "let's talk" business? What can the average citizen of America tell a woman who's been involved in the political game for almost two decades?

The former first lady doesn't get it. Americans don't need to "talk"; we need answers. We need solutions to the massive national and international problems that trickle down and affect our everyday lives. We need solutions to the growing domestic deficit. We need solutions on how to solve the sectarian violence that's destroying Iraq and tarnishing our credibility with other nations. We need guarantees that our government will invest attention and funds into alternative energy.

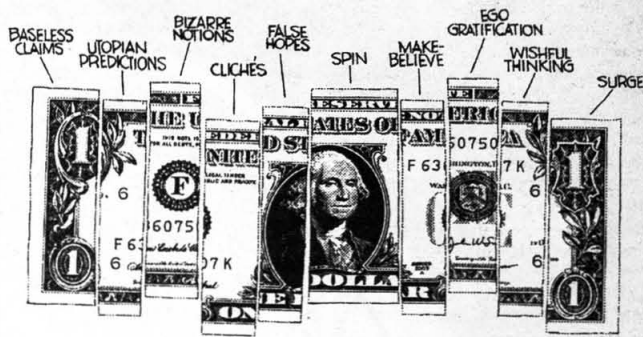
But most of all, in this troubling and dire time in American history, Americans need assurance that candidates who seek the most powerful position in our country have the capacity to bring the country together. And to do that, Americans need leaders who provide answers to their questions.

Back from the Drawing Boards



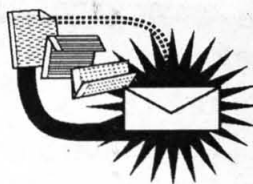
Terrence Nowicki/MCT

IRAQ: YOUR TAX DOLLAR AT WORK



Dan Wright/MCT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



No need to bash Buddy Guy

Your recent feature article and editorial about Buddy Guy and the lease on his club are not only self-serving but dramatically misinformed. First of all, the reason there was so much media attention about his lease ending was because he made a comment to his audience this past weekend about the possible termination in May and that he appreciates everyone coming to the club for so many years. Someone in the crowd apparently relayed that information to the media and turned the story into a much bigger sensation than it ever was. Yet you didn't bother to research this at all. You just took what

you heard, probably from CLTV, as fact and used it to launch a tirade at him and his club. Secondly, in your editorial you describe Mr. Guy as a whining rich guy whom we needn't feel sorry for because of his wealth and fame. He never asked anyone to feel sorry for him. All he said then and all he has said in the past is that he will have to move out one day and that he's grateful to have such loyal fans. I should also tell you that this is a man who performs a month-long residency at his club in January, when he could it at anytime of year. He does this because January is the slowest time of the year for bars and he wants to make sure the staff at his club have some money in their pockets. This is also someone who recently walked down the street to the 1104 building to talk to Columbia students in a composition class about blues music and his life. This is the person you at The Chronicle and in the Columbia administration are attempting to portray as a blow-hard complainer. Shame on you.

—Michael Gaynor, 2001 alumnus

Have an opinion about something you read in this newspaper?

Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue facing all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 11 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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Who will win Super Bowl XLI?

Two Columbia sports enthusiasts go head-to-head, arguing their positions in this friendly sparring between rivals.

By Mario Reed
Guest Writer

The Chicago Bears have had a miraculous run to the Super Bowl, and there are several fans who believe this is the remix of the 1985 Super Bowl-winning team. However, there are four crucial reasons that's not the case: coaching, defense, special teams and offense.

The Indianapolis Colts have been the most dominant team in the NFL since the turn of the millennium, amassing a combined regular season record during that stretch of 76 and 36. The primary reason for that dominance is the team's coach, Tony Dungy. Aside from engineering the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Super Bowl-winning team and being the architect of the current Indianapolis Colts, he also mentored Lovie Smith. The advantage goes to Indianapolis, because the teacher is more experienced than the pupil and more aware of his counterpart than Chicago's skipper.

It's always touted that offense wins games, but defense wins championships. There's not a single fan reading this publication who would believe that Indianapolis actually has the better defense of the two teams. However, since this is the playoffs, Indianapolis has only allowed 16.0 Points

Vinatieri who has more Super Bowl rings, points and clutch moments than all of the other participants combined. Vinatieri is currently the most accurate post-season performer, excluding Tom Brady. He's very familiar with the friendly confines of Dolphins stadium thanks to his tenured career with AFC championship contestant, the New England Patriots—AFC East division rivals of Miami, where he kicked every season for at least one game. These are all reasons why, despite Hester's brilliance and special teams' voodoo, it doesn't outweigh Vinatieri's impact on a game. Special teams advantage goes to Indianapolis.

Now, the only other aspect left uncovered is the one that matters most—the offensive. There isn't a single football fan in the city of Chicago who doesn't know about Rex Grossman's struggles. Never mind the fact that he's the worst quarterback to lead his team to the Super Bowl since the addition of the quarterback passer rating in 1993, amassing a dismal rating of 73.9. Really only two words are of any value or importance to this: Peyton Manning. The two-time MVP, 10-time Pro-Bowler, NFL record-setting quarterback has played every game of his hallowed career for get to this very game.

By Anthony Roberts
Guest Writer

I am in no way attempting to be a neutral voice in this commentary. It's not strictly my love for the blue and orange propelling my belief of a Super Bowl victory—it's common sense to be cheering for the Bears.

My worthy, albeit cynical partner wants you, the enlightened reader, to believe that the Indianapolis Colts will dominate the Monsters of the Midway. These are the same Colts who barely squeaked by their AFC Championship contenders, the New England Patriots.

My partner would like you to believe that his four key reasons favor the Colts. But I'm not going to bore you with a ton of facts that don't mean anything. I will, however, talk about what matters.

When it comes to coaching, football fans know that Colts coach Tony Dungy is a methodical mastermind on the sidelines. While Lovie Smith credits much of his knowledge to mentor and close friend Dungy, it's taken Smith all of two seasons as head coach to reach the Super Bowl. What's more impressive is that he received a team that was previously 35-

Turk won't be a key component in the Bears' inevitable win. And don't forget about Pro Bowler Robbie Gould as kicker.

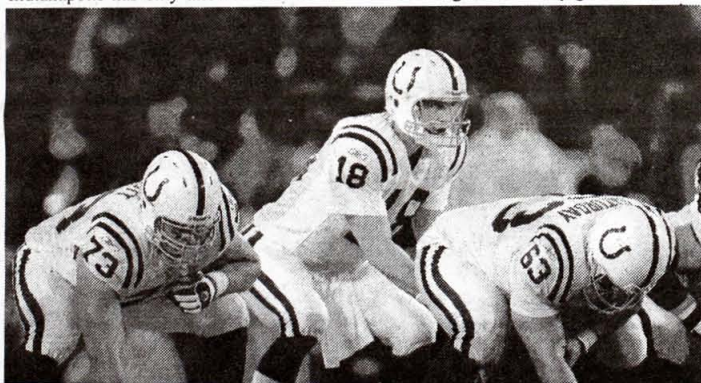
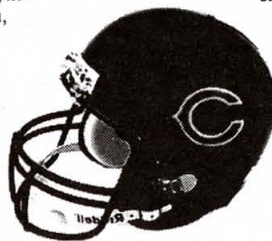
While the aging Vinatieri does have more playoff experience, the "Gould-en Boy" has had ice water in his veins all year—including a game-winner to send the Seahawks packing—and shows no signs of letting up. Oh, and did I mention Pro-Bowler Brendon Ayanbadejo? The Bears are stacked. Advantage, Bears.

Defense needs the least amount of explanation.

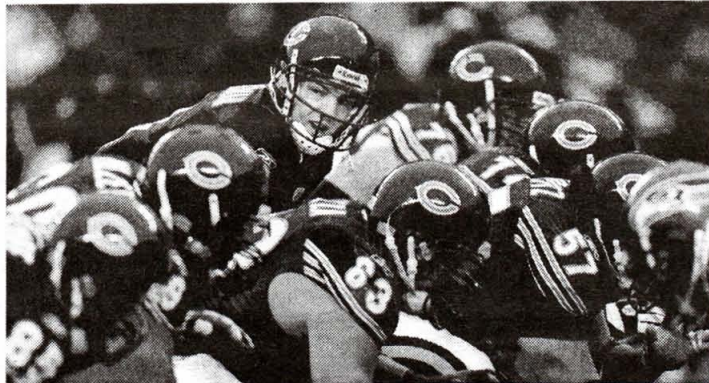
Brian Urlacher (Pro Bowl), Lance Briggs (Pro Bowl), Mark Anderson—in my opinion should've been the Defensive

Rookie of the Year—and Nathan Vasher among others. The Bears led the NFL with 49 take-aways. And as any coach will tell you, turnovers are the real key to victory. Need I say more? 1985 reincarnate. Bears.

But let's talk offense. One can sit and bash Rex Grossman all day, but tell me where that fancy QB rating and thousands of passing yards has gotten every other QB in the league, besides a ticket to watch the game on the couch. The bottom line is that Rex will come through. Despite what the media says, there is no "good Rex" or a "bad Rex." There's just



AP



AP

per game versus the Bears' average of 19.0. Coupled with the fact that the Bears have given up more passing, rushing and all purpose yards per game this post season, it's a simple conclusion that as far as defense goes, Indianapolis has the advantage.

Special teams can mean the difference between winning and losing a single game. There has only been one Super Bowl MVP who wasn't a primary defensive or offensive player—Deshaun Howard. Because of this, the Bears can't rely on Devin Hester to be their winning factor.

The most likely special teams member is a certain kicker by the name of Adam

And when you throw in arguably the best receivers and running backs in the game, it's a sin not to give the advantage as far as offense to the soon-to-be Super Bowl Champion the Indianapolis Colts.

Football games have four quarters, and there are four key components that make it up as well. If you don't win a single quarter during the game, you lose. The same pretty much holds true as far as measuring up to your opponent, and four always trumps zero. Thus, the advantage on Feb. 4 goes to Indianapolis, and usually the league supplies a lovely parting gift of the Lombardi trophy to recognize that advantage.

46 under former coach Dick Jauron's five-year tenure.

It has taken Dungy considerably longer, having been a head football coach in the NFL since 1996, to accomplish the same feat. Teacher over the pupil? You decide. The advantage clearly goes to the Chicago Bears.

On special teams, the Bears possess the second most exciting and explosive young player in the league, behind the Chargers' LT, in rookie Pro-Bowl selection Devin Hester. With an NFL record six touchdowns this season on special teams, it's hard to argue that the young

one Rex. The thunder-and-lightning combo of Tommy Jones and Cedric Benson has showed up for the playoffs and deep threat Bernard Berrian is hungry for the end zone. Bears have the advantage.

Sorry Mario, but this is just how it is going to be. As a matter of fact, I'm giving all my teachers notice that I won't be in class on the day of the victory parade. Instead, I will be high-fiving my fellow Bear faithfuls, freezing my butt off and vastly enjoying the Super Bowl victory. It's about time the Bears brought home the Lombardi trophy.

Roamin' Numerals

70,000 The number of prostitutes in Italy, according to Italian police. Close to 800 people have been arrested because they are said to be a part of a network that smuggles women into the country and forces them to work as prostitutes. According to Times Online, Italian police said 90 percent of prostitutes are foreigners.

11 Number of guard dogs who, while protecting a fruit orchard in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, have been swallowed by a 7.1 meter-long python. According to the New Straits Times, Orchard keeper Ali Yusof told the paper the snake almost spanned the width of a tennis court.

1,200 The number of pounds of cocaine—valued at \$40 million—that were hidden in the floor of a truck full of broccoli, according to The Associated Press. A border drug-sniffing dog found the scent of narcotics. Customs officers found a compartment carrying 500 brick packages of cocaine.

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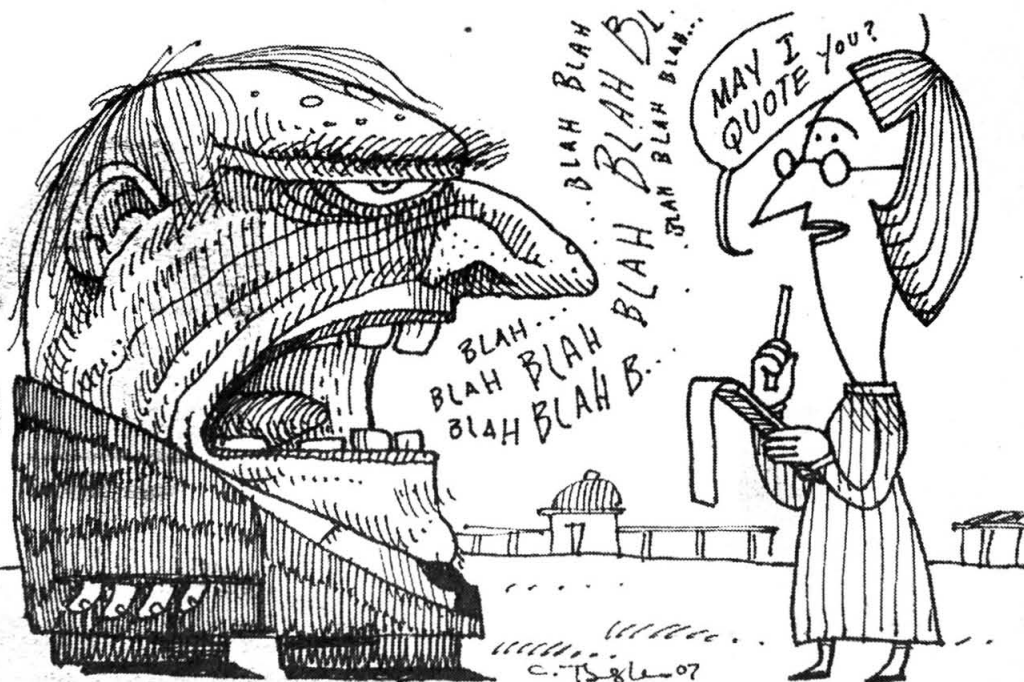
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The Department of Liberal Education & the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences in collaboration with the Columbia Chronicle, The Journalism Department and the Art & Design Department announce

The 2007 Paula Pfeffer & Cheryl Johnson-Odim Political Cartoon Contest



**Deadline for submissions:
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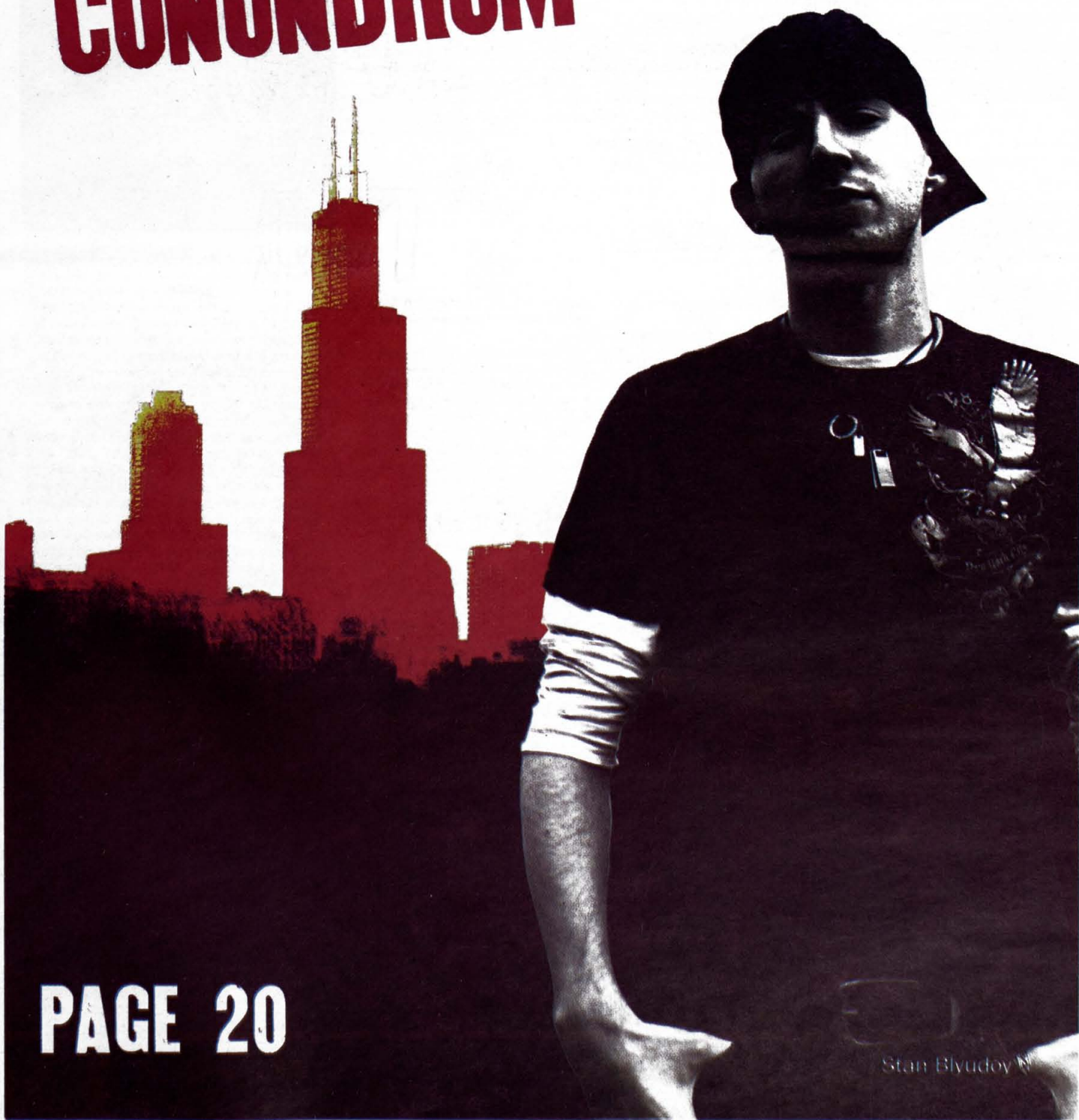
Send Submissions to:
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c/o Teresa Prados-Torreira
Liberal Education Department
624 S. Michigan Ave., 900A

Two \$350 first prizes
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The six winning cartoons will be selected by a jury, which will include faculty from various departments, a student and a professional cartoonist. Submitted cartoons must be drawn or printed in black ink on 8.5 x 11" white paper. Include name, address, phone and student ID number on back of entry.

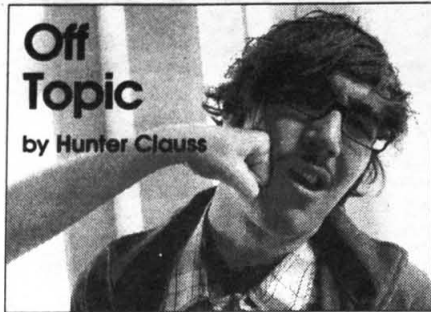
An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle

THE WHITE RAPPER CONUNDRUM



PAGE 20

Star Blyudov M



Revenge is a dish best served with Visine

In the middle of the night, when my head is sandwiched between two pillows in an attempt to alleviate the nagging voice inside my head ordering me to fall asleep, I usually calm myself down to a good old-fashioned revenge fantasy.

Whether it's filling up a water balloon with pee or super gluing a refrigerator door shut, this "castle in the sky" knocks me out in no time. I'm not exactly sure why that is. Maybe this form of daydreaming acts as a jump start to sleeping—or maybe it's the thought of knowing everyone gets screwed somewhere down the road.

And every new semester provides at least one insufferable pupil to plot against. Last semester, I was in a class with another student who I absolutely could not stand. I previously shared a media ethics and law

class with "Bill" during the Terri Schiavo fiasco. Since Schiavo was the topic for some months, our teacher wanted to have an open discussion about her situation.

It was an interesting conversation because one student kindly shared a similar experience, and deeply personal one at that, when her mother was on life support.

But Bill immediately went into a tirade about how husbands should love their wives, and that if Mr. Schiavo really loved Terri, he wouldn't have taken her off the feeding tube. Some would consider this a valid opinion, but in the context of a law class, it was nothing more than a self-righteous rant. And the fact that Bill dictated his morals to the class—after hearing one student's firsthand account of making such a painful decision—made me want to throw a chair at him.

I never did, though I shot back a snarky comment that didn't earn me any brownie points. Imagine my surprise when I discovered I'd be sharing yet another class with Billy boy.

He must have been planning for the day we'd meet again, accumulating a long list of inane things to say, because when we did, it was one stupid remark after the other. The teacher had the class watch a short film on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, adding that one person fea-

tered in the movie tried to attempt suicide.

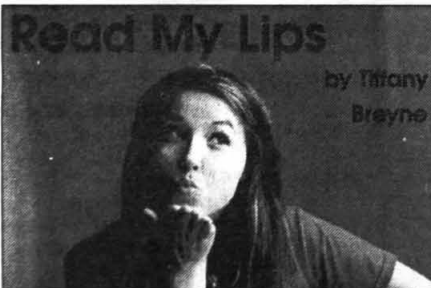
"That's a bit dramatic," replied Bill underneath his breath. It took everything I had to keep myself from punching him right in the face.

However, my roommate and I did have a 30-minute conversation about how I could put laxatives in his coffee during class. I mentioned this further to another close friend, who added I only needed to squirt two drops of Visine to do the trick. I asked him how he knew it would work. It seemed too easy to be true. He said he'd done it while bartending at a wedding. Not only did the person have the runs, but they also started throwing up.

While revenge fantasies are humorous, there was only one instance in which I actually carried one out. Once, when I was in fourth grade, I became incredibly mad at my sister for turning off one of my video games when I paused it to get a bowl of Doritos. So I took a roll of toothpaste and squeezed every goopy ounce underneath her bedroom pillow. But after I finished showing my sister who's boss, so to speak, I felt so incredibly guilty for what I did that I instantly cleaned up the mess I had made of her bed.

There's a fine line between daydreaming about getting back at someone in some hilarious manner and actually getting back at them. In the meantime, I'm keeping an eye on my coffee.

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Honesty is the best policy

I was sitting in a cozy restaurant the other day having lunch with my hopefully future employers when I brought up the fact that my boyfriend lives in the suburbs, so we don't hang out that much. Automatically, one of the men gets this look on his face like, "You know what that means, don't you?" He asked what my boyfriend does when he's not with me, and I said he works and hangs out with his friends, some of whom are my friends as well.

"So you have spies keeping you updated then?" he asked.

No, I replied, I don't keep tabs on him—I actually trust him. Again, he had a questioning look on his face and eventually alluded that my boyfriend is probably skirting around town when I'm not there. I'm thinking this has got to be false because my boyfriend is a great guy who I doubt would ever cheat on me. My lunch comrades decided they should-

n't judge a man they don't know, but definitely leaned toward the fact that I'm probably not the only lady in his life.

Though I didn't really believe it, fear slipped into my stomach and head. I felt slightly uneasy and my mind started traveling—don't tell me my one guy may see me as one of his many girls! Eventually the conversation moved on to

other topics, but the thought still lingered.

I've been cheated on before and been none-the-wiser about it. One time, a boyfriend told me he cheated on me after what I assume was months of regret and agony about betraying such a sweet girl like me.

And for some reason, it was hard for me to get angry about something he had done so far in the past, so I stayed with him—not a wise choice.

Another time, I found out about another ex-boyfriend's dishonesty through trusted friends; this ex-boyfriend adamantly denied that he cheated on me, and I'm still not sure what to think about that.

I can't pick out exactly what it is that feels so bad about being cheated on; maybe it's the fact that the intimate, sexual moments one shares with her partner aren't quite as special anymore, or possibly the foolishness one feels when she realizes her

singular emotions for one person aren't mutual. Either way, I can remember that sinking feeling I got in my stomach when I got the news that I had been cheated on. And I can guarantee that feeling would be even stronger if I found out my boyfriend had for some reason acted on a sexual impulse.

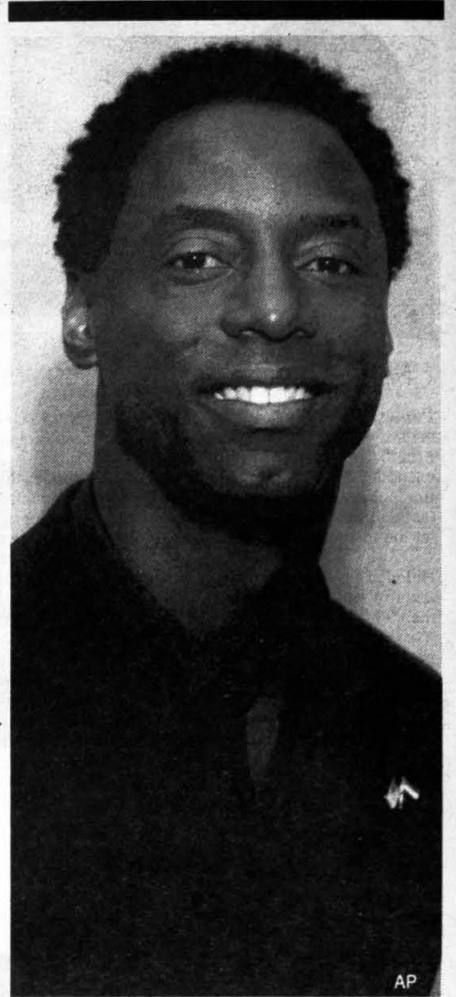
If someone wants to sleep with or date more than one person at a time, I don't see the point in even being in a relationship in the first place. Relationships are basically verbally binding contracts that each person will stay true and loving to his or her one and only. It's cute, admirable and comforting to have such security.

There's the argument that humans are not monogamous by nature, but we also aren't born knowing how to read a book or hold an intelligent conversation. Those are things that we learn over time, just like we learn how to truly understand the concept of a committed relationship.

I have no interest in getting under the covers or holding hands with anyone but my boyfriend, and I think he feels the same way, despite what some may say. Maybe someone can sit me down one day and explain the reasoning behind cheating on a boyfriend or girlfriend. But until then, I'll stay in my little bubble of trust and naivety to the cheating world and be perfectly happy about my committed and honest lifestyle.

tbreyne@chroniclemail.com

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



OK, Mr. Isaiah Washington, we need to have a little chat. You may have a noble last name, but your actions lately have been anything but. Yeah, yeah, you're on the show "Grey's Anatomy" which makes suburban mothers' blood race as fast as their vacuums across the living room floor, but there is a little debauchery going on behind that seemingly-wholesome hospital set.

Lately it came out that you called one of your co-stars, T.R. Knight, who is gay, a very obscene and vulgar word relating to his sexual orientation. What's wrong, little Isaiah? Are your scrubs chafing your tender skin a little too tight?

According to an AP article, Washington said, "I can also no longer deny to myself that there are issues I obviously need to examine within my own soul, and I've asked for help."

Well, that's weird, considering a few days prior you denied you even said it. At least admitting you have issues is on the right track unless, of course, that's just another one of your lies.

Also, what's this I hear about you fighting with Dr. McDreamy on set? If a pretty man lifts his fists, you know you've done something extremely wrong. Apparently you have been scolding your co-stars for coming in late, amongst other things. Isaiah, really? You're that guy at work? It's obvious you have some tension to release and you are letting it out in all the wrong places.

So listen up, buddy. You may be anti-gay but we're anti-liars and anti-jackasses. So get it together, Isaiah. Quit being so jealous of Dr. McDreamy and the way he oozes charm every time he's on screen. And next time a co-worker comes in late, hey, let it slide, man. We don't want the pretty guy ruining his delicate hands on you.

—C. Mahlmeister

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

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Ratings Guide

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

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



Eric Kasang



Tiffany Breyne



Hunter Clauss

Top 5

FINAL SEMESTER MUSINGS

Panic: Frantically scurrying during the semester for an internship, a job and eventually the Holy Grail of benefits: cheap health insurance. In the meantime, classes, work and *The Chronicle* leave little time to complete everything; let the madness begin.

Relief: Between *The Chronicle*, school and my second job, I churn out more than 90 hours a week like a psychotic workhorse. It'll be groovy to actually possess some "free time" once the semester ends.

Been there before: After completing my second BA in journalism, it's a one-way trip back to the bottom of the professional food chain. After graduating from college for the first time in 1998, I crawled my way up. And hopefully, I'll do it again. Only this time with more debt.

Post-graduation: My girlfriend and I may hit New York City for a graduation vacation. Let the nerdy museum excursions and wine flow freely.

Let there be light: I found out that one of my colleagues received a sweet gig at a Chicago daily paper. This news has a two-fold effect: journalism jobs still exist and I have a couch to crash on when I'm poor.

WAYS TO BREAK UP WITH SOMEONE LIKE A COWARD

Stop talking to them: Sometimes a relationship dwindles down from a burning flame to a lame pile of ashes sooner than expected. Rather than face the painful break-up in person, just stop talking to them! Don't call, put the "single" status back up on Facebook and ignore the person at all costs.

Via e-mail: Just imagine the agony you'll save yourself by simply ignoring all human decency and sending a nice, impersonal e-mail. Plus, you won't have to hide your happiness about your newfound single freedom!

Wait 'til the person's drunk: Alcohol = way more emotional. Odds are they'll be even more devastated and won't even remember half of the conversation the next day. Nothing says "it's over" like giving someone a hang-over and heartache—talk about a double whammy!

Via singing telegram: I saw it happen in some random commercial and I couldn't stop cracking up. Heartbreak hotel!

Stash another guy's/girl's pants in your room: Then, ask your significant other if the pants belong to them, and when they say no, just smile and say, "Well, guess you want to break up now." Did and done.

THINGS I'LL DO AFTER GRADUATING AND REALIZING I WON'T GET A JOB WITH MY DEGREE

Move into a bar: Nothing says, "Welcome to the rest of your life" like watching daytime TV with a cold bottle of PBR and a bar stool that has molded to the signature of my rear end.

Grifting: Like the obvious con jobs one sees on the el—the "which cup is the ball in" baloney—I'll hit the high school circuit as a wheelchair-bound, deaf, blind and mute inspirational speaker raised by meth-crazed red-necks. Think Helen Keller meets every person you've ever seen at a truck stop.

Make furniture: Instead of throwing away all of my rejection letters from failed job interviews, I'll save them to build bookshelves, desks and coffee tables. Heck, I'll even throw in my portfolio and stack of resumes if it means I can get \$20 off Craigslist.

Write children's books: After growing up with such classics as *The Boxcar Children* and *The Hardy Boys*, I'll use my vast knowledge of the genre to break into an untapped market—angry foreign militants. With my own children's series, *Little al-Zarqawi, the Youngest Terrorist*, such instant classics as *The Curse of the Mysterious Shoe Bomb* and *The Clue of the Haunted U.S. Occupational Army* will have me paying off my student loans in no time.

Apply for grad school: It's a restart button on my life because I was too foolish not to major in something the world really needs, like poetry.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY

"Impress These Apes!" is an improvised show loosely based on "hyper-intelligent apes from the future who have vowed to destroy the world with an earthquake machine." Hilarity will ensue at **The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St.** at 8 p.m. **Admission is \$10.**

TUESDAY

African-Americans have made considerable contributions in design history from cars to athletic shoes to industrial design. "Black Creativity Program: Designs for Life" is an exhibit focusing on their contributions at the **Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Dr.** General admission is free on Tuesdays.

WEDNESDAY

Christian Dior's collection of fashion in 1947 was a monumental moment in clothing history, with the signature "skinny-waist and broad shoulders" look. "Dior: The New Look" exhibition displays over 50,000 garments at the **Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St.** General admission is \$12 for adults and \$10 for students with ID.

THURSDAY

Have you ever tried to take a quiz drunk? Well, now's your chance. There's a Pub Quiz at **Ginger's Ale House, 3801 N. Ashland Ave.** in categories of sports, entertainment and history. The **entry donation** helps benefit charities. Starts at 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Be at the **Metro's** first hip-hop show of 2007 at **3730 N. Clark St.**, featuring Juice & The Machine with guests Mass Hysteria, Dirty Digital, Quao and DJ sets by Scheme and Plan B. The show is 18 and over. **Admission is \$10.**

In serious debt? An experienced attorney will help give advice on how to clean up bad credit at the **Woodson Regional Library, 9525 S. Halsted St.** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. And, of course, **admission is free.**

SATURDAY

"BOOMBOX with Power Speakers" is a collection of graffiti and graphic renderings of pop culture images on display at the **Hokin Gallery, 623 S. Wabash Ave.** Three Chicago artists, all from Columbia, incorporate issues in urban life and the history behind it from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. **Admission is free.**

SUNDAY

Robert Bresson's 1959 French film *Pickpocket* about "thievery, betrayal and redemption" is showing at the **Music Box, 3733 N. Southport Ave.** The show begins at 11:30 a.m. **Tickets are \$7.25**

Sometimes we all just need a hoedown, and the Chicago Barn Dance Company has been hosting square dancing since the '70s. There is always a live band at the **Bethany United Church of Christ, 4250 N. Paulina Ave.** at 7:30 p.m. **Admission is \$6.**

Exposure



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Mid-morning light has a pleasing, comforting look and feel to it. This basketball player stays warm as the sun shines on a chilly morning. The light created an interesting shadow on the side of a garage in Berwyn.

A fist full of buttons

Showcase to feature live music, unique art display

By Allison Riggio/Associate Editor

When most people button up for winter, it's usually because they want to stay warm. But for the Tense Forms, a local group of artists, it means much more.

In the group's tradition of putting on one-of-a-kind showcases blending various art forms, the Tense Forms' Winter Button Up show on Feb. 2 will combine live music with more than 1,000 pins featuring the work of more than 50 artists. Performances from Notes and Scratches, Ash in Pensacola, Casey Meehan and Ami Saraiya will provide the soundtrack for the concert-meets-art-show.

The Tense Forms members transferred images donated by various artists and made them into one-inch buttons which will cover the balcony walls of Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., according to Tense Forms member Joshua Dumas. A wall of televisions will also feature a slide show of the images featured on each button, he said.

"We loved the idea of lots and lots of art and lots and lots of artists, but we wanted to do something new," Dumas said.

The Tense Forms' last winter showcase, 800 Winters, brought live music to the same location, where 800 wallet-sized images of artists' work covered the walls, said Nora McComiskey, also a Tense Forms member. Guests are

allowed to take the buttons home when the show ends, just as last year's attendees were able to take the wallet-sized images home with them, she said.

"This is part of the party—everybody gets a nice souvenir," McComiskey said.

The group will mount cork board over the Subterranean's balcony walls and stick the buttons in at random, Dumas said. Most of the 50 artists who donated work have an average of five to eight buttons of their work in the show, McComiskey added.

"I like the idea of getting the art into people's hands and this is an incredibly easy way," Dumas said. "Pluck a button off a wall and you have this beautiful thing that you can rock on your coat or whatever."

Performer Casey Meehan has worked with the Tense Forms in the past and is no stranger to the original ideas the group likes to create. While he may be focused on playing his self-described, louder, reinvented version of soul music for the Winter Button Up, Meehan is excited about the idea of combining the two art forms in one evening.

"I really don't know much beyond my own set, [but] a thousand pieces of original art is pretty cool any way you look at it—especially when people get to take it

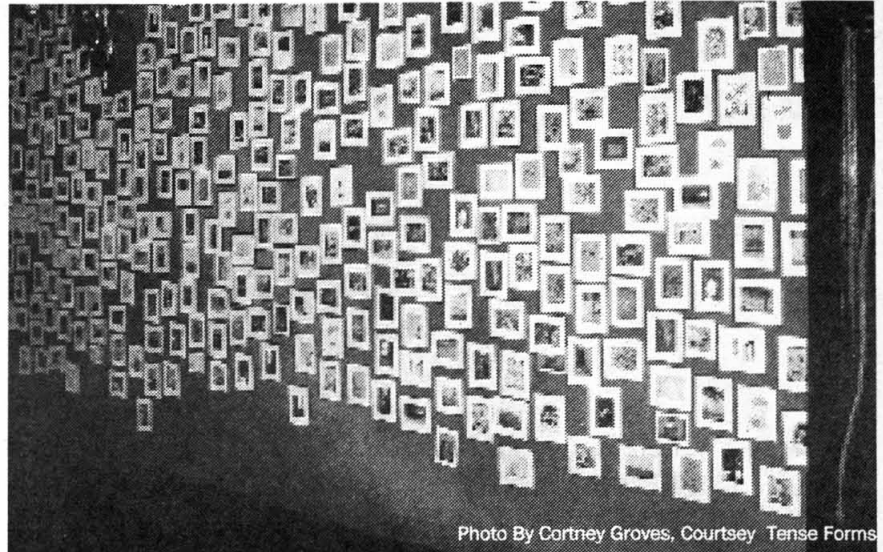


Photo By Courtney Groves, Courtesy Tense Forms

At the Tense Forms' last winter showcase, 800 wallet-sized prints covered the walls of Subterranean.

home free at the end of the show," Meehan said.

Dumas said he hopes the show might help break stereotypes of what art really is.

"I think the deeper meaning is that anyone can make art stuff, [and] that art doesn't have to be a thing on gallery walls," he said. "It can be on buttons. We take this very seriously, but art making can also be play—and a thing that we

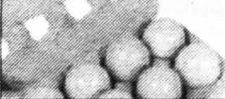
do because we enjoy it."

The Tense Forms brainstormed the sorts of things they each liked when trying to think of an original idea for the take-home art in the winter showcase, McComiskey said.

"We were all sitting around the table with our badges and buttons everywhere," McComiskey said, "and we were like, 'We love buttons!'"

Doors open at 8 p.m. on Feb. 2 for the Tense Forms' Winter Button Up at Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave. Performances will begin between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. Admission is \$8 and the show is 18-and-over only.

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Workshop: Discussions focus on tricks, techniques and male anatomy

Continued from Front Page

we start off by talking about women's relationships to men's bodies," Deysach said. "I think we live in a culture that is so obsessed with technique we forget sometimes that enthusiasm and comfort are, a lot of times, so much more important to good sex."

The workshop begins with a discussion on the male anatomy and moves to lessons on various pleasure points on the male body, according to the store's website. The conversation then shifts to hand-stimulation and fellatio techniques.

But, Deysach said, this workshop is also "one of the few blow-job workshops that actually talks about why it's important to masturbate." She said her workshop's aim is to educate people on various levels.

She also noted that while her store isn't the only sex shop in the city that offers workshops, Early to Bed offers "a unique twist" in educating people about the topic. Pleasure Chest, 3436 N. Lincoln Ave., and Tulip, 1480

W. Berwyn Ave., host similar workshops, she said.

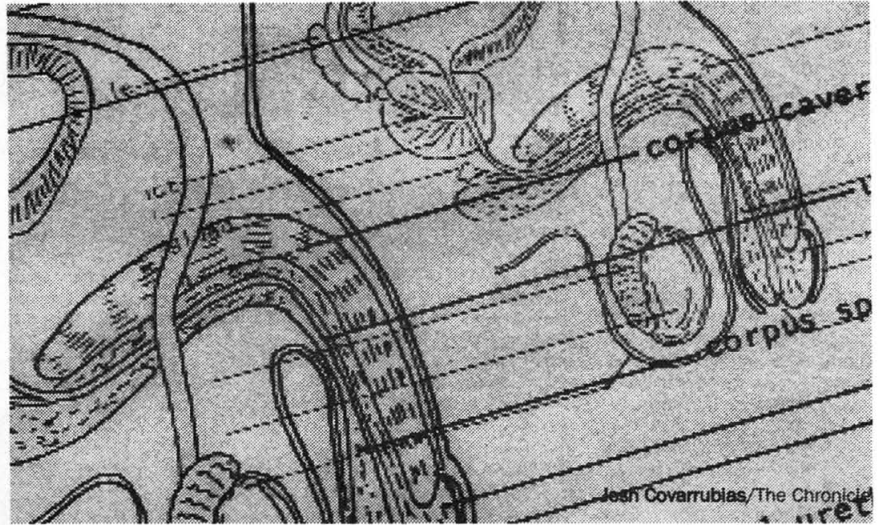
"It's a kind of topic that never gets old," Deysach said, while noting that, in the past, her workshops have consistently sold out at around 30 people.

Brittney Gillott, a junior psychology major at DePaul University, said she's never heard of a workshop like "Men Below the Belt," but said she feels oral sex is important for a healthy relationship. However, she said that women shouldn't attend workshops solely to become better at pleasing their partner.

"I agree with it, but I think they should be doing it for their own reasons, not because their partner told them they should," Gillott said. "I don't think that I'd need to [attend a workshop like this], but aside from that, I kind of feel like why aren't there classes for men who want to learn how to perform better oral sex on their women?"

Danielle Minzenberger, a sophomore poetry major at Columbia, said that while she could see why some people would be interested in workshops that show how to give good fellatio, it's "not something [she's] interested in." She also said it seems a little unfair Early to Bed doesn't allow men to attend the workshop.

Deysach noted that Early to Bed has a men-only workshop called "Rock Her World." In this workshop, men learn techniques and tricks for pleasing women



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

through manual, oral and penetrative sex, according to the store's website.

While most of the store's workshops are open to all genders, Deysach said making this one women-only is essential in creating a comfortable environment for the attendees.

"I think the last thing we want when we're talking frankly about cocks and women's relationships to them is to have [men] in the room," Deysach said. "I think it would inhibit a free-flow of discussion."

John Moore, chief counselor officer at Second Story Counseling in Chicago, 4003 North Broadway, said he finds women-only workshops positive for women. He also agreed with Deysach, saying workshops like this provide a "safe environment" where women can discuss sex

topics and feel comfortable.

"My own sense is that there may be situations where people don't know how to perform fellatio, or are uncomfortable with it," Moore said. "Workshops like this speak to a real need for these kinds of discussions."

Moore, a professional therapist who assists individuals with sexual-related problems, further noted that he views sex workshops like Early to Bed's as more "psycho-educational than psychotherapeutic."

"Why not have a safe environment where everyone knows what the objective is, and do it in a way where nobody feels like they're being weird about wanting this information?" Moore said.

Though the workshop's premier focus is on the varying ways a woman can please a

man, Deysach said she always stresses to her customers the importance of understanding their own bodies.

"The one advice that I always have for anybody, no matter of their gender, orientation or relationship status is to know and enjoy your body as your No. 1 sex partner," Deysach said. "I think it's really hard to have positive sexual relationships until you have a positive sexual relationship with yourself."

"Men Below the Belt" takes place on Feb. 6 and costs \$10 for students. Registration is required to attend. Early to Bed also hosts "Flirting for Nerds" Feb. 20 and "An Introduction to BDSM" on March 6, which are both open to men and women.

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Little Miss Oscar?

Child actors and actresses seem to fall short in Oscar nominations, but Abigail Breslin proves them wrong

By Jake Coyle/AP

With her Academy Award nomination for best supporting actress on Jan. 23, Abigail Breslin, the joyful 10-year-old actress at the heart of *Little Miss Sunshine*, entered a rich niche of trivia: Oscar-nominated child actors.

Who among us doesn't enjoy rattling them off: the Tatum O'Neals, the Haley Joel Osments, the Shirley Temples? Child actors are sometimes given scant respect—rewarded with tiny statuettes and parodied for their early, outsized fame. But the academy is often quite indiscriminate when it comes to age.

From the 10-year-old O'Neal (1973's *Paper Moon*) to the 80-year-old Jessica Tandy (1989's *Driving Miss Daisy*) the academy has rewarded a wide swath of age groups. It has shown a particular fondness for the young, and for a time, made special arrangements for them.

In the '30s and '40s many child actors including Temple, Mickey Rooney and Margaret O'Brien were given smaller-sized honorary Oscars, dubbed "Juvenile Awards." Now, children and adults have been nominated side-by-side in competitive categories.

In *Little Miss Sunshine*—which garnered four Oscar nominations, including best picture—Breslin plays Olive, the sunny, diminutive diva with her heart set on compet-

ing in a beauty pageant. Her dysfunctional family must take a road trip to make it there.

Breslin said on Tuesday that her mother woke her to tell her the news of the nomination.

"I was like, 'Oh, my God!' and I screamed kind of a little bit like how I did in the movie," Breslin told The Associated Press, referring to a scene from the film where she shrieks at the top of her lungs. "I was just so excited."

The young actress said she is a fan of Margaret O'Brien, who was just eight years old when given her honorary Oscar in 1945 for her performance in *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

Breslin is the fourth-youngest actress to be nominated in a competitive category, edged out by a mere matter of months. O'Neal, Mary Badham of 1962's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Quinn Cummings of 1977's *The Goodbye Girl* were all 10 years old when nominated.

She will undoubtedly be an underdog in the best-supporting race, in which she is joined by Golden Globe-winner Jennifer Hudson (*Dreamgirls*), Cate Blanchett (*Notes on a Scandal*), Rinko Kikuchi and Adriana Barraza (both from *Babel*).

Only three actors or actresses younger than 17 have won an Academy Award. The good news

for Breslin, though, is that all of the wins have come in the supporting-actress category: O'Neal, 11-year-old Anna Paquin for *The Piano* in 1994 and 16-year-old Patty Duke for *The Miracle*

Worker in 1963.

Other young actresses to be nominated include Jodie Foster, who was 14 when nominated for her portrayal of a young prostitute in 1976's *Taxi Driver*, and Keisha Castle-Hughes, who was 13-years-old when nominated for best actress in 2004 for *Whale Rider*.

The boys have been even younger.

The youngest actor ever nominated was 8-year-old Justin Henry, who was up for best supporting actor in 1980 for *Kramer vs. Kramer*. Nine-year-old Jackie Cooper was nominated for best actor in 1931 for his leading per-

formance in *Skippy*, adapted from a comic strip. In 2000, 11-year-old Haley Joel Osment was nominated for his performance in *The Sixth Sense*.

Child actors are often lampooned as never surpassing their early fame, but many of the previously nominated young actors continued to work successfully in Hollywood most notably O'Neal, Foster, Rooney and Paquin.

One need look no further than another nominee this year—the former *Bad News Bears* star Jackie Earle Haley who made a comeback in *Little Children*—to see that child actors can find success with maturity.



Nominated for the best supporting actress Oscar, 10-year-old Abigail Breslin portrayed Olive, the unlikely pageant winner hopeful in 'Little Miss Sunshine.'

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Stepping into life in lockdown

Art exhibit brings visitors inside the world of prisoners

By Kristin Kalter/Assistant A&E Editor

Stepping into Gallery 400 at 400 S. Peoria St., on the University of Illinois at Chicago campus, visitors will see bright orange jumpsuits, Vans gym shoes, restraints used for inmate transport, small toothbrushes, "shank-free" mirrors and fire-retardant beds. These are on display in order for guests to try and feel what prisoners live with day after day, sometimes for the rest of their lives.

Further inside, more aspects of prison life are explored through the art of those who either worked with or were inspired by prisoners.

The exhibit, entitled "Captive Audience," has related events scheduled, such as a public discussion with curator Marc Fischer and artists Mary Patten, Laurie Jo Reynolds and Sarah Ross on Feb. 3; a screening of the film *Scared Straight!* and *Scared Straight! Twenty Years Later* on Feb. 21 and a participatory workshop that provides facts and analysis about sex offenders in the U.S. on Feb. 24.

Most people in the United States have little to no contact with prisoners, or have any idea of what their lives are like, said Fischer.

"[The exhibit] allows people to reflect on things they might not come in contact with otherwise," he said.

One example is the wall of

records made either from inmates at some time during their sentence, or musicians who recorded in a prison performance. Visitors can listen to selections from all albums on display.

Stephanie Diamond, a photographer, made her display for Captive Audience after a discussion with curator Marc Fischer. She asked strangers, friends, students and family what kind of picture they would take with them to prison if they could only have one.

Diamond said she was inspired to do this project for personal reasons.

"I knew a few people who were about to go to prison because of the [stringent anti-drug] Rockefeller Laws, and this was devastating to me," Diamond said.

It wasn't always easy for those she asked to give their ideas, though.

"The majority of people were profoundly affected by the idea of going to prison," she said. "I think many people became reflective in the process of thinking about what image they would bring to prison with them, and I receive so many statements filled with emotion and love."

She originally planned on using inmates from Rikers Island Prison Complex, to ask them another question and take photo-

graphs from their responses, but before her original project got underway she lost her contact at the prison, and his successor wasn't able to approve her project. This setback allowed Diamond to rethink when she shared her ideas with Fischer.

"[The setback] allowed me to create this version of the project which I believe is a stronger and more powerful piece than the first version," she said.

Another project inside the collection, done by performance group Lucky Pierre, takes a look at death row inmates and their last meal requests. In Texas alone, there have been over 300 executions.

"They requested cheeseburgers, hot dogs, fried chicken," Fischer said. "I think it says a lot about the class of people who actually end up on death row and who actually gets executed."

The group shot videos of volunteers pretending to be the prisoners eating or declining their last meal. The volunteers were not directed, just given instructions.

"[The volunteers were told] to be quiet and respectful, eat as much or as little as you want, don't look up at the camera, don't make loud noises or jiggle the table," said Mary Zerkel, one of the Lucky Pierre members. "If you are done before



This wall at Gallery 400 at 400 S. Peoria St., displays records inspired by prison life. Guests can listen to selections from each

time is up, just sit and wait and someone will come get you after 25 minutes."

The meals requested ranged in size and cuisine, but none of them were gourmet, Fischer said.

It was more ideal to bring this exhibit to a university setting, rather than a commercial gallery because it will bring in a wider audience, including students and scholars outside of the arts, Fischer said.

He said he met a professor who

found the exhibit interesting because it questions health care issues inside prisons, such as AIDS and Tuberculosis epidemics.

"[The exhibit] allows people to reflect on things they might not come in contact with otherwise," he said.

"Captive Audience" runs through Feb. 24.

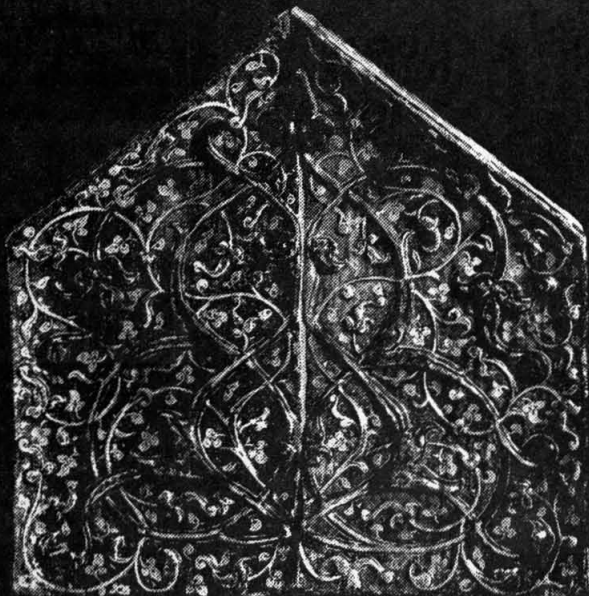
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NOVELTY VS.

Local performers and industry experts

Story by Kristin Kalter

Graphics by Kimi Badger

Photography by Andrew Nelles

In the early days of hip-hop, before it went mainstream, worldwide and became an element of pop culture, rappers were mainly African-American. Since then, the music industry and hip-hop audience found a novelty of sorts in the white rapper.

There are a few successful and well-known white artists like Eminem, Beastie Boys and Lady Sovereign. However, many up-and-coming white artists, like Born Thrett, Phenamenon and Lil M - all from Chicago - feel the pressure of being compared to them, or even worse, to the contestants on VH1's new reality show, "The White Rapper."

Launched on Jan. 8, the VH1 series puts 10 aspiring white rappers together in a house in the South Bronx, a predominately

African-American

community and part

of hip-hop's roots.

Throughout the series,

they will compete in

battles each week to

eliminate the weakest

rapper. The last standing rapper receives \$100,000.

However, some white rappers who have seen the show doubt the winner will actually get street credibility.

"I would have to think really hard about going on a show like that," said Marc Maxfield, better known as Lil M, a 15-year old white rapper. "I think I would do it if I thought I had no other opportunities, but I wouldn't really want to do it now, because I think I have some talent, and I don't want people to see me as that guy who was on that show. I'll be like a joke."

While he does admit that these shows make for good publicity and might cause some viewers to switch over from "American Idol," he believes the show will only produce one-hit wonders.

"People are going to want to buy their CD when it initially comes out to hear what it sounds like. 'Oh that's the guy that won that show. Let me hear what they got,'" Maxfield said. "But after that one song or record, that's going to be it for them."

He is not alone in his feelings. Stan Blyudoy, also

known as Phenamenon, a 20-year-old white rapper, said he could only watch 15 minutes of the show before turning it off.

"It's all for TV," he said. "It's not real hip-hop. They're jokes."

VH1 is doing something good for ratings but no profound or remarkable message is going to come out of the show, said Doreen Loury, who has a Ph.D. in African-American Studies and is the assistant professor of sociology, anthropology and African-American studies at Arcadia University in Pennsylvania.

Loury said she watched the show before her classes started for the spring semester because the subject matter raised a lot of interesting discussions on society and white culture imitating black culture.

"Whites have always imitated black culture," she said. "Nothing surprises me in seeing that. The question I would like to pose to them though is if they

could trade their white skin in for black skin, would they do it?"

She said when white people try to be rappers, many of them find they have to imitate a black culture

stereotype. But Loury worries when people think of hip-hop as black culture.

"It's not [black culture], it's pop culture," she said. She said elements of hip-hop culture, including fashion, style and dance, are now mainstream and on runways and radio stations worldwide.

Loury said African-Americans not only started hip-hop, but they also started rock and blues. The performers in those genres are not questioned on their race or image though, she said.

However, audiences expect a certain sound or style when they are listening to hip-hop or rap music, and sometimes the sound might not seem to fit the look of the rapper, said Tom Paukner, a 21-year-old white rapper in Chicago.

"Most people see white rappers as fake," said Paukner, who is better known as Born Thrett. "A lot of them are. They're trying to be something they are not."

Paukner thinks there are too many wannabe rappers. He said there are a large number of white rap-

CREDIBILITY

Question the authenticity of white rappers

pers who never make it. He believes the ones that do aren't trying to be phony or talk about things they haven't been through.

And some experts in the music industry agree.

"Most white rappers sound ridiculous because they try to appropriate a language that's not natural to them, with vocabulary and a style of speaking that they didn't grow up with," said Tim Leffel, co-author of the book *Hip-Hop Inc.* "So it sounds fake and forced."

Leffel worked in the marketing department at Radio Corporation of America Records for seven years with artists like A Tribe Called Quest, Kool Moe Dee, KRS-1 and Boogie Down Productions in the early '90s.

"The white rappers who succeed are the ones who don't do this, who have a distinct style and language all their own, from their own background," Leffel said. "The Beastie Boys came from punk and approached it with that aesthetic and delivery style. Eminem didn't try to 'sound black' and as a result, he exploded because what he was doing sounded so distinct."

Leffel said that with both of those artists, their clever rhymes and unique talent earned them respect in the rap community.

"Usually that's not the case," he said.

However, Loury believes the concept of the white rapper has faded away. That is why she believes the host of the show, MC Serch, former member of 3rd Bass in the '80s and a solo artist in the early '90s, is "well respected in the rap game," and his reasoning for being a part of the show is to make sure the winner is authentic.

Loury said by watching the show, she could tell that Serch was serious about the competition. On the show he told the rappers that his name and credibility are on the line, and that their hearts better be in it, she said.

This isn't the first show to say that it's going to make a star out of somebody. "American Idol" and more closely related "Making the Band" attempt to find the next superstars.

Loury believes the reason for this is because some of the shows only use these people for ratings, without actual desire to place them into stardom.

"What is going to happen when the cameras go off and the lights go down?" she said. "They get the

exposure by being on the television show, but will they get proper distribution and promotion?"

Viewers will have to wait and see if the white rappers from the VH1 show make it to the radio charts or come up with an original sound and style.

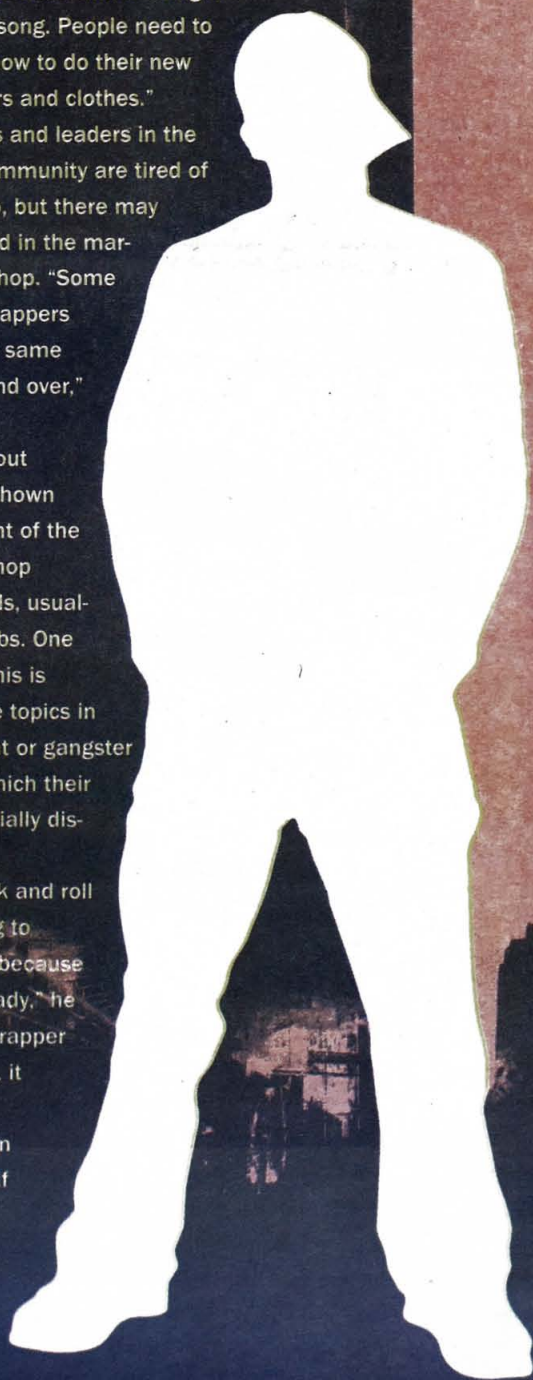
Maxfield, Blyudoy and Paukner agree that more attention needs to be paid to the message in the songs themselves, rather than the race of the individual rapper.

"Everything is about dance now," Maxfield said. "I'm tired of turning on the radio and hearing the same thing in every song. People need to stop rapping about how to do their new dance, or money, cars and clothes."

Leffel said listeners and leaders in the African-American community are tired of hearing gangster rap, but there may still be some demand in the market for hardcore hip-hop. "Some people say it is just rappers being lazy, doing the same type of songs over and over," he said.

But he also points out that statistics have shown that about 70 percent of the people who buy hip-hop albums are white kids, usually those in the suburbs. One reason he gave for this is because some of the topics in rap, especially violent or gangster rap, are shocking, which their parents could potentially disapprove.

"They can't buy rock and roll anymore that's going to shock their parents, because they heard it all already," he said. "When a white rapper comes along though, it has to be authentic. Even the white kids in the suburbs can tell if it's not."



Bold and bare-skinned comedy

'The Naked Trucker and T-Bones Show' parks its truck at Comedy Central

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

After years of performing their live improv comedy show, the Naked Trucker, played by Dave "Gruber" Allen and his companion, T-Bones—David Koechner of "The Office" and *Thank You for Smoking*—have pulled their 18-wheeler over to the side of the road. "The Naked Trucker and T-Bones Show" is a now a new half-hour comedy that airs Wednesday nights on Comedy Central. Recently, Allen and Koechner spent some time with *The Chronicle* discussing their new endeavor.

The Chronicle: The two characters are very different from each other. On the one hand, you have T-Bones, who's this very colorful, mischievous type of guy. Then, you have Naked Trucker, who's more toned down and is the voice of reason. Were they screened that way? Or is that how it worked out?

Koechner: It's kind of modeled on an Abbot and Costello, Martin and Lewis, Smothers Brothers-style, where you have a straight and a comic. At the same time, we might declare it's a deconstruction of that same thing. **After a successful live show, why did you decide to make the transition to television?**

Koechner: Well, believe me, if it had happened seven years ago, I would have been equally as happy.

Our drive has never necessarily been [to accomplish] one specific goal. This show and this character have been in and out of development in television and in film and this is sort of the first time we've had the full opportunity to do it. It's certainly not like we were avoiding it. If you mean by successful, filling a 150-seat club in L.A., you know, that's one measure of success, I guess.

What would you say inspired your character specifically and your comedy in general on the show?

Koechner: The quest for truth. Is that didactic enough? I studied with a guy named Del Close in Chicago and his quest was that: always be truthful. So we try to bring truth to the characters and, you know, your own truth in comedy. Your quest should be to make it smart and always trust your audience and treat them with respect. I'm noticing in the press some people are missing some of those elements and dismiss our show purely as what they're calling a red-neck adventure. I think if people watch, we've handcrafted all these jokes and certainly endeavor to play them as smart.

Did the Naked Cowboy in New York City steal your act or did he use you guys to make himself more famous?

Allen: I've heard that and I've heard the reverse and neither of us stole anything. It was kind of that spontaneous generation of "he did his thing, I did mine." I don't know the guy. He doesn't know me. I've seen him on TV a couple of times.

Koechner: I'd say there's no similarity in the acts whatsoever.

Allen: The one thing that we have in common is we have very few clothes on and we have a guitar and that's about it. And he has a better physique than I do ... much better.

The first couple of shows seem to be completely out of the realms of political correctness. What do you think your audience's response will be to that?

Koechner: We can't pretend that we have any control of what the audience response will be. All we know is, this is what we like. This is how we like it.

Allen: I think there is political correctness in there because if nothing else you have T-Bones, who's sort of jokingly saying stuff that he knows not to be true. We hope the audience is smart enough to get the difference. Also, Naked Trucker [makes] a shrug or an eye roll, which is sort of a straight-man response, [and] it becomes, oddly enough, a moral center to say I know that's wrong, and you, the audience, know that's wrong ... There's a higher level that is, in



Dave 'Gruber' Allen and David Koechner star in 'The Naked Trucker and T-Bones Show,' which airs Wednesday at 9:30 p.m. on Comedy Central.

fact, politically correct.

Koechner: It is the way these two characters do play with language and it's very deliberate. You're bringing up one idea to call attention to all the ideas of what we are allowed and not allowed to say, how we speak to one another and what we can and can't say to one another. That should be free.

Every once in a while you have breaks with half finished songs. Can your audience expect a CD

any time soon?

Allen: We're actually putting stuff together. We have a live show coming out on DVD. It's called "The Naked Trucker and T-Bones Show Live from the Troubadour" and also a CD version of that, and since folks show an interest, probably once a month on thenakedtruckerandtbonesshow.com, we'll also put a download up.

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Bono continues to help less fortunate

U2 rockstar turns to Ohio university for fair-trade business pilot

By Lisa Cornwell/AP

A clothing company founded by Irish rocker and humanitarian Bono and his wife has partnered with college students in Ohio on a business project they expect to roll out to other campuses around the world.

Students at Miami University's Center for Social Entrepreneurship buy blank cotton T-shirts made in Africa and resell the shirts to other organizations. The students make some profit and provide a market to help build trade and employment in Africa.

Bono, the frontman for the

rock band U2, has gained international attention with his efforts to assist developing countries, especially in Africa. He and his wife, Ali Hewson, founded Edun Apparel Ltd. in 2005 to produce clothing in developing countries and provide increased trade and jobs to those areas. The company, based in Dublin, stresses that its message is "trade, not aid."

Final details are being worked out for the expansion of the Miami entrepreneurs' business model to other campuses, said Christine Driscoll, business development manager for Edun

Live, the sub-brand that consists of the T-shirt line.

"We have the blank T-shirts that we screen-print with custom designs or imprint with the slogan, 'I know who made my shirt, do you?'" said Andy Mitchelides, president of Edun Live on Campus.

The company hopes Edun Live on Campus, the Miami University pilot, will expand to at least 40 campuses by 2011.

"We don't just vote and [affect] change at the ballot box," Hewson told students in a recent visit to Miami, a 14,385-student public university in southwest Ohio. "We can vote and [affect] change with the dollar in our pocket and how we use it, and you are leading the way."

Similar sentiments have led major companies to try to help developing areas through business solutions and universities to offer courses covering social responsibility. Starbucks Corp. participates with coffee growers in other countries in a fair-trade arrangement paying them prices aimed at providing a decent living and leading to more sustainable farming practices. And Procter & Gamble Co. developed a water-purifying product for developing countries.

The Miami students buy the T-shirts for about \$4 each from

Edun Live, and resell them for around \$10 each to campus organizations and other groups.

Consumers can help increase trade and job opportunities in developing areas by buying the shirts, and others who see them may be prompted to question where their own clothing comes from, he said.

The core team of about 15 students has sold 2,600 shirts since the venture began in mid-October. The students make a profit of about \$1 per shirt that goes back to the center.

Brett Smith, an assistant professor of entrepreneurship who helped create the center at Miami, said the profits can be used to start other ventures, bring guest speakers to campus and take students to Africa—where they can see where the shirts are made and meet the workers who benefit from their efforts.

"There are really a lot of socially conscious students out there who just need to be sparked by something," said Treviana Delmastro, 19, of New York, a member of Gamma Phi Beta. The sorority has bought the standard Edun Live shirts and plans to buy more designed specifically for the sorority.

"Demand isn't a problem," Driscoll said. "We're getting letters from other schools wanting

to know how they can get involved."

Leading scholars say social entrepreneurship began emerging in the 1980s as more people realized that government alone could not solve society's problems and more private initiative was encouraged. The concept has been gaining popularity over the past decade.

Business schools at universities such as Harvard, Stanford and Duke in the United States and Oxford University in England have expanded beyond courses in social entrepreneurship to also offer activities such as research and conferences.

"Miami is doing groundbreaking work as one of the few schools developing a strong undergraduate program for social entrepreneurship," said Gregory Dees, faculty director of the Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

He said the training is spreading to schools of government, public health, education and engineering.

"I think our generation is determined to find ways of creating social change through sustainable business models like Edun Live," Mitchelides said.



Miami University students Jack Tench, right, and Kristin Elzey sell Edun Live T-shirts Jan. 10 on campus in Oxford, Ohio. The Edun Live line of blank cotton T-shirts are manufactured in sub-Saharan Africa from materials grown there.

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Grooving new gear

Monome creates a new way to make, enhance live electronic music performances

By Kristin Kalter/Assistant A&E Editor

Live electronic music performances usually consist of producers using either many devices and instruments, or pre-recorded tracks. These aren't always the most exciting performances though.

But now a group of gear-heads and musicians created a way to combine all of these things into one and make it more interesting to watch while keeping it environmentally friendly at the same time.

This device is an interface named the Monome 40h. The 40h has 64 buttons on top of a small box that can easily be carried around in a book bag. Only 400 of these were made, and only 115 are left for sale through their website monome.org.

A larger, 100h model is also in the works, and as of now, only two prototypes are being used. Brian Crabtree, one of the device's creators, owns one, and electronic artist Daedelus, born Alfred Weisberg-Roberts, has the other. Daedelus is currently on tour performing with only the 100h model and his computer.

The box works with software connected to their computer and allows the user to map out what each button does.

All the buttons can separately trigger different sounds in a sequence of songs.

For example, out of a row of eight buttons, the second button might trigger the snare drum, and

the sixth could trigger a kick. If the user decides they want to mix a live performance, starting in the middle of a sequence at the kick, they could do so.

Also, the buttons on the box light up and move in correlation with the sample. This feature "gives the audience an idea of what you're up to," Daedelus said. But he also added that since the audience doesn't know what each button does, it still is surprising and possesses an element of mystery as well.

Vlad Spears said he got the 40h as soon as it came out and now owns two of them. He said electronic artists look for new ways to spice up their performances.

"Getting a groove going by dragging the mouse around sounds fun," Spears said. "Getting a groove going by playing it on the 40h in real time is fun."

When Daedelus found out about the device about five years ago, after attending an art exhibition where two of its creators were using it, "it blew my mind," he said. "I kept calling Brian [Crabtree] every day freaking out about it, and I guess that's why I got so lucky to use [one of the prototypes]."

He said he uses it mainly for his live performances and not in the studio, because its uses are limited to his imagination. He admitted some of its other users might completely disagree.

Peter Segerstrom, who programmed software for the device, not only uses it to make choppy dance music in live performances, but he also uses it to automate his juicer settings for his morning drink.

Spears said he uses one to synch video to go along with the music he's making in the other.

But his friends have other ideas for its use.

"A friend of mine is planning to use a Monome 40h to control gigantic flame-throwing robots next year at Burning Man," he said.

Crabtree and his small collective, the Monome—their brand name—knew there were a lot of ideas like this device out there, but they had no way to really make them happen.

He and his collective came up with a way to do it by making an open-ended grid that could work for programming—not only music or musical devices, such as MIDI keyboards, but kitchen appliances or even robots.

But Crabtree doesn't like to call himself an inventor. The idea is not to mass-produce, but to further explore what other possibilities are out there. The device isn't even patented yet; it is a complete open-source project.

"Inventor is a tricky word I would hesitate using," he said. "It feels wrapped up in questionable practices like patents and fighting



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

over getting paid for good ideas instead of coming up with more ideas."

Crabtree said by keeping it this way, it allows others to add or expand on his idea to make it better or fit their own personal needs. He would also like to focus on other things as well rather than just sticking to this one project.

One thing that the Monome collective stresses is being environmentally friendly. Crabtree said they use minimal design and materials that can be recycled when the user decides they have no more use for the device or when the user

opts for another one.

The 40h also has a variety of software that can be used with it and the sounds can constantly be changed. The way someone programs the device one week can change the next week.

Although Segerstrom created a software program for the 40h, he said the one Crabtree created is one of the simpler ones.

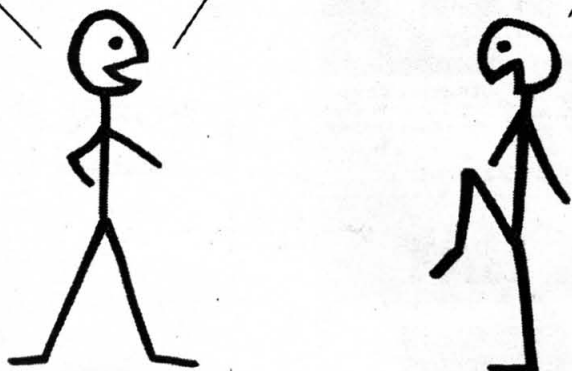
"Mostly I just memorize where buttons are and try not to get lost," Segerstrom said.

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Socially Sheik

Arab-American rapper battles social issues with music

By Kelley L. Carter/MCT

Will Youmans' socially conscious stage presence is almost genetic.

Youmans, a 28-year-old native of the Detroit area, grew up in the kind of family that got involved. As a kid, he was always going to protests or helping to recruit members for Arab-American organizations.

And as a hip-hop artist, he brings that to his music.

"Whatever you're used to becomes what you expect. It was shocking for me to find out there were families that didn't talk about politics at dinner and yell at George Bush back then," Youmans said of his childhood, specifically about the Persian Gulf War.

"My parents never really gave me strong political views to

have, but somehow being in that environment and being around it, I tended to adopt that general outlook toward life," he said. "It gave me a sense that things going on in the world should matter. I did the day-to-day things that a kid does, but I had these other things on my mind."

Youmans, who is known in the music world as Iron Sheik, has taken his message and his music to ears domestically and internationally, performing hip-hop that talks about issues affecting young Arabs—especially in America.

"My music fundamentally is educational and focuses on issues that need to be discussed more in this country," he said.

"For example, U.S. foreign policy toward the Arab world and toward the Arab-American experience, toward stereotypes in Hollywood movies, toward problems with Arab rulers. I think it's important that American culture reflects the diversity of the people who are living in this country.

Youmans purposefully chose his hip-hop moniker, Iron Sheik, a reference to the handlebar mustached professional wrestler best known for his '80s-era stint with the WWF, who the rapper says contributed to Arab stereotypes. Youmans says he is using the name in an empowering way—to give it a new definition and fresh life.

He moved to Washington,

D.C., and now works there for an immigrant's rights organization.

Since 2003, Youmans has moved more than 4,000 CDs, largely through his website, ironsheik.biz and at live shows.

"By its nature, it appeals to a smaller crowd than what the mainstream demands," he said. "But that's the price you pay for having control over your content."

Marc Lamont Hill, an assistant professor of Urban Education and American Studies at Temple University, said Youmans is one of the most visible figures in Arab hip-hop.

"He has a very profound understanding of his own cultural context and he allows that to inform his music performance," Hill said.

"What's so beautiful and special about what he's doing—even if you like the music or not—is that it's coming at a moment where hip-hop is at its least political. People are more interested in making profits and selling commercialism and sex and violence."

But Youmans is looking to change this trend.

"He's really bringing a message," Hill said. "He's a real throwback to the late '80s where political consciousness was the format. There were guys like Public Enemy and Sister Souljah out there. In many ways, Iron Sheik is the same way."

The growth of Arab hip-hop began in the late '90s, largely

through performers of Palestinian descent. It's still an underground movement, but it challenges everything from Hollywood stereotypes to racism in the aftermath of 9/11. Youmans first caught the hip-hop bug when he was in the sixth grade.

Omar Chakaki, a 25-year-old Syrian-American rapper who lives in L.A., said Youmans was instrumental in connecting other rappers of Arab descent.

"What's great about Will is he's been doing it for so long," said Chakaki, who raps under the moniker Omar Offendum in the hip-hop duo N.O.M.A.D.S.

"By Will taking those first steps, it encouraged all of us to do what we do. We've been able to take it a step forward and now there's this Arab-American hip-hop movement that's been getting a buzz recently."

Youmans first went to visit family in Palestine when he was 17-years-old and returned last year. Both trips were eye-opening.

"I was very aware of racism in the United States, but I had never really experienced it personally in a very systematic, institutionalized way," Youmans said. "It sparked a flame in me. It made me realize I have to do what I can do to bring awareness to this situation and do what I can to change it."



Will Youmans, who goes by Iron Sheik, tries to break negative Arab stereotypes through his style of political hip-hop.

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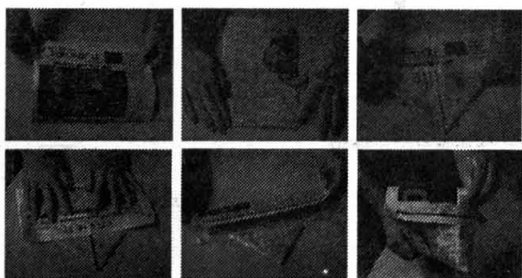
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Real life isn't so tricky

Magician charms audiences out of their comfort zone

By Larry Neumeister/AP

He likes to call himself the millionaire's magician for the many deep pockets he's dazzled with his sleight of hand. But Steve Cohen says everyday folks can use his performance techniques to change their lives the way he wows a crowd.

But Cohen, the host of a weekly sold-out Chamber Magic show at The Waldorf-Astoria hotel, isn't giving away the house of cards on how he performs his tricks.

"I'm giving away the psychological secrets," says Cohen, who has written a book on the topic.

Want to be bolder? Try secretly dropping a quarter in someone's pocket, he says. Shy? Try talking to strangers in elevators and you'll see how quickly people lower their guard.

The 36-year-old, who studied psychology at Cornell University,

advises people preparing to speak before a crowd on what to drink, how to loosen their throats and mouths, how to breathe correctly and why humming can tune their voices to speak. He hopes with his techniques, people can go beyond their comfort zones.

Cohen said he began sharing tips after meeting people at his show, where he uses cards, coins, jewelry, books and even his own heartbeat to entertain. His audience has included former General Electric Co. Chairman Jack Welch, actor Michael J. Fox, late astronomer Carl Sagan and former Intel Corp. Chairman Andy Grove.

"I had a lot of people, smart people, coming up to me after this show saying, 'That was really amazing, but you're more than doing a magic show, you're almost like a salesman. What kind of

skills do you do that I could use?'" Cohen said.

So Cohen wrote the book *Win the Crowd: Unlock the Secrets of Influence, Charisma, and Showmanship*, published in 2005 by HarperCollins Publishers Inc. and released in paperback in summer 2006. In the book, Cohen discusses how to create a colorful personality, build confidence, prepare for important encounters with one person or many, predict the behavior of others and gain control over the way others behave, just like he does in his performances.

So far, Cohen's favorite reviews have come from customers worldwide after the book was released in six languages.

"Business people say it has increased their confidence when they're giving presentations and even when they're trying to pitch



Magician Steve Cohen uses card tricks to demonstrate 'psychological secrets' through his magic show and new book.

one person on something," he said. K.C. Hagin, a 25-year-old New York resident, recently saw Cohen's act.

"It wasn't pulling a rabbit out of a hat. It was incredibly sophisticated," she said. "He would pick random people who you know aren't in on it with him and perform tricks based on their minds. I actually drew a picture with my back to him while he simultaneously drew the same picture."

She said the key to his magic is his ability to engage his audience throughout the show.

"They're as shocked as you are at what's happening," she said. "That's how he's so convincing."

Cohen describes magic as a mental game of cat and mouse where proper preparation allows the magician to lead others along enough so that "they get trapped in your words or your plan."

Nothing, he said, is left to chance. Cohen said some simple rules that give a magician the upper hand over his audience can be applied in life for anyone who wants to command a room, read

people better or get inside the minds of others to influence their thoughts.

"Being a magician is kind of like being a manipulator, but not with the negative connotation that the word 'manipulation' or 'manipulate' implies," he said. "I'm not trying to bilk anyone out of their money, convince them of a new belief system, create a cult."

He acknowledges that the skills of manipulation also could be used for evil. But he said it's no different from a gun in the dresser because "it could protect you or harm somebody."

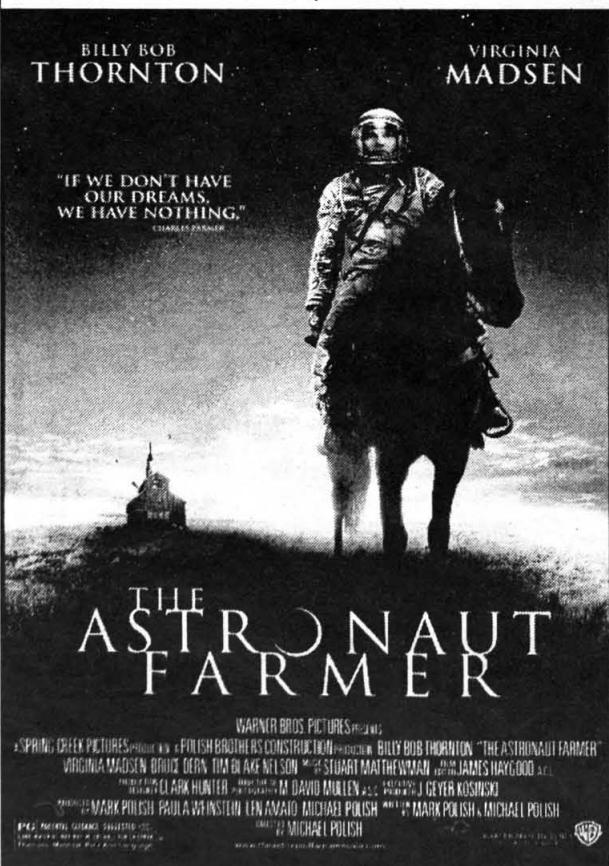
Cohen has practiced magic since he was 6 years old. Proficient in Japanese, he once worked as an interpreter for the Japanese government. Now, he lives in New York with his wife, Yumi, and their son, Alex.

Ultimately, he said, he'd like his concepts to help people gain more from the magic in the world around them, whether it's the birth of a baby or "a flower blooming in the field with dew on its petals in the morning."



Steve Cohen works his magic on an attentive audience with a card trick that all ages seem to enjoy.

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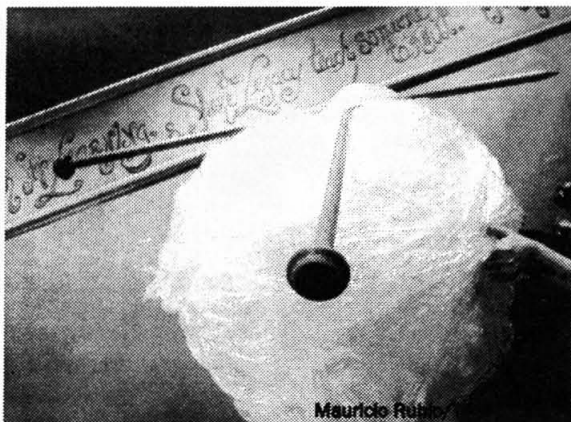
By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

There's a little hidden treasure on Randolph Street just west of Michigan Avenue. It's in plain sight, but many have simply walked right past it. Others have gone inside the little store front shop and dared to try their hand at an old craft, knitting a little something for themselves.

The Chicago Department of Tourism created the Stitching Salon, 72 E. Randolph St., as part of the 2007 Winter Delights festival. It offers a series of classes and free or low-cost events all

about knitting and other handmade media through Feb. 28.

According to Penny Brown, manager of tourism initiatives for the city of Chicago, the Stitching Salon is one of the center pieces of Winter Delights, a series of programs spread throughout the city to showcase Chicago's cultural diversity. The popularity of the Stitching Salon isn't hard to see as all of the initial programs for it are already full and a few more had to be added because of the demand, according to Brown.



Different media can be used to create personalized works of art at the Stitching Salon, 72 E. Randolph St. Pate Conaway holds up his yarn made of shrink wrap and his four-foot knitting needles.

"The most popular thing has been to join a knitting group," Brown said. "Many people just want a refresher course [on knitting] and younger generations want to learn. There's a lot of excitement about it right now. There's even a guy who stitches with four-foot knitting needles. He's a true performance artist."

That guy is Pate Conaway, an interdisciplinary artist who uses different media to see how they relate to each other. Not only does he use four-foot knitting needles to create his work at the Stitching Salon, but he uses shrink wrap as his yarn.

"As an artist, I'm always asking, 'What if?'" Conaway said. "What if I used something instead of cotton or yarn? What if I tried using string, wire, plastic, rope? I'm always interested in what happens when you shift the medium."

Conaway encourages others to challenge the limits of the medium as well. He said a lot of people have asked him what he's going to do with the piece when he's finished. However, he wishes someone would just go along with him for a while and see how the project evolves. He said a woman came in and gave him the idea to mix pennies and other small objects into the piece. He was glad that she didn't question the future of the

project, but was intrigued by the process of it.

"I want people to come in and use four-foot knitting needles," Conaway said. "Even if they've never done it before, are they willing to try?"

For those not ready to take on shrink wrap and knitting needles that are taller than small children, Nina Savar, president of the Windy City Knitting Guild said there are more yarn shops around now than ever before. One of them is Loopy Yarns at 719 S. State St. Lisa Whiting, an employee at Loopy Yarns, said knitting is a big part of the do-it-yourself culture.

"A lot of people say it's an obsession when you learn to knit," Whiting said. "When you learn to create something it has more meaning. There's something so special about something you make yourself ... I think it's a wonderful thing for people who are craft people to value the art."

Savar believes in that as well. For those who are a little more adventurous, Savar is teaching a free spinning demo on Feb. 10 so people can learn to create their own yarn.

"There are so many different kinds of yarn you can buy," Savar said. "When you spin your own, you can incorporate different textures and make loops and special yarns you can't buy commercially."

Savar also helped create an ongoing project at the Stitching

Salon, which she calls "Polly," short for "Polly Ester Cotton." Polly is a mannequin clothed in all types of knitting. Different color yarns and stitching techniques are used to enhance Polly's dress. Everyone is encouraged to come in and add something to Polly's wardrobe, whether it's simply sewing a button or adding a new patch to her skirt.

Savar added that when it comes to Polly, pretty much anything goes. She said she'd love to see people come in and really make Polly's outfit wild and completely out of the ordinary by adding something atypical, like a photograph or other handmade art.

According to Savar, there are many reasons for knitting's newfound popularity. One of them is the sense of community it brings.

"I really feel a connection with the women and girls who had to do this to survive," Savar said. "They had to make everything by hand. The fact that I do this now and can reflect on their hardships makes me know how lucky I am to be here. I'm so grateful for the things they did. Every time I think life is hard, it really isn't. What I do is a tribute to those who preceded me."

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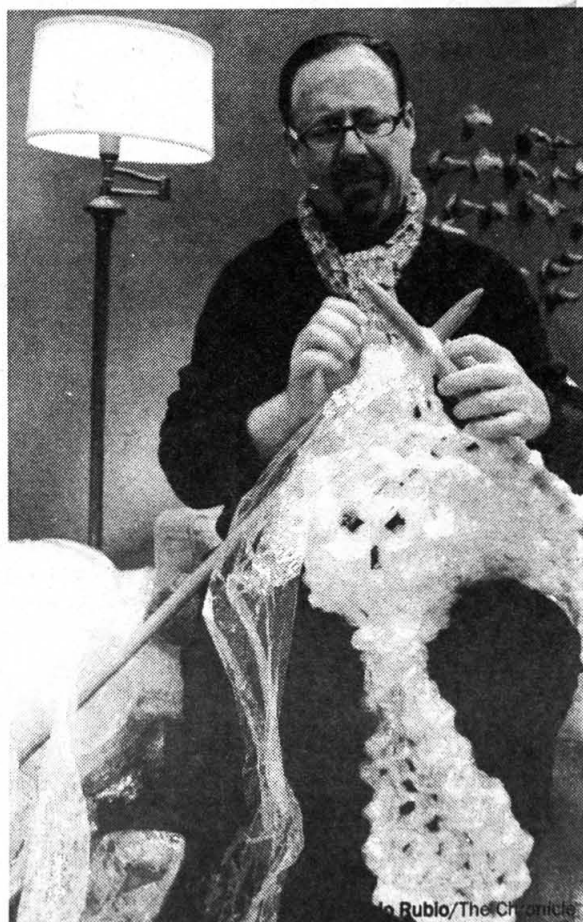
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Pate Conaway pushes the limits of knitting as he patiently sits and knits with shrink wrap.

Maui isn't so merry

Residents feel new MTV reality show gives Maui a bad name

By Associated Press

Some Maui residents are objecting to the latest MTV reality show, "Maui Fever," saying its sexual content and all-white cast gives viewers a skewed impression of their island.

The first episode highlights a group of men who target tourists for fast, easy and noncommittal hookups.

Previews for the eight-episode series—which airs on MTV Wednesday evenings—hint at cheating, fighting, partying and hooking-up. The first episode aired Jan. 17.

"I don't want [tourists] to come to Maui and think that people are going to come up to their daughters, so 'I better keep them away,'" said Nathan Ugale, a 16-year-old, who was born and raised in Lahaina. "It's good for TV but not when it's happening in the town that you live in, that you've been a part of your whole life."

Abcde Shibao, a 16-year-old also from Lahaina, said Maui residents come across as one-dimensional in the program.

"I thought it was kind of insulting ... They just show partying," Shibao said. "But [young people are] active in school,

community and sports. We do other things besides partying."

Other objections stem from how the show fails to represent the ethnic and cultural makeup of Maui.

The show's seven main stars—two women and five men—are all Caucasian.

According to the 2000 census, Maui County is 31 percent Asian, 10 percent Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 22 percent mixed race. Caucasians account for 33 percent of the county, which includes the small islands of Lanai and Molokai along with Maui.

None of the players were born on Maui, though three graduated from Maui schools.

"[The show] is a really good idea, but these people aren't from here," said Kim Cabanilla, an 18-year-old of Lahaina. "The 'haole' thing is not a big deal, but I'd like to see people who are from here." "Haole" is local slang for white.

Series creator Morgan J. Freeman told the Honolulu Advertiser that casting was a challenge because of the need to find a group of people who already were friends and who

didn't mind getting intimate on television.

"You can only film people who are willing to be filmed, and a lot of the people we wanted [for a more diverse cast] didn't want to be filmed. You can't control that," Freeman said. He said some of the supporting characters are nonwhite.

Freeman said Maui was an ideal setting for the show because of its exotic backdrops and spicy mix of tourists and locals.

"There's an allure to the tropics and to Hawaii, and of living on a tropical island and being on permanent vacation," Freeman said.

State Film Commissioner, Donne Dawson said her office was unaware of the show's details when producers pitched the idea.

She added that film permits can't be denied based on content, unless a proposed project violates state pornography laws or other state rules.

Dawson and Benita Brazier, Maui County film commissioner, said her office hasn't heard whether the show would be shooting a second season.



Maui may seem like it's all clear skies and sandy beaches, but a new MTV reality show is making waves among residents.



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PS3's Resistance: Fall of Man

Get ready to kick some Chimera butt with Resistance on Playstation 3

By George P. Siefko/Assistant Campus News Editor

It's 1951 and World War II never happened; humans are being converted into the enemy—virus-infected soldiers—that are mutated, beefed up and clever as hell. The unexplained "Chimera" virus, whose victims bear the same name, has already conquered Russia in the '30s. It now moves westward through Europe, recruiting more soldiers through infection. The man responsible for saving humanity from this mess is Sgt. Nathan Hale, the cliché American soldier who puts humanity before his own life.

Cheesy hero aside, *Resistance: Fall of Man* outdoes itself through an overachieving narrative storyline, which is driven by British voiceovers. *Resistance* has taken a chapter out of Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* and mixes futuristic weapons with old school tanks. The game moves itself through a convincing atmosphere by balancing combat and a storyline that one may just find themselves playing to see what happens next—a plus for any shooter.

The controls are set up so anyone familiar with first-person shooters can pick up the scheme and kill Chimera by the dozens. While the level of difficulty in the beginning is rather easy, the game becomes more challenging as it moves the player through more than 20 chapters.

The enemies react super fast, but

weapons give Sgt. Hale the upper hand, as each one carries its own special powers. The Auger, for example, shoots through walls and does more damage as it passes through objects. It's special capability sets up a shield that blocks enemy fire, but at the same time allows players to shoot through it. The Auger may sound like a cheap weapon, but the enemies also use it—and they're pretty accurate when shooting through walls.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the game is the zero lag when the Chimera and machinery crowd the screen. Too often, shooters try to accomplish the epic battle but fail as the screen becomes overcrowded with enemies and the frame rate-per-second drops; this game carries the same fluid movement from start to finish.

The game's only downfall is the poor replay value; don't expect unlockable levels or new enemies. Instead, players will get a new weapon and a harder difficulty setting. The melee action is also poorly done. XBOX 360's *Gears of War* came up with an innovative melee attack by combining a chainsaw at the end of a rifle; blood splatters on the player's screen when it's put to use. In *Resistance*, however, the attack is a simple strike with the butt of the weapon, that's all.

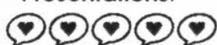
These days, players can't have a first-class shooter without incorpo-

rating an exciting multiplayer option. The PS3 has a wireless router already installed in the system, which makes signing online much easier than unplugging wires. Players can link up with friends and create their own clan. As the player kills more enemies their online rank goes up.

Overall, *Resistance: Fall of Man* is by far the strongest title available on the PS3, and perhaps one of the best shooters to come around since Halo.

gslefo@chroniclemail

Presentations:



Graphics:



Game play:



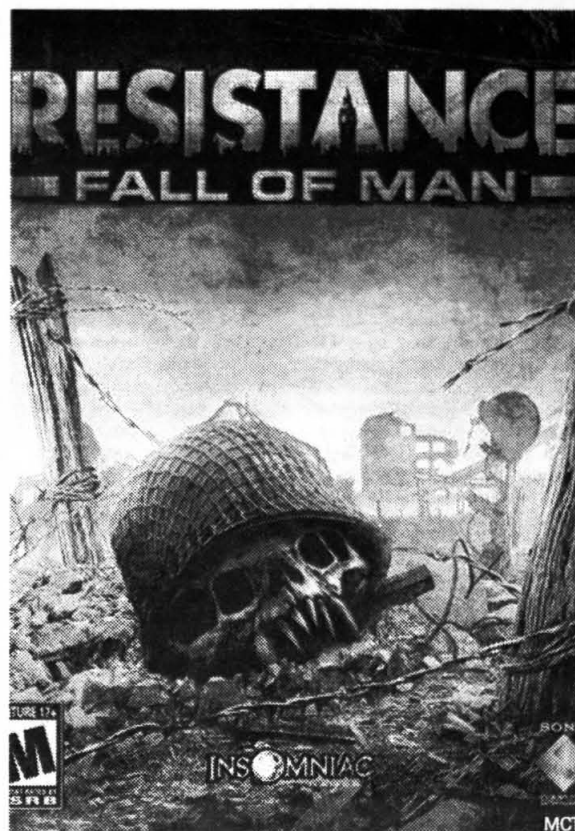
Sound:



Replay Value:



Overall:



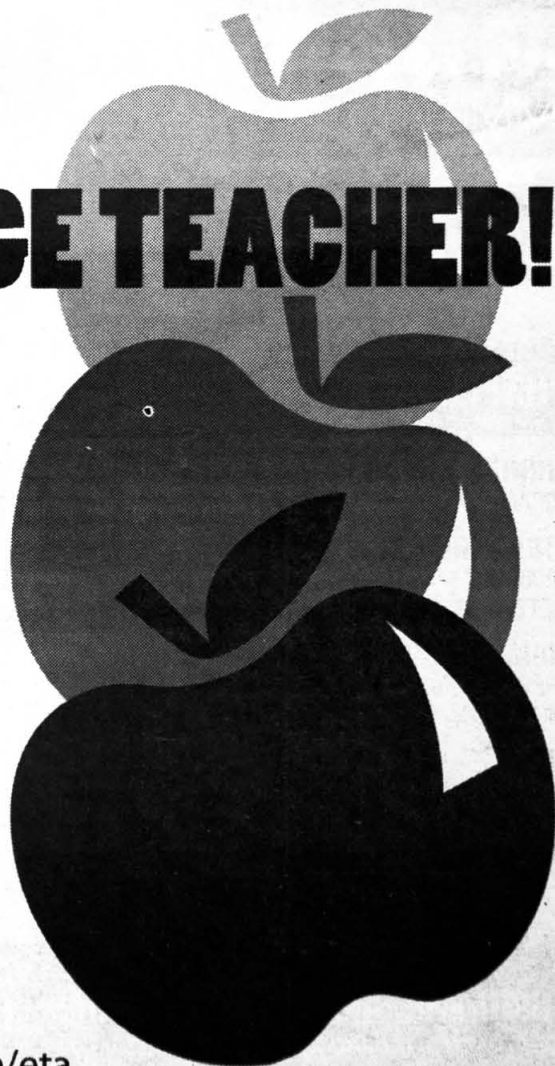
Resistance: Fall of Man carries weapons like the Bullseye, which 'tags' enemies and allows players to shoot around corners.

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Graves of their fathers

A look at Iwo Jima from the perspective of our 'enemy'

By Matt Fagerholm/Film Critic

General Tadamichi Kuribayashi leads remnants of his Japanese infantryman into what is, without any shred of doubt, certain death. Their country has left them on the island of Iwo Jima without the manpower or weaponry needed to adequately fight the 100,000 approaching invaders from America. After the smoke clears, only 1,083 of the 22,000 Japanese will have survived. And yet, Kuribayashi insists that his men continue battling with high spirits, while keeping in mind that "our people will praise our dedication." Ironically, the Iwo Jima battle was virtually erased from Japanese history books, perhaps out of pure shame for their own crushing loss. Most of the Japanese actors in director Clint Eastwood's *Letters from Iwo Jima* had no knowledge of the battle until they read the script.

This is one of many staggering facts detailing the scope of 77-year-old Eastwood's profound cinematic achievement, consisting of two films that focus on that pivotal bloody battle. *Flags of Our Fathers*, released last October, followed three American soldiers who get their picture taken while raising an inconsequential replacement flag at Iwo Jima. The photograph ends up spreading newfound patriotism across a cynical nation

and, like the toppling of Saddam's statue, the staged event is used by the government as pro-war propaganda. The soldiers are escorted back to America and lauded as "heroes," a title they are each reluctant to accept. *Letters from Iwo Jima* tells a story that is no less relevant and relatable to the American public, even though its story is exclusively that of the Japanese.

Based on the actual letters Kuribayashi wrote to his family, *Letters* looks with unflinching detail and humanity at the Japanese soldiers' shattering plight. One of the films protagonists, Young Saigo, played by Kazunari Ninomiya, is jettisoned into the war before he can even witness the birth of his child. No one is particularly pleased to be on the island, even as they adhere to a strict code of honor with zombie-like persistence. Death is repeatedly emphasized as an act honorable above all others when on the battlefield, though Kuribayashi—played by *The Last Samurai*'s Ken Watanabe—struggles to keep his men alive whatever the cost. Yet as the body count rises, assisted by dedicated soldiers who honorably commit suicide, the struggling survivors find themselves woefully under-equipped—a predicament that current soldiers stationed in Iraq

could undoubtedly relate to. As Saigo races through the intricate network of underground tunnels and bunkers he helped hollow out—in sequences reminiscent of Andrzej Wajda's *Kanal* (1957)—his early query, "Are we digging our own graves?" comes back to haunt him.

Iris Yamashita's screenplay follows a traditional war movie structure that fuses together beautifully with Eastwood's quietly observant direction, allowing the film's complex themes to play out on a deceptively simple canvas. It is considerably better than *Flags*, which succumbed to excessive sentimentality during a final father-son reunion that came out of nowhere—except James Bradley's memoir which the film was based on. *Letters* offers much tighter focus on character nuance, and elicits fiercely passionate work from Watanabe, whose performance plays like a slow, brutal heartbreak.

As is common in an Eastwood film, the most powerful moments are usually the smallest: a Japanese Olympic star tenderly chats with an injured American; a soldier remembers risking expulsion for refusing to kill an innocent house pet; the defeated Japanese listen to a hopeful children's choir singing "Our Proud Island Iwo Jima" on the radio.



Ken Watanabe stars as General Tadamichi Kuribayashi in Clint Eastwood's film *Letters from Iwo Jima*.

The unifying message of Eastwood's two-film project is clearly revealed when a letter written by the mother of a deceased American soldier is read aloud by the Japanese, and they realize that their "enemy" isn't all that different from themselves.

The inherent weakness of both *Iwo Jima* films is Eastwood's unrelenting insistence on pounding the audience with his message long after it has sunk into their brains. The parallels between past and present, American and Japanese, heroism and hell are brilliantly expressed by both *Flags* and *Letters*, yet through a repetitive structure that is, at times, intensely frustrating. What continues to fascinate are the emotional and thematic parallels between both films, which truly illustrate the ideological

unity of two opposing enemies who were each victims of war in every sense of the word.

Since the sum of both films is vastly superior to its parts, it may have been wiser for Eastwood to edit the films together, cutting out the extraneous footage, while simultaneously following both countries through their similar struggles. That may have culminated in a sure-fire masterpiece, but as it stands, *Flags* and *Letters* are two tremendously interesting pieces of a much more captivating puzzle.

chronicle@colum.edu

Letters from Iwo Jima
Directed by Clint
Eastwood



MUSIC
IMMORTALITY

INSIDE THE MINDS OF MUSIC

A PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT ARTIST MANAGEMENT AND A&R

PANELISTS

SHAWN MURPHY — MODERATOR
ASCAP

STEVE HUTTON
UPPERCUT MANAGEMENT
(BETTER THAN EZRA)

DOUGLAS LEFRAK
FEISTY MANAGEMENT
(MOTION CITY SOUNDTRACK)

STEVE SMITH
AWARE RECORDS/
A-SQUARED MANAGEMENT
(JOHN MAYER, FIVE FOR FIGHTING)

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Reviews

MUSIC



Beneath The Sky
What Demons Do to Saints

If the doctor has prescribed a little metal in your diet, then pop in Beneath the Sky's newest album, *What Demons Do to Saints*. Their sound is surprisingly tight and not muddled; a concept many metal bands haven't figure out yet. It's metal-rific.

—E. Kasang



Sun Kil Moon
Tiny Cities

I'm always looking for peaceful music to either write or fall asleep to. *Tiny Cities* combines the stripped-down transient, folk melodies of the Red House Painters with the brilliant lyrics of Isaac Brock as Mark Kozelek recreates Modest Mouse songs with acoustic guitar and reverb.

—S. Yaccino



Josh Kelley
Just Say the Word

Intricate lyrics with deep southern rhythms set Josh Kelley apart from other musicians, as he combines the worlds of country, pop and rock. The title track sets the tone of the album which is full of songs about both good and bad relationships. It's a great CD to put you in a mood to reminisce.

—M. Kroeck

PRINT



Newsweek: January 29, 2007

Shawn Hornbeck's four-year captivity is the latest abduction story to tear at our hearts. And "Living with Evil" offers a new perspective, from the voice of Tony Douglas, 15, Hornbeck's best friend and neighbor while living with alleged kidnapper, Michael Devlin.

—B. Palmer



Art Buchwald's Obituary
in the New York Times

Not technically just in print, the online version of Art's obit includes a video of him saying "Hi, I'm Art Buchwald, and I died." It's good to see that he faced his death with the same humor with which he lived his life.

—R. Strecher



GRAPHIC FICTION
An Anthology of Graphic Fiction, Cartoons, and True Stories
By Ivan Brunetti

You're not going to find Spandex-clad, homoerotic superheroes flying around in this collection of underground comics, which include the works of Robert Crumb, Chris Ware, Daniel Clowes, the Hernandez Brothers and Chester Brown. This anthology is a great read for anyone interested in honest, thought provoking and humorous reads.

—H. Clauss

FILM & TV



The Painted Veil
Directed by John Curran

Think "The Great Gatsby" meets China meets cholera. After betrayal scars the relationship of an English doctor and his bride, he brings her to the Far East to help with the deadly epidemic out of spite. Beautifully shot, this film received a Golden Globe for Best Original Score.

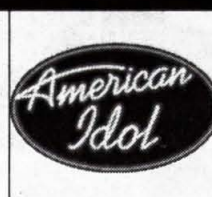
—A. Maurer



Employee of the Month
Directed by Mitch Rouse

One would think putting Dane Cook in a movie would yield the same results as his laugh-out-loud stand up comedy performances. However, even Jessica Simpson's cleavage can't salvage this wreck. The movie is not completely witless, but it can very well be lumped into a "devoid of intelligence" category. This Employee of the Month is fired.

—C. Jakubowski



American Idol Auditions
Fox

I don't care about who wins and becomes the next idol, or even who makes it to Hollywood. The best moments of this show come from those tone-deaf wannabes who sing songs from *Wizard of Oz*. I think that "monkey boy" from Seattle is going to be the next William Hung—look out for him corresponding on "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

—K. Kalter

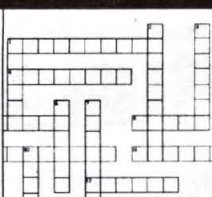
MISC.



Earmuffs

Curse this odd-shaped head of mine. It makes winter hat-wearing nearly impossible, which, according to my mom, means I'm losing all my body's heat through my uncovered head. But rather than freeze my little ears off, I've turned my attention to the glory of earmuffs. Don't you worry mommy—I won't catch a cold.

—A. Riggio



Crossword puzzles

Not only do these suckers keep me from falling asleep on the bus rides to and from school, they offer hours of entertainment! 26 Down: Boris of Russia. Answer: Yeltsin, of course! So many emotions come from one simple word game. The excitement never ends—Will I finish the puzzle? Will I be stumped? Who knows?! —T. Breyne



One letter makes all the difference

It's the teeny, but monumental difference between "assess" and "asses" and "heroine" and "heroin." Personally, I can't help but chuckle at the booby traps the English language sets up on us feeble human beings. If only the Pope knew that instead of "celibate," it said "celebrate." Oh wait, that's two letters. Dam it. Joke failed.

—C. Mahlmeister

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

In the world of music, in order to make yourself marketable you need a couple of things. One is a good sound. Another is a memorable name. One local Chicago rock band has both those things. xSive, pronounced "excessive," has been together for a few years now and consists of Michael Barrile on lead guitar; Wally Swiatly on vocals; Ian Frydrych on bass guitar; Ryan Bennett on drums and Joe Little on guitar.

The band's core members, Barrile and Swiatly, recently talked to The Chronicle about how the success of the Bears has brought these guys some success of their own.

The Chronicle: How did the band get started?

Swiatly: I love writing original music and I hadn't for a while. I said to Mike, "We should do something about it." The real reason we've kept it going is that I've never met anybody who likes the same sound that I do. I didn't know what I was getting into, but I knew we had something good.

How did you come up with the name for your band?

Swiatly: It's funny. Driving home from work I saw it on a license plate and thought, "That's a cool name." I figured, we're fairly excessive, and it would be great to design a logo like that.

Do you think there's a band or a sound you can compare yourselves to?

Swiatly: I don't know. I've been listening to our stuff for a while now and I can't even think of anyone who we can compare ourselves to. Early stuff was like

Green Day and the Beatles to Hall and Oates. We've been around it all; it all melted together.

Where have you guys played around the city?

Barrile: We've played at the House of Blues, which was a live radio broadcast with Jonathon Brandmeier for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We also played at the Double Door, Wise Fools, The Note, Blue Iguana, places like that.

What would you say is your biggest accomplishment so far?

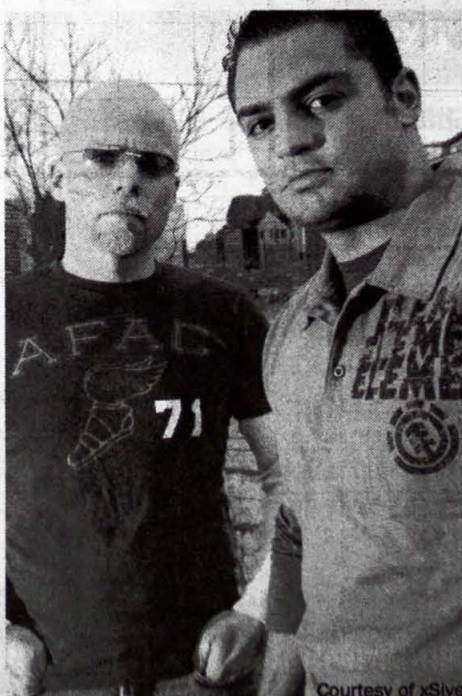
Barrile: 97.9 the Loop had a contest to pick the next Bears song. People were getting tired of the Super Bowl shuffle and wanted something new. The grand prize for the contest was \$5,000 and we won. Our song is called "Hit 'em once, hit 'em twice." It's played almost every day.

Swiatly: [The Loop contest] got us so many more friends on MySpace. We're up to 3,000 already. People like what they see on that page.

xSive is working on a new demo and their first CD, "Three Generations of Rock" can be purchased on cdbaby.com/xSive. "Hit 'em once, hit 'em twice" can be purchased on iTunes and all the proceeds from the song go to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. If you want to see them live, the band will be performing at the Cubby Bear in Wrigleyville, 1059 W. Addison St., on Feb. 1. For more information on xSive, visit myspace.com/xSive.

—M. Kroeck

xSive



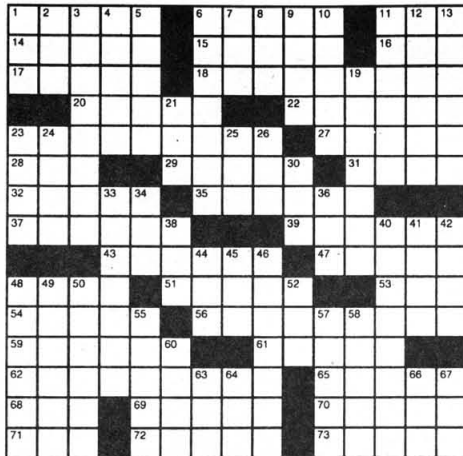
Michael Barrile and Wally Swiatly combine their talents to form xSive.

Courtesy of xSive

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Citified
 6 Litigators
 11 6-pointers
 14 Don of "SNL"
 15 Actress Potts
 16 Water damage
 17 Shoulder wrap
 18 Marshal Dillon's town
 20 Like corduroys
 22 Mixture of pebbles
 23 Handrails
 27 Steps over a fence
 28 "Born in the ____"
 29 Piggish sound
 31 Bando and Mineo
 32 John and Tyne
 35 Evening party
 37 Spoken word
 39 Actress Milano
 43 Skyrocketed
 47 Municipal conduit
 48 Audition for a part
 51 Conestoga
 53 Devour
 54 Llama land
 56 Variable electrical resistors
 59 Distends
 61 Possessive pronoun
 62 Bulwark
 65 Plays' players
 68 Rink surface
 69 Nostrils
 70 Attempts
 71 Tycoon Turner
 72 Snatches
 73 ____ Cruz, CA

DOWN
 1 ____ and downs
 2 Hamlin pest
 3 Brewer's batch
 4 Dwight's opponent
 5 Christmas carols
 6 Makes unhappy
 7 One in Toledo
 8 Wrap up
 9 "The Avengers" star



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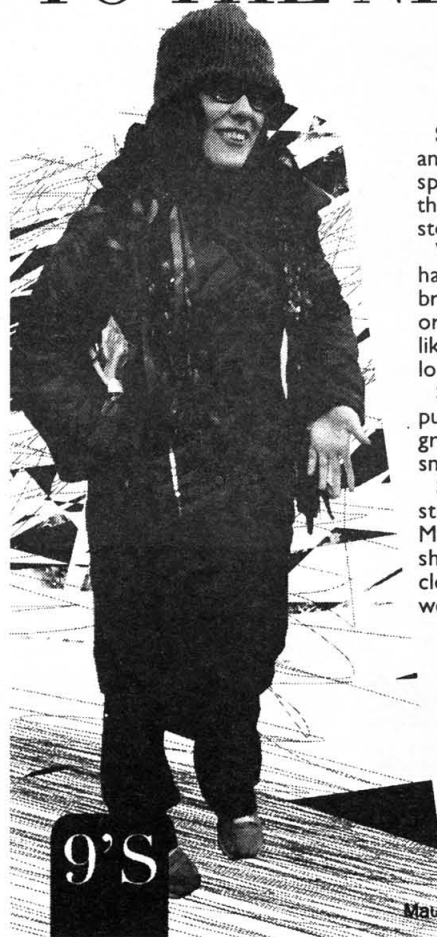
1/29/07

Solutions



48 Cottontail
 49 Tie together
 50 Loved
 52 Japanese drama
 55 The Police singer
 57 Groups in groups
 58 Coronet
 60 Capone feature
 63 Southern constellation
 64 Society gal
 66 Hanoi holiday
 67 9-digit ID org.

TO THE NINES



Sara Plano, a senior film and video major, likes to spend her time hunting through discount and thrift store racks.

Wearing a big purple knit hat and a multicolored bright, shiny and out of the ordinary scarf, she said, "I like things that are funny-looking and colorful."

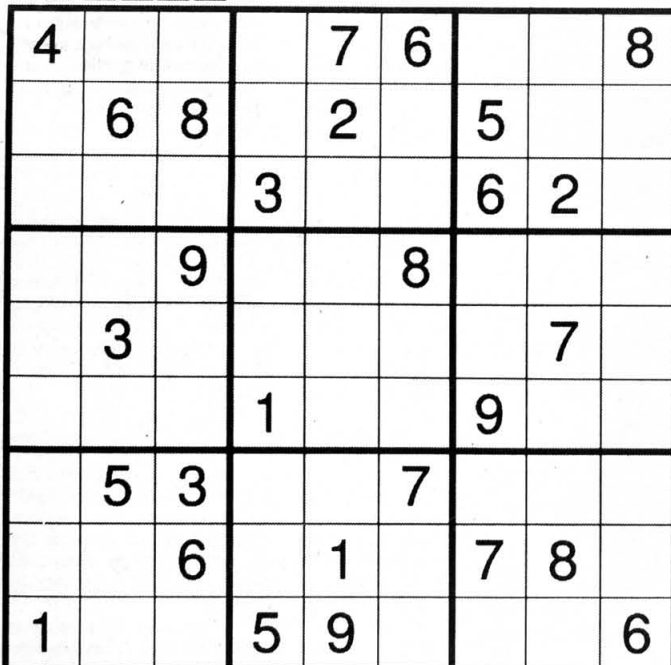
She found her long, green, puffy winter coat and her gray and blue Saucony sneakers at TJ Maxx.

Some of her other favorite stores include H&M and Marshalls. Most importantly, she said, "I like to buy clothes that fit me." Don't we all?

Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: **1** 2 3 4



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

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Horoscopes by Hunter Clauss



Aquarius (Jan. 21—Feb. 19): Your ambitions to navigate a blimp to work will come true this week. However, in a double whammy, the floating time bomb will go off à la Hindenburg right above your office, killing all of the co-workers you hate so much. Unfortunately, you'll be too dead to appreciate it with the co-workers you do like.



Pisces (Feb. 20—March 20): Happiness is a laser pointer on a train packed with drunk dudes.



Aries (March 21—April 20): A regular check-up with your doctor reveals that you will feel as if it is Monday for the rest of your life.



Taurus (April 21—May 21): Your plans for the future will come crashing down when you discover the three-boobed woman from *Total Recall* only has two.



Gemini (May 22—June 21): Asking someone the location to the nearest back alley is just one of the worst pick-up lines you'll use this week.



Cancer (June 22—July 23): A long-term relationship will come to a halt when, after a night of passion, your significant other claims that you're turning into your mother.



Leo (July 24—Aug. 23): A practical joke by Mother Nature results in egg-shaped offspring for you and your family.



Virgo (Aug. 24—Sept. 23): The chief similarity between suburban valley girls and hippie love children is a fondness for wearing sandals—be they flip flops or Birkenstocks—during the winter. Luckily, survival of the fittest dictates they will surely die off come springtime.



Libra (Sept. 24—Oct. 23): Prosperity is right around the corner for you this week when you concoct your own fragrance, one that harnesses the smell of new books. You will call it *Novel* for men and *Novella* for women.



Scorpio (Oct. 24—Nov. 22): A UFO will abduct you, but the tiny gray-skinned aliens with the wrinkly skin will totally short-change you on the anal probes.



Sagittarius (Nov. 23—Dec. 21): Try drowning your loneliness in something other than booze, like concentrating really hard in the class where you have a crush on the teacher so you can win his/her heart. After the two of you fall in love and move in together, you'll find out he/she has found another promising pupil. That's when you can hit the bottle.



Capricorn (Dec. 22—Jan. 20): Nothing is hotter than holding a knife with your bare teeth.

Genealogy: Students speak with scientists, cellist Yo-Yo Ma

Continued from Back Page

participation kits to allow them to take part in the Genographic Project's worldwide quest for DNA samples to add to their database. An additional 50 kits were donated to each of five Chicago Sister Cities International partner schools in England, France, South Africa, Jordan and China.

By swiping the inside of the cheek with a cotton swab, enough DNA can be obtained to study the lineage of a given person, Wells said. Scientists at IBM developed a database to cross-reference and compare the samples to find patterns.

Renowned cellist Yo-Yo Ma became involved with the Genographic Project through his ensemble's work with Silk Road Chicago. He and Wells taught the Prosser sophomores how to properly swab for their DNA sample and explained they could retrieve their results online in roughly eight weeks.

While the Genographic Project wants to discover overall migratory patterns through time, individuals are encouraged to use the information to learn about their own genealogy, Wells said.

In their lesson with Ma and Wells, many of the Prosser students said they were excited to learn about their own past as well as help answer deeper questions about human migration.

"What I'd hope that my students find out of this project,



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Yo-Yo Ma speaks about his instrument and his music following a brief performance for 10th grade students participating in the Genographic Project.

and out of talking to [Wells and Ma], is that you can't just be happy with what's in your textbook," McKay said. "You have to go out there and explore and find out what interests you in the past and attack it and make it yours."

Sixteen-year-old Diamond Howard was chosen to conduct a question-and-answer session with Wells and Ma at an assembly following the lesson

McKay's class had with the men. She said she was most excited about being able to compare her lineage results with her fellow classmates.

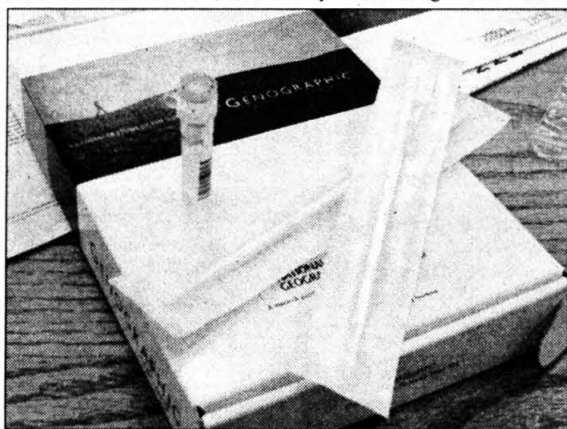
"Some of [the students are] scared, but it's nothing to be scared of," Howard said. "You find your history and you should want to find your history—where you came from. [I want to] go tell everybody and see who I'm related to."

School officials think this information may help students realize that although they seem different, they might be related to one another, according to Frank Cassello, a retired teacher who works in the administration of the high school.

"When some of this information starts to come back the kids will start to realize we all put our pants on the same way," Cassello said. "That's what's great about this project."

The general public can purchase participation kits online through nationalgeographic.com/genographic for \$99.95 each.

ariggio@chroniclemail.com



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

The Genographic Project DNA sampling kit contains two cheek swabs and containers for collecting the DNA sample.

Lawsuit: Dispute among number of missing disks

Continued from Back Page

Along with arguing how the Chicago Board violated voters' rights, Nicholas Kefalos, who filed the suit in Cook County Circuit Court, stated his demands from the complaint. Kefalos is currently Zelchenko's attorney.

"The remedy is to, first of all, get the disks back," Kefalos said. "Secondly, contact everyone who's been affected; thirdly,

create an endowment for people to dip into to take care of any damages they have suffered [and fourthly, confirm that the Chicago Board] remedied any further ongoing disclosures of sensitive, personal and private information."

Although Kefalos did not have an exact amount for the endowment, or general fund, that would cover credit checks, he said at \$50 per person, it could run into the millions.

However, Chicago Board of Elections spokesman Thomas Leach said the public should not fret about the situation.

"We don't want the message to get out that there should be panic in the streets," Leach said. "We have absolutely no evidence at all that there's been any identity theft or that information

has been used inappropriately."

Leach said the Chicago Board first created the disks after the County Building fire in October 2003. After evacuating the building, Chicago Board employees couldn't gain access to their files for several days; aldermen and ward committeemen couldn't get their ward information either.

The disks originally contained a registered voter's full social security number. However, since last November the CD-ROMs only contain the last four digits of a person's social security number.

Currently, only six disks with

Students: Transportation safety remains top concern among peers

Continued from Back Page

and walk the streets without thinking much about anything," he said. "When there are more people on the streets, it makes them safer and when streets are safer they attract more people who are willing to buy into the neighborhood," he said.

Safety is still a concern for many students. In early 2005, the Central Loop Alliance, a community organization of local businesses and residents, conducted an economic study and survey on the impact of education on the Loop and South Loop. A survey of female students found that only 24 percent felt "very safe" or "safe" while by themselves in the evening.

The study also found that education's impact on the area was much more significant than what many had previously thought. Of the nearly 54,000 students attending institutions of higher education in the Loop and South Loop, 24 percent work in the area, and the 23 schools employ more than 12,000 people.

Ty Tabing, executive director of the Central Loop Alliance, said the student population is more visible because more students are beginning to move into the area. As this continues, Tabing said the type of retail development going on will be impacted as well.

"It seems that there is a critical mass of students now in a way there used to not be," Tabing said. "I mean, you see people going to classes, hanging out in front of various college facilities. Even though there were schools down here previously, you never saw that kind of social element to the downtown education corridors."

Tabing said Mayor Richard M. Daley has been a proponent of schools in the area and has previously mentioned creating additional dormitories similar to the University Center of Chicago, 525 S. State St.

"The reality is, the city had a real vision when it came to saving

the [eastern portion of the] Loop," Tabing said. "As a result of that, the city wanted to create alternative uses for all these old buildings and that allowed them to be saved instead of torn down. That's why so many of the buildings were converted to student use."

Despite the growth, expansion and development of the area, many students still feel short-changed.

"Well, there's the park and museums and I can go get a cup of coffee, but other than that there's not much to do," said Eric Sorensen, a sophomore film and video major at Columbia.

Sorensen, who lives in the University Center, said finding things to do during the day isn't nearly as hard as it is at night.

"There isn't all that much to do down here at night if you're not 21 [years old]," Sorensen said. "I came here to go to school, but that's only half [of my] time."

Sorensen is not alone. The survey of students conducted by the Central Loop Alliance also found many are in need of a 24-hour facility where they could meet with others from different institutions.

Maggie Carsons, 22, a psychology major at Roosevelt, said having something to do on campus for those under 21 is only important for half the students. She is more worried about transportation.

"It's not as bad during school because I have a U-pass, but during the summer and on winter break, I hardly leave my apartment because I don't have money to take the train," Carsons said. "And when the CTA is breaking down all the time, it's definitely not worth my money."

Carsons, who lives in the Logan Square neighborhood, said she plans on voting in the upcoming election, but said many of her friends aren't going to.

"It's easier for me since I've been at the same place for over a year, but for a bunch of my friends who move all the time, they have no idea where or how to vote," Carsons said. "There's not all that much that can be done about that. Unless the aldermen are going to individually come up to everyone's door and walk each person through the process, a lot of people I know aren't going to vote."

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"We don't want the message to get out that there should be panic in the streets."

—Thomas Leach, Chicago Board of Elections spokesman

the social security numbers may still exist in the public. Leach said the disks have an average life of six months before aldermen request new ones. The Chicago Board is also analyzing past Freedom of Information Act requests to see who asked for a ward disk.

Although the disks could be downloaded and copied, Leach does not suspect that happened. "I don't think elected officials are interested in identity theft," Leach said.

This is not the first time the Chicago Board has misplaced voters' personal information. Last October, Zelchenko discov-

ered that the Chicago Board's website contained a programming error in its database that allowed people to potentially view voters' full social security numbers.

Zelchenko said he tried to warn a Chicago Board member about the web glitch but was ignored. The Chicago Board corrected the problem only after the Chicago Sun-Times reported on the web problem. Now these "lost" data CDs only compound the problems at the Chicago Board, according to Zelchenko.

"The apathy and arrogance that we see in the public sphere led to problems like the ones we are seeing today," Zelchenko said.

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Housing: Waiting list for public housing remains closed

Continued from Back Page

However, according to Hill, homelessness is not an issue for the CHA nor one related to the Plan for Transformation.

In fact, Hill said all residents that were living in a CHA-owned property as of Oct. 1, 1999 have been successfully relocated and accounted for and are not members of the homeless community.

"We've always had a homeless population even if the high-rises weren't taken down," Hill said. "The homeless population is going to be there and will always be there."

As part of the plan, Hill reported that programs being established offer residents job training, G.E.D. certificates and other tools that will adequately provide them with the means necessary to move out of public housing.

Hill added that by helping people move out of low-income housing it will open up more units for people who need them. But for now, the CHA's main concern is its current residents.

"We are dedicated to taking care

of our own first," Hill said. "Those who are already residents of the CHA and have been since Oct. 1, 1999 get the first choice of rehabbed or new homes."

However, experts agree that although current residents may be benefiting in Chicago's housing system, the need for more affordable housing is still ever-present and growing for those on the waiting list.

According to a 2005 report released by the Heartland Alliance, a human needs and rights group, the number of CHA owned units has decreased by 3,520 since 2003.

It also reports that more than 42,000 people are currently on a waiting list for a public housing unit, a number much higher than the 30,000 reported by Hill.

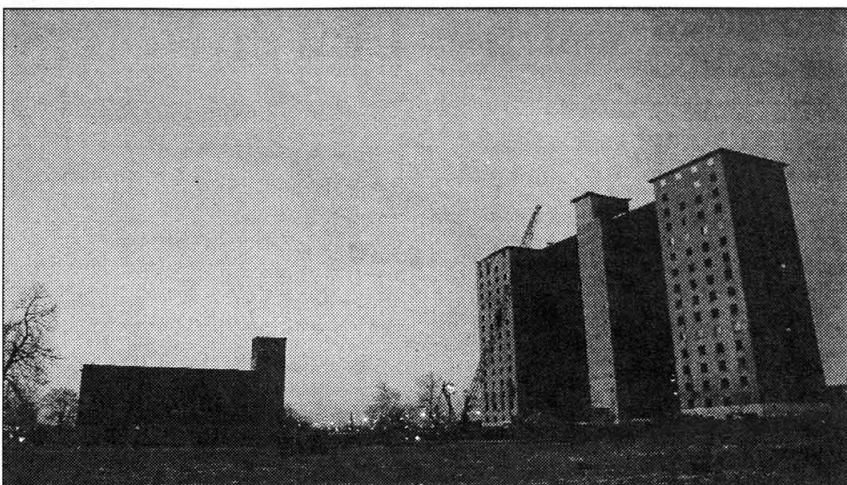
Doug Schenkelderg, associate director of policy at the Heartland Alliance, said that although the CHA's plan is responsible for reducing the number of units avail-

able for those in need, the issue of affordable housing stretches beyond just the CHA.

"There isn't really a conversation about how we need to expand the pot of money we are talking about," Schenkelderg said. "We shouldn't be picking

and choosing between different venues that supply affordable housing, but [asking] how do we expand all those so all families can access that."

To Schenkelderg, the focus



Maurico Rubio/The Chronicle

Pictured above are the last remaining buildings of the Robert Taylor Homes, 5120 S. Federal St. Located in Bronzeville along the Dan Ryan Expressway, the buildings are being torn down as part of the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation set to be complete in 2010.

should be more on the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which supplies the funds to the CHA and other organizations that provide affordable housing. By increasing the number of available funds to various housing departments, it should in turn increase the number of units being built, he said.

Yet, similar to comments made by the CHA, HUD also said there are other serious factors that lead to homelessness, according to Brian Sullivan, a spokesman for HUD. He said the blame can't be pointed entirely in their direction.

"Clearly the lack of affordable housing contributes to homelessness, especially in certain high-cost areas of the country, but there is no specific data that I know of

that quantifies the number of persons/families who are homeless due to a lack of affordable housing," Sullivan said. "People are homeless for an infinite number of reasons relating to employment, mental health, addiction ... and yes, the availability of affordable housing."

As the finger-pointing continues, both Desmond and Schenkelderg agree that the issue of decreasing homelessness by providing more affordable homes is being recognized and evaluated by organizations outside of the CHA and HUD.

Since June 2005, the city, along with the Alliance and the Coalition for the Homeless, helped create the Renters Assistance Program.

Similar to the Housing Choice

Voucher Program, also known as Section 8, the Renters Assistance Program provides certain people money to help pay rent or other housing-related bills.

With over 9,000 people on a closed waiting list for a voucher, Schenkelderg said the renter's program will help more than 1,000 families obtain a home.

Additionally, the Illinois Housing Trust Fund is also a major contributor to the building of more affordable housing throughout the state. And according to Schenkelderg, these two programs are where more focus should be turned when it comes to ending homelessness in Chicago.

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Easier Voting, Fewer Voters

Officials have little success luring voters to elections

Dana Nelson
Assistant City Beat Editor

Although the Chicago Board of Elections has worked to make voting easier, many people are choosing not to vote at all. The Board has made voting and registration almost entirely electronic, lengthened polling hours and provided early registration options. However, voter turnout is at an all-time low.

"We can't really do much to boost turnout other than making sure as many people as possible are aware of the election," said Jim Allen, spokesman for the Chicago Board of Elections.

Allen said voters went to the polls more when there was high interest in the elections, such as the presidential elections.

According to the Chicago Board of Elections, 52 percent of registered voters cast their ballots in the 2002 gubernatorial elections and 49 percent voted in the November 2006 mid term elections.

However, only 34 percent voted in the last municipal election in 2003.

The Chicago Election Board established 51 early voting sites so that voters could cast their ballots before the actual election on Feb. 27. Each ward has a voting location, as well as in the Election

Part of The Chronicle's ongoing election coverage

Board offices, 69 W. Washington St., Suite 600.

Electronic voting machines have replaced punch-card ballots to reduce the number of lost votes that have been a problem in previous elections.

A grace period was also established to help voters who could not register or change their address in time, Allen said. The grace period extends 14 days after the last day of registration. To do this, they must register in person at the Clerk's downtown Chicago office, 69 W. Washington St., Room 500.

Allen also said the Chicago Board of Elections is working with outreach programs for Hispanic and Chinese news media and organizations to encourage voter turnout.

People for the American Way, an organization that works to support and educate the public on American rights, encourages college students to participate in elections as polling place administrators, Allen said. As administrators, students are responsible for organizing and administering the polls.

"College students who participate have a positive reaction to working the polls," Allen said. "They were excited about what they were doing."

Allen said the Board of Elections did a study on student voters and found a burst of interest at the age of 18 when they can

legally vote.

However, at 22, voter interest declined, and few went to the polls, either because of living outside their districts or being distracted by other interests such as school and work.

Students also have said they don't feel represented by government officials.

"We found that students didn't trust government on any level," said Adelaide Kimball, historian of Project Vote Smart. "They felt candidates didn't speak to their issues and they were being blown off. They were saying they didn't want to encourage the system. They felt manipulated."

During a study done by Project Vote Smart, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research group with a focus on educating voters by providing accurate information on potential political candidates, researchers found that young voters, aged 18 to 24, often declined to vote because of little government concern for their interests.

James Lewis, director of Roosevelt University's Institute for Metropolitan Affairs in Chicago, said a number of problems led to low voter turnout.

"There's less local political organization than there used to be," Lewis said. "There's some level of disenchantment with the political process on the part of voters. There's some evidence that

A surprise in every haggis



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Debbi Evans of the Celtic Knot Public House in Evanston prepares haggis, which consists of various meats cooked inside a sheep's stomach. Haggis is traditionally eaten on Jan. 25 to honor Robert Burns, the national poet of Scotland.

ballots are too long. The huge numbers of candidates discourage people from making any choices at all."

Information on candidates has become more readily available through nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations such as Project Vote Smart and Mass Vote. Other campaigns such as Rock the Vote also work to get people to register and vote.

"We think that if people have that kind of information, more people will go out and vote," Kimball said.

Allen said the voters are responsible for finding information on the candidates.

"People have a certain obligation to educate themselves," Allen

said. "Either they're interested or not. Voter interest drives everything."

To encourage registration and voting in college students, Columbia has made voter registration forms for the State of Illinois available in the Records Office, 600 S. Michigan Ave., Room 611.

"The most important thing is to have some kind of organization," Lewis said. "That someone's checking up on you, someone's making sure you have information about the election, someone's talking to you about it, that there's sort of peer pressure to do it. That's what works in neighborhoods and I'd suspect that's what works with students as well."

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Synagogue: Under-age gamblers score big

Continued from Front Page

host, Shaare Enet, pocketed a little over \$100 from the \$1,150 pot.

According to the Illinois Charitable Games Act, participants of charity events like Las Vegas Night can only cash out \$250 worth of chips at the end of the night. However, the law isn't applied to cash tournaments where players ante in.

Religious groups like Shaare Enet generate money from the charity events by raking in 10 percent of each pot played, with a \$5 maximum. At the end of the night, 3 percent of their gross income goes toward the Illinois Department of Revenue. The rest is profit for the fundraiser.

Like many religious groups, Shaare Enet decided to drop bingo night and set up poker tables, as Las Vegas Night attracts a younger audience that generates more money for the charity host. Last year more than \$11 million was generated from charitable gaming in Illinois, according to spokesman Mike Klemens of the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Jim Kasputis, CEO of Rockford Charitable Games, provides religious groups like Shaare Enet with waitresses, dealers, tables, chips and event management for a fee, which varies according to the size of

the event.

Kasputis said Shaare Enet made over \$10,000 from their latest fundraiser. This year Kasputis will oversee more than 200 charity operations with 300 to 500 participants expected to turn out at each event.

"Because of Chris Moneymaker and TV, the business has really blossomed," Kasputis said.

Much of Texas hold'em's popularity came when an unknown accountant named Chris Moneymaker won the World Series of Poker in 2003. The event, which aired on ESPN, triggered a Texas hold'em craze across America, and within a few years Texas hold'em games were being aired on ESPN, Fox Sports and Travel Channel.

"[Las Vegas Night is] a traveling casino," said Peter Kozera, a 19-year-old patron at the Shaare Enet. "I have friends that call [Rockford Charitable Games] and show up for their fundraisers."

Although proceeds from Las Vegas Night go to charity, Scott Damiani, executive director of the Outreach Foundation for Problem and Compulsive Gamblers, said he is concerned about teenagers playing in casino-like environments.

"It really concerns me if these [teens] are winning big early," Damiani said. "The sad part is that the people who run these events don't know where they are leading adolescents."

Damiani said he developed a gambling addiction when he was in high school and attends Gamblers Anonymous meetings



George P. Siefko/The Chronicle

Teens at the Congregation Shaare Enet, a conservative synagogue in Des Plaines, gather around the roulette table on Jan. 9 for Las Vegas Night, an event used as a fundraiser for the synagogue.

on a regular basis.

"Now we're beginning to see more and more young gamblers come to Gamblers Anonymous meetings," Damiani said. "Some of these kids are in high school playing in \$500 tournaments. Where they get that kind of money, I don't know."

Damiani isn't alone.

Jon Grant, a psychiatrist, expert on gambling addictions and associate professor at the University of Minnesota, said TV shows airing Texas hold'em games have played a role in gambling's popularity with teens.

"Adolescents are known to

show higher risk taking behaviors that return high rewards such as gambling," Grant said. "If [teens] find something pleasurable and it's permissible, they are going to keep doing it; the fact that it's permissible makes them think it's OK."

Kasputis said part of his business success comes from a younger generation taking an interest in Texas hold'em.

"If you begin to win at an early age, the rush of the victory may lead adolescents to continue gambling and possibly lead toward addiction; but that doesn't necessarily mean they are going to develop an addictive

behavior," Grant said.

According to a 2005 issue of the Journal of Gambling Issues, approximately 4 to 8 percent of adolescents between 12 and 17 years of age gamble at a pathological level, and another 10 to 15 percent are at risk of developing a serious addiction.

Quillin, a high school graduate, said he isn't sure what to do with his future yet.

"I'm thinking about joining the Army, [but] I'm not sure," he said. "In the meantime I'm playing hold'em."

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Losing big to the Super Bowl

Study shows Super Bowl slackers could erode company productivity

By Dave Carpenter/AP

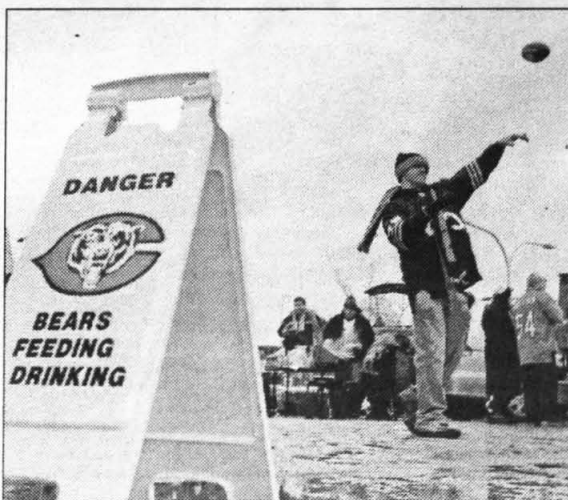
It's time for the annual warning about lost worker productivity due to the nation's favorite midwinter diversion.

A day after the Chicago Bears and Indianapolis Colts earned spots in the Feb. 4 game, a consulting firm estimated that lost wages could exceed \$16 million a minute as millions of Americans chat about the game, plan parties, organize betting pools or research big-screen TVs.

That's more than \$820 million from the week before the game alone.

Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc. based its estimate on an anticipated audience of 90 million tuning in to the game, along with figures about the national employment rate and average pay. Its analysts calculated that employers around the nation will pay football fans \$162 million for every 10 unproductive minutes they spend discussing the game or reading about it online.

The biggest Super Bowl slackers, not surprisingly, should be found in Chicago and Indianapolis.



AP

Scott Bidley of Chicago throws a football in the parking lot with tailgaters before the NFC championship football game between the New Orleans Saints and Chicago Bears Sunday, Jan. 21, in Chicago.

Challenger pegs the potential total of lost wages paid to the 3.9 million in Chicago's work force at about \$73 million. In Indianapolis, the loss could amount to \$2.5 million.

Having a city's team in the Super Bowl can be a bonanza, of course, for businesses such as bars, restaurants and retailers.

John Challenger, the firm's chief executive, emphasized that his firm isn't trying to put a damper on the fun or suggest

that companies ban betting pools. He acknowledged that some productivity gains can come from a friendlier workplace and higher employee morale.

"We just want to inject a little sobriety into the discussion around the country, especially here in Chicago," he said. "In every office, there are sports junkies and others who are caught up in the hoopla around the Super Bowl. In Chicago ...



AP

Chicago Bears running back Cedric Benson (32) is congratulated by teammates Fred Miller (69) and Desmond Clark (88) after scoring on a 12-yard run in the fourth quarter against the New Orleans Saints on Sunday, Jan. 21.

there might be some offices that grind to a halt."

Overall, Challenger noted: "There are always distractions in the workplace. The Super Bowl is just one more."

Case in point: The Super Bowl isn't even the biggest pro-

ductivity eroder among U.S. sporting events. That honor goes to the 16 days of March Madness, the NCAA basketball championship tournament, when many early round games are played during regular working hours.

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Scoop in the Loop: How to not cause a scene



By Dana Nelson
Assistant City Beat Editor

On any given day, approximately 1.5 million people travel on el trains, according to a June 2006 CTA ridership report. Because of this, it is important to be considerate of other passengers.

Every so often, a "common courtesy" announcement blares through the loud speakers telling passengers: Priority seating is for the elderly or disabled; smoking, littering and playing loud music is prohibited and "Please! Do not lean against the doors."

However, last week I realized these announcements were not enough for me. So this is my guide on how to not cause a scene on the el.

I found myself, as many people do, riding the Red Line home at four in the morning with some people who were a little intoxicated. While the drunks I've met on the train are usually friendly, it's important to keep in mind that they are often more impressionable than the average rider.

I was sitting by the door talking

with two guys sitting across from me, whom I've nicknamed "Jim" and "Bob". for convenience, as well as another man sitting nearby named "Nick." I was playing with the random objects in my pockets—keys, wallet, slips of paper—when I came across a jalapeno pepper. Yes, I was carrying around a jalapeno pepper.

Lesson One: Don't Pick Up Things Off the Street

A few days prior to this incident, I found this particular jalapeno resting by a tree outside Panera Bread in the South Loop. Being an odd person, I picked it up and tucked it into my coat. Having a jalapeno pepper in the pocket leads to having powers that should not be abused, such as causing a scene on the el.

Lesson Two: Don't Share Random Objects with Strangers

"Here, this is for you," I said, handing the pepper to Jim.

"What is that?" Nick exclaimed. "A jalapeno pepper," I said, shrugging sheepishly.

"Dude," Bob said, poking Jim, "I'll give you 20 bucks if you eat that."

This had started to become a very bad idea.

Lesson Three: Don't Encourage Bad Behavior

"No way," Jim said. "There's no way I'm eating this. Where did you find it?"

"By Panera," I said. "It was just sitting there. So I picked it up."

"100 bucks. I'll give you 100 if you eat that," Bob insisted.

"EAT THE PEPPER," Nick said.

As the peer pressure eroded Jim's delicate willpower, he eventually agreed to eat it—for \$200.

Bob, of course, disagreed. "There's no way I'm giving you \$200 to eat that. It's only, like, two bites!"

After more arguing, Bob decided to dispose of the pepper by throwing it to the other side of the train. While it seemed to have solved the problem, it only exacerbated the situation.

Lesson Four: Don't Get Outside Parties Involved

"Where'd the pepper go?" Nick asked, apparently unaware of what had just happened.

"I think it's down there," I said, pointing down to the other side of the train where four new people, also returning from a night out, had recently boarded.

Nick stumbled toward them, holding onto the seats for support and asked, "Do you have our pepper?"

They, of course, did and handed it back to Nick, who proclaimed that Bob would now eat the pepper. Bob again disagreed, saying that this pepper had been on the ground, and God knows where before I picked it up. It was certainly not worth only \$100.

One of the guys from the new group, however, seemed to think this would be a good way to make some extra money.

"I'll do it," the brave man said. He was then given the pepper,

while all of us watched in anticipation. He looked at the pepper, its green skin and length of about three inches, and decided not to eat it.

"Come on, man, just do it," Nick encouraged.

"I'll give you 20 bucks if you eat that," the friend of the man said.

Lesson Five: Don't Take Jalapenos from Strangers

While we learned in kindergarten not to eat candy that people in vans gave out, our mothers neglected to mention the importance of not eating jalapenos that are given out on the train. "Tom"—as I've decided the brave man's name is—did not get this lesson, which is why I am emphasizing what an utterly bad idea it is to eat such things.

Tom ate the pepper. He ate it in the middle of the train, in front of eight very amused young people and about five others that were perhaps, not as entertained—or as intoxicated.

Tom then became very ill. He started sweating and his face became very red. He fled the train at the Grand stop, vomited in a nearby trash can and returned to the train unscathed. Though a little shaken, he was probably a bit more sober.

Ruining another person's riding experience on the CTA is not very nice, so it is important to remember to be courteous and kind while riding the trains. Please, do not cause a scene.

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In Public

January 29

Meet the 2nd Ward aldermanic candidates in Columbia's Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. The forum is free and meant specifically to address the needs and concerns of the students.

Monday is Milton Friedman Day! The Chicago Mercantile Exchange and University of Chicago are holding a service to commemorate the life of the Nobel Prize-winning economist and U of C alum Milton Friedman. The service starts at 2 p.m. at the University's Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave., and is open to the public.

Calling all nihilists: The Chicago Theater Building, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., is celebrating its 30th anniversary with DESPAIRadise, a concert reading of a new musical in progress. The performance is described on the Theater Building's website, thetheaterbuilding.org, as being a chance for nihilist European art filmmakers to learn the true meaning of despair. Admission is \$10 and starts at 7 p.m. Call the Theater Building's box office for tickets at (773) 929-7367.

January 30

Today is the last day to register for the 2007 Chicago municipal election on Feb. 27. If you have had a Chicago address for more than 30 days, you are eligible to vote. Visit chicagoelections.com for all the information—it's not too late!

Is pain getting you down? If it is, visit the International Museum of Surgical Science, 1524 N. Lake Shore Drive for a panel discussion on "Alternative Approaches to Pain Care: Art Therapy, Massage and Acupuncture." A reception starts at 5:30 p.m., and the discussion begins at 6:15 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$5. To RSVP, e-mail Marnie Dawson at marnie@imss.org or call (312) 642-6502, ext. 3130.

Metro news briefs: a short week in review

Vehicular Damage

Maribel Nava Alvarez, 22, is suing Chicago Spanish radio station La Ley 107.9 FM after they refused to give her the Corvette she had won this summer.

According to the Chicago Tribune, Alvarez is suing both the radio station and its parent company, Spanish Broadcasting System, because officials refused her the prize after discovering she was an undocumented resident.

Alvarez is suing for breach of contract and emotional distress due to the station threatening to report her to immigration if she followed through with her suit.

Olympic Bid Breeds City Drama

Alderman accused Mayor Daley's planners on Jan. 24 of keeping Olympic plans secret from them while leaking information to the media without aldermanic consult.

Alderman Toni Preckwinkle of the 4th Ward reported to the Chicago Sun Times that she received notification only hours before Daley's announcement to move Olympic stadium to Washington Park, which is partially her ward.

Preckwinkle was also upset the Mayor did not notify her about a \$1.1 billion proposal for an Olympic Village, which would be in her ward.

Art Institute 'Bears Makeover'

The city's famous bronze lions outside Chicago's Art Institute are set to show their Bears pride, according to the Chicago Sun Times. A pair of Bears football helmets, three feet in diameter, are now being made for the iconic statues.

Although these helmets are a new creation, this isn't the first time the lions sported Bears helmets. In 1985, they donned the football gear. The helmets were later auctioned off.



Bears fan Tom Novak cashes in 15 years worth of pocket change to help fund his trip to the Super Bowl.



Kimi Badger/The Chronicle

Ride's over folks

A 27-year-old man assaulted two police officers at the CTA's Roosevelt Red Line station on Jan. 18 after escorting him off the train. Police took the offender off the train after they discovered him moving from car to car through the emergency exits. After refusing to show identification, the police officers attempted to arrest the male who shoved both of the officers in the mouth and chest. The offender was later arrested and taken to the police station.

At least the car's fine

A 40-year-old female reported to police that someone had broken into her car parked on the street next to the Harrison Red Line station on Jan. 19. The victim reported to police that her laptop worth \$2,500 had been taken from her car but no damage had been made to the vehicle. No suspects have been found.

Sometimes even your friends can't be trusted

After opening a checking account at Washington Mutual Bank, 1200 S. Michigan Ave., a 33-year-old woman entered an acquaintance's car who then held her at knife-point and demanded her wallet. The victim gave the 31-year-old woman her wallet that contained her credit cards, identification and \$25.

Telephone harassment

A 26-year-old woman reported to police on Jan. 14 that an unknown male was continuously calling her at work, located at 520 S. Michigan Ave., and asking her personal questions. The caller, who has not been apprehended, told the victim that he knows what she looks like and where she lives.

Be on the lookout

After returning to the parking lot of her residency at 1212 S. Michigan Ave., a 30-year-old woman reported to police that her 2002 jeep had been stolen. The woman was the last one to use her car before parking it in her building's garage. No suspects have been named.

Election offers chance unlike ever before

Students in Loop and South Loop making economic impact

By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

As voter turn out in Chicago continues to decline and student enrollment rises, the upcoming municipal election presents an opportunity for students to impact the city unlike ever before.

With a run-off election possible in the South Loop's 2nd ward and the Loop's 42nd Ward, a rise in students voting could be the deciding factor.

It's no secret that during the last three decades the character of the South Loop has undergone serious changes, both demographically and economically.

What may be less known, or even underestimated, is that a

Part of The Chronicle's ongoing election coverage

major catalyst for the area's metamorphosis is the student population, according to an impact study conducted by the Central Loop Alliance.

The study by the Central Loop Alliance, a mixture of community organizations, local businesses and merchants, determined that Chicago's Loop and South Loop is the biggest college town in Illinois.

Not more than a few decades ago, burlesque theaters, adult arcades and prostitutes still populated the South Loop along South State Street and neighboring areas, according to Dominic Pacyga, dean of the Liberal Arts and Sciences Department at Columbia.

Pacyga, who taught the History of Chicago class at Columbia, said although universities like Roosevelt and DePaul have had

buildings in the area since the late 1940s, the South Loop really began taking shape when Columbia moved into the 600 S. Michigan Ave. building in the early 1980s.

"It was a pretty down-and-out part of town," Pacyga said. "The arrival of Columbia and expansion of DePaul into the South Loop ... brought not only students into the area, but a sense of safety."

The presence of students in the area, Pacyga said, started a snowball effect that led to a rise in residential development, and later, retail. The last decade, he said, has been particularly important because of Columbia's growth and expansion.

"Students are kind of fearless

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Students enrolled in an institute of higher education in the Loop/South Loop	53,859
Full and part time employees for higher education	12,131
Attendance of education programs and events	499,387
Estimated expenditures of students	\$117,318,000
Square footage utilized by higher education	7,456,468
Number of beds provided	3,789

Source: Higher Education in the Loop and South Loop, 2005

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Part of The Chronicle's ongoing election coverage

Voters' information accidentally 'lost'

Chicago Election Board responds to public: Don't panic

By Eric Kasang
Managing Editor

The Chicago Board of Elections may have joined ranks with the Department of Veterans Affairs and several credit card companies in committing a similar snafu: "lost" personal information involving a million or more individuals.

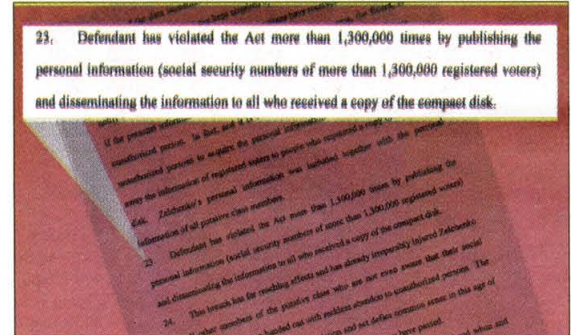
According to Peter Zelchenko, 43rd Ward aldermanic candidate and political activist, at least 106 CD-ROM disks contained social security numbers, birthdates and addresses of 1.3 million past and current Chicago voters. A class action lawsuit filed last week by

Zelchenko, alleged violations against "right to privacy" and "personal information protection" acts.

"The exact ingredients that you need to commit identity fraud are on these CDs," Zelchenko said, standing outside the Chicago Board of Elections, 69 W. Washington St., on Jan. 22. "You couldn't ask for a better package to commit individual and widespread identity fraud."

Zelchenko explained that he requested a disk late last year containing ward information for his aldermanic campaign. After Christmas, he perused the disk and discovered that "social security numbers, non-published phone numbers and birthdates were in plain sight."

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Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Family tree may get a bit bigger

Genetic project aims to uncover ancient migration patterns

By Allison Riggio
Associate Editor

Most high-schoolers read about the history of humankind in a textbook. But for more than 700 students in the Chicago Public Schools, the lessons are getting personal.

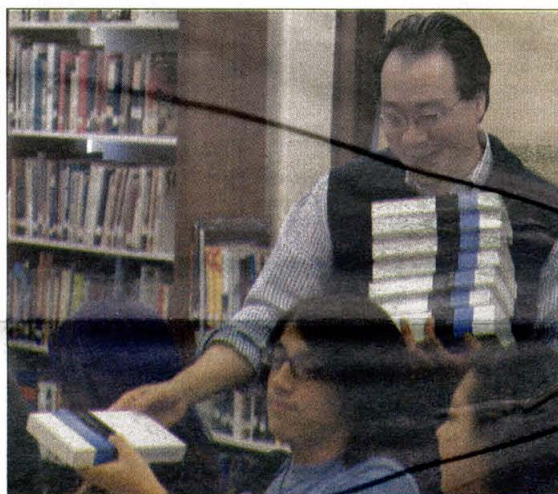
Thanks to a donation from the Geographic Project, 150 students at Charles Allen Prosser Career Academy, 2148 N. Long Ave., submitted samples of their own DNA to determine the migratory patterns of their ancestors.

Teacher Brian McKay's 10th grade European history class studied the ideas of human migration before actually testing their own DNA. National Geographic explorer Dr. Spencer Wells visited the class Jan. 23 to introduce the Geographic Project to the students and distribute testing kits.

"Everybody has some sense of their history for the last few generations, [but] everybody hits a brick wall at some point," Wells said.

The Geographic Project is a worldwide venture that aims to trace the migratory patterns of humans out of Africa more than 60,000 years ago. Researchers are collecting DNA samples from indigenous tribes—natives that have lived in areas of the world for many years—to find steady patterns in their genetics.

Samples from the general public



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Yo-Yo Ma passes out DNA sampling kits to students at Charles Allen Prosser Career Academy, 2148 N. Long Ave. The students were collecting samples for use in the Geographic Project.

are then compared against this data to make connections that can uncover the ancient migratory path of humans.

The theory Wells and his team are using to assess their data is that land masses were once connected because sea levels were lower thousands of years ago. Wells theorizes that all of humankind originated in Africa and migrated to other places of the world when all of the Earth's continents were connected.

By finding patterns and connections in the DNA of people across the world, the Geographic Project hopes to uncover consis-

tencies that will prove people all originated from the same area, Wells said. As generations pass, it becomes increasingly important to uncover these connections before cultural differences blend together, he added.

"The idea that we're all related to each other and we're part of one big family is very important in today's [world]," Wells said. "There are so many things that seem to be dividing us and splitting us apart from the world."

Five Chicago public high schools were each given 150

See Genealogy, Page 34

A homeless battle within the city

Buildings torn down as thousands wait for public housing

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

Although the Chicago Housing Authority's Plan for Transformation may benefit many current public housing residents, advocates say those on the 30,000 person waiting list, particularly the

homeless, continue to struggle to find homes as more buildings are torn down.

According to the city's 10-year plan to end homelessness formulated by the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness and the Chicago Continuum of Care, one of the top causes of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing. In other words, as the homeless population continues to grow so does the need for

more affordable housing.

The main goal of CHA's Plan for Transformation is to beautify Chicago's public housing complexes, as well as provide more programs to its residents to help overcome poverty, according to Derrick Hill, CHA's press secretary.

However, it seems to be working against some of the objectives the city is trying to establish in its goal to end homelessness.

"It's a real problem," said Monika Desmond from the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. "Essentially, more people can't access [public housing units] because there is a huge waiting list."

As the homeless population continues to grow—now at 6,715, according to the city's last count—25,000 public housing units are set to be torn down or rehabbed by 2009. Additionally, Hill confirmed that the plan is now five years behind due the rising cost for materials.

Although Hill attributes the five-year back-up to the increasing cost of materials needed to build more housing complexes because of the Hurricane Katrina disaster. And also because of having their budget cut by 24 percent, experts agree that regardless of the cause, it is delaying the possibility of new residents moving in.

Julie Dworkin, policy manager

at Chicago's Coalition for the Homeless, said she sees the Plan for Transformation as a contributor to the city's homeless population, because the number of public housing units the CHA is tearing down could house those on the streets or those already in a CHA unit.

"They have one plan which is creating homelessness and another plan to end homelessness," she said. "Demolishing the high-rise buildings isn't a problem in itself, but the way that they have been taking the buildings down before there was housing for people to go to is really the problem."

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