

3-12-2007

## Columbia Chronicle (03/12/2007)

Columbia College Chicago

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## SGA's book resolution 'uncovered'

**False facts lead to an inaccurate accusation**

By Steve Yaccino  
Assistant Campus News Editor

For the last five years, the Student Government Association has voiced the concerns and issues of students at Columbia. But on Feb. 20, the SGA almost passed a resolution of disapproval without doing its homework.

The resolution was an attempt to speak out against James "Kimo" Williams, a faculty member in the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department, for allegedly requiring students in his Art and Business of Recording class to rip off the covers of their textbooks and turn them in for a grade.

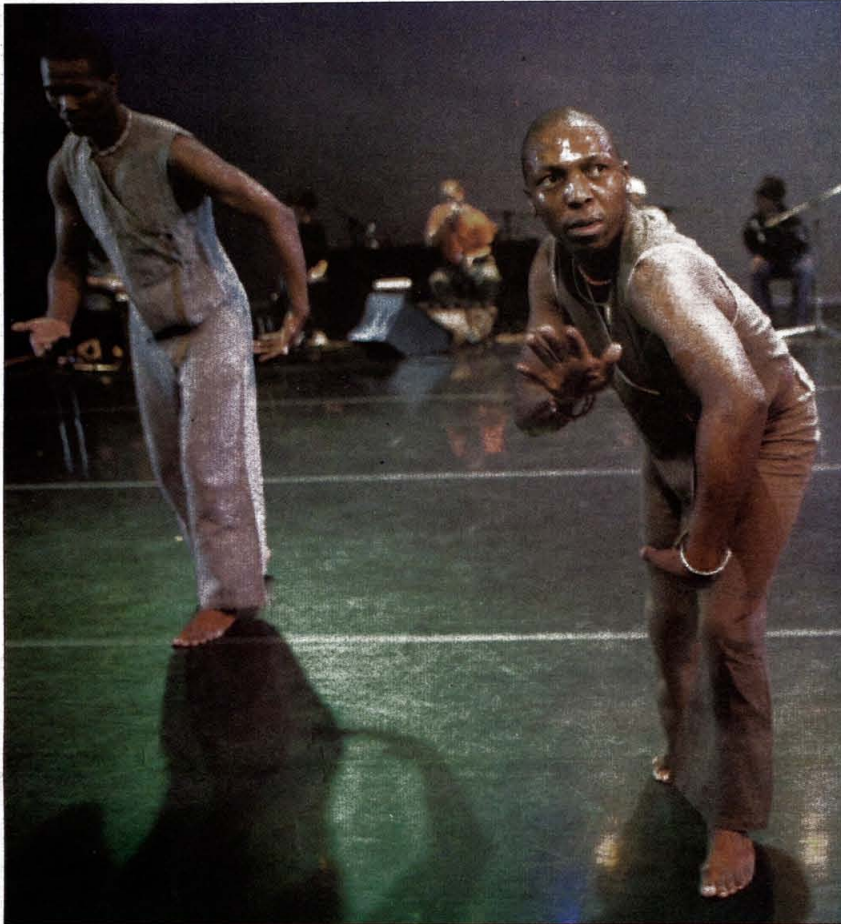
Some SGA members said the coverless books, which Williams wrote, would make it impossible for students to resell or purchase used copies. They accused Williams of using the requirement to make extra money for himself.

However, after a Chronicle investigation, nearly all of this information was proved false.

According to Eileen Cleary, Columbia's bookstore manager, Williams' book, *Applied Music Theory for Managers, Engineers, Producers, and Artists*, is a workbook students are required to write in, and couldn't be sold back with or without its cover. Furthermore, when asked to explain his policy on textbooks, Williams said he

See SGA, Page 9

## Men-Jaro movement



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Vincent Mantsoe, right, dances with Lesole Maine of South Africa, left, during their performance, Men-Jaro, on March 7 at the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave. The Men-Jaro show blended contemporary African dance with traditional, cultured movements from the other dancers' backgrounds. They are part of the Vincent Mantsoe Dance Company based out of France.

## Tuition to rise in fall '07

**Increase stays below national average**

By Amanda Maurer  
Campus News Editor

This fall, students will have to reach almost 5 percent deeper into their pockets as Columbia's tuition tops \$17,000.

Next year students can expect to pay \$776 more, an increase of 4.75 percent, which Columbia's board of trustees approved in December.

This third annual increase comes after a tuition freeze during the 2004-2005 academic year. College administrators and its trustees agreed on the freeze in an attempt to keep Columbia affordable after several yearly increases around 10 percent each.

Nationally, the average percent increase of tuition at private four-year colleges has lingered around 6 percent, according to the College Board, a nonprofit association that studies higher education.

Mike DeSalle, Columbia's vice president of Business Affairs and CFO, said the college intentionally kept the increase less than 5 percent, so it would be less than the national average. Administrators and its trustees also believe the 4.75 percent increase would cover all of the college's rising expenses this year.

"We felt very comfortable that 4.75 percent would continue to add to the quality of education at Columbia and still keep tuition affordable," he said.

Among the college's rising costs is labor, DeSalle said. Along with annual pay raises for faculty, staff and administration, he said the college will also face higher prices for health care, supplies and services.

Annie Kelly, a senior journalism major and the student representative on the board of trustees, was present when the board discussed the increase.

"I don't like any tuition raise, but I understand that it needs to be done," she said. "In order for the school to survive, we have to raise tuition."

As Columbia continues to rely on tuition as its main source of revenue, some students aren't pleased with paying for the increase.

"If Columbia had the endowments that other private colleges have, our tuition could be [lower]," said Brian Matos, president of the Student Government Association.

See Tuition, Page 7

## Mac attacks racism in new movie



Courtesy Lionsgate

Bernie Mac plays Elston, a janitor who coaches a swim team of underprivileged kids, in his new movie, 'Pride.'

### Bernie Mac dives headfirst into his newest film, 'Pride'

By Chrissy Mahlmeister  
A&E Editor

Bernie Mac, towering in height but not in arrogance, slipped into the sumptuous Ritz Carlton conference room, 160 E. Pearson St., with director Sunu Gonera following close behind him.

Humble and calm, Mac and Gonera sat down with The Chronicle to discuss their newest film, *Pride*. It's a story about the struggle of black inner-city boys, bored by the lack of ambition in their lives, who are driven when an old champion swimmer, Jim Ellis, began to work at the

Philadelphia Department of Recreation where they were always playing basketball. Opening the door and his heart, Ellis begins to show these boys what it's like to be a part of something extraordinary and that dedication doesn't come easily. The film hits theaters March 23.

### The Chronicle: Why is it uncommon for black children to get involved with swimming?

Bernie Mac: Sports of this nature, they're so uncommon because blacks, in their community, they come from single parents, mainly women. There were no men in the house. Volleyball and swimming—they're punk sports in their mind. There's no instant financial reward. Plus, it's not

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## In this issue



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



### Lessons in ancient history

Back Page



### Screening for the mafia

Page 29





## Generation X, Y and me?

By Hayley Graham, Editor-in-Chief

If you were to stumble upon my MySpace page you would hear the song "This is Why I'm Hot," while reading a quote that says "If being fresh to death is a crime then I think it's time for me to see a jury." It's simply out of humor, but a new study says actions like these mean I'm more self-absorbed than my predecessors.

Researchers from San Diego State University recently released a report that examined narcissism among college students and found us to be vainer than ever, which could be detrimental to American society.

For the past 20 years, nearly 16,500 college students nationwide were evaluated by completing the Narcissistic Personality Inventory, which asked participants for responses to statements like "If I ruled the world, it would be a better place" and "I think I am a special person."

The students' scores steadily increased since the implementation of the assessment. By 2006 the number of those with above-average scores climbed 30 percent higher than in 1982.

The report states that narcissists are at risk for romantic relationships that go awry due to infidelity, dishonesty, lack of emotional warmth and game-playing. That doesn't sound like a narcissist, just a typical male.

That's not really a new phenomenon, considering that the divorce rate in America is 50 percent. Maybe next time I'm

having relationship troubles I'll turn to one of my modest predecessors for advice.

The researchers asserted the increase is fueled by technology like MySpace and YouTube. So should I get rid of my iTunes?

Using networking outlets as a form of self-expression is hardly narcissistic. We shouldn't be punished for using tech savvy ways to advertise our ideas to the world, especially when celebrities become famous for their real-life love triangles and abilities to eat live cockroaches. If college students in the 1980s had the resources to put themselves

ments and professional experience, but I don't want the class to revolve around them.

In a time of hair plugs and ageless Botox faces, it seems if college students are more self-absorbed than ever we are just following in the footsteps of the "greatest generation of all time"—the baby boomers.

Keep in mind this is the same generation praised for protesting the draft in the 1960s and then considered reinstating it for the war in Iraq. And the same generation that fought for equality then bought gas-guzzling SUVs and was responsible for white

flight and urban sprawl.

The researchers said parents are also to blame for telling children they're "special" too often.

My parents always told me to be assertive and to, first and foremost, always look out for myself. I took their advice and I think it's been the key to achieving my goals thus far. Without the level of self-esteem I have, it's guaranteed you wouldn't be reading this column.

Confidence is a sure key to success, and college students shouldn't be ashamed of that. We're the animals at the top of the food chain, and it's in our nature to be selfish. After all, Darwin did say it's all about survival of the fittest. It's science.

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MCT

out there the way today's students do, they would have done the same thing.

I bet many of those humble college students evaluated in the 1980s are now teaching at colleges. Many of my peers and I have had multiple teachers who just can't stop talking about themselves and their accomplishments. This doesn't apply to all instructors. I love having teachers with such notable achieve-

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## Calendar

### March 12-26

### Artists of Foreign Policy

Come see the Artists of Foreign Policy's exhibit "See Our Change: Be the Change." The exhibit is a collection of works made by Columbia students that displays audio, video performance and visual art pieces. The exhibit will also include a discussion on fair trade and AIDS in Africa. The exhibit runs from March 14 to March 26 with showings from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, contact the Liberal Education Department at (312) 344-7295.

### Sketchy Five

Sketches and drawings from students, faculty and staff will be on display at the fifth annual Sketchy Five. The event runs from March 12 to March 15 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday at the Hokin Gallery in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, contact Nancy Jelson-Rieley at (312) 344-6856.

### Grad Applications Arts Event

Arizona State professor Jodi James will visit to discuss Arizona State University's Arts, Media and Engineering program for prospective graduate students. The event is March 13 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Portfolio Center in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., room 307.

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

### Ink On Paper

Come and see the exhibit, "A Room With a View," featuring Anchor Graphics. The exhibit will feature work from seven contemporary printmakers. The exhibit kicks off March 15 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Drake Hotel, 140 E. Walton St.

For more information, contact James Iannacone at (312) 344-6864.

## Correction

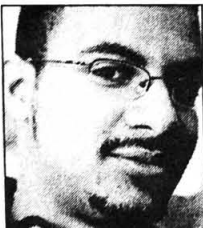
In the March 5 issue of The Chronicle, James Cappleman was incorrectly named as having won the election for 46th ward alderman. Helen Shiller won the election.

## THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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

## In Your Opinion

How would you describe your experience with the College Advising Center?



"It's worked pretty well except that I've been asking them to change my major on OASIS. It's been listed wrong for two years."

—Jeffrey Shafer, sophomore marketing communication major



"Some of the advisers are helpful and some could use a little work on paying attention to students."

—Kristin Tapia, senior art and design major



"The few times I go I get a lot of help. I really have no complaints."

—Kenny Elmore, junior arts, entertainment media management major



"I just switched my major, and they were really helpful."

—Paul Wilson, sophomore audio arts and acoustics major

# It's surfing time!

www.columbiachronicle.com

## College raises student wages

**Proposal approved giving student workers quarter raise**

By Brent Steven White  
Associate Editor

Amid the state's plans to raise the minimum wage this summer to \$7.50 an hour, a proposal to increase the minimum wage for Columbia students working on campus has been approved by administrators.

Beginning this fall, Columbia will increase the undergraduate minimum wage to \$8 an hour, a 25 cent raise from the current wage of \$7.75. The minimum wage for graduate students will also increase the same amount, jumping from \$10.75 to \$11 an hour.

Maxine Evans, director of Columbia's Student Employment Office, said she submitted the proposal to officials to increase the minimum student wage 25 cents during the last week of February, and it was approved shortly after by Mike DeSalle, CFO and vice president of Business Affairs and Mark Kelly,

vice president of Student Affairs.

The increase follows a three-year trend of the school raising the minimum student wage 25 cents at the beginning of each academic year, which Evans said she hopes will continue in the future.

Evans said she pushed for the raise as an incentive for students to work on campus, and to maintain an edge over the state's minimum wage. Starting July 1, the Illinois minimum wage will increase by \$1 from \$6.50 to \$7.50 an hour.

"It's only fair that if we want our students to do an excellent job and use Columbia's jobs as their first step in terms of looking for part-time employment, then we have to be competitive," Evans said.

But some students currently working for Columbia don't think the raise is enough.

Francheska Santiago, a senior art and design major who's worked for more than a year in the college advising center as an office assistant, said the duties of her job are stressful and that the school doesn't pay adequately.

See Wage, Page 9

## Consuming pleasure



Rogan Birnie/The Chronicle

Taylor Castle explores the 'Sex and Food' exhibit in the Museum of Contemporary Photography at the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. The exhibit, which includes altered magazine advertisements and sexual images, runs until March 24.

## Clubs' costs not covered

**College organizations claim they need more school funding**

By Beth Palmer  
Assistant Campus News Editor

Although grateful for the administration's financial support, some Columbia student organizations said they still need bigger budgets.

The organizations said increased budgets, which currently range from \$500 to \$75,000 a year, and a streamlined accounting method to relieve the financial stress of waiting weeks for reimbursement, would help them fully serve Columbia's community.

"Things are good, but as student organizations continue to grow ... funding will play a crucial role in making sure these organizations can have substance behind them and can accomplish big things," said Damon Maloney, a junior journalism major and president of the Columbia College Association of Black Journalists.

Dominic Cottone, director of the Office of Student Organizations and Leadership, said the student organizations are relatively new, since the Office of Student Affairs, which encompasses all student groups, has only existed for about seven years.

The Student Government Association is five years old, and the Student Alumni Association, the Student Athletics Association and the Senior Class are a year old; therefore, budgets are still being adjusted, he said.

Cottone said five years ago the office of Student Organizations and Leadership had \$75,000 to cover intramurals, student organizations and the SGA. This year, SGA alone has a \$75,000 budget.

Cottone, who ultimately decides the amount of each budget, said one reason SGA has the largest budget is because it has been around the longest, but it also gives its funds, up to \$1,000 per request, to other student groups.

Cottone determined other groups' budgets based on their

projected need. The Student Athletics Association has a \$13,000 budget; the Student Alumni Association has \$10,000. The Senior Class has \$5,000; and any other group that is accepted by the Student Organization Council is eligible for \$500 to \$1,500 a year, he said.

Maloney said the Columbia College Association of Black Journalists spends its annual \$1,500 conservatively.

"The biggest portion of our funds goes toward sending select members to the annual National Association of Black Journalists Convention," Maloney said. "We spend most of the year hosting different fundraisers to help pay for it."

Many Columbia groups raise money to supplement their budgets because the Office of Student Organizations and Leadership will match fundraised dollars up to \$500 a year.

The Office of Student

See Clubs, Page X

## Flag football frenzy

**Students start new league at Columbia**

By Lindsay Welbers  
Staff Writer

The wind coming off the lakefront made the 28-degree February air numbing. While most people evaded the cold, about 50 Columbia students gathered in the middle of Grant Park on Feb. 24 for the first meeting of the college's new Flag Football League.

The league was established by Ryan Dupuie, a freshman television major, and a dozen other students who have been holding games in the park since last semester. The students found a faculty

adviser, became a school sanctioned club and now receive funding from Columbia's Student Athletics Association for equipment and games.

"We're about community," said Chris Schroeder, a senior interactive arts and multimedia major and president of the Student Athletics Association. "We're trying to be as all inclusive as possible, so we're allowing everyone to participate through many [different] sports."

But even with the support, the intramural league's resources are limited, forcing them to play flag football instead of tackle, which requires a larger budget for pads, helmets and other equipment. Dupuie said flag football only needs flags, cones and a first aid kit.

For the players, the temperature is a part of the whole experience.

While some players were bundled up in layers of pants and sweatshirts, others chose not to restrict their movement with heavy layering, like Chris Graham, a junior interactive arts and multimedia major, who wore a T-shirt and track pants. Graham said he is not affected by extreme temperatures.

Before the group became an official club, 10 to 15 students would play each week, Dupuie said. But once fliers were posted around campus, eight teams of six students each arrived ready to compete.

"It doesn't matter how cold it is," said Danny Lee, a senior interactive arts and multimedia major. "People just come out to play."

The co-ed flag football league is open to all students, faculty and staff members.

Lee and his teammates saw fliers around campus for the game and decided to get a group together.

Six people were required for a full roster, but those with less were invited to join other teams. The games are played five on five with a sixth person as an alternate player.

"The point is to have fun," said Donovan Dansberry, a junior interactive arts and multimedia major. "I've wanted to play football for the longest time."

Dupuie plans to hold games every Saturday in Grant Park at the corner of Balbo Drive and Columbus Avenue, except during spring break. Games start at 1:30 p.m. and are played for an hour or until the first team scores six touchdowns.

### 2006-07 Budgets of Columbia's Student Organizations

\$75,000	Student Government Association
\$13,000	Student Athletic Association
\$10,000	Student Alumni Association
\$5,000	Senior Class
\$1500	CCABS; Pulp, Ink and Thread
\$500-\$1000	Other student organizations

Source: Office of Student Organizations and Leadership

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

chronicle@colum.edu



# Overwhelmed advisers deny students cap and gown

## Canceled graduation applications keep students at Columbia

By George P. Sileo  
Assistant Campus News Editor

The number of seniors receiving canceled graduation applications at Columbia is rising.

This year more than 1,800 seniors are expected to graduate, but if current trends continue, roughly 25 percent of applicants will be back next semester, said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

The data showed that from fall 2002 to summer 2003, 47 students of the 1,521 who applied received canceled applications or weren't eligible to graduate. The following school session, the number of canceled applications jumped 406 percent, as Columbia denied graduation to 238 seniors.

And from fall 2004 to summer 2005, the number increased 42 percent, with 337 seniors rejected for graduation.

Columbia administrators recognized the trend and increased the number of advisers in the College Advising Center from eight advisers to 18. In 2003, there was a ratio of 1,158 students to one adviser. Since then, the ratio has been cut nearly in half. Last year, Columbia saw a decrease in the number of canceled applications by 28 percent, according to last year's graduation survey.

According to Kelly, the 406 percent jump from 2002 to 2004 came from converting written data to

OASIS. Every year, roughly 25 percent of seniors who apply don't graduate because they're unsure of their graduation date.

Jesslyn Jalayerian, a senior film and video major, said she completed her application on time and was expecting to graduate this May. However, officials at the College Advising Center told her that she needed to take five more classes to graduate after her application was audited. She was expecting to have classes she took in arts and design substituted toward her major after consulting with her adviser.

"I was told by different advisers that I could take arts and design classes and transfer them toward my film major," Jalayerian said. "My adviser assured me these classes would transfer over. I was misguided."

Bill Friedman, director of the College Advising Center, said faculty advisers will sometimes not fill out the necessary paperwork to have a student's class substituted.

"In the rush of registration a teacher will clear a student for a class, but not fill out the paperwork [necessary to substitute that class]," Friedman said. "Advisers shouldn't tell [students] it's OK unless [they] have something in writing."

A graduation application is required to be filled out by all students roughly a year before they graduate. It is then audited by the College Advising Center to make sure the applicant has met all the requirements to graduate.

"I'm not saying advisers are perfect," Friedman said. "[But they shouldn't] tell students they've

filled out the form to substitute a class when they haven't."

Because Jalayerian's classes didn't apply toward her major, Jalayerian will be back next semester. Taking five classes, Jalayerian is expecting to spend \$10,000 in tuition during the fall semester, she said.

"This has been my experience throughout Columbia," Jalayerian said. "[Everything] the adviser, web and books tell you [isn't] consistent. More communication is needed."

Margie Barrett, manager of Academic Services in the Film and Video Department, said students should take steps to prevent future conflicts with their graduation applications.

"If the adviser assures the student classes would transfer over then [the student] should have their advisers sign a written statement," Barrett said.

Yet some students are unaware of the necessary paperwork for substituting classes and feel once their adviser assures them everything is taken care of their job is done, Friedman said.

"I hate to see students take a class they don't need to take," Friedman said. "We are not communicating well. It's 2007 and we're still filling things out by hand."

Barrett said in students' minds, advising is set up only for registration and said it would help if the whole Columbia community made advising and registration completely separate. She said by "uncoupling" advising with registration, students would see them as sepa-

rate entities and view speaking to their departmental advisers as not something that's just required before they register for classes.

Kelly said the college is working to uncouple advising with registration, but said it probably won't apply for another year.

"When advising is tied to a clearance for registration, it's not a healthy system," Kelly said.

Bruce Sheridan, chair of the Film and Video Department, said students should take more initiatives when applying for graduation.

"It is an assumed right to graduate, but the reality is, it's earned; students have to follow the

process," Sheridan said. "It's something the students need to follow up on and make sure all the t's are crossed and the i's are dotted. It's a performance issue. People need to do their job better."

Meanwhile, Jalayerian said it was difficult informing her parents that she wasn't graduating in May. "Telling [my family] that they have to pay for more school, when they really shouldn't, is tough," she said. "I don't blame anybody specifically; it's just a poorly structured system that allows people to fall through the cracks."

gsileo@chorniclemail.com

### 2003-05 Applicants and Canceled Applications

#### APPLICATIONS

2003 1,521

2004 2,007

2005 2,191

#### CANCELED APPLICATIONS

2003 47

2004 238 406% increase

2005 337 41% increase

Source: College Advising Center

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

## The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago 1014 S. Michigan at 11<sup>th</sup> St.

### Concert Hall Events

#### Monday March 12

Peter Saltzman  
Solo Piano Concert  
12:00 PM

#### Tuesday March 13

"Coming out of the Works"  
The Micelli Sisters in  
Concert  
12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

#### Wednesday March 14

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby  
12:00 PM  
STUDENT PIANO CONCERT  
7:00 PM

#### Thursday March 15

Blues Ensemble Recital  
12:00 PM

#### Friday March 16

Sebastian Huydts and  
David Bowlin in Concert  
12:00 PM

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

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for more information contact [recycling@colum.edu](mailto:recycling@colum.edu)

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# CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



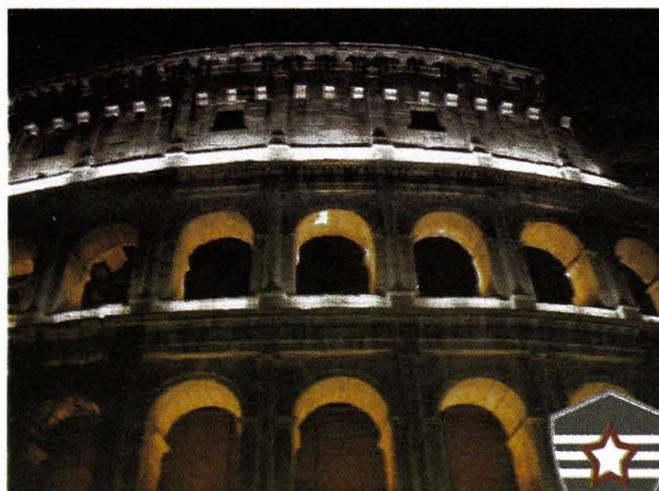
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## TEAM COLUMBIA COMPETES IN ROME!

This week Team Columbia travels to ROME for international competition. The team will be running the ROME marathon in the name of Columbia College Chicago with hopes to not only enjoy ROME with fellow Columbia students but to also build community among Columbia students on campus via club & intramural athletics. Chris Schroeder, president of the Student Athletics Association – Renegades, had these words to say:

*"This is a great way to show the college that we have students from different departments working together as a team. Athletics on campus fosters this type of closer bond among students involved in club or intramural sports. These close relationships naturally breed a large amount of academic collaboration among students on the athletic teams and that's a pivotal reason why athletics exist on campus"*

There are 7 students running the marathon for Team Columbia and an additional 6 students traveling to Rome with the team to document the trip and build their own portfolio.



Team Columbia leaves on March 15th to compete in the ROME marathon that starts and finishes at the Roman Coliseum!

**Renegades**

The students will be in Rome for the entire week of spring break leaving on March 15th and returning on March 22nd. All students attending the event have paid for it out of their own budgets.

If you would like to know more about Team Columbia or how you can get involved with athletics at Columbia please visit their website: <http://www.cccathletics.com> or e-mail them: [athletics@colum.edu](mailto:athletics@colum.edu)

**<http://ATHLETICS.COLUM.EDU>**

Contact the Renegades - 1104 S. Wabash Lower Level Office A - 312-344-6917 - [ATHLETICS@COLUM.EDU](mailto:ATHLETICS@COLUM.EDU)

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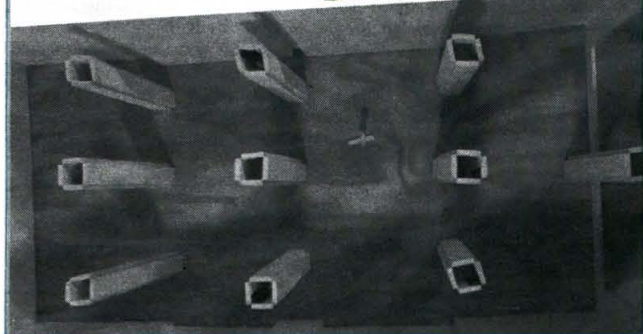
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LIZ NOFZIGER-CORE



GLASS CURTAIN GALLERY, 1104 S WABASH AVENUE

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

## CORE, SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION BY LIZ NOFZIGER

March 12 - April 20, 2007

Reception: March 13, 5-7pm

Artist Lecture: March 15, 6:30pm, Conaway Center

Reception & lecture  
this week!

Columbia College Chicago is proud to present CORE, a site-specific installation by visual artist Liz Nofziger. CORE presents an abstracted "core sample" of architect William Le Baron Jenney's Ludington Building which now houses the Glass Curtain Gallery. Nofziger will create CORE by working with the physical space of the gallery, its myriad past and present uses, and its architecturally significant beginnings. Viewer exploration will complete the work, revealing reflections of the building's past, from the vibration of printing presses to toothpaste and auto-parts.

Nofziger states, "I examine scale and demand physical involvement and curiosity from the viewer. I aim to challenge the viewers' perceptions and awareness of their surroundings within the exhibition and beyond. I am interested in broadened relationships to our environments, current events, and history within the context of physical personal experience and the impact each of us has on the future."

C33 GALLERY, 33 E CONGRESS AVENUE

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

## ORGANICISM, Nature Functioning Nontraditionally

March 5 - April 20, 2007

Opening Reception, March 8, 5-7pm

As the urban landscape rapidly encroaches on the natural environment, organic form and material is being overcome. While calls to action for environmental welfare are abundant, they are often solely in the name of preserving nature for its functionality as a system. The preservation of the natural environment is unquestionably vital, however it is essential to consider that nature fills the dual-role of both form and function.

The term "organicism" is a philosophy that suggests the whole cannot be defined by the sum of its parts; that the system is important above its components. Organicism questions this philosophy by asking if the intricacies of an individual leaf can be just as intriguing as the entire forest. In this context the exhibition celebrates all that occurs naturally for the sake of aesthetic and personal experience. Artists examine their own existence in relation to how they experience organic form and material. Organicism: Nature Functioning Nontraditionally provides a multi-sensory account of these complex relationships; relationships that have gone beyond the bounds of how we have traditionally understood nature.

Organicism: Nature Functioning Nontraditionally is curated by Columbia College student Tannar Veatch, an art and design major with concentrations in the fine and media arts.

HOKIN GALLERY, 623 S WABASH AVENUE

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

## WORD 2: TYPE + IMAGE

March 12-April 20, 2007

Reception: March 15, 5-7pm

Reception  
this week!

Word 2: type + image is the third [C]Spaces exhibition celebrating the union of art and the written word. The exhibit features work from Columbia College Chicago's illustration, Graphic Design and Poetry students. Word 2 illustrates the different uses of typography in artwork and the interdependence of imagery and text. Work displayed includes graphic novels, typeset poems, font designs and artwork incorporating letterforms.

Participating instructors: Ivan Brunetti, William Linehan, and Richard Zeid Poetry curated by: Jen Watman, Columbia College Chicago Poetry Major

HOKIN ANNEX, 623 S WABASH AVENUE

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

## SKETCHY FIVE

March 12-April 20, 2007

Reception: Thursday, March 29, 5-7pm

Sketchy Five is the fifth annual exhibition of sketches, drawings and sketchbooks of the students, faculty and staff of Columbia College Chicago. The exhibit explores the process of art and the thought progression of the artist.

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# Katrina relief group finds hope in fundraising

## Columbia organization Reach Out travels to New Orleans

By Kaylee King  
Staff Writer

For some, volunteering comes at a price. Despite a \$9,100 funding cut from Columbia this year, the nonprofit student organization Reach Out is gearing up for its second spring break trip to New Orleans.

Last April, a team of 32 Columbia students visited Waveland, Miss., to improve the living conditions of Hurricane Katrina victims eight months after the storm devastated the area.

The decision for the funding cut was made after the college faced the dilemma of whether or not it could, or wanted to, fund the annual trip, said Dominic Cottone, director of Student Organizations and Leadership.

Reach Out consequently became a student organization this year, falling under the financing rules of other Student Organization Council campus groups. Cottone said future trips will be financed by student fundraising.

Jackson Wiggins, a senior film major who organized this year's trip and handled the budget, said organizations are allotted \$1,000 annually and receive half each semester. If a club raises \$500, Columbia will match that amount, he said.

"Like any student initiative, we expect students to do some of their own fundraising," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs.

But the group initially didn't think about fundraising because the college completely covered the bill for last year's trip.

Cottone said his office chose to cover the trip's expenses last year because it was a huge undertaking. However, he said the policy changed because one organization should not benefit more than another.

"This year, the students took it upon themselves to go on another trip, so they knew they had to fundraise for it," Cottone said. "Schools all over the country do this. There are even many schools that do not allocate funds to their student [organizations,] so they are in pretty good shape."

Reach Out's budget for the trip came to a total of \$13,600 including room and board costs, car rental, gas, tools and T-shirt expenses, Wiggins said.

"[With this year's budget] students have to pay for anything other than the necessities," he said. "Any snacks or other purchases on the trip must come out of their pockets."

The team of 24, including five students who went last year, has been fundraising since Cottone told them about the policy change last April.

To raise money, the group sold snacks and drinks in the concession stands during six Chicago Bears games last fall, making 10



File

Columbia senior Jacob Holland hugs a resident after cleaning out her mobile home last year.

percent commission on all food sales and 8 percent commission on all beer sales.

"Nobody expected it to be funded again," he said. "[The students] just jumped on it to fundraise."

The students raised a total of \$5,350, according to Wiggins. Other funds came from private donations and a \$1,000 grant from Columbia's board of trustees.

However, the group still did not reach its goal, so Wiggins approached Kelly, whose office decided to cover the \$3,000 the group had in outstanding expenses.

"This is something the college needs to support more of," Kelly said.

Jeremy Shine, a sophomore photography major, volunteered last year and said, considering the success of the group's previous efforts, he thought they would receive more funding.

"The school needs [to do] more humanitarian work," Shine said. "They think the job has been done, but it [hasn't.]"

Wiggins said organizing a trip of this magnitude is too big for students, suggesting the school take initiative to find an employee to carry the load.

"The school will need to find a liaison, full or part-time, to organize trips," Wiggins said.

Although the group has an adviser, Columbia alumna Holly DeRuyter, who organized the trip last year, Wiggins said he planned most of this year's trip.

While Wiggins accepted the challenge, the logistics of funding and supporting the group presented a responsibility larger than he imagined.

Reach Out participants will spend all of spring break rebuilding ruined house foundations. They have not decided on next year's travel destination.

"We'd like to go to Africa and do AIDS work, but we just don't know," Wiggins said.

[chronicle@colum.edu](mailto:chronicle@colum.edu)



File

A student carries oxygen tanks to a debris pile after finding them while cleaning a mobile home in Bay St. Louis, near Waveland, Miss. last year. Thirty-two volunteers from Columbia made the trip south during spring break.



## Tuition: Future tuition freeze a possibility

Continued from Front Page

### Tuition Freeze

The apparent success of the previous increase-free year has some wondering why the college has not repeated it.

"It's still a mystery to us as to why a couple of years ago we had no increase whatsoever and the walls didn't fall down, the college didn't collapse," Matos said.

However, the freeze didn't help financial matters, DeSalle said. That year the college was strained financially because the tuition didn't keep up with increasing expenses, he said.

College administrators have discussed the possibility of another tuition freeze; however, nothing has been decided on, DeSalle said.

A tuition freeze could impact the college in a variety of ways. While current students would receive temporary financial relief, it may not benefit some students.

According to Sandy Baum, senior policy analyst for the College Board, some institutions have experienced enrollment growth after increasing tuition. Baum attributed the correlation to students associating price with quality.

While some students may not necessarily come to Columbia because of the freeze, others could be drawn in, Matos said, adding that an unexpected increase in students could further worsen

Columbia's current space crunch. Matos believes the college only has a few years until the proposed \$90 million student center is essential to alleviating the crunch, he said.

DeSalle said space has always been an issue during his 17 years at the college, but is confident Columbia could accommodate the additional students.

"Even though I would say that we are pressed for space, I think we'll be able to handle the increase in enrollment," he said.

### Institutional Aid

Columbia's reported tuition may be less than national averages of private, four-year colleges, but The Chronicle reported the amount Columbia students pay out of their own pockets is nearly the same when institutional aid is factored in. However, DeSalle said other colleges' numbers could be skewed by including aid Columbia chooses not to include in the report.

While students will face higher tuition this fall, some may receive additional institutional aid because of an increased amount of revenue going toward the college's scholarship budget.

This year the scholarship budget reached \$6 million. Jennifer Waters, executive director of Student Financial Services, expects it to increase another \$1 million this fall.

She said the tuition increase, and consequently the scholarship budget, allows students who can afford college to help those who can't.

"No one wants to see an increase in cost, but I think it has a lot of hidden advantages," Waters said.

Columbia students may also

receive assistance from several federal aid programs this year, including a slight increase in Pell Grant funding and higher borrowing limits for student loans.

### Sinking Fund

The college has also begun using tuition revenue to save for capital expenses and its endowment, whereas other colleges raise money in different ways.

Last year, Columbia's trustees approved a "Sinking Fund"—a savings-like account for the proposed \$90 million dollar Campus Center. Each year administrators plan to add a portion of the college's excess revenue to the fund.

In 2006, the college operated with a \$200 million budget, DeSalle said. After all operating and non-operating expenses were

paid, a total of \$3.7 million remained, which was consequently contributed to the fund.

Prior to the Sinking Fund's creation, officials placed excess revenue into the college's unrestricted endowment fund, which allowed the money to build interest.

College officials decided the Sinking Fund would go toward the Campus Center rather than the current campaign for the Media Production Center, because it is more expensive.

"We know today we can't fundraise [\$90 million], so our thoughts were that we'll continue to save for the student center ... and between the savings and borrowing, maybe some day it can be built," DeSalle said.

However, an increase in tuition could mean more student dollars will end up as excess revenue in

the Sinking Fund. Matos said the result benefits everyone.

"If it gets us a student center sooner, I think people will say 'It will pay off in the next generation, and maybe it will make my diploma more valuable,'" he said.

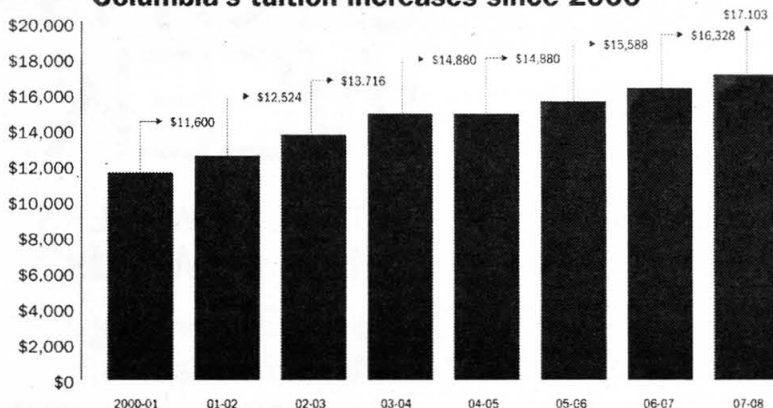
But some wonder why tuition hasn't been lowered since the college has excess revenue.

"It seems to me and to those on student government that those tuition percentages should coincide with what your [enrollment] projections are," Matos said.

DeSalle said some faculty members have argued that. It could be difficult to do; however, because in 2006, the college was left with less than 2 percent of the original revenue after the budgets were balanced, he said.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

Columbia's tuition increases since 2000



Source: Student Financial Services

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

# Attention Students!

## Are you current on your student account balance?

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

Payments can be made through CCCPay, in person at the Cashier Window 600 S. Michigan 3rd floor or by mail sent to Student Financial Services Attention: Payments.

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

Help Line at 1-866-705-0200

**Student Financial Services**  
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# COLUM.EDU/STORYWEEK

## SGA: Hearsay shapes government resolution

Continued from Front Page

front cover, but the plastic folder of a CD attached inside the book. The requirement was to ensure students were listening to the assigned exercises.

"They truly needed to use the book throughout the semester and many were not doing this, hence they were having problems with their final exam," Williams said. "My answer was to provide an

incentive by providing credit for buying and using the book."

In 2004, Williams changed his classroom policy, cutting out the requirement because he decided it was no longer necessary. He said he now gives more quizzes throughout the semester to ensure students read the assigned homework.

According to his 2004 syllabus, the CD folder counted for only 2 percent of a student's grade for the class; in comparison, attendance counted for 15 percent.

Prince Manjee, a junior arts, entertainment and media management major and co-chair of the SGA Academic Affairs Committee, said some students came to the SGA complaining about Williams' workbook policy last semester. Manjee said

Williams was the only professor enforcing the classroom requirement.

Manjee and SGA executive vice president Andrew Breen wrote the resolution, which said students are dissatisfied with the requirement to remove "one or both covers of a textbook," and requested the Office of the Provost ban the "practice of tearing covers off textbooks required for class."

The SGA passes resolutions when it can't take any other action, said Brian Matos, a junior journalism major and president of the SGA. He said resolutions usually request the school's administration to act on situations beyond the SGA's control.

For a resolution to be introduced in the senate, it must first be

approved by an executive board, which is made up of the SGA president, executive vice president, vice president of communication, vice president of finance and the student trustee. Once brought to the senate, a resolution is read out loud and either tabled or voted on, Matos said.

In the case of the textbook resolution, the SGA didn't hold an executive board meeting. However, SGA adviser Dominic Cottone, director of Student Organizations and Leadership, tabled the textbook resolution for its lack of adequate research.

"There needs to be a lot of research that goes into [resolutions]," Cottone said. "Especially when it involves members of our community, because you don't want to drag anyone's name through the mud without knowing everything about the situation."

Williams was named Chicagoan of the Year in the January 2007 issue of Chicago magazine. He is a Vietnam veteran, an award-winning photographer, a playwright and a musician whose composition, "Buffalo Soldiers," was performed at Chicago's Symphony Center last November.

Williams said while he heard some students disapprove of his former workbook policy, he was completely unaware of the SGA's concerns.

"I've had many students complain, but I usually deal with them individually," he said.

Yet two weeks after the resolution was halted, Breen brought the situation to The Chronicle's attention. It was not investigated by the SGA.

This isn't the first time the SGA has spoken before getting all the facts. Last semester, the association wrote a resolution against a rise in Mark Vend's prices, Columbia's vending machine provider.

Mark Stein, the president of Mark Vend, visited Columbia last semester, after the SGA passed the resolution. He explained the reasons behind the price increase, which involved certain price-setting rules Mark Vend needed to follow. Together, the SGA and Mark Vend reached a compromise.

"One of the problems is that



Courtesy Katrina Wittkamp

Arts, entertainment and media management faculty member Kimo Williams was voted one of the Chicagoans of the Year in 2007 by Chicago magazine.

without a resolution, those conversations usually don't take place," Matos said. "It's a way to make the folks you're talking to take you seriously."

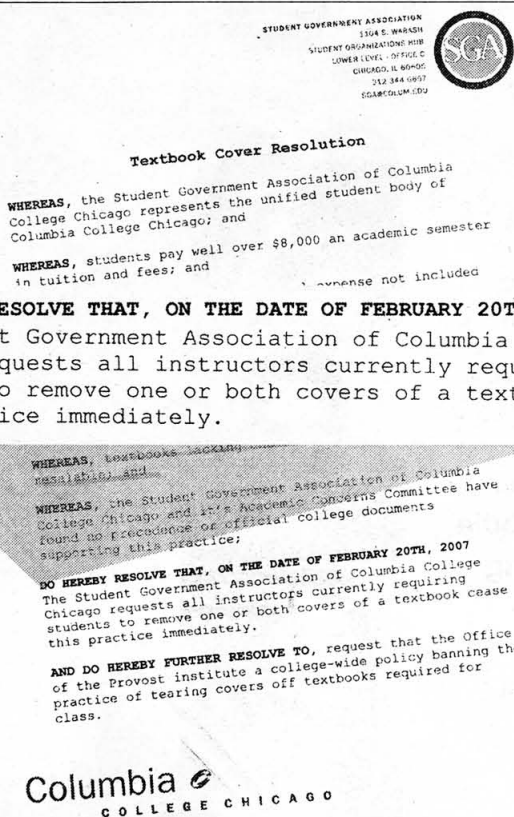
But Stein said Mark Vend representatives would have been more than willing to speak with the students if they had known there was a problem. He said he didn't know the SGA was concerned with rising vending machine prices until after it passed the resolution.

"Columbia is important to us, and we'll sit down and talk to anyone with or without a resolution," Stein said. "We want to support a long-term positive relationship between our company and both the administration and the students."

Cottone said the SGA needs to improve its future investigations into proposed resolutions.

"[Research] is something they need to do a little bit more of in my opinion," he said. "If you present information in a document that is not true or has not been researched well enough, then that's egg on the face for everybody involved."

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Source: Student Government Association

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

## Wage: Student workers cost \$5.4 million

Continued from Page 3

She said the increase won't be enough for students working for Columbia in the fall.

"It should have been \$8 when I started working here in the fall of 2005," Santiago said.

Aaron Henderson, a junior film major who works in the Math and Science Department, said while his pay is better than the state's minimum wage, a quarter increase isn't sufficient.

"I think we should earn an even \$9," Henderson said. "And it's really a drag we can only work 20 hours each week. I have bills to pay."

DeSalle said he had no reservations with passing Evans' budget proposal. DeSalle also said while he and Kelly discussed Evans' proposal, they considered Gov. Rod Blagojevich's plans to increase the state's minimum wage. Like Evans, the raise was implemented to stay competitive with the state, he said.

"We will continue to work to get it higher each year," DeSalle said.

Brian Matos, president of the Student Government Association, said although the increase will be beneficial for student workers, he'd like to see Columbia pay student help upward of \$10.

**"As long as this college is dependent upon tuition to pay its bills, any drastic increase that would be beneficial to students would be just as harmful because their tuition would go up at a proportional rate."**

—Brian Matos,  
president of the Student  
Government Association

"To me, that's a good amount because it's significantly above the minimum wage, and it says Columbia cares about its student help," Matos said.

But Matos stressed that as long as Columbia is a tuition-driven school, any significant raise in student wage is unlikely.

"You want to have students get paid more money for what they do for the college, but you don't

want to see [another] tuition increase to see that happen," Matos said. "As long as this college is dependent upon tuition to pay its bills, any drastic increase that would be beneficial to students would be just as harmful because their tuition would go up at a proportional rate."

Columbia's budget to pay its student workers for the 2007 fiscal year is \$5.4 million, according to DeSalle. Of that, \$4.2 million is allotted to pay Columbia's hourly student workers, and the remaining \$1.2 million goes toward paying student teacher aides and tutors, DeSalle said. Most students employed by the college do not get paid for more than 20 hours worth of work.

Evans estimated Columbia currently has about 1,000 students working for the college. She said she expects that number to rise to about 1,100 in the fall.

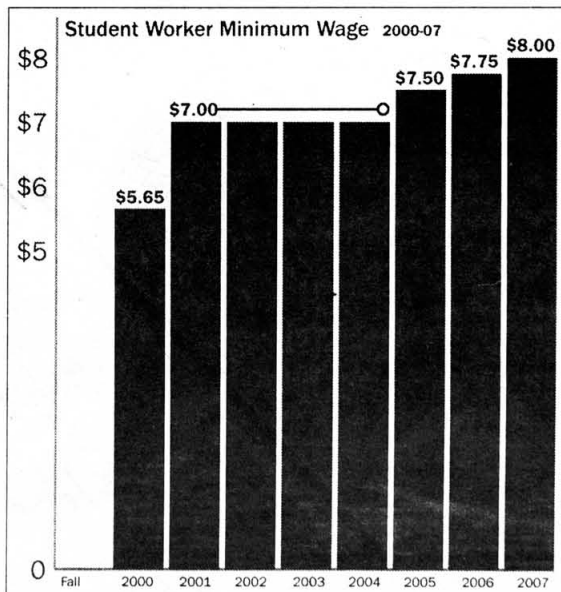
Not all students working for the school receive the college's minimum wage pay rate. The Student Employment Office, created in 2001, establishes the minimum amount students employed by the college can make, while the school's departments decide on the wage to pay students, depending on the complexity of the work.

Evans also said her office examines other downtown higher education institutions' pay rates and compares them with Columbia's in order to stay competitive.

An administrative secretary at Roosevelt University said the

school's current minimum wage for undergraduates is \$8 and \$11 for graduates. The official did not know if the school has plans to increase the pay rate in the fall.

bwhite@chroniclemail.com



Source: Maxine Evans

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle



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## Clubs: Organizations find budgets inadequate

*Continued from Page 3*

Organizations and Leadership budget comes from a portion of student activity fees, the \$75 charge included in tuition, Cottone said. Student activity fees fund nearly all student programs, he said.

To register as a group, students must fill out a proposal packet that is available online, attend one workshop to discuss privileges and maintain a 2.5 GPA. If approved, organizations that register for the fall receive a \$1,000 budget, and groups that register in the spring get \$500. But, students say the budgets are not easily accessible; groups have to fill out spending proposals, which Cottone can approve or deny.

"Every student organization has different needs," Maloney said. "Our allotted budgets should be adjusted to reflect that."

The Student Athletic Association has found its existing \$13,000 budget inadequate, said its president Chris Schroeder, a senior interactive arts and multimedia media major. The baseball team alone requires \$10,000 to have one season, he said, as well

as lacrosse and soccer. The association gives \$300 to \$1,000 to each of Columbia's 16 sports teams, but the teams need at least \$5,000 each, he said.

"Everything is coming out of the students' pockets," said Schroeder about teams renting practice facilities and purchasing uniforms.

Teams often have to wait a month to get their money because of the way the Accounting Department is set up, Schroeder said. Vendors who rent fields and equipment to the Renegades become frustrated and turn their business elsewhere because dealing with Columbia's delayed payments is a hassle, he said.

"The process is horrible," Schroeder said. "It's too much paperwork."

To fix the issue, Schroeder suggested automatic online tools to streamline the process.

Ernie Kimlin, coordinator of the Office of Student Organizations and Leadership, said a new communications position will be created in the near future so the office's current website can become more interactive and useful for students.

Until then, groups continue to have funding problems.

Pulp, Ink, and Thread, a graduate organization of students in the Center for Book and Paper Arts, spends its \$1,500 budget attending art conferences and paying shipping and gallery costs when

their artwork is displayed in nation-wide shows, Joseph Lappie, the group's president, said in an e-mail.

Lappie said Pulp, Ink, and Thread would have little trouble putting extra money to good use. However, he said they appreciate

the relatively free use of their budget.

But Lappie also finds that accessing the group's budget takes a long time.

"There is an enormous window as to when one may get paid back, anywhere between two to six

weeks ... verging into the realm of unacceptable," Lappie said. "Punctuality is next to godliness when it comes to poor students' pockets."

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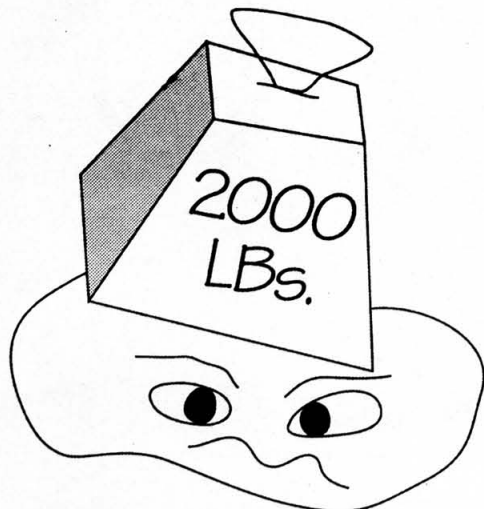
## Jazzin' up coffee



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Mark Fechner regales visitors with his sax outside the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on March 8. Fechner has been playing the saxophone for 30 years, and was hired by Seattle's Best Coffee to stand in front of a promotional tent.

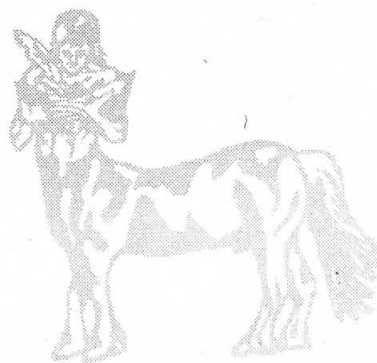
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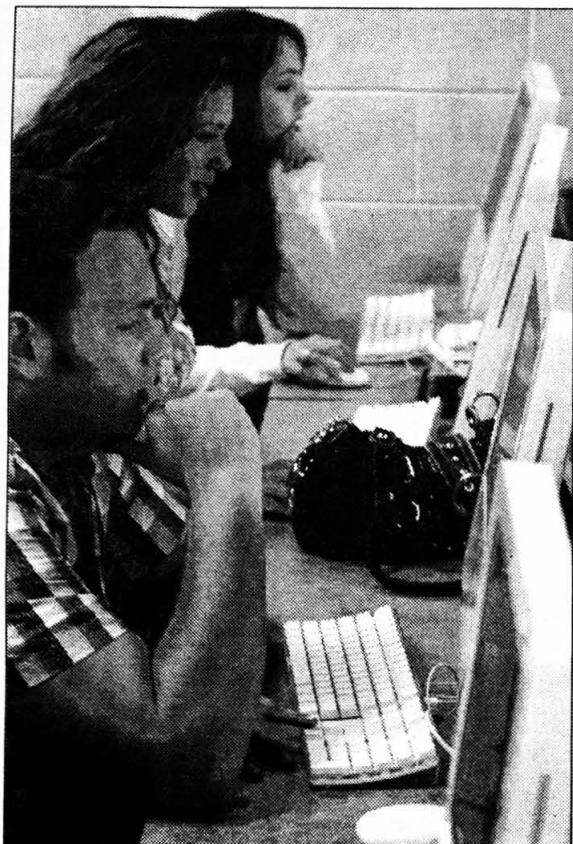


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# Four days unplugged? LOL ... U R crazy



MCT

Students at Seattle University tried a 'media diet' for 96 hours. Each student cheated during the four-day experiment.

By Nick Perry  
MCT

It's tough tuning out in today's world. Just ask a dozen communications students at Seattle University who recently attempted a 96-hour "media deprivation" experiment.

No listening to iPods or car radios. No checking e-mail. No chatting on cellphones. No surfing websites such as MySpace.com or Facebook.com. No watching "Desperate Housewives" or "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart."

The experiment originally was supposed to last a week, but it was scaled back when the students protested. But even four days was too much—each of the students cheated; some more than others.

Which perhaps proves professor Mara Adelman's point: The art of alone time is increasingly lost in our hectic, frazzled, wired lives.

Adelman believes her new upper-level course "Restorative Solitude" is unique. It explores the importance of quiet time for clarity, creativity and spirituality and touches on techniques ranging from long-distance running to meditation. It also explores the darker side of solitude: loneliness and isolation.

Students spend time in each class trying such meditative techniques as slow walking and

focusing in on breathing, and they complete projects examining various aspects of solitude. Seattle University, with its Jesuit underpinnings, offers a range of liberal-arts courses that attempt to mesh academics with spirituality and well-being.

Before attempting Adelman's media diet, students kept a log of their consumption. On a typical Thursday, junior Blaire Babcock, 21, found she checked her e-mail five different times, turned on the TV three times, checked her phone messages twice, browsed Facebook.com once and once listened to her radio while jogging.

*"The silence was deafening. You have to get comfortable with just listening to yourself and your thoughts because there's nothing to keep you distracted."*

—Cheryl Lee, a Seattle University student

"After reviewing my media log I noticed that I compulsively check my e-mail and phone messages for a fear that I will miss something. I found that I become anxious before I check my e-mail," she wrote in a course paper. "I turn on the TV as soon as I am up or return home. I enjoy the background noise but I rarely give it my full attention. I'm often multi-tasking."

The diet came as a revelation to Babcock and the other students.

"The silence was deafening," said junior Cheryl Lee, 20. "You have to get comfortable with just listening to yourself and your thoughts because there's nothing to keep you distracted."

Lee and the other students said they felt better able to concentrate and discovered they had more free time to spend reading and doing homework.

Lee also found one unexpected benefit. Because her CD player didn't start blasting the moment she turned the key in her 2005 Toyota Corolla, for the first time she noticed an unusual rattling noise in the engine: "like there's marbles inside a box and someone's shaking the box." She is planning to consult a mechanic.

Lee said her undoing came with her cellphone, which she switched to vibrate and mostly left at home, but which she couldn't face turning off altogether.

"There's some things that need to still be communicated via the cellphone," she said.

Cecile Andrews, a guest lecturer and author of the book *Slow is Beautiful*, told the class recently that it seems people across the U.S. have ratcheted up the pace of their already crazy-busy lives.

"It's a bizarre way to live," Andrews said. "It just doesn't work."

## ARE YOU UP-TO-DATE ON YOUR IMMUNIZATIONS?

Columbia makes it quick and painless for students to lift their immunization account holds.

create...  
change

Columbia offers students the opportunity to get up-to-date immunizations on campus.

### Columbia Immunization Days:

Monday, March 26 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 27 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 28 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Location: 731 S. Plymouth Court, First floor

Cost per vaccination:

- Tetanus/Diphtheria \$45
- MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) \$95 each  
(Two measles vaccines are required within your lifetime, if you need both, you must wait 28 days between the first and second shot.)
- Tetanus/Diphtheria and MMR \$140
- Payment is not required at the vaccination time. The charge/s will be applied to your Student Financial Services account.

The majority of college students have already received all or most required immunizations. The law is Public Act 95-1315 requires all students enrolled for six credit hours or more to provide the college with proof of immunity against tetanus/diphtheria, measles, mumps, and rubella.

To have your registration hold removed, please submit proof of your required immunizations!

To determine which specific immunizations you need, follow these easy steps:

- Sign on to OASIS
- Click on the student tab
- Click on the immunization link in the student profile portal

To obtain an immunization record:

- Contact your parents or doctor and request they submit a faxed proof of immunization to (312) 344-8073 or (312) 344-8601. Please be sure the fax includes your full name and OASIS ID.
- A record of immunization may also be obtained from your high school.

For questions about immunization requirements or for doctor referrals, please contact the Columbia Student Health Center.  
Hours: 12-5 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Location: 731 South Plymouth Court, First Floor  
Phone: (312) 344-8230

If you have any additional questions, call the Columbia Student Immunization Hotline at (312) 344-7390 or visit <http://www.colum.edu/go/immunization/>

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- 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)

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### ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & MEDIA MANAGEMENT

- The Make A Dent Scholarship (Deadline: April 27, 2007)
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### ASL - ENGLISH INTERPRETATION

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

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### JOURNALISM

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

### MARKETING COMMUNICATION

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

### MUSIC

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

### PHOTOGRAPHY

- Kodak Scholarship (Deadline: April 2007)

### RADIO

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

### TELEVISION

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

### THEATER

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

create...  
change

Columbia 

COLLEGE CHICAGO



## Editorials

### Graduation hesitation

Just as the CTA can't emphasize enough the importance of allotting extra travel time during construction, we can't emphasize enough the importance of getting your graduation audit done early. Really early.

If you're a freshman, you should start thinking about it now. If you're a graduating high school senior, you should think about the graduation audit before applying to Columbia.

Maybe that's an exaggeration, but the process takes a silly amount of time because the system is flawed. Columbia is still using pencils, figuratively speaking. It seems Columbia has no problem getting students in the door—they just have a problem getting them out.

Seniors can still graduate if they fill out their paperwork in time, which is the student's responsibility.

Students need to fill out graduation applications a year in advance and put down when they expect to graduate. The College Advising Center takes over from there to double check the requirements students have left before they can graduate.

But as The Chronicle reported this week, there were major problems with

the process, and the culprit is lack of communication. Some teachers are not filling out necessary paper work and as a result, the number of students who have been held back due to graduation audits has been "going up substantially," according to Bill Friedman, director of the College Advising Center.

This is a tad troubling, since no graduating senior should have the unfortunate embarrassment of walking across the graduation stage in May to receive a diploma only to come back to school next semester—long after the graduation celebrations are over.

We often hear nightmare stories like this.

When students are told their classes will be substituted or waived by others, their advisers clear them electronically and often paperwork doesn't get filed. Then come graduation time, students need to take more classes to meet requirements.

"I'm not saying advisers are perfect. [But they shouldn't] tell students they've filled out the form to substitute a class when they haven't," Friedman told The Chronicle. "I hate to see students take a class they don't need to take. We are not communicating well. It's 2007, and we're still filling

things out by hand."

Friedman has the right idea. If Columbia wants to pave the way into the future, it must change its whole system. Surely we can't be that far away from being able to do everything on OASIS—even though sometimes it seems useless.

While the responsibility lies with the graduating senior to make sure they have completed graduation requirements and handled their paperwork properly, the college should try to make the transition to the real world a little easier.

We pay a lot of money to come here. More money should mean more competence in getting things done. We know that in a school with over 12,000 students, sifting through graduation applications to see who can and can't graduate must be a royal pain. But Columbia can probably curb this problem before it gets out of control even more.

The administration must remember that the last thing future alumni need is to leave this school on bad terms. And not graduating on time has the potential to turn even the most mild-mannered student into a vessel seething with hate. It would be difficult for the college to try getting alumni donations then.

### Don't forget Emmett Till

The latest chapter of the Emmett Till case closed on Feb. 27 when the grand jury declined to hand down an indictment, according to the Associated Press.

In 1955, 14-year-old Till, a Chicago native visiting relatives in Mississippi, was lynched for allegedly whistling at a white woman.

The U.S. Justice Department re-opened his case in 2004, but Till's case is as relevant today as it was more than 50 years ago—and it should be remembered. It was, essentially, a boy's whistle that moved the country into the Civil Rights movement.

Two weeks ago, Joyce Chiles, the district attorney who worked with the grand jury, decided not to press charges against the woman, Carolyn Bryant Donham, 73, whose husband, Roy Bryant, and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, murdered Till. Chiles, who's black, told the AP that while she "didn't feel good toward her," she couldn't press

charges against Donham based on emotion and not on enough evidence.

"We are justice seekers and not head hunters," Chiles told the AP.

Although the government closed the case, people should not forget the brutality of the Till murder, which is still as gruesome today as it was in 1955. Two days after Till's whistle, Bryant and Milam, along with several others, kidnapped Till from his bed. His corpse—missing a left eye and most of his teeth, with barbed wire wrapped around its neck and a hole in the right side of the head—surfaced in the Tallahatchie River three days after the kidnapping.

Although Bryant and Milam denied committing the murder, and were acquitted by an all-white jury, in 1956 they subsequently confessed to killing Till in Look magazine. Bryant Donham was allegedly with her husband and Milam on the night of the murder, but the grand jury found the evidence insufficient.

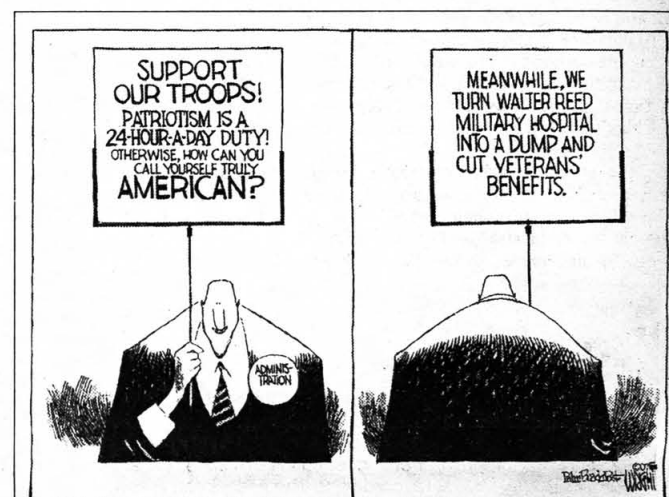
While the Till case is

closed, people should never forget how this Chicago native served as an unintentional catalyst for the civil rights movement. Till inspired Rosa Parks, who refused to give up her bus seat to a white man in Montgomery, Ala. in 1955, thus sparking the Civil Rights movement.

And although U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales publicly stated the Justice Department has re-opened about 12 new cold cases, the Till closure should not be viewed as a failure, but, rather, a mechanism acting to bring justice to those murdered merely for their skin color.

Just because the Emmett Till case is closed does not mean it should be gone from our memories. A case of such magnitude deserves to remain in our minds and more importantly our hearts. The Till case only reminds Americans about the grim realities of the past and the potential evil in the future—something that mere words can't accomplish alone.

## 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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# Prayer, pastries and pianos



By Allison Riggio  
Associate Editor

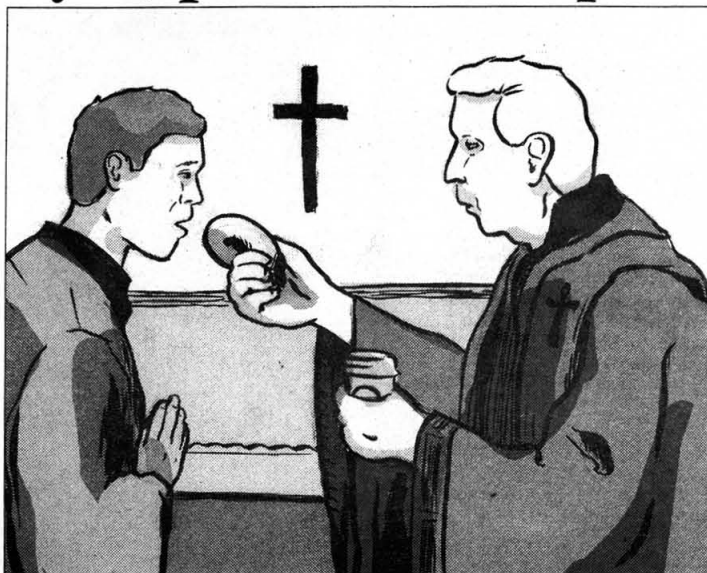
Religion used to be a staple in American culture, but it seems as older generations fade away, widespread interest in the subject dies, too. I can't prove attendance is down these days, but some churches are trying to accommodate patrons they have lost—or fear they will lose soon.

When I began to question the validity of my own religious upbringing, I made a rational, mature decision to stop attending church. Personally, I felt going to mass was reserved for those who truly believed and had faith in what they were hearing. It would have been borderline disrespectful of me to continue to go and pretend to be devout.

My 16 years of attendance were not out of true faith but through a habit enforced by my parents.

One Evangelical Christian church in suburban Elgin, however, found a way to “cater” to apathetic attendees by revamping the building to resemble a night club. According to a March 4 Chicago Sun-Times article, West Ridge Community Church underwent renovations modeled after the House of Blues.

The church's sanctuary area is in the shape of a piano and equipped with cafe tables and “comfy chairs.” The dimly-lit room features a stage and is adorned with candles and drapes. And let's not forget



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

the coffeehouse—complete with baristas and snacks.

“We decided to start a church for people who don't like church. A church where people can feel free to be authentic, to be real and that's an overriding theme that we do,” said Darren Sloniger, one of the church's pastors, in the article.

Recap: “a church for people who don't like church.” Something doesn't seem quite right here. If you don't like church,

don't go.

Whether struggling to win back attendance or not, turning the once-sacred practice of religion into a fireside chat with snacks and beverages just doesn't seem appropriate. If someone is not inclined to attend worship services as-is, then perhaps he/she has no business attending at all.

There's nothing wrong with deciding to break free from habitual religious prac-

tices. However, over time, people change—and so do their views and opinions. So stop attending services and find another venue to pray, worship, ponder, believe and do whatever else religion means to you.

Nobody should need to be baited into attending services. Sure, religion can be thought of as a business—churches want to get as many people inside their doors as possible. But what kinds of “customers” will this church attract by dangling muffins in their faces? Are they there for the right reasons? As soon as offerings beyond faith are brought into the mix, motives are immediately in question.

One could argue it's noble of this particular church to try and draw as many people to the faith as possible, but I doubt this situation sits well with old-fashioned religious nuts. Do they really want patronage from people who needed to be rewarded for attending? I think gluttony is one of those sins I've heard so much about.

Last time I checked, religions weren't big on “changing with the times.” This church is allowing distractions like scones and lattes into their services, but Christianity won't acknowledge advancements in social issues like homosexuality or the pro-choice argument.

The church's stances on those issues are just too sacred to dispute, right? Almost as sacred, I suppose, as the almighty caffeine fix.

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## Roamin' Numerals

**\$2,000** The amount of a check that was sent to a teenage Internet pornographer who was used as a source for a New York Times article. The newspaper acknowledged that a former staff writer, Kurt Eichenwald, sent the payment in June of 2005 to Justin Berry, a star on “seedy network of child-porn sites” to gain his trust according to The Associated Press.

**\$124,800** The winning bid for the brown hooded cloak that Alec Guinness wore as Obi Wan Kenobi in the Star Wars films. The movie memorabilia was sold to an anonymous bidder over the telephone at an auction of TV and movie props according to The Record, a Canadian news source.

**\$857** Amount in cash and value of belongings such as teeth, pajamas and a wallet, that were stolen from a Buffalo, New York man on March 5. Police said the man was robbed at knifepoint at night, according to BuffaloNews.com.

# Unwind from the daily grind



By Chrissy Mahlmeister  
A&E Editor

Cuddling up with co-workers for an afternoon snooze can actually boost productivity in the workplace and provide health benefits, according to Dr. Sara C. Mednick in a Jan. 29 ABC News article. With the average American getting about 6.7 hours of sleep, it's no wonder that by 2 p.m. we want to hit the hay—the afternoon slug we all feel is biological, according to Mednick. So where are the queen-sized beds, Columbia? I know after a hearty meal I should receive a well-deserved snooze session—even NASA said just a 26-minute nap can improve performance by up to 34 percent.

Bosses should stop living in denial that their droopy-eyed workers are being the most industrious on the job. Instead of worrying about raises and promotions, they simply just want to get some shut-eye.

Going to bed earlier at night won't necessarily make up for fatigue during the day. Effective stress-reducing naps shouldn't take place at home, but rather on the office sofa. According to a Feb. 13 Sun-Times article, the naps that will help your heart the most are those taken at work. Even statistics

from a study done in Greece show that those who napped during the day had a 37 percent lower risk of dying from a heart attack.

On the other side of the globe, Bangkok's got the right idea—they are already introducing lunchtime nap programs in the workplace, according to a Jan. 8 Canadian Press article. They want to “infuse city workers with a bit more pep” so they set up a “lunchtime ‘nap room’ with soft music, sweet-smelling flowers and strict rules barring mobile phones and talking.”

Sleep-deprived workers are costly—businesses pay about \$150 billion a year in lost productivity for their exhausted employees, according to the ABC News article. Not only is it affecting work, but home life too. Lack of sleep means “fatigue-related accidents and decreased sex drive.” Why not just take 30 minutes a day to increase the better things in life?

The UK has even made a “Nap-at-work week,” which begins March 27. They decided to “change our working culture to embrace power-napping.” It seems that life overseas is a bit more at ease.

Americans are starting to take the hint though. They've even already started making sleeping pods, which are 20-minute “wake-stations with mints, refreshing spray and hand towels.” These pods are set up in the Empire State building in New York City so workers can just crawl into these lounge



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

chairs in a bubble and pay \$13.45 to, well, sleep. But sleeping shouldn't have to come at a price; it should be something already worked into our daily schedule. With less jobs following the typical 9-to-5 schedule, bosses can't complain that they don't have enough time for it.

One BBC News article even suggests that the best ideas are often created in bed. Around 30 percent of people come up with genius ideas in the sack, while only a mere

11 percent come up with profound thoughts at their desks. I don't know about you, but I want to be on top of my game ... and I don't see any couches in sight.

Until it's acceptable to be drooling on my keyboard while I work for this unrelenting college, Columbia should find a way for its workers to unwind from the daily grind: designated nap time.

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# GRAD SCHOOL APPLICATIONS in the ARTS

Tue, March 13th @ 4pm

623 S Wabash Bldg Room 405

Arizona State Professor, Artist, Choreographer and Physicist Jodi James will visit to discuss ASU's Arts, Media & Engineering Program and will engage students in a discussion about preparing a graduate school application which includes a portfolio of educational materials. This discussion is highly recommended to any student considering graduate school (not just hybrid dancer/physicists). All students and alumni are welcome to attend and bring their portfolio materials for Jodi to review.

Visit [www.colum.edu/portfolio](http://www.colum.edu/portfolio) for other events and programs.

PORTFOLIO CENTER | ART & DESIGN | MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

## Get Your Spot Shot

For junior & senior Advertising Artists & Copywriters

Have an idea for the next great commercial but can't get it made? The Portfolio Center, Art & Design and Marketing Communications Departments are looking to turn great concepts into fully produced 30-second spots. And we'll foot the bill for production costs.

### The Process:

Step 1: Submit application materials to:  
Portfolio Center, 623 S. Wabash, Ste. 307  
Deadline: 5PM, March 30th 2007

Step 2: 6 semifinalists will be selected in April.

Step 3: Semifinalists will "pitch" their idea to the panel of judges. Up to 3 finalists will be selected based on originality, clarity of idea, and (production) practicality.

Step 4: Production teams will be hired to shoot the winning ads. Then we get started – Production will begin in June!

You'll be ahead of the game if you apply as a copywriter/art director team but if you prefer to apply solo you'll be paired with a counterpart during production.

Application forms can be picked up from the Portfolio Center, 623 S. Wabash, Ste. 307

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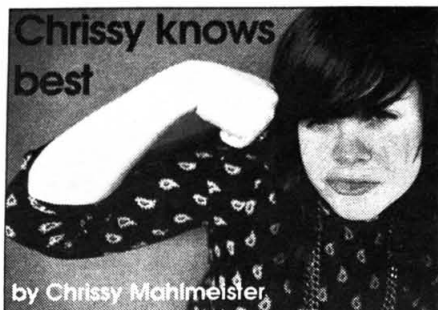


An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle



**It's  
truth  
time,  
folks**  
page 22





by Chrissy Mahlmeister

## I really dislike workout clubs

Working out freaks me out. When I walk into a fitness center, it feels like I just landed on some foreign planet filled with wet, shiny, tan creatures with few clothes and even fewer smiles. These creatures crawl from station to station, wiping their soggy foreheads in the process, grunting and scheming with the rest in one huge muscle-man battle.

Going to work out is exactly like going to the beach: You already have to have a smokin' hot bod to hang out there. It boggles my mind how everyone exercising is already in shape. Standing slumped in my oversized band T-shirt from high school and makeshift workout pants, I think, "Why are you here? I should be here. You're just making me feel bad for barely being able to do a slow jog on the treadmill for more than, like, three minutes."

Whenever I get the urge to "work out," which is usually about once a year because my sister forces me to go, I always look for a chance to have a little bit of fun while I am there.

While women in sports bras are glaring at each others machines, upping their own levels of intensity to outdo the other, I'm gliding away on my rowing machine and having a jolly old time. There's no level intensity increase button on those bad boys and I can't compete against anyone else because, quite frankly, no one uses those machines except for old men who are just happy to be alive.

Another thing that really sickens me about these places is the fact that dudes are on the prowl for ladies. I mean, I don't want some jock dude staring at me while I'm fake cross-country skiing. Well, they probably snub me faster than a greasy quarter-pounder anyway when they realize that my quads aren't tight and my underarms jiggle with every move, and I turn a blind eye to their sea of glossy, jumbo muscles decorated with tribal tattoos. I don't know how anyone could be looking for their soulmate among barbells and Bowflex machines, when everyone is sweating, red-faced and gasping for air just to stay alive.

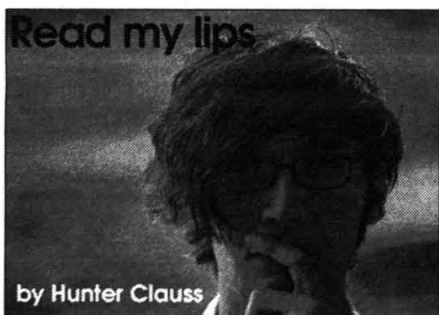
One time while working out, this personal trainer spotted my in-shape sister from across the gym. He didn't realize that with her, he got the inevitable me: the person who never works out and couldn't tell you the difference between weight training and aerobics. He jogged his way over to us and quickly corrected my sister's position as she was doing sit-ups. She didn't want the help, and I definitely didn't want him to know that this is the last place on earth I wanted to be.

Then, the predictable happened. He found out I was a lifeless slump of flab. He wanted me to do pushups. Yeah, right. I did half of one and the only thing that got me through it was the fury and rage I had for this guy in a gross tank top. I just wanted him to leave us alone because I went there to do the bare minimum and he was making me do the max.

Finally, after my sister repeatedly told him to not touch her, and my obvious disinterest in working out was at its all time high, he left us to go play some b-ball with the guys.

So next time I go and work out, whether it's a week, month or year from now, I guess I'll try to lose some weight, and maybe also shed some of the scathing hate I have for the bulky fellows. Their bulging muscles are no threat to my pasty chub that keeps me warm these frigid days ... and I bet they've wondered on more than one occasion what it would be like to cozy up against someone so supple and soft.

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by Hunter Clauss

## Creeping out the creeps

It's really awesome how the Internet is able to churn out a new, tech-savvy generation of creeps. Case in point—Craigslis and myself.

My shameful guilty pleasure is checking out the missed connection message board on Craigslis. For those who are not familiar, the missed connections board is a forum where Chicagoans can post messages to random people they encountered throughout the day. The point, to me at least, is getting in contact with an attractive stranger for some goodtime-after-school fun.

But the missed connections board is part fantasy and part creepy, reading like really bad erotica and uncomfortable letters from a stalker. The subject

material ranges from guys writing about getting it on during the train ride home from work or getting in touch with a long-lost flame. The postings amused me until I eventually got caught up in one.

A few years back, when I was single and desperately in need to get laid, I posted a message in hopes of getting in contact with some random guy who thought I was hot way back in the day. He was friends with someone I worked with, and he mentioned he had a thing for me. Sadly, I

was already in a relationship at the time and couldn't do anything about it.

But that relationship ended and I was on the prowl once again. I posted a message and within the week I received a reply. I didn't respond at first because I was creeping myself out at that point. "What kind of a person have am I become?" I thought to myself as I deleted the e-mail.

However, the guy wasn't creeped out at all. I received another response a few days after the initial one. He begged me to tell him who I was, and after a few drinks, I did.

We began e-mailing each other back and forth for a week, talking about our favorite horror movies and dive bars. After a week, we decided to meet at

one of the shadiest gay bars in Chicago—the Second Story Bar.

The Second Story Bar is a dive bar that caters mostly to older gay men, not that there's anything wrong with being old and gay. What is wrong, though, is walking into the men's room and catching two of them going at each other with their pants down. One golden oldie even told me to "rethink" my "hairstyle" as he walked by me. It's not like I told him to reconsider his Bill Cosby sweater.

Needless to say, I was having a miserable time, which is usually the case when I'm at a gay bar. But the Craigslis guy was a good sport about the whole situation. We shared our love for the B-52s and talked about how television shows like "Twin Peaks" and "Tales from the Crypt" warped our minds as children.

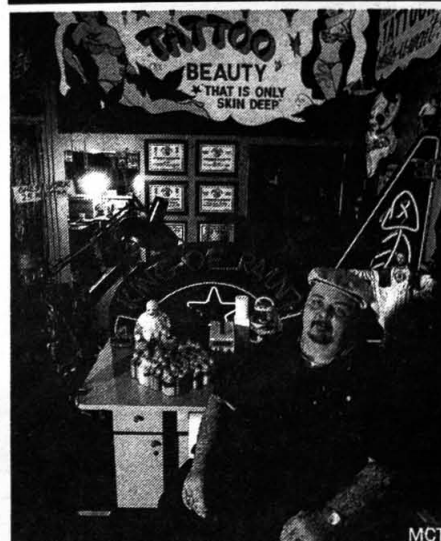
Everything was going great until I saw him go into the infamous men's room with an older dude—and I thought I was the creep for posting a message on the missed connections board.

I immediately confronted him once he got out of the bathroom. He denied anything happened, but I wasn't buying what he was selling. I picked up my coat and said my goodbyes.

I haven't seen him since then, either out on the street or on the missed connection board. If anything, it was a connection worth missing.

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## JACKASS OF THE WEEK



Joseph 'Fat Joe' Scapini, owner of Jade Dragon Tattoo, 5331 W. Belmont Ave., sits among neon signs and ink bottles in his shop.

Michael Duplessis loves Chicago. Really, he does. But instead of just talking about his passion for the Windy City, he wanted to show it. That's why, on April 1, 2005, Duplessis, now 40, strolled into Jade Dragon Tattoo and Body Piercing wanting a picture of the Hancock Center inked into his chest with the words "CHI-TOWN" running over it.

Instead, some time later and \$250 poorer, he walked out with a tattoo that said "CHI-TOWN." Now the man is suing the Jade Dragon tattoo parlor for "emotional stress from public ridicule" due to the obviously misspelled word.

But before we go any further, we're going to stop and explain the process of getting a tattoo for those who opt to keep their skin clean of ink:

1. Show tattoo artist the design you want.
2. Artist makes sketch of said design to suit your needs.
3. Artist stencils said sketch onto desired body part and says, "Is this okay?"
4. You say "yay" or "nay," and proceed to either re-work the design or have the stencil permanently etched into your skin.

It's simple and very customer-oriented from start to finish; that's one of the reasons why we're so confused how this jackass managed to end up with such a rotten tattoo job. Also, unless Duplessis kept his eyes shut throughout the entire tattoo process, it's inconceivable that he never once realized what was being inked onto his body.

Then there are some other confusing things about this situation. Duplessis is 40, meaning he was 38 or 39 when he got the tattoo, which means he's way too old to be saying things like "Chi-Town" in the first place. He shouldn't even have that phrase in his vocabulary; it should be used only by scrappy suburban kids who Metra their way into the city to obnoxiously take over precious sidewalk space.

Second, if he loves Chicago so much, why the hell is he getting such a generic landmark design on his chest and a stupid phrase to go with it? Maybe he could have gotten a drawing of a dirty CTA bus or a rude hot-dog vendor instead; these are more representative of a true Chicago lover than an over-hyped building.

So basically, something is sketchy about the whole ordeal. Someone has done someone wrong, and apparently it's going to take up some court time, money and space to figure out who is guilty. Maybe Duplessis' next tattoo should be a big ol' "JACKASS" on his forehead.

—T. Breyne



## Love us or hate us...

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



Chrissy Mahlmeister - cmahlmeister@chronicmail.com - (312) 344-8975

Kristin Kalter - kkalter@chronicmail.com - (312) 344-8970

Matt Fagerholm - mfagerholm@chronicmail.com - (312) 344-8969

## Ratings Guide

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



Complete Crap



Download It



Pretty Entertaining

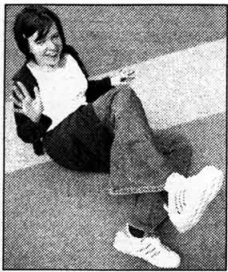


Very Good



Word Up



Kristin  
KalterChrissy  
MahlmeisterMatt  
Fagerholm

## Top 5

### REASONS I'M HAPPY THE TEMPERATURE IS RISING

**Less hazards:** I fell twice last week on patches of ice I wasn't paying attention to. Duh! Now I have this pain in my elbow that seems to be taking forever to heal.

**Gym shoes and sandals:** I can finally go back to wearing lighter, more comfortable shoes, which allow me to more efficiently practice the new "crazy feet" move I learned. Wearing my Adidas the other day probably contributed to my fall mentioned above.

**Saving money at the laundromat:** When it's warm outside I don't have to wear so many layers of clothing, therefore I don't have to do so much laundry at a time or use as many quarters.

**Counting down the semester:** After spring break is the perfect time to start counting down weeks and classes left in the so-called "spring" semester. Once spring hits—the semester is nearly over!

**Mood swings:** I'm generally a happier person overall once it's warm enough outside and the sun is shining—and this seems to be the case for most people. It's easier to wake up, get out of bed and leave the house—although it's not so much easier to enter a school building or work space.

### REASONS I DELETED MY FACEBOOK

**Disgusting photos:** Let's get real for a second. Facebook is just an excuse for people who are your "friends" to post really sick pictures of you lounging on your shabby couch munching on Fritos with your double chin baring it all. And, honestly, my nasty pictures may consist of a crossed eye or fat bulge, but for other gals it could mean nip-slips or barfing. No thanks.

**Stalking:** OK, I'm all about internet-stalking, but Facebook has just taken it too far. It's like I've subscribed to a really horrible gossip column but the writer left out all the juicy details. Don't tease me like that, Facebook. If Sarah broke up with John, I want to know why! Don't just put that info out there and dangle it in front of my hungry eyes.

**Poking:** Don't "poke" me. Ever. On Facebook or in real life. I automatically hate you if you do it. End of discussion.

**No HTML infiltration:** Let me post a funny picture of a cat wearing a hat on someone's wall, please. Please?

**You don't need to be in college anymore:** Wait, what? Anyone can join Facebook now? Thanks for taking the only thing in my life away that made me feel somewhat special and above others. Isn't it just Myspace except everyone I was barely friends with in high school added me to remind me how much I don't like my home town? Even my mom asked me why I deleted my Facebook. Well, mom, I guess you got your answer.

### FAVORITE BUDDY COMEDIES EVER MADE

**Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (1969):** The granddaddy of great buddy films. Whether they're daring each other to jump off a cliff, or butchering the local lingo while robbing a Bolivian bank, these two partners in crime can split any side. "I have vision, and the rest of the world wears bifocals."

**Planes, Trains and Automobiles (1987):** They aren't exactly Robert Redford and Paul Newman, but this mismatched duo brings home the laughs big time. Steve Martin and John Candy were never better nor funnier. "Those aren't pillows!"

**Midnight Run (1988):** Who knew Robert DeNiro and Charles Grodin could be the next Abbot and Costello? Grodin: "I suffer from aviophobia." DeNiro: "What does that mean?" Grodin: "It means I can't fly. I also suffer from acrophobia and claustrophobia." DeNiro: "I'll tell you what: if you don't cooperate, you're gonna suffer from 'fistophobia.'"

**The Big Lebowski (1998):** Rarely have two self-absorbed dudes been so funny. "I'm the Dude. So that's what you call me. You know, that or, uh, His Dudeness, or uh, Duder, or El Duderino if you're not into the whole brevity thing."

**The Matador (2005):** Straightman Greg Kinnear meets hitman Pierce Brosnan in this wonderful film. "Just consider me the best cocktail party story you ever met."

## Calendar of Events

### MONDAY

Attention all theater buffs! **Chicago Public Radio** is presenting the latest performance of "Stories on Stage" tonight at the **Upstairs Theatre of Steppenwolf**, 1650 N. Halsted Ave. This series of live short story readings will be presented as a trio of stories tonight under the title "I Had a Dream." The show starts at 7:30 p.m., and tickets can be purchased through [steppenwolf.org](http://steppenwolf.org). Admission is \$20.

### TUESDAY

The world premiere of **Phoenix Rising**, a multimedia work developed in concert with the **Nature Conservancy**, will be presented by the **Chicago New Music Ensemble** at 7:30 p.m. The event will be held at 205 E. Randolph St., and tickets range from \$10 to \$20.

### WEDNESDAY

Calling all belly-dancing enthusiasts! **New York's Bellyqueen Dance Theatre** is in Chicagoland for a one-night performance at **Dominican University**, 7900 W. Division St., in River Forest, Ill. The troupe blends traditional Middle Eastern dance with "popping, hip-hop, modern, jazz, ballet, gypsy, flamenco, Chinese and afro-haitian" styles. The show starts at 7 p.m., and tickets are \$25 at the door. Call (708) 299-2608 for more information.

### THURSDAY

Hailed as "the Pablo Neruda of American poets," **Martin Espada** will present a live reading of his work tonight at 6 p.m. at **The Newberry Library**, 60 W. Walton St. This free event is sponsored by the Poetry Foundation. Reservations are required. Visit [poetryfoundation.org](http://poetryfoundation.org) for further details.

### FRIDAY

This is the last week to catch the legendary director **David Lynch's** one-of-a-kind film, **Inland Empire**, at the **Music Box Theatre**, 3733 N. Southport Ave. Call (773) 871-6604 or visit [musicboxtheatre.com](http://musicboxtheatre.com) for show times. Ticket prices range from \$7.25 to \$9.25.

### SATURDAY

The Grammy-winning, influential hip-hop group **The Roots** are performing at **The Chicago Theatre**, 175 N. State St. Joining them as a guest will be hometown hero **Lupe Fiasco**. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Go to [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) to purchase your ticket, which may range from \$27.50 to \$42.50.

### SUNDAY

Meet **Rick Kogan**, Tribune columnist and author of *A Chicago Tavern: A Goat, a Curse, and the American Dream*, at the **Morton Grove Public Library**, 6140 Lincoln Ave., in Morton Grove, Ill., at 2 p.m. Kogan will discuss his work, share Chicago stories and sign copies of his book at this free event. Call (847) 965-4220 for more information.

## Exposure



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Even though I probably should have paid attention for my own sake at the panel discussion on credit card debt, Feb. 28, the subject of personal finance is one I have a rough time focusing on. Instead, I noticed interesting shapes and lines presented by members of the audience. Events like these are difficult to shoot in an interesting way, and many times the photographer focuses on something other than the presenters to create an image that may not work for the story, but they like personally.

# Everybody one-two step

Breakdance company teaches classes to all levels

By Kristin Kalter/Assistant A&E Editor

It's 8 p.m. on a Monday night and a crowd of about 20 people in their 20s and 30s are hopping and popping around inside a room of a Catholic elementary school in Lakeview. The classroom has been transformed into a dance studio and the adults are students of breakdancing.

While some may think breakdancing is only for skilled dancers, athletes or young kids, the b-boys at Breakdance Chicago, inside the Alphonsus Academy and Center for the Arts, 1439 W. Wellington Ave., disagree.

They believe breakdancing and hip-hop culture unites people and teaches confidence and other skills applicable in life or on any dance floor.

People of all levels, ages, body types and interests are encouraged to take their six-week introductory courses and learn that breakdancing isn't just "the worm" or "the robot."

In the early days of hip-hop in the 1970s, crowds at clubs or parties used to fight over space on the dance floor or in the streets during the breaks of the songs—there wasn't enough room for everyone to move around how they wanted to. Then, people formed dance circles on the floor and took turns doing different moves in the middle, and this started the evolution of breakdancing.

Ryan Fernandez, 29, a hip-hop emcee, said he used to breakdance on and off while he was young, from 5 to 8 years old and throughout his college days. But he never advanced in the art back then because nobody would really show him the moves with patience.

"A breaking class was what I needed to get more serious about dancing," he said. Now that he refreshed his techniques, he can utilize them in performances.

Fernandez said the class also helped him gain some confidence because he has always been a little shy dancing in front of crowds.

The class has been taught for almost two years by the company's owner Brian "B-Rock" Eckerman and Steven "Styches" St. John. Both are members of dance crews in the city and both have performed and competed in competitions.

Fernandez took both the level one and advanced level two classes with Eckerman.

"B-Rock is a great teacher," he said. "If you don't understand a move he'll sit down next to you and do the whole move step-by-step in slow motion. Then he'll ask to see you do it and give you feedback on how you may improve."

A new beginner's class, taught by St. John, started on March 5. The first class taught some

stretches and exercises to practice isolating different parts of the body, as well as a few core moves, such as the four-step and house-step called "crazy feet."

St. John said he was surprised at how quickly the class picked up the moves on the first day, especially considering some of them had never done any kind of breakdancing before.

He learned how to breakdance from looking at how-to websites and teaching himself but still thinks it is more efficient to learn from a person.

Shortly after he began breakdancing, St. John got the nickname "Styches" attempting a move that was too advanced for him.

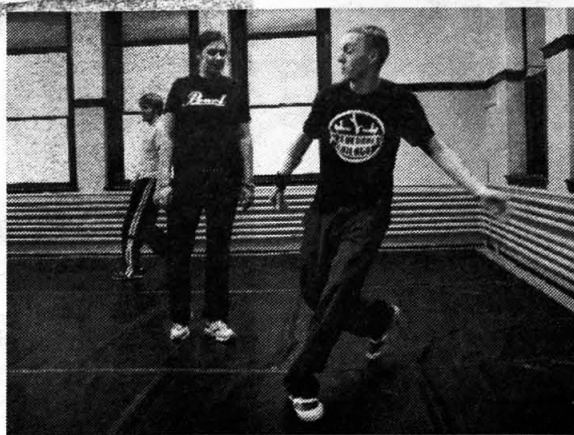
"Basically I over-rotated an air move and landed on my face," he said. "I had to get stitches. Since then the nickname kind of stuck."

Wannabe b-boys aren't the only ones showing up in the classes. A fair amount of b-girls in training have taken them too.

Jenni Johnson, 23, took one of the first classes offered by the company in 2005.

"[The first class] I was excited and anxious," she said. "I wanted to learn everything that day."

Johnson had never tried breakdancing before the classes but always wished she could whenever she watched dancers at hip-hop shows. While she said she did



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Ashleigh Follman watches Steven "Styches" St. John demonstrate a move during a breakdancing class at Alphonsus Academy, 1439 W. Wellington Ave. on March 8.

learn some moves during the few months she took the classes, she doesn't perform them anywhere.

"I will for friends and family," she said. "I'll actually do a six-step randomly. Sometimes I try a pose or two."

St. John agrees that once someone begins learning the basic moves, they might come out just naturally when dancing.

Some people who have taken the class said they liked how laid back and friendly the teacher and students were.

"At the end of class we would all circle up and take turns breaking in the middle," said Tanya Leigh Rahn, 30, who took the class for two sessions. "Some people were shy at first, but by the end of class everyone was doing it and we would just all laugh at each other if we messed up."

And while students don't necessarily have to be strong or athletic to start learning, they should expect to ache after the first couple of classes.

"The more you practice, the less sore you will be," Fernandez said. "And if you want to break, you must practice. There is no way around it and it is not easy."

But one of the most important things students should keep in mind is not to copy moves or styles, but to incorporate their own flare along with the basic steps.

"One of the best ways I like to say, it comes from Brian," St. John said. "He said, 'I can give you the crayons, but you got to draw your own picture.'"

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# Sure, life is fun now—but at what cost?

Story by **Tiffany Breyne**  
Graphics by **Kimi Badger**

For a lot of college students, spring break means preparing themselves for day-long drink-a-thons, keeping extra lighters handy for the cigarettes they'll chain smoke in between drinks, and getting in a few tanning bed sessions before the warm weather permits more exposed skin. And while it's highly possible the rock-star lifestyle will lead to hangovers, smoker's breath or the typical raccoon eyes from tanning, it's not a big deal, because having fun and looking good is worth the pain, right?

Well, not to blow the flame out of anyone's freshly-lit Marlboro, but the downsides of these habits go a bit deeper than hangovers and funky tan lines. Our gluttonous- and vanity-driven behaviors have their immediate payoffs, so the harsh realities of potential disease and financial woes fail to settle in until it's too late.

Money spent on drunken nights, nicotine addictions and a glowing look in the middle of winter can add up both financially and physically without students being any the wiser. Aside from money spent, there's the high possibility of not only premature aging but also developing a life-threatening illness. Though it's well-known that drinking, smoking and tanning can lead to debt and illness, The Chronicle decided to get the opinions of students and experts.

## Tanning

Chicago's harsh winter winds and long dark days are enough to make a person want a quick, sunny getaway. And for some, the lack of sun and outdoor activities leaves them feeling pale and unhealthy-looking, which is the main reason why they step inside a tanning bed for about 10 minutes of warm relaxation.

"[I tan] when I'm cold or don't feel good; not to get tan," said Camille Vafakas, a junior musical theater major, who tans about twice a month in the winter.

Vafakas isn't the only one who finds solace in the imitation sunlight. Each day more than 1 million people in the United States go to an indoor tanning salon, according to the American Academy of Dermatology. However, most experts agree that tanning just to look healthy or feel good can actually cause more harm than good. Dr. Arielle Kauvar, founding director of New York Laser and Skin Care, said the \$5 billion indoor tanning industry is the main reason tanning beds are not considered dangerous.

"It's a big business, and they basically spread the word that indoor tanning is safe, and in fact it's not."

Now that the depressing health risks have been laid on the table, we did some calculations to figure out the typical annual costs of indulging in smoking, drinking and tanning. While these are based purely on averages, it's easy to do the math for your own behavior and watch the dollars stack up.

## Tanning - \$280

\*Based on a basic tanning package, not including money spent on upgraded, stronger beds

A monthly package: \$20  
Tanning lotion with bronzer: \$20  
Bottles of tanning lotion bought in a year: 2



Kauvar said. "It carries all the dangers of outdoor natural tanning and possibly more."

Dr. Kauvar credits this danger to the bulbs used in tanning beds, which can sometimes be up to 15 times stronger than sun rays. The beds radiate UVA and UVB, both of which cause different types of skin damage. UVB affects the outer skin layer and can cause age spots and exterior damage, whereas UVA goes deeper and is known as a cause of melanoma, which is the second highest cause of death for women age 20 to 29 with skin cancer.

"There's basically no safe way to do it," she said. "College age is a very bad age to be doing this."

The Chicago tanning salon Vafakas joined told her as long as a tanner doesn't burn, she is safe from skin damage and can benefit from the Vitamin D triggered by the rays. She thinks moderation is key to tanning; she doesn't go often in the winter and never goes to an indoor salon in the summer, and she thinks she has no reason to worry.

"Everything raises the risk of cancer," she said. "I know people who never go tanning and have skin cancer."

### Binge drinking

Chicagoans may be known for their sports teams, hot dogs and tall buildings, but a recent study shows that we have something else to be proud of: binge drinking.

According to a report done by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Chicago has a higher percentage of binge drinkers than any other metropolitan area in the country. The study found that of the residents surveyed, 25.7 percent admitted to excessive drinking within one month, compared to the national average of 22.7.

Dr. James Rhee, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Chicago's Division of Biological Sciences' Department of Medicine, said he typically refers to alcohol as ethanol due to the chemical's presence in drinks; he said the presence of ethanol is what causes most of the effects of alcohol consumption.

Ethanol taken in large portions can put a person in a comatose state, or in other words, make them pass out. The chemical is also a reason why people may have trouble remembering a night of heavy drinking; it works as a sedative that affects brain receptors, specifically those dealing with memory.

This is also the reason why people act clumsily while drunk, and the statistics are there to prove it. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, about 1,700 students between the ages of 18-24 die each year due to unintentional alcohol-related injuries.

Chris Moore, a junior fiction writing major, just turned 21, but hasn't taken to the bar scene because it can get expensive. But because he drinks at friends' places instead, he said his alcohol intake is much higher than if he goes out. Moore said over the course of a weekend, he'll have about 20 drinks. Though he doesn't think about the way alcohol affects him physically, he

said he worries about his behavior while drunk.

"I'm guaranteed to say something stupid," Moore said.

While Rhee said binge drinking once or twice in a lifetime isn't that bad, done in repeated fashion takes its toll on the body, affecting long-term memory and causing circulatory problems. Binge drinking is typically considered to be four or five drinks in one sitting, but Rhee said it usually just depends on the person.

"I feel that binge drinking is any drinking in excess that leads to basically decreased inhibitions and lack of control over oneself," Rhee said. "Most individuals will know if they are binge drinking."

### Smoking

Brendan O'Connor, 23, has been a smoker for about 12 years. In that time, he has worked his way up to one to two cigarette packs a day. Though O'Connor has attempted to quit many times in the past, he always starts up again. He believes he will kick the habit some day.

But according to Dr. Alan Leff, chances are slim that O'Connor will ever get his shining moment of nicotine clarity; a person who starts smoking at a young age has about a 10 percent chance of ever breaking the addiction.

"Young people who smoke are much more likely to fit in the category of hopelessly addicted," said Leff, professor of medicine at the University of Chicago's Division of Biological Sciences' Department of Medicine.

Though it's no secret that smoking can cause lung cancer, Leff points to many other physical illnesses that affect the body. Emphysema has the same number of cases and deaths and has much longer lasting and life-debilitating effects, Leff said.

"[People with emphysema] live many years as fully incapacitated people, unable to breathe much and struggling for air every day," he said. "It's an inhumane, gradual suffocation."

Though emphysema and lung cancer are solely brought on by smoking, Leff said that when factors such as high cholesterol and a bad family medical history are brought into the mix, the habit can greatly increase the odds of suffering from a heart attack, stroke or other vascular diseases.

The main cause for concern with all of these diseases is that due to their slow progression, the damage is irreversible by the time a person is able to admit an addiction and try to fix it.

"The assumption that all people make is that they can control [smoking] and ... the fact is that with long-term cigarette smoking, it is unlikely that they will ever be able to stop," Leff said. "Nicotine is about as addictive as cocaine."

O'Connor, who said he feels the effects of smoking while playing basketball and doing other activities, said his opinion of the habit has changed since he first picked up a cigarette at age 11.

"I definitely wouldn't start now," O'Connor said. "It's stupid."

### Drinking - \$1,560

\*Based on an average of five drinks in one sitting, two times a week

Average cost of bottled beer: \$3  
Amount spent in a week: \$30

### Smoking - \$2,548

\*Based on a pack-a-day smoker

Pack of cigarettes in the city: \$7  
Packs bought a day: 1  
Total amount spent on cigarettes a week: \$49



# Fat Fake Groan

Jackson's latest is campy misogyny

By Matt Fagerholm/Assistant A&E Editor

In *Hustle and Flow*, director Craig Brewer proved to America that it truly was "hard out here for a pimp." Now with his sophomore feature, *Black Snake Moan*, Brewer proves an even more staggering fact: it's hard out here for the enlisted boyfriend of a nymphomaniac. And she's not just any nymphomaniac—but Christina Ricci, in over-the-top animalistic hysteria.

Lucky for her, a Bible-thumping bluesman—Samuel L. Jackson—fresh off a bitter divorce, becomes determined to lead her on a path to redemption.

His method of care-giving involves chaining the abused prostitute to a radiator, while soulfully singing the kind of hard-boiled blues that holds the power to put its listeners into a hypnotically brooding trance.

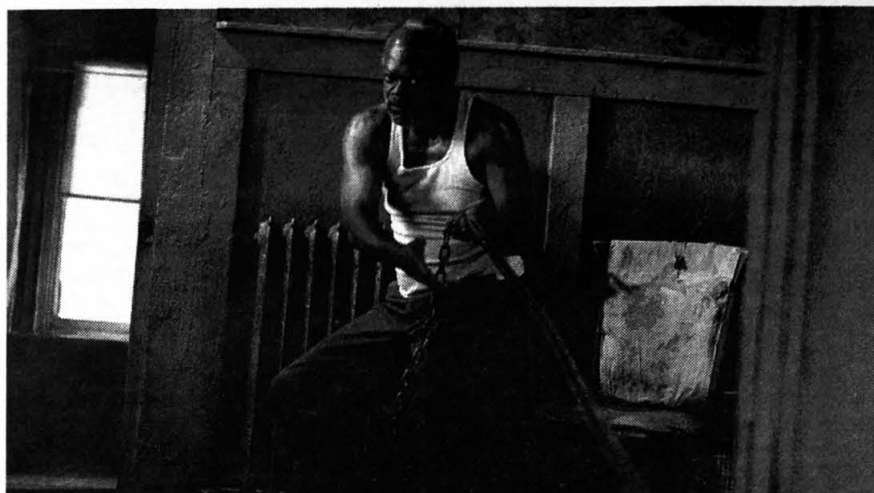
Yet *Black Snake Moan* succeeds in placing viewers within a very different type of trance, and it's one of purely amused befuddlement. This is one weird movie. So odd, in fact, that the filmmaker's basic artistic goals remain sketchy. Is this an outrageously off-the-wall melodrama, an abundantly campy satire or a cinematic illustration of the blues? I'd like to argue that it's a hodge-podge of all three, but to what end? Raucous laughter blared throughout the packed screening I attended; but what was the audience laughing at?

Sure, there are a few choice one-

liners, such as when Ricci awakens—after having been beaten unconscious—and finds herself chained in a stranger's house. The stranger, Jackson, points to the chain while uttering the deadpan quip, "I'ze gonna tell you 'bout that." But the film's content and plot arc are so overtly dramatic and self-righteous, Brewer wants the audience to take this spectacle seriously. And if the film is intended to be serious, then it's seriously one of the most misogynistic films in recent memory.

Consider the story of Ricci's lover, played by Justin Timberlake, who once again proves—as he did earlier this year in *Alpha Dog*—that he truly is a solid actor. After balancing machismo with self-loathing in *Dog*, Timberlake exudes vulnerability as Ronnie, an army soldier plagued with violent anxiety. He has reason to be anxious, considering that the instant he's off to war, his girlfriend Rae—Ricci—searches for her sexual fix in the hands of a pimp named Tehronne.

Yet when she falls under the guidance of Jackson, whose character happens to be named Lazarus, the story doesn't become about her journey toward being unchained from her disease. It becomes about her acquiring a different chain—that which binds her in submissive loyalty to her husband, who exerts homicidal tendencies over his wife's indiscre-



MCT

Samuel L. Jackson prepares to 'suffer' Christina Ricci in a scene from 'Black Snake Moan.'

tions.

In his own way, Ronnie's disorder is no more destructive than Rae's, and yet, it is the woman who is branded the sinner, and assigned to cater to her husband's needs. The film's ultimate hypocrisy is how it offers this "redemptive" message, while objectifying Rae as a sex symbol, dressing her in an outfit so revealing, she might as well not be wearing clothes at all. It takes hours for kindly Lazarus to wipe the blood from her bruised face, and several days to offer her a freakin' dress.

And yet *Moan* is so utterly preposterous that it becomes increasingly difficult to take seriously. Each scene unfolds with all the subtlety of a piano player pounding the same three keys until the ivory begins to crumble. Each assigned emotion is played with an

exclamation point, giving the entire production a heightened, cartoon-like tone. Whenever two characters have a confrontation that holds interesting dramatic weight, Brewer loses his nerve, and resorts to having the "really bad" character provoke the "really good" character into a brawl. This technique is never more hilarious as when Rae encounters her unsupportive mother in a supermarket and ends up beating her with loaves of bread. There's also some uproarious dialogue along the lines of "that girl gonna be on your d—k like stink on s—t."

This is all tremendously entertaining and worthy of more genuine laughter than anything in Jackson's other *Snake* movie. It also produces an infinite number of groans, yet they never erupt out of a bored vacuum. They instead

are produced by astonished audience members reeling from the silly, overwrought, offensive sight before their eyes.

*Black Snake Moan* is the kind of film that can't be enjoyed through rational thought. It's tailor-made to become an instant classic—in the realm of cinematic drinking games. Take a shot every time you see Ricci's bare, writhing body, and you're guaranteed to have a plastered evening!

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com

**'Black Snake Moan'**  
Directed by Craig  
Brewer



## Snake-tacular!

'Moan' is best film released this year

By Wes Giglio/Freelance Writer

Watching the opening scenes of *Black Snake Moan*, I found myself wondering if writer/director Craig Brewer had ever seen a movie. Like Dorothy with Toto, I felt dropped into a strange country, thrilled by the flavor, the soul—the damn color.

*Black Snake Moan* is the best film released this year, and it

cements Craig Brewer's place in the thin ranks of America's best directors.

It's the story of an old bluesman, Lazarus—Samuel L. Jackson—lowered by betrayal and divorce, and a young nymphomaniac, Rae—Christina Ricci—beaten and left for dead outside his door. He decides to take care of her, loath to

call the cops—"I've been toe to toe with the law in this town enough for bein' black and nearby!"—and eventually begins to take care of more than her body, wanting to break her of her sinful ways. Obviously, the best way to do this is to chain her to the radiator.

There are dozens of moments in the film where the audience's eyes pop, but none so dramatic as when Rae strains against the chain, scrambling for freedom, and Lazarus, eyes flaming, wraps the link around his arm and announces he's going to "suffer" her. We're not in Kansas anymore.

We're in the American South, the best place for a story about sinners and the need for redemption.

The story is framed by the land, the Bible and the blues, that gut-twisting, heart-pounding devil's music. The music is really another character in the film, maybe more than one. It's the intensity of the sex that opens the film, the spirit of defiance that underscores the title sequence. For most of the film it's the expression of Lazarus' mind, and at the end it is the grace Rae finds for herself and her husband.

In a crowded, sweaty juke joint, it is anger, violence, retribution. When Lazarus sings about putting "nine bullets in his muthaf—kin' head" in his version of "The Bucket of Blood," we know exactly who he's talking about, and we shudder—threatened by the accusing neck of his guitar stabbing at the screen, excited by the power of the music.

At its roots, this is an Old Testament narrative, colorful, bloody and vengeful, with a new testament message about grace and the healing power of love. The duality is expressed in the film's best scene, when Lazarus brings out his old electric guitar to play a song for Rae. As he starts the music, we see lightning flash outside the window. As the storm gathers, both characters are confronted with their demons—for Laz, it's his unborn child, "cut out" without his knowledge or consent; for Rae, her sexually abusive father.

The storm rolls and crashes, shaking the walls of the house, but Laz plays on. Rae is frightened, and she curls up next to his leg, holding on. She begs him to keep playing. The performance gains in

intensity, Lazarus' rumbling tones turning to angry, accusing wails—we see that it is more than a song. Lazarus is shouting, not at the devil, but at God himself. The scene highlights a truth that is the foundation of the film: In the midst of the storm, sometimes we need to yell and sometimes we need something to hold onto. Either way, salvation is far, and the struggle is the glory.

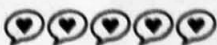
The film closes with a marriage and the familiar verses from Corinthians: "But now faith, hope and love remain—these three. But the greatest of these is love." An ending of surprising gentleness that stops just short of catharsis. The final scene allows for the permanence of temptation and doubt.

The last time I was this floored by the originality and daring of a picture was the first time I saw *Blue Velvet*. There are scenes here to equal the surreal nature and dark humor of Lynch's best work, and like *Blue Velvet*, critical reaction will be mixed.

I was also reminded of David Gordon Green's *George Washington*, another beautiful film set in the South and populated by a mostly black cast. All comparisons to geniuses aside, Brewer is making his own kind of cinema—southern, bold and exciting. I was arrested by every minute of this film.

chronicle@colum.edu

**'Black Snake Moan'**  
Directed by Craig  
Brewer



MCT

Justin Timberlake and Christina Ricci play tormented lovers in 'Black Snake Moan.'



# Music that's 'hard to digest'

*Kaddisfly's bassist discusses new album, band's past*

By Brent Steven White/Associate Editor

Kile Brewer, bassist for the Oregon-based band Kaddisfly, openly admits it: He doesn't want people to like his band.

At least not in the beginning.

Brewer believes Kaddisfly's music is "hard to digest," and that as such, it grows on people gradually.

Natives to Eugene, Ore., Kaddisfly came together in the late '90s before relocating to Portland, Ore., to "make an impact on music," according to Brewer. The recognition has been slow going, but Brewer said he prefers the grassroots process. Bands that make it overnight go away overnight, he said.

The band got their name from a bug native to the Pacific Northwest used in fly-fishing, the caddisfly, but changed the first letter so that there was no specific dictionary meaning to it. "And I like it that way," Brewer said.

While driving somewhere in-between Boise, Idaho and Salt Lake City, Brewer spoke to *The Chronicle* about the band's origins, their new album, *Set Sail the Prairie*, which released March 6, and the recent increase of interest in his band.

**The Chronicle:** Your new album releases today, March 6. Are you excited?

Brewer: I'm stoked. It's been a long wait and almost a year since

we recorded it. It feels like we've had it out for a long time because we've already played these songs a lot. But today is the day.

**It seems that a lot of attention to detail went into it. Many of the songs are layered, and there's a lot of overdubbing. Would you say you're perfectionists?**

I would say we are. We've always tried to put everything we have into records, but running out of time almost always ends up being a factor. But on this record, we had more time to make it as good as we could. We started writing this record shortly after we had our trailer stolen in Florida in October of 2005.

**How did it feel being robbed like that?**

It was the worst moment ever. It felt like we lost everything. We didn't know what to do, so we ended up driving back home to Portland [Ore.] after staying in Florida for a few days, hoping it would turn back up. After nothing did, we decided our plan of attack would be going into debt to get everything we needed to continue.

**How does this album differ from other records you've done?**

We've never had a chance to approach our songs with a listener's perspective, and this one we did. We sat back, listened to them

and tried to scope them in a way that made them a little more listenable and mature.

**Is this release a concept album?**

Yes. Our last album [*Buy Our Intention; We'll Buy You a Unicorn*] was the beginning of a trilogy of records, and this one is the second. This one has to do with the seasons and geographical location. We're trying to give the listener a journey and make it as detailed as possible.

**Kaddisfly seems to be a part of a current movement in music where bands are challenging their listeners, yet still accessible to a large audience—bands like dreg, Paulson and Mewithoutyou. Would you agree? Do you feel you're a part of some current musical movement?**

Until a "movement" breaks out, it's hard to say there's one happening. I know there are a few other bands out there, like [dreg, Paulson and Mewithoutyou], that I would put us in the same boat with. We're all doing something we feel real strong about, and it's more than just writing music. I mean, we're still accessible to the listener who wants to take our music at face value, but we know there are other listeners who take music into deeper realms and really dig into it.



Courtesy Hopeless Records

Kaddisfly from left: Kile Brewer, bass; Aaron Tollefson, guitar; Christopher Ruff, vocals/keyboard; Beau Kuther, drums; and Kelsey Kuther, guitars.

**Now that the band is becoming more established and receiving more media coverage, do you feel any sort of added pressures?**

Not really. I don't feel much pressure at all. Our biggest pressure is writing good music and recording good records—even if they flop. Sure, we want to be successful, but we're proud of them. As long as we're passionate about our music, I think things like sales and tours will come around naturally.

**The band's been writing and recording since the late '90s. How has your music evolved?**

Like most bands, when we started writing, we kind of mimicked some of the bands we liked. When you do that, unfortunately, you limit your abilities early on. But our mindset hasn't changed, in terms of what we want our music to be about. Our abilities, both individual and together, have gotten a lot better. Our progression

has been very organic and gradual.

**What do you want people to get from your music?**

I want them to not like it at first. The records I've fallen in love with are the records I didn't like in the beginning. I see a lot of blank faces on this tour, and many bands take that as a sign that they're not enjoying the music. When I see blank faces in the crowd, that says to me people are thinking; they're contemplating. I think our music is hard to digest in the beginning, and that most people aren't attracted to it at first. But as time goes by, I think people come around. And I hope that we can be a band that has longevity with listeners, rather than a quick fix.

*Kaddisfly plays Chicago's House of Blues, 329 N Dearborn St, March 14. Tickets are 17, and the show begins at 6 p.m.*

bwhite@chroniclemail.com



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# Take a hike

Local residents find numerous benefits in the outdoor activity

By Kristin Kalter/Assistant A&E Editor

In the past five years, one man has brought more than 1,000 people of different backgrounds, ages and occupations to gatherings at various locations throughout the Midwest. Though they are all different, they have one thing in common: their love for hiking.

Some said they joined because they wanted a way to exercise, meet new people and because time with nature acts as a form of therapy and escape from city life, even if it's only an hour away.

Rick Malkowski, Chicago resident, said he tried to start a hiking group several times in the past because of his passion for the outdoors, love of swimming and desire to meet and bring others together to share in the experience.

Although he placed ads in the Reader and on craigslist.org in 1995, 1997, 1999 and the summer of 2001, he would only get a few responses with no follow-ups.

Just days after Sept. 11, he tried again.

"I felt like I wanted to do something constructive ... something to distract me," he said. "There was all this negative energy going around; I wanted to do something positive."

He believes others must have felt the same way, because when

he placed the ad that time, he got many more responses.

"Within days, I got 30 phone calls," he said.

His first hike was along the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on Sep. 29, 2001 with eight people in attendance. By Christmas of that year, he had about 50 people attend a hike. Since then he has met over 1,000 people, 400 of whom are still on his mailing list.

"Last weekend we had our first marriage," he said. "Two people who met in my group got married. We've had a lot of hook-ups and other friendships formed, but that was our first marriage."

Crystal Chan, a 27-year-old non-profit worker originally from Wisconsin, is one of the people who has hiked with Malkowski.

"Having grown up in Wisconsin, [the outdoors] was something I kind of took for granted," she said. "When I came to Chicago I realized not everybody had that."

The first outing she attended was at the Indiana Dunes, Malkowski's favorite spot to go in the Midwest. Chan said she was surprised at how welcoming Malkowski and the rest of the group were.

"Rick is a natural organizer and



Courtesy of Rick Malkowski

Rick Malkowski's hiking group like to gather all seasons as long as conditions are safe. Here some of the members pose during their Moraine Hills hike in McHenry, IL in January 2004.

has a great way of welcoming people," she said. "He gave me the background of the group for any sort of story they were telling."

Malkowski said he does this because he wants the group to be like a community.

"We're going to go hike, but afterwards we're gonna go back to his place and have some hot cocoa, or play some games or have a discussion group," Chan said. "We're not just there to burn off calories."

Tracy Hoffman, 42, is another woman who has been in the group for some time. Hoffman works at Warner Brothers Records as an inventory manager.

"When I moved here [from southern California] and I didn't know anyone, the first thing I wanted to do was join a hiking group," Hoffman said.

She believes it isn't necessary for someone to have ever gone hiking before coming to one of Malkowski's outings, even though she is experienced and likes to

speed through the trails.

"Generally all the hikes in this area of the country are fairly easy," she said.

The distance might be long for beginners, but Malkowski posts all information about the trails and notes there are a number of members who stroll along.

"We've had everything from raw beginners to one woman who went to Mount Everest and did those Iron Man competitions," Malkowski said.

Fitness experts agree that hiking offers health benefits for the body and mind.

Clint Phillips, a personal trainer and owner of fitchicago.com, a website that helps people in Chicago find a trainer who's right for them, said while he doesn't do a lot of hiking as a city-dweller, he thinks it is great for one's well-being.

"Seeing the trees, birds and animals is not as repetitive as being on a treadmill every day," he said.

"It's good to get out of the city."

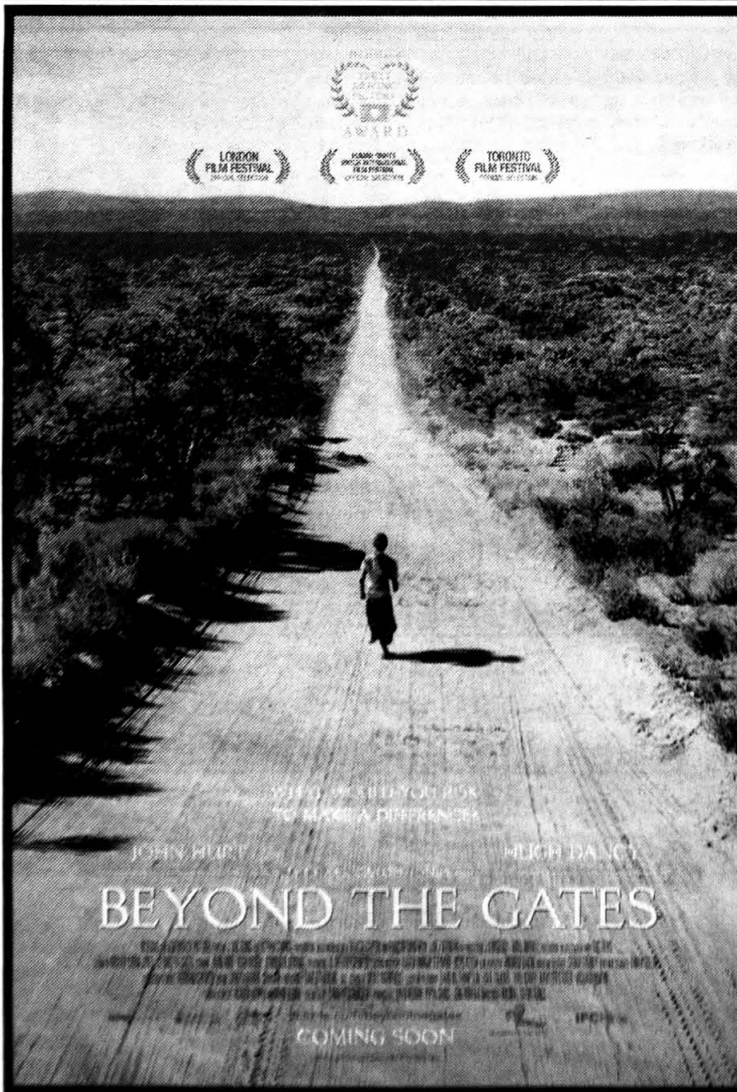
It's also good for the body and legs, especially if hikers try and go fast or climb more intense trails, to make it more of a cardio activity, Phillips said.

One of the best and most difficult hikes Hoffman went on was in Devil's Lake, which has a lake in the middle of a large bluff from the Ice Ages in Wisconsin. Hoffman went there in the wintertime and said part of the trail involved walking across the lake.

"People out there fishing were able to measure the depth of the ice, which I think was about 14 inches thick," she said. "We were pretty confident, but it was a little creepy."

To join Malkowski's established hiking culture, e-mail him directly at [trailman49@aol.com](mailto:trailman49@aol.com).

[kkalter@chronicle.mail.com](mailto:kkalter@chronicle.mail.com)



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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, MARCH 23rd





Liz Tooley and boyfriend Lance Barresi pose with their cat, Zaireeka, at their record store, Permanent Records, on March 8.



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

# Permanently independant

*Couple opens record store with shared love for music, each other*

By Beth Palmer/Assistant Campus News Editor

The deep, forest green paint on the record racks and the handmade CD racks contrast well with the turquoise walls, dotted with posters of bands like The Clash. The floor-to-ceiling windowed storefront allows even an overcast Chicago day to naturally light the shop. And although she sleeps most of the day scrunched in a small cardboard box on the cash register counter, Zaireeka, the owners' friendly brown and white kitten, often bounds around, greeting customers at the independent music store, Permanent Records.

Liz Tooley, 28, and her boyfriend Lance Barresi, 24, chose to open Permanent Records, 1914 W. Chicago Ave., in the Windy City last October despite an intense hatred for cold weather.

The couple genuinely loves playing, listening to and discussing music, and their goal to shape the spot into a community venue teeming with local art, student film screenings and crowded concerts make Permanent Records more an experience than a retailer.

Tooley and Barresi visited New York City, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and other cities looking for a music scene that fit, Tooley said.

"I like that Chicago is a large group of small communities," Tooley said. "The music community is so great."

Since picking Chicago, they were tipped off by an accountant to meet a local bank manager and jazz aficionado. The banker approved their loan, allowing Tooley and Barresi to ditch financial plan one: asking friends and family to invest.

After obtaining licensing from the city of Chicago, Permanent Records buys selected merchandise from customers. They also have a Permanent Records music label.

"We've always wanted to do that, it seems like it comes with the territory," said Barresi, who, along with his girlfriend, has played in a number of independent bands including Tiny Pants. "There are tons of great bands out there that need to get signed," he said.

The shop's full shelves reflect their personal taste, Tooley said. In addition to music, they sell DVDs,

classic literature and magazines like Chicago's Venuszine.

"It's a nice place, and I'm planning to go back," said Benjamin Balcom, a manager at nearby Dusty Groove Records, 1120 N. Ashland Ave.

Twice a week, a small empty space in the back of Permanent Records becomes an artists' stage. On average, 20 to 30 people gather for the concerts, further demonstrating Chicago's indie music support, Tooley said.

Although the crowd size varies depending on the band, Permanent Records' weekly e-newsletter and concert calendar, which customers can sign up for in the store, attract interest, too, she said.

Permanent Records offers to track down obscure music upon request. The sign outside the door invites passersby to check out new releases, classics and tunes Tooley and Barresi would like to introduce to a new audience.

"I get a lot of feedback that sometimes [customers] see something they want on [Reckless Records' website] but when they get to the store, there are none left," Tooley said. She maintained that Permanent Records has the supply that's in demand.

Chris Connelly, manager of Reckless Records, 1532 N. Milwaukee Ave., said he's aware of Permanent Records, but has not thought of it as competition because record buyers love choice and Americans love spending.

"We can all coexist harmoniously," Connelly said in his thick Scottish brogue. "We will do fine and so will they."

Dancing in her mother's room to records spinning on the player started her love of music, Tooley said.

"I grew up with my sisters liking a lot of bad music," Tooley said. "I had a lot of Journey in my life until one of my sisters became cool, and thus began my Anthrax and Slayer phase."

Sometimes people play their favorite record out and never transition to similar music, Tooley said.

"I think that's why people go nuts sometimes," she said.

Of the mentality that she can

always go back, Tooley said she dropped out of community college, but Barresi was a business major at University of Missouri in Columbia.

She and Baressi met in Columbia, Mo., in May 2002. Their similar tastes in music, personalities and goals made them the perfect romantic and business team, she said.

The couple moved to Chicago from Columbia in August 2006 after they spent two years planning for Permanent Records and spent even more years working in vari-

ous independent music stores.

"We're really thankful for that experience," Tooley said. "I was in the [record store] manager program thinking, 'I can do this.'"

One previous employer made a lot of money selling video games, but Permanent Records will never compromise its owners' vision for profit, Tooley said.

"No one's in this to get rich," she said.

Jesse Levine, a local musician who performs under the name Kosher Dill Spears, performs weekly at Permanent Records,

playing his keyboard and improvising lyrics.

"I really enjoy the performance [at Permanent Records] because it's more relaxed than other venues and I can work on ideas," Levine said. "[Liz and Lance] are so welcoming; they are the anti-snobs."

[bpalmer@chroniclemail.com](mailto:bpalmer@chroniclemail.com)

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# SUMMER & FALL 2007

## It's almost time to REGISTER!

Your registration time slots for both summer and fall semesters can be obtained in March by going to the Register for Classes screen on OASIS (under CX-Enrollment). Set the options to Summer or Fall 2007. Time slots are based on your cumulative credit hours. Emails with your summer and fall registration time slots, and other registration information, will also be sent. Registration time slots do not apply to graduate students. All continuing graduate students register beginning March 12 for the summer semester, and April 2 for the fall.

Your OASIS email login format is as follows:

Firstname.Lastname

Example: Joseph.Smith would be your full email login

Your email password is the same as your original default OASIS password (until YOU change it). Remember, changing your password in OASIS does NOT change your email password, and vice versa. If you have problems logging into your email account, please contact OASIS User Support at 312-344-7788.

### SUMMER 2007

Seniors	Monday, March 12 - beginning at 8 a.m.
Juniors	Tuesday, March 13 - beginning at 8 a.m.
2BA/PCRT	Tuesday, March 13 - beginning at 1 p.m.
Sophomores	Wednesday, March 14 - beginning at 8 a.m.
Freshmen	Thursday, March 15 - beginning at 8 a.m.
Open Registration	Thursday, March 15 - beginning at 1 p.m.

The above time slots will remain open for summer registration until Tuesday, May 22 at Midnight (CST).

Orientation for new freshman and transfer students will be in July/August.

Students who owe an unpaid balance cannot participate in registration. Check your OASIS course and fee statement for your current balance. Please contact the Student Financial Services office at 1-866-705-0200 or email sfs@colum.edu to resolve any unpaid balance.

#### FOR FALL ONLY

- Check with your major department to determine if faculty advising is required. If so, meet with a faculty advisor before your registration time or as soon as possible. Faculty advising is not required for summer registration.
- You will be required to update your emergency contact information before you can register. You can also check and update your other addresses.

### FALL 2007

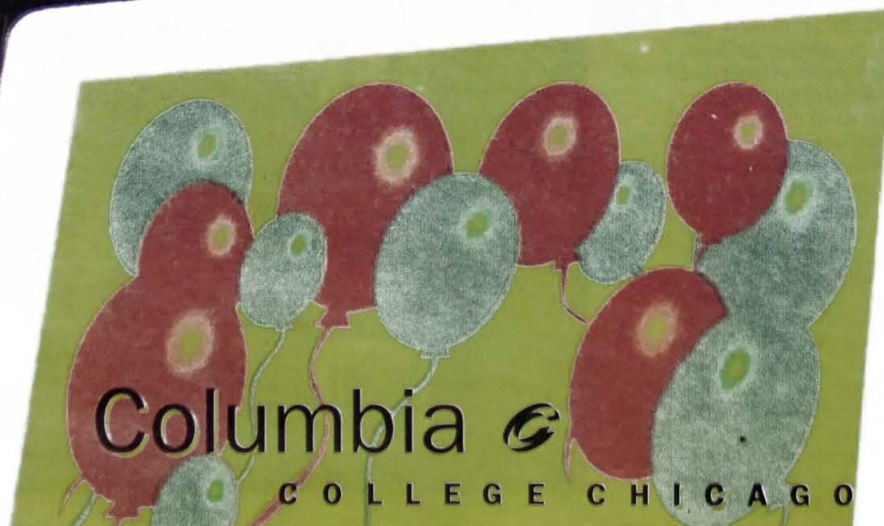
Continuing degree-seeking  
undergrad registration begins Monday, April 2

Open Registration (all students including  
degree-seeking & students at large) begins Monday, August 13

The above time slots will remain open for fall registration until Monday, September 10 at Midnight (CST).

create...  
change

Photo by Bryan Serafini





# Causing a tasty stir

Celeb chef cooks outside the box

By Brett Marlow/Staff Writer

Some celebrity chefs have their own cooking shows. Some even have their own talk shows. Others, like Grant Achatz, are fine with just having their own restaurants—for now.

Achatz, chef and owner of Alinea, 1723 N. Halsted St., sat down with Michael Ruhlman, author of numerous chef and restaurant books and New York Times food editor, March 4 at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St., to discuss the making of a chef.

The two took time off from creating and writing about food to discuss Achatz's career and his innovative style rooted in hypermodern food, which experiments with food in nontraditional ways.

The discussion was part of the theater's second annual "Traffic Jam" series, a three-week festival bringing artists with a range of specialties to the stage to share their stories.

Ruhlman is accustomed to Achatz's work, having written several books on chefs, including *The Making of a Chef*, and his latest, *The Reach of a Chef*, looks at the role of celebrity in the realm of chefs. A chapter is even devoted to Achatz.

Achatz, whose fame comes from his culinary style of presenting and creating food in a way that

engages his diners through emotion, has received accolades for what he has accomplished by the age of 32.

After preparing food at French Laundry in Yountville, Calif., which Achatz described as "the ultimate place to work by example," he felt it got to be too monotonous.

His ambition for creation led him to start experimenting in molecular gastronomy, or hypermodern food, while working at French Laundry.

One of the things Achatz created and served were postage-stamp-sized pieces of paper that tasted like pizza.

The opening of Alinea in May 2005 brought New York Times restaurant critic, Frank Bruni, to town. After only 18 months of being in business, Gourmet magazine named Alinea the best restaurant in America, something Achatz had wanted to achieve since working as a sous-chef to Thomas Keller at French Laundry.

Achatz did his best to avoid answering questions about his own position as a celebrity chef. He is currently writing a book, has his own line of serviceware out and plans to open more restaurants. He offered comments on others, instead.

Achatz didn't criticize those

who choose to be more in the limelight than he does, but he did offer his opinion on the likes of Rachael Ray and "Iron Chef" Cat Cora, neither of which have ever owned their own restaurant.

Achatz said he feels there isn't a wrong direction for chefs; chefs can go in many different directions.

"If you want to be on QVC, then be on QVC," Achatz said. "Sell your pots and pans, go for it."

Achatz has been asked to appear on Food Network's "Iron Chef" but declined. He did admit he's interested in doing TV, but not just because he can.

"If we did it," Achatz said, "It would be like anything else we do. There would have to be an essence to why we do it, to benefit gastronomy or to entertain."

Molecular gastronomy, a term Achatz does not like to use because he said he feels "it's not about science, it's about emotion," is called the "new cuisine." In other words, it's "unconventional food," Achatz said.

The technique integrates elements such as hot gels, foams and manipulated textures into the food.

Depending on what course one orders at Alinea, dining at the restaurant could take from two to six hours, and in that time, Achatz said it needs to be



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Grant Achatz, left, and Michael Ruhlman take questions from the audience on March 4 after a discussion at the Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St., of cuisines created by Achatz.

an enjoyable experience.

"It's more complex than just tasting food," he said, but that doesn't mean taste will be compromised for presentation.

A typical dish at Achatz's restaurant is served on a long wire pointed upward that's garnished with a small portion of food at the end of the wire. The dish is served with no silverware, which is what the hypermodern food movement is: experiencing and engaging in food differently.

These unusual forms of eating and entertainment strike an interest for tired palates.

"Four hundred people showed up to listen to a chef," said audience member Laurieann Davis after the event. "There's got to

be a demand for it."

Some, like Ruth Black, who is new to Chicago, left the theater wanting to see and experience what Alinea was all about.

Alinea's 12-course menu runs about \$135. For \$195, one can experience the restaurant's 24 course menu.

Davis, who has experienced a meal at Alinea, said the only way she could describe her experience was "truly unique."

"Ingredients are fed to you through ways you wouldn't normally imagine," she said. "I want a good experience and good food; that's why I go out."

chronicle@colum.edu

## 'Mafia' film: a family affair

Columbia film students Mike Free and Matthew Leslie complete a feature-length faith-based documentary.

By Matt Fagerholm/Assistant A&E Editor

Ben Essenberg used to clean up people's garbage. Now he cleans their souls.

In 1972, the Dutch/Chicagoan garbage man was inspired by the Lord to leave his profitable job and proclaim his faith. From a series of small Bible studies grew the Fountain of Life non-denominational church, which has grown to more than 400 members. It now stands as one of the surviving churches that was a product of the Charismatic movement, in which members threw off ancient rules and regulations, replacing them with supernatural beliefs. This is the subject of *The Dutch Mafia*, the first feature-length document-

tary by Columbia College film students Mike Free and Matthew Leslie, which argues that churches such as Fountain of Life have provided the mold for the majority of today's successful churches.

On Feb. 23, the film premiered at the actual Fountain of Life church in Lombard, Ill., where both Free and Leslie have been long-time members. The 91-minute film, shot entirely on mini-DV, blends archival footage and photographs with more than 30 interviews.

Free, who produced the film, joked before the screening that this film was a project "30 years in the making." In actuality, it took the

writer/director duo three years to mold the footage into a successful feature-length structure.

Fountain of Life first hired Free and Leslie to make a 15-to-20 minute informational film about the church. An hour-long cut debuted there in 2004, but it didn't satisfy the filmmakers. When his computer crashed while editing countless hours of footage, Leslie decided to temporarily drop out of Columbia to dedicate all his effort to completing the film. What was originally destined to be a straightforward educational video about the church became the feature documentary that played to enthusiastic applause from the screening crowd, which consisted mainly of Fountain of Life church members.

During a reception following the film, Free and Leslie, both 23, discussed the eventful process of getting their film made. They formed a production company, Arx Axiom, to spread the love of God outside the walls of churches.

"Christian media tends to cater to itself, and most of their films are watched only by Christians," Free said. "We want to make films for everyone, and media is the place to get our message out there."

The film's executive producer, James Langkamp, also a Fountain

of Life member, had his production company G51 Productions assist in funding the film through its completion. The company will also help Free and Leslie finance their next documentary, tentatively titled *Project Alaska*, which follows the filmmakers through a spiritually-filling Alaskan vacation with their tight-knit church youth group, Band of Brothers. Leslie admitted he spent the entirety of his adolescence involved with the group.

"It was like I grew up with 15 brothers," he said.

The entire project truly emerged during the screening as a deeply personal crusade, as well as a family affair. Beaming church members applauded the filmmakers like loving relatives. One anonymous audience member said the film was like "Cecil B. DeMille, years

in the making and a cast of thousands." Even Essenberg, 82, felt moved by the final product.

"It was great," Essenberg said. "[It captured] the intricate dynamic of the church."

When asked about the essence of that dynamic, Free said, "True freedom is realized through true discipline, which lies between rules and lawlessness."

Following their youth group message that it is indeed possible to change the world, the duo intends to do just that.

"Our church has a history of courage," Free said. He professed that he believes the infamous quote stating that "the meek shall inherit the earth," to which Leslie added, "Meekness is power under control."

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Matthew Leslie and Mike Free discuss their new film, 'The Dutch Mafia,' after a screening at Fountain of Life church on Feb. 23.



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Ben Essenberg and his granddaughter, Lanita Vanderschaaf, 8, eat at Fountain of Life's post-screening reception on Feb. 23.



# Bernie: Mac and Gonera discuss their film 'Pride'

Continued from Front Page

really introduced to the black kids. It's a big world out here, and we have to expose our kids to it. If we don't, we're doing an injustice to them too.

**I've heard black kids were told not to swim because their body types weren't fit for the sport.**

Mac: If you look at a swimmer they have the most fabulous physique in the world, male and female. And blacks, we're a different shape and proportion, especially in women. We have wider hips and bust. The reason I like [Chicago] is because it's real life to me. In L.A. everybody is like this [holds up a single finger], and that's not realistic to me.

Another thing for black women is that they didn't want to mess up their hair. They didn't want to get into the pool. I used to go to the lakefront up here when things were groovy. I used to go to Northwestern and sit on the lake and be chilling and talking about our dreams and stuff and I said, "Come on, get in the water, baby." And they said, "No. I don't want to mess up my hair."

**Sunu, I know you grew up in South Africa. What's the experience like making a film here as opposed to your home land?**

Sunu Gonera: It felt comfortable for me. I'm very confident,

technically. I know my lenses and my cameras really well. I've got an old 16 mm camera; that's how I learned. I've still got it. I still use it. Even when I'm not shooting, I still shoot because I have to keep practicing. So it felt the same for me.

I think for the crew, I had to arrive on the set for them to know what I'm doing. They always are asking, "Who is this guy? What can he provide?" We were doing the hair and makeup tests for three days. I sat behind the camera. I decided where the lights are going to go and what lenses to use. I never had to touch a camera again when we shot on set because everybody knew. I find the crew different.

In Africa, the crew that I worked with regularly, things are not a big deal. I really would love to get a close-up of the swimmers, and we know water might get on the camera, my crew would be like, "OK, let's get some plastic and wrap it up." Not a big deal. Here I said the same thing, and it was a two-hour discussion. So this whole union thing for me, I know it's to protect crews, but I also find it restricting. I find it far too restrictive.

Mac: And political.

Gonera: That's exactly it. Political. That's what I struggle with. On the other side, I love how Hollywood knows how to make big films. So for me, on the film set I had a great cinematographer and knew I wanted the film to feel big and he knew how to do that—to give scale to things. Even just shooting someone drinking water, it becomes an

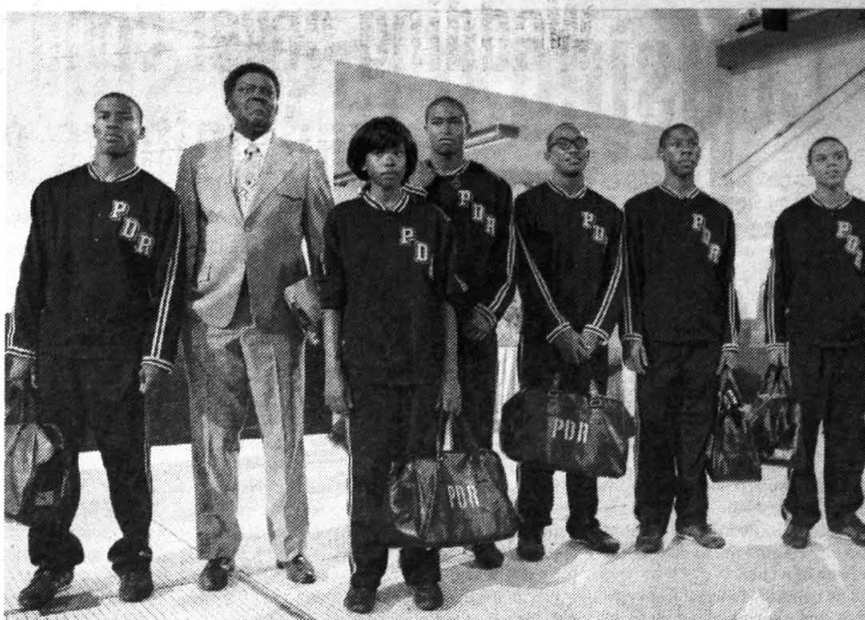


Photo Courtesy of Lionsgate

In a scene from 'Pride,' Bernie Mac (second from left) stands tall with his unrelenting team.

event, which is awesome. I love big scale. For me, I really grabbed onto how Hollywood does that. The political side for me I find a bit of a drag.

**How do you think 'Pride' specifically relates to college students?**

Mac: It shows college students what discipline is all about, what dedication is all about, what being introduced to something foreign is about. College is foreign to everybody. A lot of people that go to college, the first two years are very instrumental. That's where all your bad habits

get caught on, like marijuana. There's a lot of pregnancy.

When my daughter went off to school, I broke that down to her like a fraction. And that's what you saw in this film. Just a bunch of kids, who hung out and they didn't know nothing about swimming and all of a sudden Jim Ellis came and opened the door and he invited him into his home, which was his pool.

That's like anything else, not just college students. First job experiences, first time directing, it all has some relation to college. Any time you do something that's foreign to you, it's that I

percent doubt, no matter how confident you are. You can be 99 percent sure you can handle it, but that 1 percent weighs heavier than that 99 percent. The first time I performed, I performed in front of 7,000 people. I had been street performing before that, but when it was time to perform I looked at that curtain and I thought, "Whew." There was no one there to comfort me. There was no one there to give me advice or say, "You can do it." I had to find all those things by myself.

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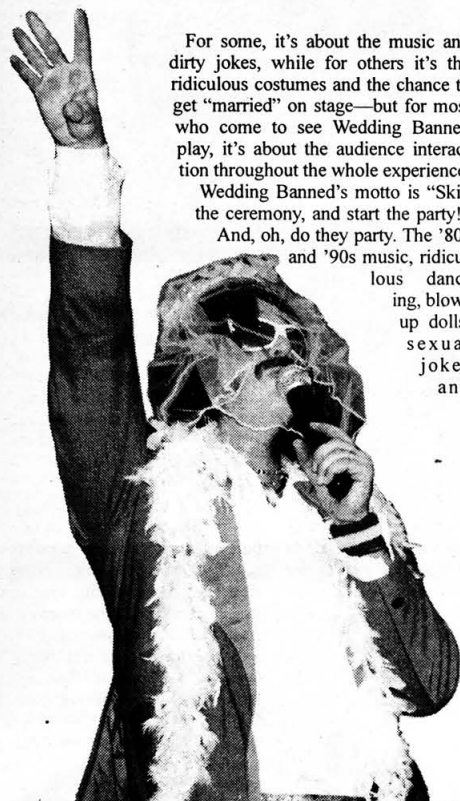
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# Wedding cover band bestows vows and gathers crowds

By Alison Shipley/Staff Writer



Alison Shipley/The Chronicle  
Wedding Banned's Captain Mantastic, entertains crowds.

For some, it's about the music and dirty jokes, while for others it's the ridiculous costumes and the chance to get "married" on stage—but for most who come to see Wedding Banned play, it's about the audience interaction throughout the whole experience.

Wedding Banned's motto is "Skip the ceremony, and start the party!"

And, oh, do they party. The '80s and '90s music, ridiculous dancing, blow-up dolls, sexual jokes and

funny speeches are all included during the band's performance.

The lights dim in the venue, five mustached men appear clad in powder-blue tuxedos and oversized sunglasses along with a woman with '80s-style hair and a ruffled dress. The crowd, made up of 21- to 30-year-olds cheer as Wedding Banned approaches the stage.

Linda Ballzenstein, the "wedding planner" and only female band member, starts each show by sizing up the crowd. She finds two unsuspecting people from the audience who, later in the show, are chosen to go on stage and get "married." The "bride" is given a veil attached to a pink baseball hat and the "groom" wears a plastic top hat as the ceremony is completed with confetti, a bouquet and a garter toss.

"All of my friends go to see them play every weekend," said 21-year-old Meghan Van Ornum, who said she attends every Wedding Banned performance that she possibly can. "For my friends that haven't been yet, I always ask them if they have seen the movie *The Wedding Singer* with Adam Sandler. That's the only real way to describe what going to see Wedding Banned is like."

"I have so much fun watching these guys," she said. "They goof around on stage and stuff but they really take themselves seriously as a band."

Van Ornum said Wedding Banned usually plays to a

packed crowd wherever they go.

"They incorporate the audience into every song," Van Ornum said. "They're your stereotypical wedding singers."

There are six people in Wedding Banned, each one with a character alias. The lead guitarist is Vinnie Van Action, and the drummer is The Gooch. Lead singer Captain Mantastic starts off each show with a typically raunchy joke.

This is usually the introduction to the song "Dancin' with Myself" by Billy Idol. Mantastic likes to make jokes by playing off words to introduce the songs. Justin Zucker, AKA Barry Mitchell Timmons, guitarist and keyboardist for the band, said some of the jokes are dumb, like a joke that refers to ejaculation to introduce the song "Come on Eileen."

Captain Mantastic has a blow-up doll that he nonchalantly gropes throughout each performance. The crowd erupts in laughter when Mantastic caresses the doll in the most sexual way possible and calls it "his girlfriend."

Minutes later, Mantastic is in a tutu, wearing a veil and donning a white feathered boa. He is rolling around on the ground with other members of the crowd as he sings Madonna's "Like a Virgin."

Mantastic arches his back against the floor and thrusts his groin into the air, kicking his legs up and around as he sings into the microphone.

"Our singer is a real comedian," Zucker said. "All of his material is

based off of the crowd. If the crowd doesn't seem into it, that's when he becomes really, really funny."

Van Ornum said she gets really excited whenever she is chosen to go on stage and get "married."

"I've gotten married on stage like three times," she said. "It's the best when they play at the Cubby Bear in Chicago, because they built a catwalk for [the band], and the married couple gets to walk down the catwalk and all the girls come up and dance with them. I never sing or dance so hard in my entire life than when I go see Wedding Banned," she said.

Zucker said the band started when bass player Bruce Winche'll was fooling around with ideas for a fun band.

"He wanted to create a band that you would love but that your parents would hate," Zucker said.

Karen Katz, a 36-year-old in pharmaceutical sales, has never seen Wedding Banned perform, and said the idea doesn't sound appealing to her.

"I just don't know why anyone would subject themselves to that kind of ridiculousness," she said. "The whole thing just seems kind of silly."

Katz said she appreciates good humor, but that Wedding Banned isn't exactly her "scene."

"I could never imagine paying to go see a band that plays cheesy '80s songs," she said.

chronicle@colum.edu

# Deadly Sinema

Asian-Extreme film series plays at Sonotheque

By Becky Schlikerman/Staff Writer

Revenge and violence plus an ass-kicking hero can easily become a part of your life now.

Asian extreme movies are becoming more widely available to audiences in the United States. Sonotheque, a nightclub in West Town, has been hosting a film series, Asian Extreme: The Hidden Side of Asian Sinema.

While most Asian extreme movies are known for their severe violence and sexual themes, these movies have historical significance. Asian extreme films from the late '60s and '70s represented the mood of the target audience, which consisted of students and "salary men" or working men, said Michael Raine, assistant professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. The pervasive violent, sexual and dark themes in these movies were made to satiate the viewers at the time.

Although the movies have been hard to get a hold of in the past, they are gaining momentum in the United States and are becoming available through Netflix.com and specialty video stores like Odd Obsessions in Wicker Park.

"The appeal of these movies is that they bring out a morbid fascination on the viewer's part to see a lot of violence of perverse situations," Klinger said.

Lady Snowblood, one of the movies Sonotheque has screened, has been described as the inspiration for the *Kill Bill* movies. The film, directed by Toshiya Fujita, was released in 1973 and stars Meiko Kaji as a woman raised to avenge the killing of her parents. Quentin

Tarantino's *Kill Bill*: Vol. 1 and *Kill Bill*: Vol. 2, are based on Kaji's hunt for the murderers, said Mike Flores, co-founder of the Chicago Psychotronic Film Society and host of the film screening.

Several comparisons have been made to the *Kill Bill* movies. Both movies feature a showdown scene in the snow, Raine said. Plus, Lady Snowblood and the *Kill Bill* movies both use chapter sequences and flashbacks in addition to the constant theme of revenge and the female assassin main character.

Lady Snowblood was one of the movies chosen because of its current relevancy, said Joseph Bryl, co-owner of Sonotheque.

These movies are an expression of a fractured Japanese psyche since repression is widespread in Japanese society, said Gabriel Klinger, adjunct professor in the film and video department at Columbia.

"Repression is exteriorized in these movies," he added.

On top of the extreme violence and sexual themes, extreme Asian films look different from American films. According to Raine, the films exemplified the idea of popular baroque, or exaggeration and elaboration in style.

These were stylized movies that were striking, Raine said.

"There was no attempt at straightforward realism," he added.

Further, these movies were "political allegories," Raine said. Students and working men felt oppressed by society and identified with the films because they usually depicted a protagonist fighting and taking revenge. In addition, the films

pointed out cruelty.

"[They have] a long history of recognizing cruelty without smoothing it over," Raine said.

Bryl chooses the movies based on personal interest. He wants to screen movies that most people have not had the opportunity to see. Additionally, he doesn't want Sonotheque to stick to

the rigid nightclub standards. Popcorn is even provided at the screenings. These movies are a passion that he wants to share with people in Chicago.

"We choose things here to be a little adventurous and left of center," Bryl said.

Although audiences have shifted from "cultural distinction" or apprehension of new cultures to "cultural omnivorism" or consumption of all that can be found from different cultures, Raine wants audiences to understand that not all Asian films are like these. He recommends *Giants* and *Toys* by Yasuzo Masumura for a different experience of Asian film. If, however, extreme films are of interest, he recommends the *Lone Wolf and Cub* series and the *Hanzo* and the *Razor* trilogy.

There has always been a lack of curiosity toward Asian cinema, Klinger said. But now anything can be accessed.

"Big films like *Kill Bill* that have legitimized Asian films for Americans who now see it as a viable way to bring in new ideas," Klinger said.

Although Tarantino

was inspired by the movie, he was only interested in the visual aspects and not the political allegory, Raine said. The movies were originally made for oppressed citizens in Asia.

"In a way, he missed the point," Raine said.

Sonotheque is screening *Electric Dragon* 8000V on March 31. Admission is \$3 and it is 21 and over. Sonotheque is located at 1444 W. Chicago Ave., (312) 226-7600.

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Chris Ware/MCT



# Reviews

**MUSIC**

It's confusing to determine what type of music Emmure cranks out just based on the album cover, which sports a cartoonish, ghostly specter of a person looking at his hanged corpse. Luckily, the music in its new album *Goodbye to the Gallows* isn't as ambiguous. The band grinds out the metal—both fierce and melodic. Growls overlap distinguishable lyrics. Throw the “horns” in the air. —*E. Kasang*

Pilotdrift  
*Watersphere*

While not as good as its previous record, *Iter Facere*, this Texas band has once again astonished me by creating soothing and yet haunting melodies that are just as intricate and interesting on its second album. Pilotdrift doesn't limit their songs to only a couple minutes, which makes it easier to enjoy its atmospheric and experimental music for a longer time. It just makes me feel like melting into a giant bubble under the ocean. —*D. Nelson*

Kaddisfly  
*Set Sail the Prairie*

Fans of Dredg, Paulson and similar bands will eat Kaddisfly's new album up. Polished with an unyielding poise, this band finds itself in a position to make a name themselves with a release like this. Buy this album now. Don't be a square. —*B. White*

**PRINT**

As if the mere thought of a woman driving cross-country in diapers wasn't entertaining enough, excerpts from e-mails regarding last month's highly publicized astronaut love triangle were recently released. The Tribune quoted from one love note that Colleen Shipman wrote to her love interest: “First urge will be to rip your clothes off, throw you on the ground and love the hell out of you.” —*A. Riggio*

Esquire Magazine  
April 2007

Holy super issue, everything is a must read. There's a whole page dedicated to anger management, something anyone can relate to. Chuck Klosterman's essay gets theoretical about a drug known to ease bad memories. Hilary Swank is a brainy beauty. And Lady Sovereign and Ben Kweller both won awards in this Esky 2007 issue. And Esquire wins my heart. One less heart for ever coming to an end, though. —*T. Breyne*

The Authority  
*Grant Morrison and Gene Ha*

Grant Morrison and Gene Ha's take on a band of superheroes who want to overthrow dictators and end world hunger makes a compelling read. The Authority is what happens when the Justice League adopts a Jack Bauer mentality. Great stuff but a little short on the page count. —*H. Clauss*

**FILM & TV**

To those who missed it in theaters and subsequently lost sleep over not being able to participate in the intense intellectual discussion following the release, the DVD is on sale! Mmmm, how much? \$19.95! Experience Oscar-nominated Sacha Baron Cohen's perverted, crude comedy that made “very nice!” the new “sweet!” and upset white people everywhere. —*B. Palmer*

Tim and Eric Awesome Show Great Job!  
Cartoon Network, Adult Swim

The new show from the duo that created “Tom Goes to the Mayor,” “Great Job” is sketch-based comedy in the vein of true absurdity and hilarity through a mix of awkwardness, normalcy and mediocrity. Worth catching, but don't expect your average “Saturday Night Live” or “Kids in the Hall.” —*S. Baltrukonis*

Stranger Than Fiction  
DVD Release

Eerily reminiscent to *Adaptation*, this movie does set itself apart from the Cusack flick by taking a more modern and general approach to the tribulations a writer goes through under extreme stress. Will Ferrell does a surprisingly alright job acting in a somewhat serious role, but in several scenes it was unclear whether his straight face was for dramatic or comedic effect. —*J. H. Ewert Jr.*

**MISC.**

If good things come in small packages, then small binder clips reign supreme. They easily tackle thick stacks of paper, can close chip bags in an instant and even become a make-shift zipper. Their usefulness rivals that of duct tape. Their downfall? They have no downfall. —*A. Maurer*

L&M cigarettes

I can't believe I found these! I was always a fan of L&M cigarettes. Although you can find these in Europe no problem, they are rare in the U.S. So I make sure I buy them when I can. Now the trunk of my car looks like a Philip Morris gift bag. —*C. Jakubowski*

St. Patrick's Day

There is no better day to be Irish and there is no better city to be in than Chicago on March 17. What's even better this year is that it's the kick-off celebration of spring break. The University of Illinois at Champaign may have already “unofficially” celebrated the best holiday ever, but we Chicagoans are celebrating the real deal with a green river, not just green beer. —*H. Graham*

## Premium Blend

### Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

Columbia is a school known for its socializing and networking skills, and Sum & Substance is a prime example of that. For the past two years Braden Selsback, a sophomore music business major, and Karl Roth, a junior music composition major, have combined their talents and love of music to form a two-man band. While Selsback plays set drums, percussion and background vocals, Roth plays guitar, bass, flute, banjo, violin, cello, keys, mandolin, percussion, saxophone and lead vocals. Together they create a sound that is a combination of several musical genres, including but not limited to jazz, hip-hop and rock with bits of spoken word. Recently, Selsback and Roth took some time to talk to The Chronicle about their musical endeavor.

#### The Chronicle: What inspires your music?

Selsback: There's so much music, and we try to use the whole gamut. It's kind of less about picking things from particular places and taking every little thing you get and trying to do something with it. When I do samples, I have this idea for a song, and I'm inspired by whatever I saw that day. We use old recordings from '20s through '50s radio shows because they're such a great untapped resource. It's taking what was art at the time, something that was completely unique because television didn't exist, and allows us to express ourselves without lyrics.

#### What is the process of creating a song like for you?

Selsback: Usually it starts a couple of different ways. Typically, it starts with a drum line or a bass line. It tends to make the writing process a little easier. Then we record the

guitar line over it, and it evolves the same as it would during a live show.

#### What are you trying to achieve through your music?

Roth: I think we're just trying to get to a point where we can do this on a regular basis, not to a point of being famous, but enjoying the process. The live show itself is something different. It's something you'd expect to see from an eight member band. We're just constantly trying to push what we do and run with it.

#### Where did the name of the band come from?

Roth: I was up late one night going over Shakespeare, and it was a quote in a play. It was a term he used as a way to phrase an argument. I read it, and it stuck with me.

#### Do you think that's what you're trying to do with your music, pose an argument?

Roth: Not so much an argument, but a different approach to performance and expression and presenting it to the public in a facet that hasn't been presented. We're trying to [use music] in a lot of different ways and still have people enjoy it.

#### What would you say has been your biggest accomplishment so far?

Selsback: Playing at the Hot House was one stepping

## Sum & Substance



Courtesy of Sum & Substance

stone in the process. Every show that people enjoy and appreciate [what we're doing] ... We're in the process of creating a studio album, which will hopefully be done in the next month or two. It's being called *Committed to the Lie*. We also have a demo out now, which is self-titled.

To hear a few songs from *Sum & Substance* and find out where they'll be performing next, visit [myspace.com/sum-substance](http://myspace.com/sum-substance).

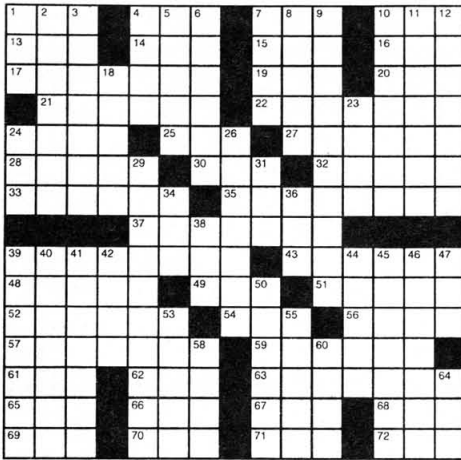
—*M. Kroeck*



# Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 Capp and Gore
- 4 A/C measure
- 7 Distress signal
- 10 Mach+ jet
- 13 Stoolie
- 14 Dr. Dre's genre
- 15 Blast letters
- 16 Top pilot
- 17 Constitution writers
- 19 LAX posting
- 20 Lon \_\_\_ of Cambodia
- 21 Expansion
- 22 Plaintive
- 24 Bandleader Puente
- 25 Wok sauce
- 27 Arrest record
- 28 Manipulators
- 30 Argentine aunt
- 32 Hold contents
- 33 Scare tactic
- 35 "Our Miss Brooks" star
- 37 Pills or pads
- 39 Yelled
- 43 Population count
- 48 Effective use
- 49 Lawn moisture
- 51 \_\_\_ Cruz, CA
- 52 Thaw twice
- 54 Lake maker
- 56 Obligation
- 57 Advance showing
- 59 Brazilian port
- 61 Abdul Aziz \_\_\_ Saud
- 62 Refrain syllable
- 63 Cook in a wok
- 65 Take a chair
- 66 Sea eagle
- 67 Knack
- 68 Director Spike
- 69 6-pointers
- 70 Downcast
- 71 Misery
- 72 Koch and Wood



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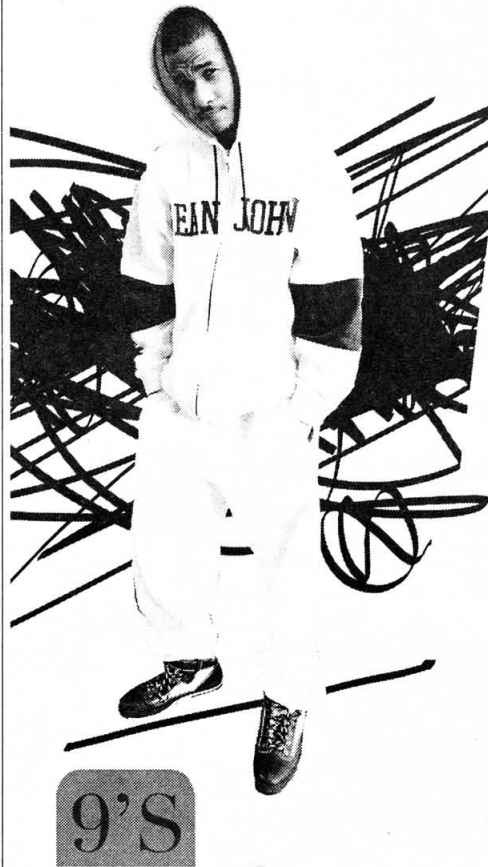
## Solutions



- 6 Outcome
- 7 Goulash or slumgullion
- 8 Scheduled to follow
- 9 Flights
- 10 Koufax, formally
- 11 Chastise severely
- 12 Informs against
- 18 Mary Tyler or Roger
- 23 Stretcher of the truth
- 24 Boy king of Egypt
- 26 Gave in
- 29 Earth orbiters
- 31 Caesar's hail
- 34 Old seafarer
- 36 List-ending abbr.
- 38 Flower garden
- 39 Heavenly musician?
- 40 Excessive offer, perhaps
- 41 Mourns
- 42 Schreiber of "RKO 281"
- 44 Lowest point
- 45 Breathe noisily
- 46 Spoke
- 47 Speak
- 50 Polish capital
- 53 \_\_\_ cotta
- 55 French subway system
- 58 Magician's baton
- 60 Refer to in a footnote
- 64 Sure enough!

- DOWN
- 1 Kennel sound
- 2 Somewhat big
- 3 Employee at the first tee
- 4 Concoct
- 5 Topless little pies

# TO THE NINES



We usually go out to look for someone to feature in this section, but this time **Derrick Hardy**, a 25-year-old music business major, came to us.

Hardy goes by his emcee name Lottery, because "Whoever signs me is going to hit the jackpot," he said.

He wrote to us after he saw the 3-year-old girl featured in the Feb. 26 issue. "Once I saw a baby in there I had to Facebook you guys," he said.

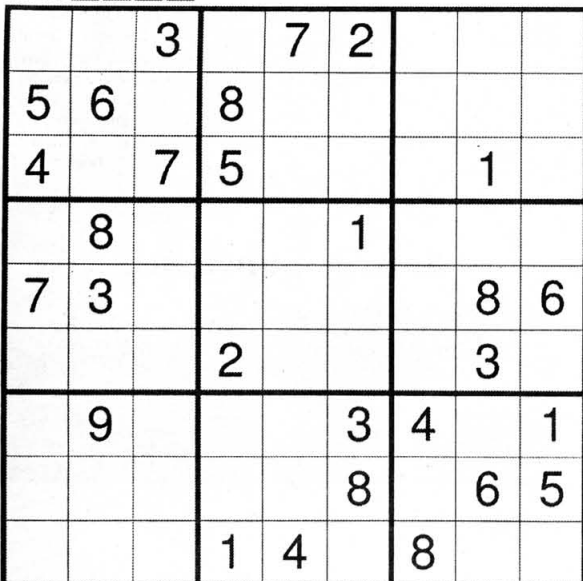
When he came in for his photo shoot last week prepared to show off his style, he wore a beige Sean John jogging suit and a pair of Timberland boots.

Hardy likes to shop at the malls on the South Side like Ford City and River Oaks. His favorite stores include Fresh Wear, Man Alive and JB's.

Kristin Kalter/The Chronicle

## Sudoku By Michael Mephram

Level: **1** 2 3 4



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

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

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## ★ Horoscopes ★

by Eric Kasang



**Pisces (Feb. 20—March 20):**  
The stars would like to congratulate you on winning the 2007 Chicago's Biggest Crab-Ass award.



**Virgo (Aug. 24—Sept. 23):**  
Despite what many people think, getting yelled at by Chicago Alderman Burton Natarus is a badge of honor.



**Aries (March 21—April 20):**  
Remember the time at Barnes & Noble when that mousey-looking fella picked up a copy of Maxim and his domineering wife yelled, "Put it down, little man," in front of everyone? Yeah, that's going to be you someday.



**Libra (Sept. 24—Oct. 23):**  
The stars would like to commend you on your large collection of vintage porno. Very impressive.



**Taurus (April 21—May 21):**  
If you happen to run into the homeless gentleman on Wabash Avenue who's offering free spankings, don't worry. He's a professional.



**Scorpio (Oct. 24—Nov. 22):**  
Regardless of what you've been told, alternating between openly sobbing and threatening death is not recommended during a job interview.



**Gemini (May 22—June 21):**  
The stars would like to inform you that not only does your band suck, you need to get a job and move out of your grandma's basement.



**Sagittarius (Nov. 23—Dec. 21):**  
Your sheer audacity to suggest they make a third *Baby Geniuses* movie fills the stars with immense rage.



**Cancer (June 22—July 23):**  
Despite a motive, weapon and body, the stars see a hung jury in your future.



**Capricorn (Dec. 22—Jan. 20):**  
When the Jesus/Buddha/Allah tri-fecta descends from the heavenly cosmos bearing sound career advice, you might want to jot some of it down.



**Leo (July 24—Aug. 23):**  
Although your nightly dreams harbor great wealth and luxury, in reality, you're still a poor student living just above the poverty line.



**Aquarius (Jan. 21—Feb. 19):**  
While the hip kids may say clubbing is the way to go, the stars agree with your assessment that spinning records on your turntable while drinking with your significant other really is much cooler.



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**hungry hungry hunter!**

Posted by: HunterClauss @ 4:32 pm

I actually got hungrier while eating my roast beef sandwich from Pot Belly's. I fear I'm becoming a lubbie monster.

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## Ward: Long time alderman loses pricey election

*Continued from Page 38*

Teamsters and the Chicago Federation of Labor have endorsed Reilly. He received tens of thousands of dollars from labor unions, which played a factor in his victory.

"I was proud to have the support of organized labor and certainly when they joined the race that was very helpful but I do attribute the victory to some excellent grass roots organizing and winning the support of downtown residents,"

Reilly said.

However, Natarus said Reilly is going to need a lot of help and thinks "people should help him because the Loop is too important" to be mismanaged.

Even though Michael Madigan, Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, endorsed the long-time alderman, Madigan helped Reilly, albeit indirectly.

"Certainly I have some experience running some political campaigns from my days working for House Speaker Madigan," Reilly said. "He put me in a position to gain some tremendously valuable experience, but at the end, I was a staffer and not his friend and the alderman had 36 years to make friends with some pretty powerful people," Reilly said.

Even though Natarus' reign is

coming to an end, he said he is not holding a grudge.

"There's really nothing left to talk about. If you're in this business and you lose you have to learn how to lose. I'm over the hump; it's no problem," Natarus said. "I'm entitled to a pension; I'm going to take it, and I'm going to go off somewhere."

And as far as the leftover balance from his campaigns he doesn't know what he is going to do.

"I'm going to probably end up giving it to charities," Natarus said. "Or there is another alternative; I may give it to the 42nd Ward Democratic organization. I may do that too. Or, I may parcel it out to candidates who I think are worthy."

[cjakubowski@chroniclemail.com](mailto:cjakubowski@chroniclemail.com)

## Catching a Chicago cold



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Participants in the 7th annual Chicago Polar Bear Plunge brave 9 degree windchills as they quickly dip into Lake Michigan at North Avenue Beach on Sun. March 4.

## Votes: Two candidates join forces to oust incumbent

*Continued from Page 41*

When Medrano found out about the court ruling, he had two things running through his head. First, he had to let his volunteers know about the ruling before hearing it from the press, and second, swing his support toward somebody who could evict incumbent Solis from office.

"We had a decision to make in terms of what was going to be best for the community in spite of what happened," Medrano said.

It also left Medrano, on a Friday afternoon, to strategize his options.

And his campaign reached out to four of the six candidates: Cuahutémoc Morfin, Martha Padilla, Juan Soliz and Aaron Del Valle. His camp called Joe Acevedo but only reached his brother; Solis was not contacted. By late Friday, Medrano endorsed Morfin—a candidate he believed most fit his views on gentrification and rising property taxes—and told his supporters to vote for him.

Mary Calderon, a Medrano supporter and life-long Pilsen resident, remembered trying to get the information out to the voting public. As soon as Medrano endorsed Morfin, she hit the streets.

"It was hard to get the information to the people," Calderon said. "It was very bad weather. There was too much territory to cover."

Although Medrano held a press

conference on Feb. 25 about his endorsement, only Spanish television really covered the event. From Friday, Feb. 23 till Tuesday, Feb. 27, Calderon moved to get the word out. She even passed out cards at polling stations advising people to vote for Morfin. Still, at precinct 7, her voting place, election judges told voters to pick up a flier from the Board of Elections, which read in English, Spanish and Chinese that a vote for Medrano did not count, but they failed to explain the notice.

"There's some people in the community who aren't very good reading in English and Spanish and [the notice] was pretty filled up [with text]," Calderon said. "Somebody should have explained it to them. There were enough people at the [registration] table."

Victoria Romero, another Pilsen resident and Morfin supporter, said

Morfin's campaign moved through the 25th Ward after the endorsement. And the election judges at Pilsen's precinct 24 engaged more with the voters.

"Right after you signed the registration card, they gave you the notice," Romero said.

One of the judges even explained that each voter should read the notice carefully and that a vote for Medrano did not count.

And by the time Chicago tepidly embraced Election Day on Feb. 27 Medrano and his supporters had weathered a weekend ice storm, endured frantic meetings with four of the six candidates and survived a hectic mailing and door-knocking campaign, Morfin only pulled in 22.41 percent of the vote. And Solis, handpicked by Mayor Richard M. Daley to replace Medrano in 1996, won with 51.43 percent. The incumbent alderman

will most definitely serve the Pilsen, Chinatown, Little Italy and UIC neighborhoods for four more years.

Currently, Medrano is waiting to see if Morfin will succeed in getting the Board of Elections to count his votes. And he said while his mindset that Friday at 11:30 a.m. focused on notifying the community and endorsing another candidate, he still hopes the Board counts his votes and pushes Solis into a run-off.

"The issue of me not being on the ballot was something that I knew was going to take a legal challenge and we would have to let the legal issue take its course," Medrano said. "We're following all the procedures we need to follow in terms of trying to get [Solis's] election overturned."

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# Dangers in teen labor

## New study shows violations in the teen work force

By Carla K. Johnson  
AP

The first national study to interview teenagers about on-the-job dangers found many violations of federal laws, including sizable numbers of teens performing risky tasks or working late hours on a school night.

Many teens said they operated hazardous equipment, received no safety training and worked alone after dark, making them potential targets for burglary and homicide.

"Teenagers are being put in the position of doing tasks that are either illegal or dangerous," said lead author Carol Runyan of the University of North Carolina Injury Prevention Research Center. While enforcement of laws could be improved, she said, "the real burden lies with employers."

Teenagers will soon start applying for summer jobs and parents should talk to them about safety, Runyan said. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. teenagers are injured at work every year and 70 die from their injuries, according to federal statistics.

The new study found 37 percent of teens under 16 said they had worked after 7 p.m. on a school night, a violation of fed-

eral rules for that age group; 16 percent of teens under 16 reported they had worked past 9 p.m. on a school night.

It also found 47 percent of teens who work in grocery stores and restaurants said they had performed tasks prohibited by law for workers younger than 18. They included operating a box crusher, dough mixer or power slicing tool.

Also, one-third of all the teens said they had received no safety training on the job, and 9 percent said they had worked alone after dark.

The new findings, appearing in the March issue of *Pediatrics*, are based on a 2003 telephone survey of 866 teenagers working in the retail and service industry. The teenagers had jobs in restaurants, grocery stores and retail stores. The same researchers found similar violations of work rules in a previous survey of North Carolina teens working in construction.

The results don't surprise Toronto resident Rob Ellis, whose son David died at age 18 after becoming entangled in a dough mixer at a bakery on his second day on the job. David, who died six days after the traumatic injury, never received his first paycheck.

"He's the one who inspired me to get up and try to make a difference," Ellis said.

The 1999 accident could have been prevented by safety equipment, supervision and training,

Ellis said. He has spoken to thousands of students about teen worker safety and often brings company presidents to the talks so they can hear from the kids.

Nearly half the students in his audiences raise their hands when asked if they've been cut or burned on the job, but very few say they reported the injuries to their bosses, Ellis said.

Inexperience prevents teens from speaking up when asked to do something unsafe or illegal, Runyan said.

"They know if the manager doesn't like what they do, they can be fired and replaced by someone else," Runyan said. "In many cases, they're working for supervisors who may be only a few years older than they are and may not have received good training either."

However, the survey did not include non-English speaking households, and 85 percent of the teens were white. Runyan said more research should be done to include immigrant teen workers. Surveyors also were unlikely to reach many unlisted phone numbers because of the calling lists used.

The study, funded by a grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, suggests a need for stricter enforcement of existing laws, Runyan said.

One state taking action, Runyan said, is Massachusetts, where a law that took effect in January now requires employers



Amanda Hebler, 20, takes a reservation on March 2 at the pizza restaurant where she works as a hostess.

to provide adult supervision to teen workers after 8 p.m. and gives the state's attorney general the ability to pursue civil sanctions against employers who break child labor laws. In the past, only criminal penalties were available and weren't frequently pursued.

The surveyed teens told researchers they worked an average of 16.2 hours a week during the school year, raising questions about fatigue and school performance, Runyan said.

Chicago resident Amanda Hebler, who just turned 20,

worked many jobs during her teenage years, including selling cell phones, cleaning tables and scooping ice cream. To earn gas money when she was in high school, she worked 20 to 25 hours a week, sometimes until 10:30 p.m.

"I'd have to clean the bar and lift heavy stuff," she said. "I was really tired at school."

But her work experience has taught her a lot, she said.

"I learned the customer is always right," she said, and "you cannot talk to a drunk customer no matter how hard you try."

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# Funding a lost campaign

## 42nd Ward alderman loses race despite large funds

By Caryl Jakubowski  
Commentary Editor

Despite Alderman Burton Natarus' pouring of cash into an expensive political race using a top political consultancy group to run his campaign, the soon-to-be ex-alderman lost the election last month to a lesser-funded candidate.

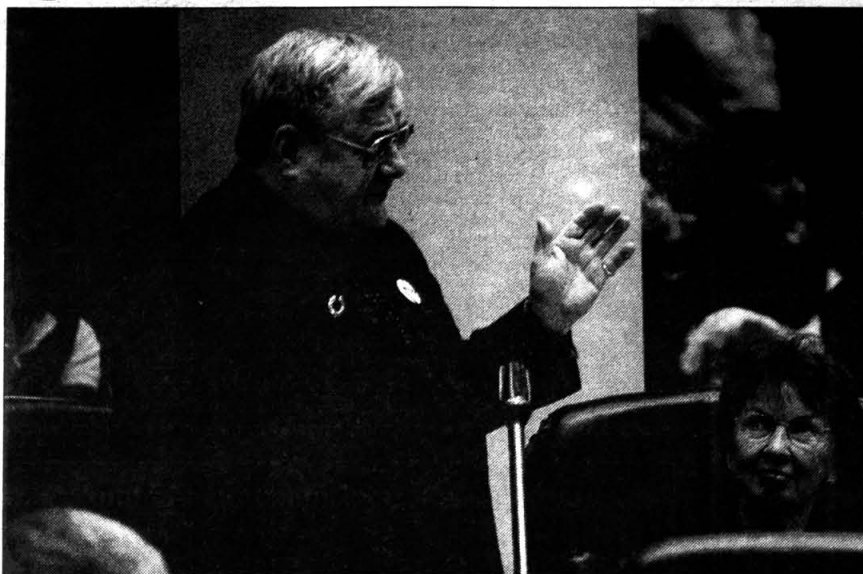
But odds favored Natarus from the start. Although he had nearly \$700,000 in his campaign funds and gave half of it to Haymarket Group last year, a well-known political consultancy firm, he lost the election to a candidate with half the money. Natarus raised more than \$2 for every \$1 the newly elected alderman of the 42nd Ward, Brendan Reilly, raised.

Reilly had nearly \$350,000 in his campaign, with over \$150,000 being self-funded.

With help from friends along with an 18-month-long grassroots campaign, Reilly was able to take 54 percent of the vote in the highest profile ward in Chicago—The Loop and Gold Coast area.

However, experts say Natarus' ousting is because of the 2003 election when Republican Rich Gordon came close to taking the highly coveted seat.

"This is the strongest opponent that Natarus has had in all of his previous elections," said Dick Simpson, former alderman of the 44th Ward and political science professor at the University of



Mauricio Rubio/The Columbia Chronicle

Former 42nd Ward Alderman Burton Natarus had nearly \$700,000 in campaign funds, \$350,000 more than that of Brendan Reilly, the newly elected alderman of the 42nd Ward.

Illinois at Chicago. "His last opponent was the Republican Ward committeeman. While it's really hard to elect a Republican in a major Chicago ward, Gordon ran a good campaign and undermined Natarus by pointing out how much he gets in developer contributions."

In 2003, Gordon received 44 percent, 4,454 votes, while Natarus received 55 percent, 5,653 votes.

Reilly said that one of the biggest differences between Natarus and him is the way they approach development in downtown Chicago.

Simpson said Reilly was able to capitalize on what happened in 2003 and, by running a skilled campaign, drove his message home to the voters in the 42nd Ward.

"It was a different dynamic, I think, for the Natarus campaign," Reilly said. "They were depending on the regular Democratic organization precinct captains," Reilly said. "Rather than organizing precinct by precinct we organized high-rise by high-rise and I think that ultimately made a big difference."

However, despite dropping

mounds of cash into the Haymarket Group, the 36-year alderman doesn't think the consultancy group is particularly at fault for his loss.

Haymarket Group has worked with some of the major elected officials in the city of Chicago in the past. Its clients included Mayor Richard M. Daley, 14th Ward Alderman Edward Burke and Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) in the 1980s. Haymarket Group helped Natarus win his re-election in 1999 and in 2003, but they've been working with him for the past 10 years.

"No, they didn't fail," Natarus said. "It's the way it is. First off, who knows who failed, with a low turnout like that."

The alderman said Haymarket did all of his political and communications work and set up all of his meetings with all the condo boards and neighborhoods. They even set up his website.

"Why don't you look at my website? I have probably the finest website in the United States," Natarus added.

But even Haymarket thinks Natarus' campaign could have been run better.

"One of the things that the alderman and his campaign team could have chosen to do was respond to his opponents' negative campaign attacks," said Gillett Pionkowski, media liaison for Natarus at the Haymarket Group. "But a decision was made in consultation with the alderman to run a positive campaign that just focused on the alderman's record of service and his goals for the future. There's no doubt that [negative campaigning] still works with voters and that had an impact on this race."

But long after the elections ended, Natarus was still answering questions about his campaign funds.

"Everybody is asking me questions about my campaign expenditures," Natarus said. "If you notice, all of the campaign contributions are \$1,500 and we kept it at that. My opponent, from the unions he gets \$70,000. The largest contribution I've ever received was in this campaign, when the Chamber of Commerce gave me \$10,000. But that's not \$70,000."

While both Natarus and Reilly supported the Big-Box Ordinance,

See Ward, Page 35

# Monroe's endorsement up in the air

## Former 3rd Ward challenger needs to take a 'rest'

By Hunter Clauss  
Editor-in-Chief

Although 3rd Ward Alderman Dorothy Tillman is stuck in the April 17 runoff election, the flamboyant incumbent may not be hanging up her over-sized hat just yet.

The 23-year incumbent of the South Side faces a tight showdown against aldermanic challenger Pat Dowell, who is heavily supported by labor unions angry at Tillman for siding with Mayor Richard M. Daley against last summer's Big-Box Ordinance.

According to the Illinois

Campaign for Reform, a nonprofit government watchdog, a total of \$309,831.43 was spent by the candidates vying for the 3rd Ward seat in Chicago City Council.

But this heated election could cool down a bit for whoever wins the endorsement of former challenger Mell Monroe.

Monroe pulled in 16 percent of voters in the Feb. 27 election, which would definitely give either candidate a boost in the runoffs, said Paul Green, a widely regarded expert on Chicago politics and a political science professor at Roosevelt University. But the only problem is the Monroe camp remains largely undecided about which candidate it will support.

"We have strict orders not to consider anything right now until I

can relax," Monroe said. "I don't know what my options are right now, so I'm going to take a rest."

Ira Williams, Monroe's campaign manager, believes Monroe "will not endorse Tillman," but Monroe's uncertainty has some within his inner circle scratching their heads. The former aldermanic challenger repeatedly criticized Tillman over the controversial and publicly-funded Harold Washington Cultural Center, which a South Side newspaper, the Lakefront Outlook, discovered was used to dole out jobs to Tillman's family and friends.

"I'm outraged that Alderman Tillman would be so selfish as to use taxpayers money to improve her family's real estate holdings, business and enterprises," Monroe said in a campaign newsletter.

Osei Andrews-Hutchinson, who chaired Monroe's political action committee, Citizens to Elect Mell Monroe, is bewildered by Monroe's change of tone. To him, the main goal of the campaign was to "to get rid of Dorothy."

But that objective remains in jeopardy thanks to allegations surrounding the Dowell campaign. Before the Feb. 27 election, reports circulated that Dowell supporters were stealing Monroe election signs from front lawns. Andrews-Hutchinson believes these actions are responsible for Monroe's change of heart.

"You don't forget that stuff," he said. "I don't know what his reasons are but I'm sure it probably factors into part of his considerations."

But Dowell said these claims are

a "non-issue" and none of her supporters ever took part in such activities. Dowell further added that she's confident she'll receive the full support of the Monroe camp.

"I'm trying to go after every single voter," she said.

But some of Monroe's top campaign contributors also don't know who they'll be supporting in the runoffs.

"At this point it is still to be determined who I'll actually support," said Tony Gavan Williams, president of the Gavan Group, LLC. According to the Illinois Campaign for Reform, the advertisement firm based in the South Loop was Monroe's top contributor, giving more than \$25,000 to Monroe's campaign. That's more than half of Monroe's \$42,558 campaign budget.

Williams, a seven-year resident of the 3rd Ward, is unsatisfied with how Tillman handles developers by focusing mostly on the Bronzeville area. But Williams said he hasn't ruled out supporting Tillman just yet.

"Politics is a funny thing," he said. "When somebody feels vulnerable, their ears get a lot bigger."

Williams isn't the only Monroe contributor on the fence about which candidate to support in the runoff.

Ronald Branch, president of RLB Realty Group, Inc., also donated at least \$7,000 to Monroe's campaign in hopes of seeing more economic and residential development in the South Side ward. Branch plans on sup-

porting a candidate in the runoffs, but he doesn't know which one.

"At this point I'm not going to go into all those details," he said.

But Vicki Jakovljevic, managing broker of Premier II Properties and president of Western Development, said she will back Dowell in the upcoming runoffs.

Jakovljevic gave at least \$5,000 to Monroe's campaign and also arranged a \$10,000 contribution from Aleksandar Development, a construction company that works closely with Jakovljevic's real-estate firm. These two contributions combined make Jakovljevic the second highest Monroe financier.

Like Williams and Branch, Jakovljevic's support stems from a desire to see residential and commercial developments similar to the ones taking place in the neighboring 2nd Ward. The only way she sees that happening is through someone other than Tillman.

"If you put together Mell Monroe and Pat Dowell's votes, you can see that most of the public would like to see someone else in that seat," she said.

According to the Chicago Board of Elections, Dowell received 38 percent of the votes in the Feb. 27 election while Tillman received 43 percent. Although Dowell is the challenger, Green doesn't believe that necessarily means Monroe will back her in the runoffs.

"This is Chicago aldermanic politics," Green said. "The only rule is there are no rules."

Tillman was unable to be reached after numerous attempts to speak with her.



Mauricio Rubio/The Columbia Chronicle

Labor unions are angry at 3rd Ward Alderman Dorothy Tillman for siding with Daley on the Big-Box Ordinance last summer.

hclauss@chroniclemail.com



## Geek: Sexy calendars stir controversy

Continued from Back Page

that beautiful people can have brains too.

This is not the first calendar to come out featuring "geeks." In Australia, women involved in Information Technology created "IT Screen Goddess," a 15-month calendar where women posed in scenes from *Star Wars*, *Dr. No*, *The Matrix* and other popular movies of their choice. So many women wanted to do the calendar that they had to add extra months, Bernhardt said.

In California, video game enthusiasts and professed media generalists Chris Carle and John Gibson gathered models to put in a calendar called "Nerdcore," which is based around video games.

"[Nerd] is no longer a dirty word," Carle said. "It no longer means 'I'm a PC geek in my basement.'"

Shannon "Katwoman" Codner, a media-savvy model, actress and writer who uses the Internet to market her work, said people have become more accepting of the geek image.

"I think it has a different connotation now as opposed to what it did a few years back," Codner said. "It's not the whole stereotype of the pocket protector and the little propeller on the top of the hat."

All three calendars have garnered major attention from the public, though some of it is not as positive as creators had hoped.

Feminist groups and bloggers have written to express their disdain at the portrayal of intelligent women as sex objects. Sonja Bernhardt, the brains behind "IT Screen Goddess," said her business almost lost a major deal because of a controversial front page story.

Karim said "Girls of Engineering" did not have too much attention on U of I's campus until media organizations such as Fox News and the Chicago Sun-Times started writing about it.

"It stirred a lot more conversation into the topic than we were intending," Karim said.

Karim said the media organizations wrote about their poor sales and the campus bookstore refusing to sell the calendars. However, he said poor marketing and the bookstore's refusal to sell the calendar because it was not shrink-wrapped contributed to low sales. He said people really didn't have a problem with it and the girls involved had all volunteered to be photographed for it.

"There's a lot of non-controversy here," Karim said.

Carolyn Leighton, the founder of Women in Technology International, a global organization focused on empowering women in business and technology, said the calendars are sending the wrong messages.

"Women feel so much pressure to look beautiful," Leighton said. "The media constantly bombards us with these beauty messages. I think most women go through years and years of feeling their value is just tied to how they look."

Those involved in the calendars, however, have said they see the models as being empowered by this geeky image.

"Pretty much all the girls really did dig what they were doing," Carle said. "In a lot of the shots, they're actually playing the games rather than posing."

Carle said the calendars weren't designed to make people feel bad or sexualize images of women.

"I like to think of it more as art," Carle said. "It's not sleazy. It's meant to be fun and cheeky and provocative."

The money raised from the calendars is often used for a good cause too.

"Girls of Engineering" is linked to a project Karim started in November 2006 called SearchKindly.org, a search engine in which advertisers donate money to various charities for every search. So far, Karim said they had donated to Invisible Children, Save Darfur, Pennies of Promise and Smile Train.

Carle said "Nerdcore" did not donate any of the profits from their current calendar, as much of the money they made is going toward making next year's calendar, but said he's working on some ideas to help others, though he couldn't say too much about it now.

The proceeds from "IT Screen Goddess" go toward organizations that promote women in IT fields, such as Women in Technology Qld., Females in Information Technology and Telecommunications and Women in IT, Bernhardt said. The project was done to address the rapid decline in the number of women getting involved in science and technology and focus on getting young women interested in the field.

Leighton said there were thousands of creative ways to raise



Courtesy Sonja Bernhardt

IT Screen Goddess Jane started her own business in 1996 that helps growing companies by creating brands, print designs and websites. She also designs software interfaces and calendars.

money that didn't have to continue the idea that women had to be sexy or pretty to be valuable.

"I don't think anybody on this project had any wrong intentions," Leighton said. "I'm sure they thought it was really a great idea. But a lot of people don't realize the battle is still raging and a lot of the corporations women walk in day after day have toxic environments where they're treated less than and differently than men, and they're not taken seriously."

However, Bernhardt said she had put massive efforts into traditional intervention programs and projects to reduce the declining rate, but there was no positive impact on the decline. She said the calendar worked to raise awareness of this issue and to display women that were intelligent, proud and wanted others to know how wonderful technology is as a career.

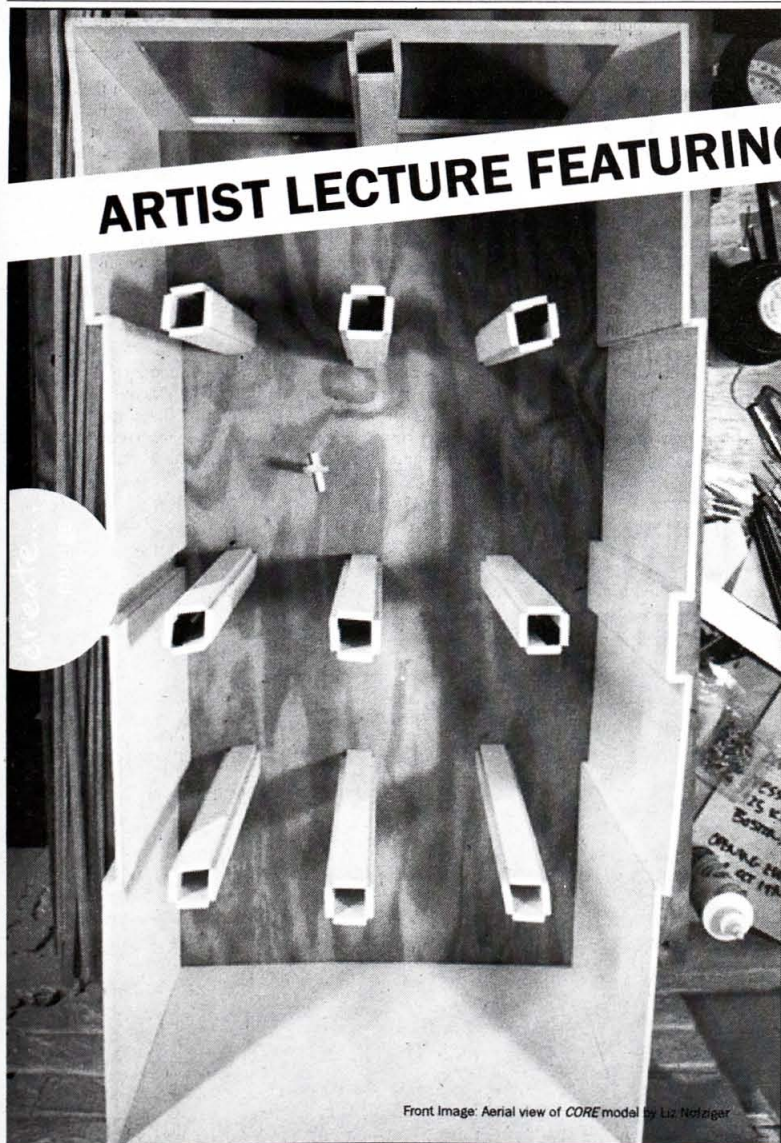
Codner said she didn't see anything wrong with it as long as the women had a good head on their shoulders and could get by with more than just looks.

"As we've learned in America, sex sells, so anything that can play out there that's a bit sexy is going to sell calendars," Codner said. "And it brings more light to the industry as well."

Karim said the calendars should have no impact on efforts to get women involved in science and technology.

"When you get into the professional world, especially in engineering, they don't care if you're attractive or not," Karim said. "It's really about what work you can do. I've heard the contrary in other fields... but in engineering, if you can't function well and get by on your intelligence, nothing else really matters."

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Front Image: Aerial view of CORE model by Liz Nofziger

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# 25th Ward quandary: Where are the votes?

## Barred candidate pushing for aldermanic runoff

By Eric Kasang  
Managing Editor

The 25th Ward aldermanic race may not be over yet for Ambrosio Medrano. When Medrano, a former candidate, received 248 votes, it paled in comparison to incumbent Alderman Daniel "Danny" Solis' 3,520 tallies.

Yet Medrano's votes essentially did not exist; instead, the Chicago Board of Elections "suppressed" or counted the Medrano ballots as "no votes," after the Illinois Supreme Court kicked him off the ballot.

And though Solis won the race, if runner up Cuahutémoc Morfin can force the Chicago Board of Elections to legitimize, and add Medrano's votes to the final tally, it would send Solis and Morfin into an April 17 runoff. Medrano could then find his case back at the Illinois Supreme Court.

Medrano, a convicted felon, found himself kicked off the Feb. 27 ballot 90 hours before Election Day because of an Illinois Supreme Court decision. The candidate, who had previously won the right to appear on the 2003 and 2007 ballots despite his conviction, received a surprising 11:30 a.m. telephone call on Feb. 23.

"My attorney simply called and

said he 'hated to be the bearer of bad news' but the Supreme Court had ruled against me," Medrano said.

The Board of Elections responded quickly.

If a person cast a ballot for Medrano, it simply counted it as "suppressed" or a "no vote," according to Jim Allen, spokesman for the Chicago Board of Elections. Although the touch screen voting machines and optical scanners would still register the ballots, the equipment at the Board would not report it.

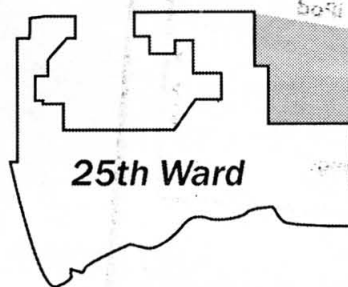
"It's in our computer records, but it will be suppressed; it will not be reported," Allen said. "That's the gist of the court order. It will not be challenged and it will not be reported."

He also said any early votes for Medrano would be suppressed as well. Medrano said the Board told him he received 143 votes. And he noted that 105 people voted for him on Election Day.

The Board reported that 6,845 people voted in the 25th Ward aldermanic race. However, if Medrano's numbers for early and Election Day voting are correct, then 248 of his votes added to the previous total tally would have pushed Solis' 51.43 percent win down to 49.62 percent—an inevitable runoff.

For Medrano, this issue began back in the early 1990s. A former

► The 25th Ward consists of Pilsen, Chinatown, Little Italy and University Village Neighborhoods



Source: City of Chicago

25th Ward alderman, Medrano pleaded guilty of accepting bribes in an F.B.I. sting dubbed "Operation Silver Shovel" in 1996. After serving 21 months in prison, Medrano jumped back into the political scene, running for alderman in 2003. According to statistics from the Chicago Board of Elections, Medrano received 36 percent of the vote to Solis' 55 percent.

During this past election, three plaintiffs filed suit against Medrano. Illinois state law forbids convicted felons from running for municipal but not state office. The Chicago Board of Elections ruled that he could run for the municipal elections—since the existing law

was unclear on who could run for office, The Board initially ruled in Medrano's favor.

According to Medrano, the Supreme Court first dismissed the case against him and 15th Ward candidate and convicted felon Virgil Jones. However, in an unsigned supervisory order, the court ruled the Board of Elections had no authority to decide if it was constitutional or not to allow Medrano and Jones to run for office. It ordered Medrano and Jones removed from the ballot.

Although the supervisory order was binding for the Medrano and Jones case, it didn't affect other convicted felons running for alderman. Wallace Davis, who ran in

Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

the South Loop's 2nd Ward, and 37th Ward candidate Percy Giles kept their names on their respective ballots.

Although the Supreme Court ruled against Medrano and the Board of Elections complied with the order, it still left many people surprised.

"It caused a lot of confusion; it didn't give people much time to figure out what to do," said Alejandra Ibañez, executive director for Pilsen Alliance, a neighborhood grassroots organization. "We thought it wasn't an issue. He was already on the ballot. He did his time."

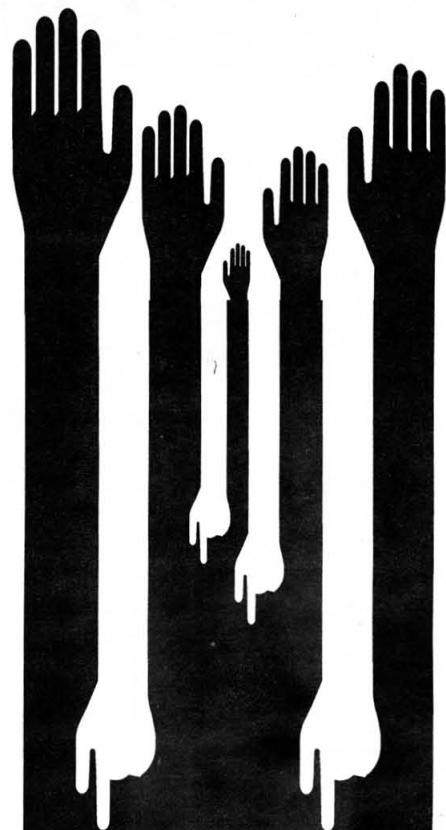
See Votes, page 35

Can we get a show of hands?

## Election packets are ready for pick-up.

If you plan on running for senate in the 2007 Student government elections pick up your election packet, located in 1104 S. Wabash downstairs HUB office C.

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Packets are due March 27th

Elections will be held the week of April 16th-20th



## Campaigning: Supporters plan on spending whatever it takes

Continued from Back Page

numbers and said the amount of candidates running made an impact as well.

"I'm just assuming that people figured, 'Well, Daley is going to win and there's going to be a runoff in the 15th Ward, so we'll just vote at one time,'" Foulkes said. "We're just pushing the people that said they would come out."

Foulkes' main donor, Service Employees International Union Illinois political action committee, supplied Foulkes with nearly \$116,000. Jerry Morrison, executive director of the SEIU IL PAC, said they

will support Foulkes in the runoff with more organizing and labor volunteers than with direct contributions.

"If we don't change our strategy, we'd be stupid," Jerry Morrison said. "We'll spend whatever it takes to elect Toni Foulkes to the Chicago City Council. I will not put a dollar figure on it, but it will be substantially more than we spent on the first round and whatever it

requires to get the job done."

David Morrison, deputy director of the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, a nonprofit and nonpartisan government watchdog, said the money raised per vote statistic can be both telling and deceiving.

"I think it speaks more to a disequilibrium in the structure of the campaign, maybe they were putting too much effort into raising money and not enough into getting the message out," David Morrison said, no relation to Jerry Morrison. "Maybe they had convinced a very small number of donors who could give a ton of money that they were worth it. Maybe

they were just very good sales people, but didn't have messages they could actually peddle to the voters."

David Morrison said part of the problem with the money per votes analysis is that it doesn't necessarily prove that a

campaign didn't spend money well.

"Money is really easy to measure, and that's why people always look at it a lot. But it's not always the most important factor," David Morrison said. "A decent campaign can be outspent and still win if you put the resources that you do have in the right places."

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Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Jesse Dominic, left, and Michael Nireisi, both 11, look at a recreation of the ancient Meso-American city of Teotihuacan at the Field Museum on March 6.

## Americas: Exhibit shows North America's turbulent history

Continued from Back Page

Caroline Goldthorpe, a visitor and professor of museum studies at Northwestern University.

Goldthorpe said the layout of the exhibit demonstrates how societies are continually changing.

Historical controversy is also no stranger to the exhibit. In particular, the exhibit on North America has an electronic map that shows the massive devastation that occurred in the Native

American community when the Europeans first arrived and introduced new diseases and violent warfare.

Also included in the exhibit is a large room filled with flat screen TVs showing Native Americans discussing issues that still exist in their culture today.

One of the most striking images of the exhibit is in the back hall where more than 20-foot-tall totem poles tower above spectators. According to the exhibit, totem poles are one of the best known works of art on the Northwest Coast.

With such extravagant displays showcasing fragile and century old pieces like the totem poles or ancient hunting tools, Haas said the process of conservation wasn't exactly easy while constructing the exhibit.

Just five days before the opening of "The Ancient Americas," Haas said a cooper antler head-dress completely shattered, leaving Field Museum workers scurrying to create a model that could be shown on opening day.

Still, many of the 2,200 artifacts exist in their original forms through the exhibit.

"We start from the beginning of our ancestors to the celebration of our current people," Haas said.

"The Ancient Americas" is now on display at The Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive. General admission to the exhibit ranges from \$7 to \$12 per person. For more information visit [www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org).

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# Scoop in the Loop: Breaking eggs for an omelette



By James H. Ewert Jr.  
City Beat Editor

On March 8, a small blurb appeared in the Chicago Tribune about local anti-war activist Andy Thayer and his federal lawsuit against the City of Chicago for allegedly infringing upon his First, Fourth and 15th Amendment rights.

The suit is in response to Thayer's arrest March 19, 2005, the day before the second anniversary of the Iraq War, for organizing a street-side news conference to discuss the city's denial of a permit for a protest, according to the article. The conference was broken up and Thayer was arrested at the scene.

A quick search on the Cook County's Clerk of the Circuit Court website reveals that after more than a year of lengthy legal wrangling, the charges against Thayer were dismissed.

Thayer has long been known as one of the key figures in Chicago's anti-war scene and has been a notorious pain in the city's rear.

But his lawsuit is not the most newsworthy aspect of this situation.

What is more interesting is the city's sudden reversal on allowing permits for protests on Michigan Avenue. From 2003 to 2005, the city denied organizers permits to march on Chicago's main strip. Then, suddenly and seemingly out of nowhere, a permit was granted in 2006 for an anti-war protest dubbed 'The Festival of Rights.'

Whether or not Thayer's activities and involvement played a role in this turn of events, I don't know, but it certainly seems like it could have. And yes, once again this year, Chicago will hold an anti-war protest March 20 on Michigan Avenue.

I've attended several of these protests, including Chicago's 2003 protest that saw as many as 10,000 people show up and march on Lake Shore Drive during rush hour. Unfortunately, there has since been a sharp decline in attendance of these annual demonstrations. I did not attend last year's protest in Chicago because I was in New York for a college newspaper convention.

Where, after a series of random events I found myself marching to the United Nations building in New York on a Saturday afternoon. There is nothing more American than walking with several hundred change-hungry protesters to a closed government building to make fruitless demands.

I was discouraged by the lackluster turnout as well as the absence of passion in many of people in attendance, but something happened after the protest that made me realize why I was there.

Wandering around after being told I could not stand on an overpass overlooking the crowd, I started taking pictures of several riot-gear-clad police getting into a BMW. One of them smiled and gave me the finger in between snap shots.

Although that had nothing to do with the war in the grand scope of things, I realized the cop just didn't give a s\*\$% about anything. He didn't care about the fact that he, a police officer, was flipping off a teenage kid, the reasons people were protesting, and more importantly, he didn't care about the war or the people dying overseas. Rather, he had one thing going through his mind: himself and how funny it would be for him to slyly offend me.

This week, Hayley Graham, the vivacious co-editor-in-chief of this fine publication, wrote a column about a study that points the narcissistic finger at our generation, aptly dubbed "Generation Me" for being too self-centered.

There may be traces of truth in some of those statements, but that attitude is not relegated to any generation; that is America's attitude toward the rest of the world. Maybe that is what we should be protesting on March 20—self-

interest.

I have a lot of views on our soldiers, but my views are unimportant. If there is one thing our troops are not, it is self-interested. Judging by how quickly everyone is to support the troops, maybe those same people should support others who are trying at the very least to do something altruistic.

That is why I strongly suggest that everyone who doesn't like being called self-centered, selfish, narcissistic, vain, superficial or any of the above attend the March 20 protest on Michigan Avenue. It starts at 6 p.m. at 24 W. Walton Street. Soldiers can sacrifice their entire lives for freedoms, so it's not out of the question to ask people to sacrifice three hours.

Now, I know no one likes being preached to, but everyone loves to be saved.

As of last Thursday, 3,545 servicemen and service women have died serving in the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, according to the Department of Defense's latest data. Even more telling than the number of dead is the 25,052 people that have been wounded in both Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Thayer's lawsuit brings into question our own freedoms here in the states. Maybe we should be securing those before we attempt to bring doublespeak elsewhere.

*jewart@chroniclemail.com*

## In Public

Tuesday, March 13

Watch marionettes re-enact Shakespeare at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, 800 E. Grand Ave., from March 13 through March 25. This performance is presented by Italy's world-renowned marionette company, Compagnia Carlo Colla e Figli. The 3-foot-tall marionettes will be performing an abridged version of "Macbeth." Tickets start at \$35 and most performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at [chicagoshakes.com](http://chicagoshakes.com) or by calling (312) 595-5600.

Wednesday, March 14

Does crime and punishment intrigue you? Do you follow clues to solve cases? Some of the most prominent mystery authors of Chicago will be coming to Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln Ave., to discuss their works. The authors include Sean Chercover, Barbara D'Amato, Michael Allen Dymmo, Libby Hellmann and Marcus Sakey. This event is free and begins at 7 p.m. For more information, call (773) 293-2665.

Thursday, March 15

Enjoy chocolates, cheeses and wine at a tasting led by chocolatier Katrina Markoff at Vosges Haut-Chocolate, 951 W. Armitage St. The event begins at 7 p.m. and includes appetizers and a chocolate goodie bag. Tickets are \$30. Call (773) 296-9866 or e-mail [armitage@vosgeschocolate.com](mailto:armitage@vosgeschocolate.com) to reserve a space.

Saturday, March 17

Don't miss the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Parade. Unlike most years, this parade is actually being held on St. Patrick's Day. The parade begins at 12 p.m. at Balbo Street and Columbus Drive and proceeds north on Columbus Drive to the river, which will be dyed green. This event is completely free.

## Metro news briefs: a short week in review

### Coyotes on the runway

O'Hare International Airport has had more than its share of strange visitors, including the passengers and the alleged UFO that flew overhead. Airport officials have now reported coyotes on the runway, according to the Associated Press. The coyotes were first spotted on the runway on Feb. 25, causing a delay in the landings of two planes. When officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture showed up, the coyotes couldn't be found. Since 1990, planes have hit coyotes 26 times at Illinois airports, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

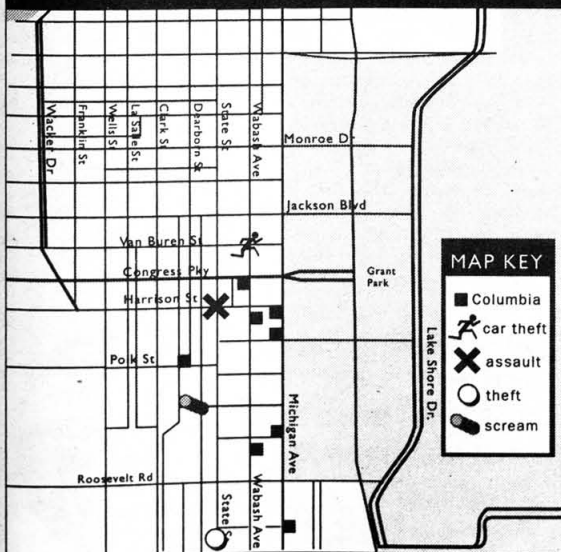
### Discrimination at Walgreens

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a lawsuit against Walgreens on March 7 for racial bias against thousands of African-American managers and pharmacists, according to a report by the Chicago Tribune. The suit followed more than 20 complaints from around the country that African-Americans were not being allowed to work in stores in white neighborhoods, being assigned to low-performing stores and being denied promotion opportunities. The EEOC has also released a new campaign called E.R.A.C.E., which stands for Eradicating Racism and Colorism from Employment. The campaign is designed to investigate patterns in hiring and placement in companies' employment data to see if there is a preference for certain candidates.

### Homosexual agenda in high school

Deerfield High School has been accused of promoting a homosexual agenda by allowing gay students to speak in freshman classes about personal experiences, according to an article by the Chicago Tribune. The sessions are scheduled during freshman advisory, which is a class that is designed to help students transition into high school. This has raised a debate between the North Shore Student Advocacy, a group that wants the panel discontinued, and the school board. Parents are divided on the issue. Freshman advisory also has lessons on the resources within the school, improving study skills, and touchier subjects such as race, sex, ethnicity and disability.

## Off the Blotter



Kimi Badger/The Chronicle

### A push and drive

As a 58-year-old woman walked to her car parked at 400 S. Wabash Ave. on March 1, a 40-year-old man approached her from behind and grabbed her keys. The offender pushed the woman away from her 1995 Nissan Maxima, got in and drove off. The victim sustained no injuries. No suspects have been found.

### Be aware

A 19-year-old man reported to police on March 3 that two unknown men, 35 to 45 years old, held a four-inch knife to his throat at 600 S. State St. while yelling "You white f—k, give me all your money." They stole his wallet which contained \$25 and his \$300 iPod and ran off. No suspects have been found.

### An avid music lover maybe?

After arriving at work on March 6, a 41-year-old man noticed a door handle had been broken off a side door at the Reinke Supply Co. located at 1619 S. State St. Police arrived and found that the only items taken were a work radio valued at \$200 and a headset valued at \$100. No suspects have been found.

### Welcome home

A 54-year-old woman told police that a woman in her 60s screamed at her incoherently in the downstairs lobby of her residency at 899 S. Plymouth Court. The woman said this type of event has occurred frequently with other residents, as well.

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



# A walk through time



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Samantha Selby, left, performs a 'friendship dance' as part of the American Indian Center's celebration of the Field Museum's opening of their newest exhibit "The Ancient Americas" on March 6.

## Museum exhibit offers glimpse into Americas distant past

By Jenn Zimmerman  
Assistant City Beat Editor

Picture a world where the only sign of life is a 50-ton woolly mammoth stomping through fields covered in wild plant life. This is Chicago 13,000 years ago, according to the Field Museum's newest exhibit, "The Ancient Americas," which explores the history of North, Central and South America.

After more than a decade of planning, "The Ancient Americas" exhibit opened to the public March 9 at Chicago's Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive. Visitors can take a trip to the beginning of civilization in the central hemisphere with more than 2,200 artifacts and 29 bilingual interactive displays.

Visitors can dive into the cultures of both past and present communities ranging from the ancient Mayans to present day Native Americans.

"We use this exhibit to tell the story of humanity ... all humanity," said Jonathan Haas, lead curator of the exhibit.

According to Haas, everything from the 19,000-square-foot exhibit layout to the descriptions of societies is constructed by individuals who descended from those particular cultures. Haas said he is trying to break the cycle of misrepresentation and misunderstanding in the Americas history by using their perspectives and voices.

The Field Museum's staff that worked on the exhibit sought out 90 indigenous and Latin individuals who, along with with the American Indian Center, helped make the displays factually accurate and up-to-date by supplying their communities' cultural per-

spectives. More than 20 cultures are touched on throughout the exhibit.

"It gives the realization of where our communities really are at," said Joe Podlasek, director of the American Indian Center.

Still, despite the exhibit covering more than 13,000 years of Central American history and 20 different cultures, visitors shouldn't expect a chronological guide. Exhibits are instead sectioned off by societal structures like hunter-gatherers or city builders, a change welcomed by most visitors.

"I enjoyed the approach that brought together different groups from different locations and different time periods by theme—the hunter gatherers, the farmers, the cities, the empires and the super powers—each gallery demonstrating additional layers of structure within the societies," said

See Americas, Page 42

# Geeks gone wild

## Intelligent beauties show some skin to break nerd stereotypes

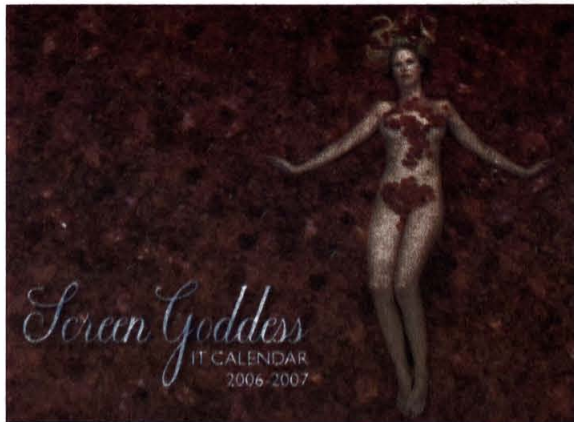
By Dana Nelson  
Assistant City Beat Editor

While TV shows like "Beauty and the Geek" accentuate the great divide between brains and beauty, engineers, IT professionals, scientists, computer geeks and gamers have attempted to dispel this image.

One such way comes in the form of yearly calendars featuring geeks of all kinds posing like models and celebrities.

Some are scantily clad or nude; others are dressed like stars from famous movies or seen with textbooks, computers and video games.

"We had a little bit of a message, you know, smart is sexy, to break the stereotype, but when it comes down to it, we did it for fun," said Syed Karim, a University of Illinois-Champaign student who helped create "Girls of Engineering," a calendar featuring



Courtesy Sonja Bernhardt

IT Goddess Sonja (no relation to photographer) manages an IT service center in Australia that has more than 800 clients and 40 offices.

engineering students.

Karim said the idea came about from the personal experience of one of the women who helped create the calendar.

"As soon as she told people she was an engineer, automatically, regardless of how feminine she was or how she came off, people

automatically didn't think she was feminine anymore," Karim said.

To break that stereotype, he and three others decided to make a calendar featuring engineering students from U of I in sexy poses to illustrate the idea

See Geeks, Page 39

## What's your vote worth?

Ward	Candidate	Money raised	Votes	\$ per vote
2nd	Madeline Haitcock	\$268,288.09	2315	\$115.89
2nd	Kenny Johnson	\$136,803	1598	\$85.61
12th	Carina Sanchez	\$176,836.18	1222	\$144.71
15th	Toni Foulkes	\$225,400.83	2035	\$110.76
22nd	Ricardo Munoz	\$214,381.85	2463	\$87.04
25th	Daniel 'Danny' Solis	\$290,230.21	3520	\$82.54
42nd	Burton Natarus	\$697,821.45	5798	\$120.36
43rd	Tim Egan	\$112,649.48	1084	\$103.92
43rd	Vi Daley	\$331,963.94	4463	\$74.38
49th	Joe Moore	\$328,233.01	3657	\$89.75

Source: Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

## Less is more

### Candidates prove money doesn't always win elections

#### Part of The Chronicle's ongoing election coverage

By James H. Ewert Jr.  
City Beat Editor

and

Allison Riggo  
Associate Editor

If the 2007 municipal election taught Chicago politicians anything, it was that on rare occasions, less is more in politics.

"Money always matters; only people who read the Reader think it doesn't," said Paul Green, a political science professor at Roosevelt University who was referring to The Chicago Reader, an alternative weekly news publication. "I am sure that if you look at your races, almost invariably, the person who had the most [money] won. Overwhelmingly, money does matter."

Green, who is widely cited in news stories as being a keen observer of Chicago politics, continues to assert that money is key, but in the 12th, 20th and 42nd Wards, the lesser-funded candidate won outright, thus proving wrong the commonly held political convention that money wins.

Excluding 14th Ward alderman Ed Burke's \$5.9 million campaign committee, which he has been building for decades, candidates for alderman raised almost \$10 million this election cycle, according to data from the state and city boards of elections. But in some races, having a surplus of money to spend didn't matter to voters. In some cases, even a candidate out-

spending an opponent by a nearly four-to-one margin wasn't enough to garner more votes.

The 32nd Ward aldermanic race was one such case. Incumbent Ted Matlak only raised \$10,691 compared to his opponent Scott Waguespack, who pulled in \$43,617 before Election Day. Despite the monetary advantage, Matlak pulled in 408 more votes than Waguespack.

The two will face off again in the April 17 runoff, as well candidates from races in the 2nd and 50th Wards, both of which had the wealthier candidate trailing in vote totals.

"There are no silver medals in politics. Either you win or you lose," Green said. "If you win, you spent your money wisely; if you lost, you didn't."

For several candidates in different races, votes were worth more to some than others. In the 15th Ward for example, where 12 candidates attempted to fill a vacant council seat, there was a glaring discrepancy in the amount of money raised by some candidates and their corresponding vote totals.

Toni Foulkes, a candidate heavily supported by labor unions, raised \$225,400 but only received 2,035 votes, which equates to \$110.76 raised per vote received, one of the highest amounts out of the 50 aldermanic races. Correspondingly, Felicia Simmons-Stoval, the candidate who Foulkes will run against in the runoff, raised only \$65,264. She received 1,601 votes, an amount of \$40.76 per vote.

Though Foulkes said she was satisfied with the results, she blamed the low voter turnout for such a wide discrepancy in

See Campaigning, Page 42

And you thought it was over. Look inside for more post election coverage.  
Pages 41,38,35

