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Columbia Chronicle (02/19/2007)

Columbia College Chicago

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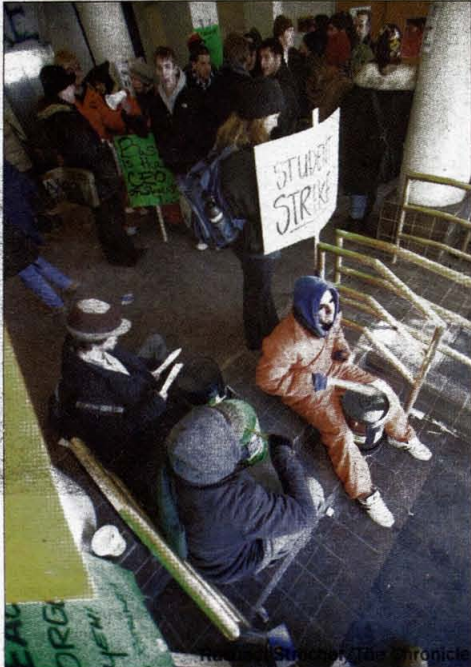
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Colleges drumming up support



Left: Students hang around the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., and listen to drummers and speakers reprimand them for going to class during the strike. Right: Students on strike try to persuade others to join them in skipping class with slogans and chants on Feb. 15.

Students strike, call for an end to symbolic protest

By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

Despite freezing winds, dozens of students gathered inside and out of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 15 for a student strike against the war and the Bush administration.

Samantha Hamlin, a junior cul-

tural studies major and organizer of the strike, said she will miss three classes because of it. Hamlin said most of the people she and other organizers spoke with at Columbia supported them and agreed the country needed a new direction, but they felt protesting wouldn't facilitate that change.

"We are saying that the time for that symbolic protest—where you go to a demonstration and you hold a sign and then go home—that's over and that's not going to

work and that's not what it's going to take to stop this war," Hamlin said the day before the strike. "It's going to take more; we're going to be sitting in the lobby aiming to shut it down."

According to a press release sent to several local media outlets, Columbia students would join students from nine other schools Feb. 15, including University of California-Santa Barbara, University of California-Berkeley and Columbia University. The date

represented what organizers called the largest world-wide protest to date, held on Feb. 15, 2003, in which hundreds of cities across the globe took part.

In the days leading up to the strike, organizers leafleted buildings across Columbia's campus with their school-wide strike declaration that called for students to not attend class and for teachers to cancel their classes.

Mark Lloyd, associate vice presi-

See Protest, Page 11

High-tech complaints in hopes of better commutes

Riders use text-messaging for grievances

By Brett Marlow
Staff Writer

Thanks to grassroots community activists, commuters riding on any of CTA's trains have a new way of voicing their frustration with its service via text message.

Riders can now text message their name to cta[their zip code]@npjt.org, and a message will be sent on their behalf to their elected officials urging them to make improving public transit one of their priorities.

Neighbors Project, a grassroots group comprised of individuals aimed at bettering urban life, is responsible for establishing the new method of communicating concerns regarding the CTA.

"If enough of us complain to the right people, we might finally get

a train and bus system that we're proud to use," said the group on its website.

The combination of deterioration in CTA service, crowded trains, slow zones and the overall commuting experience worsening were all motivations for the project, said Rick Maloney, a member of Neighbors Project. But there was not one specific event that served as a catalyst.

After a commuter sends a message, Neighbors Project's servers then extract the sender's name and zip code, and on his or her behalf forward an automatically-generated e-mail to the alderman in their zip code, the mayor and state legislators.

The group also allows users to send a letter online at www.neighborsproject.org.

The site allows users to personalize the letter or cite a certain example of their frustration, Maloney said.

CTA says the most effective way to voice a comment, positive



Tim Hunt/The Chronicle

Commuters can now send text messages to their respective elected officials to voice their frustration with the CTA.

or negative, is through its customer service.

"We make sure all relevant comments are directed to the appropriate CTA officials, so they know what our customers are saying," said Ibis Antongiorgi, a CTA spokesperson.

Neighbors Project started the

CTA idea nearly five months ago by passing out fliers at el stations across the city asking commuters to write to their elected officials. The problem was that many people didn't know the names of their elected officials.

See CTA, Page 42

Resurgence of spiritual films greet cinema

By Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

A small boy lies dying on an operating table as the blood is drained from his body. An airborne virus has threatened to bring about mankind's extinction, and only the pure blood of a couple's only son can lead to the cure. The boy's decision to give his life, so that others may live, draws a direct parallel to the story of Christ's sacrifice.

This is a crucial scene from *3:16*, the acclaimed short film written and produced by Columbia graduate Mike Vanderwyst. It has received numerous accolades from film festivals in Georgia, Ohio and Colorado, was selected to play at others in Chicago and Oklahoma. Most recently, it was chosen as a finalist at the Fylmz Festival in Nashville, Tenn. The film has certainly struck a nerve with contemporary American audiences, and it isn't by accident.

Since Mel Gibson's *Passion of the Christ* became a box office phenomenon worldwide, spirituality has started to look quite marketable for studios. Although this winter's *Nativity Story* flopped at the box office, possibly the result of the film's not-so-virgin Mary becoming pregnant off-screen, Twentieth Century Fox has decided to launch a distribution label directly targeting a predominantly Christian audience.

In the production notes for one of its features, the faith-based label Fox Faith is claiming to "provide compelling entertainment to the Christian audience as well as those seeking quality, inspirational and spiritual entertainment." The label officially came into use around early Fall 2006, though the label encompasses all spiritually-themed films in the Fox canon.

Two of its more memorable past releases—the narrative feature *End of the Spear* and the documentary *Beyond the Gates of Splendor*—both focused on the true story of Christian missionaries who lived with the Waodani tribe in Ecuador.

This year Fox Faith will release several diverse offerings, such as a family drama, *The Ultimate Gift*; a period piece, *The Last Sin Eater*; and a thriller about a Se7en-style serial killer aptly named *Thr3e*.

Elliot Wallach, president of Edify Media, Inc.—which manages the publicity for Fox Faith—said the label has a specific audience in mind for these films.

See Fox Faith, Page 29

In this issue



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



'Deadly' super soakers

Page 20



Bikes invade Chicago Auto Show

Back Page



Fit for a queen

By Hayley Graham, Editor-in-Chief

My friends could tell you that I'm a competitive person—to say the least. And what better competition to fight for than one of royalty?

I've always been up for a little challenge, but this contest is taking my competitiveness to a whole new level.

About seven months ago I started boxing with the intent to compete in tournaments, which seemed like it was the biggest challenge I was going to be up against for a while—but apparently I was wrong.

So when my co-worker Chrissy brought a new challenge to my attention, I was in the process of planning my victory within minutes. The goal: to become the Irish Queen of Chicago's 2007 St. Patrick's Day parade.

Since the thrill of conquering others was my initial motivation, the first step was to find out what it even means to be "queen." I found out basically the Irish Queen leads the parade downtown and is a representative of Chicago's Irish Community during her one-year reign.

To my surprise, there weren't too many qualifications: Of Irish heritage? Check. Between the ages of 17 and 28? Check. Never married? And check.

At this point you're probably wondering what else it takes to be the Irish Queen of Chicago. According to the parade's website, the judges look for qualities of beauty, grace and sincerity.

And I'm sure past community involvement is also taken into consideration, which would probably be my strongest point.

Immediately, I started assessing the previous winners to figure out what I needed to win. And I'll be honest, after check-

going to wear to compete, which eventually led to practicing the wave I would do while leading the parade and discussions about how to wear my hair with a crown on my head—not to get ahead of myself or anything.

Being confident is essential to being victorious, but it can also make losing much tougher.

My friend Katie often says that I'm the most competitive person she knows, but she also says I'm one of the worst at losing.

I've been thinking about where my competitive edge comes from and I've always attributed my aggressive attitude to growing up with a full-blooded Irish, rodeo bull-riding father. And most of the Irish people I know are just about as competitive as I am, Katie included.

So the thought of competing against nearly 100 other Irish girls makes me wonder if I'm going to see any scenes straight out of *Mean Girls*.

At the time of publication I will have not competed yet, but check out The Chronicle's blog at www.columbiachronicle.com to find out if I'll be the reigning Irish Queen of 2007. Since I'm a bad loser, if you don't see a post hailing my victory by the end of the week it's safe to assume that I didn't win. But there's always 2008!

hgraham@chroniclemail.com



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

ing out the former royalty I became pretty confident that I had the competition in the bag. I figured that the tiara would look just as good on me as any of the previous queens. So I submitted the application and a carefully crafted bio, including a long list of extracurricular activities.

A week later I got the e-mail I was anticipating, saying I had been chosen as a finalist and was invited to participate in the actual competition. Instantly, my friends and I started planning what I was

Index

1/13

Campus News

14/15

Commentary

17/35

A&E

36/44

City Beat

Calendar

Feb. 19 - 23

Mardi Gras Lunch Party

Enjoy free Cajun style food and Mardi Gras music, courtesy of Zydeco Vacation Band. The Carnival celebration runs from noon to 3 p.m. in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 19.

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

In The Mix

This Asian-American community mixer celebrates the reopening of the office of Asian Cultural Affairs at Columbia. Students can learn about a new student organization while meeting new people and having fun. The mingling begins at 5 p.m. in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 20.

For more information, call Yoonshin Park at (312) 344-8664.

Giclée?

John Cisco from Trillium Digital Imaging will discuss his experience with the fine art method Giclée? (pronounced "zhee-clay"). The lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. in room 203 in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 21.

For more information, call James Iannaccone at (312) 344-8664.

Sessions With The Tate Brothers

Brothers Larron, Lahmard and Larenz Tate, Chicago natives, will speak to students about their experiences in Hollywood. Students can ask these seasoned actors questions about the industry when they come to Columbia at noon in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

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

Wise Ass Comedy Night

Come early to get a seat at the Columbia student showcase of stand-up, improvisational and sketch comedy. Open mic comedy precedes the featured comedians, and the audience can expect to participate in the interactive show. This free event begins at 7 p.m. in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 22.

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

African Market

Students can browse through vendors' African-inspired goods at the African market being held in conjunction with AFRICA.DOT.COM, an art exhibit in the Glass Curtain Gallery. The shopping begins at 10 a.m. in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., on Feb. 23.

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

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

If you have an upcoming event or announcement, contact the news desk
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(312) 344-8964

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"Promote awareness around campus more."

—Austin Knierim, sophomore art and design major



"We could work on electricity usage and paper waste."

—Chelsea Stein, freshman fiction writing major



"Make a cutback on energy when kids aren't here."

—Emily Brosious, marketing communications major



"I don't think there's anything we can do at all."

—Dylan Castle, junior music major

Awards abound for Columbia radio

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

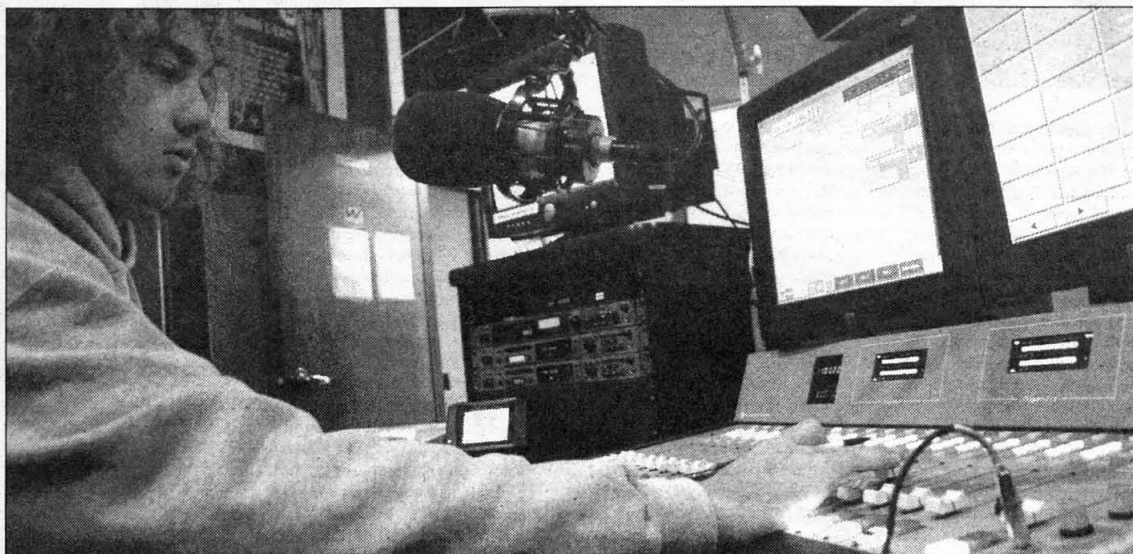
Columbia's student radio, WCRX-FM, won five awards this month for creative excellence in audio communication, competing against professional radio stations and advertising agencies in the 2006 Communicator Awards international competition.

The station submitted nine entries and was recognized for three public service announcements, a three-hour Katrina relief program and a Santa rap holiday station promo, each winning an award for either distinction or excellence in a competition that included more than 300 applicants from around the world.

"When we win awards for doing things like community service ... that makes me even prouder because that's some of the stuff that a lot of commercial radio stations don't spend a lot of time doing anymore," said Cheryl Morton-Langston, director of WCRX.

For the last two years, the station has written its own public service announcements, despite the industry standard of using canned and pre-produced national scripts.

"We wanted to speak in the language of the station and it is a really good assignment for our



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Mark Such, a senior radio major, works the control board at WCRX-FM on Feb. 14. This month, WCRX won five awards for its creative excellence in audio communication.

production students to do," Morton-Langston said. "Not only are they written in our language, they're written in the students' language, and it comes out a lot better."

The three public service announcements submitted to the competition were about 60 seconds long, with weeks and even months of writing, rewrit-

ing and recording behind each one. They focused on campus and social topics including suicide prevention, smoking and gambling, which Station Supervisor Tony Kwiecinski said were important to the Columbia community.

"Anyone can do a national spot," he said. "We want to make it creative, but we try to

make a point. Award committees look for things contributing to the college and station you're working for."

Each entry was judged based on a 100-point scale of competition standards. Entries awarded more than 90 points won an Award of Excellence, while projects between 80 and 90 points received Awards of

Distinction. Under this criteria, WCRX's smoking public service announcement won an Award of Excellence, while its gambling and suicide prevention pieces received Awards of Distinction.

Jeff Frieders, a junior radio broadcast major, co-hosted a

See Awards, Page 11

Columbia goes green

New energy strategy saves \$1 million over two years

By Beth Palmer
Assistant Campus News Editor

Green is in. From Al Gore to Leonardo DiCaprio and even, to some extent, the Bush Administration, there is an increasing effort to offset human impact on the environment. Columbia's administration is no exception.

Three years ago, Columbia's environmental consciousness consisted mainly of an informal paper recycling program. Today, Columbia's green actions include comprehensive recycling, energy-efficient lighting, environmentally-friendly cleaning products,

energy-efficient architecture and furniture manufactured at zero impact to the environment.

"Because of these improvements we were able to cut our utility budget this year," said Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment.

This month, the Office of Campus Environment, working closely with the Office of Business Affairs, signed two new energy contracts that better protect the environment and the school's money, as well as make Columbia a renewable energy leader among institutions of higher education.

The savings will amount to \$1 million over the next two years, Berg said.

"The students are our customers and I know the students are inter-

ested in the environment, so it's a really nice way for the Office of Campus Environment to do its share in terms of attracting students," Berg said.

Columbia purchased Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) in wind energy from Community Energy, Inc., a nonprofit wind turbine farm developer based in Pennsylvania. Each REC buys one megawatt-hour of renewable electricity. Columbia bought more than four million megawatt hours of wind-generated energy, which is equivalent to 30 percent of Columbia's yearly energy use, according to data provided by Community Energy, Inc.

"RECs are the environmental benefit of not polluting," said Lesley McCain, midwest director

See Energy, Page 13

iTunes infiltrates Columbia classrooms

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

As Apple Inc. conspires to conquer the world one student at a time, the new iTunes U network is invading Columbia classrooms and could revolutionize the college's approach to higher education starting next fall, according to Rebecca Courington, Columbia's director of the Center for Academic Technology.

The network is a free Apple-hosted service provided to colleges and universities that, when implemented, will allow faculty to share large files such as PDFs, videos, music and podcasts with students in their classes. Students would be able to access the material and download it to their personal Macs or PCs.

"So many students are coming onto campus with iPods today, to be able to leverage that for educational reasons we just thought was a great thing and something we could work with schools to provide," said Todd Wilder, a spokesman for Apple. "It removes barriers of time and place so that students have access to education content wherever they are."

The concept was piloted at several major institutions last year, including Brown University, Columbia University, Stanford University and UC Berkeley University, as well as the University of Michigan, before it was available to a larger group of schools across the country and Canada this year. Columbia was one of the first to be accepted into

its second trial phase, Courington said.

"Anything we can do to get information in students' hands in as many different formats as possible, the better," she said.

At Columbia, the system will be embedded in OASIS to ensure maximum privacy and security for copyrighted material, but would run off of Apple's server so it won't slow down the school's often sluggish network.

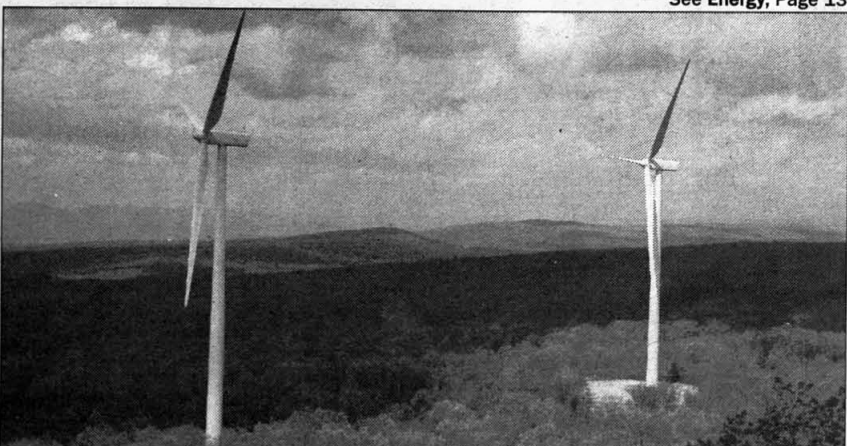
Courington said she sees Columbia utilizing the system much differently than other schools that use it primarily for lectures, by providing material such as slides and instructional videos before class as well as supplemental material for after class.

Columbia's iTunes website, iTunes.colum.edu, will let visitors launch either a private page, restricted to students enrolled in a certain class, or a public page. Both will take students into the iTunes music store, but instead of buying \$0.99 songs, all educational content can be downloaded for free.

"The Apple network is just unbelievable," said David Noffs, OASIS facilitator. "The interface itself is so much nicer than anything else out there."

As a public system, iTunes U will be accessible to anyone who stumbles upon Columbia's website and could be used for virtual tours of the campus, promotional videos, jazz band recordings or anything else the administration

See iTunes, Page 13



Courtesy Community Energy, Inc.

Columbia has purchased Renewable Energy Credits from Community Energy, Inc., which owns and operates 12 wind farms in the United States including a Bear Creek, Pa., farm, above, that has 12 wind turbines.

Students' time-saving strategies stopped

Journalism faculty introduce new plagiarism policy

By Beth Palmer
Assistant Campus News Editor

Multitasking is second nature to college students, but some Columbia faculty members are drawing the line when students stop getting the most of their education by reusing assignments.

The news reporting and writing concentration in the Journalism Department has added a "double dipping" policy to its spring 2007 syllabi.

The new rule exists mainly to encourage students to communicate with teachers rather than secretly turn in similar assignments to multiple classes, faculty members said.

Last semester, alumna Kristy Crowley was a senior journalism major juggling a full-time ABC 7 News internship and a job as a producer at the 103.5 KISS FM morning show while taking her final six classes at Columbia.

Crowley also began spending six hours a week in the South Loop, interviewing residents and officials for a class, she said.

Without consulting her teachers, Crowley used the information gathered during that time in articles for two different classes. Although not verbatim, the articles contained quotes from the same sources, she said.

"In the real world, people are fired for turning in the same

story to two different publications," said Suzanne McBride, director of the news reporting and writing concentration in the Journalism department.

The double dipping policy states: "The same or similar stories using the same sources written for other classes will not be accepted without prior approval from the instructors of both classes."

"We want to make sure [students] are getting the most of each class," said Curtis Lawrence, a Journalism

Department faculty member. "[Students] are still learning. Loading up on classes just to get out [of college] is not a good idea."

Oversized workload contributes to double dipping, but laziness also plays a role, McBride said.

The magazine concentration of the Journalism Department is considering adding double dipping to its policy as the issue often comes up, said Betsy Edgerton, director of the magazine concentration.

"This is not yet a department-wide policy, but was implemented in certain courses because we were discovering that some students were turning in the same, or essentially the same, work for credit in different courses," said Nancy Day, chair of the Journalism Department. "This is not fair to the other students and we are hoping to prevent it."

But officials from other writing-intensive programs like fiction writing, creative writing and English said double dipping is not in their respective syllabi and is not an issue.

"[Double dipping] is not an ethical issue unless [students] do it without disclosure," said Casey Bukro, an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Kentucky and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists Ethics Committee.

Since transcripts indicate to employers that different classes were completed, students should complete separate works in order to receive credit, Bukro said.

Crowley, who was approached by her teachers regarding the similar papers, said she did not know what she had

done was wrong.

"There is nothing in the rules about this," Crowley said, which was true at the time.

Now, double dipping officially exists in syllabi, but some have never heard of it.

Ja Vonna McClendon, a sophomore journalism major, has never personally, nor does she know anyone who has, turned in a similar assignment to two classes.

Although Ashley Page, a junior journalism major, said she has heard students talk about double dipping, she has never participated. "I've heard people say to

"Double dipping is plagiarism's cousin. It's plagiarizing [one's own] work."

—Suzanne McBride, director of the news reporting and writing concentration



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

teachers, 'I have this old story, can I turn it in?' And the teacher's like, 'No,'" Page said.

The implication that she had cheated by turning in similar papers offended Crowley, she said. But McBride said such actions are clearly cheating.

"Double dipping is plagiarism's cousin," McBride said. "It's plagiarizing [one's own] work."

If a student double dips, each case will be judged separately, but it could be grounds for failing the assignment, McBride said.

Crowley was asked to rewrite the questioned articles and

passed both classes, she said.

But it was not Crowley or any one particular incident that inspired the policy, McBride said. Since she came to Columbia a year and a half ago, many of the faculty had noticed double dipping taking place, McBride said.

"How we approached this was 'How do we think students can learn the most about news reporting and writing and how can we best mirror what happens in the real world?'" McBride said.

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Spring break in Rome: Columbia's marathon runners

Several students travel to Italy for annual race

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

Some students race to class and others speed to catch the el, but for several Columbia students, running will take them across the Atlantic to race in the Rome Marathon over spring break.

On March 18, seven Columbia students will participate in the 13th annual Rome Marathon, a distance of 26.2 miles that begins and ends at the Colosseum.

In November the students began planning for the trip, which isn't sponsored by Columbia, knowing they would pay for the trip themselves. While some financial assistance from Columbia may be offered to the students, nothing is definite.

Adam Salasek, the treasurer of the Student Athletic Association, wanted to run in the Rome Marathon after completing several marathons in Chicago.

"I decided that I wanted to run a marathon somewhere else," he said.

When Salasek told his idea to Chris Schroeder, president of the Student Athletic Association and fellow marathon-runner, Schroeder said he joked about taking out student loans to join him.

However, as the idea began to evolve, the two decided to involve other Columbia students.

Along with the seven students who plan on running the marathon, another eight or nine will travel with them for support. Some of those students plan on documenting the marathon in various ways for their own portfolios, Schroeder said.

Dominic Cottone, director of Student Organizations and Leadership, said when Schroeder came to discuss the trip with him, he knew Schroeder could make it happen.

"Whenever Chris Schroeder comes and says 'I want to do this,' it happens, which is really exciting," Cottone said.

Cottone said this trip is thrilling because these students will represent Columbia at the marathon.

He said he's proud of everything Columbia students have accomplished

and isn't stunned that students are initiating projects and achieving goals.

"It's so funny because everything that happens here doesn't surprise me anymore," Cottone said, adding that recent trips to the Dominican Republic and Hurricane Katrina-affected areas show Columbia students enjoy participating in life-changing events. "I'm just glad that there are all of these students who really want to make a difference in the world."

Schroeder said he's not positive if the trip will become an annual event, but he is excited about what it means to the college.

"If it does turn into an annual trip, it's really more of a milestone marker to say athletics are here to stay," he said.

Although the group is eager about its trip, Salasek and Schroeder said there are a number of measures they want to take to make sure everyone has a safe and enjoyable trip.

Since the students will want to explore the city on their own, Schroeder said they may set up group dinners and times that everyone needs to check in within the trip's itinerary.

Tammy Anderson, a junior interior design major and member of Columbia's cross country team, plans on running in the marathon and has been trying to train despite the recent weather.

"I'm really excited about it, but I'm also nervous," she said. "A marathon's an awful long distance to go."

Currently, she's able to run 16 miles.

While this will be Anderson's first marathon, it will be Salasek's fourth.

Salasek has been training for the marathon since October and hopes he can take 30 minutes off his current time of 3:40:00 in order to qualify for the Boston Marathon.

Last year David Kipkorir of Kenya won the marathon with a time of 2:08:38. Tetyana Hladyrin of Ukraine was the first woman to finish, with a time of 2:25:44.

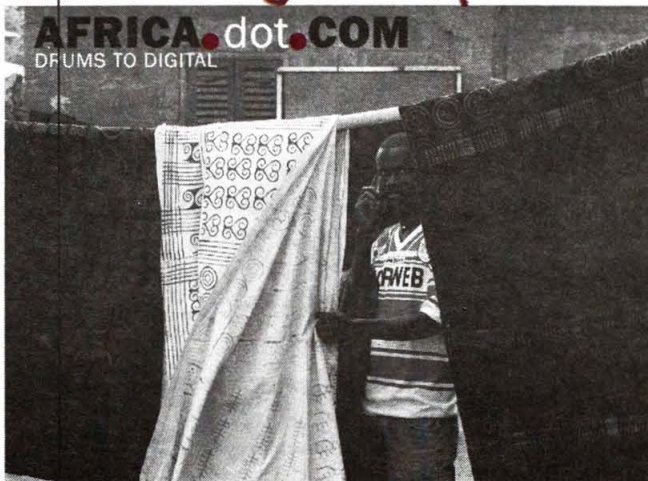
More than 12,000 people participated in Rome's marathon last year; 10,034 finished the race.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

"I'm just glad that there are all of these students who really want to make a difference in the world."

—Dominic Cottone,
director of Student
Organizations and
Leadership

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GLASS CURTAIN GALLERY, 1104 S WABASH AVENUE

Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday and 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. 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 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday

ETHNIC DRESS: Art & Culture

January 15 - February 23, 2007

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 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 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 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday

[RE]COLLECT

January 29 - 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



AP

Seven Columbia students plan on running the Rome Marathon on March 18, which will begin and end at the Colosseum. Last year more than 12,000 people participated in the 26.2 mile race.

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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MEN'S BASKETBALL WIN OVER BOISE STATE!

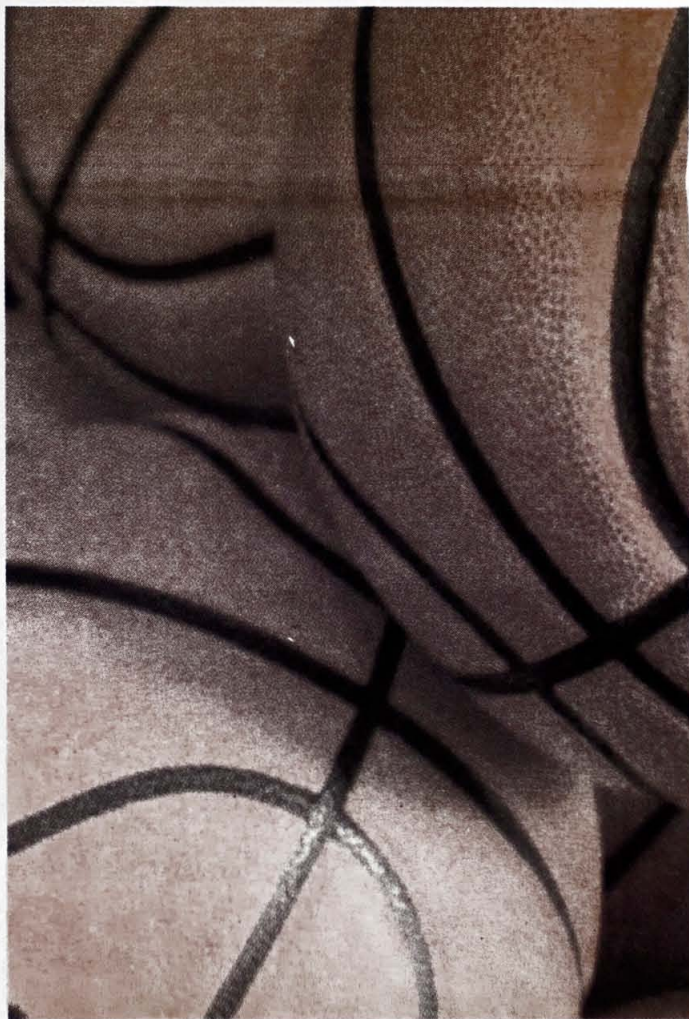
On Sunday, February 10th, the Renegades Men's Basketball team competed against Boise State in their second game for the season. The final score was Columbia with 48 and Boise State with 44.

Columbia's point guard, Brian Schodorf, lead the team with 16 points.

The Renegade's next game is on February 25th at 1pm at Lincoln Park High School.



<http://ATHLETICS.COLUM.EDU>



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

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Free legal music comes with fine print

Audio download service available to college staff, students

By George P. Sleo
Assistant Campus News Editor

College students and faculty can now legally download music and videos without using their credit cards.

Ruckus Network, a company that distributes music and videos to college students online announced last month that the company will now offer its services for free to all college stu-

dents and faculty with a valid .edu e-mail address. While the service is free, companies pay Ruckus to have their advertisements shown around the program's interface, which ultimately slows download times.

"Since we opened [the service] to all students, Ruckus already has hundreds of thousands of users," said Chris Lawson, director of corporate development at Ruckus Network.

But there's a catch.

Lawson said its relationship with major record labels and thousands of independent labels

plays a role in making the service free, but because the company doesn't actually own the music, songs are only available for a 30-day trial. Once the trial ends, so does the song—deleting itself from the user's computer.

"Since college students are the most engaged consumers of digital media, the record labels were excited to work with us to allow their music to be made available to all [students]," Lawson said.

While users can make unlimited downloads onto their PC, transferring music to a CD or

MP3 player carries a subscription fee of \$3.99 per month or \$19.99 per semester. Members also cannot use Microsoft Zune or iTunes media players to listen to their music. Instead, students must use the Ruckus player implemented with the program.

In the past, Ruckus had contracts with colleges such as Indiana University, which would pay a fee to have servers set up on campus. However, because of the company's growth, Ruckus decided to make the service available to all college students.

Self-proclaimed music junkie Darren Harrison said free music downloads would mean more money in his bank account. Harrison, a junior journalism major, said he buys his music through iTunes and over a 2-to-3-year span and has spent more than \$900 purchasing music online.

"I have exactly 1,964 songs on my computer," Harrison said. "Not all of them are from iTunes [though]."

Harrison said he would seldom download pirated music, primarily because some songs carry computer viruses.

"I have a good job, so paying [for music] so that my computer doesn't crash isn't a big deal,"

he said.

Harrison joined the Ruckus Network after hearing about it from his roommate, and while it is free he said the service has downsides.

"The site has advertisements, so downloads aren't as fast," Harrison said.

Lawson said Ruckus will still seek contracts with schools even though the service is free to all students.

"Schools that establish contracts with us will have enhanced user experience with faster downloads [on campus],"

Lawson said. "Regardless, the service is safe, free and legal."

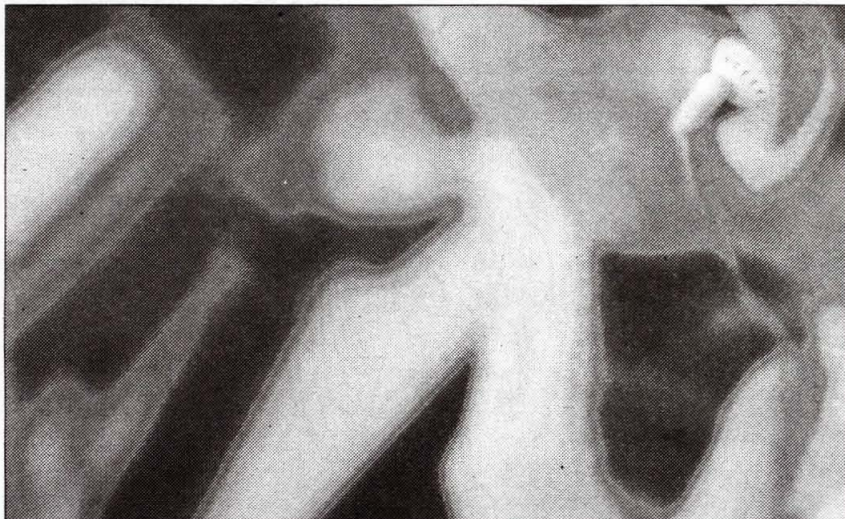
The site also includes networking similar to Facebook, where users can set up profiles. According to the Ruckus website, the feature was established so users can send personal media recommendations to friends and browse classmate profiles.

Ali Matin, a junior film and video major, said he also uses Ruckus Network.

"It's not a service I would pay for, but it is free," Matin said.

For more information, visit www.ruckusnetwork.com

gsleo@chroniclemail.com



KRT

Students who previously turned to illegal online downloading can now turn to Ruckus Network for their music. The catch: students will have to pay if they want to burn songs onto CDs or put them on iPods.

ATTENTION GRADUATING POETS

We invite you to enter the Allen & Lynn Turner Commencement poetry competition.

The winning poem will appear in the commencement program and will be read by the poet at the commencement ceremony.

The winning poet will be awarded \$750!

Please submit your poem typed on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper and attach two cover letters: one with the title of your poem(s), your name, program, address, phone number and email address and one with only the title of your poem(s) to Paula Payton, coordinator of services, English department, 600 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60605.

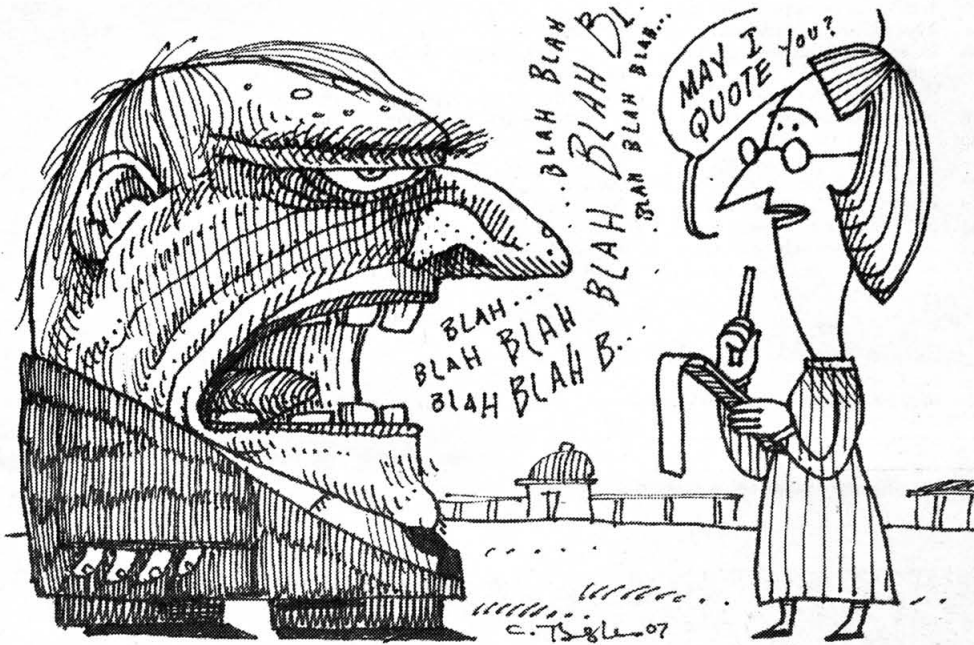
This contest is open to all graduating students, both undergraduate and graduate. DEADLINE: MARCH 1st.

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

create...
change

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**

Send Submissions to:
Political Cartoon Contest
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.

Illinois lawmakers push for textbook savings

Proposed laws may save students cash on schoolbooks

By George P. Sleo
Assistant Campus News Editor

Sales tax on college textbooks may be coming to an end for college students, and they can thank Illinois legislators for pushing the set of laws to make it happen.

At a news conference in Springfield two weeks ago, Sen. Mattie Hunter, (D-Ill.), proposed three new laws that would aid students with the growing cost of textbooks. If passed, the laws would require instructors to recommend previous book editions as opposed to newer ones and remove the 5 percent sales tax applied to textbooks.

The last of the three laws would form a special committee, which would create a policy on schools issuing updated textbook editions, mainly because of the high prices associated with newer editions, according to Brian Johnson, spokesman for Sen. Hunter.

While students would save money, the state of Illinois would lose roughly \$28 million in revenue for the 2007-2008 year, according to Johnson.

"Basically, the idea is to ensure that schools are looking at the issue and are helpful to students and faculty," Johnson said. "A lot of times you have

these textbook editions that don't change much. This would give students better options."

Currently, the laws are being reviewed for approval by House and Senate. If both houses approve, Governor Rod Blagojevich would make it official by signing off on it.

While a target date wasn't mentioned, state legislators in Washington, Michigan and New Jersey are looking to pass similar laws, according to the National Association of College Stores, a nonprofit advocate for college stores. If passed, the law would apply to both public and private schools.

Students like Joanne Yoo, a sophomore arts, entertainment and media management major, said if the tax exemption is applied, students would be able to use the money toward other expenses, such as school supplies. Currently, Yoo said she purchases her textbooks online because she finds better deals.

"It's not like students have money falling from trees," Yoo said. "I mean, we are an art school, [school's] expensive."

Yoo said she feels students rarely use textbooks at Columbia and don't want to spend money on a book they only open twice.

"I just feel [students] are getting ripped off left and right," she said.

Over the last two decades, textbook inflation has risen at twice the normal rate, mainly because publishers are driving

up costs with CD-ROMs and related web sites implemented with course books, according to a 2005 study by the Government Accountability Office.

Ideally, Johnson said the proposal would represent a starting point to ultimately offer students the option to rent their textbooks and potentially save students hundreds of dollars each semester. And while publishers sell books to public and private colleges, students at four-year public universities spent an average of \$898 on textbooks and supplies during the 2003-2004 school year, according to the GAO study.

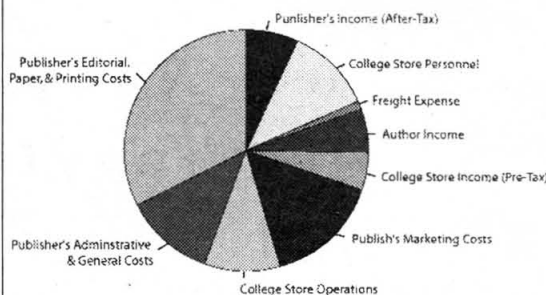
Institutions like Eastern Illinois University have been renting books to their students since 1899. Carol Miller, deputy director of textbook rental service at EIU, said students are charged \$7.95 per credit-hour, with the average student spending roughly \$120 a semester on books.

"We have great support for our textbook-rental system," Miller said. "It really helps out the student with their [college] expenses."

According to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, an estimated \$10 million would be needed to provide each school with book rental programs, something Johnson said the state's current budget doesn't have.

Human sexuality instructor Corey McWilliams, said cost

New Textbook Dollar Distribution



Source: National Association of College Stores 2006

plays a role when choosing his course book.

"I've always believed that it's important not to let books get in the way of a [student's] education," McWilliams said.

McWilliams said his required text costs \$25, but in the past used books that carried an \$80 price tag.

"Textbooks have been a problem with my students, particularly because of cost," McWilliams said. "I'm all for [exempting the sales tax,] but it would only help in a small way."

Not all students will profit from the removal of textbook

Kim Badger/The Chronicle sales tax. Will Engelmann, a senior photography major, said college books are "ridiculously expensive," and rarely used throughout his academic career. Currently, Engelmann only has his 2007 fall semester left before he graduates.

"I'm only going to be taking photo classes and won't need any more textbooks," Engelmann said. "I'm just happy that I'm never buying another textbook again, ever."

gsleo@chroniclemail.com

Authoring a culture of human rights:

exploring human rights studies as an emerging field

When is art more powerful than law?

How has journalism saved lives?

How can higher education move the "ideal" of human rights from theory to practice?

Professor Mark Ensalcado is the founding member of the International Human Rights Education Consortium and founder and former Director of the International Studies and Human Rights Studies Programs at the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Ensalcado has been invited to Columbia College Chicago to facilitate a discussion with faculty, administrators and students on the role of human rights education on college campuses.

Monday, February 26th, 2007 3:30pm

Hoken Annex 623 S. Wabash

Sponsored by The Department of Liberal Education

Free and open to the public.





PRODUCTION WEEK

Production Week is a handful of sessions designed to help you (the student filmmaker) better pitch, produce and package your film work to attract the attention of crew & film festivals.

Monday, Feb. 19

Pitching Session 4-7PM / Rm. 503, 1104 S. Wabash / Presented by Producer's Guild of Columbia

Let Production Week begin! Experience the Art of Pitching from Producing and Screenwriting Faculty that will provide feedback to students with advanced projects in order to successfully prepare for Meet and Greet the following day. All students are encouraged to attend! Food and beverage will be provided.

Tuesday, Feb. 20

Spring 2007 Meet & Greet 4-7PM / Rm. 801, 1104 S. Wabash / Presented by the Advanced Production Center

Looking to work on an advanced film this semester? Need to fill out your crew? Stop by the 2007 spring meet & greet, pitch, watch a pitch, grab a snack, shake a few hands, and GET CREWED UP!!! (It's that simple.)

Directors & Producers – Sign up to pitch in the Advanced Production Center (Room 517) or the Film & Video Office (Room 301) or just show up ready to go. Note: This has to be a Columbia sanctioned project to pitch – Sorry.

Cinematographers – Bring Reels

Everyone Else – Bring Your Bad Self (along with resumes, reels, portfolios, samples of work, etc. – if you got 'em. If not, just your bad self will do.)

Wednesday, Feb. 21

That's a Wrap: Packaging & Marketing Your Film Work 4-6PM / HUB, 1104 S. Wabash / Presented by the Portfolio Center

In addition to what's being seen and heard on screen, your films are also being evaluated on how they are presented. Whether it is assembling your reel, developing a website or designing a film's marketing materials the output must be a professional representation. We'll show examples and have several local film professionals and film festival organizers comment on what sells and what doesn't. Our guests: Mike McNamara, Co-Director of the Midwest Independent Film Festival; Annie Porter, Producer for Image Union; Dixon Galvez-Searle, Editor for Screen Magazine; Joanna Miller with the Chicago International Documentary Festival and Kimberly McArthur, Publicity and PR expert with Edelman PR (and formerly the Chicago Latino Film Festival)

Thursday, Feb. 22

Producer's Guild of Columbia General Meeting 5-7PM / HUB, 1104 S. Wabash / Presented by Producer's Guild of Columbia

All students interested in learning about producing, want to sign up to work on advanced productions, or want to be involved with the Producer's Guild of Columbia are encouraged to attend. All majors welcome! Food and beverage will be provided.

Friday, Feb. 23

Staged Readings 2-5PM / Rm. 302, 1104 S. Wabash / Presented by Producer's Guild of Columbia

The final wrap-up session to Production week will give students a more audio/visual experience of what Columbia's advanced films are about. In addition, interested students may sign-up to work on films or answer short questionnaires to aid the filmmakers in the process.

Visit www.colum.edu/portfolio and click the "Portfolio Reviews and Events" link for updates.

Awards: WCRX receives awards for radio excellence

Continued from Page 3

three-hour Katrina relief program in 2005 that also won an Award of Distinction. For the program, Columbia partnered with four Illinois college radio stations, including University of Illinois at Chicago and North Central College, for a fundraiser and tribute to the historical significance of the city of New Orleans.

"I thought it was really cool how we were all able to come together," Frieders said. "During the event, we were so focused on the task at hand that we didn't really see what was going on. It was really cool to see that the hard work we put into the project was acknowledged."

Sam Willis, Columbia alumnus and distribution and production assistant at WFMT-FM, wrote

and performed a holiday rap when he was asked to put together a festive promo for the station in 2005. He said he didn't fit the rapper prototype, but he felt the project would push him outside the comfort of his usual style. His Santa rap, accompanied by rhyming elves, surprised many of his friends because of his usual introverted nature, he said.

"I took a risk and put everything on the line and it paid off," he said. "The response I got really solidified my belief in myself and the things I can do."

Willis' Santa rap won an Award of Excellence at the Communicator Awards this year and third place at the 2005 National Student Radio Production Awards, hosted by the Collegiate Broadcasters Incorporated.

"Basically, I got my job because of what I did at WCRX," he said. "I think those awards and the response I got back from people encouraged me to continue my career path. It made me feel like I could do this."

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

Protest: Students attempt school-wide strike to protest Iraqi war

Continued from Front Page

Mark Lloyd, associate vice president of Marketing and Communication, issued a response to the declaration on Feb. 14 on

behalf of Columbia president Warrick L. Carter.

"The college respects the right for all citizens to express their opinions in dialogue and peaceful actions," Lloyd said. "Because we live in a pluralistic society, we also encourage civility and the respect for the rights of others who may have divergent opinions on issues."

Lloyd went on to say that although Carter respects the students' concerns, he also recognizes the rights of students who

pay tuition to have classes conducted without interruption.

Hamlin said it's understandable for some students who pay tuition to not want the school to shut down, but the issue is worth sacrificing a day of school over.

"We welcome people to come and debate," Hamlin said. "But the point is, the seriousness of the situation in Iraq right now and with the Bush administration gearing up to go into Iran, the time is really now to stop ignoring it."

Vikki Tonge, a freshman pho-

tography major, watched the demonstration unfold outside the building while on break from her art history class. Tonge said although she supports the cause for the strike, she thinks there are better ways to convey the message.

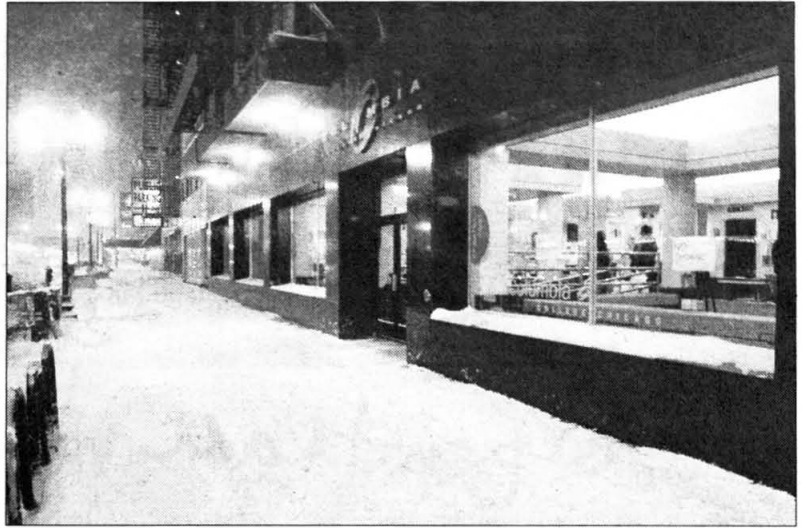
"It's good that our generation is finally getting around to doing something," Tonge said. "But standing outside of a school that is south of [where] all the big wigs are isn't really getting the message out."

David Reminick, a part-time faculty member in the Music Department didn't cancel his classes to attend the strike, but did reschedule them.

"My goal wasn't to hurt the students, but to make a statement on the topic," Reminick said. "It's so easy to sit on your hands and ignore what's going on. No matter how small the gesture, I think it's important to do something and to try to make a statement."

jewert@chroniclemail.com

A Wabash wonderland



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Inches of snow accumulate on the sidewalk in front of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., during the winter storm on Feb. 13. As a result of that morning's snow and the forecasted snow for the evening, Columbia canceled all classes after 5 p.m.

Students, deadline is Thursday, February 20, 2007!

exhibition internship

CORE BY LIZ NOFZIGER

[C]Spaces is looking for students to assist with of its upcoming exhibition, CORE by Liz Nofziger.

This is a **RARE** opportunity for students to work directly with professional visiting artist Liz Nofziger on a site-specific installation in the Glass Curtain Gallery. Students will be paid \$8.00/hr and are required to work a minimum of 15 hours during the week of March 5-9th, 2007.

To learn more about Liz Nofziger, please visit: www.nofzilla.com

TO BE ELIGIBLE:

- Applicants must be currently enrolled at Columbia College Chicago. Both undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to apply.
- Students must have experience with hand tools and art handling/installation experience.
- Students must be available to work a minimum of 15 hours or more between March 5-9th.

TO APPLY:

Please send a letter of interest and current resume to:
Mark Porter, Glass Curtain Gallery Exhibition Coordinator
Email: mporter@colum.edu
or 1104 S. Wabash Ave, Suite #F, Chicago, IL, 60605

DEADLINE: Tuesday, February 20th, 4pm

QUESTIONS? Call: 312.344.6643



Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

visit COLUM.EDU/SCHOLARSHIPS

Open to all majors

- Alumni Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Bob Enrietto Scholarship/Semester in L.A. (Summer Deadline: March 15, 2007, Fall Deadline: April 1, 2007)
- David Rubin Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Helen Fong Dare Scholarship (Deadline: March 16, 2007)
- Hermann Conaway Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Hillary Kalish Scholarship (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- John Murbach Scholarship/Designer-in-Residence (Deadline: March 15, 2007)
- Ron Pitts Scholarship (Deadline: April 3, 2007)

Department scholarships

ART & DESIGN

- Pougialis Fine Arts Award (Deadline: April 2007)

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA MANAGEMENT

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

ASL - ENGLISH INTERPRETATION

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

DANCE

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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

FICTION WRITING

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

JOURNALISM

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

MARKETING COMMUNICATION

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

MUSIC

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

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Kodak Scholarship (Deadline: April 2007)

RADIO

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

TELEVISION

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

THEATER

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

create...
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Columbia 

COLLEGE CHICAGO

Energy: Columbia signs two-year contract for renewable energy

Continued from Page 3

of Business Development for Community Energy, Inc. Basically, RECs fund production of renewable energy to offset an institution's environmental damage.

Columbia's REC purchase offsets the same amount of carbon dioxide pollution as planting 417,642 trees or taking 444 cars off the road a year, according to data provided by Community Energy, Inc.

However, the Office of Campus Environment partnered with a Chicago consulting firm, Sieben Energy Associates, to sign a contract with an electricity provider. Columbia had previously received electricity from Commonwealth Edison, whose increasing rates recently garnered media attention.

"Columbia faced a 50 percent increase in its electric rates if it remained a ComEd customer," said Jerry Burin, Columbia's lead consultant from Sieben Energy Associates.

Columbia's REC contract and the regular electricity contract with MidAmerican Energy, its new provider, both good for two years, cost the college 30 percent less than a new ComEd contract, Burin said.

"We didn't want to lock in any longer than two years because rates fluctuate," Berg said. "I would hope renewable energy would get less expensive as it becomes more competitive with other energy, and we would love to keep increasing that [percentage of renewable energy]."

The main competition of renewable energy is coal energy, which is cheaper to produce, but at the cost of releasing harmful emissions like sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

RECs pay for production costs of using a renewable source such as wind, sun or biomass to capture electrons. Then, a power provider, like ComEd, buys the electrons and channels them to homes, businesses and in this case, colleges.

"You can't designate electrons to certain places," McCain said. "So, the model for people who want to support renewable energy is to purchase RECs."

Theoretically, electricity produced by one of the two Community Energy, Inc. wind farms in Illinois could be powering Columbia; it is impossible to know because the renewable energy mixes with other energy and flows into Illinois' general electricity grid system.

Purchasing RECs equivalent to 30 percent of its electricity intake makes Columbia the third Illinois college, following Northwestern University, with 20 percent, and Saint Xavier University, with at least 20 percent, to be eligible for the U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership Leadership Club, to which Columbia is currently applying.

The partnership encourages institutions to support renewable energy and awards those that purchase at least 20

percent of their electricity use in RECs with recognition and marketing assistance.

"We are the perfect kind of organization to put our beliefs into action, enhance our environment and be cost effective," Berg said. "It's smart business."

U.S. colleges and students are generally very aware of their campus' impact on the environment, said David Broz, an architect at Gensler, an architecture firm Columbia has worked with on 30 different projects.

"I would say Columbia College is probably right there with the top institutions across the country that think sustainability is an important practice," Broz said.

The Office of Campus Environment plans to make Columbia greener later this year by cultivating native plants at the 11th Street and Wabash Avenue sculpture garden, which will require less water, seeking an exploratory grant to further develop the school's recycling program, and initiating environmental sustainability communication among students and faculty.

"I want to keep raising the bar," Berg said. "I want to keep looking for ways we can improve our recycling, or that next time we renew the contract we can buy more renewable energy."

bpalmer@chroniclemail.com

"I would say Columbia College is probably right there with the top institutions across the country that think sustainability is an important practice."

—David Broz, an architect at Gensler, a firm that works with Columbia

iTunes: New Apple Inc. network could improve Columbia classes

Continued from Page 3

general public, Courington said.

She admitted few professors use OASIS but is confident the new system will encourage faculty and students to find new and creative ways to use technology for classroom purposes.

"I think it'll have a better wow factor," she said. "We get people using [iTunes U] and they're going to use some of the other features that are on OASIS. They'll be more

comfortable."

Rachel Swain, a freshman cultural studies major, said the idea sounds great as long as it doesn't negatively affect OASIS and mirror the recent aggravation with not receiving an OASIS e-mail sent by one of her professors.

"It wasn't dire, but it was a frustration because what if it was more important?" she said. "If the system could handle [iTunes U], I think it's a good idea."

Swain said she has a MacBook and has never had a problem with any of her Apple products or any of its customer service.

If all goes as planned, Courington said Columbia will be ready for the pilot this summer, with several summer class teachers enthusiastic about trying out the new system. She hopes to run a college-wide launch for the fall semester.

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

Courtesy Columbia Center of Academic Technology

iTunes U, a new Apple content server, was piloted at several universities with positive response. Columbia plans to launch a similar iTunes U account starting in the fall.

Listen up Students...

Are you outgoing? Like to meet new people?
Do you love to have fun?

Become an Orientation Leader!

Orientation Leaders...

- Become a positive role model
- Gain valuable skills & talents through extensive leadership training
- Network with faculty and staff
- Meet and greet new students and parents
- ...ALL WHILE GETTING PAID FOR THIS SUMMER POSITION!

If interested, please pick up an Orientation Leader Packet in:

The NSPO Office in Rm. 303 of 623 S. Wabash
or 1104 S. Wabash in the HUB

APPLICATIONS DUE...MARCH 2nd, 2007!
In the NSPO Office Rm. 303 of 623 S. Wabash

For more information, contact the Office of New Student Programs & Orientation at 312.344.8675

Office of **NEW PROGRAMS & STUDENT ORIENTATION**



Courtesy Community Energy, Inc.

The Crescent Ridge Wind Farm, in Bureau County, Ill., is one of two wind farms owned and operated by Community Energy, Inc., a nonprofit renewable energy company hired in a two-year contract by Columbia.

Editorials

More international students needed

Last week, The Chronicle ran a story about the low number of international students at Columbia. The story compared Columbia's enrollment numbers of international students in schools such as DePaul University, Roosevelt University and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Not surprisingly, Columbia's international student population is way below national averages—which is 3.2 percent, according to research.

There were only 154 international students enrolled as of spring 2007, which translates to 1.4 percent of 10,600 students. Other schools, like DePaul, had 4.2 percent enrollment, while the School of the Art Institute of Chicago had 18.5 percent.

When it comes to diversifying the student body, we're not even on the proverbial map. And this is a sad state of affairs.

Mark Kelly, Columbia's vice president of Student Affairs, said Columbia doesn't concentrate much on international students because of "other enrollment priorities," which are numbers of graduate, minor-

ity and out-of-state students.

Taking a cue from Sen. Barack Obama's speech in Springfield, IL on Feb. 10, perhaps it's the "smallness of our politics" that keeps Columbia's administration thinking locally instead of globally.

Maybe that's a tad cynical to say, but diversity is not synonymous with minority. The college must not only strike a balance between out-of-state and minority students, but also spread its wings worldwide. This school needs as many bright minds as possible to contribute to Columbia's growing pool of talented artists.

Columbia should take a cue from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and have a commitment to recruiting international students on par with its domestic student recruitment. Unless the college is ready to make that pledge, then all minor improvements meant to increase international student numbers are fruitless.

Kelly is absolutely right in saying that a lack of international students would create a "myopic view of the world and how it works"

among students and faculty.

Kelly said there are plans to revamp Columbia's international recruitment methods. The international student application is available on the college's website and recruitment has been implemented into admission operations. Kelly also said the school will be attending college fairs in Thailand, Korea, Japan and possibly China starting next fall.

This is definitely a step in the right direction, but it is still embarrassing that the college falls under national averages. This is a glaring contradiction with the college's mission to create more diversity. From what the college has been doing so far, Columbia has not been able to diversify this campus internationally.

We understand that Columbia has a lot on its plate—addressing space concerns and enrollment issues takes time to resolve. However, the college needs to address this sooner. Much like in Disneyland, once the visit to the Epcot Center is over, it's time to come back to reality: Put those Mickey Mouse ears away and get back to work.

Pay attention to the road

Feb. 10: A 14-year-old girl sitting in the back seat of a Ford Escort died after her car rear-ended a Honda around 11 p.m. Both cars sped excessively, according to police.

Feb. 11: Four Oswego teenagers were killed and four more were injured after a car's intoxicated driver struck a utility pole around 2:30 a.m.

Feb. 12: A woman was fatally struck by a hit-and-run accident on Chicago's South Side around 6 a.m.

Not to mention the five-month-old who died on Feb. 7 due to her driver's reckless behavior and the death of two other men involved in separate crashes on Feb. 12.

The "accident" on Feb. 11 opened many eyes to the terror of reckless behavior. That accident was a lesson about the dangers of drinking and driving, but considering the number of other fatalities that didn't involve drugs or alcohol, the message is also about the dangers of careless driving.

Americans live in a time when technology is taking over the wheel. Some drivers feel comfortable, even invincible in their cars, unaware of the possible harm they can

cause to themselves and others when they are distracted. There are plenty of new devices that entertain drivers while on the road, such as the new Sync by Microsoft and Ford that allows hands-free cell-phone calls, e-mail and music downloads. Then there are the cars that parallel park for the driver. Who knows—maybe telepathy-driven cars are right around the corner.

But no matter how hands-free a car's device may be, it's impossible not to be distracted by e-mails and musical options. Most people can't even download music on their laptop and watch TV at the same time. Unfortunately, some Americans have bought into the idea that a car is a place for comfort and luxury, not a means of transportation that carries both privileges and responsibilities.

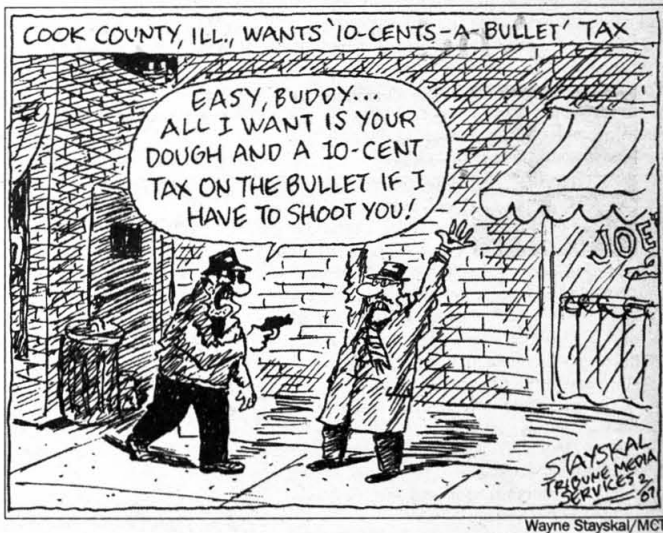
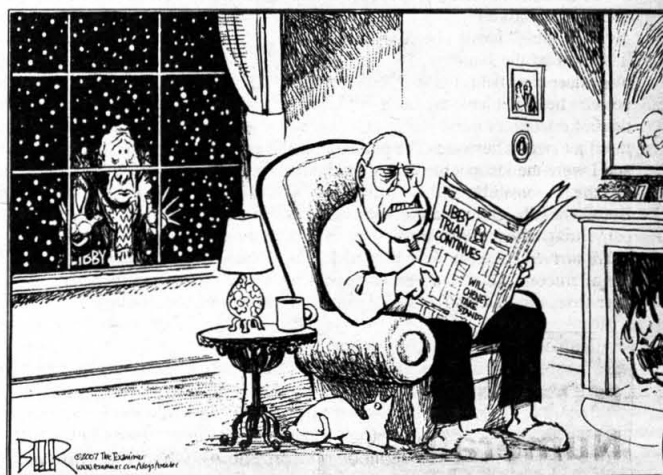
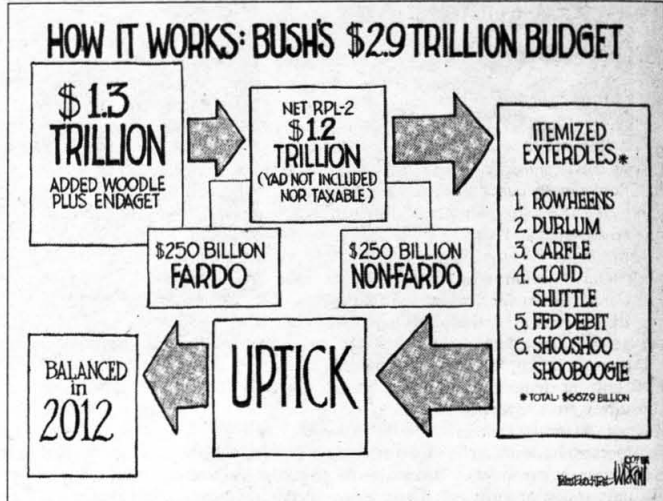
Drivers nowadays think it's okay to multitask while behind the wheel. They think it's okay to speed and run red lights. They also, apparently, think it's okay to shove far too many people into a car because they don't want to wait for another ride. Reckless driving is a problem across the nation, as statistics show.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports 43,443 people died as a result of car crashes in 2005, up 1 percent from the previous year. Or as the NHTSA put it, "an average of 119 persons died each day in motor vehicle crashes in 2005—one every 12 minutes." These statistics include vehicle occupants and non-motorists such as pedestrians and bike riders.

While some factors contributing to these fatalities are out of the driver's control, such as bad weather or faulty brakes and airbags, other factors are the responsibility of the driver. Car crashes are the leading cause of death in people age 3 to 33, according to the NHTSA.

These deaths could easily be prevented by an extra peek in all directions to look for surrounding cars or pedestrians. They could be avoided by stopping at a red light instead of speeding up, and they could be prevented by simply using common sense. So please, drivers, spare a couple minutes away from the Internet and music, put your hands at 9 and 3 and focus on the road. We know you can do it.

Back from the Drawing Boards



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

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

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Keep your eyes peeled in Springfield



By Cyrril Jakubowski
Commentary Editor

As soon as we sat down in the confined space known as the coach seat of an Amtrak train headed for Springfield, Ill., I knew that this would be a strange trip. This

was coach—the mode of transportation for drunks, housewives and apparently, college journalists.

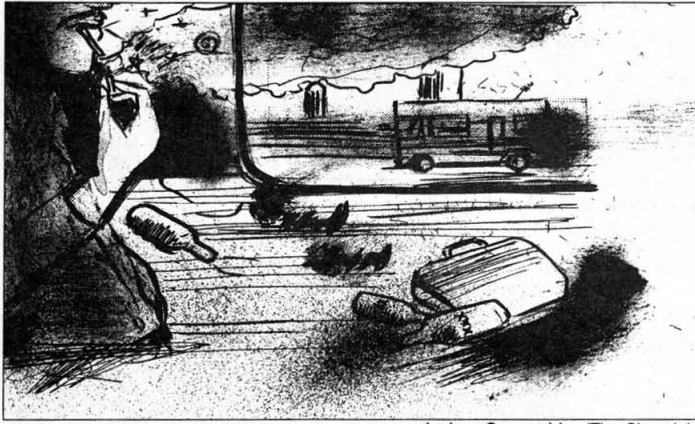
Our mission was simple: Go to the Capitol and cover Sen. Barack Obama's (D-Ill.) presidential announcement. I have never covered anything this big as a reporter, so I didn't know what to expect.

My anxieties of performing under pressure were heightened when a grandmother with an unruly child sat across from the photographer and me. The fact that I was self-medicating with Wild Turkey, while going past miles of rusty silos and dilapidated Winnebagos, didn't help either.

"Could you babysit him?" the grandmother eventually asked.

"Yeah, sure," I said, obviously feeling the ill-effects of the bourbon. By then the kid was sleeping. And thank God for that, because he didn't have the luxury of hearing the sailor storm of curse words and obscenities that came afterward. The photographer and I were the last people who should have had the responsibility of babysitting a child. But eventually granny came back and our babysitting adventure was over.

We arrived in Springfield around five in the afternoon. We met a French photographer from McClatchy-Tribune news service,



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

who invited us to go and get our credentials with him. But we were not on the list for press credential pick up.

However, after much struggle and polite shouting, everything was in order. We had the credentials and we had the hotel.

Then fear began to show its ugly hide. Would I cover the event righteously? What if my recorder runs out of batteries?

I guess I would have to improvise. When the day of the event came, I did my best to fit in with the army of media professionals who descended on the town like a pack of rabid vultures. I wore a tie.

Springfield looks like a micro version of Washington D.C.—without the press corps, the president or, apparently, nightlife. It truly is the middle of nowhere. It's the type of town that has six major streets, convenient-

ly called 1st through 6th.

The crowds that came out to support Obama were a determined bunch. The streets were littered with used up hand-warmers. And despite the insatiable cold, children sat on their parents' shoulders and waved Obama 08 signs as if it were the Fourth of July.

I stood there on the media riser, with my fingers frozen, clutching a Panasonic recorder, cursing. A historic event was happening while I debated the quality of my leather gloves.

There was chaos all around.

Anchor with microphones resembling lolipops fed their reports to headquarters miles away every 15 minutes.

Then the ink in my pen froze. I was panicking while fumbling for a pencil buried in

my coat.

At some point after Obama left the stage I rushed to interview people in the crowd. I talked to a few pro-lifers who were protesting Obama but nothing they've said made sense. It had nothing to do with a presidential announcement.

So I kept moving.

There was a point when I stood in awe in front of massive crowds, people passing me left and right, and I couldn't help thinking—get it together and talk to anyone available!

And as I sat in my hotel room later, writing my story, I thought about the meaning of this trip. Despite that chaos that came along with reporting on something of this magnitude, I was glad I had the chance to be a part of this.

This wasn't about an African-American announcing his presidential candidacy. The fact that 17,000 people came out to see this man speak showed something that couldn't be described in words. This was about the essential hunger for change in American politics. This was about finding a leader.

The next morning the Amtrak station in Springfield was filled with homeless guys. The fact that our train was delayed by two and a half hours was enough of a disappointment. I worried about being stabbed.

Then the French photographer showed up again. In the best French accent since Gerard Depardieu, he said he was "pissed." He would not make his flight home. As we waited, we talked about the American Dream and how bizarre it was for a train to be late here. He couldn't rent a car because they were closed on Sundays.

"I am f—ed," he said. Then he made a pledge to never take Amtrak again.

Roamin' Numerals

\$25,000 The maximum fine, along with up to five years in prison, that a Sheboygan, Wis., felon faces for accidentally shooting himself in the foot. Patrick R. Hupf Jr., 31, was cleaning his .22 caliber rifle on Feb. 9, when the gun fired and hit his foot. Sheboygan County prosecutors charged the man with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

\$50 The price of a customizable mini-bar at the Catalina Hotel and Beach Club in Miami's South Beach. The hotels are offering "Pimp Your Fridge," and "Get it On," packages. One lets you party like a rock star and cure the hangover and the other includes edible body paint, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

3 Number of weeks that a St. Petersburg, Fla., teen has been hiccupping. Jennifer Mee, 15, has hiccupped close to 50 times a minute despite blood tests, CT scans and an MRI. Doctors can't find the cause of her problem and drugs haven't worked. Old remedies such as holding the breath, scares and sugar under the tongue also haven't worked, according to The Associated Press.

And the award for best dictator goes to...



By Eric Kasang
Managing Editor

The Grammys are dead and the Academy Awards are irrelevant. But it's time for one award "celebration" that can't be ignored: Parade magazine's 2007 "Dictates" Awards. Actually, it's Parade's annual report

of "Who is the World's Worst Dictator?" but my roommate dubbed it the Dictates since every other award has a catchy name.

The magazine, which compiled reports from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch as well as the U.S. State Department, looked at different areas like media censorship, suppression of basic rights, torture and executions.

As a disclaimer, I can't stand Parade. Most of the covers portray celebrities who fluff up the articles discussing their "struggles" to make it. If any readers actually enjoy reading Parade on a weekly basis, then write me off as a pretentious malcontent.

Except when it comes to the Dictates—I'm all for this yearly gem. The magazine compiled the Top 10 worst dictators and ranked the "contenders" from 11 to 20.

And what a crazy Top 20 it is this year.

2007 DICTATOR AWARDS



KIM JONG-IL

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

The biggest surprise was the Fidel Castro snub this year. Parade, which ranked Castro as No. 15 last year, knocked the 80-year-old dictator off the list because he relinquished power to his brother Raul while undergoing surgery. Get well, Fidel. There's always next year.

Russian president Vladimir Putin jumped on the list for the first time at No. 20 probably because of allegedly knowing and/or

authorizing assassinations of his critics with bullets or radioactive poisonings. Just look at Alexander Litvinenko, former KGB agent and Putin critic; he became gravely ill in London and doctors discovered he had been poisoned with polonium 210, a rare radioactive material, before he died. Although the Kremlin denied any involvement, Cold War tactics are creeping back in style.

What impressed me about the Parade article was that it called out the Bush family's buddy, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia. Moving to 5th place from last year's 7th, his country is known for public executions, limiting women's rights and beating people caught hanging out with an unknown individual of the opposite sex. Well, as long as the Saudi family keeps cranking out the oil, the United States will continue to look the other way.

And who obtained the No. 1 spot for worst dictator of 2006? Why, Sudanese president Omar Al-Bashir, of course. While allowing government-backed militias—the janjaweed—to continuously slaughter poor farmers in the Darfur region of western Sudan, he denies any involvement in the systematic deaths of more than 200,000 people. He also blames international aid agencies "for exaggerating the problems as a ploy to raise money for their organiza-

tions," according to Parade.

Al-Bashir's state-sponsored genocide trumped nuke-totting North Korean president Kim Jong-il, who ranked 2nd, and Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Khamenei of Iran's Grand Council, listed as 3rd.

Although Parade dedicated its cover and three pages to the Dictates, it needs to be taken one step further. After all, this is America, and we have awards ceremonies for almost everything, such as the Blockbuster Awards and the Screen Actors Guild Awards. So, let's host an awards show with all the pomp and circumstance of a typical Hollywood affair.

The Dictates will have wacky skits like the Academy Awards; Jon Stewart of "The Daily Show" or Stephen Colbert of "The Colbert Report" can skewer the dictatorial nominees with their political observations; the winners can even thank their respective families and death squads.

Now I'm not suggesting a get-them-all-in-one-room-and-bomb-them scenario—that's just lame. Instead, I'm suggesting we let them loose on the town and designate Chicago to host the first live "Dictates" Awards Show.

A word of advice to the nominees through: Better check the gifts bags first. Some of the baggers may pack them Kremlin-style.

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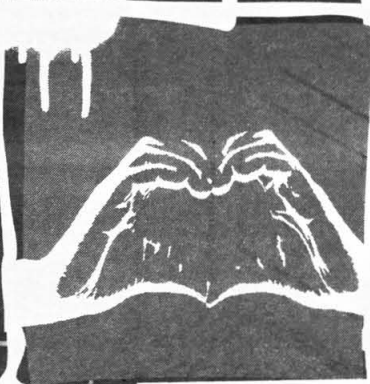
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SHOWCASING THE DIVERSE TALENT OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE



Thursday Feb. 22, 07
623 S. Wabash/Hokin Annex
7:00-9:30pm

Open Mic sign-up 6pm-7pm
Feature Performance @ 8:00pm by

"THE CUPID PLAYERS"

Hosted By: Will Crespo

**Admission Policy: Columbia College Chicago student with a Valid Spring 2007 Columbia College ID.
(Each Columbia College Chicago student is permitted 1 non-Columbia guest)**

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create...
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An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle

Have You **REGISTERED** To

VOTE

More Importantly Have You
Registered To

RUN

For Office In The
2008 Presidential Election
Don't lose out on one of your
basic **FREEDOMS**



Confessions

by Kristin Kalter

Not a legit Brit

I'm a busy bee and sometimes I like to take a vacation from reality. Taking five classes, working two jobs and holding an internship all at the same time would drive me crazy if I didn't find the time to amuse myself, even if it's just something small and silly. One thing I've found to be quite entertaining—to both myself and others—is the act of stepping outside of my persona and taking on a whole new identity.

One of my friends from the Navy mastered this art of deception. In boot camp, he told everyone he was from Australia, complete with an accent and stories of surfing “down under.” I guess he didn't plan to keep the act up forever. Although when he got stationed in Washington, one of the guys from his boot camp division was stationed there with him. He was too proud to tell him he was really from California, and so he kept the

act up the whole time he was in the military. I was even fooled. This guy was so good—even when he was drunk and completely wasted—that his accent never slipped. It was only about a year ago when I found out the truth about him through one of his ex-girlfriends, the only one who knew the whole time. She said his accent was just a lisp.

But his perseverance inspired me to see how much I could convince people I was from some other land or culture. I've had plenty of opportunities to experiment with the large number of customers I've served in the restaurant industry.

Not too long ago, I thought I perfected my British accent and I tested it out one night with all my might to this couple I waited on. They instantly became more interested than the typical customers who usually just rush through their server's small talk. But I ran into a problem when the man asked me where I was from. I responded, “The city,” but it came out more like, “The sit-tay.” But then he asked me exactly where and started naming some streets and locations because apparently he had lived in London for a period of time. Unfortunately I didn't know enough about London to play along, and

with disappointment in my voice, I succumbed to the pressure and told them I lied. They didn't laugh. They actually seemed saddened that they hadn't met a Brit.

So now, instead of trying to mock an existing accent, I found it's better to just make up a language. This is especially great if I can get a friend to play along. I mangle words and sounds as I go along. Usually I try and blend vowels and consonants from English, Spanish, Romanian, Chinese and Japanese. I then try and carry out a meaningless conversation in a crowded public place with a friend. People wonder where I'm from, think I'm exotic and then I can make up a land or country they've never heard of. This will give them stories to tell their friends and possibly amuse a travel agent by attempting to book a vacation in my “home country.”

Keep in mind that all of this is done in fun, and not meant to make fun of other countries or cultures, but rather those people who believe me and to poke fun at myself for acting like such a fool. But it does have its perks, like perfecting acting skills, receiving free drinks and food, free advice and lots of smiles and laughs. It seems like people talk to strangers more if they think they really are new to the city or town, even if they're only from “La La Land.”

kkalter@chroniclemail.com

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



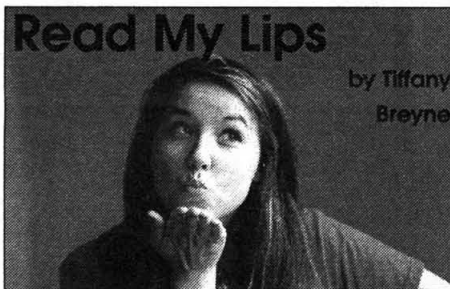
Last week was kind of slow in terms of any major jackass moments, but The Chronicle did manage to find two wonderful tidbits of stupidity that took place on the East Coast. So here's the rundown of the dumb and dumber:

—New York Senator Carl Kruger proposed a ban against using iPods, cell phones or Blackberries while crossing the street to improve pedestrian safety. That's right, Sen. Kruger wants to push a law requiring pedestrians to appear in criminal court and pay a fine of \$110 if caught in a crosswalk with an electronic device.

Apparently, a person turns a blind eye to all passing vehicles while listening to music or talking on a cell phone. We understand the request for better safety precautions and think it's cute in a 5-year-old wearing a cape and shouting “I'm gonna save the world!” kind of way. But the concept of even finding an effective way to monitor such a ban is ridiculous.

The ban can be compared to Chicago's ban last year on using cell phones while driving. According to a CBS2 report on the story, Chicago police gave about 27 citations per day as of last July. CBS2 calculated drivers had a 1 in 100,000 odds of being caught on their cell phones. There's an effective law for ya! Thank the lord, Mayor Daley is keepin' it real and thinks the idea is crazy nonsense. New York: 0. Chicago: 1.

—In some “Hollywood's Trashiest Broads” news, Britney Spears reigns queen once again after a horrible wardrobe decision. Spears went to ONE, a downtown New York City club, on Feb. 11 dressed in a short, low-cut satin-like red dress. Making the one good decision of the night, Spears decided she wasn't comfortably dressed. However, she took a turn for the worst after depending on the club's scantily-clad gogo dancers to supply her with new clothes. The result? She spent the rest of the night wearing a dancer's bikini, a white busboy jacket and her boots. We're just happy she found her clothes and kids after a weekend of partying and looking like a fool in her typical trashy garb. —T. Breyne



Read My Lips

by Tiffany Breyne

Crazy and can't help it

When I went back to the suburbs last Saturday, I got into a minor tiff—pun intended—with my boyfriend. It wasn't a big deal, and about half an hour later we were fine. I started crying while we were arguing. I wasn't bawling but I couldn't stop the tears welling up in my eyes.

The next day, I drove to the doctor's office to get some antibiotics for a minor, but painful, health issue. When I called my sister to let her know where I was, I started crying again. It was probably because I was in physical pain and didn't know how to handle it, but I felt silly and dramatic sniffing in the corner of the doctor's office.

Then it hit me Sunday night. As I opened up my birth control container, I saw that I was in my last week of pills, which meant I was getting my period soon. In other words, I

course, the frequent waterworks show.

I have to admit I cry pretty easily, which I'm somewhat embarrassed about. But last weekend, it felt like the dumbest things were turning my face into a white waterstream, with tears and snot running all over the place.

I know a lot of guys and some girls think PMS is a myth and is just used as an excuse to be bitchy and crazy. But in reality, PMS is real, and it's uncontrollable. I don't appreciate crying like a crazy lady. I'm not fond of the fact that I feel socially awkward in public or that I seriously want to do harm to the kid who incessantly taps on his desk in my history class. But it happens nearly every month.

These emotional fits are annoying and make me question my sanity. But after talking to some female co-

workers about the whole PMS deal, I don't see how being emotional is avoidable.

Ladies only get half a month to be emotionally stable and blood-free. The other half involves our body going through hormonal changes in which pimples, tears and anger are much more likely to occur. Then we go through cramps, tiredness and backaches and have a constant flow of blood coming out of our bodies for a week.

Sorry about the blunt description, but there's no pretty way to describe a period. And there's no pretty or sane way to handle it either. It's possible I'm making this point just to validate my own PMS behavior, but I feel safe in saying I'm not the only one who goes off the deep end for at least two weeks each month. And I also know that not everyone deals with PMS in the same tear-induced, chocolate-laced way. But it still sucks.

In a way, I want to apologize to my boyfriend, people in the waiting room at the doctor's office, my friends and anyone else I've acted erratically toward. But then I realize, it's just the way I deal with PMS, and it's not something that requires an apology or remorse. I'll be back to normal within a few days, I promise. As for that kid in my history class, that tapping is annoying and drives me crazy—PMS or not.

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Love us or hate us...

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

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Ratings Guide

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

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



Amanda Maurer



Beth Palmer



George Slefo

Top 5

THINGS I DON'T NEED, BUT LOVE ANYWAY

Wild things article: Bravo to the Chicago Tribune for covering one serious topic right before Valentine's Day: animal mating rituals. While I didn't need to learn that Humboldt penguins experience more romance than I ever will, it's nice to know the males of at least one species know how to treat a female.

Unnecessary technology: This weekend my family jumped into the 21st century by signing up for wireless Internet and 90-plus cable channels—we previously had dial-up and 30 channels. Our consensus? We weren't missing much, but we don't hate it. Now we can watch twice the number of channels dedicated to local school districts.

Paper towels: Sure they're cheap, disposable and therefore environmentally unfriendly, but it's hard to turn them down when they dazzle you with their designs, sheet sizes and absorbencies. Want to feel like a good person? Cut down your paper towel dependency; it's right up there with saving the whales.

Homemade marshmallows: They aren't worth your time, effort or money, but they taste simply delicious. Martha Stewart, thank you for teaching suburbanites how to make yet another "good thing."

Fabric softener: Sure it costs a few extra bucks, but believe me, it's worth it. At least I think it's worth it. Well, my clothes smell good. Right?

PERFORMERS AT THE JACKSON RED LINE STOP

Tap dancers: They bring their own stage—plexiglass layered on flattened cardboard boxes—and create live music with the metal on their shoes. The teenage boys combine dancing spins, jumps and steps, making their visual performance as interesting as their tapping audio.

Gospel singer: Singing a cappella with her eyes closed, the middle-aged woman with short black curls possesses a sound similar to Joan Armatrading. Her voice, pure yet powerful, turns commuters' heads toward the sound of "Amazing Grace" and other traditional hymns.

Clarinetist: This musician's jazz and blues transport you to a 1940s club like Rick's Cafe Americain in *Casablanca* where you watch Humphrey Bogart notice Ingrid Bergman for the first time.

Female R&B singer: She sings like Ciara and raps breakdowns like Missy Elliot.

Male rapper: Although there are a few, my favorite is a shorter fellow whose rhymes stick in my head well, after I find my seat on the Howard Red Line train. He raps about President Bush, the Red Line and people selling drugs to kids.

THINGS BOYS SHOULD CHANGE TO BECOME MEN

How to act: Watch Clint Eastwood in *The Good, Bad and the Ugly* and apply his way of life to your own; does Clint Eastwood text a girl "goodnight, sweet dreams babe" with a smiley face? NO! I have to witness these acts among my friends, and they wonder why their relationships go sour. I know why: because you're too nice! Get into a fight. Eat a triple whopper. And next time you're in a "manly" situation, ask yourself: What would Clint Eastwood do?

On Oprah: We need to get rid of this myth that women like sensitive guys who are in touch with their feelings. This is an urban legend created by Oprah. If you cry in front of your girl and think she finds it attractive, you're wrong. Men don't have feelings. Remember that.

Coffee shops: Next time you're in a coffee shop, don't think it's OK to order a "mocha latte matte soy tall espresso" followed by "I hate the way this guy makes it. I like the other guy better."

The big event: Men do not get manicures. Every time there's a big event when me and my friends dress up there's always some weirdo that gets his nails done, claming girls like it. NO!

What you read: Men need to stop reading *Stuff* or *Maxim* magazine. Yeah, there are a bunch of hot chicks, but they're feeding us garbage advice. Plus, it makes you look like an idiot. You want advice? Read *GQ*.

Calendar of Events

MONDAY

Ready to turn on the disco ball and rock out? Then check out **Under the Influence of Giants** at the Abbey Pub, 3420 W. Grace St. The show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are **\$12 at the door**, but \$10 in advance. It's also an 18 and over show.

TUESDAY

The Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., tries to prove the pen is mightier than the sword with "Lit Gangs of Chicago: Hands on Stanzas." The program strives to pair **local poets** with **inner-city youth** to explore the power of spoken word. The workshop runs from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is **free**.

WEDNESDAY

Chicago Scriptworks performs a staged reading of **Stanley F. Werse's "Opus in a Minor Key"** at the Chicago Cultural Center's Studio Theater, 72 E. Washington. A **\$5 donation** is requested. Reservations can be made by visiting chicagoscriptworks.org or calling (312) 264-0123.

THURSDAY

Give thanks for last week's snow day by joining the **Fellowship Baptist Church Choir** as they perform excerpts from their new CD, *Celebrating the Life, Love and Legacy of Dr. Lou Della-Evans Reid*, at the **Woodson Regional Library**, 9525 S. Halsted St. The show begins at 6 p.m. and is **free**.

FRIDAY

Get your winter fright fix at **Fangoria's Weekend of Horror** in the Wyndham Chicago O'Hare, 6810 N. Mannheim Rd. Actors Doug Bradley of *Hellraiser* and Jared Padalecki of *Supernatural* will be a part of this event. General admission is **\$15 Friday, \$20 Saturday and Sunday**. The convention is open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Check out fangoria.com for complete details.

SATURDAY

Red Rover, Red Rover, let readers come over! The **SpareRoom** hosts its 11th experiment, "Fourth Sound Back." The event showcases **artists and writers** who will present their long-distance collaborations. Suggested donation is \$3. The show starts at 7 p.m.

SUNDAY

The **Neo-Futurists** will host an **Oscar** night show and party at the Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave. Tickets are **\$25, which includes food and the show**. The event begins at 6 p.m. and runs until all the little gold men are handed out.

Exposure



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

In a scene rich with symbolism, two Illinois State Police officers stand guard over a massive American flag on a building neighboring the former State Capitol building as Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) announces his bid for the 2008 presidency on Feb. 8.

Happiness is a warm water gun

Water gun assassination tournament makes a splash

By Chrissy Mahlmeister/Assistant A&E Editor

Meet the Mustache Commander. Under his sly demeanor and sinister stache lies an ex-assassin. Though his stalking days are over, he's teaching city dwellers his seedy ways. The Commander, as well as two brothers from either coast of the U.S. are both bringing Chicago their very own water gun assassination tournaments, the first starting April 2. A hefty prize of \$1000 awaits the assassin that can stay dry throughout the 28 days.

Hagan Blount, the creator of the water gun assassination tournament known as Intercilio, explained the game in extremely simple terms: You have a target and somebody else has you as a target. You try to "kill" them by drenching them in water. After the kill is made, the player then goes after their victim's target. Since the game is primarily stalking with water weaponry, it's necessary the player knows every single thing about his or

her target. The player knows what the victim looks like; his or her phone number, home and work address, e-mail—everything.

Don't burst those water balloons just yet; it's not as easy as it sounds. After the player researches the target, he or she stakes out locations around where the person is most likely to be, meaning a possible six hours crouched in prickly bushes, inches away from the neighbor's incessantly barking terrier.

The player lugs water guns or any type of water artillery specifically made to get somebody wet. And sorry, Aquafina bottles and coffee mugs filled with water don't count. After the kill is complete, the player anxiously texts a code to the Intercilio website and it officially registers the kill.

"You don't know a thing about the person coming for you," Blount said. "You have to be on your guard at all times to make

sure no one is coming for you. I'm actually playing right now. I have a water gun in my pocket."

Sometimes the assassin can even put on a costume or a disguise to help further their chances of eliminating their target. The Mustache Commander, the organizer of another water gun assassination organization called Streetwars, puts that tip near the top of his list.

"When I decide to be unseen I put on a blue dress shirt, khaki pants, brown shoes, comb my hair and actually look like someone who works in the high-tech corporations in San Francisco," Commander said. "I'll walk right by them and they won't even recognize me 'cause I blend into the crowd."

Blount said there are three rounds of eliminations, and the player has to kill to stay alive; the player can't just spend the entire month hiding from their assassin.

"If you're not active, if you're

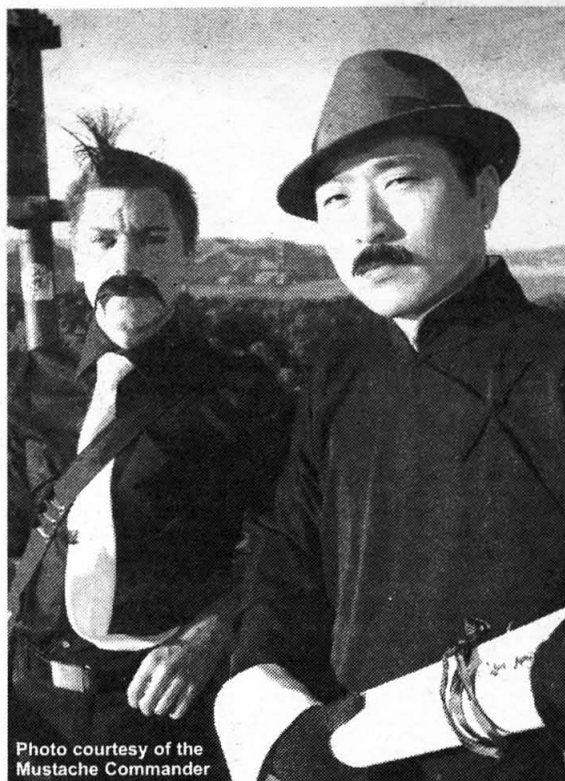


Photo courtesy of the Mustache Commander

The Mustache Commander (right) and a fellow water assassin stand ready to drench their targets.

not having fun, if you're not playing the game for what it's meant to be, you'll be kicked out," Blount said.


Although the water gun assassination tournament is usually filled with honest people, once in awhile there will be a sore loser or a cheater.

Cheating occurs when players give the wrong information like

a fake address, phone number or e-mail. This means they will never end up being hunted and killed.

"Somebody has threatened me because they got kicked out for giving bad information," Blount said. "They said, 'All right, we're

See Water Guns, Page 25



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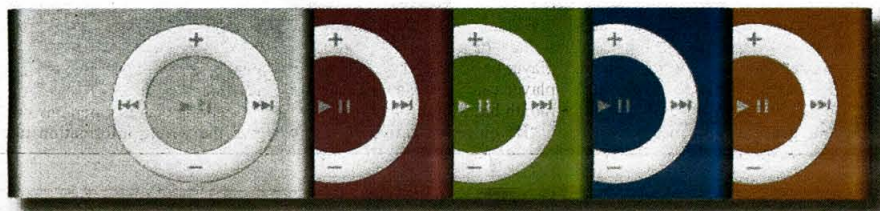
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We The

Story by Kristin Kalter

Graphics by Joshua Covarrubias

Politicians have been known to say or do some strange things, which sometimes make the public unhappy or nervous about the limited presidential candidate options. This is one reason the folks at Intralink want you to run for president.

Intralink, a website marketing company, launched the website U4Prez.com in January. The site is similar to MySpace in that anyone can make his or her own profile. Users select a political party, take a stance on some major issues and debate political topics.

The first two weeks after its official launch drew over 300,000 visitors, over 45,000 votes were cast. As of Feb. 12, there are 192 Democrats, 132 Republicans and 54 Independents.

Eventually, a winner from each party will be virtually elected and given their own webpage, which Intralink will then send to Washington politicians through a direct mail and e-mail campaign. The idea is to get the average person's voice and ideas heard.

Eric Gurr, director of web marketing for

Intralink said the idea for the site came from a discussion between him and his colleagues. He said along with their thoughts that the average American is probably smarter than the average politician, they also wanted to do some viral marketing testing—which is essentially creating a buzz around a website so that people spread the word about it or link it to their own webpages.

Gurr thinks that by the 2012 or 2016 presidential elections, a candidate could very well come from the pool of so-called average citizens.

"If we get over a million users, then it has to make an impact," he said. "It could push someone to the front to become a viable candidate."

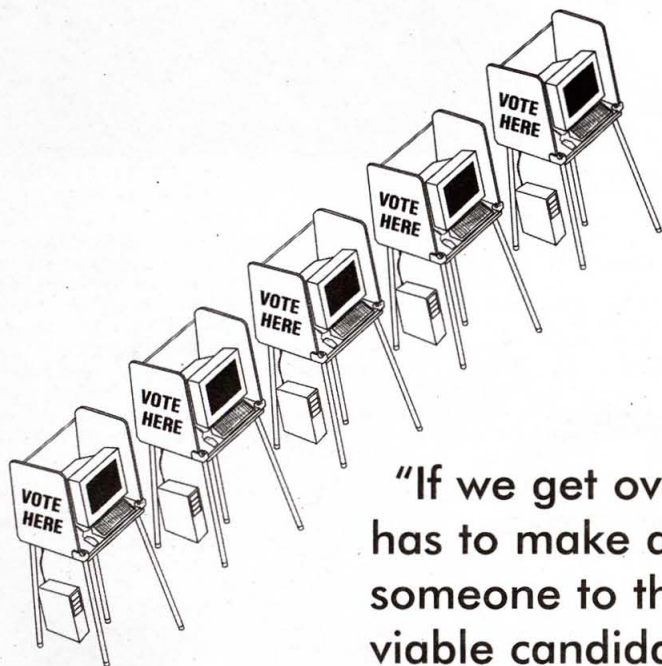
However, experts think that to be a presidential candidate, someone not only has to be well-known and respected, but financially ready for a campaign.

"The thought that an average smart person could run for the presidency some years hence is pretty unrealistic," said Doris Graber, a political science professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"Whoever it is, and no matter how smart, any potential candidate needs a strong, politically-savvy organization to back his or her effort and to assist in raising millions of dollars—that requires a huge network of contacts which most people who are new to the political game cannot control," Graber said.

Another professor of political science, Tim Needles, who has a profile of his own on U4Prez, thinks it is unlikely and probably in the nation's best interest if the presidential candidate does not come out of the pool of average citizens. He did point out, though, that in other political races, there are already "average Joe" candidates, and they have a better chance to





"If we get over a million users, then it has to make an impact. It could push someone to the front to become a viable candidate,"—Eric Gurr

win that type of race.

In order for an average citizen to become a candidate, their name and stance has to reach the public somehow. More people are using the Internet to gain a sort of celebrity status and get their name out there, as seen through sites like MySpace and YouTube. U4prez hopes to follow in their footsteps, and those who are using it have already started to become addicted. Some are even considering running in some form of political race.

"I used it as a website of the day [on my morning radio show], and I've gotten listeners in it, and I, myself, have been going on it every day since then," said Matt King, a morning radio show host at WKKG in Indiana.

King said he has always been interested in politics, but only recently has he considered becoming a politician.

The site makes some users feel like they might be good contenders, since there aren't as many restrictions for a potential candidate as in a real presidential campaign.

Gurr said the only restrictions as of now are that users must be at least 13 years old, users can't rate themselves, profiles have to be family-friendly—meaning no dirty words or risky pictures—and profiles can include up to 10 pages of content.

While the age requirement for a presidential candidate is at least 35 years old, U4Prez didn't want to set the same limits because they feel it is important for everybody to get their voices heard.

"A lot of schools are using the site as a history or civics lesson," Gurr said. "We want people to have fun with it but not go overboard."

But what initially attracts users to the website is its interactive entertainment. "It seemed like a fun deal to do," said

Daniel Cory McDonald, a 29-year-old Wyoming oilrig worker and U4prez participant. "I've always been interested in politics."

But since creating his own profile, under the username "boycow," McDonald, a self-proclaimed momma's boy and law school graduate, has taken a stance on some major issues such as punishments for crimes committed against children, poverty, abortion and the war in Iraq.

"No administration since Reagan has tried to do anything about the poverty level," he said.

Even though the site is aimed at the average Joe or Mary, actual candidates have profiles on the site, including Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. Gurr said their campaign workers are running their profiles and commenting for them. So many "real" candidates started making profiles, that Intralink decided to move them into a Federal Election Commission category, apart from the average user.

The real politicians aren't the frontrunners on U4Prez. But all users don't actually take the website that seriously, so some of the ratings on candidates may be misleading, Gurr said.

"There are a couple people on there who are just being stupid," McDonald said. "All one person had [on his profile] is 'I don't like Bush.'"

This still doesn't keep McDonald from wanting to fight the battle though.

"I still really like it; it's my favorite website I go to," he said.

One thing U4Prez does to separate the good users from the bad is posting issues of the week. Each week, a different issue or question is posed, and the editors of the site will choose two candidates with the best responses each day to be feature candidates and part of a head-to-head run-off.

An example of a question the "candidates" were asked to address was what their plan would be on how to deal with the baby boomers who will soon be dipping into their Social Security and Medicare.

King was featured in the battle on this topic Jan. 29. His idea for the problem included making Social Security a savings account for each individual—something the government could not touch. He also thinks doing something about illegal immigrants would help the amount of money the government spends.

"Any immigrant has to [enter the country] in a legal way," he said.

Each month a winner will be chosen and given a spot in the "primary election" in October. The winners from the primaries will run in the "presidential election" in November.

Aside from stances on political issues, users have ideas on improvement for the U4Prez website as well.

"Message boards would encourage better debate of the issues," Needles said.

Right now users must debate on issues through comments to each other or themselves, in order for it to appear in their profiles.

But even so, others think the site serves its purpose.

"It's a great concept and a great tool to voice your platform," King said.

Danger Mouse figures out traps

Follow-up to Gnarls Barkley debut on horizon?

By Nekesa Mumbi/AP

Three years ago, Brian Burton, better known as Danger Mouse, was the toast of the Internet to his wildly popular, and completely unexpected, mash-up of Cee-Lo's *White Album* and Jay-Z's *The Black Album*.

Though many music aficionados knew the 29-year-old Danger Mouse for his eclectic collaborations with rapper-friends like MF Doom and Jemini, it's safe to say that *The Grey Album* put him on the mainstream musical map.

But Danger Mouse never wanted that album, a fun side project for his friends, to be his musical landmark. As he worked hard on

two upcoming projects, he hoped he wouldn't always be defined as that mash-up guy.

It paid off. One of those projects was the platinum-selling Gnarls Barkley, the groovy, retro-rock soul duo he created with Cee-Lo, which had perhaps the most infectious jam of last year with the trippy "Crazy."

Gnarls won two of four Grammy bids at the Feb. 11 awards ceremony—best alternative rock album and best urban/alternative performance. Danger Mouse was singled out for another nod in the producer of the year category, but lost to Rick Rubin, who worked on Johnny Cash's *American V: A Hundred*

Highways and Red Hot Chili Peppers' *Stadium Arcadium*.

You've done many different projects and collaborations over the years. What was it about Gnarls Barkley that made it such a mainstream success?

Danger Mouse: I guess it's Cee-Lo. That voice of his is amazing. It hit people instantly, that song. You never know when a song like that is going to come around. It worked out pretty good.

Had you intended for Gnarls Barkley to be a permanent band?

I don't think either one of us intended for it to be such a live-oriented thing, but once we put the band together and tried it out, it turned out good. I think the main thing was once we started spending time together on the road, we realized that we were really compatible and became really good friends. If that hadn't happened, I don't think we would be touring like we are now.

Even though Gnarls Barkley is nominated for multiple awards, you guys were shut out of the best new artist category. Did that surprise you?

Neither one of us is really a new artist. That always weirds



Brian Burton, aka Danger Mouse, was nominated for producer of the year at the Grammys for his work with Cee-Lo Green.

me out when there's a best new artist and I have three of their records before that, so I don't think that was a mistake.

Do you plan to continue Gnarls Barkley or was this a one-time thing?

We've already started actually. We've gone into the studio a couple of times. Once we were on tour and everything and playing to all these people, we were like, 'Oh, we've got to do this again.'

With your success, you must have record companies and artists whispering in your ear to make the next hit. How do you fight the temptation to become that producer who churns out a lot of hits?

You didn't make it sound very

appealing [laughs]. The way you've just described it, it doesn't seem like a hard thing to turn down! ... What I do is definitely different. I'm a little bit selfish with the world that I'm in I guess, and I kind of want people to come into my world as opposed to going into theirs ... I don't want to necessarily do the next so-and-so record and hope that it's good.

Will we ever see a Danger Mouse solo CD?

You know, every time I think about doing a solo CD, the first thing I think about is who I'm going to get on it [laughs]. It's not really that interesting to me; I like working with people with music much more than I do just working with myself.



Cee-Lo Green and Danger Mouse appeared on MTV's 'Total Request Live' on Feb. 5 with host Vanessa Minnillo.

Three decades of the 'Wheel'

'Wheel of Fortune' gets contract through 2012

By Bruce Smith/AP

It's a simple game some learned to play in grade school. But add a colorful 2-ton wheel, cameras, a spirited audience and hosts like old friends and you have "Wheel of Fortune," which has lit up TV screens for more than three decades.

"Wheel of Fortune," now in its 24th season in syndication, is watched by an estimated 46 million viewers across America each week. CBS Television Distribution recently announced the show will air at least through the 2011-2012 season.

"It's hangman with prizes," said Harry Friedman, the show's executive producer, who said it's hard to put a finger on the show's appeal. "I wish I could say exactly what it is because then we would bottle it and sell it—or at least clone it."

"This is the one half-hour a day that crosses generational lines, and I think it's had something to do with the success," host Pat Sajak suggested in between recent tapings in Charleston, S.C. "Television is very splintered now. It's not a mass medium anymore."

But the masses still know Sajak and America's favorite letter-turner, Vanna White.

The show debuted on network television in 1975 with Sajak

joining in 1981 and White a year later. It moved to syndication in 1983. About 500 contestants appear yearly, and last season the show gave away \$9 million in cash and prizes.

It is one of several game shows, including "The Price is Right" and "Jeopardy," that has been on the air for decades. "The Price is Right," the longest-running game show in TV history, debuted in 1972.

Chris Lamb, a communications professor who teaches a course in mass media and society at the College of Charleston, said the reasons for the show's longevity include familiarity—and the dream anyone could be a contestant and win.

"We live vicariously through the players on 'Wheel of Fortune,'" he said. "'Jeopardy' is 'Wheel' with a master's degree—it requires a little bit of work."

White is a native of North Myrtle Beach, and the show was taping in North Charleston as part of a "Vanna Comes Home" week of shows. She joined "Wheel of Fortune" after heading to the West Coast to pursue an acting career.

"I just thought 'I'm so happy to have a job, even if it lasts a couple of years.' I never thought

it would last for 24 [years]," she said. "I don't know what to say. It's just been a great run for me, and I'm thrilled."

"Even if you don't watch the show every day, it's comforting to know that it's there," Sajak said. "It's like the sunset. You might not go out and see it everyday, but it's nice to know it's happening."

Friedman said Sajak and White have been crucial to the show's longevity.

"They're like dear friends who come into your home every evening," said Friedman, executive producer since 1999. "Pat is witty and affable and smart. Vanna is warm and friendly. These are people you want to be around and it comes through very clearly."

The show has seen changes over the years. The letters now light up after White touches a puzzle square. In the early days, she manually turned boxes containing the letters with the puzzle clues.

"Don't mention anything, but they could do the show without me," White laughed. "They have computers now and they can just light up themselves. But we won't tell them that."



Pat Sajak and Vanna White have been the television personalities of 'Wheel of Fortune' since the early 1980s.

Water guns: Aqua assassins eager to soak unsuspecting Chicagoans

Continued from Page 20

going to stalk you now!' and I'm like, 'Yeah, right. Whatever, buddy. It's just a game.' They were cheating the game to get the \$1,000. It's just like anything else—if you have money involved, somebody's going to get a little bit weird."

But after the game begins, the players are allowed to give false information. If a player's assassin

calls them and asks where they work, it's best to lie about it.

Blount said the best way to survive the game is through paranoia, among other things.

"Act like somebody is out to kill you," Blount said. "If you act like somebody is out to kill you, you'll be properly paranoid enough to survive by say, parking your car four or five blocks from where you live. Or, go in the back door instead of the front. Alert the security system in your building that if anybody comes looking for you to give them the wrong information."

The game has only officially been played once in Washington, D.C. According to Blount, it was really successful, although some of the kinks need to be worked out. The website is currently in

beta mode, or a trial version, and is only being used to play a couple of games before it gets an upgrade to become more "robust."

"The challenge in the game was administering it," said Tim Blount, the web developer and brother of Interficio's creator. "There has to be somebody who oversees the game, who creates the hierarchy of who you have to go after. I'm trying to set it up so the computer does mostly everything, to take out as much human interaction as possible so the website can run the game."

While the Blount brothers are still learning how to market the game across the larger metropolitan area, text messaging kills help keep things simple.

"We're still feeling it out," Tim Blount said. "The whole aspect of

the texting when you kill somebody is a new thing we can bring to the game. It also helps bring the game to a larger audience."

In the Washington, D.C. game, one of the problems was that people traveled long distances to hunt and kill their target, but in the Chicago version it's arranged in smaller pockets.

"You don't have to drive an hour anymore," Hagan Blount said. "You only have to drive five minutes. Your target will be just down the road."

Within the water gun tournament there are multiple safe zones, including the square block around a target's workplace, public transportation and bars, to name a few.

"We don't want to intervene on the more important things in life

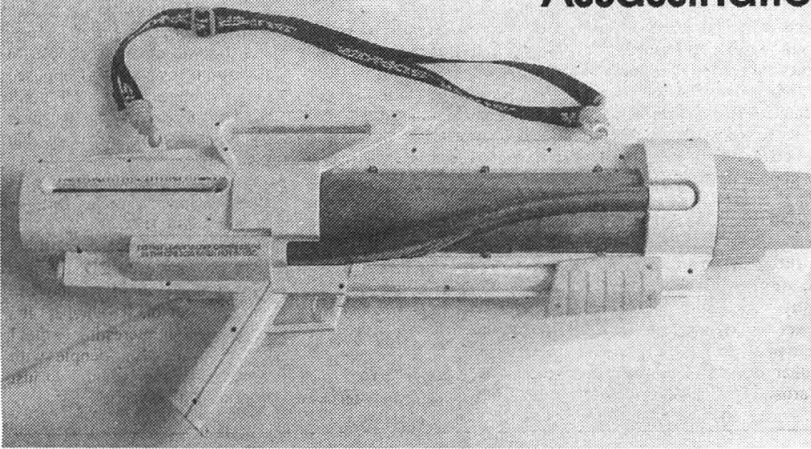
like actually earning money and going to work. And also getting hella wasted," the Commander said.

The reason for the bars being a safe zone is because the Mustache Commander wants the players to still interact with each other, even if they are out to kill them.

"We want people to have a moment of truth," the Commander said. "We want them to meet in a bar and talk it over. It also helps the players increase their chances of hooking up with other players. We have numerous hookups within players and it warms my heart and I highly encourage it."

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Community Media Workshop, the nonprofit based at Columbia College Chicago that promotes news that matters, will recognize and grant \$1,500 cash to a student whose work exemplifies the spirit of Studs Terkel.

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Who is eligible? Any registered Columbia graduate or undergraduate who has taken courses or majors in journalism, television, radio or film.

What is the Terkel perspective or documentary approach? Terkel, the Pulitzer Prize winning writer of *Working, Race*, and other important oral histories, has always paid close attention to the often overlooked or forgotten people, often giving a voice to the voiceless. He found and made use of "unofficial" grassroots sources—focusing on Chicago-area residents and community folks who work to make this a better place to live.

What kinds of projects would qualify?

A documentary or feature story on a community housing or education effort would qualify; those about a "day in the life" of a political or corporate leader probably would not qualify. A documentary film about a community "barbershop" would qualify; one about a rock star would not. The winner will be selected by a committee of board and staff from the Community Media Workshop with vigorous input from Studs Terkel, himself.



Sean Patrick Fahey, who won in 2006 for a documentary on people overcoming their disabilities that profiled a farmer who built a tractor he could navigate from his own wheelchair, received his check and award from Provost Steve Kapelke last April.

CWW
Community Media Workshop

'Dead Girl' Walking

Strong cast ressurects 'Crash' formula with mixed results

By Matt Fagerholm/Assistant A&E Editor

In the opening scene of last year's Oscar-winner for Best Picture, a little film named *Crash*, detective Graham Waters approaches the scene of a crime. "What do you got?" he asks a nearby detective, who in turn simply replies, "dead kid." Sure enough, a bloodied body is found lying within the blades of grass on the side of the road.

This isolated corpse will not only assist in tying the film's half-a-dozen storylines together, but also act as a symbolic representative of the filmmaker's intended social commentary. The early moments of *The Dead Girl* suggest that director Karen Moncrieff has blatantly borrowed *Crash*'s plot structure by opening with a character finding the mutilated corpse of a girl—in a grassy field no less.

While the dead kid in *Crash* symbolized the cost of racial prejudice, among other things, the dead girl here seems to represent all women ever to be preyed upon, exploited, and mutilated by an unsettlingly indifferent society.

This is the sophomore directorial effort from Moncrieff, whose feature debut was 2002's *Blue Car*, which deftly studied the destructive relationship formed between a young girl and her lustful English teacher. That film brought delicate observation to a plot ripe for sensationalism, and the result was a quietly affecting drama as believable as it was deeply disturbing. With

Dead Girl, Moncrieff instead aims for the jugular vein by utilizing the now-commonplace mosaic of intertwining lives—most recently used by Best Picture nominee *Babel*—combined with an all-star cast to bring her societal outrage to the mass-market.

Yet as Moncrieff's ambitions grow, the subtlety she displayed in her first film starts to dissipate.

Consisting of five vignettes that focus on women personally affected by the victim's death, the film's thematic intent becomes redundant and at times even preachy. Thank God Moncrieff found a cast so exemplary it just manages to pull the whole thing off.

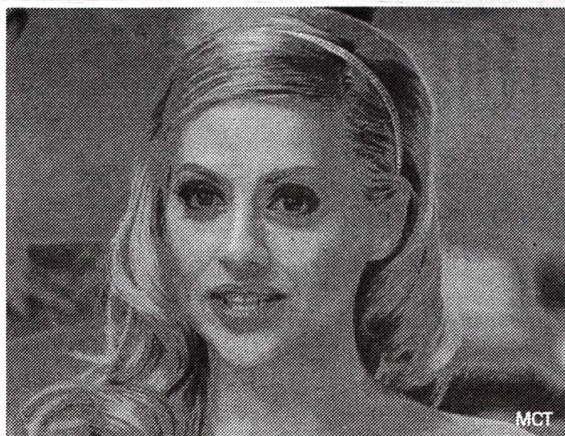
The first segment would have forged into broadly contrived territory if it weren't for the aching vulnerability Toni Collette brings to the role of Arden, a young woman practically beaten into submission by her invalid mother, played laughably by Piper Laurie. She delivers the exact same performance she gave as the maternal religious zealot in *Carrie* (1976), which worked for that film's dark satire, but not within this film's uncompromisingly bleak realism.

This entire segment could've turned into a low-rent sequel to *Carrie*, had that film's protagonist not developed telekinesis, and grew up to be equally miserable and sheltered—hell, Arden even resembles an adult Carrie—yet Collette reigns in a formidable

humanity that is the sequence's sole source of credibility. She discovers the girl's gory corpse, leading to the second chapter where forensics student Leah—played by Rose Byrne—thinks that the girl's identity could be that of her long-lost sister, a fact her mother—an overacting Mary Steenburgen—refuses to accept. Both of these vignettes focus on women so damaged by society that their lives are stuck in limbo, while their salvation may lie in the newfound openness of a budding relationship.

The last three sections are unquestionably stronger. Mary Beth Hurt, an actress who has perfected playing women brimming with discontent since Woody Allen's *Interiors* (1978), is fiercely memorable as Ruth, an aging housewife willing to preserve her marriage to a deadbeat husband—no matter how unhappy or dangerous—it may prove to be. Next up is Marcia Gay Harden, who was so devastating in last year's *American Gun*, and here plays the similar role of a mother struggling to make up for her failings as a parent by picking up the pieces of her deceased child's life. Harden's scenes with her child's roommate, played exquisitely by Kerry Washington, are the film's most dramatically satisfying moments.

Then comes a final act that exemplifies all the film's strengths and weaknesses, as it follows the titular dead girl—an abused



Brittany Murphy plays the title role in Karen Moncrieff's unsettling new ensemble drama 'The Dead Girl.'

daughter-turned-prostitute—through her final hours of life. She's played by Brittany Murphy, in a performance so much more vibrant than the majority of the film that one wishes she were allowed more screen time.

In the end, Murphy's segment doesn't add or detract from the previous scenes. While this allows each scene to stand on its own, it makes the overall enterprise feel like a decided letdown. If Murphy's final hours were interspersed between the dissimilar vignettes—while eliminating the more excessive moments, like Byrne's speechifying and Laurie's hysterics—the film would have had a connecting thread to pull the audience through.

As it stands, *The Dead Girl* is only intermittently absorbing. It doesn't hold a candle to masterful ensemble dramas like *Nine Lives* (2005) and *Thirteen Conversations about One Thing* (2001), and if it

does finally emerge as a moderate success, it's largely due to the great work from Collette, Hurt, Harden, Washington and Murphy.

Yet the empathy Moncrieff feels for her female victims, as well as her anger at a world aiming its violent tendencies at them, is never in doubt. Murphy simply wants to live a peaceful life with her lover, where there's nothing but "trees and sky."

Ironic that the last thing she ever saw, from her view in the blood-stained field, was the leering branches of trees and a limitless sky.

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'The Dead Girl'
Directed by Karen
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For rent: delivery driver calves

Denver man auctions his leg space on eBay

By Kristin Kalter/Assistant A&E Editor

When some people find themselves in a financial struggle in life, they take out loans, get another job or sell things precious to them. But a new trend across the nation is renting body space as advertising space.

From pregnant women to blue-collar workers, people are posting ads on online auction sites. This form of advertising is still being tested, and it's unclear what it draws more attention to—the ad or the person selling his or her body.

Preston Refsland, a 35-year-old delivery driver for a liquor company, recently decided to give this method a try when he found himself struggling financially.

Refsland works in Denver, but grew up in Kansas and Minnesota. Last year he moved back to Minnesota for a few months after breaking his leg and received several job offers there. When he realized he wasn't really making it financially with the new job, he

went back to Denver and started working as a delivery driver again.

He said moving back and forth cost him a lot of money. Now he is trying to dig himself out of the hole he got in, plus his daughter needs braces.

"It's not a deep hole," Refsland said. "I'm just trying to get back to normal—get back on my feet."

"I don't know if I'd want to do Trojan...but maybe I would, that might look cool."

When he saw all the attention and offers a pregnant woman in Chicago got after offering space on her belly in exchange for Superbowl tickets, he thought he could pull off a similar trick, only for money.

"I thought it was goofy for someone to do that at first, but anything will work at this point," he said.

Refsland is auctioning off his calves to the highest bidder. He doesn't want a permanent ad, but more like a temporary tattoo. This way he can rotate ads as well.

He said he wears shorts every day unless it's below zero, or if he is sick.

"Every day I get comments on my legs," he said.

Refsland said he averages between five and 10 comments a day on his bare legs. He figures for every one person who comments on them, there are at least 15 to 20 others who are looking or thinking about them, but not saying anything.

He put the auction for his calf space up on eBay, where he is asking for \$3,000 a leg, or \$5,000 for both. The lowest he said he would like to accept is \$2,000 a leg, but he might even go down from that if necessary.

"If [the advertisement] was classy, I might stomach it for less...not literally," he said.

But that doesn't mean he will accept any offer.

"I'm already going to be laughed at," he said. "I don't want something that's going to make me look even more awful."

He wouldn't do anything that either misrepresents him or is too provocative, like STD medication ads.

"I don't know if I'd want to do Trojan," he said. "But maybe I would, that might look cool."

Refsland said it would take "a stupid amount of money" for



Courtesy Preston Refsland

The highest bidder every month will see their ads go on Preston Refsland's calves (pictured above). This is how his photo appears on eBay.

him to consider any questionable.

But he would be proud to show off some ads. He said if a health club or fitness vitamins gave him an offer, he would be honored because it would say something positive about him.

He feels he is already advertising on his body with a tattoo that is the logo of the rock band Dream Theater.

Much like tattoos, the people putting the ads on their bodies are the ones getting more attention than the actual ads. Some marketing experts feel this isn't really advertising, but more of a public relations stunt.

"As with all advertising you have to test it to see if it works," said Margot Wallace, a marketing communication teacher at Columbia.

Wallace said the PR for this type of advertisement has been good, but the advertising aspect can't really be measured yet.

"There is no system yet for measuring ads on human bodies—meaning how many eyeballs saw it and reacted on it," she said.

Another reason Wallace believes some companies try advertising on humans is because those ads usually get a lot of attention and response. She said this is because they are marketing in ways that people aren't used to or haven't seen before.

Not everybody would stoop to Refsland's level of marketing.

Shariff Suleiman, a senior film major at Columbia, said he would never consider renting any space on his body.

"I don't like exposing myself that much," he said. "It's more of a publicity stunt for that person. They're just trying to get their name out there."

Still, he doesn't knock the

reasoning or method for a claim to fame.

"If the money is good, go for it," Suleiman said.

He doubted that too many ads would grab his attention so much that they would convince him to buy that product.

"It depends on what it was for," he said. "If it was a movie ad and it tied in to the movie somehow, I might go check it out."

Refsland insists he is not doing this to attract attention to himself, and said he wouldn't be doing it if he didn't really need the money.

However, the only problem is he doesn't have any current bids. As of Feb. 15, he said he had over 200 people look at his listing and one e-mail from a company that seemed interested, but never went through with a bid.

He also mentioned another request, which he wasn't sure was legit. He said a man asked him if he would put a rainbow on one leg and "gay pride" on the other, with a website below it. But Refsland never received a response back from that bidder after he said that particular ad would be \$5,000 a leg.

He does have some competition though. A pregnant woman is auctioning space on her stomach and has a bid. There is also a man offering forehead space and a couple of people offering space on their cars.

Still, Refsland remains hopeful he can pull off a deal and even strike some kind of agreement with several companies to use his space one month at a time. If the legs work, he said, he could also try and rent space on his arm.

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Fox Faith:

Marketing Label takes aim at Christians

Continued from page 1

"[The movies are for] those people who really long to have quality entertainment without having to sift through or be exposed to content they would otherwise find offensive."

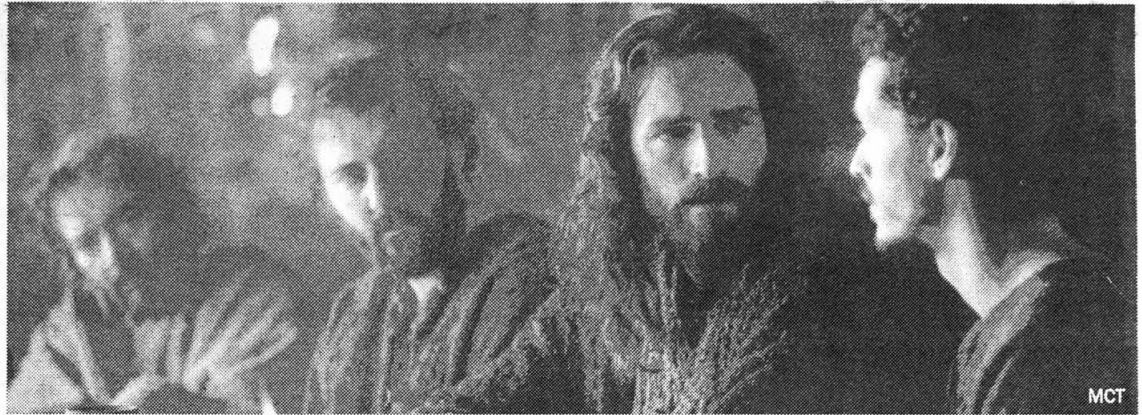
He said Fox saw spiritual entertainment as an underserved market even before Gibson's *Passion*.

"The film didn't create [the marketplace] so much as illuminate that it was there," Wallach said. "[Our] goal is to be a successful business venture, but having said that, the other interest would be to effectively serve this marketplace. And to serve them with good quality entertainment would be a goal as well."

In order to fulfill the criteria for suitable family entertainment, Wallach said a Fox Faith film must "be in line with the Christian values system."

Wallach also noted that most of their films have "been based on books by Christian authors," such as *Hangman's Curse* by Frank Peretti.

Planning the feature-length version of his short film, Vanderwyst, a lifelong Catholic, has considered contacting Fox Faith about the possibility of distribution. He has, already formed a production com-



The box office phenomenon of Mel Gibson's 'Passion of the Christ,' which grossed more than \$370 million in the United States alone, has led to a resurgence of spiritual films, evidenced by emerging marketing labels such as 'Fox Faith.'

pany, Unveiled Pictures, to make films that proclaim his spiritual faith without polarizing audiences.

"I'm not out to preach," Vanderwyst said. "Out of the six festivals [3:16] has screened at, only one of them was a Christian festival. We've been rejected by some Christian festivals because the violence and brief language was too much for them."

His goal was to make a film about Jesus strikingly different from those he had seen by attempting to view "Christ's saving action from the perspective of God the Father." According to Vanderwyst, 3:16 attempts to make the emotional agony of the sacrificial child's parents resonate on a per-

sonal level, devoid of theological boundaries. This may hold the key to the film's impact on wildly dissimilar sections of the viewing public.

Other Christians have also embraced this recent forging of cinema and religion. In the northern suburb of McHenry, Ill., Catholic Priest Father Robert Sherry decided to make his homilies at the Church of Holy Apostles more cinematic. He's installed a PowerPoint machine that displays images behind him, illustrating the content of a given church service. Impressed by spiritual films such as Gibson's *Passion* and Fred Zimmermann's 1967 Best Picture winner *A Man for All Seasons*,

Sherry greatly admires the communicative power of cinema.

"Images are embedded in one's mind far deeper than any words," he said.

The general consensus among contemporary Christians is that there is an inherent link between film and spiritual expression.

"Church used to be the patron of the arts," Sherry said. "Now theology is lagging behind film as the more effective form of communication."

Sharing a similar view, Vanderwyst said: "Many [Christians] attribute the characteristic of 'immoral' to the film art as a whole, which is a gross misconception. Many kinds of

fine arts emerged through the histories of Middle-Aged churches, and it seems that many Christians have forgotten the sanctity that lies within art."

Yet Vanderwyst made clear his concern when he said, "I don't want to see my own religion carelessly exploited for an increase in box office receipts."

Filmmakers like Vanderwyst are still waiting to see whether marketing labels like Fox Faith are truly feeling the spirit, or simply the weight of audience demand.

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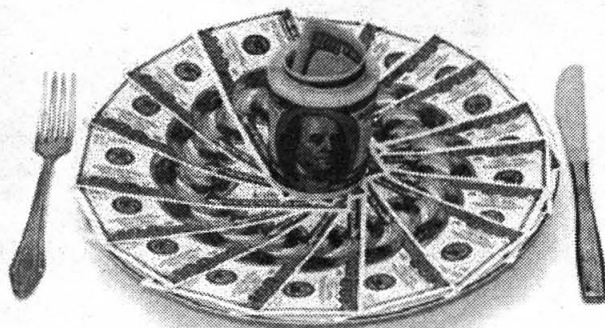
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Making up lost time

Blind couple united by love of cuckoo clocks

By Kate Arthur/AP

Cuckoo clocks aren't known for keeping perfect time. Something as simple as a change in the weather can cause them to lose a few minutes. So could a jarring or vibration.

"They're not perfect, but you love them anyway," said Anna Darling of the 115 clocks in her two-bedroom apartment.

She jokes that her husband, Don, who's collected timepieces since someone pressed a pocket watch into his hand when he was 5, married her for the family's 19th-century German cuckoo clock, the one that hung above the refrigerator in their Chicago floral shop.

That's where Anna could be found after school, folding and tucking bakery-style corsage boxes and taking in the smell of chilly carnations.

Not that she couldn't have wired long-stemmed roses and snipped baby's breath, but it would have been difficult for a woman who had such limited vision that she never saw her mother's face.

When she was about 5 years old, she remembers hopping up on a table in the doctor's office, waiting quietly in the dark while doctors walked in and out, flashing light in her eyes. She overheard them talking outside but didn't know what they were saying. Retinitis pigmentosa was too big a word for a 5-year-old, and too big a diagnosis.

In Lansing, Mich., 175 miles from her Cicero home, there was a 5-year-old who stumbled when he tried to run. Born nearly two months premature, he suffered from optic nerve damage. The doctor told him simply that his eyes were never going to work.

Describing it as "Swiss cheese vision," he has black holes in his sight. He's never read a book or been behind the wheel of a car. Through high school, his mother read his textbooks to him.

After picking up college degrees in history and English, he wanted to go to seminary but was warned he'd never find a job as a

pastor. Pastors had to be able to drive.

So he found a church he could walk to.

"When you can't see very well, you don't want people to know it," Anna said, turning to face the 73-year-old man by her side. "A lot of times people who are partially sighted don't want to be considered blind so they try to fake it. That's what he tried to do for a couple of years until I found him."

Even as a man in his 50s, a divorced father of two, he had trouble admitting it. He mentioned to Anna that he had a problem shaving—he kept getting shaving cream on his glasses.

"Take your glasses off before you shave," she told him.

Easy enough for someone who readily admitted her blindness. When the sun comes out, she can detect a brightness, but that's all.

Even with a teaching degree in the '50s no one would hire a blind woman, so she took dictation until the pounding migraines from the concentration stopped her.

She learned Swedish massage and later helped her husband at that time, Charles Derossett, in his vending business, moving to Bloomington. He died of cancer in 1988.

A few years later, on a weekend visit to see a childhood friend in Chicago, she mentioned she hated missing church when she was away. Her friend told her she could fix that and introduced her to Don, a retired Presbyterian minister. They started going out to lunch after church on her weekend visits and were married three years later, on April 17, 1993, in front of 600 people.

They still laugh about how many times the processional played before Anna made it down the too-long aisle. Five years ago, she convinced him to move here from Chicago.

"He's my eyes," she said, slipping her arm through his as he guided her down the hallway. On his daily six-mile walk, she sometimes goes along; he walks her home when she tires.



Anna Darling has 115 cuckoo clocks in her two-bedroom apartment. She and her husband, Don, have been collecting clocks since they were children. Though the couple is blind, they share a special bond reinforced by their collection.

Welcome to Brood

Glen Berger's *'The Wooden Breeks'* makes Midwest premiere at Lookingglass

By Mary Kroeck/Assistant A&E Editor

A strange thing happens when fiction combines with real life and history combines with imagination: One gets caught between the past and the present, questioning which is actually taking place.

This is the case with *The Wooden Breeks* by Glen Berger, which made its Chicago premiere at the Lookingglass Theatre, 821 N. Michigan Ave.

This intricately written and sometimes confusing play begins on an unnamed British coast with a storyteller named Tom "the tinker" Bosch, played by Philip R. Smith. Upon his entrance, one becomes strikingly aware of the set, as it is designed in such a way that it seems as if he is walking into a 3-D painting. The short hills that form the graveyard look realistic, like the grass was trampled on as long as the hills have existed and the costumes are reminiscent of the Victorian era, with men in tail coats and women in long dresses carrying the occasional parasol.

The play is essentially about love, death, life and loss. Bosch is madly in love with Hetty Griggs, played by Louise Lamson, who mysteriously disappears. He believes Hetty ran off with a sailor and left her son orphaned. The boy—Wicker Griggs, played

by Abigail Droeger—begs Bosch to tell him a story. The dialogue makes it apparent he's done this many times in the past.

Bosch, mourning over the loss of Hetty, initially does not want to tell the story because he doesn't want to continue reliving his love. Yet, he says if "the magic fire" that burns in the hillside graveyard where he lives does not burn out, he'll concede. Despite all of Bosch's attempts to extinguish the flame, it keeps burning, like his memories of Hetty, and thus, he's forced to keep his word and tell a tale to the young lad.

Through Bosch, the audience is taken to the miserable town of Brood, filled with a host of stock characters—including the old maid, the young lovers, the miserable grave digger, the "do right" old man, the outsider—and not much else. The most intriguing of them is Jarl van Hoothe, played by Andrew White, a man who reads anthologies on scientific topics, but has never left his post in a light house to experience the outside world.

There's a great mystery brewing in the town as an exhumed coffin was found to have scratches on the inside, meaning the person was buried alive. A young saleswoman, Miss Spoon—who looks strikingly

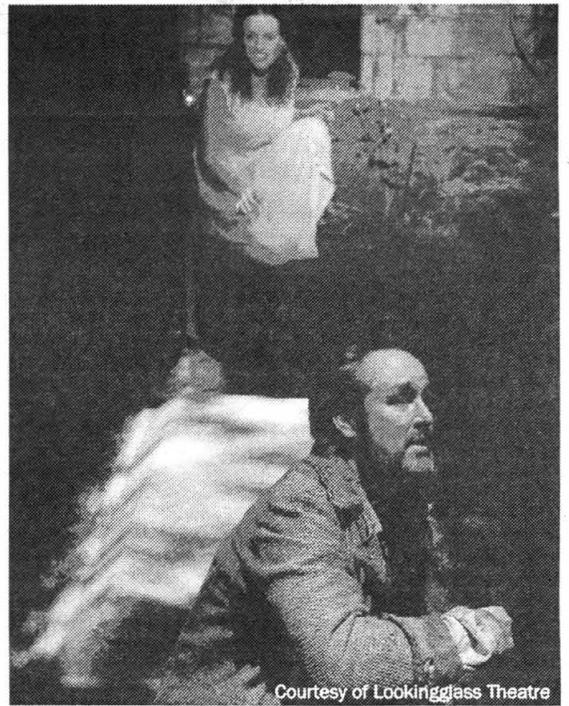
similar to Hetty Griggs—arrives to ease their worries. Spoon tells the citizens of Brood about new bell devices that would ensure they would not be buried before their time. A string attached to the finger of the dead would be hung to an outside bell. So, if someone is buried by accident, they have a way of letting others know.

As Spoon denies her identity as Hetty to Bosch, he continues to weave his tale and the conflict between the world of the story and the real world become more blurred.

This grim tale is a dark comedy, and the story itself is a confusing one. The more one watches, the more the pieces seem to come together, but they don't quite fit.

Bosch is the storyteller, but he doesn't know what event will occur next, as if he's making the whole thing up as he goes along. He interacts with Miss Spoon, Hetty and Wicker while they're a part of the imaginary story, but none of the other characters seem to know he exists. Little background information is given to the characters, so many subplots are left up to the audience's imagination to figure out.

That's part of the intrigue and frustration of this play. Nothing is really cut and dry and one scene



Courtesy of Lookingglass Theatre

Louise Lamson and Philip R. Smith share a long lost love in Glen Berger's *'The Wooden Breeks'*, directed by Heidi Stillman.

overlaps into another so smoothly that it's hard to tell what world one's supposed to be in at any given moment. The play feels like one long version of *Clue*: One knows the characters, the game and the rules, puts on their "thinking cap" and plays to see how the story will change. It's not easy to figure out, but it's a new approach to an old game.

The Wooden Breeks runs through March 11. Tickets are \$20-

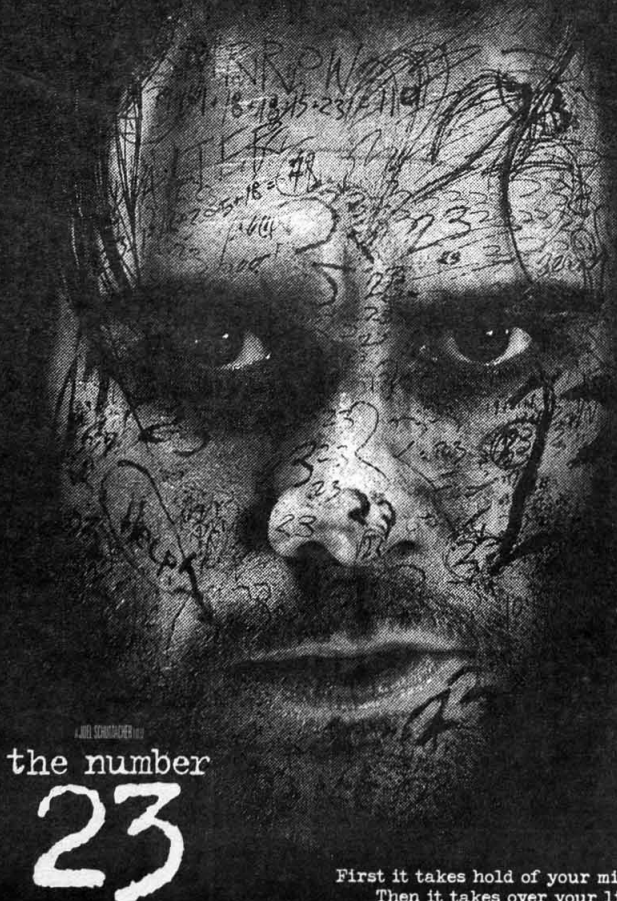
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Candidate for Comedy

Multi-tasking comedian Jon Stewart is just a stand-up guy

By Connie Ogle/MCT

To the rabid fans of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," Jon Stewart is an agent of catharsis for roiling anti-Bush rage.

To *Rolling Stone*, he's "America's Anchor" (or at least one of America's anchors, the guy who's not Stephen Colbert). To readers, he's the best-selling author of *America: The Book*. To movie buffs, as he is fond of reminding his snickering audience, he is the fourth male lead in the unfortunately titled *Death to Smoochy*, which falls somewhere between *Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls* and *Ishtar* in the great scope of international cinema.

But Stewart sees himself as a comedian, which explains why he can't step away from stand-up.

"It's what I consider my job," Stewart said. "In some respects, I am on a very fortunate side assignment. I'm studying abroad right now and quite enjoying it. But ultimately I will always go back to my job."

Jersey boy Stewart, 44, started out doing stand-up but didn't provide any horror stories.

"I was not treated like a honky-tonk performer at a biker bar before," Stewart said. "When you're in stand-up mode in clubs, it's different than working at 2 a.m. in front of the wait staff and a group of Dutch sailors on leave. One thing about stand-up is you really don't talk to them after it's

over. You have to have your own internal barometer about how you feel about this stuff. That's all you can go on.

"I don't ride the pony as hard as I used to," Stewart said. "On good nights in the old days, you'd think 'I'm Pryor!' If you had a bad night you'd think, 'You have to fill out those applications for grad school now.' But when you've been doing it for a long time, you can be forgiving even if you don't give a peak performance," he said.

This information will come as no surprise: About comedy, Stewart is hilarious, as swiftly sardonic as he is on "The Daily Show," which he has hosted since 1999.

On the phone from the show's New York office, he discussed getting his eye gouged out in the horror film *The Faculty*.

"I hope you appreciate that the substance that made my eye foam was quite caustic," Stewart said. "The guys who did the special effects said, 'It's gonna be a little vinegar, a little powder, a little acid and it reacts when it hits the back of your eye, but don't worry.'"

He said that it's harder hosting the president of Pakistan than the Oscars.

"You realize no matter what that guy does he is risking his life, and because of that you feel

like, 'Wow, I should read his book,'" Stewart said, "as opposed to the Oscars, which was fun. But you have the sense that no matter what happened, Charlize Theron was going to be OK the next day."

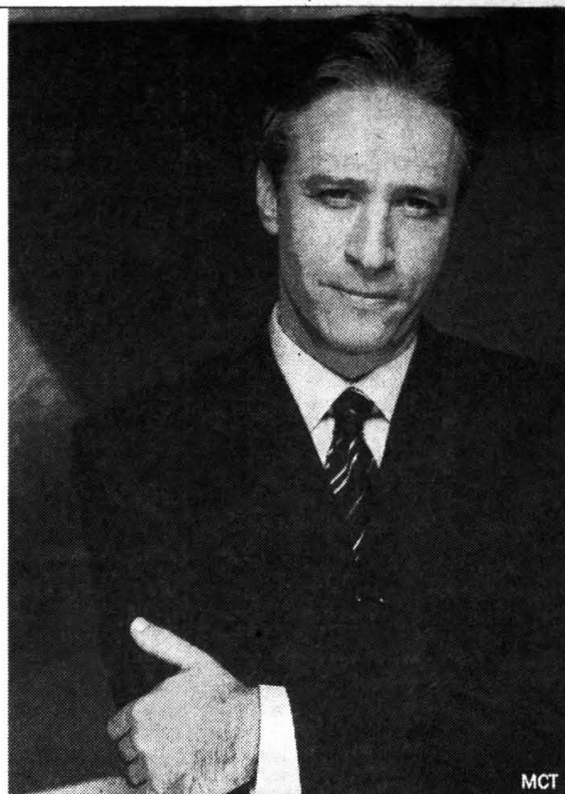
Stewart estimates that he does stand-up once a month and said his material runs along the same lines as the withering satire on "The Daily Show."

He'll almost certainly touch on politicians near and far, the clueless in general and the skyrocketing idiocy of TV media—"MSNBC's new slogan: We're insane. We're absurd. We're ridiculous."

Stewart and the show's writers poke relentless fun at fatuous talking heads, ridiculing embarrassing lightweight reports almost as often as they deconstruct the more baffling policies of the Bush administration.

A fiery Stewart even appeared on "Crossfire" with Tucker Carlson in 2004 and said the show indulged in partisan hack jobs instead of honest debate. When Carlson accused him of lobbying softball questions at presidential hopeful John Kerry, Stewart shot back: "You're on CNN! The show that leads into me is puppets making prank phone calls!"

The Bush administration has provided rich fodder, but Stewart



MCT

Dubbed 'America's Anchor' by *Rolling Stone*, comedian Jon Stewart insists that his only goal is to make people laugh.

won't much miss it, even though he's hardly running out of jokes about George W. and friends.

"As a human person with a sentient mind, I will not be unhappy if there is perhaps an administration with a slightly more competent outlook ... and I have great faith in the office of the president in terms of providing truly absurd moments," he said.

Besides, he finds humor beyond politics. What really makes him laugh is "stupid [stuff]."

"I wish I could sound erudite and highfalutin, but I laugh at very, very silly things," Stewart said. "You just never know where the funny is coming from. That's the beauty of the funny."

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Going once, going twice

Auction expert shares his tips for a fun and profitable event

By Jack Broom/MCT

Make no mistake about it. When Kip Toner is at work, he's trying to separate people from their hard-earned dollars—and he'll take as many as he can reasonably get.

Not only that, he wants people to hand over the money with smiles on their faces.

"This is about people having fun," Toner said. "People getting together for a social event."

It's also about serious money. Toner conducts benefit auctions, a phenomenon generating about \$13 billion a year nationally for schools, hospitals, foundations, arts groups and nearly any cause with a name.

Not only are the events becoming increasingly potent—more than a dozen Seattle auctions will take in more than \$1 million each this year—auction-goers are becoming more savvy and better prepared, doing everything from studying auction offerings ahead of time to coordinating group purchases of big-ticket items.

When a travel package for two to China on the delivery flight of a Boeing jet goes for \$35,000, as it did at a Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center gala in Seattle that took in more than \$5.1 million last month, the power of an auction as a fundraising tool is apparent.

The Pacific Northwest, with a history of major charity auctions

dating back to the 1960s, has been a leader in developing the potential.

"In the Midwest, it's still a big thing to send kids out selling cookies or magazines to raise money," said Harlan Rimmerman of the Kansas-based National Auctioneers Association. "But in the Northwest, people say, 'Let's have a benefit auction.'"

The Seattle area's experience is why more than 30 auctioneers from around the country headed there this January for the association's first three-day course to create "Benefit Auctioneer Specialists."

Toner, who teaches the course, has conducted charity auctions for more than 30 years and is one of the busiest in the business. Kip Toner Benefit Auctions, the firm he runs out of his Queen Anne home, will conduct some 160 auctions this year, with Toner himself doing about 105 from Washington, D.C. to Hawaii.

The visiting auctioneers started their "curriculum" by working as volunteers at the Seattle Hebrew Academy auction Feb. 4, a sold-out event with a goal of \$180,000—about one-third of the school's annual fundraising target.

Connie Kanter, the academy's development director, said the fun and entertainment of an auction

dinner engages donors in a way a simple fund drive cannot.

"There's a wonderful energy that takes place in that auction atmosphere," Kanter said. "People get caught up in making a difference for that organization and they see other people doing it as well."

What the auctioneers cover in the short course here holds some insights for charities and auction-goers as well. It helps people start recognizing the key differences between commercial and charity events, Toner said.

At commercial auctions, professional buyers of livestock, autos or heavy equipment know exactly what they're looking for, what they're willing to spend and what signals to send to the auctioneer. Items are often sold in 10 to 20 seconds.

In contrast, it can take about two minutes to sell a single item at a charity auction, as the auctioneer talks up each offering and solicits bids from around the room.

For that reason, Toner said, charities do well to set out a large number of items for silent bids at the start of the evening, but reserve the "live auction" program to 40 to 60 high-quality items that will stir interest, conversation and friendly competition.

"The sit-still factor is very important," Toner said. "How long

Some auctioneers rely on the secret weapon of sugary treats to loosen up bidders and their checkbooks.

will the audience sit still for the auction? If you exceed that, you're going to lose them—mentally and physically."

Toner knows most patrons come to the auctions with a sense of what they're willing to spend.

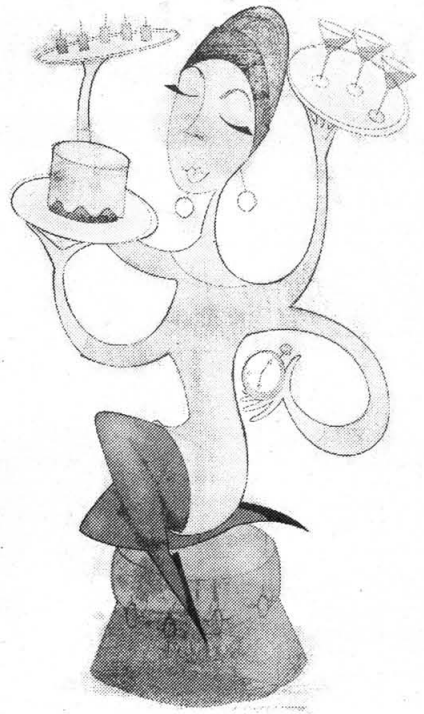
"It's my responsibility to see that they get a chance to spend that entire budget, maybe even exceed it a little," Toner said.

And although wine is a part of most benefit dinners, Toner dis-

putes the notion that getting bidders tipsy is the way to loosen their checkbooks. Occasionally, he's conducted auctions in schools where alcohol is not allowed, and he's found no significant difference in the take.

However, he does tout one chemical weapon: sugar.

"I say get people as full of sugar as you can with the desserts. That's putting energy into them at the time they need it most."



MCT

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Reviews

MUSIC

Modest Mouse
Dashboard

“Dashboard,” the pre-released single from the March 20 release, *We Were Dead Before The Ship Even Sank*, is as bubblegum as Modest Mouse gets. I don’t expect “Dashboard” embodies the sound of the entire album. But, I doubt the new album can surpass the genius of *The Moon & Antarctica*. —B. Palmer

Mos Def
True Magic

While I disagree with the notion that true hip-hop is dead, Mos Def’s latest album, *True Magic*, does give me a mixture of hope and doubt about the genre. *Magic* definitely has an old school feel with its pumping beats. The album feels a little rushed due to its rough sound. It’s a nice effort that could use fine-tuning. —M. Rubio

Harry Connick Jr.
Oh, My Nola

Harry is super easy on the eyes. Unfortunately, I can’t quite say the same for my ears. Though this CD serves as a tribute to Connick’s hometown, New Orleans, I don’t get the heavy, deep-south, baritone sound that’s associated with that city. He has a good voice, but it’s not great and almost too dainty to be jazzy or bluesy. —T. Breyne

PRINT

February Issue, National
Geographic

Although the cover story about “Healing the Heart” presented a fascinating look at medical research on heart disease, the article on oil’s devastating effects of Nigeria serves as a fascinating reminder of the back story of oil production. —E. Kasang

February Issue, The New
Yorker

The Feb. 12, 2007 issue of the New Yorker provides a nice read for a late night el ride home from class. Highlights of this issue include a hilarious and slightly disturbing comic strip from underground comic legends Robert Crumb and his wife Aline as well as a profile on the enigmatic relationship with Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman. —H. Claus

N.E.E.T. Magazine,
Issue #005

N. E. E. T. is just that: neat. It’s not amazing. This online fashion magazine just makes me poorer faster because if I see a pair of bangin’ pumps I want, all I have to do is click them and it takes me straight to the web site. The layouts are kind of bogus, but I give the creator props for doing most of it herself. —C. Mahlmeister

FILM & TV

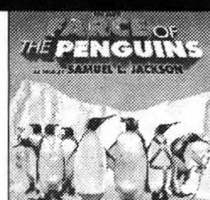
Catch and Release
Directed by Susannah
Grant

If you’re looking for that perfect date movie, this might not be it. After Gray’s (Jennifer Garner) fiancé dies days before the wedding, she discovers his secrets and struggles to overcome them. The upside? This movie reminds us that love can be found in unexpected places. —A. Maurer



The Animation Show

This third annual tour of The Animation Show was near perfection. Best of the best included a new hilarious-yet-bizarre piece by Don Hertzfeldt and *Rabbit* by Run Wrake. The only misses were a couple pieces that have already shown up on “Image Union” one too many times. —S. Baltrukonis

Farce of the Penguins
Directed by Bob Saget

This cartoonish mockumentary of *The March of the Penguins* is loaded with comedic voices, such as Bob Saget and Lewis Black as the penguins and narrated by Samuel L. Jackson. The entire film runs the same jokes over and over and with the same settings. It should have been more entertaining than this; Bob could have done a better job. —K. Kalter

MISC.

No Hearts



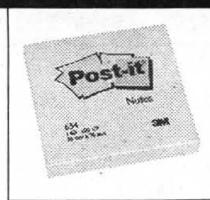
Ugg Boots

Oh Ugg boots. Why did I spend \$100 on you? I used to despise the girls that wore them every day with their jeans tucked inside. Now I am that girl. And to make matters worse, you leak. After every snowfall I find myself laying on the radiator to dry alongside my soaking wet socks. Thanks for nothing, Uggs. —A. Riggio



Canceled Classes

Halleluiah, the angels heard my prayers—or rather, my whining about not wanting to go to class in this random blizzard. Now, nothing against my canceled class, but I couldn’t hide my excitement when I realized that rather than sitting in class for three hours, I could go home, bury myself in a six-pack of Miller Lite and catch up on much needed laziness. Amen. —T. Breyne



Post-Its

Let’s face it; life is a mess without Post-Its. Its ingenious design with the paper on one side, stickiness on the other makes it easy to sort through the daily workday packed with short notes that don’t fit elsewhere. Not only that, but they come in cute, colorful blocks so that you can look creative, artistic and organized with a rainbow wall full of reminders. —D. Nelson

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago’s local bands

Acoustic guitars, soft piano and sweet melodies describe the music of Kate Myers. The 21-year-old Valparaiso, Ind. native has been working on perfecting her sound since the age of 11 and has performed at local venues like the Underground Lounge and Heartland Cafe. With two albums under her belt—a self-titled debut in 2004 and *Blanket Sky* in 2006—the young singer/songwriter talked to The Chronicle about the challenges of being a young college graduate who’s trying to stay a dedicated musician.

The Chronicle: A lot of your songs are about relationships. Do the lyrics come out of personal experience or imagination?

Myers: It’s both. It’s easier for me to write about personal experiences with other people because it’s easier for me to put [those experiences] into words and form a song and it becomes something I can weave into a story.

What inspires you to perform?

I like connecting with an audience. I like playing to people who like to listen to music. It’s more than just a hobby. It’s exhilarating. It keeps me motivated to continue to write and play.

What do you hope an audience will get from your music?

I hope they can connect and relate to what I’m saying. I try to not make things so personal and about me that they can’t understand or empathize. When someone comes up to me and they say I put into words what they couldn’t, that’s the best part. It’s speaking to them in a

way that is different than conversing.

What differs between your first and second album?

I grew a lot. The songs I wrote for the first album I wrote [mostly] when I was in high school and probably [wrote] two or three during freshman year of college. They’re really mostly about personal life experience. It was more [about what I had] in my head and just feelings about what was going on emotion-wise. [The transition between high school and college] is a time when you’re kind of finding yourself. Then I went to school. You learn a lot from going to college. You learn a lot about yourself. The biggest difference is how much I’ve grown. In school, I started exploring different structures of songwriting. This album is more about how much I’ve grown instead of just personal experience.

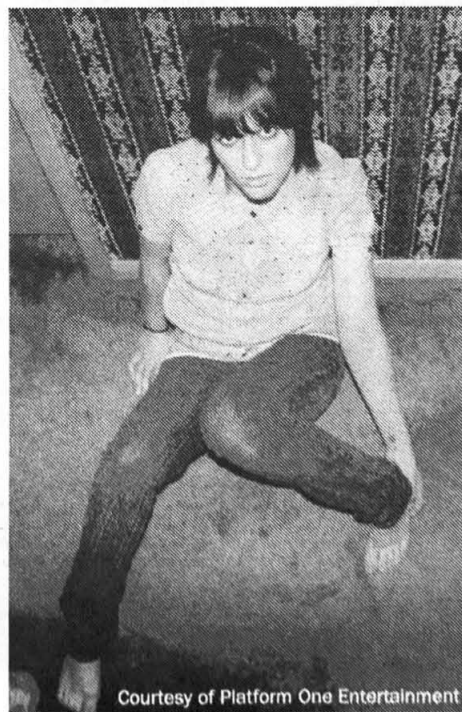
What advice can you give about the business to young musicians?

You have to be prepared to work hard. When I first started off, I was on my own without any representation and it’s hard to get people to take a chance on you and let you perform. You have to really know that it’s what you want to do with your life. You can’t have any doubt. It’s not the typical job most people go into after college. It’s not a nine-to-five. You have to be prepared to give it your all.

To learn more about Kate Myers, visit her website, kate-myers.com or her myspace page at myspace.com/kate-myers.

—M. Kroeck

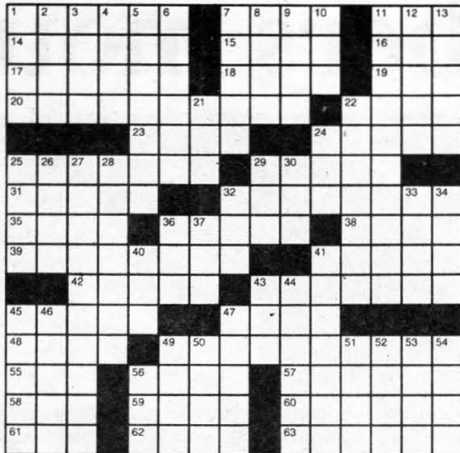
Kate Myers



Courtesy of Platform One Entertainment

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tongue-lash
 - 2 Now hear ___!
 - 3 Raven's cry
 - 4 Spiny sea creature
 - 5 "Fatha" Hines
 - 6 Burrows or Fortas
 - 7 Artist/sculptor William
 - 8 Take part in a game
 - 9 Cycle starter?
 - 10 Going over and over again
 - 11 King toppers
 - 12 Caustic solution
 - 13 Rigging supports
 - 14 Fine plasters
 - 15 Trademark swabs
 - 16 Sots
 - 17 Topographies
 - 18 Press
 - 19 Squallid
 - 20 Fence piece
 - 21 Berg or Stein
 - 22 Actress Elfman
 - 23 Lines up precisely
 - 24 Carpenter's tool
 - 25 Nevada resort area
 - 26 Autograph
 - 27 Deity image
 - 28 Cavern-floor buildup
 - 29 Dis or Pan
 - 30 Type of lens
 - 31 Maudlin
 - 32 SHO rival
 - 33 Director
 - 34 Reminger
 - 35 Auctioneer
 - 36 Singer Ritter
 - 37 Greek peak
 - 38 One Mandrell



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2/19/07

Solutions

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14						15				16		
17						18				19		
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48						49	50			51	52	53
54						55				56		
57						58				59		
60						61				62		
63						64				65		

- DOWN**
- 1 Jefferson's vice president
 - 2 Toledo's lake
 - 3 B.C. cops
 - 4 Wistful phrase
 - 5 Items of men's jewelry
 - 6 Tenor Caruso
 - 7 Lukewarm
 - 8 Saint's glow
 - 9 Present Persia
 - 10 Crafty
 - 11 People living near Mount Elbrus
 - 12 Mr. Doubleday
 - 13 Shortstop Walt
 - 21 "My country — of..."
 - 22 Clothing
 - 24 Knight's title
 - 25 Deep draft of liquor
 - 26 Become fatigued
 - 27 Not by the book
 - 28 Dominate
 - 29 Math proof letters
 - 30 Attempt
 - 32 Golf gadget
 - 33 Five after four
 - 34 Thin board
 - 36 Take to court
 - 37 Magazine VIPs
 - 40 Wish undone
 - 41 Bell ringer
 - 43 Nada
 - 44 Graf's husband
 - 45 Snug
 - 46 Pueblo material
 - 47 Apia's country
 - 49 Heavy imbibers
 - 50 Small fries
 - 51 Comic Martin
 - 52 Capri, for one
 - 53 Next
 - 54 Bronte heroine
 - 56 Albee play, "The — Story"

TO THE NINES



Alwii Shumpert, a 19-year-old 3-D animation major, caught our eye with his brightly colored red, orange and yellow retro Roca Wear jacket.

"My fashion icon is Kanye West," Shumpert said, adding that his favorite item in his wardrobe are his Nike Dunks.

Shumpert exposes his favorite places to shop by sporting a hoodie over two T-shirts paired with some Levis.

"I like clothes from Uprise and Modest," he said, adjusting his sleek, black back pack.

With diamond-studded ears and laid-back attitude, Shumpert claims there's only one true way to describe his style: "lazy."

Mary Kroeck/The Chronicle

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: 1 2 3 4

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

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

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

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Horoscopes by Hunter Claus



Aquarius (Jan. 21—Feb. 19):

While walking home from work, you'll step on a soft patch in the ground and fall into an undiscovered underground world populated by ferret people. They will hoist you on their shoulders and proclaim you their new president only to sacrifice you to a giant roly poly.



Pisces (Feb. 20—March 20):
Stress is the best medicine for feeling too comfortable with life.



Aries (March 21—April 20):
You will out-Urlkel '90s sitcom heartthrob Steve Urkel when you adjust your suspenders so high you create the worst male/female camel toe in the history of mankind.



Taurus (April 21—May 21):
You'll mention you don't have much money to spend while purchasing an engagement ring for your significant other. The saleswoman will tell you she's got just the thing for you and pulls out a ring—a wooden ring with a middle finger flipping you off.



Gemini (May 22—June 21):
Wearing really tight corduroys produces an unpleasant scratching noise, which reminds you of the time you woke up to your cat making love to your foot.



Cancer (June 22—July 23):
Chapped lips mean dry nights.



Leo (July 24—Aug. 23):
Happiness is knowing that the a--holes will leave you alone this entire week.



Virgo (Aug. 24—Sept. 23):
This week will smile down on you when you're buried six feet under an avalanche of snow. Fortunately, you'll be able to keep yourself warm by defecating upon yourself. Let the fun times roll.



Libra (Sept. 24—Oct. 23):
Your fear of former President Richard Nixon returning from the grave and taking your mom on a date to Red Lobster will come true this week.



Scorpio (Oct. 24—Nov. 22):
Using dollar coins at a strip club results in the bouncer's fist being thrown at the back of your head.



Sagittarius (Nov. 23—Dec. 21):
An asteroid hitting Earth is just the stars peeing down on humanity.



Capricorn (Dec. 22—Jan. 20):
You will be the only person who doesn't want to wang chung tonight.

MySpace members mourn

Social-networking website allows teens to remember lost friends

By Ashley M. Heher/AP

Matt Frank had been dead for eight hours when the first goodbye message was posted on his MySpace page.

The note was short and simple: I love you. I'll miss you.

Dozens more followed, as disbelieving friends took to the web to mourn the 17-year-old and three other teenagers who were killed Feb. 11 when a car—crammed with nine passengers—slammed into a utility pole after a late-night house party in suburban Chicago.

"All I can say out of everything that I told you and taught you, I wish so bad that you wouldn't have taken my quote to heart; 'Live well, party hardy, die young,'" wrote friend Kristi Morrison, 19. "I'm so sorry I wish I could take that back. I love you so much, man."

More than half of teenagers who use the Internet frequent social-networking sites like Facebook and MySpace, where they create elaborate profiles and personalize them with photos, music and video. It follows that the online hangouts have become as important to young people in death as they were in life.

"These are places where people in many ways lived their lives online," said Amanda Lenhart, a senior researcher at the Pew

Internet & American Life Project. "And what better way to grieve or mourn a person than in a space they created."

Policies on what to do when an Internet user or blogger dies vary among services, illustrated by the 2005 case of a Marine killed in Iraq whose family went to court to get access to e-mails he had sent through a Yahoo! Inc. account.

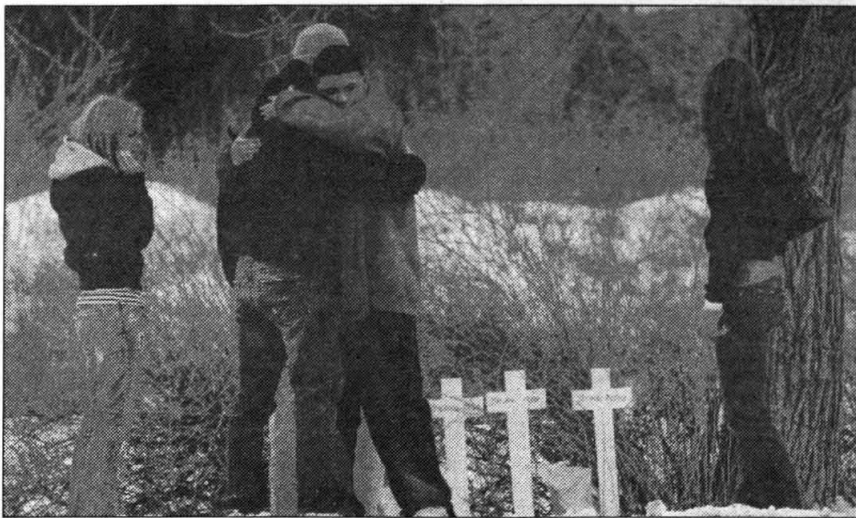
MySpace avoids deleting the deceased's profiles unless asked by family members, which means the profiles-turned-memorials can stay active for years. Other social-networking and blogging sites, such as Xanga and LiveJournal, also host memorials tied to deceased users' pages.

"We often hear from families that a user's profile is a way for friends to celebrate the person's life, giving friends a positive outlet to connect with one another and find comfort during the grieving process," MySpace, a unit of News Corp., said in a statement.

Bernice Hartman didn't know her daughter had a MySpace account until the 21-year-old soldier was killed during a September suicide bombing in Iraq.

Months after Jen Hartman's death, messages and tributes—even Thanksgiving greetings—continued to pop up on the site.

"It's hard to read, but it's more comforting," said Bernice Hartman of New Ringgold, Pa. "I think it's easier for her friends. They come to us at the funeral and say things, but I



Friends mourn the loss of Matt Frank near the crash site in Oswego, Ill., where he was killed on Feb. 12. Goodbye messages were posted on his MySpace page eight hours after his death.

think it's easier for them to leave a message on that than to talk to us personally."

Even the funeral industry has gotten into the act, providing forums for e-condolences on web sites like Legacy.com and Mem.com.

Bennett Leventhal, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Illinois Chicago's Institute for Juvenile Research, said mourning on MySpace is a natural extension of a society where handwritten notes have given way to e-mails and text messages.

"The Phoenicians had to chip it

into tablets," he said. "[This] is just a different form of communication. I don't think it changes the subject or intent. It's just another form of public grieving."

Because networking sites don't monitor the contents of every profile, it's possible for people to post disparaging comments.

The posthumous messages on Frank's page, however, tell of shared kisses, parties, adventures, basketball games and the grief of cleaning out the teen's bedroom.

"Since the pages are personal it sort of feels like you are still able to talk to the person you

just lost, and it seems to offer an intimate means of sitting down by yourself and having that last goodbye," said Phil Lorenz, 27, a family friend who posted a goodbye message.

So far, Morrison has posted notes to Frank's profile three times, as well as to the pages of the accident's other victims.

"I didn't get to say goodbye to any of them. And I just wanted to say goodbye," she said in an interview. "I don't know if it makes people feel better. Maybe it's just wishful thinking, that they are reading it from heaven."

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO LOSE YOUR LIFE TO A KILLER

STORY
RUFFALO

WILL
GYLLENHAAL

ROBERT
DOWNEY JR.

ZODIAC

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**ZODIAC OPENS NATIONWIDE ON
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High price in candy art

Chocolate art helps raise gourmet sales around the country

By Bill Daley/MCT

Chicago has long been known as the candy capital of the world, thanks to large operations such as Brach's, Fannie May and Mars.

What may come as a surprise is that the Chicago area is home to many individual chocolatiers: people dedicated to handcrafted bonbons made with artisan chocolate, flushed with flavors exotic or familiar and shaped to look like works of art.

Just be prepared to pay for the pleasure; \$2 and up for a bite at some places. Increasingly, folks are willing to pony up to the premium chocolate counter.

Sales are up 30 percent over a year ago for so-called "gourmet" chocolates sold in supermarkets, drugstores and mass-market stores, said Susan Fussell, director of communications for the Chocolate Manufacturers Association, a Vienna, Va.-based trade group. These statistics show growing consumer interest in gourmet chocolate, she said, interest that is bound to also affect those artisans crafting chocolates by hand.

Artisan chocolate is a relatively new sector within the chocolate industry, according to Andrew Garrison Shotts, owner of Garrison Confections in

Providence, R.I.

"As pastry chefs have become chocolatiers, bringing their artistic abilities to the art of making chocolate, the entire look and feel of luxury chocolates have changed," he writes in *Making Artisan Chocolates*.

Uzma Sharif, chef and owner of Love in Disguise Chocolates Ltd. in Chicago, said the appeal of handmade chocolate is simple.

"People want something more creative that shows what's coming from their hearts," she said. "A lot of my customers want something unique."

More chocolatiers like Sharif are seeking to feed the demand, which becomes so evident during Valentine's Day. Most do only chocolates; others sell cookies, cakes and pastries as well. What unites them is a passion for quality customers can taste and see, and an innate respect for the mysterious ways of the raw ingredient they're using.

"It's tricky stuff," said Bob Piron, whose 23-year-old company, Belgian Chocolatier Piron of Evanston, could be considered the granddaddy of the region's makers of prestige chocolates. "As soon as you think you understand it, it slaps you in the face and you lose a batch."

Yet chocolatiers keep plugging away, buoyed by the sense of artistry and creativity given by this ancient food, once favored by the Mayans and Aztecs.

Tastes in chocolate are changing, Chicago chocolatiers say, as

Americans develop a more European palate for chocolate. That means less sweet, more intense chocolates.

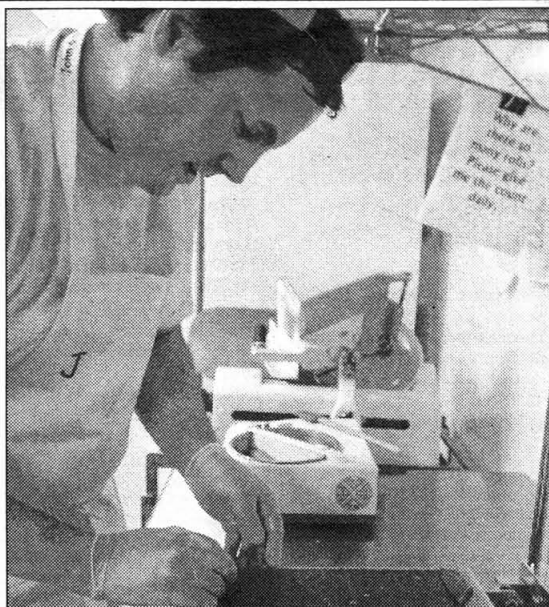
Cacao is the bean from which chocolate is made. The percentage numbers increasingly found on chocolate wrappers boasts how much pure cacao bean is in that chocolate. The higher the cacao percentage, the more intense is the flavor.

Knowing the cacao numbers is all the rage these days, with consumers seeking out chocolates with percentages ranging from 64 to 90 percent. Fussell said this is another sign of how consumers want to know more about chocolate.

While cacao affects flavor, the Chocolate Manufacturers Association noted one can't automatically link the cacao percentage with the amount of flavanols found in a particular piece of chocolate. Flavanols are compounds that researchers believe may lower blood pressure.

Health claims have fueled interest in chocolate. Like green tea and red wine, chocolate is rich in good-for-you antioxidants. Dark chocolate is especially rich in antioxidants, and Chicago-area chocolatiers report a boost in dark-chocolate sales. At Belgian Chocolatier Piron, for example, dark has outsold milk chocolate about 3-to-1 in the last year. In years past, the demand was more evenly split, Piron said.

A number of chocolate-makers



KRT

John Doyle works on one of his chocolate creations on Feb. 11. Sales have increased by 30 percent for gourmet candies.

ers are seeking to boost the healthful aura in the choice of the other ingredients used in their confections. Sharif, for example, spoke of working "super foods" such as blueberries and pomegranates into her chocolates. And Rieko Wada, owner of Sweet Endeavours in Schaumburg, has even made raspberry bonbons using berries from one of her customer's own raspberry bushes.

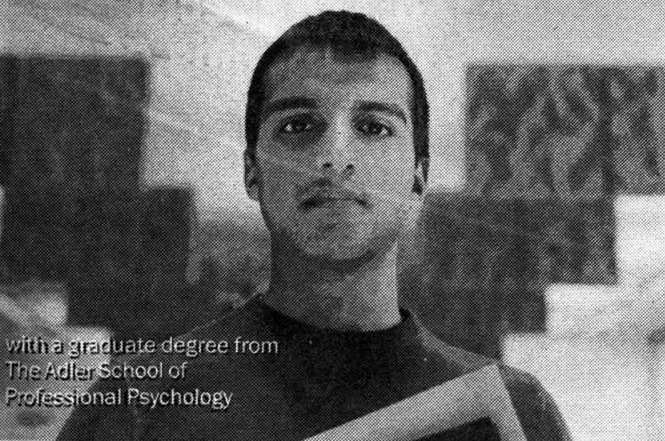
Chocolatiers feeding the area's sweet tooth benefit from the city's long candy history, said Matt Hancock, director of the

Food and Candy Institute, a non-profit public-private partnership working to strengthen the food and candy industries in Chicago. But getting the word out about these artisans is important too.

Hancock said many of his friends are surprised to learn that Vosges Haut-Chocolat, a nationally respected maker of gourmet chocolates, was born right here in Chicago.

"No one is surprised Hershey's is made in Pennsylvania; we're not as good at promoting our candy," he said.

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National hotline opens for abused teens

Cell phones targeted as newest form of abuse

By Bonnie Rubin/MCT

Scrapping his usual lesson for the day, the South Shore High School teacher asked his students a question: Is it ever OK to be abusive with a boyfriend or girlfriend?

A 16-year-old boy spoke up. "If she does something to provoke you, then you have to put her in her place," he said nonchalantly. "I'm not going to hit her in the face but I'm not going to run, either."

With that, a candid discussion was under way that gave teacher Scott Steward an earful.

"A guy may need to get a little physical to know where his girlfriend is at all times," argued one boy.

"It's a way to show how he cares about you," said another.

Until recently, most interventions for domestic abuse were geared to older perpetrators and victims. But increased awareness of violence among teens is sparking a flurry of initiatives for young adults, including the lesson plan taught by Steward.

In a related program, the country's first national abuse hotline for teens will open Thursday.

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention surveyed 14,000 high school students as part of a 2005 study, 9.2 percent said

they had been "hit, slapped or physically hurt" by their dating partners in the previous 12 months. Perhaps surprisingly, the incidence was about the same among girls and boys.

In Chicago, 15.4 percent of high school students reported being victims, mirroring higher rates in some other big cities.

But experts point out that hitting isn't the only form of abuse.

Today, a boy might send text messages to a girl's cell phone 30 times an hour to keep track of where she is and what she's doing.

Advising an abused teenager living at home is very different from advising a battered spouse, said Sheryl Cates, executive director of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, which will run the new hotline for teens.

For starters, most young victims don't confide in their parents, who probably aren't too keen on the boyfriend or girlfriend to begin with. Adults may insist that the relationship be ended—not so easy in high school, where "social status" and "boyfriend" or "girlfriend" often go hand in hand.

"Teens need to talk with someone who can relate to what they're going through... where someone is supportive, nonjudgmental and has no control over them," Cates said.

Nykia Carter, now 20, has more than a passing knowledge of the subject. In 2005, she was dating a 23-year-old man who seemed so

loving—until Carter discovered that she was pregnant at age 18.

"I started seeing some control issues, like he needed to know where I was at all times but I tried to ignore it," Carter said.

In November 2005, she said, her partner became enraged at a perceived slight, beating her so severely that she went into premature labor and was admitted to St. Francis Hospital in Evanston.

Her daughter was born healthy this month, and Carter did not file charges. She did get an order of protection though. Her reason: "I grew up without a dad, and I didn't want that for my little girl." When she has contact with the girl's father, she meets him in a public place.

"It's never acceptable to place your hands on a woman, because you don't know your strength," said Carter, who is juggling motherhood with a full-time job and two online college courses. "And I would want girls who are in abusive relationships to understand that even if he says he loves you, he doesn't... because love should never cause physical pain."

According to the results of a survey released Thursday, parents are generally unaware of the extent of the problem.

The survey, conducted by Teenage Research Unlimited and commissioned by Liz Claiborne, found that 20 percent of teens have sent e-mails and text messages up to 30 times an hour. Only 5 percent

of parents thought their kids engaged in such behavior.

While that frequency might represent benign use of the technology, the survey also found that one in five respondents say they are "checked up on" 20 times an hour; one in 10 said it was more than 50 times an hour.

It also found that 17 percent communicate via cell or texting 10 or more times per hour between midnight and 5 a.m.

"The constant contact suggests someone really needing to control someone else in an extreme way," said Peter Picard, TRU's senior researcher. "It's almost as if they're looking over

your shoulder."

It also illuminates the digital divide between parents and their children. In an era of mobile technology, it's not enough to keep the computer out of a teen's bedroom.

"This is really about being in the dark relationship-wise, which is enabled by technology," Picard said. "We think [kids] are at home, nice and snug in their beds and now we see that others can find them and they can find anybody any time of the day or night."

The new national hotline will operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, beginning Feb. 15. The number is (866) 331-9474.

Obama Rama



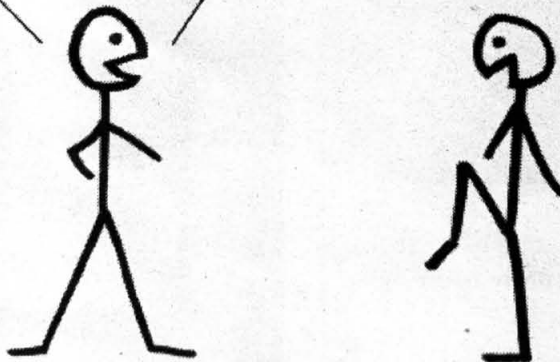
Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Senator and presidential hopeful Barack Obama (D Ill.) waves to a sea of supporters at the UIC Pavilion on Feb. 2.

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Auto Show: Activists met with legal battle over protest

Continued from Back Page

from them at one time or another. It's so hard to bike downtown; I'm so afraid because of all the cars and all the people that don't know how to drive. There are bike lanes, but it's just too hectic for me to ride my bike in the loop."

Kyle Collins, a 22-year-old criminal justice major at Harper College in Palatine, Ill., said he attended the auto show because he enjoyed looking at the cars.

"The auto show doesn't create auto dependency," Collins said. "I've never seen it that way. People go because it gives them a chance to look at the new cars."

Collins said he uses the mass transit system when he is in Chicago, but he depends on his car for use in the suburbs.

"If there was a mass transit system to get around in the suburbs, I would be using it," Collins said. "It would be nice to not have to drive."

However, the protesters, although visible, didn't affect the auto show, at all, according to Paul Brian, spokesman for the Chicago Auto Show.

"To paraphrase a quote from George Bush [Sr.],



Alison Shipley/The Chronicle

Protesters dressed in polar bear costumes stand outside the Chicago Auto Show on Feb. 10.

when a horse flicks a fly off of his hind quarters, it's a crisis for the fly, not for the horse. Basically, [the protesters] are there every year, so they're there. But who cares?" Brian said.

Brian said police informed activists of a specified area where anyone can protest events held at McCormick Place.

"They hung around for a little bit, rode their little bikes around and had fun," Brian said. "They're practicing their First Amendment rights and they're entitled to that."

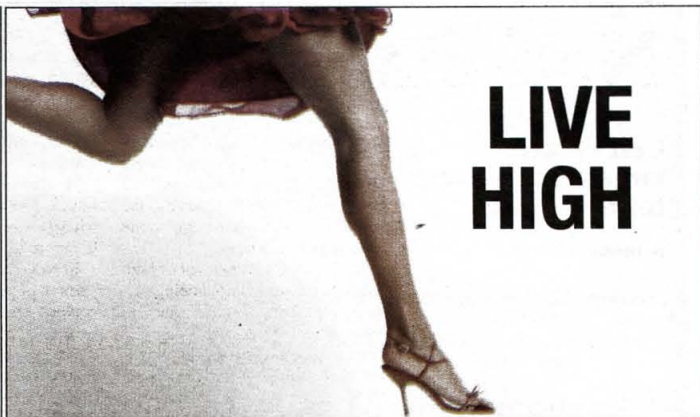
Still, the Chicago Auto Show sent a "cease and desist" letter to the protest organizers and creators of a

web site, autoshowshutdown.org, claiming it had participated in trademark infringement by using the auto show's trademarks on their site.

Autoshowshutdown.org informs the public of different events taking place in protest of the Chicago Auto Show for the eighth annual shutdown festival.

"When we first got the letter from the auto show, we were worried. We knew we could hire a lawyer, but we knew the [Chicago Auto Show] could hire a ton of lawyers," said Korn, one of the creators of the web site.

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Possible extension of CTA train lines

Yellow and Red Lines targeted to expand

By Rashauna C. Hull
Staff Writer

After decades of talk and little action, the Chicago Transit Authority has started an Alternative Analysis Study to examine the possibility of extending the Yellow and Red Lines.

The Yellow Line will extend to Westfield Shoppingtown Old Orchard in Skokie and the Red Line to 130th Street and Stony Island Avenue. Although both extensions will be analyzed concurrently, accessibility and public necessity have left many questioning if these projects have equal priority.

The Alternative Analysis Study is designed to seek every possible transit option and determine an alternative that is preferred locally.

The Red Line extension, which would extend from 95th/State to 130th Street and Stony Island Avenue, is estimated to cost \$741 million. It would serve under-employed and low-income residents on Chicago's far South Side and south suburbs. It will also offer an economic development for jobs, businesses and educational opportunities.

In contrast, the roughly \$100 million Yellow Line extension would whisk shoppers and employees to Old Orchard, the Cook County courthouse and other retail developments and

nearby offices.

These differences alone have many Red Line riders questioning if the Yellow Line extension is needed as much as the Red Line extension.

"[Skokie residents] have cars where they live; we do not," said Kevin Jackson, a junior chemical engineering major at the University of Illinois at Chicago and resident of south suburb Dalton. "We need this project more than they do."

Jackson is one of the potential 28,000 South Side and south suburban residents who will benefit from this extension. His daily trip to UIC consists of a 30-minute bus ride to the 95th Red Line terminal, where he boards the Red Line train northbound to Jackson, transfers to the Blue Line and boards the train westbound to the UIC stop. His trip to and from school is more than four hours.

The Red Line extension will be the most expensive project in the CTA system. Because of cost, some residents of communities who could benefit by the extension wonder if less expensive and time consuming projects will overshadow the Red Line extension.

"There have been so many projects going on and CTA is always complaining about the lack of funding they have," Jackson said. "Unfortunately, projects in poorer communities are pushed back because [residents] do not have a lot of say."

However, Lou Turner, research and public policy director for the Developing Communities Project,

said residents have a tremendous impact on what decisions are made in the CTA system.

He said lack of public demand contributed to why the Red Line extension, which was proposed in 1973, is currently going through the Alternative Analysis Study.

The Developing Communities Project began making efforts to tackle the Red Line extension a couple of years ago. More than 200 people showed up to two community meetings in regards to the extension. Usually, only a dozen people show up to community meetings, according to Turner. The continued organized efforts of the Developing Communities Project contributed to the inclusion of the Red Line Project in the 2003 Regional Plan and the federal transportation bill in 2005.

Although the Red Line extension has received some news exposure, the Yellow Line seems to have garnered more coverage.

"The Yellow Line extension seems to be in the news more [than the other extensions]," said Steve Marciani, Skokie's planning supervisor. "A Skokie beat reporter wrote a story about the extension... and it seemed to have a news trail from the Chicago Tribune to CBS."

In addition, the process for the first steps to the Yellow Line extension were less complex compared to that of the Red Line.

The village of Skokie created a feasibility study for an extension of the Yellow Line. This study analyzed whether the extension would be a cost-effective means to



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

A Skokie-bound Yellow Line train waits for passengers at the Howard stop on Jan. 25.

increase ridership and provide efficient transit to residents and employees of Skokie, according to skokie.org. CTA included the project in the 2003 regional plan and the federal transportation bill that same year.

Despite the 42-year wait for an extension, strong advocacy is what may have helped contribute to the quick response from the CTA, according to John Paul Jones, director of Community Outreach Neighborhood Capital Budget Group's Campaign for Better Transit.

"Skokie has a more established community than the [far south side] communities," Jones said.

As of now, the Alternative Analysis Study is at a standstill. This study is only the first step of a five step process that extensive projects such as these go through. This five-step process is part of the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts program and can take at least 10 years to complete.

The New Starts program is a plan that requires proposals for transit projects to go through a process of planning, design and construction.

Both projects will continue their pursuit to finalizing these extensions and making sure they are top priority.

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Exclusive art collection comes to Chicago

19th century art dealer's collection displayed

By D. Annie Slezyk
Staff Writer

An exclusive collection of art from a 19th century art dealer, Ambroise Vollard, premieres at the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., as part of the exhibit "Cezanne to Picasso."

The exhibit, which opened on Feb. 17, is not only made up of paintings, but also sculptures, ceramics, prints and other artwork from the time, said Erin Hogan, spokeswoman for the Art Institute. "The exhibit will hopefully give a much better understanding of what the climate of art was like during this time frame, especially for the people of Chicago, who will be seeing some work never before seen by the city," Hogan said.

Hogan said Vollard's collection proved that he was one of the most important art dealers in the 1890s with some of the most famous work from the time included in his

collection like one painting by Cezanne called "The basket of apples."

"Everything that is shown in the exhibit is work that has passed through galleries of art dealers Vollard has represented," Hogan said.

Kate Ezra, an art history instructor at Columbia, said Vollard was able to promote artists whose work was not appreciated during their lifetime, like Cezanne and Van Gogh, by selling their pieces to museums and American collectors.

The exhibit shows work from several post-impressionist artists like Paul Gauguin and Vincent Van Gogh.

"Post-impressionist artists like Cezanne and Gauguin are able to put more of their personality and vision into their artwork," Ezra said.

Ezra said these artists put more emotion and vision into their work than impressionist artists by using visible brush strokes, a method that created stepping stones for abstract artists like Picasso.

In addition to artwork, the



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Members of the Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave., view the Cezanne to Picasso show during a preview on Feb. 15.

exhibit also features Vollard's purchase records, photography and stock books showing his business deals with artists.

Also, the different publications reveal details about the relationship between Vollard, as a dealer, and his clients. Still, the new exhibit should create more interest in the museum, according to

Michael Arbuckle, a student at the School of the Art Institute with an emphasis in drawing and painting. "It's a nationwide art tour that is bringing lot of attention to the city and even to the school," he said.

Hogan said a previous exhibit included the Metropolitan Museum in New York City. It will be shown in Paris this summer

from June until September. Arbuckle said he's looking forward to seeing pieces—especially paintings from Picasso—that he's only seen in pictures.

General admission to the Art Institute of Chicago is free until Feb. 21 and prices for "Cezanne to Picasso" range daily.

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Money: Database makes files searchable

Continued from Back Page

Morrison said when the Illinois disclosure program was revamped in 1998 to allow for greater accessibility to records,

the state's system hadn't changed since Watergate in the early 1970's.

"The disclosure system was about as walled off to the public as it could be," Morrison said. "Stuff was filed only on paper and if anyone wanted to see those reports they would have to go to one of two places in the entire state. You had to fill out a form in triplicate with your

name and address, your employer's name and address, as well as a reason why you wanted to view them."

A small portion of the bill that passed in 1998 provided that a database would be created and made available on the Internet, something many legislators glanced over at the time. A year after passing there was an effort to strip the provision from the

bill, but it ultimately failed.

Now, all candidates who form political action committees that generate over \$10,000 must file extensively with the state, and those records are published online. The new ILCPR database is essentially the same information, but with a focus on the Chicago municipal election.

In past municipal elections, the same information was available to the public, but Morrison said the ILCPR has standardized all the names, many of which are entered with misspellings, and made the information easily searchable for voters.

Still, according to Jay Stewart, executive director of the Better Government Association, a Chicago-based

government watchdog, the website allows people to see who is giving money to lawmakers.

"They're not giving campaign contributions because they're feeling charitable," Stewart said. They're giving because they think they're going to get something for it."

He added that even in the best case scenario, people contributing to campaigns at least want access.

"The bottom line is, those large funders are going to have better access and more influence on the public official than the regular member of the public," Stewart said. "And [the contributors] may not share the same interest of the public."

jewert@chroniclemail.com

Dan Ryan: Expressway to last 30 years

Continued from Back Page

reports from Nov. 2005 to Nov. 2006, the number of passengers on the CTA Red Line increased from more than 59 million to 62 million, a rise of approximately 5 percent. This doesn't count the number of riders that transferred from other trains.

Steve Saltarelli, a sophomore film major who takes the Dan Ryan a couple times a month to home and work, said the construction didn't affect him too badly last year.

"It's much smoother, which is nice," said Steve Saltarelli, sophomore film major. "But it gets backed up a lot."

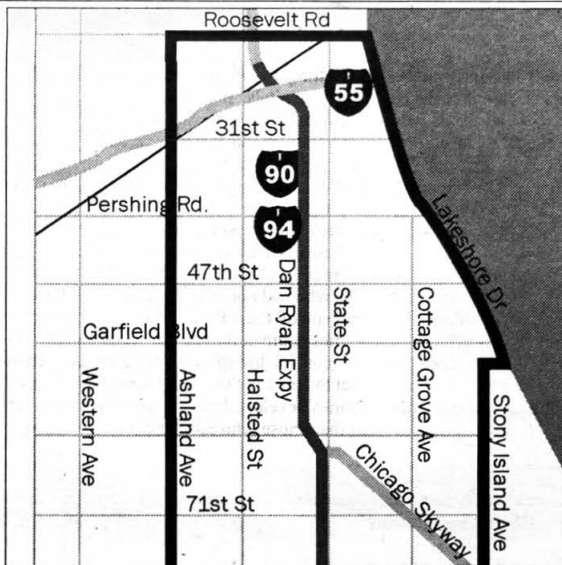
The Dan Ryan is going to be shut down to four lanes from six most of the way, Claffey said, but on the Skyway it will be down to three from five lanes. Saltarelli said this wasn't a problem, except during rush hours.

"Sometimes it's really good and I get downtown in 13 minutes," Saltarelli said. "Other times it takes an hour and a half."

Tyszkiewicz said the Dan Ryan was being rebuilt to help combat the high number of crashes. The new road would have additional lanes, longer entrances and exits and smoother pavement.

Drain pipes are also being added underneath the road to reduce lane closures due to flooding, Claffey said.

Tyszkiewicz said he expects there to be less maintenance on the pavement, which has been



Kimi Badger/The Chronicle

Traffic is being diverted to Stony Island Avenue and Lakeshore Drive on the east side and Ashland Avenue on the west side.

designed to last 30 years.

"The whole cross section is much more durable," Tyszkiewicz said.

Last year construction crews experienced some problems in excavating the roads, which led to two weeks of setbacks. Tyszkiewicz said the crews encountered sheets of bedrock, which are harder to dig up. Also, because construction went from April through November, the crews had some weather difficulties.

Since construction will start earlier this year, Tyszkiewicz said he did not expect the same problems. He said there was time in the contract to take off a day or two for weather, although the contractors are given financial incentives to finish early.

According to danryanconstruction.com, the official IDOT web site for the Dan Ryan construction, the road is 61 percent complete at the moment. Both Tyszkiewicz and Claffey were optimistic that it would be finished early this year.

Tyszkiewicz said people were very understanding of the challenges and how hard the crews were working to get the job done.

"For the most part, the feedback I've got from the public is impressed by how fast and how hard we've been working out there to get it done, because they drive by and see progress every day," Tyszkiewicz said.

dnelson@chroniclemail.com

CTA: Grassroots group hopes to speed up slow zones

Continued from Front Page

This sparked the idea of setting up a system to allow commuters to text message and let them do the rest, Maloney said.

Jacqueline Leavy, who helped organize the Campaign for Better Transit through the Neighborhood Capital Budget Group, said she is excited to hear about the group's efforts.

"I hope they kick butt," Leavy said.

Leavy said she feels as though the CTA and Mayor Richard Daley have refused to listen to the public's concerns and finds the group's efforts very encouraging.

"Things will get worse before they get better," Leavy said. "CTA needs to change, so does Metra, and RTA needs real teeth to oversee and regulate the transit service boards."

"Despite the significant investments we continue to make in the system, the reality is we are operating service on aging infrastructure that requires a consistent level of

funding to keep pace with the necessary maintenance and improvements," Antongiorgi said.

Slow zones on Howard-bound Red Line trains and Blue Line trains to O'Hare are due to deteriorating infrastructure and lack of capital funding, Antongiorgi said.

There do not seem to be any quick fixes, a CTA spokesperson said.

"The investment we are making in the system will have long term benefits, but does result in inconveniencing customers," Antongiorgi said.

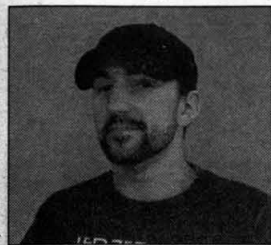
There is a lot that needs to be addressed on the system and that requires much in the way of capital funds. Even as existing slow zones are addressed, new ones will continue to appear as the rail infrastructure continues to age.

Maloney said he would love to see Daley, who hasn't publicly said if he rides CTA, get onboard a train on a hot July day and ride to Addison in midst of Cubs season to see how things really are.

The group does not have a target goal, but hopes enough people voice their frustration. So far, Neighbors Project has received a total of 500 text and online messages.

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Scoop in the Loop: Obama's propinquity



By Brent Steven White
Associate Editor

Four blocks away from the heart of our campus is an office used by someone who could be the next president of the United States.

On the 13th floor of the John C. Kluczynski Federal Office Building, 230 S. Dearborn St., Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and his aides are working diligently at formulating an effective campaign that will win him the Democratic nomination.

After that, of course, is the push for the White House.

Many may not realize it, but this could have a significant impact on local media, especially mainstream.

It's likely that if Obama wins his party's nomination, Chicago media could see some substantial changes. In fact, we've already begun to see it in our papers. Obama makes headlines for minor things like trying to kick a smoking habit.

When the media cover these

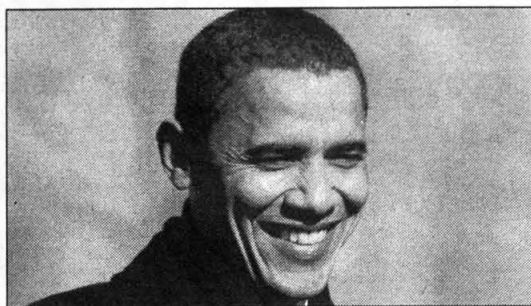
types of things, we have to think about what isn't being covered—"smaller" news goes unnoticed by mainstream media outlets. This is why so many reporters and media hogs are attracted to blogs. The local Obama perspective has been one-sided, and I think it's only going to get worse.

It's also interesting that local media has been pretty soft on Obama so far. This, I think, is partly because he's our hometown guy. There's a lot of local pride in this city, which is obvious to me because I'm not from here.

And Obama is a politician with a persona that seems so impenetrable that local reporters are afraid to drill him on the hard stuff. Then again, maybe there just aren't a lot of bad things to say about him.

Some local media have tried to offer a new perspective about him. The Chicago Tribune reported last November that Obama purchased a piece of property from Antoin "Tony" Rezko, a political insider and campaign fundraiser in Chicago. The feds indicted Rezko for allegedly demanding kickbacks for state business. However, Obama "did everything by the book," according to Jay Stewart, executive director of Chicago's Better Government Association, who was quoted in a December 2006 Washington Post article. "But there's a higher expectation of him."

It's exactly that "higher expect-



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) announces his candidacy for president in Springfield, Ill on Feb. 10.

"tation" we have come to hold Obama up to, and appears to be a direct result of local media's soft coverage on the guy. And although there weren't many dots to connect in the Rezko debacle—no obvious misconduct by Obama—his reputation wasn't affected by the allegations. I think that says something about our perception of the man and our inability to see him differently.

And that's the media's fault. If you think about it, the Obama we know is the Obama that's been created. We've created a perception of him based on a life that he's laid out for us. Two books about his life have become best-sellers and are currently operating as the framework for us to formulate opinions on the guy. This is why it's up to

the media, especially local media, to step it up and really start asking Obama harder questions.

While Obama's campaign is in its infancy, now is the time for media to get Obama to thoroughly explain his plans for the country. Harder questions mean present promises and future commitments.

And Americans need to begin to see Obama in a different way if we're expected to vote for him for president. We need the complete picture, and the only way this will happen is if media drill this guy relentlessly.

Obama isn't perfect. But because the media has been throwing softballs at him, we think he is.

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In Public

Monday, February 19

Stop by the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., to tune into the New Millennium Orchestra: Knoxville, Summer of 1915. The performance will feature soprano Michelle Arevzaga and also include Beethoven's "Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21." The event is free and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 22

Visit Killer B's, 464 N. Halsted St., to enjoy an evening of the five B's—blues, bourbon, barbecue, beer and John Bubala. Bubala is the chef and owner of Killer B's, a modern Italian restaurant. Admission is \$50 per person and includes food, beverage tax and gratuity. Call (312) 226-4300 to make reservations.

Friday, February 23

Head over to Preston Bradley Hall at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., to test out your stepping moves at V103's Stepper's Set. The Majestic Gents step group will provide dance lessons to guests while Chicago's own Herb Kent hosts and provides the music. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. and is only open to guests who are 21 and older. This is a free event.

Musician and songwriter Nina Simone will be performing at the Athenaeum Theatre, 2936 N. Southport Ave. Choreography by Joel Hall, Paul Sanasardo and the Joel Hall Dancers will also be included in the set. Admission is \$20-30 depending on seating. The performance begins at 8 p.m.

Saturday, February 24

Macy's on State Street, 111 N. State St., will be hosting Fashion Fun, an event designed to give guests insight on what to expect for this year's spring fashion. They will also speak about how Macy's builds its fashion events and displays. Admission is \$50 per person and the event will begin at 10 a.m.

Metro news briefs: a short week in review

A chill pill for the heart

New research suggests that a quick cat-nap at work not only eases the mind but the heart. As reported in the Chicago Sun-Times, researchers spent six years following 23,681 healthy Greek adults. Those who napped at least three times a week for about 30 minutes lowered their risk of dying from heart attacks or other heart problems by 37 percent when compared to those who did not. The strongest evidence of the study was in working men who took occasional or mid-day naps and lowered their risk of death due to heart problems by 64 percent.

Dr. Dimitrios Trichopoulos, a professor of cancer prevention and epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health, led the study along with a colleague from the University Of Athens Medical School in Greece.

Bulldozed down

One of downtown's oldest parking garages is set to be demolished this week and replaced with a 43-story apartment building under a zoning plan filed at City Hall. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the building, located at 20 W. Lake St., will house 335 units and have an onsite parking garage as well as a small surface lot. The zoning documents also said the parking lot will be open to 550 cars, which is an unusually large amount.

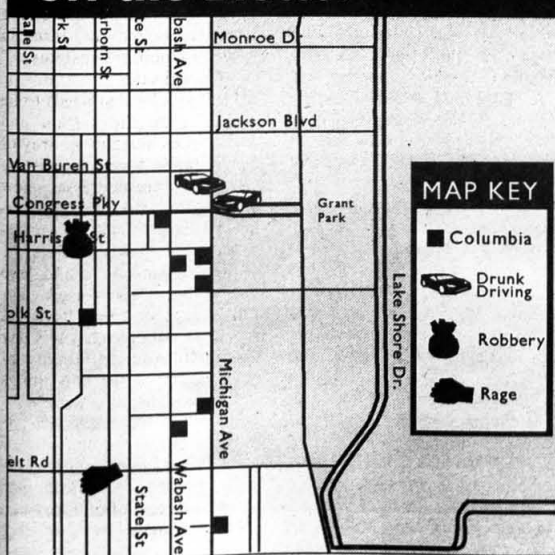
According to the Midwest Property Group Ltd., the company responsible for submitting the proposal, the new complex will connect to Post Place, a small street that connects to Lower Wacker Drive and Lake Street which will help residents come and go without clogging up Wacker Drive.

Losing more than sperm

Getting a vasectomy might not only affect a man's genitals, it may also affect his brain, according to a new study. Northwestern University medical school research found that the disease primary progressive aphasia (PPA), which gradually destroys patients' ability to talk, read and write, has been linked to men with vasectomies.

Researchers compared 47 men with PPA to 57 men of the same age with similar education who had normal mental abilities. Also, 40 percent of the PPA patients had had vasectomies compared to the 16 percent of those in the control group. The research also found that the men in the PPA group who had vasectomies developed the disease four years earlier than those who did not have the surgery.

Off the Blotter



Kimi Badger/The Chronicle

Be on the lookout

While waiting for the Red Line train on Feb. 6 at the CTA's Roosevelt station, 22 E. Roosevelt Rd., a man in his 20s or 30s approached a 27-year-old man demanding him to remove his headset. After the man refused, the offender took out a 6-inch knife and stabbed the victim in his left shoulder. The victim then punched the male in the mouth and ran. No suspects have been found.

Caught red-handed

On Feb. 7 police officers received a call from an employee of Chase Bank, 550 S. Dearborn St., to report a robbery. The employee left police with a description of the offender and said he had a gun. While heading east on Congress Parkway, police officers found a backpack with 20-dollar bills covered in red ink. Officers then went down to the Blue Line Station where they found a man who fit the suspect's description and had dye on his clothing and shoes. The man was later identified as the robber by a Chase employee.

South Loop fatality

While traveling south on Michigan Avenue, a 2003 Pontiac Grand AM slammed into a flower box median at 470 S. Michigan Ave. on Feb. 10. The 19-year-old driver of the vehicle was thrown from the car and reported dead on arrival by emergency workers.

The passenger, also 19, suffered multiple fractures. The passenger later reported to police that they had been drinking earlier in the evening.

Driving into a life lesson

As police attempted to block off traffic from the fatal car accident listed above, a 26-year-old male attempted to go around emergency vehicles and drove through the accident scene. Police pulled the man over and reported that he smelled of alcohol. The man failed a sobriety test and then resisted arrest by police. A court date has been set for the driver.

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

Bikers goof off at the Auto Show

Demonstrators playfully protest Chicago Auto Show

By Alison Shipley
Staff Writer

Although the 100-year-old Chicago Auto Show has been generating excitement for many of its visitors, others aren't sharing the same sentiments.

About 20 people participated in a protest they called Shutdown Festival at the Chicago Auto Show.

Dressed up as polar bears, Superman and Santa Claus, the group of bicyclists rode from Daley Plaza to McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, in protest of the auto and oil industries. The demonstrators hoped to raise awareness of the effects vehicle emissions have on global warming and the environment.

"We see the auto show as an over-the-top, big glorification of cars, when the last thing we need in Chicago is more cars," said David Korn, activist and leader of the Shutdown Festival. "There's an auto show on the streets of Chicago every day. You can't even walk on the sidewalks or ride your bike without seeing, hearing or smelling them."

Korn and other protesters at



A coalition of bicycling protesters dressed up as polar bears, Superman and Santa Claus gathered to demonstrate against the auto and oil industries at the Chicago Auto Show held at McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive.

McCormick Place said bicycles are the vehicles of the future. The auto show protesters held signs that read "Don't drive our polar bears into extinction."

"We don't need any more of our money shipped over seas for oil, or for automobile exhaust to be the leading cause of global warming," Korn said. "We don't need to have the second highest asthma death

rate in the nation due primarily to automobile emissions."

However, not all guests seemed to get the messages of the protest.

Rachel Urquhart, a senior education major at the University of Illinois at Chicago, attended the auto show and said activists should put a larger focus on fixing the problems with the CTA instead of focusing on how the auto show



AUTO SHOW SHUTDOWN.ORG

Alison Shipley/The Chronicle

promotes auto dependency.

"I usually don't go to the car show because I don't see a point in looking at cars that I know I can't afford. But I never thought about it increasing auto dependency," Urquhart said. "Protesters should be fighting the battle of getting more bikes on the street instead of focusing [against the] car show. There are much better ways to pro-

mote biking."

Urquhart said she uses her bicycle and the mass transit system to get to school, but she relies on her car for her daily life in the suburbs.

"I used to ride my bike all the time, until somebody stole it," said Urquhart. "[Everybody] I know has had one bike stolen

See Auto Show, Page 39

Following the money trail

Aldermanic financial disclosure system now available

By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

Editors' note: The Chronicle wants to fully disclose that several editors have worked on the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform's "contributors profiles" as part of a class project.

Elections come and go in politics, just like the candidates and issues, but one element that constantly remains familiar to government and politics is money. And following Chicago's aldermanic money trail just got a little easier.

The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform went live with a new online database last week that focuses specifically on the contributions and expenditures in Chicago's 2007 municipal election.

"If you want to look at the top donors to a candidate or want to know who the biggest contributors are, our site is the place to look for them," said David Morrison, the associate director for the Campaign for Political Reform. "It's a good place to start for people who want to get a better handle on how campaigns are being financed."

The database piggybacks on the Illinois State Board of Elections web site that has kept track of candidates' financial disclosures since 1998, when Illinois changed its law regarding them.

Morrison said Illinois' system of financial disclosure was definitely near the bottom when the law changed to allow more transparency.

Since then, Illinois' system of

Part of The Chronicle's ongoing election coverage

BIG SPENDERS

Top Ten Aldermanic Campaign Expenditures from 2005 and 2006

1. Daniel Solis	25th Ward:	\$755,000
2. Burton Natarus	42nd Ward:	\$735,000
3. Ray Suarez	31st Ward:	\$667,134
4. Ed Burke	14th Ward:	\$618,565
5. Patrick O'Connor	40th Ward:	\$459,658
6. Toni Preckwinkle	4th Ward:	\$455,390
7. Ricardo Munoz	22nd Ward:	\$377,853
8. Joseph Moore	49th Ward:	\$377,383
9. Manuel Flores	1st Ward:	\$371,933
10. Patrick Levar	45th Ward:	\$369,079

Source: Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Kimi Badger/The Chronicle

disclosure has climbed from the bottom rung to the top, but Morrison said there is still work to be done.

In 2005, the Los Angeles-based Center for Governmental Studies, a nonprofit, nonpartisan political research group conducted a study of all 50 states' systems and Illinois ranked fifth, overall. It placed first in terms of the electronic filing, second for accessibility but 27th in regards to campaign disclosure law.

Bob Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies, said a major factor for Illinois low grade is there are no limits to contributions at all.

"Most states have contribution limits, but Illinois doesn't, it's sort of the Wild West when it comes to campaign contributions," Stern said referring to an older kind of politics where almost anything goes. "Even if you had tougher laws, [Illinois political atmosphere] would still prevail because a lot more is accepted there."

[Illinois] plays harder, ball politics than other states."

Rachel Weiss, communications director for the Montana-based National Institute for Money in State Politics, a nonprofit research group that documents and makes available information on campaign contributions in state politics, said although a contribution limit would be helpful, it is not the end all in financial disclosure law.

"Illinois is always one of the states that rank highly in money throughout various election cycles," Weiss said. "A state like California does have limits and it's still the perennial money magnet, so it doesn't guarantee anything, but it certainly contributes."

Weiss added that in 2004 Illinois was second behind California in money spent on state legislative races. She also said Illinois' political atmosphere is tough to change because of its storied political history.

See Money, Page 42

Expressway goes back under the drill

Construction on Dan Ryan set to start again in March

By Dana Nelson
Assistant City Beat Editor

After one grueling year of construction, complaints and traffic rerouting, the Illinois Department of Transportation is getting ready to kickstart phase two of its \$600 million Dan Ryan Expressway reconstruction project.

Phase two, in which construction crews tear up and rebuild the expressway from 13th Street at the I-57 Interchange to 95th Street, begins March 1. Last year, drivers took the local lanes on that stretch while construction was done on express lanes. This year, the construction is being completed in the local lanes and drivers will take the express lanes.

"We're doing a complete facelift on traffic," said Jacek Tyszkiewicz, the project imple-

mentation engineer for IDOT.

IDOT spokesman Mike Claffey said people were encouraged to take public transportation or carpool with others during the reconstruction, which is supposed to be finished by Oct. 31.

Claffey said trucks, which make up 10 to 15 percent of the total traffic on the road, should stay on the expressway during construction, but cars should try alternate routes or public transportation. He said last year the CTA succeeded in taking on some of the commuters who decided not to drive on the expressway.

"We found last year we went from about 300,000 cars a day to about 200,000," Claffey said. "People did take our advice and used public transportation... [The CTA] has said they are able to handle extra riders again this year."

According to CTA ridership

See Dan Ryan, Page 42



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Near 35th street, motorists drive by an electronic sign warning them to expect reduced lanes on the Dan Ryan Expressway.