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Columbia Chronicle (02/12/2007)

Columbia College Chicago

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Rocketman rocks Columbia



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Billy Bob Thornton and Virginia Madsen share a laugh during a Q&A session with students in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 5. The two visited Columbia to screen the movie 'The Astronaut Farmer.'

Thornton hosts movie screening

By Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

Billy Bob Thornton entered the Film Row Cinema at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. on Feb. 6, greeted by the enthusiastic cheers and standing ovation from a crowd who had finished screening his new film, *The Astronaut Farmer*.

Thornton's amused gaze surveyed the crowd, before pausing on a few students clapping while contentedly seated in their

chairs. Flashing a smile that carried his now-immortalized brand of manly mischievousness, Thornton pointed at the crowd of seated attendants and barked, "Stand up!" The students complied to the superstar's sarcastic demands, making the moment a glorious illustration of the star's inherent appeal: his screen persona may be unapologetically rude and crude, yet it holds an undercurrent of nonconformist rage that resonates with hilarity in the hearts of his admirers.

Thornton has made a career out of playing characters that preserve their individuality, and this latest

role is no exception.

In *The Astronaut Farmer*, the latest work from filmmaking brothers Mark and Michael Polish, Thornton plays Charles Farmer, a NASA astronaut forced into retirement while saving his family farm. With his eyes forever pointed toward the stars, he decides to build his own rocket ship and enlists the help of his three children, much to the chagrin of wife Audrey, played by Virginia Madsen.

Although the government threatens to stop him in his path, Farmer forges ahead to realize his

See *Astronaut Farmer*, Page 17

No mission to increase tuition

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

Columbia defies a trend in higher education in which many private colleges have sharply increased tuition and financial aid in an attempt to lure competitive students.

Recent studies show such an approach could increase a school's market value and attract more applicants, diversity and revenue for low-income scholarships—because in the world of academia, if it costs more, it's worth more. But Columbia has consciously chosen another path.

"At private colleges, it is not uncommon for about half of the students to get an institutional grant," said Sandy Baum, senior policy analyst for College Board. "Some [schools] have discovered

that students respond better to being told they will get a discount than they do to a lower published price."

The average tuition for a four-year private institution has increased 32 percent in the last decade from \$16,843 in 1996 to its current \$22,218, according to a 2006 Trends in Higher Education report released by the College Board, a nonprofit association that provides information and studies on higher education.

In the shadow of a looming concern for affordability, Columbia's tuition and fees for the 2006-2007 school year increased 4.7 percent and remain below the national average at \$16,328. However, when institutional aid is factored in, Columbia students receive less financial support and therefore pay

See *Tuition*, Page 6



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Mailer invades Chicago

Pulitzer Prize-winning author speaks about new book on Hitler

By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

Norman Mailer gingerly walked into Borders Books, 830 N. Michigan Ave., on Feb. 8 with the help of two canes, almost a half-hour late for a reading and book signing, but proved his appearance was well worth the wait.

"I want to apologize for being late," Mailer said to the standing-room-only crowd. "I've been in an audience before which politicians have been late for. I despise them."

The 84-year-old Mailer said heavy traffic from O'Hare caused his tardiness, something

he said he need not explain to anyone from Chicago.

A two time Pulitzer Prize winner and National Book Award winner, Mailer has authored more than 40 books and was in Chicago to tout his first in more than a decade, *The Castle In The Forest*, a fictional tale about the life of Adolf Hitler.

Mailer summed up his new book in one sentence: "It's about the childhood of Adolf Hitler from birth to the age of 16 told through an assistant of the devil."

"More books have been written about [Hitler] than perhaps anyone I can think of," Mailer said. "But he is beyond our conception of human nature."

Mailer was asked what made Hitler different from other brutal dictators and he responded by saying that other dictators killed

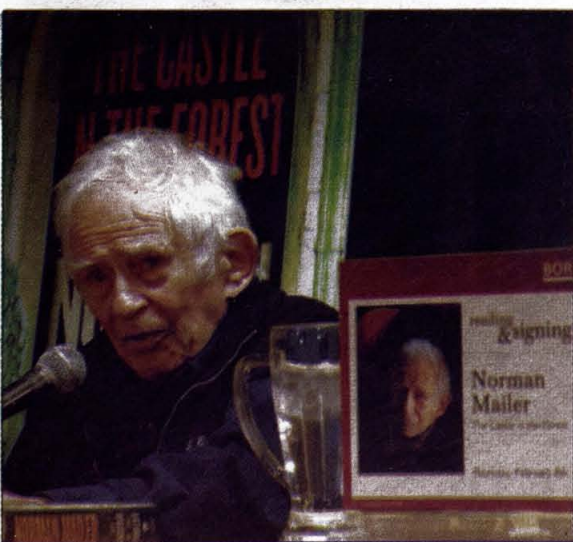
for purpose, while Hitler killed in spite of it.

Before signing copies, Mailer read several pages from the book and took questions from a diverse crowd comprised of everyone from young to old.

Brandy Paul, 28, brought her 8-year-old son Lance to the event because he had asked about the cover of the book, which has a small swastika on it. *The Castle In The Forest* was the first Mailer book she has ever read.

"I've known of Norman Mailer since I was a kid, but never read his work until now," Paul said. "I'm fascinated with Hitler for some reason, and when Lance asked me about some of the stuff on the cover of the book, I decided to bring him along."

See *Mailer*, Page 36



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Norman Mailer signs copies of his new book, 'The Castle in the Forest,' in Borders Books at 830 N. Michigan Ave. on Feb. 8.

In this issue



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



Presidential bloodsucker

Page 26



Protesters surprise Chicago City Council

Back Page



Welcome to el

By Hunter Clauss, Editor-in-Chief

Catching a bus or a train on schedule in Chicago is like witnessing a unicorn emerging from hell. The Chicago Transit Authority was once hailed as the best transit system in the Midwest. Now, with an ever-growing cutback in service and multiplying slow zones, it's a thorn in the city's side.

I thought the CTA meltdown reached its apex in 2004 with CTA boss Frank Kruesi's "doomsday plans," which raised the fare to \$2, but I was wrong. With more service cuts looming on the horizon, it's not hard to believe 22nd Ward Alderman Ricardo Munoz and 49th Ward Alderman Joe Moore when they accuse the CTA of being a "third-world transit system."

But I didn't fully realize the city's anger towards the CTA until one Saturday night as I rode home from a retirement-themed party on the Red Line el train. No one was retiring, or anywhere close to it, but partygoers donned knitted shawls and the best brown and tan jumpsuits that money could buy. The party was a blast with guys in suspenders rolling around in wheelchairs drinking PBR while listening to the Beastie Boys' *Licensed to Ill*.

The only downside to the night was the weather—it was cold as a witch's bosom. Waiting for the train on the elevated platform proved to be quite the challenge in my white loafers, which didn't offer much protection from the arctic blast of soul-freezing wind. After a 15-minute wait, I could

finally make out the glowing headlights of an approaching train.

A middle-age Chicago Transit Authority employee wearing a brightly colored yellow vest and wire rimmed glasses sat directly across from me. His droopy eyes made him look like any other average Joe returning from a late shift.



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

But he wasn't. He worked for the agency of mismanaged funds that has caused almost everyone I know to show up late to work at least once a month.

In my intoxicated state, I secretly blamed this lowly worker every time the train was delayed due to "signal problems," and for all the rerouting and cancellation of buses that affected my commute to work.

How dare this guy sit with us angry CTA riders, I thought.

As the train was slowly approaching an oncoming sta-

tion, another man, who was about the same age and dressed in all black, walked up to the seated CTA worker.

"I'm a waiter at a restaurant, and if I were waiting on you I'd treat you with the same service you treat me," the man in black said, his sentence being punctuated at the end with an "oh geez" from the CTA worker, saying it as if he expected someone to confront him.

"Your food would be stone cold," the disgruntled waiter continued as he exited the train.

The CTA employee hung his head down, pinching the bridge of his nose like he was popping a pimple underneath his glasses.

While it might not seem like all CTA employees are doing their jobs—I'm no longer fazed to find the person manning the Harrison Red Line station asleep behind the counter—there are some employees who truly are stuck in a bad situation. Like everyone else, they're just trying to pay the bills, and it doesn't help that their employer probably couldn't even manage a lemonade stand.

I felt bad for thinking ill of him. It wasn't as if he was the man behind the curtain plotting every inconvenience imaginable. Seeing him contain his own upset feeling with his tensing lips and glaring eyes, I could tell we both might have at least one thing in common—our daydreams of retiring.

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Index

1/9

Campus News

10/11

Commentary

13/33

A&E

34/40

City Beat

Calendar

Feb. 12 - 15

Leila Steinberg Lecture

Students can come listen to a lecture given by Leila Steinberg on Feb. 12 at noon. Steinberg originally discovered and mentored rapper Tupac Shakur. The event will be held in the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave.

For more information, call Kimberly Weatherly at (312) 344-7994.

Poet, Educator Lecture

Haki R. Madhubuti, a poet, educator and founder of the Third World Press will speak at Columbia on Feb. 12. The event will be in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., at 3:30 p.m.

For more information, call Kimberly Weatherly at (312) 344-7994.

Black History Game Show

The Black Student Union and the Residence Hall Association invite students to attend a game show to test students' knowledge of black history. There is a \$250 cash prize for the event, which will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 13 in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, call Kimberly Weatherly at (312) 344-7994.

Valentine's Day Workshop

Students are invited to come to the workshop where they can ask sex educator Sailor J any question and receive honest answers. The workshop will be in the Writing Center in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on Feb. 14 from 4:45 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Kathleen McLaughlin at (312) 344-8594.

Mexican Print-Making

Students are welcome to attend this guided tour of the most recent book and paper arts exhibit from Mexico. The event will be in the Book and Paper Center, on the second floor in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. on Feb. 14 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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

Big Mouth

This Big Mouth will feature The Last Poets, a group of musicians who developed from the 1960s African-American civil rights movement. Big Mouth will be in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 15 at 6 p.m.

For more information, call Multicultural Affairs at (312) 344-8567.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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

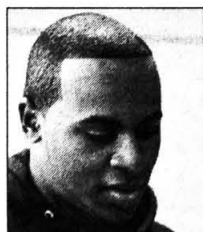
In Your Opinion

What do you spend your private loans on?



"I use it for school tuition, school supplies, clothes and my hair."

—Ryan Dawson, freshman communications major, Roosevelt University



"It was against my will, but it went straight to school."

—Tonye Corrdell, junior music major



"Rent and tuition."

—Danielle Setterington, junior arts, entertainment and media management major



"School tuition and I bought a laptop."

—Gabe Frink, junior film and video major

When campus news happens

We're your source for information

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE
WWW.COLUMBIACHRONICLE.COM

College revives Asian Cultural Affairs office

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

Although Columbia has been working toward strengthening relationships with minority students, Asian-Americans have been momentarily left out of the mix.

After two years, the college has reinstated the office of Asian Cultural Affairs, intended to support one of the college's smallest minority groups. Administrators hope the revived office will help increase a shrinking Asian-American student population and boost Asian awareness around campus.

The number of Asian and Pacific Islander students enrolled in the college has slid from 4 to 3 percent within the last decade, making them one of the least represented minorities on campus. In 2006, American Indian and Alaskan Native students made up the smallest ethnicity group, representing 0.7 percent of Columbia's total enrollment.

However, at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Asian and Pacific Islander students make up 12 percent of the college's population, according to The Princeton Review.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, acknowledged this issue and said while the college's Asian-American student enrollment is a fraction of that at other arts colleges, it gives the

the college a chance to work with the reinstated office and programs, in order to attract more Asian-Americans to Columbia.

"Our goal is to support an incredible, rich diversity on campus and to mix students up, mix diversity up," Kelly said. "It's not to separate [students], but rather to connect this diversity to the campus."

Two years ago, the office closed when the previous coordinator for Asian Cultural Affairs left her position. The office serves as a support group for Asian-Americans' personal and academic achievements and connects them with other students. Kelly said the office of Multicultural Affairs, which works with African-American, Latino and GLBT students, could not hire a replacement because of budget issues at the time.

Last year, the office of Multicultural Affairs consisted of one part-time and two full-time staff members. Now, the office employs four full-time employees, another three who work part-time and several graduate students.

"With the significant expansion in Multicultural Affairs, in both scope and resources, we're able to augment the staff significantly and we're just thrilled to go back to that position," Kelly said.

See Office, Page 9

Celebrating history



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Members of the Muntu Dance Troup perform for students in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 6. The Chicago group performs dances based on African heritage and gave this performance as a part of Columbia's African Heritage Month.

Possible break in case of murdered grad

By Hayley Graham
Editor-in-Chief

Reports say there is a possible break in the unsolved Christmas Day murder of Columbia graduate Lauren Kiefer, but authorities are remaining tight-lipped.

Last week the Daily Herald reported that law enforcement sources close to the investigation confirmed DNA evidence existed linking a 25-year-old man, who grew up with Kiefer, to the murder. He is now the prime suspect.

The report also stated that the man, who has a criminal past, was Kiefer's neighbor in unincorporated Oak Brook Terrace, but the two were not close. He has been questioned about the murder while being held in DuPage County jail for unrelated alleged crimes.

According to the Daily Herald, DNA evidence linked the man to the 2005 rape, home invasion and robbery of an Aurora woman.

A spokesperson with the DuPage County Sheriff's Office declined to comment on the reports last Friday.

A relative found Kiefer, 24, beaten to death in her home on Christmas Day. Police believe Kiefer may have surprised a burglar after returning from a family gathering.

Near the end of January, the reward offered by anonymous donors for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of Kiefer's killer nearly doubled to \$47,000.

Kiefer was a broadcast journalism major and graduated from Columbia in 2005. She had been working in client development at

the Red Bull energy drink distributing company, Power Distributing LLC, and Fitz's Pub in Elmhurst. Kiefer was also doing some print modeling.

Columbia faculty who had Kiefer as a student remember her as a hard worker who worked well with everyone.

hgraham@chroniclemail.com



File

International student recruitment a low priority

Research shows Columbia ranks last in numbers

By Brent Steven White
Associate Editor

Columbia officials say possessing an international student body is vital for creating diver-

sity on campus.

But Mark Kelly, Columbia's vice president of Student Affairs, said the school has "other enrollment priorities" besides enrolling international students, and research by The Chronicle shows the school is failing to recruit international students at a pace comparable to other local higher

education institutions.

The research also shows Columbia is not meeting U.S. college-level international student numbers.

Kelly said the school hasn't been focused on international recruitment because of "so many priorities" and that "you can only attend to so many at a time." He said those other priorities have been the number of graduate students, the number of minority students and the number of students coming from outside of Illinois.

"It's not that we [don't] care ... there are all kinds of issues that we need to address," he said.

With 154 international students enrolled as of spring 2007, Columbia has the lowest number and percentage of international students out of five schools studied and the lowest percent of international students averaged against the schools' total student body, the research shows. Columbia's total student population is 10,600 as of this spring, which leaves the

school's international student enrollment at 1.4 percent.

To compare international enrollment, the research examined the current enrollment numbers of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Roosevelt University, Loyola University, DePaul University and Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga., which has a curriculum similar to Columbia's.

The research found that the School of the Art Institute of Chicago had the highest percentage of international students at 18.5 percent, while Savannah was second with 8.7 percent of the total student body as international students. The other schools all had between 3 and 4 percent.

Saskia Hofman, director of International Affairs for the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, said the secret to the Art Institute's success with recruiting international students is simple: the school has "a commitment to recruiting international students" on par with the methods it uses to recruit

domestic students. However, she declined to elaborate on recruitment specifics.

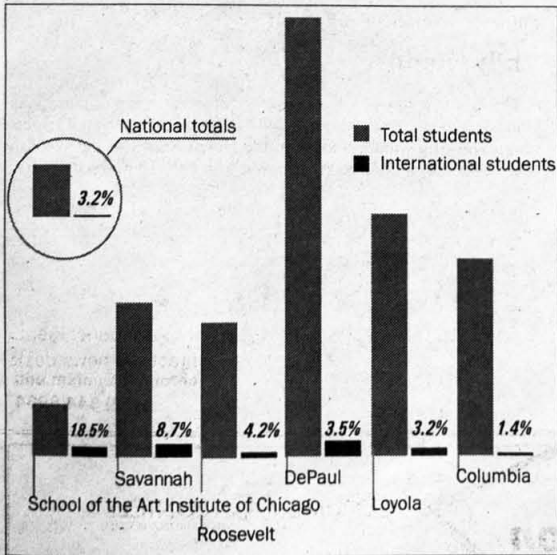
Columbia officials said the school's nonaggressive approach to recruitment is partly to blame for the low numbers, but they also pointed to both 2001's terrorist attacks and America's foreign policy as potentially contributing to international students deciding to study abroad elsewhere.

Columbia officials also said that beginning next fall the school will take a more active approach toward recruiting international students.

"Other schools in other countries have kind of jumped on the bandwagon and said, 'Hey, now that [the United States is] having a hard PR time, we're going to start pushing our programs,'" said Gigi Posejpal, assistant dean of International Student Affairs. "There's a lot of competition out there."

Posejpal pegged Columbia's current international student recruitment as "arm chair recruiting," meaning the approach currently doesn't actively recruit international students.

Posejpal also said that Columbia doesn't offer many



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Source: University and college representatives

See Students, Page 9

THE BLUE DRESSES

AND OTHER STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION



Judith Mason, *The Blue Dress*, 1998. Oil on canvas. Collection of the Constitutional Court of South Africa

South Africa Constitutional Court Justice

Albie Sachs

speaks on democracy, human rights,
gender and arts and culture.

Friday, January 26, 2007

5:30 – 7:30 pm

Ferguson Hall

600 South Michigan Avenue

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Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky will introduce **South Africa Constitutional Court Justice Albie Sachs** who

will speak on democracy, human rights, gender, architecture, and arts and culture. He will conduct a virtual tour of the

award-winning Constitutional Court of South Africa

which was built in the heart of the Old Fort Prison where both Gandhi and Mandela had been imprisoned. United States

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has described the building as

"the most beautiful court building that she has seen in the world." The new book about the court, *Light on a Hill: Building the Constitutional Court of South Africa* will be available for sale.

PRESENTED BY:

Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media, Columbia College Chicago.

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For more information, please call: Institute for the Study of Women and Gender in the Arts and Media at 312.344.8829.

Private loans are 'big bucks' for private lenders

Sallie Mae makes huge profits with few risks

By George P. Sieto
Assistant Campus News Editor

Columbia graduate Aylah Weinstein often found herself daydreaming about cruises in the Caribbean and designer clothes. However, by her junior year, she found a way to turn her dreams into reality.

After applying for a \$7,000 private education loan through Sallie Mae, the nation's largest private lender, she used the money for personal luxuries, entertainment, food and bills.

"I just needed a break from school, so me and my friends took a one week cruise through Carnival Cruises," said Weinstein, 28, who graduated as a journalism major last year. "It [cost] about \$1,200 to go to the Caribbean."

Students will often turn to private loans because they aren't obligated to make payments until six months after they graduate and use the money for educational purposes.

However, some students, like Weinstein, spend their private loans for personal use—putting themselves in a financial bind six months after they graduate.

Weinstein even spent \$3,250 from her private loans on cosmetic surgery, she said.

Private loans don't require completing the FAFSA. Instead, private lenders will send the funds directly to the applicant and have interest rates and fees determined by the lender. Depending on the student's

credit rating, applicants may be required to have a co-signer.

"I had all this money at my disposal," Weinstein said. "There were some semesters where I would be broke for a month or two, waiting for my next check."

Private loans are a big business. Bank One, Citibank and Sallie Mae are among the few that gave students more than \$17 billion in private loans last year, according to the College Board, a nonprofit advocate for higher education. Sallie Mae found much of its success by being placed on schools' preferred lender lists, making them among the first viewed private lenders for students looking for loans.

Jennifer Waters, executive director of Student Financial Services, said Columbia currently has Sallie Mae on its preferred lender list, but the school doesn't receive any personal gain for bringing customers to the lender. She said when students apply for a personal loan, her department's job is to educate the student and verify for the lender that the applicant is enrolled at Columbia.

"[It's like] if you agree to terms on a car—the rates may balloon, and what starts off as \$10,000 can easily turn into \$50,000," Waters said. "Are there people using private loans for nonschool use? I'm sure there are."

According to Sallie Mae's annual report, published for current and prospective investors, private loans are the fastest-growing segment of its business, with the company issuing more than \$6 billion in 2005. Its private loans carry anywhere from 7 to 25 percent

interest, and if a student chooses to go into default, or cannot make the payments, the government steps in and pays Sallie Mae the principle and all interest incurred.

"All students need to be conscious of the money they're borrowing and cut corners [on spending] where they can," Waters said.

Students' credit ratings then fall, and their debt rises, as Sallie Mae increases their interest rates.

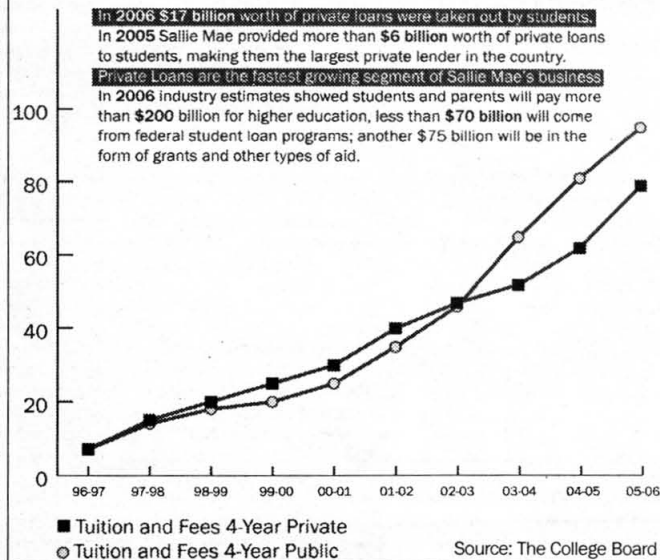
"Sallie Mae makes money if you pay them back on time, and Sallie Mae makes far more money if you default and don't pay them back on time," said Alan Collinge, founder of Student Loan Justice in

Washington D.C., an organization trying to change current laws for private lenders. "In 1990 Sallie Mae went on an acquisition [binge], [and] purchased several collection agencies; you could even call it a horizontal monopoly."

In 2005, the company managed \$122.5 billion in student loans, of which 87 percent were federally insured and protected Sallie Mae against students who don't pay them back, according to its annual report.

"They even convinced Congress in the 90s to get rid of bankruptcy on student loans; it's a double

Private Loans in the last decade



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

whammy," Collinge said. "I know students who owed \$40,000 and now owe [Sallie Mae] \$400,000. I just hope that students at Columbia look elsewhere for their loans. It's really in their best interest."

While Weinstein said she is considering filing for bankruptcy, current laws won't allow it. Instead, her loans will be sent to one of six debt collection agencies owned by Sallie Mae and make an additional 25 percent off whatever is collected. "We counsel students to make sure they finance their education, not per-

sonal lifestyle," said Martha Holler, spokesman for Sallie Mae.

Holler said by law private lenders must offer students payment options, but that will often make students' debt balloon by applying higher interest rates.

Weinstein now works at a health club downtown and didn't say how much she's making.

"I'm not sure how I'm going to pay [Sallie Mae] back," Weinstein said. "[But] if I had to do it all over again, I would."

gsieto@chroniclemail.com

Concert Hall Events

Monday February 12

Leila Steinberg
A Conversation with the Woman
Who Discovered Tupac Shakur
12:00 PM

Wednesday February 14

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby
12:00 PM

Saturday February 17

CUBE in Concert
2:00 PM

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COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Tuition: Columbia offers less support than average colleges

Continued from Front Page

just as much as the average student in a four-year private college.

Columbia has not sought outside funding for scholarship endowments until recently, according to Micki Leventhal, director of Media Relations. For the last six years, the college has been working to remediate its dependence on tuition that makes an increase in financial assistance nearly impossible.

"You have to have huge endowments to do tuition discounting while waiting for endowments, Columbia's sticker-price tuition remains relatively low. However, many colleges and universities similar to Columbia have increased the price of attendance in an attempt to attract desirable students, according to Baum.

To keep its education affordable while waiting for endowments, Columbia's sticker-price tuition remains relatively low. However, many colleges and universities similar to Columbia have increased the price of attendance in an attempt to attract desirable students, according to Baum.

In the 2004-2005 school year, tuition at Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga. was \$20,250. That year, the school provided 80 percent of its students with institutional aid, averaging \$4,575 per student. Similarly, more than half of the students at the School of Art Institute of Chicago, whose tuition was

\$25,660, received an average of \$8,731 from the school, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Because Columbia's tuition was \$15,280 that year, 9 percent of Columbia students received financial aid from the college, averaging \$3,730 given by the school per student.

Columbia's current tuition discounting rate is below 4 percent, one of the lowest of all private colleges in the nation, according to Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. He said the decision to keep tuition and discounting low is one the college has purposefully made.

"We want truth in advertising," Kelly said. "Columbia has consciously decided not to get into that game of raising tuition dramatically."

But such affordability came at a cost for schools like North Carolina Wesleyan when it cut its tuition 23 percent in 1996 from \$8,600 to \$6,600. The idea was that enrollment would increase because more families would be able to afford it. Although the plan worked for other schools, like Muskingum College in Ohio and Ursinus College in Pennsylvania, lowering tuition at North Carolina Wesleyan actually devalued the institution.

"Cutting the price [of tuition] was really more the equivalent of branding the college as a less competitive school," said Gary Sherman, Wesleyan's vice president of Enrollment Management. "It didn't have the effect of attracting more students, it just had the effect of lowering revenue."

Since 2001, North Carolina Wesleyan has more than doubled

its tuition and increased its discount rate to 38 percent. The change has helped raise enrollment dramatically, causing an increase in minority students and the average SAT score of incoming freshman, Sherman said. The college is now recognized by U.S. News and World Report as the second most diverse comprehensive bachelor's college in the south.

While Brian Matos, president of Columbia's Student Government Association, doesn't support an increase in tuition, he understands the draw of merit-based scholarships, and said it remains at the top of SGA's priorities this year.

"Students feel better about themselves and about where they're going when they feel they're being appreciated," Matos said. "I think [Columbia is] focusing more on how to reward those students. If the money was available, I'm sure they would be more than willing to pump those dollars into it."

Despite Columbia's open-enrollment policy, which the college calls a "generous approach to admissions," and lack of financial assistance, Kelly said the college continues to attract more competitive students each year.

"We have a niche in the market place and students find that very attractive," Kelly said. "Right now, if anything, that niche is becoming stronger by the year."

Although Columbia has been characterized as a regional school in the past, he said 40 percent of next fall's incoming freshmen will be from out of state. And while the administration at some tuition-driven schools may blush at their inability to be selective, Columbia

embraces its price and policy.

"We could cap enrollment and become a selective college," Kelly said. "Surely in the world of academia, where you're valued by your ability to say no to the greatest

number of students, our stature would increase, but for our values, for what we care about, it would destroy the institution."

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

... And all that jazz



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Joi Harrell performs a solo during the 3CVJE and the Royal Scots in Concert on Feb. 9. She is an alto in 3CVJE, the Columbia vocal jazz group.

Working on a film and run out of money?

Got an idea for an art exhibit?

Have you always wanted to curate your own photography show?

Are you writing the Great Asian American novel?

and need a new typewriter?

The Center for Asian Arts and Media wants to help you!

The Helen Fong Dare Scholarship Fund awards up to \$2,000 to full-time Columbia College Chicago students towards a creative project about the lives and culture of Asians and Asian Americans.

Applications are available at

The Center for Asian Arts and Media, 29 E. Congress 1st Floor or online at www.asianartsandmedia.org

For more information please call Jonathan Reinert 312.344.8214. Application deadline March 16th, 2007. Notification by end of March.

Seeking shelter



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

A pedestrian seeks shelter from the snow at the intersection of Van Buren and State streets on Feb. 6. Three inches accumulated, making it the year's first major snow fall.

College embraces graduate school size, niche programs

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

While Columbia's overall population continues to grow each year, the college's graduate school works to keep its enrollment low.

Earlier this month, officials in the office of Research, Evaluation and Planning released a spring 2007 Enrollment Report, which tallied the number of graduate students registered in each program of study. Currently, more than 600 students are studying in the graduate program, 17 percent less than last semester.

However, this drop is typical because Columbia's graduate programs rarely admit students half-way through the year, said Robert Garcia, director of Graduate Admissions. Of the 620 students currently enrolled in the college's 11 programs, nearly one-third is majoring in the arts, entertainment and media management program.

While the graduate school grew 4 percent during the 2005-2006 academic year, the college typically tries to keep each program's size consistent, Garcia said. A majority of programs have 30 to 80 students enrolled, he said, adding that some programs, such as the recently created Music Composition for the Screen discipline, started with 10 students last fall.

"[Professors] want to give students very individualized attention and want to make sure they get exactly what they need," he said.

While Columbia's graduate programs can't be compared to the size or variety of state colleges, they are similar to those at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Close to Columbia's size, the master's program at the Art Institute has less than 600 students enrolled. Some similar program topics are offered, including writing and teaching.

In contrast, the University of Chicago has nearly 80 master's programs, with more than 9,000 students enrolled.

Some officials agree that certain programs thrive when professors have small classes.

"You need to have a critical mass to have a good graduate program, unless you're doing something one-on-one," said Roger

Geiger, head professor of Higher Education at Penn State University.

Geiger explained that when it comes to certain areas of study, an intimate program can be beneficial.

Garcia voiced similar opinions and said most of Columbia's graduate programs try to keep their sizes fairly consistent each year for a number of reasons. For example, any increase in a program's size would require additional resources and space.

However, he said while pursuing a master's degree for some fields is advantageous, they're not necessary in all industries.

"Master's degrees have a very ambiguous value to them," he said. "Some master's degrees, like in engineering or the MBA, have real power in the marketplace and mean something."

Having a master's in other fields like history simply means the student has studied more about the topic, he said.

"It's not necessary [to have a master's in some fields]," Geiger said. "It might be desirable, but I can't see master's degrees becoming a required credential to write a poem."

This semester's courses are all that stands in Crystal Simon's way before she graduates and receives her master's degree in arts, entertainment and media management from Columbia.

Simon came to Columbia after attending Stillman College, a liberal arts school in Tuscaloosa, Ala. After receiving her undergraduate degree in music, she wanted to complete her master's in an arts management program. A quick Internet search led her to Columbia, Simon said.

Since she started attending Columbia during the fall 2005 semester, Simon said she has enjoyed taking small classes and having professors who still work in the industry.

"I'm enjoying it," she said. "I get a lot of different connections because our teachers are still in their fields and that's definitely a plus for our program."

Other popular fields of study in the graduate program include Creative Writing: Fiction, Interdisciplinary Arts, Dance Movement Therapy and Film and Video.

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Number of degrees awarded to graduate students

1996	90
1997	91
1998	124
1999	124
2000	134
2001	119
2002	88
2003	127
2004	153
2005	194

Source: Columbia's 2006 College Fact Book

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

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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

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

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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MEN'S LACROSSE - UPCOMING GAMES!

Great Lakes Lacrosse League
Columbia's Spring 2007 Schedule

Sun March 25 @ Western Illinois

11am NIU - Columbia
12:30 Columbia - W. Il.

Sat. March 31 @ Northwestern

12 pm DePaul - Columbia
3 pm Univ. Chicago - Columbia

Sat. April 14 @ NIU

Chicago Machine Tournament - Day 1

11am NIU - River Falls // Northwestern - Columbia
12:30 Loyola - Stout // DePaul - Univ. Chicago
2pm Winners of 11 am games // Losers of 11 am games
3:30 Winners of 12:30 games // Losers of 12:30 games

Sun. April 15 @ NIU

Chicago Machine Tournament - Day 2

11 am #3 - #3 // #4 - #4
12:30 #1 - #1 // #2 - #2



Sun. April 22 @ NIU

2 pm Univ. Chicago - Columbia
3:30 Loyola - Columbia

Sat. + Sun. APRIL 28 -29 @ NIU

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New scholarship aids study abroad

By Aisha Qidwae
Staff Writer

Maddie Bosack has dreamed of studying in France since the eighth grade, when she visited her older sister who was taking classes in Paris. Now that she is in college, Bosack has been investigating many programs that would allow her to take classes in Paris before she graduates, but said such an opportunity could cost anywhere from \$6,000 to \$15,000. Despite the cost, she is determined to find a way.

Fortunately for Bosack, a sophomore arts, entertainment and media management major, Columbia's Liberal Education Department is offering its first

scholarship next fall which will award \$2,500 toward international educational studies each semester to one student who has excelled in African-American Studies or contributed to the African-American community.

"It's important for students to travel and learn about other cultures and themselves," said Lisa Brock, chair of the Liberal Education Department.

Kamoinge, Inc., a photography group dedicated to promoting African-American representation in art galleries, donated photos to Columbia's Liberal Education Department to raise money for the Kamoinge-Ferman Scholarship fund.

At an auction on Nov. 10, three

Kamoinge, Inc. photographers presented their work to the faculty and community gathered at 3521 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Through the auction, the Liberal Education Department raised \$25,000.

Chris Greiner, director of International Programs in the office of Academic Initiatives and International Programs, said study abroad has become a new focus for Columbia in the last two years.

He said approximately 50 Columbia students studied abroad through independent programs last year, while 100 Columbia students studied abroad through departmental programs. Some included the recent J-term trip to Shanghai, China, offered by the Liberal

Education Department, a summer semester in Prague, Czech Republic, offered by the Fiction Writing Department and a summer semester in Florence, Italy, offered by the Art and Design Department.

About 12 students have participated in the College-Wide International Exchanges that the Office of International Programs runs in London, Dublin and Paris.

"We're at this point in the progression of education where we can no longer imagine that students can develop as artists, professionals and citizens without considering the globe, the entire perspective," Greiner said.

This trend of an increasing number of students studying abroad has held true nationally

as well, according to an Open Doors study published by the Institute of International Education on Nov. 13. The report said more than 200,000 U.S. students studied abroad in 2006, an increase of about 8 percent since the year before.

Kamoinge, Inc. historian Herb Robinson said studying abroad should be an integral part of a student's education.

"[Experiences like studying abroad are] more or less the core of your knowledge, even more than book learning," Robinson said. "It's that exposure that's very important, and if you don't have it, you're missing so much as a student."

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'Think about the children'



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Marta Evans, a junior theater major, implores pedestrians to 'Think about the children' as she hands out pamphlets announcing the dangers of global warming outside the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, on Feb. 5.

Office: Officials request programs for all ethnicities

Continued from Page 3

Yoonshin Park, the new coordinator for Asian Cultural Affairs, originally came to Columbia as an international student from Seoul, Korea. During her time at the college she completed two master's degrees, the most recent in the Interdisciplinary Arts' Book and Paper program.

Park said she will work to become an advocate for Asian-American students on campus and make up for lost time.

"I'm a little overwhelmed because we have a lot to catch up

on," she said.

Among a number of projects, Park plans to initiate new activities on campus, including an Asian-American student organization and another for faculty and staff, increase Asian-American visibility on campus and continue to network with other Asian organizations in the area.

The office of Asian Cultural Affairs will team up with Columbia's Center for Asian Arts and Media, 29 E. Congress Parkway, run by executive director Nancy Tom. The center promotes and presents artwork and media programs created by and about Asians.

The center, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, will work with Park's office to inform students of the programs and events, which include a conversation with playwright David Henry Hwang in March.

However, Tom said the success of

the events and office hinges on how many students become involved.

"They have to actively participate," Tom said. "No matter what the center does, or what Student Affairs does, we can't [succeed] without the students involved."

The office of Asian Cultural Affairs has already planned several events, including the office's kick-off event, "Wake up! With Asian Cultural Affairs" on Feb. 13.

These events intend to celebrate the number of Asian-American students, faculty and staff at Columbia, rather than focusing on historically low enrollment numbers.

Park said she feels confident in the number of Asian-American students enrolled at Columbia. She said it doesn't matter if the Asian-American population is small, so long as the students are visually represented on the campus.

Kelly and Tom said the college needs more programs focused on Asian topics and agreed that the programs should be geared to students of all ethnicities.

"I feel we'd be putting our students at a disadvantage if they did not know about the different cultures and different countries," Tom said.

"Wake Up! With Asian Cultural Affairs" will be held on Feb. 13 in the Hokin Annex, in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The event will run from noon to 1 p.m.

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Students: Columbia to alter international student program

Continued from Page 3

traditional degrees, and international students seeking an advanced degree might not find Columbia's curriculum beneficial to their needs.

"We have a special niche with the programs that we offer," Posejpal said. "A lot of people that come out of language schools are looking for master's programs and MBAs. Not too many are looking for MFAs in film or creative writing."

In addition to having a smaller international student body, Columbia doesn't offer scholarships specifically for international students. But officials at both Roosevelt and Savannah said their institutions provide them.

Mary Theis, assistant director of the Office for International Programs at Loyola, said the school plans to implement scholarships for international students starting in the fall of 2007.

"Other universities are doing it, so why not us?" Posejpal said. "[When we have them], it raises the interest in our institution. It shows the institution is really interested in all our constituents."

Tanya Mels, an international student from South Africa who's studying film at Columbia, said she heard about the college from a high school teacher as an exchange student in her sophomore year. Mels said she has noticed a lack of international students on campus, and doesn't know any fellow South Africans. She said she thinks the school should have a better international student and exchange program.

"Columbia should stretch far and beyond," she said. "The range of where [students are] from could be bigger."

Kelly maintained that the school values its international students because they create diversity on campus. He said without them, students and faculty "would have a myopic view of the world and how it works."

"Columbia believes that diversity, which is measured in multiple ways, is central to the educational experience," he said. "If we were to have everyone just from Chicago, of one race and economic strata, we would fail to trigger our students' imaginations, and [fail to] help them understand [what else] is out there in the world."

Plans to revamp Columbia's international recruitment methods are already underway. The international student application is now available on Columbia's website, and the school has integrated its international student recruitment program into the admissions operation.

Moving forward, Kelly said the school might use part of its future resources to either hire another full-time staff member, whose job would be to recruit internationally, or to hire a company to represent Columbia at international college fairs.

Kelly further noted that the school will be actively recruiting international students by attending college affairs in Thailand, Korea, Japan and possibly China starting next fall. He also said the school plans to use its contacts with European higher education institutions and "leverage" that into the recruitment process.

Gillian Moore, executive director of Academic Initiatives and International Programs, said she believes part of the key to getting international students to attend Columbia is to build the school's presence overseas.

Moore also said her department has worked to get Columbia's name overseas by becoming members of the European League of Institutes of the Arts. This attracts a larger international audience, Moore said.

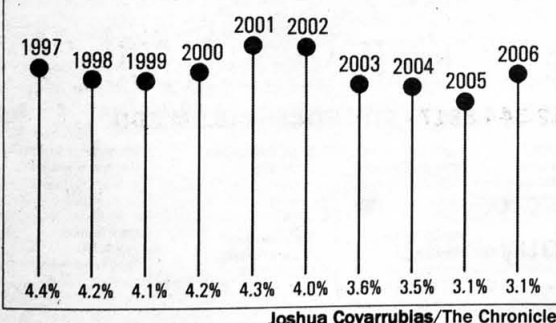
ELIA is an independent network of about 360 Arts Education Institutes with members from 47 countries.

But Moore said the process for getting international students to attend Columbia won't happen overnight.

"All of this takes time, [but] we really need to get our face on the map," she said. "And through organizations like the ELIA and joining other international organizations, we are going to be on that map."

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Asian/Pacific Islander Students 1997-2006



Editorials

Columbia not well-endowed

Columbia has been battling its addiction to tuition for years. As with any addiction, the key to curbing a bad habit is to break the cycle.

Recent trends in the tuition game suggest colleges raise their tuition to compete with higher-priced schools in order to get more students through the door. This, apparently, increases a school's market value. Business is business and there is nothing wrong with that.

Some families believe that if a college is more expensive then it must be higher quality. While that isn't necessarily true, it is a system that tends to work. Higher tuition usually means that the college has something more to offer to its students than simply a library.

But because certain colleges are well-endowed financially, they can provide tuition discounts through scholarships and other funds that help alleviate student financial burdens.

Columbia can't.

While the college has said time and time again that its mission has never been to seek outside funding for scholarships until recently,

it still begs the question: Why not?

Columbia is still one of the most affordable four-year private institutions, but it provides less student aid than other schools. For the past six years, the college has addressed the problem by getting more funding from outside sources—but it is a long process to be able to discount tuition.

"You have to have huge endowments to do tuition discounting because the money has to come from somewhere," said Micki Leventhal, director of Media Relations.

But Columbia has made a conscious decision not to play the rapidly increasing tuition game. Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said Columbia is a niche market and doesn't need to seek out more students because the college continues to see student enrollment grow every year.

That's true. But cutting costs and providing more assistance to needy students should always be on the front burner. We realize that in order to use endowments Columbia first has to have one, and that—from what we can gather—won't happen any time soon.

Even though Columbia is not well-endowed, it can definitely get into the fundraising game with more fervor. The reason why people don't give to this school is because they don't believe in it. Columbia has been trying to improve its image as a mediocre arts and communication school by trying to be more visible to other prospective students out of state, but it still has more to do.

We're not Columbia University. We're Columbia College—"college" being the key off-putting factor here.

Nonetheless, we think the college should look into tuition discounts. It will take a while, but the only way to break the tuition-driven cycle is to try something different for a change.

While Columbia has consciously chosen not to increase its tuition to get into bigger markets, it has also chosen to follow its ongoing model, which is, unfortunately, tuition-driven.

The college should not be content with taking money from students while providing less financial aid.

Students shouldn't be content either.

Climate change not strange

Global warming is serious. But for some odd reason, 40 percent of Americans, according to a 2006 poll from the Pew Research Center, believe that burning fossil fuels is not a cause of global warming.

Furthermore, out of 113 polled members of Congress, only 13 percent of Republicans believe it has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt that global warming is humanity's fault, according to National Journal's "Congressional Insider's Poll." The rest blame it on forces of nature.

The skeptics can learn something from a United Nations global warming report released on Feb. 2. Scientists in Paris officially declared the threat is man-made—a claim the United States still refutes.

How much more evidence does the government need? Do we have to walk around covered in blue sunblock in January a la *Robocop* in order to consider the notion that something is wrong? As if it's a totally off-the-wall and ludicrous idea that we can actually be responsible for screwing up the planet.

At the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), scientists from 130 countries concluded that global warming is "very likely" caused by man's burning of fossil fuels and not forces of nature.

The IPCC report states temperatures will likely rise 3.5 to 7.1 degrees Fahrenheit over the course of the next 95 years. Sea levels continue to rise. This trend, according to the report, will continue for centuries—unless, of course, we begin to change the ways we pollute the Earth.

The report also suggests that humans will get to experience wonderful climate changes such as warmer days and fewer cold ones and more heat waves. Also, there will be more chances for increasingly intense tropical storms, hurricanes and our personal favorite, typhoons.

French President Jacques Chirac demanded that the United States sign the Kyoto treaty. If it didn't, France said it would have to impose a carbon tax on all European exports to the U.S. in order to force America into compliance.

The Kyoto treaty applies to nearly 170 countries that have made commitments to reduce emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. Remember that this is a country that pulled the word "French" from references to fries—so anything Chirac says will likely go unnoticed by Americans.

It's disturbing that even Al Gore talking about the World Trade Center memorial being underwater in the future can't convince those in charge of the real threat of global warming.

Perhaps it's the notion that the threat isn't imminent that keeps America from joining the fight against climate change.

The issue of global warming is nothing new. At least when humanity is concerned we're making headway into addressing the problem. At least the U.S. has not declared a war on global warming yet, which is good, since the country can still do something about this one as opposed to other failed declarations of warfare: the War on Terror, the War on Drugs and the War on Whatever Comes Next.

Back from the Drawing Boards



Dan Wright/MCT



Nate Beeler/MCT



Wayne Stayskal/MCT

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 that faces 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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Make a note to vote



By Allison Riggio
Associate Editor

In many respects, I might be what some would call a "political junkie." I watch the news, read the paper and follow local and national politics. I have a genuine interest in government.

The thing is, I don't know if I would necessarily consider myself a political junkie.

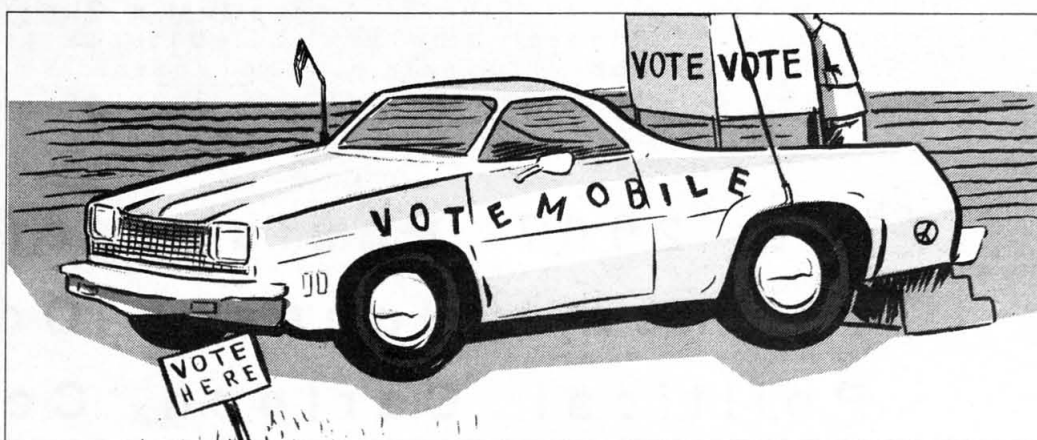
The Chicago Tribune reported Feb. 6 that Kane County introduced a "votemobile"—a traveling polling place—to accommodate constituents in various parts of Elgin during early voting. The votemobile will appear at a different location in the suburb every day until five days prior to its Feb. 27 election.

Early voting can encourage more people to cast a ballot if they can't make it out on Election Day. Elgin's votemobile is a great attempt to further increase voter turnout. Theoretically, the more convenient voting becomes, the more people will do it.

When did it become necessary, however, to wait hand-and-foot on the general public? Voting used to be a privilege reserved for the elite members of society—a privilege people fought many years to bestow upon every man and woman 18 or older. It seems these days voting is more of a hassle—a chore, even—to those who bother to do it at all.

In the last presidential election, roughly 75 percent of registered voters in Chicago cast a ballot, according to the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners.

Voter turnout in the city dropped to about 49 percent during the November 2006 elections, which seated Illinois' governor, secretary of state, treasurer, as well as various members of federal and state legislature.



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

During the last municipal election in 2003, only 33 percent of registered voters cast ballots to elect the mayor, clerk, treasurer and aldermen of the city of Chicago.

I get it. Presidential elections have more hype. The issues are heated. The candidates are big-time political players. The ideas of democracy, campaigning and voting are shoved down our throats from March through November. So what happens to that surge of political interest when it comes to smaller-scale political races?

The last time I checked, President Bush isn't in charge of passing state-wide healthcare legislation, yet only half of Chicago's registered voters cared enough to elect the person who is—the governor.

The last time I checked, Gov. Blagojevich isn't in charge of passing city-wide smoking bans, yet only one-third of Chicago's regis-

tered voters cared enough to elect the people who are—the city council members.

I can't help but think the principles behind voter apathy are the same ideas that make the general public falsely label me a "political junkie." Having a basic interest in politics isn't an obsession—it's a civic duty. It doesn't need to consume every moment of the day, but it shouldn't be ignored, either.

Just as the citizens of this country have the right to vote, they have the right to choose not to as well. That's the beauty of this country: It's free.

But don't ever be fooled by anything that's free. There's *always* a catch. It is impossible to go through life without ever being affected by the decisions of elected officials.

Streets aren't getting plowed and salted in the winter? Garbage isn't getting picked up?

Potholes plaguing your morning commute? Call your alderman!

Presidential candidates aren't going to fix the things that affect our lives the most, yet they draw nearly twice as many Chicago voters to the polls during presidential elections.

It's unlikely President Bush will accept my phone calls offering advice on foreign policy, but there's certainly a chance my alderman will listen to my thoughts on improvements needed in my ward.

Many of us gripe and moan about corruption in government and do-nothing politicians, but none of us should complain if we aren't voting these officials in and out of office.

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<h2>Roamin' Numerals</h2>	<p>14 The length, in feet, of a bull shark that broke a shrimp boat's tail shaft on Feb. 6. A crew of fishermen were rescued from their sinking boat off the coast of Florida after a group of bull sharks bit and rammed the vessel for four days, according to Associated Press. To quote <i>Jaws</i>, it looks like Capt. Roger Schmall needed a bigger boat.</p>	<p>12 Number of blow-up dolls, in addition to 36 sex toys and 18 tubs of chocolate body paint, stolen from a van headed to a Bolton, U.K. sex shop in time for Valentine's Day, according to The Bolton News. It's going to be an interesting Valentine Day in the U.K.</p>	<p>2 Number of kilograms of grass that Gangaram Gautam, 41, of Kanpur, India, eats every day. The man started eating grass when he was seven when he heard a story about a ruler who ate grass bread, according to The Sun Newspaper. Doctors have said that Gautam is in good health but his two wives have left him because of his questionable diet.</p>
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Illinois school systems need TLC



By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

Over the past several weeks, the Chicago Tribune has run a series of editorials about the Illinois public school system. For the most part, the editorials have been well-researched and pretty right-on about the status, strengths and vulnerabilities of the education system here in Illinois, but they may have missed a major perspective: the pupil's point of view.

As a newcomer to covering the public education sector of news, I do not profess to be an expert, but having been a product of the system, I have gleaned some insight as to what instructional strategies motivate students and which ones don't.

There is much to be said about the performance level of students and schools, because after all, that is the only way to gauge progress efficiently, right? Perhaps we should take into account what type of performance we are grading: Is it the student's learning ability, the use of federal and state procured money or is it to gauge—as many aptly put it—how prepared kids are to enter the "real world"?

When I think of performance levels, I don't think of math computing efficiency or reading levels. I don't think of how effectively money is spent. I think of how equipped kids are to become adults and handle everyday problems. I think about how well kids understand character. Yes, the stuff that doesn't come in textbooks—things like respect, responsibility and citizenship—all the words that were mindlessly shoved down our throats without being explained or exemplified.

When I entered sixth grade, my middle school, along with my entire community, introduced the pillars of character: respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, citizenship, fairness and caring. I have to admit when I initially saw the pastel colored posters explaining the six pillars of character in classrooms and decals across police cars, I would have rather burned than read them. No one ever took the time to explain in any sensible fashion why they were important, why I would need to know and understand such general concepts. The information was simply disseminated and regarded as fact, which something that doesn't soak in with out being shown an example. Contextualizing the pillars is a teacher's job.

After graduating high school, I figured the

six pillars of character would be a thing of the past; a long-forgotten relic of the education I wished to leave behind. That was, however, until one day I found myself in a rage about the rudeness of people on the el. As I was cussing in my head at every disrespectful fool I saw trying to board a train before letting other off, I shouted out loud to myself, "Don't these people have any respect? Do none of them have any concept of caring?"

Immediately I stopped myself and thought of washing my mouth out with soap because I knew instantly where I learned the jargon I was spitting out: the walls of school and sides of police cars. Most of the kids I went to school with couldn't recite the pillars of character. My recollection of them baffles me, so I think I was an exception to the rules of desensitization and overstimulation.

The point I'm attempting to make is that if education administrators actually want to raise the performance of students high enough to ensure an adequate level of education, they need to think about what they mean by performance levels, and practice what they preach.

Maybe it's my own delusions of being oppressed in school, but at no point in my years did I ever feel respected or trusted by

teachers or administrators, aside from a few good instructors who felt it was their societal obligation to empathetically teach the kids of tomorrow.

Many of the Tribune's editorial board ideas on fixing the funding and procurement process of the school system were logical, innovative and sensible. According to the editorials, Illinois spends \$20 billion dollars to educate 2 million children in 874 public school districts. The newspaper asked the question: Is this enough to adequately equip all children with the education they need? The answer: no.

Some solutions—like making the education system more transparent with how it spends money, enforcing consequences on under-performing schools who are given extra money, as well as making it easier to fire incompetent tenured teachers—are excellent suggestions, but that is from a bureaucratic school administrator's standpoint.

Sometimes, with a topic as wide and far-ranging as a state's public school system, it's easy to get caught up in the miniscule details and miss the big picture: preparing students for the "real world."

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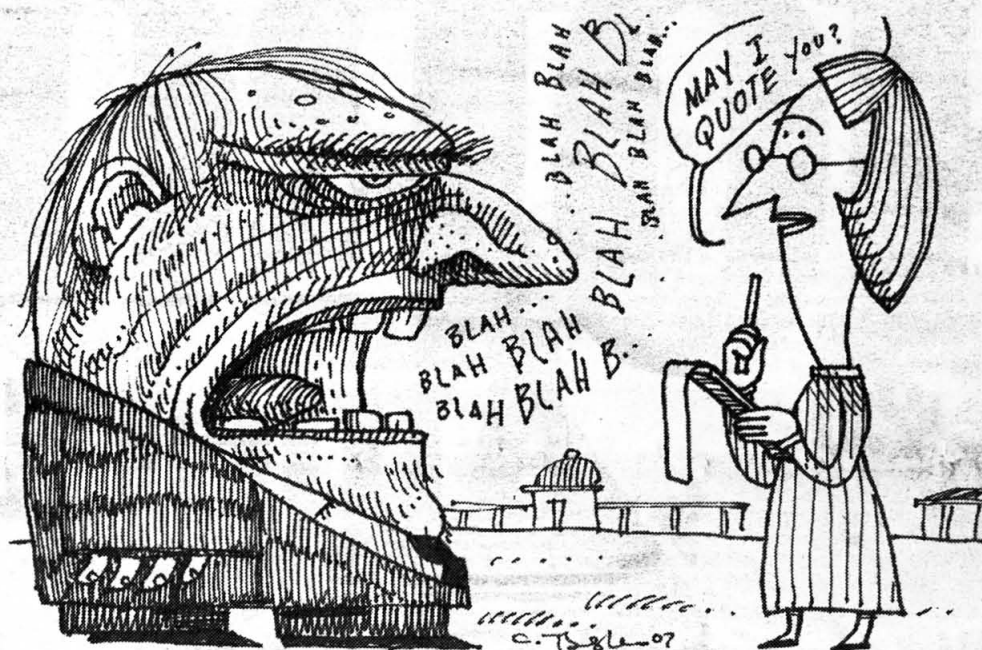
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The Department of Liberal Education & the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences in collaboration with the Columbia Chronicle, The Journalism Department and the Art & Design Department announce

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



**Deadline for submissions:
Friday, March 16th**

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c/o Teresa Prados-Torreira
Liberal Education Department
624 S. Michigan Ave., 900A

Two \$350 first prizes
Two \$250 second prizes &
Two \$150 third prizes

will be awarded in each of two categories,
single panel and multiple panel cartoons

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.

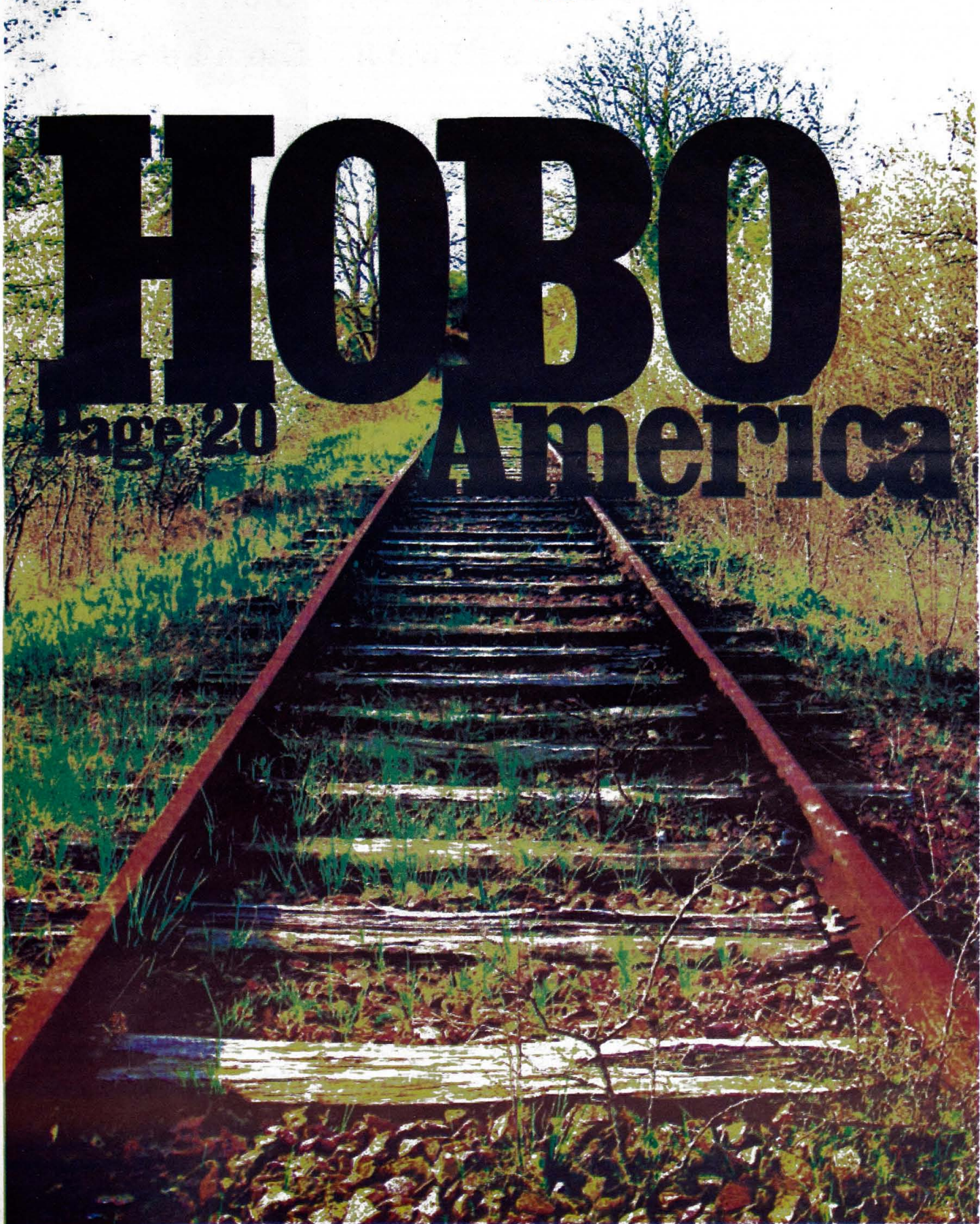


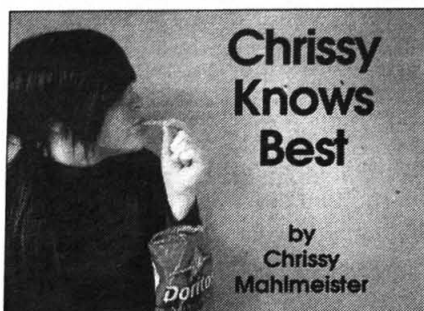
An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle

HOBBO

Page 20

America





A triangle of love

It could be their fragile appearance, yet zesty taste. It could be their sharp, angular figure ready to be caressed by my tender tongue. It could be the fact that they are "guaranteed fresh" for me, and only me, every single time I pop that slippery bag open. It could be the powder that coats my fingertips and anxiously waits to be licked off. I can't quite put my finger on what attracts me the most to Doritos—wait, yes I can. I can put many, many fingers on it.

In fact, one time when I was younger (OK, fine, it was high school), I was stuffing my plump face with a large bag of Doritos, you know, the "party size" bag. But since I had no friends, that "party" consisted of only me. I was nearing the end of my Doritos journey. I could see the silver lining at the bottom just beginning to glisten and twinkle at me. It was then, the unimaginable happened—I was full.

I immediately became annoyed and scolded my stomach for being such a

baby. I wasn't done enjoying my Doritos; I wanted more. So to enjoy the taste of Doritos, without actually eating them, I began taking each Dorito, and one by one, started licking the delicious powder off and then placing the soggy Dorito aside on a plate. After repeating this twice, I smiled to myself and thought about what a genius I was. Finally, my grubby fingers and tired tongue neared the end of the bag.

Completely worn out from this vigorous activity, I figured this would be the best time to surf the Internet in the basement.

In the middle of my LiveJournal escapade, I heard a tirade of yelling upstairs. I moved my chubby little sausage toes as fast as I could up the stairs to find my older brother dangling one of my used Doritos from his fingertips.

"Chrissy, why are these Doritos soggy?" He asked, with the most concerned look I've seen him have in my life.

I consciously tried to hold back cracking a smile, but the inevitable happened and I started laughing hysterically. In between gasping for air and snorting I managed to admit my fallacies.

"I ... licked ... all ... of ... the ... DORITOS!"

He threw the soggy Dorito across the room like it was the Bubonic Plague somehow condensed into a tiny corn chip and then immediately ran to the

kitchen sink and leaned over it, threatening that he was going to throw up.

He began violently gagging and in between kept yelling out things like: "Who licks food and then is done with it?!" and "Are you even human? Are you a human?" and "I knew they were too soggy to be edible" and "You are absolutely, hands down, the grossest person in the entire world."

Whoa. OK brother, that was below the belt ... or was it? Was I the grossest human who ever existed? Was my Doritos obsession turning me into a filthy monster? It was then that I pondered life's most intricate question: Am I gross?

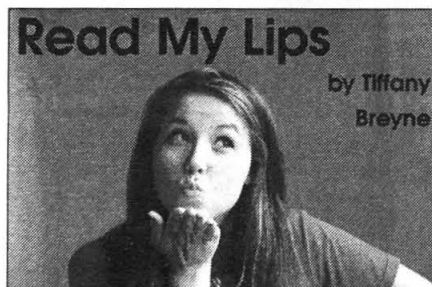
I sulked into the bathroom and stared at my reflection in the mirror. The corners of my mouth were dusted with bright orange powder and my finger tips were stained with my indulgences. I knew it was time to get over my obsession.

Life wasn't a walk in the park anymore. It was more of a hearty jog teetering on an asthma attack without an inhaler. In the cafeteria I would stare longingly at the Doritos across the gymnasium, yearning for their tangy flavor. Lunch just wasn't as pleasurable without a Dorito to follow every bite of my bland turkey sandwich.

Although all addicts never fully recover, I have actually learned to curb my desire for Doritos.

And if you see me, sad and uncomfortable, I'm probably thinking about how badly I want to pop a bag of Doritos open. So just do a gal a favor and buy me a bag. And remember—nacho cheese, please.

cmahlmeister@chroniclemail.com



One for the romantics

Last week media outlets across the country were talking about the odd story of Lisa Marie Nowak, the NASA astronaut charged with attempted murder on a woman who is dating a guy Nowak likes. While the story is certainly fascinating and practically screams made-for-TV movie, I think another story that appeared in the papers seems more worthy to talk about. It's a story about love, and in the spirit of that greatly over-marketed Hallmark holiday we call Valentine's Day, I figured we could use a little bit of romantic inspiration.

On Feb. 5, archaeologists unearthed two 5,000 year-old skeletons buried together in an embrace in Mantua, Italy. Based on the appearance of the bone structure and posture, the skeletons seem to have been "young and in love," as the Associated Press so romantically stated.

The media have been quick to point out the coincidental similarities

between the skeletons and Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet": Mantua is not only 25 miles south of Verona, where the play is based, but is also the city in which Romeo is exiled to after killing Juliet's cousin Tybalt. And, of course, the "young and in love" aspect is the perfect addition to this cute story.

While this discovery doesn't really do anything to advance knowl-

edge of prehistoric times in Italy, I think it speaks volumes of the fact that love and romance is timeless. And I must say that is a comfort to my sentimental self after seeing ridiculous Valentine's Day commercials selling treadmills and furniture. Apparently, the symbols of romance these days are exercise equipment and house accessories.

Now, I realize I could be daydreaming and romanticizing this discovery, but for all I know, these two embracing people could have been in the middle of some disastrous battle and they found comfort in each other's embrace. It reminds me of that adorable old couple in the movie *Titanic* that curls up together in bed as they sink to their inevitable death, as opposed to a man putting a red bow on a couch and saying "Happy Valentine's Day" as he plops down on it to watch TV.

I also realize that this story isn't

exactly breaking news and it scores high on the cheesy scale, but I enjoy a heart-warming tale that guarantees me going "Awww!" at least once by the time I'm done hearing it. I'm definitely in that category of people who like to keep love alive in a relationship by cherishing those "Awww!" moments.

It definitely inspires me to go in for an extra kiss from my guy because, even if it's mushy, I think that is what keeps a couple together like the "pre-historic Romeo and Juliet."

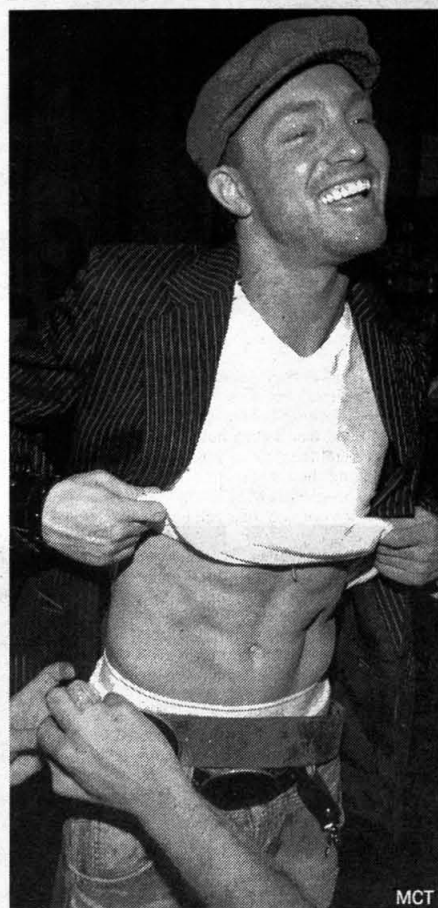


The newly excavated Mantuan skeletons lock in a timeless embrace.

So while some like Nowak choose to show their love in a creepy, drive-900-miles-in-a-diaper sort of way, I'll take up the skeletons' method of showing affection this Valentine's Day and every other day. Awww.

tbreyne@chroniclemail.com

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



While we could easily go for the obvious choice of Rex Grossman or the Chicago Bears as Jackass of the Week, we'll go easy on the boys because they probably feel bad enough.

Instead, we'll focus on a real jackass who is not only the kind of creep who hangs out with people more than a decade younger than him, but also manages to put their lives in danger. This jackass goes by the name of Lane Garrison, also known as David "Tweener" Apolskis on the show "Prison Break."

Garrison, 26, was behind the wheel of his SUV Dec. 2 with two 15-year-old girls and a 17-year-old boy when the vehicle hit a tree shortly before midnight. The 17-year-old died and the two girls were left with injuries ranging from minor to critical.

Then, on Jan. 31, police reports came out stating that Garrison not only had a blood-alcohol level double the legal limit but also had cocaine in his system. Cocaine and alcohol. Can anyone say Miss USA? Maybe Garrison and Miss USA Tara Conner can get together and partake in their drug-induced ways together.

Garrison met the three teenagers at a grocery store. They invited him to a party, and he actually went. Creep factor: 8. You're a celebrity in your 20s, dude. Get a grip on reality and step away from the teenage kids.

Garrison's attorney Harland Braun said the actor had one margarita at dinner and then a couple of drinks at a party that night, but he forgot to mention that little bit about doing cocaine as well. Oh, and police found alcohol bottles in his car at the time of the accident and claimed that he had "symptoms of alcohol intoxication."

Now Garrison faces a conviction of at least 10 years in prison for gross vehicular manslaughter, with possibly even more time for causing injury or death to more than one person and for contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

Funny how an actor on a show based on prison might end up in one himself. Good thing he got some practice before the real deal, though, because he sure is going to get a beating for his jackass ways.

—T. Breynne



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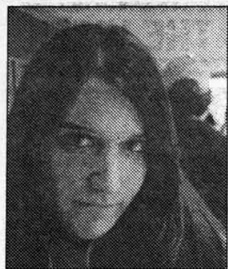
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Ratings Guide

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

♥	Complete Crap
♥♥	Download it
♥♥♥	Pretty Entertaining
♥♥♥♥	Very Good
♥♥♥♥♥	Word Up

Jennifer
ZimmermanJames H.
Ewert Jr.Dana
Nelson

Top 5

THINGS I'M JUST SO OVER!!!!!!

People who take their time walking down the el stairs: OK, if you're old, I'll take my time walking behind you in the freezing cold and won't even huff or puff. But I cannot stand the girls in their pointy-toed heels taking their sweet time so they don't slip, the people screwing around with their iPods or the ones on their cell phones.

Jackets: I got a new white coat with a cute fur hood that I would like to think makes me look pretty good. Having this for fashion is one thing, but I am so OVER needing it to go outside. I'm also a little sick of having to spray and wash my coat every time I come home because—thanks to city pollution—it's filthy.

Money: I've never been one of those people who really needs money to be happy. But my credit card debt haunts me in my sleep, and to be quite honest, I would like to spoil my guy this Valentine's day.

Friends moving away: Here I am, a senior in college, and I already feel old. One of my friends moved away last weekend, my best friend is moving away next week and my other best friend took his first plane out of this city last semester. I miss my "boo nights" alongside my best friend Beth. And most of all, I miss my boys who lived just down the street from me.

The elevators in 624 S. Michigan Ave. building: I'm sure all of you reading this right now are thinking, "AMEN!" Enough said. You all know it and you all feel it.

POSSESSIONS I HAVE BUT HATE

Cell Phone: It is like a parasite that feeds off the frustration it produces. If I was stranded in a god-forsaken land somewhere and needed help, I would like to have a phone to call 311. But I'm not usually in Texas or Florida.

Television: As much as I enjoy watching movies at times, I still feel like a waste of space doing so. Other than that, a television does its damndest to make me as ignorant as the ever-growing proletariat masses.

Car: Although I'm glad I have a white station wagon instead of a sport utility vehicle, a part of me dies every time I start the thing or pay for gas at Exxon Mobile.

Wolfgang Puck soup: The two emergency cans of soup I have on my desk at work give me more trouble than my last two court appearances. I am broke and Ramen noodles do not fill me up as much. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

CD Player: I like music just as much as any entertainment-deprived college student, but I do not need music played into my ear at every possible second. Twenty years from now, there will be a white noise epidemic because of the constant intense sound pumping into our ear lobes.

THINGS I KNOW ABOUT ALIENS

NASA: I love space exploration and all, but now that we may have killed ET on Mars, I think it's time for NASA to give it up. Aliens are our friends and we don't want to risk their wrath.

O'Hare International Airport: Way to go, FAA, ignoring the fact that UFOs are flying and landing in a major airport. We know the truth. It wasn't the weather. What I really want to know is if they have to take off their space shoes and coats at the security checkpoint like everyone else.

Alien Investigations: Otherwise, we might never know what those creepy, spying space shuttles might be doing. Who's your daddy, eight-eyes? That's right...

Area 51: Sure, the U.S. Air Force is using this as a landing strip and test site for new military aircraft. What they're not telling you is that it's a landing strip for aliens.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show: It may be fun to throw rice and wear newspapers over our heads, but we're missing the real message of this show: Aliens exist and they will come down to bring perverted customs and immortality to earth. Beware of people wearing too much make up, six-inch heels, fishnet tights and corsets. Strippers, this means you. We know your secret, and we want you to know that you are welcome here. Please don't blow up our planet.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY

Ever wanted to know more about the culture of urban art? Then head out to **Four**, 1551 W. Division St. for the Chicago premiere of a documentary about graffiti art called **Next: A Primer on Urban Painting**. The screening begins at 6 p.m. and will be followed by a conversation with director Pablo Aravena. The event is **free**, but a reservation is required. Register at scion.com/dashboard/calendar/.

TUESDAY

Play bingo and learn to tango at the **Museum of Contemporary Art**, 220 E. Chicago Ave., as they host **Bingo Tango**. The event begins at 6 p.m. and is **free**.

WEDNESDAY

Add some culture to your Valentine's Day by heading to the **Old Town School of Folk Music**, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., for **La Pena: Bolero Summit**. The event features performances of Mexican, South American and modern performances of bolero music. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. The event is **free**, but a reservation is recommended by calling (773) 728-6000.

THURSDAY

Popstatic mixes things up as the DJs Upstairs series continues at **Schubas**, 3159 N. Southport Ave. Tonight he spins with DJ Mother Hubbard. The party begins at 10 p.m. The **21 and older** event is **free**.

FRIDAY

Before the little golden Oscar statues are handed out on Feb. 25, see the **Academy Award nominated short films** at the **Music Box Theatre**, 3373 N. Southport Ave. It features both live-action and animated films. Admission is **\$9.25**. Visit musicboxtheatre.com for show times.

SATURDAY

Be one of the first in the city to see paintings never before shown in Chicago at the new art exhibit **"Cezanne to Picasso."** It opens today at the **Art Institute**, 111 S. Michigan Ave. The show features work by Gauguin, Van Gogh and others and runs through May 12. Tickets cost **\$18**.

SUNDAY

It's the last day to see all the latest trends in the world of automobiles at the **Chicago Auto Show** in **McCormick Place**, Lake Shore Drive at 23rd Street. Tickets are **\$10** for adults, **\$5** for senior citizens and children. The show opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 8 p.m.

Exposure



Maruricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Football can be played anywhere. All you need is a football and some markers and a game can take place. Allante McPherson, 14, avoids a tackle from schoolmate Dylan Rossi, 16, during a pickup football game played in the snowy Grant Park.

All drills, no frills

Bridal Bootcamps whip brides-to-be into serious shape

By Chrissy Mahlmeister/Assistant A&E Editor

Here comes the bride, all dressed and ... wide? Some bride-to-be anxiety doesn't lie in the flighty weather or guest turnout, but in flabby arms and tummies. While all brides prepare for their wedding day differently—some spend hours adjusting their rhinestone-flecked veils or finishing their rounds at the tanning salon—some women battle the bulge and sign up for a little thing called Bridal Bootcamp.

Bridal Bootcamp, sometimes referred to as Wedding Fitness Camp, is the quickest, most intense way to spend three months before a bride's wedding. When the bride-to-be is serious about losing weight, this military-style workout can whip any woman into serious shape.

Mark Vendramini, a personal trainer and one of the first creators of the Bridal Bootcamp in Toronto, rated the level of difficulty on his 45-minute program.

"On a scale of one to 10, it'd be a 13. If you come here, don't expect it to be 30-minute express workouts and don't expect to come in and chat about what was on Oprah that day. Don't expect over-choreographed routines—expect to be working your ass off. Never mind what music is on, you won't be able to know what music it is in five minutes anyway," he said.

Meeting a few times a week, Vendramini's classes focus mostly on push-ups, chin-ups and sit-ups—the bare basics of working out. However, the program is anything but a walk in the park.

Vendramini's program also consists of an intense circuit-training setup with military

flavor, but mostly, it's just darn hard work.

If Vendramini catches one of his brides-to-be being talkative, he has them drop down and give him 20 pushups right there on the spot.

This may intimidate some women from even starting the program, but Vendramini assures it's mostly tongue and cheek.

"I'm not there to make anybody cry. I'm not there to kill anybody," Vendramini said. "That wouldn't be good for business anyway, would it?"

The Goality Fitness Club hits closer to home located at 1240 W. Irving Park Road. Goality's Bridal Boot Camp is specifically for weight loss, body toning and cardiovascular conditioning, utilizing free-weights in strength training for eager brides-to-be.

Eric Su, personal fitness trainer and owner

of Goality, started the Wedding Fitness Camp as a spin-off of a fitness class he teaches for singles.

"We thought that brides were another market we could tap into," Su said.

The results from the programs almost always guarantee weight loss, but it depends heavily on the individual's diet and effort, according to Vendramini.

He likes the phrase, "You get out of it what you put into it."

Most brides are looking for their arms and backs to be toned for their wedding dresses, and according to Su, inches will be lost and a more toned

and slim body will emerge.

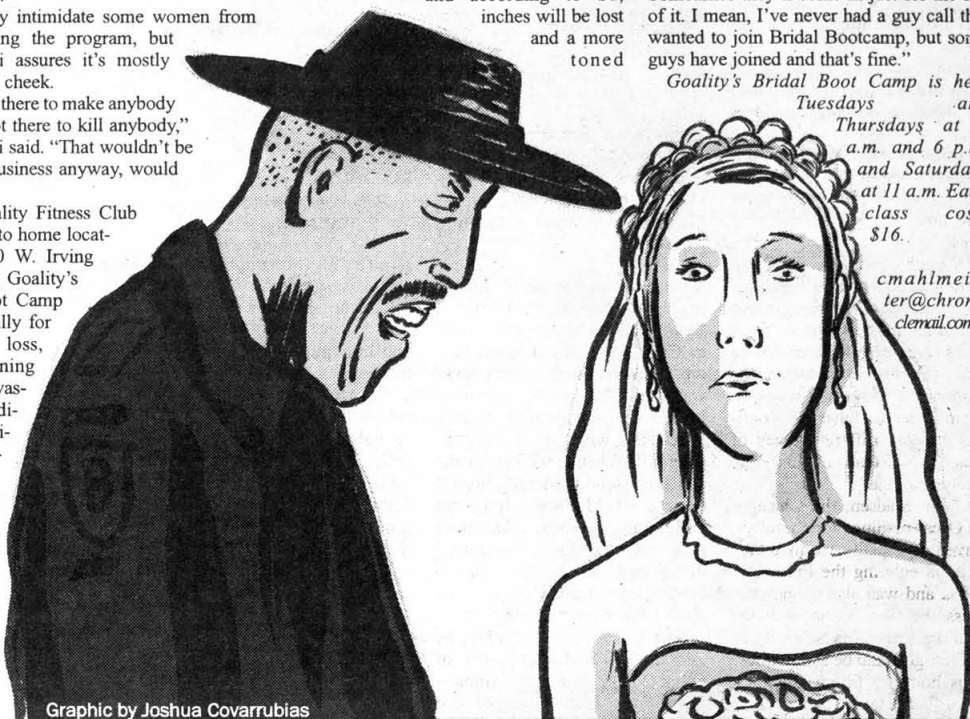
"I heard that it's just an unbelievable, almost painful experience," said Brooke Bandik, a wedding planner for Tying the Knot, a wedding service company in Chicago. "But your payback is just this phenomenal body."

Not only brides want to lose that last-minute weight—the grooms want to drop their love handles as well. While there are no groups specifically made for grooms getting fit, Su's Wedding Fitness Camp is opening up to brides and grooms, so no one gets left behind.

"I've had a few guys come through," said Vendramini about his Bridal Boot Camp. "Mostly it's the fiancé of the bride. Sometimes they'll come in just for the fun of it. I mean, I've never had a guy call that wanted to join Bridal Bootcamp, but some guys have joined and that's fine."

Goality's Bridal Boot Camp is held
Tuesdays and
Thursdays at 9
a.m. and 6 p.m.
and Saturdays
at 11 a.m. Each
class costs
\$16.

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Graphic by Joshua Covarrubias

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IN THEATRES
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TO SAVE SOMEONE
HE LOVED.

NICOLAS CAGE EVA MENDES
GHOST RIDER

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FEBRUARY 16

'Astronaut Farmer': Stars Thornton and Madsen visit Columbia

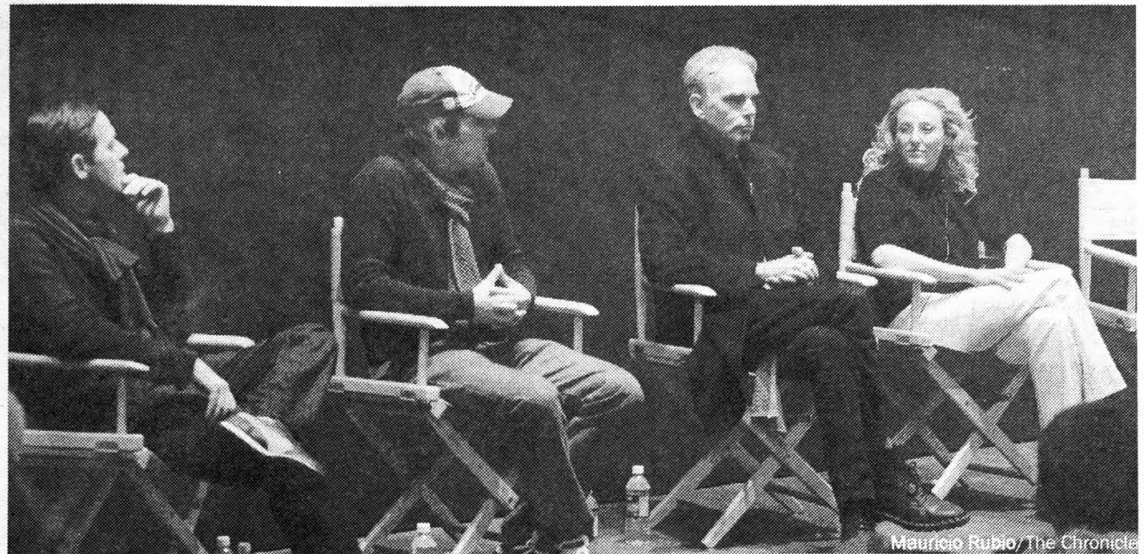
Continued from Front Page

dream, now shared by his family. Despite the film's status as a PG-rated family picture, the predominantly college-age audience at the screening was completely engaged. This is partly due to the fact that Thornton was never forced to compromise his crowd-pleasing persona, while the Polish brothers' script was laced with surprisingly topical political satire.

During a Q&A afterward, Thornton stressed that in order to be a successful actor, one must learn how to intensively read scripts.

"Through writing, you learn how to read better," said Thornton, who wrote the screenplays for some of his most acclaimed films such as *One False Move* and *Sling Blade*. He also emphasized the importance of "knowing who you are" in order to have the confidence to play different types of characters, instead of just one stereotypical role.

Virginia Madsen, the Chicago-bred Oscar nominee for *Sideways*, received an equally warm reception upon entering the Film Row Cinema and was also on hand to discuss the film, along with the Polish brothers. Madsen argued that Chicago could be a more prosperous home to filmmaking if it offered "better tax incentives and a



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Mark and Michael Polish, along with Billy Bob Thornton and Virginia Madsen discuss their new film, 'The Astronaut Farmer,' in a panel discussion at Film Row Cinema, 1104 S. Wabash.

bigger studio."

Moments of unexpected humor peppered the night, such as when a student did a blatant impression of Chris Farley's talk show host on "Saturday Night Live," awkwardly reciting one of Thornton's lines from *Armageddon*, before concluding with, "That was really cool!" When a woman in the audience stood to identify herself as one of Madsen's long-lost childhood friends, Thornton admitted, "When you stood up, I thought you were a lady named Erica I knew from Houston. You scared the hell out of me!"

Afterward, the press spoke with the Polish brothers, a pair of twins whose last three films—*Twin Falls Idaho*, *Jackpot* and

Northfork—garnered great critical acclaim, but little to no box office support. Both talked about how much they loved Columbia and how polite everyone was to them.

"We've been in situations where we've walked into film schools, and they've been rude as hell," said Mark, while Michael added that the experience Columbia gave them was the kind "that filmmakers want, and they'll continue to come back when they get that experience."

Like their previous films, *Astronaut* was written and produced by both brothers, while Michael took the director's chair and Mark acted in a supporting role. In their first film *Twin Falls*

Idaho, they played conjoined twins so convincingly that when they arrived at Boston, a double-love seat was waiting for them.

There was a key reason the brothers cited as to why *Astronaut* is more personal to them than their other work.

"Every time you make a movie, it's like launching a rocket," said Mark. "You've got to get your family involved, you've got to get financial stability. People think you're nuts and say that you're never gonna do it."

Like Farmer building a rocket in his barn, the brothers made their first film completely outside of Hollywood, thus creating a work that was homegrown and individualistic. They later wrote a

book about their experiences, *The Declaration of Independent Filmmaking: An Insider's Guide to Making Movies Outside of Hollywood*.

"We didn't go to the business. We made our first movie, and the business came to us," said Michael.

The brothers see this as the ideal way to grow in the film industry since, as Michael stated, "You have a vantage point when you're at home because everyone wants to help you. When you're in LA, everyone wants to help themselves."

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The power of the flirts

Two experts discuss how flirting helps people get what they want

By Kristin Kalter/Assistant A&E Editor

Some people are a little shy or nervous when approaching someone for a date, asking for a raise, or even negotiating the cost of a used car. Two women, who have dealt with these issues, say the solution is to harness the power of proper flirting.

Susan Bradley and Jill Spiegel are both flirting experts. Spiegel hosts her own radio show in Minneapolis and has written several books including *Flirting for Success* and *A Flirtologist's Guide to Dating*. Bradley's books include *How to Be Irresistible to the Opposite Sex* and an e-book entitled *Learn to Flirt in 30 Days*. Both teach classes on the subject or have spoken at seminars.

Spiegel has taken flirting from the office to the street and now incorporates it in everything she does. She said she's been on talk shows like "Oprah" and the "Today" show and flirted with Katie

Couric and Matt Laurer just by giving them some compliments.

But their definition of flirting differs slightly from what the average man or woman might think it means.

"Flirting is a fun way to

explain the style of motivation, of being confident," Spiegel said.

She said flirting is more about smiling, having a positive attitude and increased confidence. Spiegel believes if someone goes into a situation with a positive attitude, thinking, "I want to have fun, meet someone or accomplish something," people will be able to read that energy and respond positively.

"There is magic in every encounter," Spiegel said. "Life puts you next to people, and you should start positive conversations with them ... they might lead you to a goal in your life."

Spiegel describes herself as goofy, childlike and always very outgoing but said even she used to struggle with her own self-consciousness.

Bradley, however, said she used to be more introverted.

"I was painfully shy—so shy that I couldn't even talk to myself, which is really, really shy," she said.

But after her divorce, Bradley realized she wanted to find a better way to overcome her shyness and help other people at the same time. Her new attitude led her to make the first move to

approach David Nicholson, who is now her fiancé.

The couple met at a gas station, where Bradley planned to get her oil changed.

"She asked me to check her oil," Nicholson said. "She wasn't really flirting with me [at first] but [was] really smiley."

He said Bradley gave him several opportunities at the gas station to ask her out, but in the end, she had to tell him to ask for her number.

Bradley believes most people, especially college-age students, find that kind of situation especially frightening.

"[There's] a giant fear of rejection," she said. "People play a lot of games," she said.

Bradley said she notices that college students' style of flirting is similar to the way they were acting in grade school when they liked someone—by ragging on them or picking on them as a sign of affection. She said what they really need to do is compliment the person and treat them like an equal, no matter how good looking they might be.

"The more attractive someone is to you, the harder it is to approach them," she said. "Don't put anyone on a pedestal. If you see someone you're interested in, go up and talk to them—it can be way more casual and less scary than it needs to be."

Both Spiegel and Bradley agree that flirting doesn't have to be sexual. Spiegel said flirt-



Courtesy Susan Bradley

The engaged couple, David Nicholson and Susan Bradley, met at a gas station where Bradley was checking her oil.

ing in the office should consist of maintaining eye contact when talking with someone and complimenting people on their outfits or hairstyles. She said women who intentionally show cleavage or make suggestive expressions or looks are sending out the wrong signals.

"Whatever intention you put out, people will pick up and see what your value is," Spiegel said. "It's not healthy for a woman to capitalize on her sexuality ... and it's not fair for other women who aren't doing that."

Spiegel composes a list annually of celebrities she thinks are the best flirts. She describes them as individuals who engage

and inspire. "Today" show host, Meredith Vieira, made her way to the top of the list this year.

"They are someone who fits the bill of a flirt," Spiegel said. "People can see how flirting is inspiring [through the celebrities] and find someone they might be like."

Spiegel also included Jennifer Hudson, Jay-Z, Jack Black, Tina Fey and America Ferrera on this year's list.

To read more flirting tips or to find out how to get live advice from Bradley and Spiegel, visit Spiegel's website, flirtnow.com, or Bradley's website, lovingu.com.

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HOBOICALLY YOURS

A peek into the underground world of America's hoboes

Story by Jenn Zimmerman

Graphics by Kimi Badger

It's a quest for adventure for some, while for others it's the feeling of being alone with just the stars—but most hoboes will agree: they choose their lifestyle for the freedom it brings them.

Although some history books may say the hobo culture died out after the Civil War, Mammajo, the hobo queen of 2003, will be the first to tell you this culture is still alive and thriving.

Meet some of today's hoboes who continue to keep their community vibrant and continually growing through the illegal lifestyle they lead by riding America's rails, or "freight-train hopping" as the railroad police may know it as.

Adman (Full-Time to Recreational Hobo)

For Minnesota man Todd Waters, who was later dubbed Adman as his hobo name and alias as former king of the hobo community, life on and off the rails started with much more than just the need for excitement. In 1970, his hobo life began as an escape and need to belong somewhere.

After his girlfriend ran off with a bartender, leaving the then-20-year-old heartbroken, Adman spent the next ten years of his life growing up on boxcars, train engines and many other freight train carriers. The middle class white kid traveled all around North America, often riding the rails with Mexican immigrants trying to hop the border or to the Rocky Mountains just to see the sunflowers blooming in the sunrise. He now belonged somewhere.

"I pretty much had the whole nation as my backyard, including Canada and Mexico," he said.

The relationship Adman had with his "underground family" was one that he said was like no other. It was the type of relationship where they looked out for one another, kept each other safe—the "I saved your life and you saved mine" intense closeness as he referred to it as. Soon Adman's "normal life" was one of the distant past.

When Adman returned home for a quick visit, he realized he was no longer comfortable sleeping indoors. The "dead-air" of the room prevented him from finding comfort in his own bed and later led him to sleep in more open places around his parent's home. He was truly reformed into a full-time hobo.

"I was homesick for the road when I was back in society and then I was homesick for society when I was on the road," he said.

Now, 60 years old and with a long record of trespassing on public property, Adman dropped down from full-time status as hobo to a recreational hobo.

He is a successful owner of his own advertising firm and is also a husband and a father. And although he may not be able to go back to full-time status any time soon, he still has kept the hobo life in the family—just ask his daughter, Alexandra Waters.

Alexandra Waters (Daughter of Adman)

Now 19, Waters grew up with a home full of hobo visitors. Whether they were looking for a place to stay, a bite to eat or somewhere to get cleaned up, Waters spent her entire life growing up around her father's underground family.

"It was part of our life all growing up," Waters said. "You just kind of assumed that everyone's dad was like that."

Some nights Waters said she and her mother, who is not a hobo but has ridden the rails, would return to their home with the lights already on and her father's friends sitting in the living room playing their music until the family came back to greet them.

Her mentors and friends were often members of the hobo community. With her father still taking frequent trips on the rails, she started to get the itch to see what the life was really like. She got her turn this past summer.

Starting off in their hometown of St. Paul, Minn., Waters hopped her first freight train with her father. For two weeks she traveled with just a change of clothes, a toothbrush, sewing kit and boots. It was her time to get to know the life her father had chosen.

"I wanted to better understand my dad and his requests for freedom," she said. "I wanted to know his passion."

Traveling through Wisconsin and up to parts of Michigan, Waters learned quickly that the hobo life was one that consisted of a lot of waiting. Whether it was waiting for another train to arrive to take them to their next destination, waiting for food or simply waiting to even get to their destination, time was spent much differently.

Waters said she and her dad would make up games, often playing Adman's own called "Knuckle Chips," which would consist of trying to throw a woodchip in between the two train cars. They had no cell phones or iPods, and getting fed meat dumpster diving outside the KFC or occasionally grabbing a bite to eat at a small cafe. To top it all off, the whole trip

Hobo Definitions

supplied by Mammajo

The term "hobo" came from the origin word of "hoeboy," coined during the Civil War when men went out looking for day-labor. By riding the freight trains they were able to take free transportation to different places looking for work. All they would take with them would be a hoe for work and a handkerchief tied to it, which held their personal belongings and socks. Nowadays, a multitude of hoboes exist.

Full-time hobo - A hobo who rides the rails looking for work.

Recreational hobo rail rider - Someone who has a job and their own home but uses their vacation time to ride the rails.

Hobo at heart - Someone who wants to be a hobo but fears it is too dangerous. They may still attend the yearly National Hobo Convention and other gatherings, but do not ride the rails.

Friend of the hoboes - Someone who attends the National Hobo Convention and other gatherings. They frequent the hobo community, but choose not to ride the rails.

Flintstone - Kids or teenagers who ride the rails with other hoboes or by themselves. They cannot be considered a hobo until they reach 18-years-old, and they often have a dark, gothic look with tattoos and body piercing. They are sometimes runaways but not all the time.

Tramp/Bum - Someone who rides the rails but does not work. Should never be confused with a hobo.

Hobo Code of Ethics

supplied by Mammajo

Never litter

Clean up your mess

No food mouth

Respect the brotherhood of the hobo community



Courtesy of Mammajo

Hobo Convention In Britt, Iowa

weeks also meant no shower. Waters said it was a trip to really get to know her dad.

Hytech Hobo (Recreational Hobo)

Glenn Robison, also known as Hytech Hobo, started riding the rails in 1990 after coming across an article about hoboes in a California magazine while at his optometrist's office.

First traveling just around California, Hytech soon made his longest hop to Arizona. He too was seeking adventure in his life.

"On the train, it's always Friday afternoon," he said.

Hytech enjoyed the feeling that there was no sense of time while being a hobo. After 30 hops and now at age 57, Hytech has also decided to bring the hobo life into his own home. Recently Hytech's son took his first trip on the rails alongside his dad.

Hytech currently works in human resources in Colton, Calif. Despite taking a break from the hobo life, he said he will eventually ride the rails again.

"It's that sense of adventure that you can't get anywhere else," Hytech said.

Oats (Recreational Hobo)

Cliff Williams, a 63-year-old professor at Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Ill., turned to the hobo life after seeing an article in the Chicago Tribune's magazine. Williams, whose hobo alias is Oats, said something in him felt like he "needed to meet those guys."

After meeting up at the hoboes' yearly convention in Britt, Iowa, Oats said he fell in love with the community.

"I just wanted to be one of them," he said.

After having three books published dealing with hobo history and poetry, Oats said he has traveled close to 10,000 miles since his first hop in 1994. Out of those 10,000 miles, his most memorable moment is seeing the red-winged blackbirds sitting atop the cattail plants in the fields the train would pass by.

"Most people ride the rails for a sense of freedom," he said. "But independence is also a factor."

Mickey Rodgers (Friend of the Hoboes)

Mickey Rodgers and his cousin were looking for a place to ride to for a small vacation on their motorcycles. It was 1979 in Akron, Ohio, and the National Hobo Convention—which is celebrating its 107th year in 2007—was once again set to meet in Britt, Iowa. With nothing more than curiosity, Rodgers said he and his brother took off to meet the members of the hobo community.

Although Rodgers has never ridden the rails himself, the hobo community is one he has grown attached to and also brought into his own family life.

Rodgers said he took his family to visit Mammajo in California one Thanksgiving. However, dinner was not served around a table but rather under a highway underpass among other hoboes, which served as a humbling example for his son.

Soon Rodgers may take the leap into the hobo community. Although he has always been interested in that lifestyle, he said he never had the "need to get away" that often pushes most people to become a hobo. But now that his son is older, Rodgers said he may soon take his first jump.



Courtesy of Mammajo

Two hoboes play their instruments for spectators.

Although all different types of hoboes coexist among their vast community, they have all said to have one thing in common—judgements from those outside of their close group. Whether it's dirty looks from onlookers, people assuming they are homeless or beggars, or those who just don't care to understand their culture, many battle with the negative connotations associated with the term "hobo."

"You get looks like you should be ashamed to be alive," said Waters. "People are people and it doesn't matter if they live in a boxcar."

According to Mammajo and many other hoboes, their lifestyle should never be considered the same as those who are homeless. This is the life they choose for themselves, unlike a homeless person, whose situation is due to unfortunate circumstances. Once they begin, Mammajo said they may never want to turn back.

"The reason they ride it today [is for the] enthusiasm to be doing something, the excitement of it," Mammajo said. "And once they've done it they love it."

Hoboes also have to fight with the law when it comes to their way of life. Depending on which state they are in, they could be charged with a felony for trespassing if caught by the Union Pacific police, according to Mark Davis, a spokesman for Union Pacific railroad.

"You are dealing with a huge safety issue, Davis said. "It's extremely dangerous."

Mammajo also said freight-train hopping is illegal and has led to deaths and serious injuries in the hobo community. They do not support the act or recommend it to anyone.

However, despite their battles with the law and sometimes even death, they all agree that the parts of the world they get to see through the eyes of a train door and the type of camaraderie is among them can't be found anywhere else.

"[Everyone] should follow their own song," Adman said. "Everyone matters and it's not about the destination but it's about getting to know the neighbors."

West Coast chimps have much ado about poo

Experts say animals need more space, new home

By Marc Benjamin/MCT

Bosco and Daffy, Fresno Chaffee Zoo's chimpanzees, may be taking their monkey business on the road.

Zoo officials have been working in earnest since last year to place the two aging and sometimes cranky chimps in a different zoo or a sanctuary with more space and more chimps. So far, they haven't found any takers.

Bosco is about 40 years old and came to Fresno, Calif., from southern California in 1969. Daffy is about 30 years old and came from South Bend, Ind., about three years ago. Chimpanzees typically live 40 to 50 years.

During his time in Fresno, Bosco has earned a reputation for his accurate throwing arm.

And for what things he slings.

He will throw anything he can get his hands on, but lately he especially likes to toss—and there's no way to put this delicately—excrement.

Ralph Waterhouse, who was director of Chaffee Zoo for 12 years, recalls being a target.

"Bosco liked to find a person in charge and deliver a handful of poo at them," he said. "If you were on a tour of the zoo with me you might not want to stand too close."

Waterhouse said some of Bosco's poop pranks were premeditated.

Sometimes Bosco would gather his piles and make a ruckus

inside his enclosure, attracting onlookers, Waterhouse said.

When the visitors began arriving, so did Bosco's airmail deliveries.

"He would throw at the public and it was hard to say why he threw at certain people," Waterhouse said.

When zoo officials installed wire mesh to protect visitors, Bosco learned to increase his throwing velocity to make his fastballs splatter through the mesh or lob his pitches over the mesh wiring.

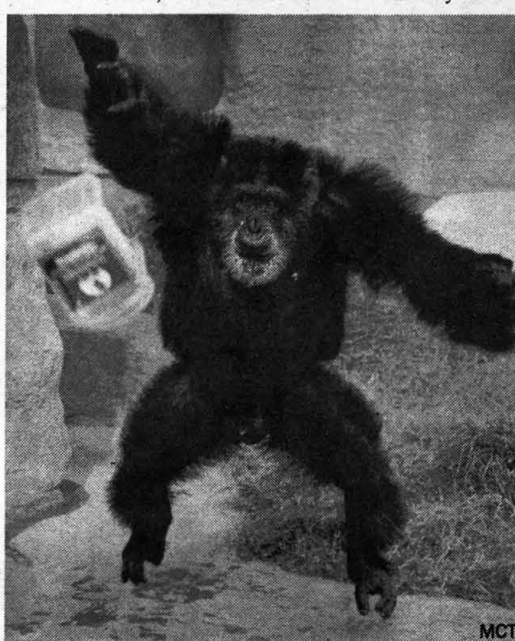
"I think it was fun for him," said Waterhouse, who described Bosco's throwing arm as "excellent."

"I have always felt bad that we didn't have a better facility," he said. "The idea of having the much-larger exhibits and group sizes puts the animals in an environment like how they would live in nature."

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums last year, and in previous reviews of the zoo, asked Chaffee Zoo officials to find a new home for the chimps because the zoo's en-

closure is too small.

The association's studies show that chimps function best in larger social groups, said Lewis Greene, the zoo's director.



Bosco, a chimpanzee at a California zoo, hurls a container toward visitors on Jan. 30. The chimp has been known to hurl many items at visitors.

The plan to move the chimps, said zoo corporation board member Shari Rainwater, is "the

right thing to do."

"Chimps need space and entertainment," Rainwater said. "People think of chimps as sweet, friendly and cute, but as they get to be adults they can be extremely vicious and they are extremely strong."

Rainwater admits she also received an unpleasant reminder of this a few years back.

"He could be a Major League pitcher, his aim is so darn good," she said.

Rainwater, who has blond hair, theorizes that Bosco has issues with blondes.

"He just nailed me good," she said. "It went through the net."

A Species Survival Plan prepared by the zoo association said zoos

wanting to keep chimp exhibits should have at least eight in a group. The Fresno zoo's en-

closure couldn't handle one more animal, let alone the number the association requires.

"We are charged with doing what's best for the animals, not necessarily what we like or what other people like," Greene said. "The guys who know about chimps say they need to be in a bigger group than two."

It's not unusual for zoos to wait months before finding homes for chimps, Greene said. And Bosco's and Daffy's behavior is not so bad that other zoos won't take them—there are just a limited number of places with the space to handle two more chimps.

When Bosco and Daffy leave, they will go to the same place together, Greene said.

In larger groups, newer chimps sometimes don't fit in quickly. For their psychological well-being, he said, they need to have another animal they know if they are not accepted by a new, larger group.

So Greene wants to move them as quickly as he can.

"I don't want to wait until one of them dies," Greene said. "I want the chimps to have something they are familiar with [in a new venue]."

Fashion wears thin

Emaciated celebrities are shrinking tummies and egos

By Jocelyn Noveck/AP

She was a 16-year-old honor student, keenly interested in politics and eager to work for her candidate in last fall's congressional elections. But when Election Day came around, she wasn't on the campaign trail. She was in the hospital—with anorexia.

"By then, she wasn't thinking about the political issues," said her psychologist, Ann Kearney-Cooke. "She was thinking about how many calories were on her lunch plate."

The girl is now recovering, but her story is only one of many. Which is why Kearney-Cooke, who has been treating girls and women with eating disorders for 25 years, sees the current "skinny model" debate sweeping the fashion industry as a positive step that may eventually help lead to a healthier body image for young girls.

"This is such a waste of young people's energy," the Cincinnati-based psychologist said of the ever-intensifying obsession with being thin, an affliction she's seen in girls as young as 5 or 6.

"Teenagers should be figuring out who they are, how they feel about Iraq, about abortion. Instead, the question 'Who am I?' has been replaced by 'How do I look?'"

With Fashion Week currently in full swing in New York, the debate over thin models is on the

front burner. The Council of Fashion Designers of America recently issued voluntary guidelines to curb the use of overly thin models. Officials in Madrid set a minimum body-mass index, and Milan tightened restrictions. Efforts gained urgency after 21-year-old Brazilian model Ana Carolina Reston died of anorexia in November at 88 pounds.

Surely, models have always been thin—Twiggy was a phenomenon in the '60s for her waifish looks. But recent years have seen a trend toward the emaciated, with younger models displaying protruding hip bones, sal-low skin and stick-like legs with knees wider than the thighs.

"A lot of models today, you're just worried for them," said Suze Yalof Schwartz, executive editor-at-large for Glamour Magazine. "They look so vulnerable."

In the '90s, she points out, the sample size used by designers was 5 feet 9 inches or taller and a size 6 to 8; now, it's the same height, but a size 0 to 2.

And it isn't just models embracing the trend. Hollywood actresses, now often canvases for hot designers, are getting thinner—a development that likely impacts young women far more than the goings-on in the elite fashion world.

"It amazes me," said Janice Min, editor of US Weekly. "The

whole world has shrunk."

One result of all this: if you have the slightest tummy, the world now thinks the stork is around the corner. As Min put it, "If they can't see a clavicle, they think you're pregnant."

And if they really are expecting, there's a whole other pressure: "To be super-thin until just before your baby comes and [also] two minutes after," said Rita Freedman, a psychologist in Harrison, N.Y. who treats women with body-image disorders.

Freedman is skeptical that efforts to get healthier-looking models on the runway will have any impact on ordinary people.

"My experience is that things aren't getting better, they're getting worse," she said. "It's distressing, but as a professional, do I think this will have a long-term ripple effect? I doubt it."

Min notes that at least it's a step.

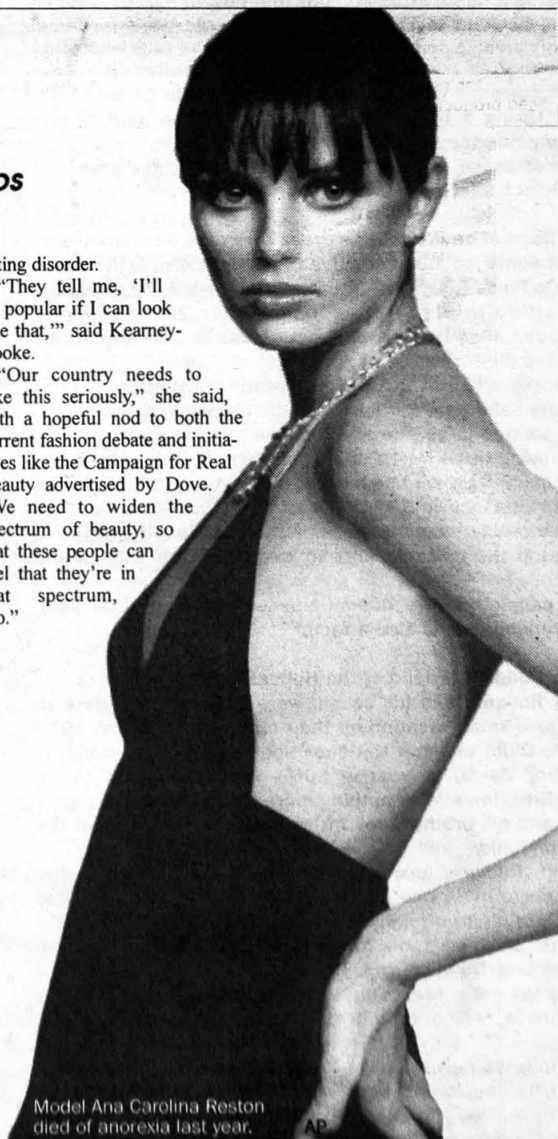
"For once, an establishment has set forth that there is something wrong with this," she said. "Things may not change completely, but women may look and say, 'Maybe there's something wrong with them and not me.'"

Kearney-Cooke said some of her younger patients have expressed a desire to look like the notoriously skinny Olsen twins—one of whom, Mary-Kate underwent treatment in 2004 for an

eating disorder.

"They tell me, 'I'll be popular if I can look like that,'" said Kearney-Cooke.

"Our country needs to take this seriously," she said, with a hopeful nod to both the current fashion debate and initiatives like the Campaign for Real Beauty advertised by Dove. "We need to widen the spectrum of beauty, so that these people can feel that they're in that spectrum, too."



Model Ana Carolina Reston died of anorexia last year.

Love on the fly

Play to be written and produced in just 24 hours

By Justin Rosier/Staff Writer

A lot can happen in 24 hours, including the entire creation, scripting and rehearsal of a play.

Thus is the goal of "The Yes! Yes! Valentine's Day Show," a Big Theater company production that seeks to capture the essence of love through channeling its spontaneity.

"Yes! Yes!" is the brainchild of Ellie Heyman and Lauren Ludwig, both Northwestern University graduates and co-owners of Big Theater.

According to Heyman, the idea for the show came from a previous performance that ran last spring. Based on personal

interactions inside of coffee shops, Heyman described the show as a "modern-day, magical realism piece" that looks for the "extraordinary in the mundane."

At Swim Cafe, a coffee shop located at 1357 W. Chicago Ave., the play was a hit—so much so that owner Karen Gerod approached Heyman about a follow-up show for Valentine's Day.

"We've worked with Ellie before," Gerod said. "We're really excited to have her around again."

Heyman wanted to do something that showed the risks and rewards of following one's heart. The result was the idea to create "Yes! Yes!" the day before its debut.

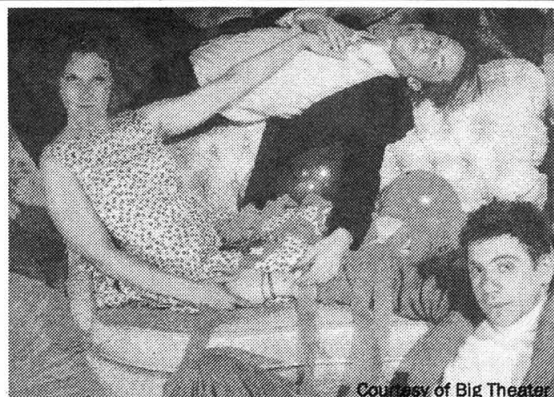
Lauren Ludwig, who co-directs "Yes! Yes!" with Heyman, said the format of the play has both aesthetic and practical functions.

"I've done a couple [of 24-hour shows]. There's a lot of pressure in that you don't have a lot of time to second guess yourself and [you have to] go with your instincts," Ludwig said. "Love is like that."

According to both artists, the play's format can be seen as a metaphor for a fast-paced love affair.

"It's a one-night stand for a play," Ludwig said.

To further the unpredictability, both Ludwig and Heyman



Stars of 'The Yes! Yes! Valentine's Day Show' pose at the Swim Cafe, 1357 W. Chicago Ave.

stressed diversity in their cast.

Of the six actors performing in "Yes! Yes!" only one has extensive improv experience. Two are proficient with clown acting—think Charlie Chaplin—while another two have performed traditional theater. One of the actors has no experience.

There is also a range in relationship status and sexual orientation. To the directors, these variables are necessary to produce an accurate and inclusive portrait of love.

When the cast showed up at 8 p.m. on Feb. 9 to begin crafting "Yes! Yes!," they were required to bring pajamas, athletic equipment and clothes that made them feel sexy.

"[Ellie] thinks that love is a metaphor for a full-contact sport," said Ludwig. "We'll see if it makes it in."

Because of the topic, the cast has to bring a lot of themselves into the production.

"We start out with questionnaires [that ask for] personal stories," Heyman said.

Ludwig said in order to focus their ideas, the co-directors made a list of interesting scenar-

ios—"cliches and phrases associated with love."

She said they are also considering external props, citing movies, books and music that remind people of love. These and other ideas will be used in creating the play. The cast performed a show Feb. 11 and will put on its last show on Feb. 14.

The show could end up turning in many different directions. Even Gerod doesn't know what she'll be getting.

"[Ellie] has told us nothing about it," she said. "We have no idea what she's doing, but we trust her completely."

One constant will be the role of Joe Tracz, who is responsible for research and overseeing the structure of the piece.

"If anyone makes a mistake, we're going to have Joe take off a piece of clothing," said Ludwig, who again used unpredictability as reasoning.

"It's kind of dangerous," she said. "I don't know how much we'll mess up, but Joe won't be naked. I'll say that."

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Courtesy of Big Theater

Big Theater production company acts out a scene in their fast-paced production.

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A reason to scream

New film featuring System of a Down looks at the

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

Genocide is a topic that is not often discussed, and sometimes ignored or forgotten. At least that's the argument of a new documentary.

Screamers, which opened in Chicago on Feb. 9, shows a history of genocide around the world. Throughout the film, the metal rock band System of a Down shows why they are screamers—people who feel so strongly about an issue that inside they are screaming with outrage and need to inform others.

As the band travels on a world tour, they try to get a resolution passed by the U.S. and British governments to acknowledge the Armenian genocide in history. They also show that while many politicians have said they will never let another genocide occur, they haven't done much to stop them.

Recently, the film's director, Carla Garapedian, the only American to anchor BBC World, spoke to *The Chronicle* about *Screamers*.

The Chronicle: What was it like to direct your first feature film on such a big topic like genocide?

Garapedian: Well, I've been making documentaries for British television for a while, mainly on human rights subjects. I made a film in Afghanistan called *Lifting the Veil*, which got a lot of attention here in America ... I've been in difficult spots ... So, the subject matter of trying to tell the story of people in a far away place whose

problems seem to be very far removed from our own, that subject matter has been familiar ground for me.

When you think about it, the subject matter is very dark; it's extremely distressing.

So the challenge is: How do you get people to come to the movie theaters and see that? It's something we don't really want to face. Because I had the music, which is very loud and angry and passionate, because I have that, I had in some ways what you'd call a tool. That tool allowed me to reach a wider audience.

Whose idea was it to have System of a Down be the voice that weaves the film together?

I didn't think about doing a film on this subject matter because it was too personal, and as a journalist, I've tried to be as objective as I can but this one was just way, way too personal.

The thing that changed it was in 2004 the band had a concert in Los Angeles at the Greek Theater, a commemorative concert. Every April 24 we commemorate the beginning of the genocide ... That one concert changed everything for me, and it made me think maybe instead of trying to raise awareness from the top down, as it were, trying to tell the story from the politicians point of view, from a policy type of view, from a historians point of view, maybe the way to tell it is from their point of view.

And at the same time, what was going on in Turkey [in 2004] was also of interest to the BBC,

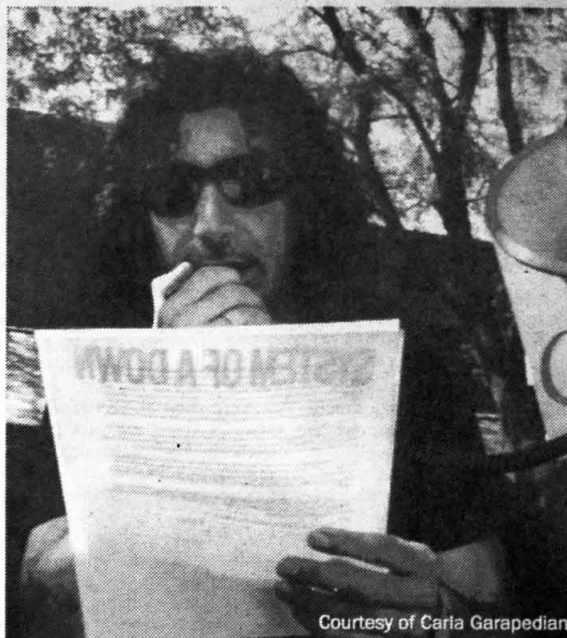
because being based in Britain, everybody knew that Turkey was trying to join the European Union, and in that whole debate of whether or not Turkey should join, the issue of Turkey's history and in particular the Armenian genocide was coming up in that debate.

So something that happened almost a hundred years ago was becoming part of the current political debate in Europe and the question was should we allow Turkey to join when it's prosecuting people, throwing them in jail for even wanting to discuss the Armenian genocide.

So, Orhan Pamuk, the Nobel Prize winner [was] prosecuted. Hrant Dink [the editor of the Turkish/Armenian language newspaper *Agos*] was murdered on Jan. 19 [2007] in the streets of Turkey. [He was] a man who is in our film, who I interviewed, who was talking about the very things he was murdered for. The need to openly discuss Turkey's history and to say genocide had happened and to be able to discuss it freely, that whole debate was going on in Europe when I was beginning to make the film and that's how the filming evolved.

What was the reaction to the screening of the film in Washington, D.C.?

Because of the Hrant Dink murder there's been a lot of discussion on the Hill ... We had a very big screening in the Library of Congress on [Jan.] 17, and we showed the film to members of Congress and their staffers and



Courtesy of Carla Garapedian

Serj Tankian and the other members of System of a Down stop at the Illinois office of the former Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, to deliver a petition. Tankian and others are trying to get the U.S. and British governments to recognize the Armenian genocide of the early 1900s.

various think tanks. Can you imagine all those congressmen having to listen to all that rock music? I was convinced they were going to walk out, but they didn't ... The irony of that screening was a Turkish person stood up at the end and said, "You've just looked at the dark side of Turkey ... There are 70,000 Armenians living and working in Turkey now, what's your problem? Why are you only looking at the negative?"

And that was on Wednesday night. Friday morning Hrant Dink was killed. It sends shudders up my spine because she was so certain that I was over-dramatizing the issues. And here you have a man who's in the film and he's murdered two days later. But she did raise an interesting point because she said, "You're only looking at one side of history." I said, "You know, we're sitting in the Library of Congress where the original documents for the war crime trials for the perpetrators of genocide are here, you can read them ... And walk to the Holocaust Museum and there you'll see on the wall the words of Hitler when he was asked why he thought he could get away with

killing the Polish Jews he said, 'Well, who remembers the Armenians?'"

What do you think an audience should know before going to this film?

What we're hoping is that by going and seeing *Screamers*, we send a message to government through the box office figures, through ticket sales, that people care about this enough to go see a film of this nature. It's kind of like if you go to *Screamers* you become a screamer at some level because you're sending a message out that you care. So that's what we're hoping. It's become a kind of campaign for stopping genocide that's going on now. The more people who see it the better, and it shows people the possibilities, and hopefully it will make them angry enough to find out more about what's going on now and try to do something about it.

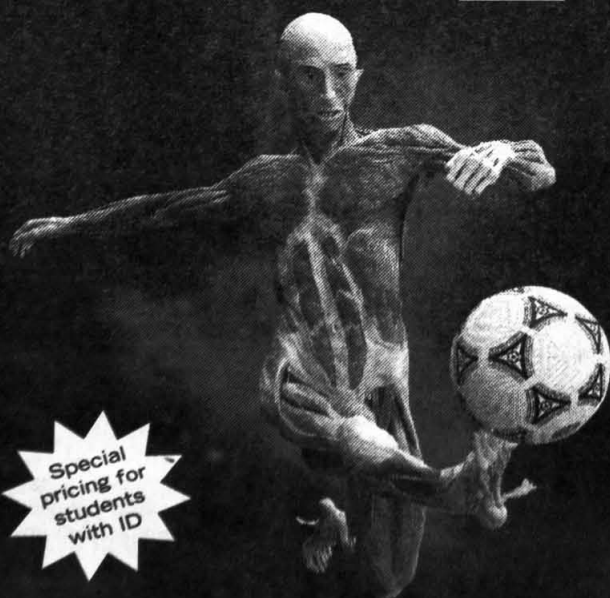
To find out more about the history of genocides worldwide and what you can do to help Darfur, visit screamersmovie.com.

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Sick of it all

Upchuck anxiety plagues thousands, if not millions

By Chrissy Mahlmeister/Assistant A&E Editor

April Denson lives her life in relentless fear. This 18-year-old from Winston-Salem, N. C., feels nauseous constantly yet doesn't eat for days at a time. She loves food, but can't bear to eat it. Many assume she has an eating disorder, but in actuality, Denson has an irrational fear of throwing up, also known as emetophobia.

It's one of the least talked-about, yet most common phobias consuming lives today. A phobia is something that interferes with one's life or is an avoidance behavior in order to keep from a situation, according to Keith Livingston, president of Phobias Cured, an organization that offers self-help and support for those dealing with many different kinds of fears and anxieties.

Seymour Segnit is the founder and president of the Emetophobia Clinic, a part of the Change That's Right Now program that helps individuals make "fast, profound change" in their lives. Segnit said emetophobia is the third most common phobia he deals with, after public speaking and flying.

Emetophobia, like most phobias, is a disease in which constant negative thoughts run through a

person's head, according to Segnit. Before they go out to eat at restaurants they'll obsess about the possibility of getting sick and imagine situations of themselves vomiting. According to Segnit, victims of emetophobia are constantly thinking, "What if I become sick? Will I die? Will it be very unpleasant?"

Those unyielding thoughts start to affect a person's health as Denson found out from her constant concern of puking—it started to deteriorate her body.

"If somebody gets a stomach virus around me, I literally won't eat for three or four days," said Denson. "Or I just eat very little just in case I do catch it, I won't throw up. At one point I was down to 98 pounds and I was 5 feet 7 inches."

While the fears and phobias are widespread, most people never do anything about it. According to Segnit, the total number of people that admit and deal with their phobias is in the hundreds of thousands, while the true size of the problem is in the millions.

"A lot of people with anxieties and phobias have a very active imagination," said Rebecca Lauer, a master hypnotherapist at Hypnosis Chicago, 233 E. Erie St.

"They are very good at scaring themselves. Under trance, we can go in and turn their imagination around and make them use it for themselves instead of against themselves."

Many people with emetophobia avoid telling others about their fear because it's more of a dirty secret, said Segnit.

"Most of [the people with emetophobia] think they're crazy," Livingston said. "It feels out of control. You'll have people that are competent in other parts of their lives and they are used to getting things done. They work jobs and have kids, but in this one area, no matter how hard they try to force themselves out of their fear, they can't get over it so they tend to think, 'What's wrong with me?'"

No one is born with emetophobia. It develops after a person has had a traumatic event in their childhood that triggered a fear of vomiting, said Livingston.

Livingston remembers a time in third grade that was embarrassing and painful to him.

"I was trying not to make a fuss, and I ended up puking all over the kid in front of me. It's usually an incident like that that's very embar-

assing and painful and then when you start to feel nauseous you get those same feelings back. It's a conditioned response. You're in a situation and something happens; the next time you're in a similar situation the same feelings come up. If it's strong enough it develops into a compulsion or phobia."

For the many people living with emetophobia, there is hope of overcoming the fear. There are multiple options a person with a phobia can turn to: a therapist, a hypnotherapist, a phobia hotline or self-help CDs and booklets on their phobia. But all of these treatment options have the same underlying theme: to remove the repetitive negative thoughts.

Another treatment option for those with phobias is hypnotherapy, which is putting a patient under hypnosis after consent of a psychologist, psychiatrist or medical doctor. In these sessions, Rebecca Lauer would put the patient under a trance and start to reverse the thought patterns and negative messages, as well as work on boosting

self-esteem.

"Hypnosis can be very effective," said Lauer. "You want to address the symptoms. It works because of the focused concentration. Suggestion takes more readily in a relaxed state. Some people take to hypnosis like a duck to water—you give the subconscious new orders and they are off and running."

For those who have a phobia or irrational fear, there is always a solution, regardless if they think they can't get over it.

"Often times there is this feeling of helplessness that surrounds them," Segnit said. "We'd figure out first if they are really committed to getting help, because the only way to solve it is to take responsibility in solving it. I'll tell you one thing: they all can get over it. Every one of them."

If you have emetophobia or if you are trying to deal with a phobia, call the Change That's Right Now hotline at (650) 249-5120.

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Graphic by Joshua Covarrubias

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Democrats, Republicans, Vampires

Presidential hopeful to bring fear, swords into office

By Hunter Clauss/Editor-in-Chief

While the 2008 presidential race is quickly shaping up to be a historic one with Sen. Hilary Clinton (D-N.Y.) vying to be the first female president and Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) potentially becoming the first black president, another candidate is attempting to break new ground by trying to become the nation's first satanic vampire president.

Jonathon "the Impaler" Sharkey, a 42-year-old resident of Union County, N.J., has flown into this 2008 presidential race under the Vampire, Witches and Pagan Party, a political organization he created in September 2005 right before his unsuccessful run for governor of Minnesota in 2006. It's the subject of a documentary, *Impaler*, which will make its debut at the Byron Bay Film Festival in Australia on Feb. 16.

With his 19-year-old wife Spree by his side, Sharkey has taken firm positions on such issues as increasing the quality of education, allowing same-sex marriages, with-

drawing American troops from Iraq and creating affordable healthcare, but none of his platforms has generated as much media and Internet buzz as his stance on, well, impalement.

Sharkey wants to instill fear into terrorists, drunk drivers, sex offenders and pedophiles with his homemade eight-foot-long wooden impaling stake, which he said is so sharp that "if you tap it with the point of your finger, you're going to bleed."

If he succeeds in winning the presidential race, Sharkey said one of the first people he'd impale would be Bears quarterback Rex Grossman. Also on his impalement list are President George W. Bush, Osama bin Laden, Vice President Dick Cheney, O.J. Simpson and Fidel Castro, among many others.

The Chronicle talked to Sharkey about the art of impalement and discovered he is a proud father-to-be. His wife, a diabetic and aspiring boxer, fainted while training for her first boxing match. She was

taken to a local hospital, where doctors performed a number of tests.

"One came back positive," Sharkey said. The baby is expected to be born in October, hopefully around Halloween.

Chronicle: In addition to running for president, you were once a boxer and a wrestler?

Jonathon: I ended up retiring from boxing, but I'm getting back into it mainly because of Spree. Plus, on my website and all the interviews I've done over the past year, I've flat out said, "When I'm president, terrorists and criminals are going to fear me."

Well, every president preceding me has said that too. But as you can see with President Bush, terrorists mock him, but if you're a terrorist or a criminal and you're seeing me knocking out people like I used to, you're going to say, "Yeah, this president is saying he could beat us up, and from what we can see in the ring, he can do it."

You also mention on your website that you want to instill fear into terrorists and criminals by impaling them on the front lawn of the White House. How do you plan on doing that?

My impaling stake will actually be rammed through somebody. Depending on their crime, I would either run it through their kidneys or straight through their abdomen, which would be a quick but painful death.

If it were somebody I planned on torturing—like if we got hold of terrorists—I would impale them through the back but not through any vital organs. While they are hung up on it—impaled—I would proceed to dismember them and torture them and eventually decapitate them.

How did you come up with the concept for your impaling stake?

My concept with the impaling stake comes from Vlad Tepes, also



President: Vampire has previous politi- cal experience

Continued from Page 27

DUI, you're getting impaled because you're taking away the lives of innocent people and putting innocent people in jeopardy.

When I used to live in Indianapolis, I was involved with MADD Indiana. I was a part of their public policy board, mainly because I have a paralegal degree and I was politically active. I wrote a law on my own that made it twice to the Indiana state Senate floor in 2002 and 2003, and the liquor lobbyist got it shot down. The law was calling for harsher penalties if someone ended up being caught driving under the influence in a school zone.

It bothers me that the liquor industry and their lobbyists feel it's better to allow people to endanger innocent lives than to protect innocent people. As president, that's one thing I will not tolerate. I've been a victim of a drunk driver and I will not tolerate such danger.

Ironically, my wife's mother was convicted of DUI about seven years ago. I've already told her, "This is one conviction. If you ever get two more, I don't care if you're my mother-in-law or not, I will impale you."

What does your wife say to that?

Of course, it being her mother, she really didn't like it. She still has to be talked to and she gives me the evil eye. But knowing that she will be the first lady of the country, she understands that I shouldn't be showing favoritism. She's had a nice long talk with her mother. One time, when her mother was inebriated, she drove her mother home to avoid the chance of her mother getting busted. My wife did the perfect thing. I just want people to drink responsibly.

How have you been affected by drunk driving and alcoholism?

I've unfortunately been exposed to the dangers and abuse of alcoholism and drug addiction. Both of my parents were alcoholics and were very abusive. I have an aunt who drinks so much that she barely has a liver. I had an uncle who was so bad that they literally found him dead on his bed with the bottle in his hand. So instead of moping, I feel it's better to take a negative and turn it into a positive.

To read more of this Q&A, log on to *The Chronicle's* website, columbiachronicle.com. For more information on Jonathon "the Impaler" Sharkey and his presidential campaign, visit his website at www.theimpalerfor-president2008.us.

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Creating a new perspective

Gallery showcases art from Iraq

By Tiffany Breyné/Managing Editor

A canvas filled with sensuous colors and vague outlines of nude women sitting beside each other hangs on the wall of the minimally-decorated Johnsonese Gallery in Bucktown.

Across the room, another painting shows a pair of outstretched hands reaching toward a colorful, cartoonish character with an open mouth and a cartoonish bouquet of flowers.

These are two of 20 paintings that traveled nearly 6,500 miles from Baghdad to be displayed in the Johnsonese Gallery, 2149 W. Armitage Ave. However, the artists who created these pieces have never stepped foot on American soil.

All of the work hanging at the gallery is a part of "Art Goes On... In Baghdad," an exhibit showcasing artwork from several Iraqi painters who are part of a bigger collective called the Iraqi Plastic Arts Gallery.

The exhibit opened Jan. 19 and runs through March 3.

The story of how these paintings ended up in Chicago starts with a female human rights worker who traveled to Baghdad and met the Iraqi Plastic artists, most of whom

have a college degree in drawing, but no outlet to sell or display their work.

The worker, who chooses to remain anonymous for safety reasons, contacted her friend, Chuck Trimbach, in Chicago. Together, they came up with the idea to showcase the Iraqi artists' work in the United States in hope of giving people a new perspective on the war-torn country.

Unfortunately for Trimbach, many galleries in the city weren't as excited about the idea. He called about 40 galleries before finally reaching Chris Johnson, the owner of Johnsonese Gallery, who immediately took up the offer to exhibit the work.

"There were no galleries of any note that wanted to even speak with me about it," Trimbach said. "It was a flat out 'No' as soon as they heard Iraq. ... So I was turned down by all the galleries except for [Johnsonese]. And he got it and he understood the purpose of all this."

Johnson said he shared Trimbach's motivation to push the envelope in terms of how Americans view Iraqi people.

"The main thing is just to make



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

A piece of art created by Iraqi artist Dalya Mohammed entitled 'Dream' is featured at the 'Art Goes On—In Baghdad' exhibit at Johnsonese Gallery, 2149 W. Armitage Ave.

you realize that there are real people in Baghdad still trying to live real lives," Johnson said. "They're all professional artists. This is what they're trying to do for a living, so they're still creating work and need to find a way to get that into the market."

After the exhibit was initially set up between Trimbach and Johnson in August 2006, each painted canvas from the Iraqi artists was rolled up and brought to the United States via the human rights worker. Though a majority of the artwork wound up in Chicago undamaged, Johnson said a few pieces experienced some minor scratches in the paint from being examined at safety checkpoints on the flights from Iraq to Chicago.

The Chronicle attempted to talk

to the artists through e-mail, but could not reach them by press time. Trimbach said this is due to the lack of electricity and Internet availability in Iraq.

The artwork on display at Johnsonese Gallery is for sale to the general public. After the exhibit ends in March, the money made will be sent back to the artists in Baghdad, which is one of the main goals of displaying the artwork.

"I saw nothing was getting done in terms of help, especially in the artistic community," Trimbach said. "I'm trying to provide an income for people—an income that's based upon their work. It's charitable, yes, but it's not handouts."

Ricardo Serrano, a junior radio major, thinks it's possible that the

exhibit will also help provide a new perspective of Iraqi residents to Americans.

"Art makes you reflect on a lot of things happening in a peaceful way," Serrano said. "It changes your perception of everything. Everything starts from the eye."

Though Trimbach has never met the artists in Baghdad, he tries to regularly communicate with them through e-mail and hopes to continually supply an outlet and income for their artwork.

"It allows them to have this sense of dignity in these really undignified times," Trimbach said.

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My bitter valentine

A new gift for when a Valentine's Day card doesn't say it all

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

Storefront windows are decorated with glowing rose pink lights and other symbols of Valentine's Day. The greeting cards are on store shelves. Couples are sending their sweethearts flowers and other typical gifts, like chocolate. And now those who dislike the holiday have something they can buy in mockery of it.

Cameron Hatch, creator of generallyawesome.com, is selling "Bitter Valentine's Bears" through cafepress.com.

"The teddy bears started as a joke," Hatch said. "But people were contacting me about them, so I decided to see if anyone would buy them."

Generallyawesome.com features images of satirical bears and other stuffed animals with messages like "I hate you," "Bite me!" and "I hope you die." The website began in 2003.

"Part of it was just as a creative outlet because I use humor as a way to express myself," Hatch said. "I think I enjoy looking around the site more than anyone who visits it. Then more people started looking at it and I thought I could turn some profit out of it." Hatch has sold items through

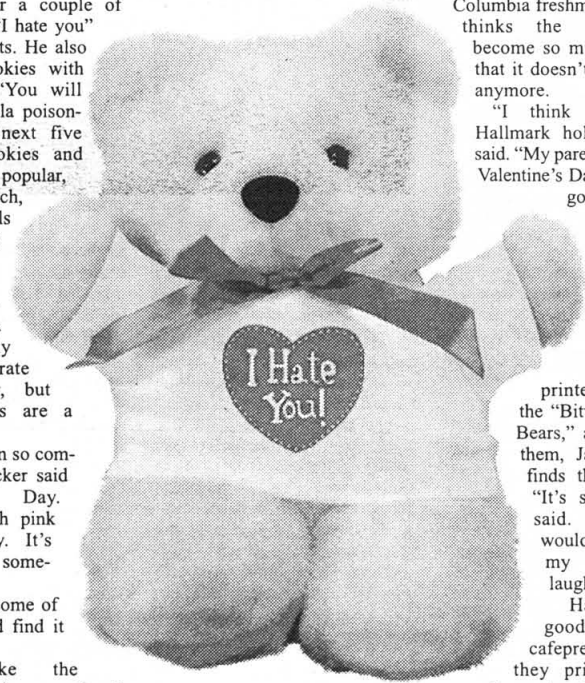
cafepress.com for a couple of years, including "I hate you" smiley face t-shirts. He also sells fortune cookies with messages like: "You will contract salmonella poisoning within the next five hours." The cookies and shirts have been popular, according to Hatch, who generally sells a few t-shirts a month.

Sarah Decker, a graduate student at Columbia said she usually doesn't celebrate Valentine's Day, but thinks the bears are a "cute" idea.

"I think it's been so commercialized," Decker said of Valentine's Day. "There's so much pink stuff and candy. It's refreshing to see something new."

Decker thinks some of her friends would find it amusing.

"They dislike the Valentine's Day thing more than I do," Decker said. "They'd get a kick out of it."



Courtesy of Cameron Hatch

Columbia freshman Jim Jalove thinks the holiday has become so much of a joke that it doesn't have a point anymore.

"I think it's just a Hallmark holiday," Jalove said. "My parents used to use Valentine's Day as a time to go back and look at their days."

Now it seems like for most people it's become like a secondary Christmas."

After seeing a printed picture of the "Bitter Valentine's Bears," as Hatch calls them, Jalove said he finds them amusing.

"It's satire," Jalove said. "I love it. I would give that to my spouse. He'd laugh."

Hatch said the good thing about cafepress.com is that they print items on demand, which means no one is left with an abundance of unwanted products.

The internet is now being used as a great tool for companies and small businesses, according to Bruce Newman, a DePaul University marketing professor.

"Direct marketing—selling a product from the company straight to the customer without retail stores—makes it possible for consumers to make these kind of products," Newman said.

In regards to the teddy bears, Newman said he hadn't heard of them, but thinks the satirical look on Valentine's Day is probably a result of the fact that people are spending more money on holidays.

While Jalove thinks his significant other would appreciate the bear, Scottie Meyers, a Columbia theater sophomore, has another idea for who he'd give a bear to.

"I got a couple of ex-girlfriends I'd like to send one of those to," Meyers said. "I might send that along with a Hallmark card that says, 'I was just thinking about you. This says everything I need to say.'"

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To be king of the Forest

By Matt Fagerholm/Assistant A&E Editor

Does Forest Whitaker deserve the overwhelming amount of praise and accolades he's received for his portrayal of Idi Amin, Uganda's notorious dictator? The answer is a resounding yes. He's played so many engaging characters throughout the years, in films as diverse as *Bird* (1988) and *The Crying Game* (1992), that the decision to cast him as such a reprehensible historic figure is ingenious.

Whitaker oozes enough charisma and exuberance to make any audience member a believer of his character's lofty ideals. It's the same charming persona Amin flaunted at the press during the 1970s, which would later be exposed as a deadly facade.

The humor and passion Whitaker breathes into his role makes Amin's homicidal nature all the more horrific. He succeeds in embodying a man as ambiguous and complex as he is monstrously infantile. He delivers an unforgettable performance worthy of all awards, including the inevitable Oscar.

But he deserves to be in a better movie than *The Last King of Scotland*.

Director Kevin McDonald, the

man behind excellent documentaries like *One Day in September* (1999) and *Touching the Void* (2003), has crafted a disappointingly conventional drama that squeezes a monumental real-life tragedy into a superficial Hollywood formula. Think *The Devil Wears Prada* meets *Turistas*.

This is apparent right from the film's opening moments, which introduces viewers to Scottish medical school grad Nicholas Garrigan, played by James McAvoy. Garrigan is anxious to get out of the house. He decides to choose his travel destination by spinning a globe, running his finger against it and seeing where it stops. What a coincidence—it lands on Uganda! This painfully lame sequence propels Garrigan into work at a remote Ugandan village, where 80 percent of the locals prefer witch doctors.

After failing to seduce a physician's wife—a wasted Gillian Anderson—Garrigan encounters the larger-than-life Amin at a back-country rally. Through a series of developments too improbable to describe, Amin hires Garrigan as his personal physician, thereby cementing an initially friendly bond that can only lead to destruc-

tive consequences.

Although *Last King* is indeed based on Giles Foden's book of the same name, it follows a troubling storytelling tradition set by previous American films. These films



Forest Whitaker was nominated for the Best Actor Oscar for his performance in *The Last King of Scotland*.

intend to raise awareness on a vital issue by using a white lead character as the mainstream audience's guide through an inherently foreign—and usually African—story.

There was Patricia Arquette in *Beyond Rangoon*, Matthew Broderick in *Glory*, Tom Cruise in

The Last Samurai, Leonardo DiCaprio in *Blood Diamond* and now McAvoy in this film. Yes, McAvoy turns in solid work, but the presence of his composite character within such a flesh-and-blood setting is simply distracting.

Garrigan's sole function is to mirror the amused, stunned or disgusted reaction of the viewer. His observations about Amin, such as, "You're a child. That's what makes you so f—ing scary!" are redundant, since Whitaker's multi-layered performance already communicated that fact clear enough.

Though Garrigan's relationship with Amin has intriguing shades, especially when he fears of being complicit in Amin's crimes, his utter lack of credibility diffuses any such dramatic complexity. Garrigan especially tests the limits of plausibility when he decides to have an ill-advised affair with one of Amin's wives, played by Kerry Washington.

The film works as straightforward entertainment, a label that squanders its chance at being so much more. Any viewer who knows Amin won't buy the upbeat first half, which plays somewhat like an edgy comedy of manners. Anthony Dod Mantle's cinematography looks like a grainy Vietnam-era newsreel crossed with a spastic music video.

There are times when the film threatens to become a sped-up version of the opening montage from *Apocalypse Now*, and the comparisons between both films don't

stop there. Amin is undoubtedly the film's Col. Kurtz, stealthily pulling Garrigan into his gory heart of darkness. Yet unlike Martin Sheen in *Apocalypse*, McAvoy possesses neither the depth nor self-reflection to state anything more profound than "I wanna go home."

The film's epilogue notes that Amin was responsible for 300,000 deaths, as images of the now-deceased leader are seen smiling in the background. Such a statistic begs the question, who really is Amin, and why didn't the filmmakers have the guts to simply tell his story? It certainly packs more real drama than any number of angst-filled Scottish kids.

The Last King of Scotland's greatest casualty is Whitaker himself, whose career-best performance is reduced to a supporting role smaller than that of Djimon Hounsou in *Blood Diamond*—a performance that snagged an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor. Whitaker may very well win the Best Actor Oscar and it's not only a testament to his brilliant work, but to the man this film should have truly been about in the first place.

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com

The Last King of Scotland
Directed by Kevin



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This contest is open to all graduating students, both undergraduate and graduate. DEADLINE: MARCH 1st.

create...
change

Reviews

MUSIC



Comeback Kid
Broadcasting...

Scream, scream, scream. I don't think this band knows how to not be so intense about everything. While *Broadcasting...* isn't necessarily awful, it did induce a ringing noise in my ears and slight headache after listening to it for 10 minutes. Recommended for the angry moshing type. —T. Breyne



Mary J. Blige
Reflections

This compilation of Mary J. Blige hits is a must-have for anybody who likes new Mary J. but still needs a little old Mary J. to widen their collection. Songs like "I'm Going Down" and "Real Love" are true classics. Since the album left out "Rainy Days" and her duet with U2 of "One," it lost a heart. —M. Kroeck



The Blow
Paper Television

The Blow blows me away. As if the whole Mates of State-lovey-dovey-cute-couples-making-music thing couldn't get any better, it did, and their names are Jona Bechtolt and Khaela Marich. It's sort of like someone just threw up a bunch of rainbows in my palm and I never, ever, want to put the magical-goodness down. —C. Mahlmeister

PRINT



March Issue, Esquire

Though the cover didn't entice me the way it usually does, this issue is stocked full of interesting reads: Chuck Klosterman's essay on stereotypes and why we love them. A soldier's tale of how he misses the war. A detailed interview with Christina Ricci, accompanied by semi-nude photos of the hottie. Good job, Esquire. You're lookin' good. —T. Breyne



Feb/March Issue, Discover

This month's Discover magazine features a profile of Barnum Brown, an early 20th century paleontologist and U.S. spy. Espionage and dinosaur digging—cool. Plus, Jane Goodall gives a Q&A on her primate research. Oh, and there's other science-y stuff too. —E. Kasang



SHAZAM: The Monster Society of Evil
Jeff Smith

This delightfully colorful and innocent comic book endeavor is writer/artist Jeff Smith's first step back into the genre since the finale of his highly acclaimed series, Bone. In this new 4-part series, Smith weaves a timeless tale of orphan Billy Baston and how he comes to wield the power of Captain Marvel. Like his trademark series, SHAZAM can be enjoyed by all ages. —H. Claus

FILM & TV



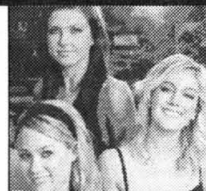
Marvel Ultimate Alliance
PS3 and XBOX 360

Marvel's *Ultimate Alliance* brings gamers an orgy of comic book characters to play with. Labeled as an action RPG, this game has four-player action, classic leveling up and Doctor Doom as the villain. Very deep and similar to *Baldur's Gate*—it's the perfect game for you and your loser roommates for the winter. —G. Slefo



Lost
ABC

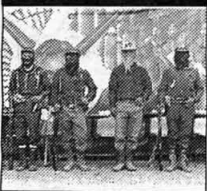
After blue-balling viewers with a colossal break, *LOST* returns to Wednesday nights. The first new episode in months offered an insightful glimpse into the mysteriously sinister Juliet, but only at the expense of posing further questions. Despite the lack of answers, the show still seems to be going strong. —H. Claus



The Hills
MTV

What didn't we learn from this episode that we didn't already know? NOTHING. Spencer is a shady guy, and Heidi needs to ditch that loser. At least Heidi and Audrina are friends again. Now, I can sleep soundly. Hopefully, L.C. will actually do something dramatic soon, so that having a reality show about her life will actually be warrantable. —H. Graham

MISC.



Rage Against the Machine Reunion

Rage Against the Machine will reunite for the first time in seven years to headline at the 2007 Coachella Music and Arts Festival. It's bittersweet that this will be a one-time thing for the group though. I'm glad they're not going to ruin a good thing like some groups do when they reunite, but I'd love to hear some new riffs bashing the current president—I can't get enough of it. —J. Gallati



Cold Weather

I don't care what anybody else has to say; I love cold weather. My beard and mustache form little icicles on the edges, some people's eyelids freeze in place, plus the cold breath and that really bitter winter wind blowing straight into your face. What's not to love? —M. Rubio



My Big Furry Boots

I ordered these Khombu Telluride snow boots online. They're so fuzzy and cute. The actual size of them surprised me when I got them because they are super-sized with an extra shoe layer inside. But they keep my feet super cozy even in the subzero temperatures. And when I have happy feet, I'm a happy girl! —K. Kalter

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

After the disco scene died, people were craving a new style of dance music. Chicago played an important role in the evolution of house music. Pilsen native CZR—born Cesar Hernandez—was one of the pioneers of the Chicago house music scene. CZR, now in his 30s, started deejaying as a teenager and is a 21-year veteran of the industry, either spinning records or producing tracks. He founded Texture, his own label, and his music is played worldwide by DJs like Moby, DJ Sneak, Daft Punk and Carl Cox. But local house heads can still see him bring the funk at clubs around town like Ontourage, 157 W. Ontario St., and Four, 1551 W. Division St. His fans are also looking forward to new tracks, including one on an album entitled *The Chicago LP*.

The Chronicle: Who got you into house music?

CZR: Me, just looking for what I can relate to. Music struck a nerve.

Who taught you how to DJ?

This dude from my old neighborhood, Steve Chavez. He taught me how to blend.

How has the house music scene in Chicago changed since you started?

The response to that could be a book in itself. Let's just say it had its ups and downs and right now it's on its way up.

Do you like to dance?

[laughs] Good question. From time to time I do.

What did you want to be as a child?

Funny thing, I never knew 'til one day when I was 16 and I was in a recording studio. That's when I knew I wanted to write, produce, arrange or be part of that process of making songs. Being a DJ was first, but I didn't know it could be a career.

How would you describe your style?

Bangin'.

Where would you want to be right now if you could be anywhere in the world?

Any place warm!

Where do you want to be 10 years from now?

Still going strong.

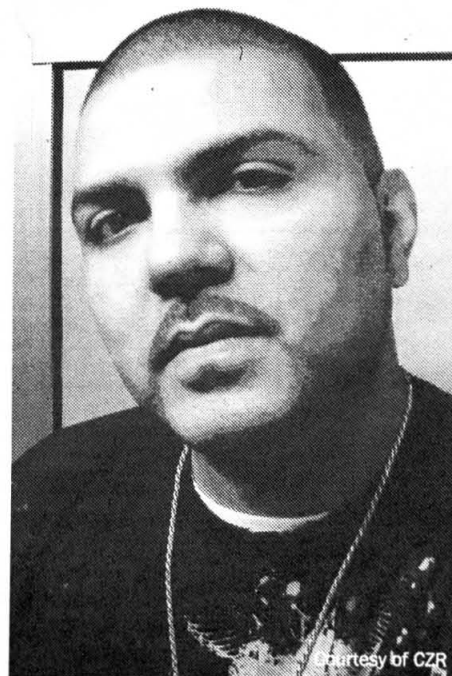
How about in 40 years?

Chillin' some place warm.

To hear some tracks from CZR, or to find out where his next set is, visit myspace.com/czr.

—K. Kalter

CZR

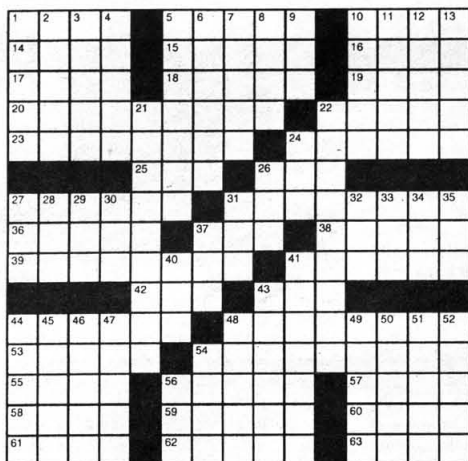


Courtesy of CZR

Crossword

- ACROSS
 1 Munch on
 5 Slip-prevention device
 10 Links' vehicle
 14 "Damn Yankees" vixen
 15 Singer Buddy
 16 Regan's father
 17 Currier's partner
 18 Opera songs
 19 New York canal
 20 Jackson and Principal
 22 Queeg's ship
 23 Getty and Winwood
 24 Drew and Mariah
 25 Affirmative
 26 Comic crash
 27 Gomez or Morticia
 31 Manner
 36 Prepare to drive
 37 CD's rival
 38 10 sawbucks
 39 Fit for guys
 41 Detonations
 42 Major ISP
 43 Pool tool?
 44 "On the Waterfront" star
 48 Puts in place
 53 Russo and Coty
 54 One with the most smarts
 55 Requests
 56 Japanese car maker
 57 Sense organ
 58 Electrical unit
 59 Total
 60 Mental spark
 61 Has debts
 62 Naps
 63 Transmit

- DOWN
 1 Writer Barker
 2 Larry of "Hogan's Heroes"
 3 Choose by vote
 4 Refuse
 5 English prince
 6 Aussie parrots
 7 Walt Disney's middle name



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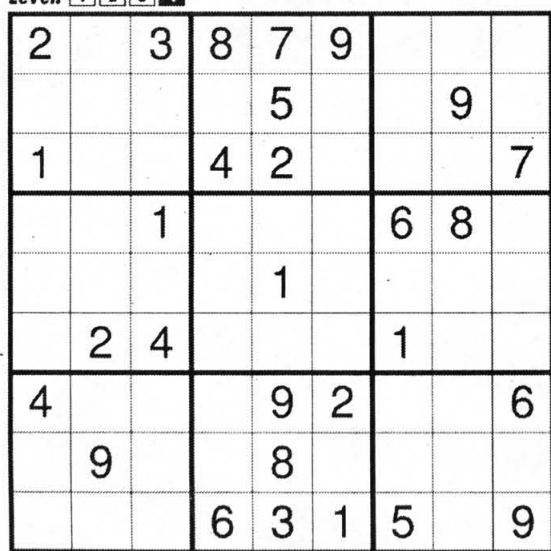
2/12/07

Solutions



Sudoku By Michael Mephram

Level: 1 2 3 4



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

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
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 Get a free game!

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TO THE NINES



Jelynn Owens, 22, was showing the world how to stay warm when we spotted her. Enveloped in a long, copper-brown J-Lo coat and tan boots on Wabash Avenue, Owens believes sturdy winter wear is essential for beating the cold. "Wear a long coat, gloves, scarf, the whole works," Owens said. "If you don't, you will freeze."

Owens thinks fashion is a great form of expression and said it allows her to set trends and show off her style.

"I like to shop at places like Forever 21, H&M and Nordstrom," Owens said.

Even these cold days of winter can't keep Owens from shopping—see the bag.

Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Horoscopes by Hunter Clauss



Aquarius (Jan. 21—Feb. 19): Name your first born Chef Boyardee and beefy good luck shall follow you.



Pisces (Feb. 20—March 20): Yes, you are a monster.



Aries (March 21—April 20): The Bears officially suck more than every sitcom starring David Spade.



Taurus (April 21—May 21): Remember those days when all you had to worry about was running home from school in time to catch "Batman: The Animated Series"? Yeah, you'll never see those days again.



Gemini (May 22—June 21): Many lessons can be learned from watching Arnold Schwarzenegger in *Commando* while downing a 40 oz. and playing Risk.



Cancer (June 22—July 23): Your dreams of getting onto "Cops" will come true this week. Unfortunately, you won't appear on "Cheaters" for another month.



Leo (July 24—Aug. 23): Four out of five doctors agree that the beef jerky smell plaguing your apartment is indeed emanating from your pants.



Virgo (Aug. 24—Sept. 23): You will finally come to the realization that tanning beds don't make you look any better than Joan Rivers' mummified corpse, that is, unless you're aiming to look like a wrinkly orange creature on par with a 1950s science fiction movie.



Libra (Sept. 24—Oct. 23): Changing your email address from ween69@yahoo.com to something less revealing is probably a good idea when you're sending out your resumes.



Scorpio (Oct. 24—Nov. 22): When heading for class in the 624 S. Michigan Ave. building, you'll have to wait in the lobby for an elevator with 30 other students for 10 minutes. When one finally arrives, you'll fight and nudge your way through, barely making it past the closing elevator doors only to be packed in with eight other people. When you finally get to class, the teacher's lecture details when he can't find any working markers for the dry-erase board. This will be your Columbia experience in a nutshell.



Sagittarius (Nov. 23—Dec. 21): This week spells disaster because every time you step out of the shower, you'll have a bowel movement.



Capricorn (Dec. 22—Jan. 20): Mr. Rogers was a true American hero, and anyone who tells you otherwise probably had a learning disability when they were younger and couldn't "get" the show.

Rotten Apples

The Beatles and Apple Inc. fight over name ... again

By Jordan Robertson/AP

For the third time in nearly three decades, iPod maker Apple Inc. has resolved a bitter trademark dispute with The Beatles' guardian, Apple Corps Ltd., over use of the iconic apple logo and name.

But while the truce, announced Feb. 5, appeared to finally bury the long-simmering animosity, music lovers will still need to wait for the right to buy such songs as "Love Me Do" or "Hey Jude" on Apple Inc.'s iTunes online store.

The announcement—made jointly by one of the world's largest music sellers and one of history's most beloved bands—was silent on whether the catalog of Beatles songs will become available for download any time soon.

The Beatles have so far been the most prominent holdout from iTunes and other online music services, and Apple's overtures to put the music online have been stymied by the ongoing litigation.

The settlement gives Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple Inc. ownership of the name and logo in return for agreeing to license some of those trademarks back to London-based Apple Corps—guardian of The Beatles' commercial interests—for their continued use.

It ends the ongoing trademark

lawsuit between the two companies, with each side paying its own legal costs. Other terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

Industry analysts said a resolution on putting The Beatles' music online is likely already in the works.

"It goes from impossible to a lock that it's going to happen—it's a function of time at this point," said Gene Munster, senior research analyst with investment bank Piper Jaffray & Co. "I bet they move pretty fast. For Apple, it was critical that they got this taken care of."

Jaffray estimates that Apple Inc. paid The Beatles \$50 million to \$100 million for the rights to the Apple name. That would come on top of more than \$26.5 million Apple paid to settle past disputes with Apple Corps.

It's no secret that Steve Jobs—Apple Inc.'s chief executive officer and a huge Beatles fan—has wanted the British band's music on iTunes, which has sold more than 2 billion songs worldwide and has catapulted Apple into the top ranks of music sellers.

However, decades of legal disputes between the two companies have thus far made any partnership all but impossible.

"We love the Beatles, and it has

been painful being at odds with them over these trademarks," Jobs said in a statement. "It feels great to resolve this in a positive manner, and in a way that should remove the potential of further disagreements in the future."

The Beatles had been one of the few remaining big-name musical acts to reject any legal distribution of its work on the Internet. Formerly hesitant artists from Madonna to Metallica have made peace with online customers as digital downloads have continued to grow in popularity—with iTunes holding the bulk of the market.

Artists have complained that online distribution leaves them with too small a profit and that iTunes wrecks the artistic integrity of an album by allowing songs to be purchased for 99 cents apiece. Bands such as AC/DC have sold its albums only at other, more flexible sites.

But the Beatles' recording label, Britain's EMI Group, has rebuffed all suitors.

Elizabeth Freund, the U.S. spokeswoman for Apple Corps, said EMI would first need an agreement with Apple Corps before licensing any music to Apple Inc. or other online services.



The Beatles' company, Apple Corps Ltd., settle another dispute with Apple Inc., but it is unclear as to when the band's catalog will be made available on iTunes.

She said no such deal has been reached yet.

EMI officials declined to comment.

The Beatles' company, whose corporate logo is a giant green Granny Smith apple, first sued what was, until last month, Apple Computer Inc. for trademark infringement in 1978. The computer maker agreed in 1981 to pay \$80,000 and never enter the music business.

Apple Corps sued again nearly a decade later, alleging the musical instrument digital interface, or MIDI, software included on Apple's Macintosh computers violated those terms. Apple Inc. again settled, agreeing in 1991 to pay \$26.5 million to secure the rights to the apple logo for selling computers and software, while Apple Corps would get it for producing and selling music.

Tensions flared again in 2003 while Apple Inc. was signing up recording labels to offer their songs through Apple's new iTunes download store and attempted to

woo The Beatles' management.

Apple Corps contended that Apple Inc.'s use of the logo on iTunes amounted to a breach of the 1991 agreement. Lawyers for Apple Inc. have argued that music lovers are smart enough to tell the difference between the logos. Apple Corps uses a shiny green apple as its logo, while Apple Inc. has a cartoon-like apple with a bite taken out.

A British judge ruled in May that Apple Inc.'s logo is used in association with the store—not the music—and thus permitted. The settlement announced Feb. 5 replaces the 1991 agreement and makes an appeal of that ruling unnecessary.

Neil Aspinall, manager of Apple Corps, said the company was glad to resolve the dispute.

"The years ahead are going to be very exciting times for us," he said in a statement. "We wish Apple Inc. every success and look forward to many years of peaceful cooperation with them."

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Remote control hunting

Illinois lawmaker targets 'ready, aim, click' kills

By Jim Suhr/AP

Slouched at a computer, the "hunter" perks up as a 12-point buck eases into view on his screen. Maneuvering his mouse, he swivels the rifle and focuses the cross hairs. With a click of the mouse, the rifle fires a bullet, mortally wounding the animal. Call it hunting by remote control. And though still more concept than trend, lawmakers increasingly have their sights set on stopping the practice in its tracks.

Rep. Dan Reitz, (D-ILL.), has proposed banning such hunting in Illinois, saying such "ready, aim, click" kills—or the prospect of them—push the ethical envelope and violate the spirit of "fair chase" hunts.

"I just think it's wrong," Reitz said, adding the use of the technology would "give all sportsmen a blackeye."

The advent of technology that enables people to stalk and kill their real-life prey online has alarmed hunters and lawmakers intent on preemptively blocking the practice. About two dozen states already have outlawed the method, which the Humane Society of the United States calls pay-per-view slaughter.

"The animal has no chance. There's no challenge for you—except knowing how to use a computer and push a button," Arkansas state Sen. Republican Ruth Whitaker said last month in introducing a measure that calls for banning potential cyber hunting in her state. "You never left your tuft-

ed sofa. What's sportsmanlike about that?"

The issue emerged in early 2005, when Texas entrepreneur John Lockwood set up a website that allowed subscribing hunters with a high-speed Internet

Lockwood's venture barely got started before Texas lawmakers caught wind of it, swooped in and shot it down. Since then, other states have hustled to get something on their books barring the practice,

bad way of spreading, so [we] want to make sure we nip this in the bud and ban it in all 50 states," Michael Markarian, executive vice president of the Humane Society, said of cyber hunting.

The group is also pressing for a federal ban.

Pro-hunting groups including Safari Club International and the National Rifle Association also have opposed remote

nology could help people with disabilities or perhaps allow servicemen overseas to shoot game. And an attendant in the blind with the rifle could override any unsafe or unethical shots.

Lockwood does not have a listed home telephone number and could not be reached for this story. But he told The Associated Press last year that legislatures barring the practice "have no clue what they're passing laws against."

"Ever since we stopped running after our prey and killing with our hands, we've evolved by distancing ourselves further and further from the game and making it more and more efficient for whatever reason we want to take it," Lockwood has said.

Reitz isn't swayed by such arguments.

"There's a lot of opportunities out there for people with disabilities," he said. "I just think this is a bad way to do it."

His bill, now before an Illinois House rules committee, would amend the state's wildlife code to bar a person from operating, providing, selling, using or offering "any computer software or service that allows a person not physically present at the hunt site to remotely control a weapon that could be used to take wildlife by remote operation."

Use of such equipment would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and \$1,500 in fines. Those who provided the software or services could face a misdemeanor carrying a possible 364 days in jail and \$2,500 in fines.

Missouri already has such a ban on the books, adopting an administrative rule last year specifying that "wildlife may be taken only in the immediate physical presence of the taker and may not be taken by use of computer-assisted remote hunting devices." That prohibition takes effect next month.



Deer hunter Gary Harpole, who has 100 kills under his belt, shows off a large buck at the Heartland Lodge in Nebo, Ill. on Jan. 31.

connection to shoot antelope, wild pigs and other game on his 220-acre San Antonio spread via remote control—from anywhere.

Lockwood offered to send the animals' heads to subscribers.

During a demonstration, a friend of Lockwood used a computer 45 miles away to shoot a wild hog as it fed at his ranch but, according to news reports, only wounded the animal. Lockwood, who was on site, finished the kill.

according to the Humane Society.

Even diehard hunters are opposed, saying that shooting an animal via computer isn't sporting and doesn't require the element of fair chase in conventional hunting through forest, field or marsh. Some states have posed similar objections to "canned" hunting, during which big game hunted in captivity as trophies.

"We believe sick ideas have a

control hunting.

Gary Harpole, an Illinois hunter who figures he's killed 100 deer, most with a bow, said such a practice "takes away from what hunting really is all about: getting outdoors, experiencing nature. To me, 90 percent of hunting is the experience, 10 percent is the harvest," said Harpole, who runs a hunter's lodge at his home in rural Nebo.

Bagging a buck by computer, he says, "is a lazy way of hunting."

But Lockwood has said the tech-

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Record low in the snow



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Outside of 1 S. Dearborn St., a worker clears snow from the sidewalk during snowfall on Jan. 7. The snow was preceded by several days of record low temperatures and wind chills.

Drilled and loving it

New dental spa opens at Chicago's Water Tower

By Lindsey Tanner/AP

When you think of relaxation, chances are dental drills and Novocaine needles don't come to mind.

So it seems odd to see "dental spa" written across the clear glass doors of a dentist's office in Chicago's Water Tower, 835 N.

positive experience."

How about a tingly peppermint foot scrub while having your fillings replaced? That's offered at The Hills Dental Spa in Austin, Texas, where amenities also include herbal teas and lavender aromatherapy candles to disguise the medicinal dental office smell.

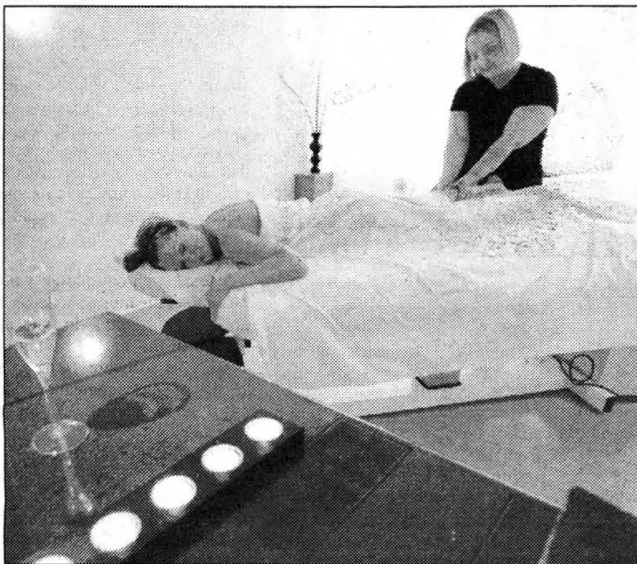
Hot wax mittens during root canals are available at New York City's Manhattan Dental Spa. For \$95 extra, the Madison Avenue office last year

ther, opening their offices to skin specialists offering Botox and other cosmetic procedures.

"Fundamentally, the dentistry has to be well-done or the rest of it is just all smoke and mirrors," Messina said.

Still, he said, "If the patient is more relaxed and the dentist is more relaxed, then it really is a kind of win-win situation."

Damian Clark, 24, an account manager for an online company and a new Mitchell patient,



AP

Tonya Abeln receives a massage from DeDe Martin before her dental appointment at The Mitchell Dental Spa, 835 N. Michigan Ave., on Jan. 29.

Michigan Ave., and to hear soothing classical music as you lie on a cushy massaging reclining chair while the hygienist readies her tooth scraper.

Welcome to spa dentistry, a growing niche carved out by tooth doctors trying to take the bite out of going to the dentist.

At Mitchell Dental Spa in Chicago, patients are offered champagne, snacks, flat-screen TVs to watch while the dentist is drilling and those cushy dental chairs. They can get 10-minute spa treatments, including cooling eye masks and back massages by an on-staff massage therapist—all free with usual dental care.

"If you have to have a dental procedure, nobody's looking forward to it," said Dr. Margaret Mitchell, who turned her regular practice into a dental spa a few months ago. "If we can create an environment so people can relax, have something to eat ... give them a back massage afterward, I think we can start to turn it around and make it a really

began offering acupuncture by a trained hygienist, for relaxation during dental procedures.

American Dental Association data suggest that about one-fourth of U.S. adults avoid dental visits because of fear of pain or a previous bad experience. To make the experience more comfortable, dentists several years ago began offering things like television and headphones. Spa services are an extension of that trend, said Dr. Matthew Messina, a dental association spokesman.

An association poll of 427 United States dentists in 2004 found that about half offered services including headphones, neck rests, warm towels and free snacks, while about 5 percent offered more spa-like amenities such as massages, facials and manicures.

The Internet and a move toward more marketing and patient-centered care in dentistry and medicine has helped the spa trend catch on, Messina said.

He added that some dentists have taken the spa concept a step fur-

said his first visit to the Chicago office was an eye-opener with its blond wood floors, refreshment bar and cool, airy decor.

"It was shocking to me at first because it's totally not something I'm used to at all. I felt very posh," Clark said. He said all the distractions made a recent painful gum procedure almost pleasurable.

"I've been referring my friends," Clark said.

That kind of free advertising is part of the point of offering a spa-like environment, said Dr. Mitchell Charnas of the Manhattan Dental Spa.

Charnas said patient referrals at his office have increased substantially since he began offering spa services about two years ago.

"The biggest thing is you want people to get referrals, to talk well of you," Charnas said.

Still, not all patients want to be pampered.

"There's a pretty good mix of America that just wants the dentistry done and to get it over with," Messina said.

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STD vaccination may be mandatory

HPV shots for students in middle school

By Dana Nelson
Assistant City Beat Editor

A vaccine for one of the most common sexually transmitted diseases linked to cervical cancer and genital warts may become mandatory for young girls in the state of Illinois this fall.

However, this has raised questions over whether a vaccine should be mandatory for what may be considered a "behavioral choice."

Naomi D. Jakobsson, Illinois Representative of the 103rd district, introduced a bill Jan. 19 that would require 11- and 12-year-old girls to get vaccinations for certain strains of the human papilloma virus by 2009. Starting Aug. 2007, middle school students will be educated in schools about HPV and cervical cancer said state Sen. Debbie Halvorson of the 40th district.

Halvorson, who championed the bill, said it's all about trying to prevent cervical cancer.

"If we were to educate our young females and make sure we could eliminate this one cancer, we wouldn't have to put families through the anxiety or the extra cost," Halvorson said. "I think in the end it would be a very smart thing for us to do."

Some organizations, such as the

Family Research Council, which promotes traditional Christian values in public policy, and the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS), oppose making the vaccine mandatory.

"We don't believe patients should be forced to undergo medical treatment," said Jane Orient, executive director of the AAPS, an association of physicians that oppose all mandatory vaccinations. "That's just a fundamental violation of their human rights."

According to the Centers for Disease Control, HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States, infecting more than half of all sexually active men and women at some point in their lives.

"The vast overwhelming majority of those with HPV never have a clue," said Fred Wyand, media and communications manager of the American Social Health Association, a nonprofit organization based around STD education. "Most cases of HPV do not result in easily visible symptoms."

The vaccine prevents four types of HPV which cause 70 percent of cervical cancers and 90 percent of genital warts, according to information provided by the CDC. It

can be administered to women from the ages of 9 to 26.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women, with 470,000 cases and 233,000 deaths a year worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. HPV is the cause of 9,710 cases of cervical cancer and 3,700 deaths in the United States every year, according to statistics provided by the American Cancer Society.

Orient said there was no proof the vaccine would prevent cervical cancer or genital

warts, as it was only approved by the FDA in June 2006. She said the studies were not enough to prove that it would not cause cervical cancer over a number of years.

According to the CDC fact sheet on the HPV vaccine, it was tested on 11,000 females around the world and had no serious side effects. Wyand said the most common side effects were redness, irritation or discomfort at the site of injection.

"In the many clinical trials done on thousands of women all over the world it was strikingly successful," Wyand said. "It was nearly 100 percent effective at stopping persistent infections."

The CDC estimates that 6.2 mil-

lion Americans become infected with HPV every year. Wyand said most of these infections, even high-risk, will go away over time and are relatively harmless.

However because some still do lead to cervical cancer, Wyand said it is important to be vaccinated and go in for regular pap smears. The goal is to vaccinate women before they become sexually active, he said.

Organizations opposing the vaccine say this could lead to increased sexual activity in young girls.

Orient said the reason HPV has spread so rapidly is because of a breakdown in sexual morality. She said the solution is not to vaccinate the population, but to "adhere to old-fashioned standards of behavior" in which people abstain from sex until marriage and limit their number of sexual partners.

"It's like playing Russian roulette," Orient said. "Your risk of getting the bullet is the same each and every time but the more times you pull the trigger, it's more likely you're going to hit a live round."

Wyand said it was unlikely that people would be more promiscuous because of a vaccination.

"People wearing seatbelts aren't more likely to drive recklessly just because they have a seatbelt on and there's certainly no reason to think this vaccine is really going to spur anyone to be more reckless sexually," Wyand said.

Halvorson compared the HPV vaccine to the Hepatitis C vaccine, which is also mandated, and said there was no sign of increased sexual behavior due to the mandate. She said the reason the vaccine was being pushed was not because of HPV.

"It has nothing to do with sex," Halvorson said. "It's all about cancer."

Currently, Texas is the only state with required HPV vaccinations for young girls, but other states such as California, Maryland and Michigan are looking into mandatory vaccinations as well. Washington has promised funding for vaccinations for those who are unable to afford the vaccination.

The current Illinois bill is also looking into funding for the vaccination.

Halvorson said the only reason she is trying to mandate the vaccine is so insurance companies will be forced to pay for it. She said she wouldn't mandate the vaccine if funding could be guaranteed to those that want it.

"There's still about 10 percent of 11- and 12-year-olds that are underinsured," Halvorson said. "I don't want that to happen. Everyone should have the same opportunity to get the shot."

The vaccine, which is a series of three shots, costs \$360 in total.

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Mailer: Author discusses book about Hitler

Continued from Front Page

Lance said he had no idea who Norman Mailer was, but knew that Hitler was "a very bad guy."

During the initial discussion, an audience member asked Mailer, a self-professed atheist, about his sudden foray into

Christian beliefs. What followed reminded many that although Mailer's body is aging, his mind hasn't lost a step. Mailer wasted no time dispelling his views on organized religion.

"I thought that God cannot be an ideological tyrant," Mailer said. "God makes no sense unless he is as existential as all of us ... Thinking of how complex life is, there must be a creative force."

Mailer explained that while he was writing the book, assuming

that a God and made the creative process much easier.

Although the story is based on fact, Mailer said it's a novel because the narrator, an assistant to the devil, is a fictional character.

Thea Wellstein, 37, was in town on a business trip when he noticed

that a God and made the creative process much easier.

"God makes no sense unless he is as existential as all of us ... Thinking of how complex life is, there must be a creative force."

—Norman Mailer, author of 'Castle in the Forest'

the bourbon from where I was sitting."

Wellstein, who first read Mailer's *Why Are We In Vietnam?* when he was 9 years old, said the author has always been a part of his life, even sourcing his books in his senior dissertation.

"I keep a copy of *Harlot's Ghosts* and *Oswald's Tale* in my travel bag at all times; when I get bored I pull them out," Wellstein said. "He makes the flights fly [by] for me."

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Watchdog: Group makes difference in the community

Continued from Back Page

"That investment is now \$9 billion," Leavy said.

Public schools have also been one of the NCBG's projects. The group worked to get new schools and public libraries built in neighborhoods in addition to an array of other public works projects: infrastructure repairs, like repaved sidewalks, streets and alleys, as well as improving sewer and water problems in neighborhoods to curb flooding.

Rene Heybach, director of the law project for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, who has worked with the NCBG on public housing and public schooling issues, said the group often challenged her to know what was going on.

Heybach, who said the NCBG did a lot to maximize public assets, said she feels like she's lost one of her own.

"We're in a climate where our mayor does not welcome full disclosure of all community

groups. Those who are critics sometimes pay for it."

NCBG also took a stand on TIFs, or tax increment financing, a tool that can be used to generate property tax dollars for economic development in particular areas of the city such as schools, parks and public buildings.

Leavy said the group unmasked the secrecy behind TIFs in the city and began educating the public about the complex issue.

"We [got] inquiries about our TIF reform work from all over the nation, even Canada," Leavy said.

Now, Leavy worries there aren't many funders who realize the need for long-term advocacy that's separate from city hall and most organizations will not possess the resources the NCBG provided. Leavy hopes a similar organization will form when and if the public needs one.

"For a while, we united people across the city, across race and class lines to demand more investment in the neighborhoods," Leavy said.

Mildred Wiley, NCBG's board president and senior director of government and community affairs at Bethel New Life, Inc. said she thinks the group did phenomenal work.



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

After nearly 20 years in operation, the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group will no longer be for the public interest. The group's location at 332 S. Michigan Ave. is no longer in service.

The group said it plans to keep its two websites, ncbg.org and bettertransit.org, online for the next six months and promised the group's board of directors and its allies will continue fighting for the issues the group has made its priorities for years in other ways.

"I love driving by the many public schools and libraries that we helped local organizations

and residents organize to get built," Leavy said. "I love it that public transportation is a major beat at the daily newspapers—it wasn't before our campaign to save the Green Line. I love to see the many neighborhoods where we inspired and aided the local block clubs and community groups to demand that their streets, alleys, sidewalks, etc. be repaired—the city has a dramat-

ically different look and feel in the aftermath of the ruckus we raised about the urgent need to rebuild the city's infrastructure and the billions that have been invested since 1992."

NCBG has planned a reunion and celebration event at Garfield Park Conservatory for March 15 at 5 p.m.

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Some atypical business in city hall

Protestors, lone cameraman stir up council chamber

By Eric Kasang
Managing Editor

Assembling once a month, Chicago's City Council, located at 121 N. LaSalle St., second floor, offers Chicagoans and guests the chance to witness municipal government at its best and worst. With issues ranging from living wages to police and community relations to shameless self-promotion of Chicago, the meeting offers the public a chance to see why certain proposals pass and how it relates to residents legally and otherwise.

The Chronicle plans on either "rounding up" certain events or even contextualizing it for people who are unable to attend the monthly shindig. Maybe City Beat will inspire a new set of political junkies who will ascend to City Hall's council chambers.

At the Feb. 7 City Council meeting before the aldermanic elections on Feb. 27, the people spoke—silently, at first. Audience members from the ground and second level galleries stood up holding pink and white paper plates to lodge protests about affordable housing in the middle of the meeting.

After security forced the protesters from council chambers, their silence turned to cries for reasonably priced homes.

"What do we want?" screamed Claudia Montoya, one of the organizers to the teeming crowd of more than 100.

"Affordable housing," they shouted back.

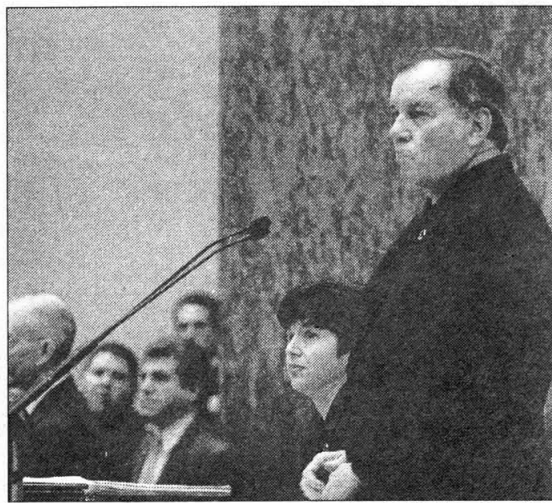
"When do we want it?" she replied.

The crowd echoed, "Now."

Montoya, who belongs to Balanced Development Coalition, a nonprofit coalition of business



11th Ward alderman James Blacer (left), congratulates constituents from the Chicago Bears, including coach Lovie Smith, at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle St on Feb. 7. Mayor Richard M. Daley (right) addresses the city council at the monthly meeting, where dozens of demonstrators protested for more affordable housing.



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

and community organizations, continued this back-and-forth cry for several more minutes.

Later, 4th Ward alderman Toni Preckwinkle spoke to the crowd about getting city council on board to support the cause.

"We will take every step that we can for affordable housing," Preckwinkle said. "But let me tell you, the only reason the mayor offered this ordinance is because of the pressure you have applied."

Currently, Preckwinkle is sponsoring an ordinance that would set aside at least 15 percent of new residential units affordable for low-income families. This would occur in a building with 10 or more units. A developer agreeing to this could obtain building fee waivers.

However, Mayor Richard M. Daley supports only 10 percent.

The crowd briefly broke into chants of "Sí, se puede" or "Yes, you can," which protesters vocalized during last May's immigra-

tion march demanding more rights for undocumented workers.

However, the affordable housing protest wasn't the only "distraction" the aldermen felt during

"He may have taught you Latin, but he also got you tickets to the game."

—42nd Ward Alderman
Burton Natarus

the three-hour meeting. While 42nd Ward alderman Burton Natarus and 5th Ward alderman Leslie Hairston argued about Natarus' attempts to create Du Sable Park—honoring Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, who helped found Chicago—on the city's Loop lakefront, Natarus suddenly interrupted 20th Ward alderman Arenda Troutman during her plea for the park.

"I want the harassment to

stop," Natarus said about a man videotaping him from the ground level seating area. "He's also threatening me."

As security escorted the cameraman from council chambers, Natarus cried, "I'm not a racist; you're the racist," to the African-American man filming him.

The council meeting wasn't filled with social protests; earlier in the assembly, several aldermen grandstanded about the Bears, drawing both laughs and slight jeers from the audience.

While Bears coach Lovie Smith, Bears Chairman Mike McCaskey, General Manager Jerry Angelo and President Ted Phillips sat in a small gallery adjacent to the mayor's podium, several aldermen laid on the praise for the team despite the Super Bowl loss.

"Chicago may be divided over the Cubs and the Sox," said 14th Ward alderman Edward Burke, "but with the Bears, Chicagoans are one."

Burke regaled council chambers with his stories of going to the game with his family and how he even went to high school with McCaskey. He admitted that he passed his third year Latin class by copying off of McCaskey to the laughs of some council members and the mayor.

And while 79-year-old 50th Ward alderman Berny Stone claimed to be the "oldest Bears fan" in the room, Natarus received a mixture of laughs and jeers when he said, "I'm probably the strongest Bears fan in the room."

After Natarus praised the Bears, he even verbally jabbed Burke about how the 14th Ward alderman got his tickets.

"He may have taught you Latin," Natarus said about Burke's previous comment. "But he also got you tickets to the game."

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Forum: Candidates speak to constituents about concerns

Continued from Back Page

his opening statements, walked in when the next question was up, but audience members forced him to answer the fence question.

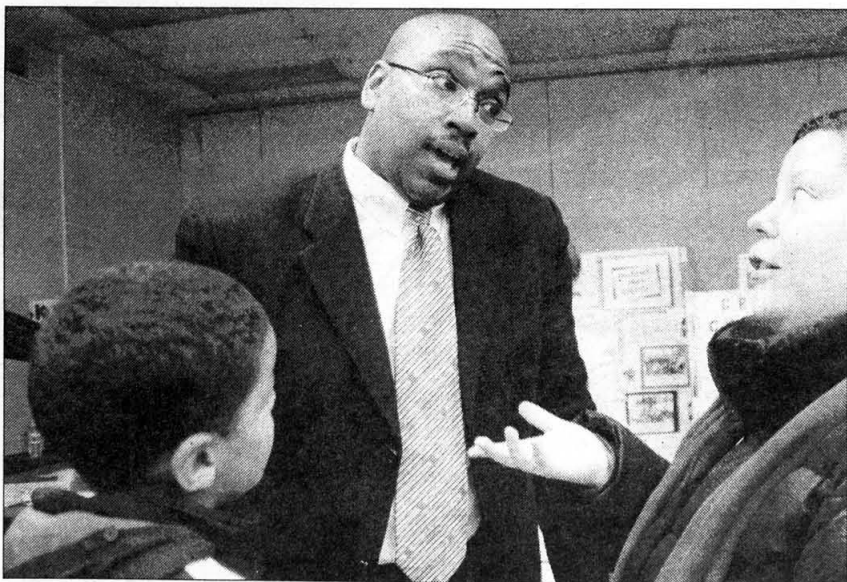
"The safety of children comes first," Fioretti said.

Other issues presented throughout the forum included the 2016 Olympic bid, big-box retailers, development and services for senior citizens.

The 2016 Olympic bid was supported by all candidates under the condition that taxpayers would not be left with the bill.

Haithcock, Doody and Askew said they support the bid because the Olympics would bring a lot of money into the city, which would help infrastructure, transportation, development and employment. On the other hand, Johnson said he did support the bid but is worried about residents being "out-priced."

When asked how they felt about big-box retailers, the candidates said they supported a



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

2nd Ward aldermanic candidate David Askew speaks with Maria Munos (right) and her son Anthony Thompson Jr. after the 2nd Ward candidate forum at the South Loop School, 1212 S. Plymouth Ct on Feb. 7.

living wage.

Haithcock, who voted against the big-box ordinance, said the plan was not fair across the board.

Johnson, a small-business owner, said if he can pay his employees a living wage, so can

the big-box retailers.

"We need to make sure we can raise a family," Askew said.

On the issue of development, the candidates said there has to be a balance between the needs of developers and residents.

That includes the issue of building height.

The candidates were also asked what could be done to make developers responsible for shoddy work.

Doody, Johnson and Fioretti

agreed that full disclosure of past projects, more building inspectors and insurance bonds were all key to making sure developers are held accountable. However, Fioretti said the other candidates were copying ideas he came up with.

Haithcock said although developers are responsible, contractors should also be held accountable. She suggested holding money in escrow.

On the issue of services for senior citizens, Haithcock said she has provided seniors with activities, buses and homes. Fioretti said there are some great new amenities, but there are also some homes that "you don't want to be in."

Paulette Boyd, president of South Loop Neighbors, said they hosted the event in order to provide another forum for the candidates. She said it was a success because new questions were brought up.

"I have been very concerned about the communication and visibility of the current alderman," Boyd said.

Holt, a 2nd Ward resident said the forum did not help him decide who he will vote for. There was not enough depth, he said.

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Students discover identity during celebration

College hosts events for Black History Month

By Alison Shipley
Staff Writer

While some people consider red and pink valentines when thinking of holidays in February, the students and faculty at Harold Washington College are busy preparing for a more educational celebration—Black History Month.

Throughout this month, various events will be held on HWC's campus, 30 E. Lake St., to educate and raise students' interest in black history. The events are sponsored by the college's Student Government Association, said Gaylord Boggues, Student Activities Coordinator at HWC.

Domenico Ferri, professor of American history at HWC, said there has been a lack of sincerity in how the public embraces Black History Month.

"It has long been portrayed as a drag. There is a sort of tongue-in-cheek criticism of Black History Month because February happens to be the shortest month of the year," Ferri said. "But I think that when we take the time to designate moments to highlight certain 'groups' it really takes a step in the right direction."

The celebrations began Feb. 1 with an opening ceremony that

featured African drummers and dancing performed by African dancers in traditional African clothing.

Anthony Stephens, student at HWC, said he takes pride in attending a school with such diversity.

"I am consistently blown away by the level of education provided by the City Colleges of Chicago," Stephens said. "Organized events like Black History Month remind us that we all can learn a lot if we open our eyes [and are] more tolerant of each other."

Following the opening ceremony was "Rap Therapy," an event hosted by Don Elligan, professor at HWC in the Social Science Department. Rap Therapy is about learning to communicate through the language of rap or hip-hop.

Former HWC student Michael Welton said the events are important—most of all for those students who are not black.

"I'll hear a professor mention a name that I've never heard of, or an event that's unfamiliar to me, and the entire African-American population will nod in acknowledgement," Welton said. "So much of what has happened in their existence is rooted out and omitted except during this one month. I guess that's what makes this holiday important."

The annual "Oratorical Festival", beginning Feb. 15, will feature poets and speakers

made up of students and staff. These types of events offer students a better understanding of black history and culture, according to Welton.

"Because we live in such a Eurocentric society, with Eurocentric beliefs and Eurocentric textbooks, we are offered the chance to see what their past is really like, in detail, from their side, even if for just one month," Welton said.

Ferri said he stresses the importance of attending the events in his history classes.

"It is impossible to teach 18th and 19th century American history without understanding the initial components. If there is any hope in understanding the totality of American identity, we need to understand the contributions of every 'group,'" he said.

Ferri is hosting the event "Celebrating Joe Louis" Feb. 21 for some of his and his colleagues' students. Lewis Erenberg, author of *The Greatest Fight of Our Generation: Louis vs. Schmeling*, will be the guest speaker discussing former boxer Joe Louis.

Louis, whom Ferri called "the first all-American African-American of the 20th century," said the Louis vs. Schmeling boxing match was important in forcing Louis into the public eye. He became the first black man to represent the country as a whole.

The school will be showing movies that are black history-themed, such as *Malcolm X*, said



Tim Hunt/The Chronicle

Tracey Lewis-Elligan speaks to the Harold Washington College Psychology Club about eating disorders in African American women as a part of Black History Month on Feb. 8.

Ahndrea Sprattling, student at HWC. The Student Government Association will also be showing *School Daze*, a tribute to movie director Spike Lee, as a part of its "Movie of the Month" series on Feb. 20.

Sprattling said she plans on attending some of the events the college is hosting to celebrate Black History Month. She attended a public forum about The Black Panthers' movement that was hosted by International Socialist Organization, a student club at HWC, she said.

"Some people are negative toward certain ethnic or racial groups maybe because hearing

about things a lot and having ideas pushed down their throats doesn't help them," said Betty Harris, professor of sociology at HWC. "But if there is a celebration honoring the differences between those ethnic groups, maybe those people can embrace those differences and learn."

Events celebrating Black History Month are continuously being added to HWC's agenda for February.

For further information on these events, visit the college's website, <http://hwwashington.ccc.edu>.

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Scoop in the Loop: Reasons to Recall Todd Stroger



By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

If I wrote this column every week, I would have to change the name of it from Scoop in the Loop to Weekly Reasons to Recall Todd Stroger.

Nearly every day, it seems there is a new story printed about gross misconduct in the Cook County Board accompanied by a picture of Stroger's smug mug.

To update the readers, here is a quick rundown on Stroger's brief-but-prolific life as Cook County Board President. First, his father, John Stroger, was hospitalized last spring after winning the Democratic primary for County Board President—his son Todd was then appointed to fill his spot on the ticket.

Running as a 'reformer,' Todd Stroger eventually won the contentious election over Republican Tony Peraica in November and promised major changes in the County Board, which is operating in a \$500 million hole.

After taking office, Stroger

commandeered an elevator in the county building and claimed it as his own, only to later give it up after some strange realization that he was not as important as he previously thought he was.

A Stroger spokesperson was later reported as saying the county board president needed the elevator because he was such an affable and talkative guy that he kept running late from chit-chatting with constituents in the elevator.

Then, in an attempt to balance the budget, Stroger informed every department in the county that budgets would be slashed by 17 percent. This action drew a firestorm of criticism, mainly in regards to the cuts in health care and public defenders. For weeks he was hammered by the press, unions, hospitals and community organizations for the cuts. In a magical turn of events, he supposedly found millions of dollars stashed away in some unused budget, which he plans on using to bail out the health care system in Cook County—boy, I wish I had millions of dollars lying around unaccounted for.

What happened next may have been taken straight out of a patronage politics playbook. Following the cuts and criticism, Stroger then began promoting and hiring several relatives and friends.

It was reported that his communications director Chinta Strausberg is being paid \$110,000

annually to take notes during meetings. And when reporters attempted to get a comment from Stroger's spokesperson or communications director, they were mum.

The latest questionable hire is his cousin, Donna Dunning, who will make \$142,000 as the county's chief financial officer.

Stroger was quoted in a Feb. 8 Sun-Times editorial as saying, "Are you telling me there's something wrong with hiring someone you know for a job?" My answer, along with the Sun-Times editorial board, is yes.

I'm not sure who exactly framed the Illinois state constitution, or Cook County's for that matter, but I know they did not intend on politicians making a career out of public service. Running for office is something people should do if they feel compelled by their constituents, if they think they can contribute positively toward government and society. People should not run for office in order to make a life-long career out of it, nor should they run to carry on a family tradition.

Although Stroger contends that everyone he's hired and appointed has been qualified, he certainly did not scour resumes and applications to find "the most qualified." The \$3 billion Cook County budget is one of the largest in the United States, larger than many state budgets and even larger, I'm sure, than that of a few

small countries. At a time when the county is facing extreme funding difficulties, the board president is treating his hiring process like an adolescent tree-house club.

The problem with this situation is that he's not technically doing anything wrong; he is acting within his power and has the lawful ability to hire and appoint anyone he sees fit to certain jobs. In that respect I guess we all should be thankful he's at least looking at his friends' qualifications.

Stroger makes \$170,000 a year; it would be nice to see him, maybe some county commissioners and possibly some of his staff take a 17 percent pay cut like the rest of the county. After all, he's already got a hefty pension just like his dad. Now he has plenty of friends in high places with high paying jobs to hit up if he ever needs an extra buck. Considering he got most of them their jobs, they should be more than willing. I think he would still make a living wage at just \$141,100 a year.

If Stroger's hiring antics continue and there are several more weeks of credibility harming stories, it may be time to dust off the parliamentary procedure for discussing a recall election. Hey, they did it to Gray Davis in California—weirder things have happened.

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In Public

Monday, February 12

Take a dip into the 4D world of Spongebob Squarepants at the Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive. Showings are every 30 minutes beginning at 10:15 a.m. Admission is \$5 per person.

Tuesday, February 13

Celebrate Valentine's Day early this year at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., for the Valentine's Day Art Spree. Illinois artists will display and sell their jewelry, accessories, wearables, ceramics and cards. The free event will be open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 14

Bring the romance this Valentine's Day to Roosevelt University's Auditorium Theater, 50 E. Congress Ave., for the Joffrey Ballet's performance of three different theatrical works. Admission is \$25 to \$130 per person, depending on seating. The performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 15

Blues lovers should check out a special concert night called "Come On In from the Cold" at Buddy Guy's Legends, 754 S. Wabash Ave. Enjoy the blues music while digging in to some Cajun food. Admission is \$10.

Saturday, February 17

Now is the chance to get to know the Bronzeville neighborhood through poetry and song. The Dunham Theater at Kennedy-King College, 6800 S. Wentworth Ave., is hosting Chocolate Chips Theatre Company's "A Day in Bronzeville," featuring famous poet Gwendolyn Brooks. Admission is \$5 per person. The event begins at 2 p.m.

Sunday, February 18

Welcome the year of the boar during this Chinese New Year celebration with marching bands, floats and a mystical dragon dance for the Chinese New Year Parade. Hosted by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, the parade will begin at 1 p.m. at Wentworth Avenue and 24th Street and will end at Cermak Road.

Metro news briefs: a short week in review

Tank pleads guilty

After the Chicago Bears' loss to the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl, Feb. 4, Bears defensive tackle Tank Johnson pleaded guilty in court Feb. 8 to violating his probation on a 2005 weapons conviction, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Johnson could face a year in prison for the probation violation stemming from a December raid on his Gurnee home. Police allegedly found three handguns, three rifles and more than a quarter ton of ammunition, the newspaper reported.

Johnson's next hearing date is March 15, when he will be sen-

tenced.

Police solve fewer murders

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the Chicago Police Department solved only 36 percent of murders in 2006. This is the second year numbers have dropped. In 2005, police solved 42 percent of murders. Detectives blamed the decline on new rules, like a requirement to videotape interrogations.

Cool Globes

Instead of cows this summer, Chicago will see an outdoor art exhibit of globes, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. The globes, which will be designed by local artists, are meant to

draw attention to global warming, and some will have messages from former President Bill Clinton and Senator Barack Obama.

Rather than being spread throughout the city like the cows, the globes will be displayed along the lakefront near Navy Pier.

Religious Doctors Withhold Information

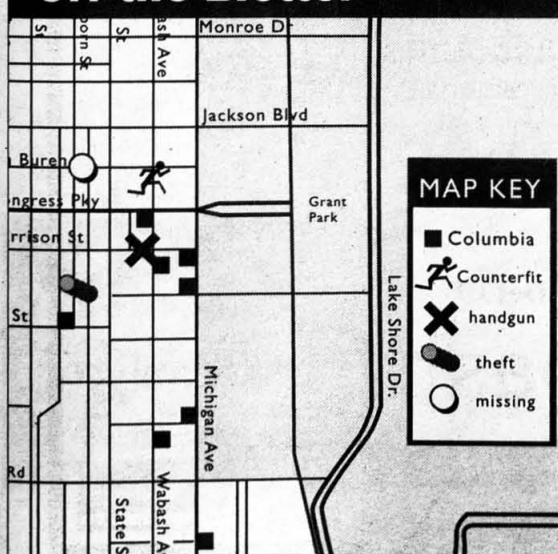
In a study by the University of Chicago, ethics researchers surveyed 1,144 physicians and found that 29 percent would have problems referring a patient to another doctor for controversial procedures such as abortion, birth con-

trol for minors and sedation of a dying patient, according to the Chicago Tribune. Most physicians said the patients should be informed of their options.

However, 14 percent of the physicians did not see any reason to discuss the choices that may be considered immoral.

In the survey, 45 percent of responders said they attended religious services at least twice a month. Doctors of that group were less likely to refer patients to other doctors for controversial procedures. The study is part of a larger effort by Dr. John Lantos of U. of C. to see how religion and personal values affect American medical practices.

Off the Blotter



Kimi Badger/The Chronicle

Skipping the parking fees

An unidentified man in a silver 2002 Chevy used a counterfeit \$50 bill at a Park 1 parking lot at 410 S. Wabash Ave. on Feb. 3. The man asked if he could park for an hour, to which the parking attendant said it would cost \$10. The offender handed the attendant the counterfeit bill and was given \$40 back in change. The offender then said "let me just grab something from the liquor store first. Don't charge me again." When the attendant told the offender no, the offender drove away. The man was estimated to be between 28 and 32 years old.

Where's wallet?

After returning to her office, a 26-year-old woman reported to police her wallet had been stolen. She said it was in her briefcase before she arrived at work at 711 S. Dearborn St. that morning, but later on when she went to look for it, the wallet was missing. The victim did not report any suspects.

Gone, but not forgotten

After returning to the spot where she had parked her car, a 56-year-old woman discovered her white 2003 hatchback was missing. The car had been parked at 400 S. Plymouth Court on Jan. 31 when it disappeared. The woman reported to police that her car had gone missing but was not stolen.

Them's fighting words

Police discovered a 36-year-old man in possession of an unlicensed handgun in front of the Hot House, 31 E. Balbo Ave., on Jan. 28. The man was engaged in a physical dispute with another man when police arrived at the scene and attempted to break up the fight. The offender stood up and tried to hide the gun in a pink diaper bag, but police took the bag from him and took him into custody. The gun had been fired, but no one was hurt.

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

Haithcock answers critics

Alderman addresses constituents at 2nd Ward forum

By Becky Schlikerman
Staff Writer

Just weeks from the 2007 Chicago municipal election, five aldermanic candidates for the 2nd Ward attended a forum on Feb. 7 to address constituents and voters.

Aldermanic candidates David Askew, Larry Doody, Bob Fioretti, Madeline Haithcock and Kenny Johnson attended the forum.

Haithcock, who did not attend the forum hosted by the Columbia College Journalism Department and The Chronicle on Jan. 29, had to stand up for her work throughout the forum.

Hosted by South Loop Neighbors and The League of Women Voters, the South Loop Elementary School, 1212 S. Plymouth Ct., where the forum

Part of The Chronicle's ongoing election coverage

was held, turned out to be the source of the night's controversy.

The forum began with the usual two-minute opening statement and each had 60 seconds to answer questions, which were provided by the audience and screened by the hosts.

Haithcock began her opening statement by reminding the crowd of her status as alderman. She also responded to criticism regarding her visibility.

"I don't know why no one knows who I am," Haithcock said.

The most stirring issue of the night was the controversy surrounding a fence that was being constructed around the South Loop Elementary School without residents' consent, 2nd Ward resident Leo Holt said.

Residents are concerned about the fence because of the impact it could have on the appearance of the neighborhood and public

access to the park.

However, proponents of the fence wonder about the safety of the school children. Currently, the students at the South Loop School do not have outdoor recess because of safety concerns.

Other in the area believe the fence is another way to highlight the racial issues surrounding the neighborhood of Dearborn Park II and the students who attend the school.

"The fence is a metaphor for problems of the school," said Joyce Lane, a 2nd Ward resident.

Doody said he was "on the fence about the fence."

Johnson and Askew said they did not want the fence and Haithcock said meetings to have the issue resolved have started.

Fioretti, who was 45 minutes late and had a representative present

See Forum, Page 37



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Alderman Madeline Haithcock speaks at the 2nd Ward forum at South Loop School, 1212 S. Plymouth Ct., on Feb. 7.

Soldier's mom lobbies Chicago

As son faces missing movement charge, mother pleads his case

By Becky Schlikerman
Staff Writer

A mother's job is never done.

The mother of the first officer to publicly refuse deployment to Iraq is fighting for his freedom. Carolyn Ho, who is traveling around the United States, was in Chicago recently hoping to gain support for her son Lt. Ehren Watada.

His court-martial hearing started on Feb. 5 at Fort Lewis near Seattle.

Watada, 28, is facing four years of incarceration and dismissal from service stemming from one charge of missing movement, meaning he did not deploy. He also faces two charges of behavior unbecoming of an officer, which are related to statements he made on two separate occasions, Fort Lewis spokesman Joseph Piek said. Some charges have been dropped in exchange for Watada's admission of statements.

According to Ho, who is from Hawaii, the outlook for her son is grim. They want to make an example of him since he is the first officer to refuse to be deployed, she said.

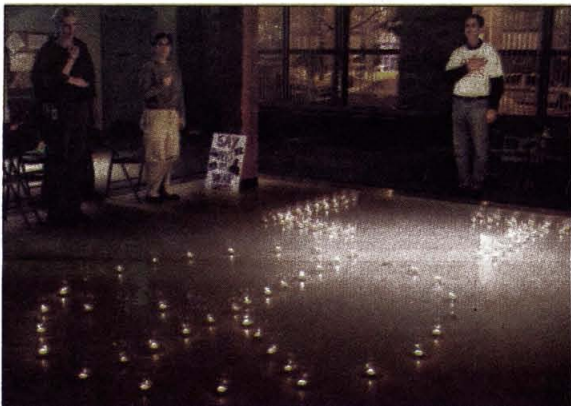
"Sounds like they want to throw the book at him and to throw him in prison," Ho said.

Ho's mission is to raise awareness about her son and gain support for him.

"He went fade into the woodwork," she said.

Ho said Watada refused his deployment because he did not want to participate or command his men in a war that was "pre-emptive." She said he realized this after researching the war and learning about the heavy civilian casualties and that no weapons of mass destruction had been found. Ho added that Watada does not think the war is being fought in accordance with international law.

Jennet Posey, a Columbia junior and former soldier in Iraq, said she understands his point



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Supporters held a candlelight vigil for Lt. Ehren Watada Feb. 6 at Grace Place Episcopal Center, 637 S. Dearborn St. Lt. Watada refused to deploy to Iraq, claiming that it is an unjust war.

from a civilian perspective but not as a soldier.

"If I were one of his soldiers, I would be disappointed in him," Posey said. "We're all scared. We don't want to go either."

Watada offered to resign in April 2006 but his request was denied in May 2006 because he was in a "stop-loss category," Piek said.

A stop-loss category means that if a unit is scheduled to deploy they no longer have the option to move to another unit and must stay on active duty, according to Piek.

Watada announced on June 6, 2006 that he intended to refuse deployment, Piek said. However, the military did not take any action.

"We anticipated he would refuse but until he actually did that, he still had the option," Piek said.

Watada's official refusal came when he did not respond to the manifest call, which is a roll call of the soldiers who are being deployed, Piek said. Watada had several opportunities to respond to the call, he added.

The charges of behavior unbecoming an officer are due to statements Watada made during two different public appearances, Piek said. The first one

came from his initial press conference in June 2006 and the second from comments he made at a Veterans for Peace convention in August 2006.

When a person joins the military and swears an oath, he still has his First Amendment rights, but they are limited. Things a soldier says in public must be in kept in good order and not violate national security, Piek said.

Watada joined the military after 9/11 because he felt compelled to get into the service, Ho said. He was deployed to Korea.

Ho said she would return to Fort Lewis for her son's court-martial. She had attended events in San Francisco and Chicago and was planning on going to Indiana and Los Angeles. Ho had been traveling since the summer of 2006.

Posey said she had a similar experience during her time in Iraq when a sergeant left the troop before the war had started.

"I lost respect for him," she said.

Posey also said Ho's mission is selfish.

"If she's going to do a national campaign, what about the other soldiers?" she said.

chronicle@colum.edu

Local watchdog shuts its doors

Lack of funding causes group to close after years of community work

By Brett Marlow
Staff Writer

A watchdog of the CTA, public housing and school ills, the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group announced last week that it is closing up shop after nearly 20 years of operation.

For some time, NCBG had been facing what executive director Jacqueline Leavy calls "fun-

der fatigue."

Since 2003, the staff went from 10 to two and has been facing challenges securing funding from major foundations that have either altered their grant making policies, reprioritized or ceased funding the group altogether.

Other groups

that once helped with funding, NCBG said in a letter on its webpage, wouldn't continue granting money to the same organization year after year. Ultimately, after trying to secure research contracts as well as possible grants from the state that didn't come through—it was time to shut it

down.

"Ironically, everyone with money seemed to think we were so successful and effective, that somebody else's foundation would come along and support us and their foundation needed to spread the money around," Leavy said.

The group's closing comes at a harsh time when CTA riders and commuters are continually growing unhappy with its service. With slow zones on the Blue Line making headlines and a local campaign for text-messed CTA

"Ironically, everyone with money seemed to think we were so successful and effective, that somebody else's foundation needed to spread the money around."

—Jacqueline Leavy, executive director of the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group.

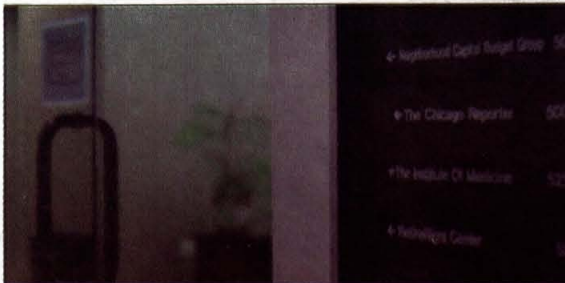
customer complaints, the NCBG's organized Campaign for Better Transit is coming to a halt, too.

Leavy said she's proud of NCBG's list of achievements over the years. The group helped save the Green Line from "the

wrecking ball." The group also assisted in getting the funding necessary to renovate the Blue and Brown lines.

Since starting in 1988, the group has gotten the city to invest money into public works projects each year.

See Watchdog, Page 36



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Despite shutting its doors last week, Neighborhood Capital Budget Group still appears on the sign outside the group's suite at 332 S. Michigan Ave.