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Columbia Chronicle (04/02/2007)

Columbia College Chicago

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Gourmand closes with no warning

Students surprised to find coffee shop shutting its doors

By Dana Nelson
Assistant City Beat Editor

Regular patrons of the independent Gourmand coffee shop, 728 S. Dearborn St., may have been astonished by the brown paper over the windows and a locked door with no notice of when it may be open again. Former employees like Ike Floor aren't entirely sure what is going to happen with the cafe.

"I went on vacation for a couple weeks and then came back to work only to find out I was only working for a couple days, and then we were closing for three weeks," Floor said. "They didn't really tell me much until I got there. It didn't seem like they told anybody that they were closing until a few days before they did."

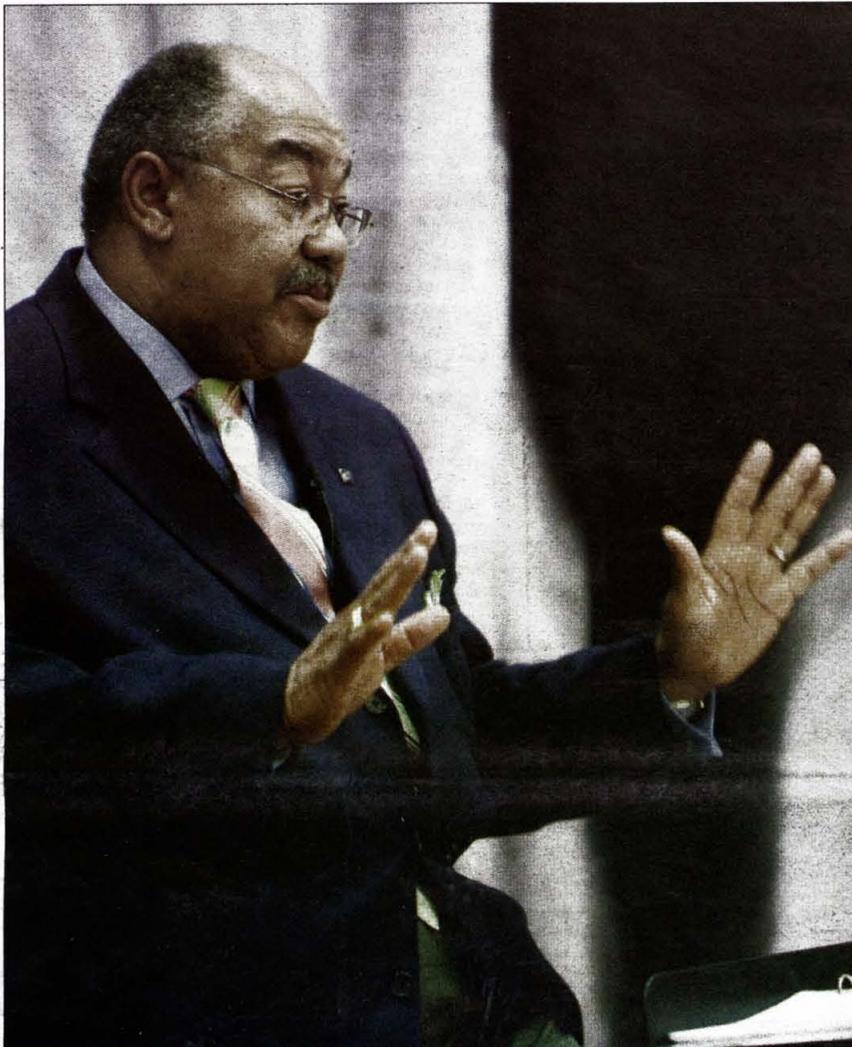
Floor said Gourmand closed on March 20, and employees were told the space was going to be remodeled. He said employees were told to keep quiet about the renovations.

"They said we shouldn't tell customers unless they're long-standing, frequent visitors," Floor said. "And it was to be kept under wraps."

Jeff Linnane, the owner of Gourmand, would not comment on the future of the popular Printer's Row coffee shop. He said he couldn't say much about it because the concept was still in development and ideas may be subject to changes.

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Carter covers familiar topics



President speaks about fundraising, property at State of the College Address

By Amanda Maurer
Campus News Editor

The college is in good shape, Columbia President Warrick L. Carter announced at the beginning of his annual State of the College address. "And so the speech is over," he joked.

It wasn't, of course. Over the next hour Carter covered many of the college's familiar concerns and projects; he also spoke about Columbia's future initiatives and goals.

Students, faculty and staff filled the Ferguson Theater in the Alexandroff Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave., on March 28 to hear about the issues including tuition affordability, property and fundraising.

Carter said Columbia is doing well because it's admitting and retaining more students than before.

However, the growing student body has led to a higher demand for on-campus housing, he said. Three years ago, the college housed 300 students on campus. Today, that number has increased to 2,600, and it's expected to rise by at least 400 students next year. To fill the need, officials have discussed the possibility of acquiring additional dorm space.

The number of enrolled students isn't the only number increasing. Carter called this fall's tuition increase of \$776 to \$17,103 an "approachable number" for students.

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Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle
Columbia President Warrick L. Carter delivers the State of the College address at the Ferguson Theater in the Alexandroff Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave., on March 28. He covered a number of issues that the college has faced this past year, including affordability, property purchases and fundraising.



Kristin Kalter/The Chronicle

The Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway St., teams up with the Empty Bottle to host acts a younger audience can enjoy.

Curtain calls catering to the college crowd

Lakeshore Theater, Empty Bottle collaborate for variety of entertainment acts

By Kristin Kalter
Assistant A&E Editor

Underage college students face the disappointment of missing a show or concert when held at a venue they aren't old enough to get into. The Lakeshore Theater may provide a better alternative.

The theater, 3175 N. Broadway St., is stepping in a new direction since teaming up with the live music bar Empty Bottle and Paul Provenza, a comedian, director and actor. Together, they are try-

ing to build a venue with an audience of 18-to 35-year-olds who can see a variety of hand-picked comedy shows and music acts.

Chris Ritter, who is not only co-owner of the theater but also artistic director, executive producer, general manager and janitor, bought the venue more than four years ago when it was still a single-screen movie theater. Since then, he has renovated the building into a 338-seat theater and concert venue.

He did not decide until recently to follow his artistic aspirations, which includes exposing a community of people to what he feels are great comedic and musical acts.

While he used to rent out the place to basically anybody—

mainly for theatrical performances—now Ritter and his team are booking the acts, with an emphasis on all forms of comedy and independent music acts.

The theater kicked off its new programming at the end of March with "The Marijuana-Logues," an off-Broadway comedy show. The list of upcoming shows includes acts like Julia Sweeney from "Saturday Night Live" and Mike Birbiglia from Comedy Central.

He said the venue should be unlike any other comedy club or house in the city because it doesn't just cater to a certain style of comedy and strives to bring in acts that he feels are deserving but not

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



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Insects make their 17-year return
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Indie media not dead yet

By Hunter Clauss, Editor-in-Chief

In October 2005, I was an assistant A&E editor for The Chronicle and, with the help of then managing editors Alicia Dorr and Jennifer Sabella, broke one of the biggest stories I've written so far.

The three of us discovered that the pipeline of distribution money various independent publications depend on was disrupted and thereby threatened their very livelihood. At the time, I thought the title—"The fall of independent publishing?"—was a bold overstatement. But events that have transpired since then prove the situation has become much grimmer.

Independent magazines like Punk Planet, Venus, Giant Robot, In These Times and Mother Jones were once members of the Independent Press Association, a non-profit organization designed to help small publications reach a wider audience without becoming slaves to advertising.

In a time when one of the main critiques of the media is that advertisers are dictating too many editorial decisions, the need for an organization like the IPA is more than apparent. One needs not look further than cable news networks like Fox News.

In addition to limiting the power of advertisers, the IPA distributed its members' publications to bookstore chains and newsstands they previously could not reach. Competing

clout-heavy distribution companies made it almost impossible for smaller independent publications to be sold in stores like Borders and Barnes and Noble.

The unfortunate situation we reported more than a year ago has become even more critical as the IPA ceased its operations this January, resulting in the "deaths" of publications like Clamor and Kitchen Sink while increasingly threatening the same fate on many others.

A community's voice is

magazines like Newsweek.

If you don't think your voice is being addressed or even sacrificed for frivolous news stories like the constant updates on Anna Nicole Smith's death or who made it to the newest round of American Idol, then please do something to help the few publications that actually give a damn about what's going on in your community.

The most immediate way for anyone to help these publications is to subscribe to them and,

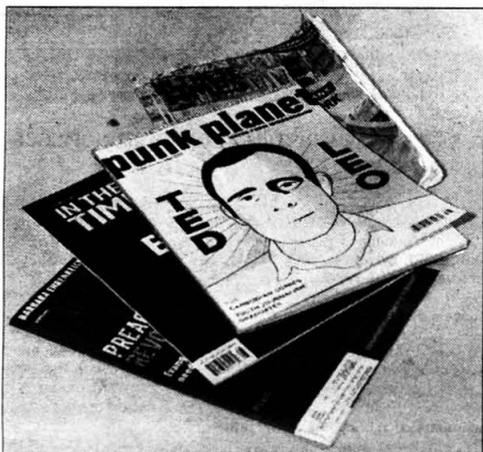
if you can, purchase subscriptions for friends and family members. While many of the titles distributed through the IPA have switched over to another carrier, every bit of help, no matter how small, can still make a difference.

I never thought the story we published on Oct. 31, 2005 would amount to anything. But, in addition to winning second place for feature writing at the 2006 Illinois

College Press Association Awards, I later learned through a source that the IPA's executive director, Richard Landry, had read the article online and was somewhat irritated by our accurate and in-depth reporting.

I suppose that just goes to show that even the most miniscule gestures in this dire situation can have a ripple effect.

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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

silenced with each magazine's closure. Case in point: the Iraq war. Some of the publications carried under IPA were some of the first to question President Bush's war plans for Iraq when many major media outlets neglected to do so. In fact, a majority of the content regularly published in magazines like Giant Robot, whose co-editors Eric Nakamura and Martin Wong will be appearing at Columbia (see Calendar), are rarely found in

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April 2-7

Beats and Shorts

Come watch Asian-American hip-hop in a film featuring Chicago's Asian-American hip-hop combo, the PACIFICS. Afterwards, sit back, relax and watch films from the Asian-American Showcase. The event kicks off at 7 p.m. at the HotHouse, 31 E. Balbo Ave., on April 4.

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

Pitch and Query: Writing for Hire

Future freelance writers can learn how to get their names out to the media by learning the art of the pitch in this helpful workshop by an agent and an acquisitions editor. The workshop runs from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Portfolio Center, suite 307, in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on April 5.

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

Giant Robots Everywhere

Eric Nakamura, founder of Giant Robot Magazine, will be at Columbia for a workshop for students interested in magazine media or the publication itself. The workshop starts at 3:30 p.m. at the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on April 5.

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

Undergraduate Poetry Festival

Enjoy an evening of relaxation and poetry as 11 different Chicago colleges and universities feature their students in undergraduate poetry readings. The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. at the Hokin Auditorium in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on April 5.

For more information, contact Tony Triglio at (312) 344-8138.

Traveling Film Festival

Celebrate the annual "Film South Asia" showcase by viewing a number of award-winning documentaries. The festivities kick off at 6 p.m. at the Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., on April 5.

For more information, contact Yuchia Chang at (312) 344-8213.

In Your Opinion

Do you think you'll find a job after graduation?



"I do. It has to do with a combination of internships and interests. School helps out a lot."

—Jason Degelman, sophomore audio arts and acoustics major



"Yes, because I've worked in my field for so long I think if I stick my neck out I'll find something."

—Tara Jenkins, junior art and design major



"Yes I do. I already work in the field, and I think my degree will supplement what I'm already doing."

—Sarah Seemiller, junior art and design major



"Yeah. I think it comes down to Columbia's internship program."

—Brian Roach, sophomore journalism major

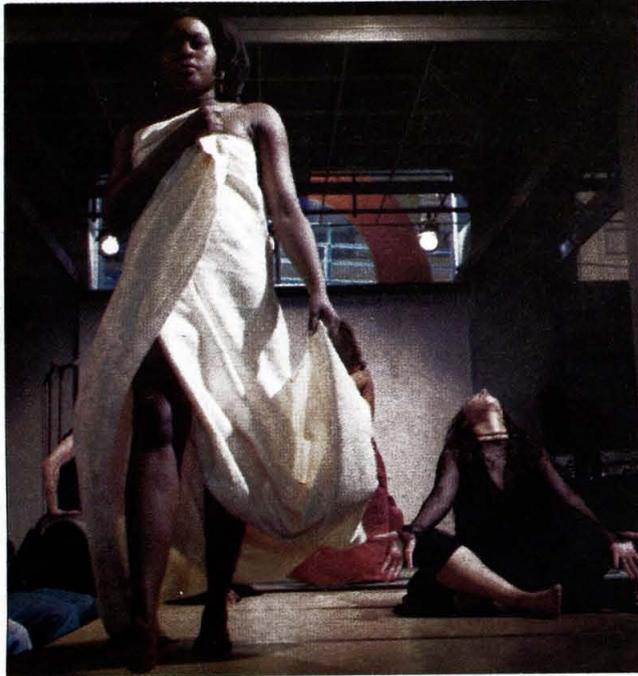
Corrections

In the March 26 issue, photojournalist Abel Uribe's first name was spelled incorrectly on page 6.

THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

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

Student organization fashions its first event



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

A student models in the FIE INK fashion show at the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., on March 29.

By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

With bed sheets draped around their naked bodies, student models flooded the catwalk, which protruded into a sea of chairs. One by one, their swaggered steps carried them between the four dancers dressed in black, who sensually followed the rhythm of Madonna's "Frozen"—some movements as smooth as the material that clothed them. Scattered posters of three girls wrapped in sheets of their own covered the walls and pillars of the room. The fashion show was not only the fulfillment of their year-long ambition, but possibly the beginning of their future careers in event planning.

For the past year, Columbia students Fabienne Azor, India Pope and Eboné McCloud have been preparing for the March 29 fashion show "Maison de Couture," which took place at the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The event was the first of their student-founded organization, FIE INK, with the purpose of providing a place for artists of all mediums to showcase their work and network with other artists. They hope to turn it into a company when they graduate.

"We've been to other Columbia fashion shows," said Pope, a sophomore art and design major and one of the show's featured designers. "We wanted this to be different. We wanted it to be a celebration of art."

Columbia students worked on the photography, performances and event planning, except for a handful of models from DePaul University and University of Illinois at Chicago. Of the 12 designers featured, three were Columbia students, while others work as far away as Kansas City, Mo.

FIE INK was born in March 2006 when the three freshmen realized they had the same dream to plan events combining all arts. They became a school-sanctioned student organization in the fall of that year and hosted an on-campus bake sale to help fund their first event. The group currently meets once a week

and has about 15 active members.

Sharod Smith, the group's adviser and Columbia's programming coordinator, said he was impressed with the students' enthusiasm and determination to put the show together. Smith said he only needed to assist them with a fraction of the organization for the event.

"They have their vision for it," he said. "Everything from the music, the models, the performances, everything down to the decor, they've worked really hard."

Featured clothing included graphic t-shirts, scarves, spring dresses, elegant hoodies, swimsuits and jackets. Each piece engaged the audience's hoots and hollers, whistles and whispers.

"The designs were so hot," said Toya Cross, a junior journalism major who came to see the event. "I think it was a very unique way to do a fashion show."

Ari Fulton, a sophomore costume design major at DePaul, attended the show and said designing clothes and planning an event are two separate things.

"I'm surprised they could do both," she said. "It was really professional."

Once all the designs were presented, musical hip-hop guest Epoch took the stage to perform three songs. Although the group has been together for nine years and had performed at Columbia events before, Lorenzo "Sonnet" Powell, a senior art and design major and group member, said Epoch has been writing music recently and considered the fashion show to be its "new beginning."

"We were perfecting our craft ... this is like a rebirth for us," he said.

As the group performed, models sprinted in four-inch heels from the dressing room to the back of the stage for their final strut. Azor bobbed her head to the rhythmic lyrics of Epoch's "Pluto S—t" and "Body Language" as a smile enveloped her face.

"This is amazing," she said. "This is exactly how I saw it. Everything has been so amazing."

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

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GLASS CURTAIN GALLERY, 1104 S WABASH AVENUE

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

CORE, SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION BY LIZ NOFZIGER

March 12 - April 20, 2007

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

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

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

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.

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

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE



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

Baseball Ready to Take On UW- Eau Claire

Thursday - 7:30 pm

Friday- 5:00 pm (DH)

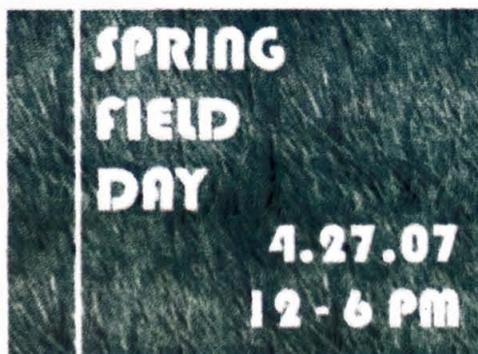
Location: UIC North Field

907 W. Roosevelt Rd.

(corner of Halsted & Roosevelt)



Come cheer on your
COLUMBIA RENEGADES!



SPRING FIELD DAY

Join students, faculty/staff, and alumni in competing in several games and activities.

GRANT PARK @ Balbo/Columbus

Admission is \$10

(there will be food, prizes/shirts for all!)

for more information, please contact us at



<http://ATHLETICS.COLUM.EDU>

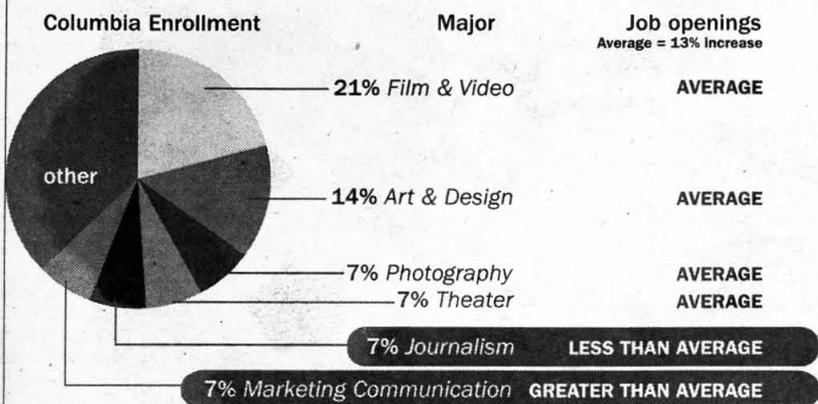
Contact the Renegades - 1104 S. Wabash Lower Level Office A - 312-344-6917 - ATHLETICS@COLUM.EDU



getusc.com
1-888-buy-uscc

Capped, gowned and unemployed?

Job Market Projections for 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Neighbor indicted in alumna's murder

Accused could face 60 years in prison

By Hayley Graham
Editor-in-Chief

economic policies, found that two out of three CEOs said the number of new hires at their respective companies, in the next six months, will either stay the same or decrease.

Although he has not been Federal Reserve chairman since February 2006, Alan Greenspan's March announcement that the U.S. has a 33 percent chance of recession in 2007 influenced the slow job market projection, some experts said.

To compensate for the tough market, students should start the job search early and look for family and friends with job connections, Madden said.

Columbia currently provides graduates with options like monthly alumni networking meetings, options for health and auto insurance and loan consolidation, library and computer lab usage and an alumni online community.

Culley-Foster said, compared to other colleges, Columbia's services are on the better end.

"We don't have the manpower [to do placement like big public colleges] but we can set up these monthly meetings," Culley-Foster said.

Challenger, Gray, and Christmas also suggests professionalizing Facebook and MySpace sites, because employers can find out a lot about personal attributes, hobbies, interests, writing style and generally what type of person a potential candidate is, Madden said.

"It makes sense; think about the number of times you have viewed someone's page and made a judgment about what

See Jobs, Page 10

DNA evidence links a former classmate to the Christmas Day murder of Columbia graduate Lauren Kiefer in Oakbrook Terrace, according to DuPage County authorities. The suspect, Robert Rejda, now faces first-degree murder charges and was denied bond on March 23.



File

Lauren Kiefer, a Columbia graduate, was murdered on Dec. 25, 2006.

Rejda, 25, was given a 28-count indictment for home invasion, rape and murder and could face a minimum sentence of 20 to 60 years in prison if convicted. Because of the brutality of the crime a death sentence is possible, according to reports from the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office.

Rejda allegedly broke in to burglarize Kiefer's house, where she lived with her mother in unincorporated Oakbrook Terrace. Authorities reported that when Kiefer returned home alone from a family celebration shortly after 6:20 p.m. Rejda allegedly sexually assaulted and beat her to death with an aluminum baseball bat. Phone records show that Rejda called the house at 2:30 p.m.

Kiefer's mother discovered her severely beaten body after returning home around 7:15 p.m.

In February, while in custody following his Jan. 1 arrest for unrelated traffic and drug charges, Rejda was charged separately with the 2005 rape and home invasion of an Aurora woman.

Rejda, who lived only a few blocks from Kiefer, went to grade school and high school with her. Authorities said they did not have a romantic relationship.

Kiefer graduated from Columbia's Journalism Department in 2005 as a broadcast major, and is remembered by her former teachers as a driven and enthusiastic student. She worked in client development at Power Distributing LLC, a Red Bull energy drink distributor and at Fitz's Pub in Elmhurst. She had done some print modeling.

Rejda's next court appearance is on April 9.

hgraham@chroniclemail.com

Study reveals shrink in job availability

By Beth Palmer
Assistant Campus News Editor

Columbia's 2,094 students who have applied to graduate this May face a smaller and slower job market than previous graduates, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some experts said students can increase their marketability with hard work and networking, but an Alumni Relations administrator said Columbia's job placement services could be better.

The bureau reported that 97,000 new jobs were created in February, which is a 25-month low, and only 60 percent of the positions were with non-government entities.

"We found that it's actually kind of dim for graduates this quarter," said Colleen Madden, publicist for Challenger, Gray, and Christmas, Inc., a Chicago job placement firm.

Work opportunities for theater, photography, art and design and film and video, some of Columbia's most popular majors, will experience average growth, which is projected as a 13 percent increase in job openings by 2014, according to the bureau.

The bureau predicted journalism majors will encounter a less than average increase in job openings, while marketing communication majors can expect a faster than the average increase.

A Columbia education and the school's resources for seniors and alumni give students an edge, said Josh Culley-Foster,

Columbia's national director of Alumni Relations.

"The education people receive here equips them for the market," Culley-Foster said. "Thinking creatively will help people more than they think."

People with a college degree still have the lowest unemployment rates in the job force, but The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that from December 2006 to January 2007, the rate rose from 1.9 to 2.1 percent.

"My advice is to not be discouraged if the job they get right out of college isn't their dream," Culley-Foster said. "The problem is, you're dealing with someone's passion, their heart, and that's a difficult thing to deal with letting down."

A study by the Business Roundtable, an association of U.S. CEOs that advocates eco-

Columbia group brings in Mike Jones

Rap superstar signs CDs while marketing group promotes club

By George P. Slef
Assistant Campus News Editor

As music blasted through the speakers, a winding line was created while students waited readily for autographs.

Hundreds of Columbia students lined up to welcome platinum recording artist Mike Jones when he appeared on campus on March 27.

The event, at the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., was hosted by the Columbia College Marketing Association in an effort to show appreciation for its members and promote itself to students unaware of the organization. The club's mission is to provide students an alternative means of marketing skills by making it fun and knowledgeable.

With their cell phones in hand, students huddled around the rap superstar taking pictures and making calls to friends, telling them Mike Jones was at their school.

"Mike Jones is at my school! Who? Mike Jones!" one student said on her cell phone.

Dressed in sweat pants and an over-sized track jacket, Jones sported an enormous three dimensional gold medallion and a super-sized diamond ring as he signed autographs for frenzied students.

"This is so groundbreaking because nobody has ever brought a major rap artist like [Mike Jones] to Columbia," said Rachel Katz, a senior marketing communications major and public relations representative for CCMA.

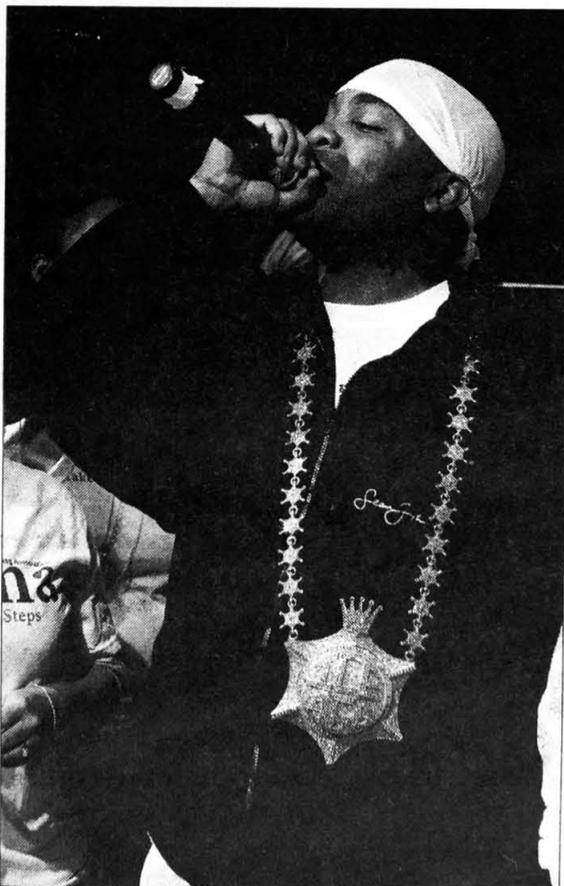
While Jones didn't perform, Cole Messutta, a freshman film and video major, said he heard Mike Jones was coming to Columbia and "had to show up."

"I didn't know what the event was for," Messutta said. "But after coming here and seeing this event I think I have an interest in joining the group now."

Howard Campbell, a senior art and design major and CCMA president, was responsible for bringing Mike Jones to Columbia—and he did it without spending a dime of the club's budget.

Through networking with Warner Brothers, Campbell convinced the WB record label to bring the rap artist to Columbia by telling them he could promote his

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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Promoting his upcoming album 'The American Dream,' Mike Jones signed autographs at the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on March 27

Filmmaker's journey leads him to Chicago

By Beth Palmer
Assistant Campus News Editor

American documentary filmmaker Les Blank's story exudes a message of the resiliency of life.

On March 29, students filled the Ferguson Theater in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., as Blank showed one of his most famous films, *Burden of Dreams*, about German filmmaker Werner Herzog. He also shared his failures and his advice for success in a Q&A session following.

He came to present his 10 year work in progress, *All in This Tea*, about a world-renowned tea expert, at the Chicago International Film Festival on April 1.

"People are always anxious to see a new Les Blank film," said Jim Dempsey, manager and programmer at the Gene Siskel Film Center, which has shown Blank's films for the past five years. "I like to show his films because they're poetic and lyrical, but they also have a fun, wry sense of humor."

Some Columbia students picked up on Blank's sense of humor. Erin Klingensmith, a senior film and video major who is going into documentary film, said Blank had made a presentation to her documentary class that afternoon.

"He's a really interesting guy, the kind of guy I'd like to sit down with in a bar, have a beer and hear all his crazy stories," she said.

Klingensmith said she never knew about Blank's work before

his Columbia visit, but by the end of the day, she had learned a lot about the life of a documentary filmmaker.

"He said the best way to make a connection with the people you are trying to film is to get drunk with them," she said. "And, one of the most important things in making a documentary is making the subjects comfortable."

Then, Blank told a story about drinking a cup of a group's backwash in order to be accepted, Klingensmith said.

"That made me realize I might have to do some uncomfortable things to be successful," she said.

Commitment and sacrifice are necessary to a documentary filmmaker's success, Blank said.

"Don't let anything get in the way, like physical comforts or dressing well," he said. "Be ready to sacrifice all that stuff, live in a barrel if you have to—I more or less [did]. I didn't ever pay more than \$75 a month rent for years and years."

Blank's shocking stories demonstrate his commitment and have made him influential in film, Dempsey said.

"He's important because he's never followed any rules but his own," Dempsey said. "It's nice that someone cares enough about their voice not to compromise it."

It took Blank a long time to make filmmaking his career, let alone find the voice that some critics appreciate. He majored in English at Tulane University in New Orleans with a minor in phi-

losophy and French.

After Tulane, Blank said he interviewed and tested horribly in the work force; he couldn't even get hired as a gas station attendant or pass the intelligence exam for a bill collecting job.

However, the Navy hired Blank as a fighter pilot, but life had different plans. Days before heading to flight school in Pensacola, Fla., Blank saw Ingmar Bergman's *The Seventh Seal* at the film's premiere in San Francisco.

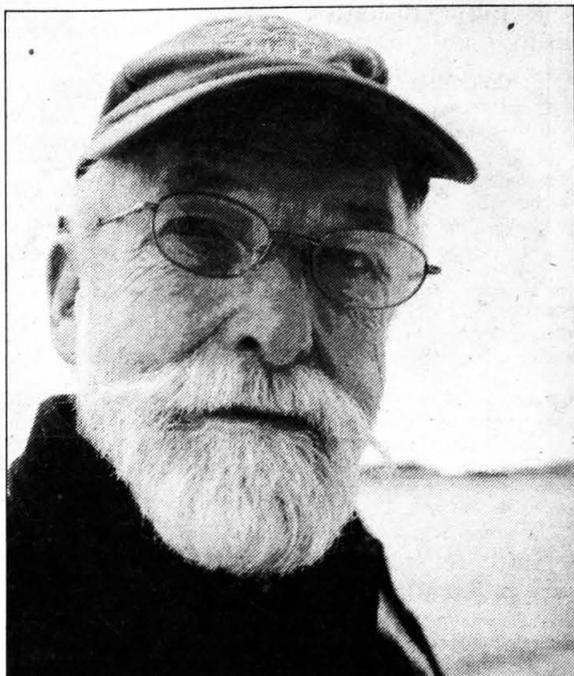
"I never thought I'd be a filmmaker [until] I saw [The] *Seventh Seal* and noticed how much better it could make me feel mentally and spiritually," Blank said. "I felt I had lived through the suffering of the protagonist of the film."

Moved by Bergman's film, Blank promptly declined the Navy training and instead obtained an M.F.A. in theater at Tulane. His first documentary filmmaking education came next while in the doctorate program at the University of Southern California Cinema School.

But Blank never finished his doctorate. Due to financial struggles during his second year, he left USC to get a job.

He said he began working for Columbia Pictures but was fired because his boss didn't like his taste in films. The loss led to Blank's first experience making documentaries assisting independent filmmakers cover outlaw motorcycle gangs and the first legal drag strip in the U.S.

Blank's inherent curiosity was felt in his films, Dempsey said.



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Les Blank, a documentary filmmaker based in California, stopped at Columbia while in town to screen 'All in This Tea' at the Chicago International Documentary Film Festival on April 1.

"Like any great documentary filmmaker, he's quiet," Dempsey said. "He keeps quiet so his subject keeps talking until they get themselves into trouble."

Audiences always enjoy Blank's films and many cult fan groups follow his work, Dempsey said.

"I heard a story yesterday," Blank said. "Someone told me they were watching my films during a particularly bleak period of their life ... and it gave them the courage to go on living."

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7:00 PM

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Thursday April 5

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Getting back to nature: the nature of things

Columbia students mingle with nature in new exhibit

By Quinn Milton
Staff Writer

Wooden boxes, a sack of colorful balls and photographs are just a few parts of an exhibit that features several artists expressing small pieces of nature.

The exhibit "Organicism: Nature Functioning Nontraditionally" in the C33 Gallery, in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, artists examined how they relate to and interact with nature.

According to the exhibit's creators, organicism is the philosophy that suggests the whole cannot be defined by the sum of its parts; that the system is important above its components.

The exhibit, on display until April 20, features a variety of pieces including photographs and three dimensional creations that give a multi-sensory idea of nature's complex relationships.

According to Tannar Veatch, the exhibit's curator and a sophomore art and design major, organicism addresses the experience of an artist with nature, a somewhat uncommon experience.

"The exhibition is an entirely selfish endeavor," Veatch said. "I needed to immerse myself in the experiences of others to counter the lack of my own."

To elaborate on the collective theme behind the exhibit, Veatch compared the natural environ-

ment to an engine.

"Not many think of an engine as a series of parts working together, but simply as an engine in whole," Veatch said. "When a piece of the system is examined not for its worth to the system, but out of context and by its individual value, it becomes an element foreign to the system from which it derives. That element never ceases to function; its direction of functionality simply shifts."

Veatch said he chose each piece in the show based on what experience it offered him. A dress made of leaves, a fur head-dress and large boxes constructed of wood are just a few examples of the wide assortment of perspectives on the exhibit's theme.

"When a piece of the system is examined not for its worth to the system, but out of context and by its individual value, it becomes an element foreign to the system from which it derives."

—Tannar Veatch, exhibit curator and sophomore art and design major

Asher Danziger, a sophomore photography major, has four photographs featured in the windows of the exhibit. Danziger's pictures are all extreme close-ups of nature.

"It's more about the organic

form of nature, rather than nature as a whole," he said.

Danziger took his pictures while backpacking out west last summer. He said being away from everyone else gave him inspiration to focus on the nature surrounding him.

Phillip Shoemaker, a freshman photography major, viewed the exhibit at its opening on March 5 and spent nearly two hours talking with the artists and learning about it.

"I loved Asher's pictures because they're kind of abstract, but you can still tell what they are," Shoemaker said.

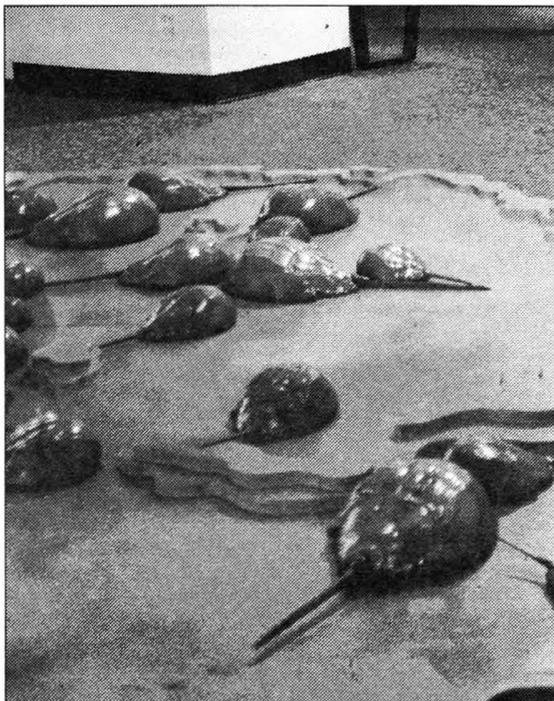
Another one of the exhibit's components included brown horseshoe crabs that moved when someone clapped.

The organicism exhibit celebrates all that occurs naturally for the sake of aesthetic and personal experience, according to those involved with the exhibit. Each piece requires the viewer to look closely and understand how it fits in with the exhibition as a whole.

In one exhibit window, a mannequin is clothed in an elaborate dress made of colorful leaves.

"I did a double take at the window with the dress made out of leaves; it was really cool," said Michaelia Kelley, a sophomore interactive arts and media major.

Veatch said he hopes visitors will look deeper into the exhibit and attempt to understand what he and the featured artists



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

The exhibit 'Organicism' in the C33 Gallery in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, runs from March 5 to April 20. It shows work that explores the notion of nature behaving in a non-traditional manner.

5 to April 20. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays by appointment.

"The Organicism: Nature Functioning Nontraditionally" will be featured in the C33 Gallery in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building from March

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Address: Administrators respond to student concerns

Continued from Front Page

But some students may not agree. Jeffrey Acciaoli, a senior audio arts and acoustics major, said in order for students to understand why tuition is increasing, they need to see what it is going toward.

"I think it's fair if they put that money toward something for the students, but I haven't seen anything," he said.

Carter recognized the college doesn't offer many scholarships to students. However, the college has continued to offer more scholarships annually, including increasing the number of Open Door Scholarships from 50 last year to 150 this year. This year, nearly 11,500 students are enrolled at the college.

Property

Columbia's space crunch was discussed along with its plans to purchase additional property and construct facilities.

Until the proposed facilities can be built, officials want to work with the college's existing space.

"We're trying to do the best with what we have before we build a Campus Center," said Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment.

While the college plans to set

aside funds for the proposed Campus Center, it carries a large price tag. Administrators estimate the project would need a \$90 million capital campaign, which would provide a student center, performance spaces and classrooms.

In an effort to find more space on campus until the Campus Center can be funded and built, the college has bid on two pieces of property. Officials could not provide the bid amounts. If Columbia acquires the buildings, at 916 and 1000 S. Wabash Ave., the college would occupy them "sooner than later" since they wouldn't need many renovations, said Mark Lloyd, associate vice president of Marketing and Communications.

If more space is acquired, then it could mean that students will need to walk to more buildings for classes.

"That's the way campuses are," said Dominic Pacyga, acting dean for the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a faculty member in the Liberal Education Department.

Pacyga, a member of the college's committee to work on the space issue, said the administration has tried to reconfigure and work with the space Columbia already owns.

Acciaoli said he wouldn't mind traveling to different buildings for classes and said it seems like the college has two options when it comes to an increasing student body.

"Either they need more facilities or they need to cut back on the amount of students that they accept," he said.

In the meantime, the college



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment, left, and Eric Winston, vice president of Institutional Advancement, right, clap for President Warrick L. Carter at the State of the College address on March 28. A majority of the president's cabinet came to help answer questions from faculty and students.

has plans to move into recently-acquired properties. A number of arts centers will relocate to 218 S. Wabash Ave. to open up additional space for classrooms and academic offices. Carter said the college intends on moving into the former Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies building, 618 S. Michigan Ave., by September 2009.

The college plans to alleviate other space issues with its first constructed facility, the Media Production Center, a project that

could break ground in 2008.

To fund the Media Production Center, the college began its first capital campaign of \$20 million in October. Around \$15 million will be used to construct the Media Production Center, which will house two sound stages, a motion capture studio and other facilities.

The center will be built at 1632 S. State St. According to Director of Media Relations Micki Leventhal, the price of the property that Carter announced during the address

was not finalized. However, the city has agreed to sell the land to Columbia for a fraction of the market value.

Fundraising

Although the college has faced trouble with raising money in the past, he said the number of donations Columbia receives has continued to increase.

"There are friends that we have developed over these years that

See Address, Page 9

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The Three-Track phase of CTA's \$530 million **Brown Line Capacity Expansion** project is in progress. For a more modern and efficient CTA, Belmont and Fullerton stations are being upgraded with elevators and more spacious platforms. So, if you ride the **Brown Line**, north branch of the **Red Line** or **Purple Line Express**, here are a few things you need to know:

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- While we work to serve you better, longer wait times and more crowded trains may be unavoidable during peak travel times. We ask for your patience.
- We recommend that you consult the CTA Bus & Rail Map to identify which bus routes could serve as viable alternatives. The CTA has an extensive bus network that complements rail service. There are more than 40 bus routes in the area, including nine lakefront express routes that provide direct service to and from the Loop.
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Address: Students to pitch in with raising funds for Center

Continued from Page 8

are willing to open up their pocket-books and be supportive of the college," he said.

A total of \$7.5 million has already been raised through donations and pledges for the \$20 million capital campaign, Carter said.

The college may also receive some funding from students. One of the Student Government Association's most recent initiatives will support the \$90 million capital campaign, said Brian Matos, president of the SGA and a junior journalism major. The SGA would like to start a fundraising project that would take student donations to prove to outside donors that Columbia students are also dedicated to the effort, he said.

"Once we show our commitment, others will show their support," Matos said.

But the fundraising initiative may come too close to next year's tuition increase for some students.

Kelcey Schroder, a sophomore photography major, said she thinks fundraising should be raised through a combination of events that appeal to donors of all ages.

"I think we should use our creative abilities to find a way to raise

money," she said.

Although Jonathan Mathias, a freshman photography major, came to the State of the College address with his New Millennium Studies class, he said he would have come on his own.

"We're paying so much, we should know what's going on," he said. "Things are changing a lot, so we should be informed."

While Mathias said he didn't learn anything new at the address, he thought that some issues, like reasons behind the tuition increase, weren't discussed in enough detail.

SGA Initiatives

Near the end of the event, Mathias asked Carter and his vice presidents about the possibility of summer U-Passes being available to students. Officials responded that if they heard a need for the U-Passes, they would look into it.

Matos opened the State of the College address by naming some initiatives that the SGA has been looking into this past year.

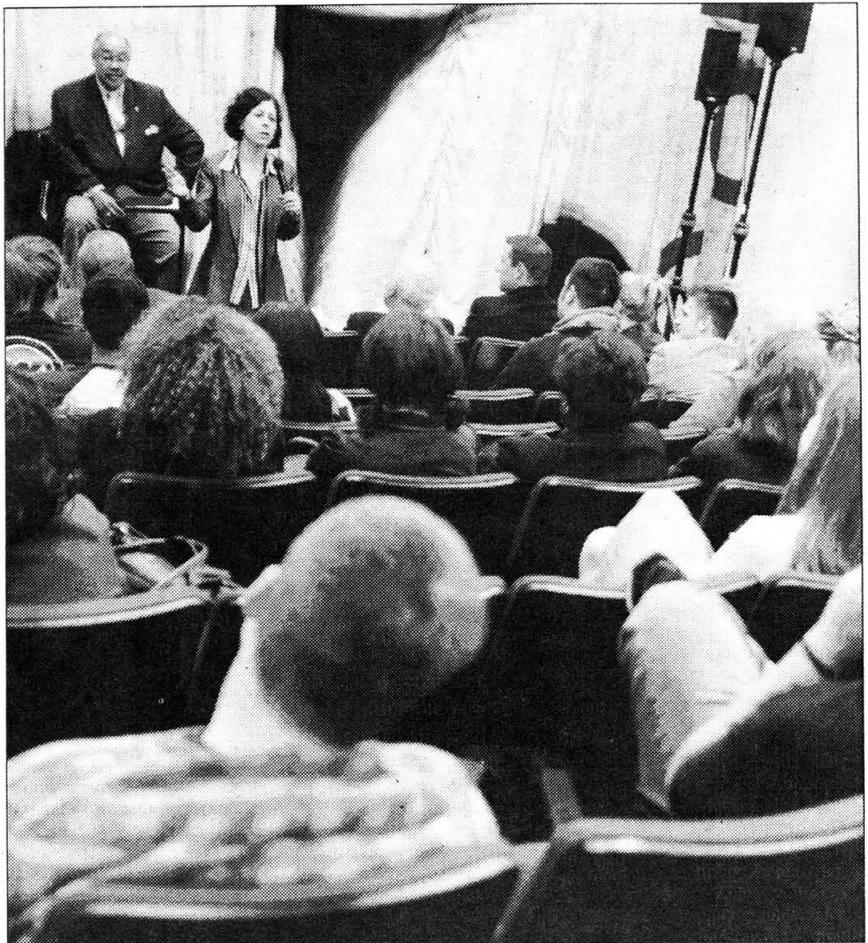
The SGA's will hold any future activity fee increases for three years after one coming this fall, try to allow free printing on campus and will look into discounts for students who ride the Metra.

"Our greatest endeavors are still ahead, and will require patience and determination from students," he said.

"Either they need more facilities or they need to cut back on the amount of students that they can accept."

—Jeffrey Acciaoli, a senior audio arts and acoustics major

amaurer@chroniclemail.com



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment, answered several specific questions during the State of the College address concerning dorm affordability and the Media Production Center, which will be the college's first Columbia-built facility.

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Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

CCMA: Club hosts event to attract more members

upcoming CD, *The American Dream*, to college students.

"We decided to bring Mike Jones over because he's a platinum recording artist and a well-known name among students," Campbell said. "It was a perfect connection for our club to reach more students."

Last year, Campbell became president, and this semester, helped increase the number of club members from 13 to 58, he said. Campbell said CCMA was able to boost its membership by establishing a brand identity, increasing its executive board from four members to nine and creating the slogan "Take big steps" for the club.

By the time the event was over, CCMA recruited three more members to their growing club and advertised themselves to the hundreds of students who showed up.

Campbell said he wanted to get CCMA's name out to students. He said by bringing someone like Mike Jones to Columbia, students would get excited about the club.

"I felt tremendously happy after the event was over," Campbell said. "I like to see others succeed before myself and felt we got that done."

Shanita Baraka Akintonde, faculty adviser to CCMA and a faculty member in the Marketing Communications Department, said much of the club's success comes from Campbell being president.

"Since Howard took the helm of CCMA, the club has really stepped it up and raised the bar," Akintonde said. "That's what the genius is with these guys. They know how to work with a shoe string budget, and they learn how to have fun and meet a celebrity at the same time."

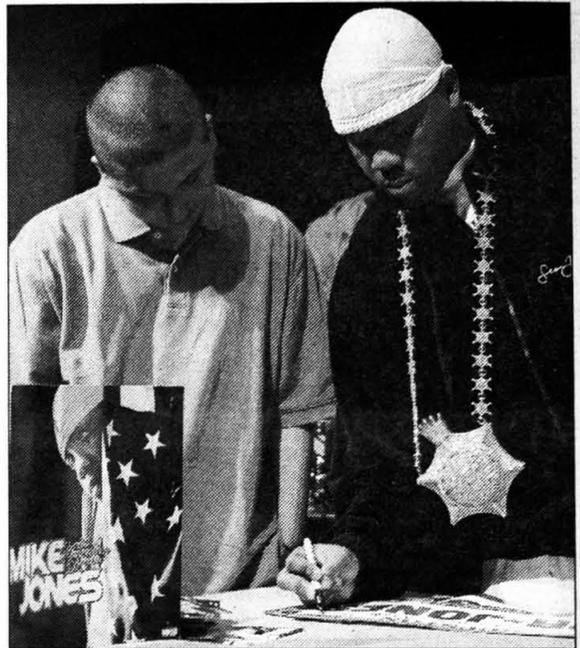
CCMA didn't stop there. A day after the Mike Jones event, CCMA packed its bags to compete at the Collegiate Chapter of the American Marketing Association in New Orleans for its first time.

"We're not as known as we should be," Campbell said. "But that's changing as we let students know who we are."

Campbell said all students need to know how to market themselves in today's world, regardless of major.

"We have an awesome future now," he said. "We want to continue to establish our brand identity and reach students in other departments. It's not just marketing for students—its marketing for yourself."

gstefo@chroniclemail.com



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Promoting his upcoming album, *The American Dream*, Mike Jones autographs promotional material for a student in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on March 27.

Jobs: Officials offer advice for better hiring odds

Continued from Page 3

viewed someone's page and made a judgment about what

that person is probably like," Madden said.

Despite this, it will also probably not cost a candidate a job, Madden said. But Culley-Foster said students should set their profiles to the private setting if they want a job.

"Any way that students publicly market themselves should be professional," Culley-Foster said. "Look sharp and don't [post] stupid things."

Camille Vafakas, a junior theater major, said she has been collecting photos and video clips for her portfolio since her freshman year, but has never used Columbia's resources, like the Portfolio Center, to prepare for her future.

"I know about the Portfolio Center because I get constant e-mails about it," Vafakas said. "But I don't have any friends who use it; no word of mouth

information."

Vafakas said she would like to use the Portfolio Center to assist in creating a personal webpage to display her resume and work.

Fedora Robeson, a senior film and video major, said she knows about the Portfolio Center, the Alumni Relations office and other resume resources because of many e-mails from Columbia; however,

she does not know what specific steps to take to utilize them.

"Personally I would like a better graduation walk-through," Robeson said. "[The e-mails] are like, 'This is here, and this is here, now just go find it [yourself].'"

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Editorials

Columbia making progress

Red stress balls, fried chicken and SGA logo-covered notebooks welcomed students at the Ferguson Theater on March 28 for the annual State of the College address.

We look forward to Columbia President Dr. Warrick L. Carter's State of the College speech every year, partly because we want to see if there really is any change going on.

"We are in good shape," Carter said right at the beginning. "So the speech is over."

But despite jokes like that, Carter eventually talked about the more pressing issues that the college faces.

One thing, it seems, that the administration is taking more seriously is the space issue. Although most of the plans Carter mentioned haven't been implemented yet, it's a pleasure to see that the administration didn't squander last year but actually moved some wheels forward in addressing the issues.

"It just so happens that we have a friend in the city, in the person of Mayor Daley," Carter said. "Mayor Daley just so happened to have a piece of property at 16th and State streets that he didn't want a high rise built there."

Although nothing is official yet, Carter said during the meeting that the one-acre space, which will house a

Media Production Center, will be purchased for about \$1 million.

Even though Micki Levenethal, Director of Media Relations, didn't want to comment on the actual price since the sale has not been finalized yet, Carter said during the speech that the property was valued at about \$6 million.

When asked how the college managed to swing an approximate \$5 million price reduction from Daley, Carter said the mayor did not want another condominium in the South Loop.

That's a very noble goal, to be sure. Columbia got a good price for a piece of South Loop property. That is, if everything becomes official.

But the rest of the meeting, much like in previous years, concentrated on the costly \$90 million Campus Center. Carter said it will eventually happen; he just wasn't sure if he would still be the college's president at that time.

Fundraising has not been the administration's strong suit in the past, Carter said, but Columbia has raised \$7.5 million in donations and pledges since October of last year, all of which is necessary for the \$20 million cost of the Media Production Center.

Other highlights included a promise for more beds in the residence halls, as well as

reaffirming students that a few green buildings are being planned and construction will go underway next year to work on the 618 S. Wabash Ave., building, formerly the Spertus Institute.

In terms of students, Carter said Columbia is "as good as our product, and you are our product." He was also glad that more students are graduating from the college.

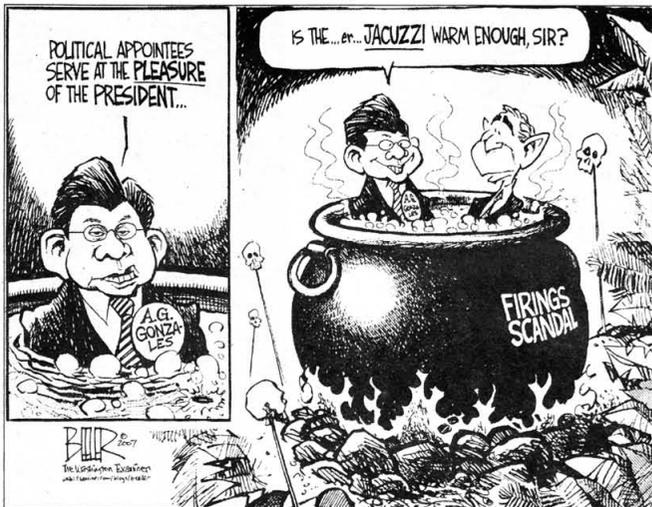
"The greatest endeavors are still ahead, and we will require patience and determination from students," said Brian Matos, president of the Student Government Association, at the beginning of the address when talking about the pressing issues of the college.

Some students at the address voiced concerns about textbook prices and a summer U-Pass availability, but those questions were deflected by the college's various vice presidents.

Although students voiced their opinions at the meeting, it is important for students to keep the dialogue going with the administration in the future.

Staying silent and complacent doesn't get things done. The administration bends as the wind blows and since we, the students, are the commodity here, it's time we got what we wanted. Students should be vocal about the issues that matter to them.

Back from the Drawing Boards



Nate Beeler/MCT



Dan Wright/MCT

No morality in cop brutality

Thanks to cable news, the world is shaking its head in disbelief about how an off-duty police officer, Anthony Abbate, beat bartender Karolina Obyrcka at Jesse's Short Stop Inn. The beating was captured on video and we're interested in seeing how the Chicago Police Department will handle the situation and what they will do in the future with thug cops.

The CPD should implement a lot of new policies regarding police brutality, but they should also look at what causes this aggression in the first place: their jobs.

However, that's no justification for what happened to Obyrcka.

Most people have seen the video. We all pointed at that drunken mess of a police office pummel that lady senseless.

But what's more troubling about this whole fiasco is that if there was no tape, Obyrcka would be just another bartender who got beat up by Chicago's finest.

Of course, Police Superintendent Phil Cline is "disgusted" about the way his cops are behaving.

"He's tarnished our image worse than anybody else in the history of the department," Cline said March 27 at a press conference.

This happens when there are videos to prove it. This isn't the worst the CPD has seen. The Chronicle has commented about corrupt cops before this latest incident, but this is far from being the worst case in the history of Chicago police brutality.

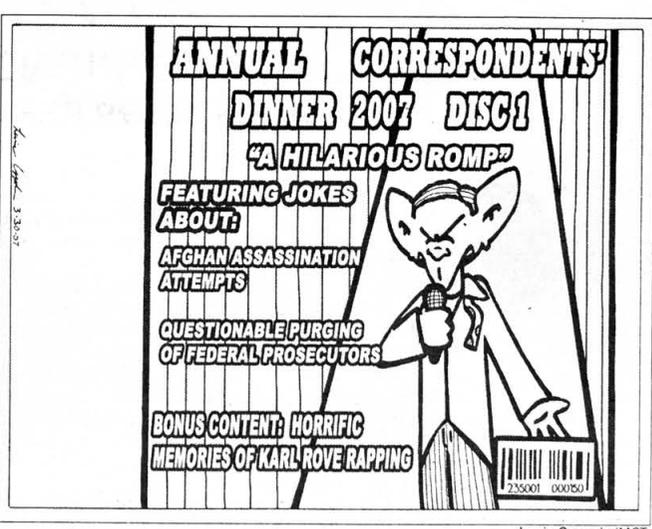
Anyone remember 1968 and what took place that year during an anti-war march? There's nothing like cracking skulls, literally, with batons to illustrate a point.

It raises the hairs on our necks to even think about the cases of police brutality that have gone by unnoticed. What about racial profiling and cops hassling illegal immigrants for extortion? What about last week's harassment of the press dur-

ing a court hearing for Abbate when cops ticketed their vehicles?

However, we understand why cops stick together. Hey, for a starting salary of \$43,104, with an increase to \$55,728 after one year and \$58,896 after 18 months, according to 2007 CPD figures, plus healthcare, home purchase assistance, vision, dental and paid sick leave, these guys are better off than most Columbia college grads. Yes, they stick together. They are members of an elite club, in a way, and they won't let anyone mess with that.

Somebody should be responsible for the way these cops behave and we doubt even Cline can bring some of these thug cops to order. The harsh streets the officers patrol create aggression on a daily basis, and unfortunately sometimes that takes a toll on their psyche. But one can't blame it on society. We need to have cops who are accountable for their own behavior.



Louis Coppola/MCT

Have an opinion about something you read in this newspaper?
Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or believe strongly about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?
Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 12 you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you.

—The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

Hi, I'm Ewert—I'm anti-everything



By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

On March 20, 2007, the Iraq War had its fourth birthday. To commemorate the occasion, I joined a few thousand others and marched down Michigan Avenue and repeatedly chanted

and repeatedly chanted catchy phrases such as "Hey, hey, ho, ho, George Bush has got to go," "What do we want? Peace! When do we want it? Now!" That was the extent of the protest's accomplishments: marching and shouting. Other than that, the protest caused no tangible or lasting effects.

Though my favorite phrase, "F—the Police," couldn't be heard, it was a gay of time nonetheless. There was a rag-tag marching band, a van pulling a trailer with crappy speakers no one could hear, signs on wooden sticks and there were even real life hippies in attendance. The peaceful protest had everything one should have except a few thousands hits of acid. More people would've attended had the organizers fed everyone acid; that is for sure. But there was no acid, no fun; there was hardly even spontaneity, let alone frustrated aggression or civil disobedience.

The overall sentiment of the protest lacked the chutzpah I craved. There was no connection between the war in Iraq and what it is being fought for: the American way of life.

Unfortunately, the sad truth is: protests are becoming boring, dispassionate and merely a set of motions. So much so that those apathetic critics who contend protests don't accomplish anything are slowly gaining traction.

How can a protest "do" anything when



Photo courtesy of Allison Williams

The author at the March 20 protest, holding the end of a corporate American flag.

the entire group is entirely sequestered on all sides by police who dictate when, where and how the march will proceed?

I may be an idealist, but I thought protesting is akin to what Henry David Thoreau practiced, and he certainly wouldn't have considered the march on March 20, 2007, an act of civil disobedience.

I went alone to the protest, as I usually do, because it is the absolute least I can do to directly express my personal dissatisfaction with just about every facet of societal life. I think everyone who feels disenfranchised should protest, but I'm beginning to see why people don't. Though the war may be the most pressing issue these days, it is only a blip on America's radar of foreign transgressions. Anyone who knows this may lack the eagerness to sacrifice their time to be mocked by the press and labeled an

uncompromising and clueless protester, and justifiably so.

The war in Iraq is costing billions of dollars, but so is the mythical War on Drugs, which has been going on much longer than the conflict in the Middle East. Even with the War on Drug, there is evidence to believe that it was initiated by the government itself to serve its own selfish purposes. It definitely happened with LSD and certainly may have happened with crack cocaine as well.

With so many hypocritical issues to be frustrated about—global warming, overcrowded prisons, education, affordable healthcare, deteriorating mental health, corporate fraud and far-ranging government corruption—it's easy to see why anti-war protests are brushed aside. It's hypocritical in itself to be morally opposed to one con-

tradition and not another.

That's why the only change worth a damn now is fundamental change, both in the national consciousness and humanity's progression. If that means being anti-everything, then so be it; I signed up two years ago. I made the choice to constantly fight for my beliefs. I applied logic, rationality and fairness to every scenario I was aware of, and concluded that just about everything is askew from what I learned in school.

As disenfranchised youth, we can't give up demands so easily. Our ideas are legitimate, and we should actualize them; if not, we must make sacrifices and not concede. That means we must do things where we get arrested, we must do things we are told not to do, things like marching down a street not cordoned off by police—that is civil disobedience.

Columbia College's chapter of World Can't Wait has galvanized the anti-war movement on campus and I applaud each and every one of the kids who have participated for doing so, but simply stopping the war would be barely a drop in the metaphorical bucket of injustices America perpetrates.

We've come to a point where the only legal forms of power are our pocketbooks as consumers. What I propose is a personal decision by everyone who feels disenfranchised by any type of hypocrisy to realize they are in control of their own lives. If you don't like something, change it. If something is broken, fix it. If concepts are illogical, don't believe in them. If everything in your life is just peachy and you experience no depression from watching the news, then shut up and smile all the time.

A lot of people tell me protesting doesn't do anything. I tell them they don't either.

—jewert@chroniclemail.com

Roamin' 2 pounds Numerals

The weight of one of the largest toads captured in Australia according to Frogwatch coordinator Graeme Sawyer. The "toadzilla," as some media outlets have called the toad, has a body size of a small dog. The 15-inch-long cane toad will be killed because it is toxic, according to the Associated Press.

127

The number of people who may be at risk of contracting hepatitis C after they had injections of vitamins and minerals in east Sydney, Australia over the past two years on four specific days according to Australian Associated Press. Three women were diagnosed with the disease and public health officials are worried.

16

The age of a Queensland, Australia girl who is recommended for a bravery award after she guided an out-of-control bus full of children to safety. The bus was out-of-control after the driver passed out at the wheel. Laura Simpson saved 38 students on the Greyhound bus, according to The Australian, the country's national newspaper.

To Edwards: The nation can wait



By Steve Yaccino
Assistant Campus News Editor

Dear John Edwards, I was disheartened to hear about your wife's illness and wish to offer you all my sympathy and condolences.

Although you are a former North Carolina senator, and I am a sophomore journalism student with less knowledge of the world and politics, I write you this sincere and humble plea to end your 2008 presidential campaign for the sake of your family and your country.

Since your wife, Elizabeth, was first diagnosed with breast cancer at the end of your 2004 campaign as John Kerry's vice president, the thought of losing her must weigh heavily on you and your young children: Emma Claire, 8, and Jack, 6. So when the cancer returned after its three-year remission—inoperable, increasing and terminal—and you announced your plan to continue running for the presidency, I admired your courage but was

unabashedly bewildered.

Since then, you and your wife continue to campaign separately on opposite sides of the country, smiling candidly at cameras and shaking strangers' hands. Is it worth it?

According to experts, the average survival rate for metastatic breast cancer is two years, almost the exact amount of time it would take, should you win the election, for your inauguration. Sure, she could live longer, but if the cancer has spread to her bones, possibly her lungs and other organs, as you have suggested in interviews, her condition could be even more severe.

I will set aside the skepticism of drawing in sympathy votes and give you credit for at least addressing the issue. But be realistic. Your chances of winning the democratic nomination are grim. Just look at the polls, not to mention Barack "Baywatch" Obama's appearance on the cover of People magazine last January—oh yeah, and almost every daily newspaper since the first week of February. According to a March 11 CNN poll, your support remains at 12 percent, behind

Clinton's 37 percent, Obama's 22 percent and Gore's 14 percent, who as of now, isn't even running.

I know from experience the difficulty of losing a loved one. Last semester my grandmother died from brain cancer. It too went into remission for a few years only to return full force. It was incurable. My family and I watched as her body slowly decayed, her motor skills waning each day. She was 71 years old. She and my grandfather would have celebrated their 50th anniversary this year. He hasn't been the same since she died. I can honestly say I've never seen pain so intense; a pain I hope to never experience and a pain I'm sorry you will eventually understand.

That is why I can admire your courage, but not your decision. Let's be optimistic and pretend you win both the primary and entire election. Just because you are president doesn't mean you are not human. You're strong now, but I wonder how well you'll be able to lead this country when her health begins to decline. America would need your undivided attention to combat its war, debt and poverty, but so would your children and so would your

grief.

I know she doesn't want to deny you the chance to become president, nor let the sickness consume her life before it has to.

"You know, you really have two choices here," she said during your March 24 interview with Katie Couric. "I mean, either you push forward with the things that you were doing yesterday or you start dying."

But I disagree. I'm not asking you to sulk in self pity, but to make the most of the life you're given together. Your wife calls it dying, but I think it might be the closest thing she has to fully living—a chance to say, do, see and be all the things she never had the time for.

So even though you'll never read this—and even if you did, would never heed my plea—I urge you to make the time to relax; enjoy your wife's embrace and the presence of your family. Most importantly, show America what it looks like to care for your family instead of enforcing a political agenda. That is, after all, what we're looking for: a president who will take care of us and not his own aspirations.

syaccino@chroniclemail.com

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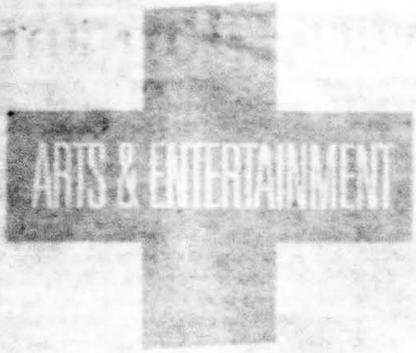
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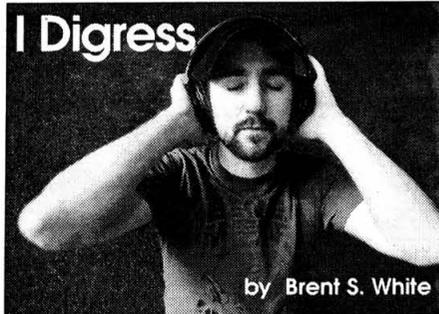


An Arts and Entertainment Supplement of the Columbia Chronicle

look closely

**the joke
is on you
today**

page 17



The times ... they are a changin'

I must admit: Writing this column wasn't easy. I have a hard time revealing personal things about myself in a forum like this.

But over the last few months, I've been struck by the candidness and honesty in Tiffany's column's. Every week she delves into a new topic, usually related to sex, and offers readers insight into her personal life and thoughts.

Generally, people with this kind of honesty "make me go a big rubbery one," to quote author Chuck Palahniuk.

But since I admire Tiffany's candor so much, I thought I'd use this space to try and be equally as honest.

These past two months have been incredibly difficult. More than the usual unordinary occurrences have nearly ruined my semester and made

me reconsider just what the hell I'm doing with my life.

Like some, I moved to Chicago without any friends or family; but I was pleased when my best friend from home decided to move out here last September.

However, he never fully adjusted to the city and decided to move back in early February. He hated it here. But as his friend, I'm happy he didn't compromise his well-being. Naturally, though, his departure has created a slight

debacle with our lease and bills, which I'm still dealing with.

Shortly after he left, I had to end a seven-month romantic relationship for reasons that will remain unmentioned. Although writing about how much she screwed me over might create some sort of personal vindication, I refuse, as it were, "to go there." I'm not that cruel. But let's just say it didn't end in a sweet way. Obviously, though, it's for the best, and I'm happily moving forward.

Not a week passed after breaking things off with the girl, and I found myself in the hospital with a strange, sudden sickness. I've had to return two more times during the past two months and will need to go again soon. I stupidly never signed up for insurance when I moved here and was forced to

go to the county hospital for my ailment. But since this sickness doesn't seem to be going away, my parents were kind enough to pay for a medical plan. Hopefully, this will alleviate some of the future financial dilemmas I'll accumulate. Incidentally, I figure they owe it to me to pay for my insurance, considering the sickness I have is hereditary.

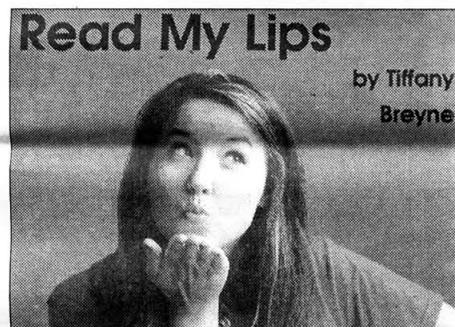
Then, just a few weeks ago, my apartment was broken into. Some jerkoff went straight for my bedroom and stole my laptop, my auto-focus Nikon camera and, of all things, my electric shaver. Amazingly, he decided to pass up the two guitars, the 450 CDs and the desktop computer that were sitting in plain view. Needless to say, it was the last straw. I nearly lost it that night.

But I'm getting better now. One thing I learned at an early age, aside from the when-it-rains-it-pours adage, is how to be resilient. In addition, I've conditioned myself to deal with my emotions and anger in a productive way. But more than that—and sorry this is slightly cliché—I look for the good in the bad.

My best friend is happier back home and has a successful, challenging job that's allowing him to travel the country for the next year; my sickness, though still present and unnerving, is becoming easier to live with; and the things that were stolen from me, while all valuable items, mean nothing in the big picture.

And the girl? Well, it's her loss.

bwhite@chroniclemail.com



Love during wartime

War spawns love. It's possible I'm just being an optimist or a romantic, but hear me out. I know that war is terrible, with its violence and traumatic images of blood and gore, but I think the fear and pain associated with that bring people closer to each other than they would be otherwise.

I came to this conclusion last week after reading a sweet and sappy story in the Chicago Tribune about Jack Fitzpatrick, a 77-year-old man who, while serving in the Korean War, wrote more than 150 love letters to his girlfriend, Annamae. The couple, both from Chicago, had plans to marry when Jack got back from Korea. In order to make up for the time they couldn't be together, he wrote letters almost every day filled with sweet dreams of what married life would be like for them.

"I'll help you with the dishes and then we can go in the other room and put on some records ... If you'd like,

phone bills and lack of internet communication, we kept in touch by writing letters. It was cute and helped us to get to know each other better because a letter feels so much more genuine and intimate than a text message or just hanging out on the couch.

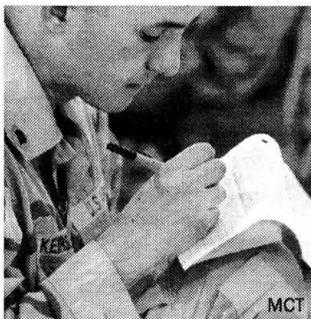
In the letters, we would be goofy or write cute things or write about nothing at all; the writing kept things exciting and romantic in an old-fashioned way. When he got free time between being sent through gas-filled rooms and learning how to shoot the enemy, he would write letters to me. I guess the pen is mightier than the sword.

I think if it weren't for the letters we would have probably broken up a lot earlier than we did. But I think the time spent on the writing helped distract us both. It kept me in a state of puppy-crush giddiness. Though the situations are pretty different, I think the same effect had to be happening with Jack

and Annamae. Just imagine all the other overseas boyfriends and husbands or even couples in war-ridden countries who write love letters and revel in their feelings for each other in order to find that distracting comfort. Maybe if it weren't for the war, couples wouldn't be able to express themselves to each other the way they do; nothing shoves people into an emotional frenzy like the urgency of a foreboding event.

Though the boy and I broke up not long after he got back home, I never threw the letters away; they've been resting untouched in my closet for years. Maybe someday I'll dust them off and remember the cute and innocent feelings we once shared. As for Jack and Annamae? According to the article, they married Oct. 11, 1952, and have been together since then. They've got three kids, nine grandkids and dozens of handwritten memories and evidence that love can exist during war.

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JACKASS OF THE WEEK



Everyone knows that when driving a \$1.5 million Enzo Ferrari extra precautions should be taken. Things such as taking turns carefully, making sure the emergency brake is up and not slamming into concrete walls are some of the basic things to remember when stepping behind the wheel of, once again, a car that's worth more than most people's lives.

That is, unless you're Eddie Griffin. In case anyone missed the news or footage of Eddie Griffin last week, the jackass was test-driving the Ferrari at Irwindale Speedway in California for a charity event when he somehow hurled it into a concrete block on the track, smashing the front of the sports car beyond repair.

The Ferrari, one of only 400 made, belongs to Daniel Sadek, executive producer for the upcoming film *Redline*. Griffin and Sadek's exotic car collection both appear in the movie. As part of a charity race to help promote the movie's release, Sadek had let Griffin take the car for a stroll around the track when the incident happened.

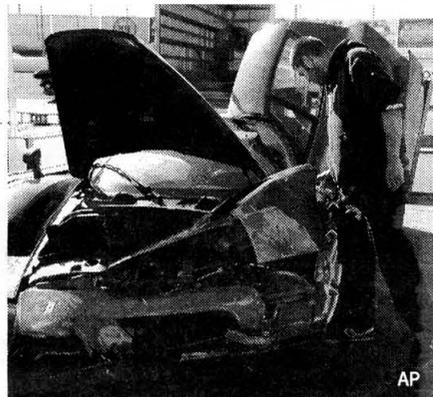
So many questions float through our heads as we ponder the situation. First off, who puts Eddie Griffin in movies anymore? His less-than glorious movie background is enough to drive any serious director or producer away: *Norbit*, *Deuce Bigalow: European Gigalow*, *Undercover Brother*, *My Baby's Daddy* ... we'll stop there, 'cause we're embarrassed for the guy.

The next question that comes up is, how did Griffin not see the concrete barrier in front of him? It's possible he was checking out his own hair, considering the fact that during an interview with Jimmy Kimmel, he said, "All I'm thinking is, 'Am I on fire?' So I kick the door open and step out and I'm checking my hair. Because, you know, I didn't have a helmet on and I'm thinking my hair might be jacked up and they have the cameras out here."

Whatever, jackass.

Exclusive 2003 Enzo Ferrari: \$1.5 million
Eddie Griffin's acting career: \$1.50
The fact that Eddie Griffin's concrete crash was watched more than any of his movies: Priceless

—T. Breyne



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

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Ratings Guide

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

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



Matt Fagerholm



Cyril Jakubowski



Mauricio Rubio

Calendar of Events

Top 5

MOST ANNOYING CHARACTERS IN AMERICAN FILM

Sofia Coppola as Mary Corleone in *The Godfather Part 3*: Casting his daughter in a pivotal role, director Coppola botched the end coda of his crime saga. The great cast attempts to help poor Sofia act, as if they're guiding a blind woman down Mount Everest.

Simon Oakland as the psychiatrist in *Psycho*: His artless exposition about Norman Bates's mental state grinds this horror classic to a halt. Imagine the Star Child at the end of *2001* turning to the camera and spouting a scientific evaluation of the film's final third, and you'll get an idea of how pointless this guy is.

Walter Abel as Danny Reid in *Holiday Inn*: It's hard to be the worst thing in a film featuring Bing Crosby in blackface, but Bing's unfunny manager Danny Reid pulls it off. His dead stare and slightly parted lips scarily hint at a *Dude, Where's My Client?* franchise in the future.

The Alien as itself in *Signs*: Not scary.

Jake Lloyd and Hayden Christensen as Anakin Skywalker in *Star Wars* Episodes 1-3: Eat your heart out, Jar Jar. In 1, Anakin spews one-note precociousness. In 2, his homicidal nature and whiny persona makes Padme's love for him inexplicable. And after hamming up every line like a pouting televangelist in 3, he even manages to ruin his big moment (when he turns into Vader), by thrusting back his head and expelling the cheesy irone, "Noooooo..." Greek tragedy, it ain't.

GRIPES I HAD TO TYPE

Sobriety: I'll admit it, me talking about sobriety is like William Shatner trying act his way out of a paper bag—it rarely happens. Hell, I can't even spell this word let alone do it. But lately I've been floating around in the shallow coastal waters known as sobriety and for the most part, it's all good. I never knew getting your motor skills back was this much fun.

Drunkeness: Despite #1, I'm sure this wondrous, age-old activity will come back soon. That's because you can't trust anyone who doesn't drink. In college someone is always turning 21 and you can't let them down, by you know, not celebrating the eventual, highly probable downfall that is booze.

Cynicism: According to the *Devil's Dictionary* by Ambrose Bierce, a cynic is "a blackguard whose faulty vision sees things as they are, not as they ought to be. Hence the custom among the Scythians of plucking out a cynic's eyes to improve his vision."

Susan Sontag novels: As Kevin Costner said, they are self-indulgent, overrated crap. Even though I've never read any of them, I can relate to writing that is self-indulgent, overrated and, well, crap.

My post-graduate future: Now that I am this close to graduating from this costly institution, I look forward to joining the hordes of jornaleros (day-laborers for those who don't speak Spanish) in front of some beat-down gas station or a Home Depot looking for work. I even have a cooler to sit on.

FICTIONAL WEAPONS

Lightsaber: Come on now, who doesn't dream about wielding this symbol of the Jedi around? You command instant respect with this weapon; it cuts through metal, deflects lasers and can cut people in half with little effort.

Krull: See the movie *Krull*, and marvel in Krull's majesty.

Lirpa: For you non-nerds, it's the Vulcan weapon that Kirk and Spock used to duel for possession of T'Poling, the hottie Vulcan that was to mate with Spock as a part of his Pon Farr ritual. It has a bludgeon on one end and a huge curved axe blade on the other side. Either way, this weapon will mess you up.

Lancer Assault Rifle: It's in the game *Gears of War* and it is fantastic. Not only is it an assault rifle that will cut your opponents down in seconds, but it also has a chainsaw attachment that will cut your opponent in half in a gruesome scene that will leave you with the desire to do it more.

Excalibur: Cheesy, but a necessary pick. It automatically gives you the privilege to rule a nation just by pulling it out of a rock. What it lacks in flashiness it makes up for in sheer badassness. Your opponent might have a regular sword, but you have freaking Excalibur.

MONDAY

While tickets may be nearly impossible to get, you can still grab a spot in front of any TV at home or elsewhere to watch the home opener for the **Chicago White Sox** as they try to start the season off right against the **Cleveland Indians** at 1:05 p.m.

TUESDAY

Rock the Bells, a documentary about contemporary hip-hop culture, is showing today at **Landmark Century Cinema, 2828 N. Clark St.**, as part of the **Midwest Independent Film Festival** at 7:30 p.m. This movie tells the story of the 2004 Rock the Bells festival in San Bernardino, Calif. General admission is \$10, \$7 for students.

WEDNESDAY

Ever wonder what it was like to go to the North Pole? Tonight, **Edmund Thornton** talks about his voyage there and his experiences with natives in Greenland. Thornton participated in two expeditions in 1949 and 1950. He'll be speaking at the **Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton St.** Admission is \$9, and the reception begins at 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

See some of the best b-boys and girls in the city battle it out, breakin' and poppin' at the **2007 Urban Blitz Celebration, 1725 W. Division St.**, from 7 p.m. to midnight. Art, live bands, DJs and improv are other entertainment slated for this event. Tickets are \$25. Call (773) 347-1203 for more info.

FRIDAY

Go to the **Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave.**, to get your rage out and have fun at the same time. Watch the women's roller derby team, **The Wheelers**, skate, create your own voodoo dolls, destroy photos and love notes from an ex and listen to DJs all at the same time. The event is from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and is 21 and up. Tickets are \$15 at the door, \$10 in advance.

SATURDAY

The popular Chicago burlesque diva **Michelle L'Amour** discusses and signs her new book ***The Most Naked Woman***, at **G Boutique, 2131 N. Damen Ave.**, at 2 p.m. The book features never-before-published nude photography of the dancer in an artistic light.

SUNDAY

Go visit your mother. She misses you. Get some rest because Monday is right around the corner!

Exposure



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

re Mardi Gras Indians meet three times a year to show off their elaborate costumes (which sometimes weigh as much as 100 pounds) and to determine between tribes who has the "big chief." The tradition honors a time when the African-american slaves ran away and were offered protection by the Native American tribes. A new costume is made by hand each year by the chief with the help of his friends and family. This event, celebrating St. Sebastian's Day, took place on arch 19 in the Jefferson Parish of New Orleans.

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.

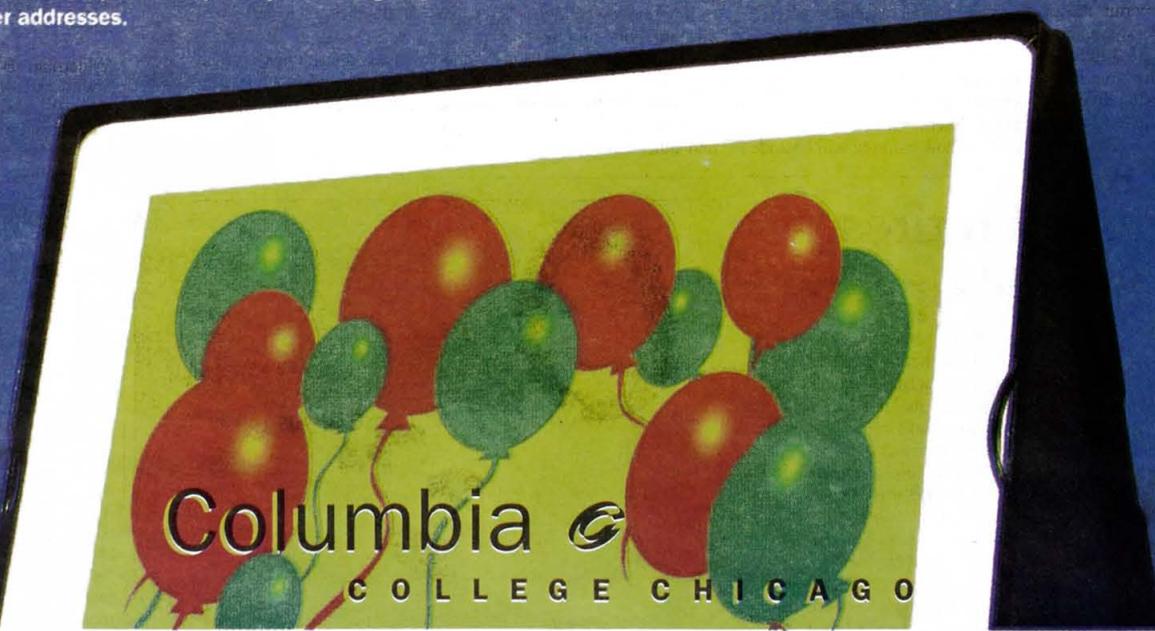
FALL 2007

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





In with the old

City bans external probes

Legislation requires government approval for all investigations

By Art Van Huffenhoff
Governmental Gadfly

In what some council members called a "sweeping wind of reform" blowing through City Hall, Chicago's City Council enacted an ordinance April 1 that effectively bans external investigations into the Mayor's Office.

Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley spoke at a press conference following the unanimous passage of the legislation and called himself "the luckiest man on the face of the Earth."

"With this landmark legislation city council will finally be able to operate again at full strength," the smiling Mayor Daley said, having just been re-elected to his sixth consecutive term in February amidst a slew of federal investigations into possible wrongdoing by his administration. "Without these frivolous and wasteful government investigations, my friends and I can now get back down to the business that keeps Chicago the most upstanding city in the nation."

Mayor Daley said the overwhelming amount of requests his office has received by federal investigators has debilitated him and kept his administration from managing the city properly.

A provision in the ordinance does, however, provide a loophole for external probes if granted approval by a two-thirds vote in city council.

Soon-to-be-former 42nd Ward Alderman Burton Natarus, who introduced the bill, said the vote Monday was a victory for Americans everywhere, citing the fact that people from all over the United States live in Chicago.

"I was reading a Dick Tracy magazine when I came up with the idea for this ordinance," Natarus stated to the media seated in the press section of the City Hall chamber. "The villain co-opted the federal government to investigate the dashing detective and get him fired. So I thought, 'This could be happening to Mayor Daley right now.' I brushed the cookie crumbs off my chest and got my assistant to type up the bill while I dictated it to her."

The Chicago-based Better Government Association and Illinois Campaign for Political Reform immediately issued a joint press release after the council meeting and announced that both organizations would be effectively ending their separate operations.

"This legislation, passed by every elected alderman, is a political abomination of morals, integrity and public trust," the press release stated. "Both organizations have decided that their resources would be better used by creating a satirical newspaper publication. It appears that the only way to reach the honest public these days is through the comedic and entertaining portrayal of the news."



MCT

Elderly folks wait to see a financial aid counselor. Although the wait seems long, it's nothing compared to how long they've been alive.

Columbia goes 'old school' by creating courses for the elderly

By Cookie B. Butternut
Golden Oldies Correspondant

After repeated calls for Columbia to close its open admissions policy, school officials have decided to instead recruit senior citizens for its new elderly majors.

"Forget about recruiting international students ... older Americans hold the key to unlocking diversity on our campus and in our classrooms," said Mark Kelly, vice

president of Student Affairs. "Columbia thus far has neglected the elderly."

Adhering to the school's liberal approach toward admissions, senior citizens don't necessarily need to be motivated or artistic; they just need to be old, he said.

"We want them as decrepit as possible," said an admissions official who requested he remain unnamed after realizing what he said was "distasteful" and "stupid."

In addition to actively recruiting the nearly deceased, Columbia will embark on three new majors catering to them. Crocheting, knitting and window painting will be added

to the list of majors starting next fall. For senior citizens wanting to major in broadcast journalism, Columbia is thinking of offering a minor in "Murder She Wrote" studies, which would examine the social and cultural implications of the famed TV series.

"I can't wait to be around so many vibrant, bright, artistic minds," said Gertrude Greene, 105. "Emo kids especially. They're so cute and bone-thin like me!"

Kelly stressed that having grandmas like Greene on campus would be good for the school, because students would get their history and other Liberal Education from

wise, experienced elderly people. This, apparently, would allow students to continue to not take their Liberal Education courses seriously at Columbia.

"What a joke," said a student in the film department. "What's next, dead people?"

Still, a student in fashion design said she likes the idea because her grandmother needs something new to do during the day.

"She's tired of Mexican soap operas and raunchy romance novels," the student said. "She's really interested in finger painting and puppetry, and now she can pursue that."

Kurt Russell retires, Steven Seagal upset

By Chet Mansfield
Man Bait

Action superstar and grandfather of the mullet Kurt Russell has decided to set aside his drop-kicking ways for a simpler life. The star of such family movies as *Miracle* and John Carpenter's *The Thing* made a public statement about retirement from acting after the premiere of his new film, *Grindhouse*.

"I will truly miss seeing myself on the big screen," Russell said.

While Russell is excited to spend more time walking his wife, Goldie Hawn, in the park, many have been upset and outraged by Russell's retirement.

"I'm so bummed," said a visibly shaken Quentin Tarantino, who co-directed *Grindhouse* with Robert Rodriguez.

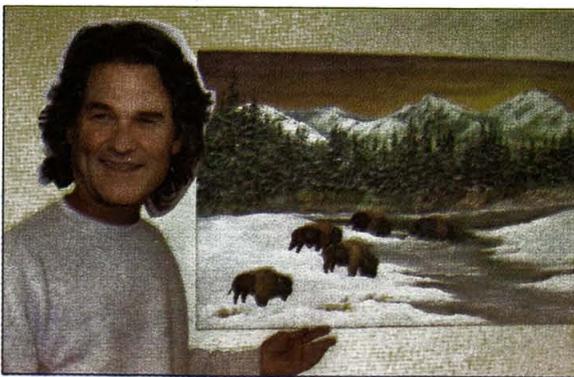
Russell said his retirement plans include plenty of hammocks, knit sweaters, daytime television and

painting landscape portraits. Russell further revealed that he was recently accepted into a Native American tribe and will spend the remaining days of his life on their reservation in Arizona.

This decision has angered fellow action movie star Steven Seagal. Both actors starred together in *Executive Decision*, a comedy of errors in which an intelligence analyst (Russell) accompanies a pack of soldiers (Seagal) to thwart terrorists from hijacking a plane.

Seagal also resides on the Native American reservation and claims major Hollywood actors would disrupt the simple day-to-day life. When asked why he doesn't feel his presence interrupts the atmosphere on the reservation, Seagal said he wears camouflage so he won't be detected.

"I pretty much called the Native American thing a long time ago," Seagal said, adding that Madonna



MCT

Kurt Russell shows off his latest landscape painting entitled "Buffalo in the Snow" and snickered shortly after once he realized it rhymed.

converted to Kabbalah.

However, Russell believes Seagal is just trying to force him out of retirement.

"People see me as a triple threat because I know how to lounge, drive a Cadillac and look good in white shorts," Russell said.

Not all of Russell's fans are happy with his retirement. Sheldon Connors, 68, president of

Columbia's Kurt Russell Fan Club, is disappointed with the actor for not making a sequel to *Big Trouble in Little China*. In the film, Russell plays Jack Burton, a truck driver who must save the world from an evil Chinese sorcerer who has a fetish for green-eyed women.

"That movie is still as relevant today as it was in the '80s," Connors said.

Game of Risk gets a little too risky

After an entire week-end battle, it's still obvious no one cares about Egypt

By Tom E. Turdurgar
Foreign Board Game Correspondent

It started off as a typical, relaxing Saturday night for Todd Yugher of Palatine, Ill. All of his college chums were gathered around the coffee table downing some brewskies over a hearty game of Risk.

Although the game took off at a steady pace, the fight over the country Kamchatka—an easily-forgettable Russian peninsula known for its bears and pollution—left Yugher and “friend” Gary Hury squabbling, bickering and dice-rolling until early Monday morning, resulting in serious game-related injuries. These wounds included strained vocal cords, insomnia, analysis paralysis and even some broken nails.

“Being a dictator is hard or whatever,” Hury whispered from his hospital bed. “I wanted to use my cavalry to gouge Todd’s eyes out, but my hands were too limp from all of the violent dice-rolling.”

Yugher, suffering from extreme exhaustion and dehydration, can barely recall how the quarrel over Kamchatka began, but his irritated girlfriend Katrina Pelar remembers.

“It’s totally weird,” Pelar said. “Both of them are, like, obsessed with Russia. I don’t even get it. Why don’t they care about Egypt or something? Nobody cares about Egypt, like, ever.”

A local doctor explained that often when players partake in prolonged board-game activity, there is a chance that a little something called analysis paralysis can take over.

“This type of paralysis happens when the player thinks about something so hard that it is no longer familiar to them,” said Dr. Nick Riviera, a leisure activity injuries specialist.

But after lying in the hospital bed for a few hours, Yugher’s analysis wasn’t paralyzed any longer.

“After all that fake battling, I actually feel like I was out there conquering the vast plains of Russia,” Yugher said, eyeing his bloody hands. “I’m a wounded soldier. Just like one of them.”



Bruno Girln

Pyramids, schrrpyramids

The neighborhood is full of 'blader haters



MCT

In a lucid dream, Jerry Tims imagines himself and current crush Tiffany Clauss in a blinding hot pink haze by Lake Michigan in his favorite blades.

As nice weather kicks in, locals are reminded of their hatred for the outdated in-liners

By Rhonda Rhondondo
Wheel Industry Reporter

Neil Lewis has been looking forward to the nicer weather all winter.

“The Chicago Lakefront path has been screaming my name for weeks,” he said.

Lewis pauses in dreamy silence outside his office building as he imagines the nice spray

of lake water on his face while he strolls down the path and takes in the scenery. Only one thing could spoil Lewis’ vision of blissful city escape: in-line skaters.

“They take up the whole path,” Lewis complains, his white caterpillar eyebrows furrowing in disgust as he spits on the ground. “There’s a spot for everyone on the trail—bikers in the inside, runners in the middle and walkers on the outside. The rollerbladers don’t get a place on the path, and they never will.”

Such disdain for the eight-wheeled form of leisurely transportation is echoed by many in

the city; the Foundation Against Rollerblading on Trails, or F.A.R.T., has been trying for a decade to fix the ‘blading behavior. The group’s mission is to send all in-line skaters to suburban sidewalks where “their kind belong,” according to Maryann Puffins, the group’s founder.

Puffins can often be found on summer days hiding behind trees along the Lakefront in a bright pink and green wind breaker and jump suit, shooting spit wads at in-line skaters and shouting, “Go home, you gliding freaks! F.A.R.T.’s gonna getcha!”

Although Neil Lewis isn’t a

member of F.A.R.T., he thinks Puffins has the right idea.

“Spit wads, ha! It’s genius,” Lewis said. “That’ll show those weenies who’s the boss.”

Jerry Tims, one in-line fan who fell prey to Puffins’ harassment, doesn’t get what’s so wrong with his “sweet wheels,” which he just purchased along with his cushy knee and elbow pads.

“I’m just trying to enjoy a nice skating experience and that loon had to ruin it by yelling something about farts and shooting her rabies-infected spit at me,” Tims said. “I feel so violated.”

A ‘BREAK’-out group of Columbia graduates

Seniors come to their senses, decide to open bar

By Hal E. Tosis
Editor-in-Bef

After coming to the harsh realization that they may not find steady work after graduation, several Columbia seniors have teamed up on plans to open the South Loop’s newest bar: The BREAKing Point.

The group is comprised of seven students majoring in film and video; poetry; arts, entertainment and media management; journalism; book and paper arts; dance; and illustration.

“I really don’t know what I was thinking getting a degree in poetry,” said 22-year-old Tim Smith. “What the heck will that get me? The business world is where it’s at.”

And The BREAKing Point might be exactly where “it’s at” for these soon-to-be graduates. Journalism major Marcus Brown is convinced his years in the news writing program have

made him quite the connoisseur of liquor.

“When it comes down to it, I paid \$8,000 each semester to learn how to build my alcohol tolerance,” Brown said. “Sure, I learned all that journalistic stuff

real good, but the job market is like a kick in the face.”

If there’s one thing these students did learn during their time at Columbia, it was how to be creative. The bar’s name is an inside joke—a pun, if you

will—that pokes fun at the inevitable standstill their lives will be at after graduation.

“We realized that the past spring break was the last we’d ever have,” Smith said. “Then we started a joke that after school is over—and we’re undoubtedly unemployed—life will be like one giant spring break for us. Not to mention the mere thought of wasting four years worth of college education would drive anyone to their breaking point.”

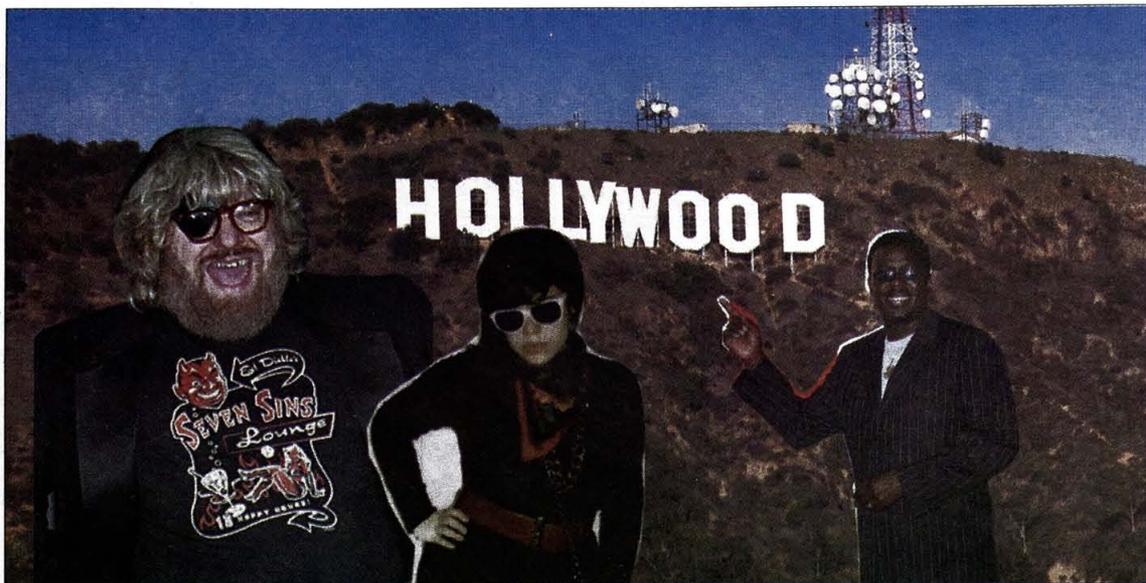
The BREAKing Point is set to open on the corner of Wabash Avenue and 8th Street—the current home of Buddy Guy’s Legends. Columbia officials had originally planned to build a \$90 million student center on the lot but have apparently given up on the prospect.

“The school sold us that location for practically nothing,” said illustration major Mary Martin. “I heard they went through six accountants before they were finally convinced it was impossible to raise that kind of money.”



MCT

It’s obvious these Columbia graduates are at their breaking point. One student isn’t even coherent enough to wear his own school sweatshirt.



Graphic by Kimi Badger

Stuffed in a Bruce Vilanch and Bernie Mac sandwich, Chrissy Mahlmeister gives some sass to Vilanch while Mac points out the finer things in life.

TV's Mac attack is back

By Lord Sidney Autumnbottom
Celebrity Dilettante

It's a match made in heaven—sitcom heaven, that is. Comedian Bernie Mac is teaming up with Chrissy Mahlmeister. The Chronicle's A&E editor, in the new series "Mac-to-Mac," a "dramedy" about a misfit Hollywood detective agency.

Mahlmeister plays Brenda Mac, a talent agent who discovers her favorite Beverly Hills dog groomer has been murdered. Teaming up with her client, Bernie Mac, the two decide to open Mac Detective Agency,

solving crimes for the disenfranchised Hollywood elite.

Mahlmeister first pitched the story while interviewing Mac for a Chronicle Q&A. As is the nature of show business, Mahlmeister's persistence finally paid off when the comedian jumped on the project.

"Bernie Mac almost went to court for an order of protection," Bernie Mac said. "Then Bernie Mac read the script and said, 'Bernie Mac can do this.' So Bernie Mac called up Chrissy and the rest is Bernie Mac history."

While the series definitely has many wacky moments, like when

the Mac Detective Agency goes undercover to breakup an illegal high-end spa, it's not all joking around.

"We get into some crazy situations, but we also tackle serious issues like teen pregnancy and AIDS," Mahlmeister said.

Comedy writer Bruce Vilanch has also signed on with Mac-to-Mac. He'll play Mr. Puggles, a foppish, designer dog breeder, whose Dr. Phil-like homespun wisdom will inevitably steer the two Macs right into solving the crime.

Vilanch excitedly spoke about his foray into television.

"It's a paycheck," Vilanch said.

Although the relationship between the two Macs is strictly platonic, it could flip like Bruce Willis' and Cybil Shephard's "Moonlighting" characters. And if people remember, that made the series even stronger.

"I can't confirm anything," Mahlmeister said. "But the writers said by the seventh season, the Macs will have time traveled, foiled a presidential assassination and adopted a telepathic wise-cracking beagle only Bernie Mac can hear. So a love story is always possible."

Commentary

Adopt-A-Star



By Swine
Adoption Analyst

For the longest time, I've wanted to adopt a baby. Yes, a precious little vessel I could fill with some of the best qualities life has to offer. I figured that I wanted to adopt because I wanted to spare my wife labor pain and epidural injections. But from where should I adopt? New Jersey? Africa? China?

The longer I thought about this the more I didn't want to press my luck with adoption agencies. I mean, after all, unless you're Angelina Jolie, who knows what kind of a kid you will get.

So I decided to adopt Angelina Jolie.

Sure, she was adamant at first, but she went for it after I explained the plan. The deal was sort of like those Name-A-Star scams, except, well, in this case, it was an Adopt-A-Star program.

Chances are I will never see Jolie—I just get to say she's adopted by me.

Why not adopt the Mother of the World? She's already doing all the work for you. It makes perfect sense. Jolie has single-handedly reinvented contraception as we know it. Contraception through adoption—I love it. God bless her. Adopt Jolie for pennies a day.

"I'm happy to be a part of this program," Jolie said. "Me and Brad, Maddox, Zahara, Pax, Tucker, Trucker, Shiloh, Cujo, Ouija, Luigi and the whole slew of other babies I will adopt in the future are happy to be a part of the Adopt-A-Star program."

All the proceeds from Adopt-A-Star go to the Third World Royalty Treatment Foundation, a non-profit organization designed to treat Hollywood stars like royalty.

Altruism is in the eye of the beholder

Undead man donates body parts to others

By Larry Crabass
Senior Dissection Reporter

Andrew Robbins knew his life had purpose when he inadvertently ended up in the hospital for the first time, becoming an accidental eye-donor after doctors thought he was dead.

"I woke up and had no depth perception," Robbins said. "At first it was weird, but I got used to it and realized, 'That guy needs my eye more than I do.'"

Robbins then decided to donate other organs to people suffering debilitating injuries.

"I like to think I'm being, you know, a little altruistic," Robbins said. "I mean, how many people do you know who would donate their arm or leg for someone who's been in a car accident?"

Robbins, who has since donated a kidney, four fingers from his left hand and his right kneecap, is currently in the process of prepping for a spine transplant for a 52-year-old man who fractured eight of the vertebra in his back while doing construction work.

The operation will take place in mid-April and will involve an entire day of sedation, seven hours of operation and a lengthy two-month recovery.

"It's a very complicated procedure," said William Burns, anesthesiologist at Northwestern Hospital. "Sometimes it takes more than 12 hours to prep before we even cut him open, just to make sure everything goes right."

When friends and family heard about Robbins' plans to start donating body parts, many said he was doing the wrong thing.

"I had to really fight to convince them it was for a good cause," Robbins said.

His girlfriend of more than three years, Susan Lynd, even considered breaking up with him.

"It bothered me at first," Lynd said. "I thought he wouldn't be a whole person. Like I'd be dating someone who could only partially love me and the rest of him would be on someone else. That's awkward."

Lynd stayed with Robbins, however, and has been with him through every donation.

"I think what he's doing is

really good for society," Lynd said. "He's such a sweet guy, even though I worry about him every time he goes under the knife."

Robbins admitted the surgery was dangerous, but he said he

wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's definitely something you have to commit to," Robbins said. "You can't change your mind on the operating table. These people are depending on you."

Apocalyptic challenge



Graphic by Andrew Nelles

Candidates for 2nd Ward Alderman Bob "Raider" Fioretti and Madeline "Sonya Blade" Haithcock battle to the death in a secret lair below Lake Michigan April 1.

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Lakeshore: Hand-picked shows for all ages

Continued from Front Page

exposed enough, or those that might not necessarily fit into any other venue in the city.

"We aren't trying to be a stand-up club like Zanies or a sketch house like Second City or a home of improv like iO," he said.

Ritter cited one example of Sweeney's show "Letting Go of God."

"It's a very personal monologue of her journey to atheism, but it's very funny," he said. "You just wouldn't see that show at Zanies because it's not a stand-up show in the traditional sense."

While Ritter has had this idea in mind for some time, it was not until he met Provenza six months ago that the plan started to finally come together.

Provenza, who comes to Chicago regularly to appear on NPR's "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me," teamed up with Ritter and became the theater's artistic advisor. He travels across the country with his work and said he comes across a number of comedians and acts to recommend to Ritter.

"I turned him on to some really interesting talent that he had never seen or heard before and we decided we could make something happen together," he said.

Over the past six months,

Provenza gathered a list of more than 200 acts he found and gave them to Ritter.

Provenza, who looks forward to performing at the theater eventually, thinks the setting is ideal not only because of its location in Lakeview, but because of its small theater atmosphere.

"There's really very few opportunities to find a theater as opposed to a night club venue to do comedy," he said.

Comedians are able to perform and feed off of audiences better in theaters than night clubs, Provenza said. Many of the crowds in bars are there to drink and not really participate actively in the show, he said.

Peter Toalson, booking agent for the Empty Bottle, said that although they have been doing shows at the Lakeshore for a little over a year, the new direction they are taking now gives them more flexibility.

"In the past, they had longer theater runs and the set lengths [for the music] were shorter and less times were available," he said.

Toalson couldn't think of any other music venue to compare the Lakeshore with in Chicago, except by saying that it's along the lines of a smaller version of the Park West, 322 W. Armitage Ave., with phenomenal acoustics.

Toalson said a couple notable music acts coming up are Magnolia Electric Company and Daniel Johnston, whose first show is nearly sold out, and a second one is set to be added.

Ritter and Provenza both said they hope to build a community out of the audience and have big plans for utilizing their webpage

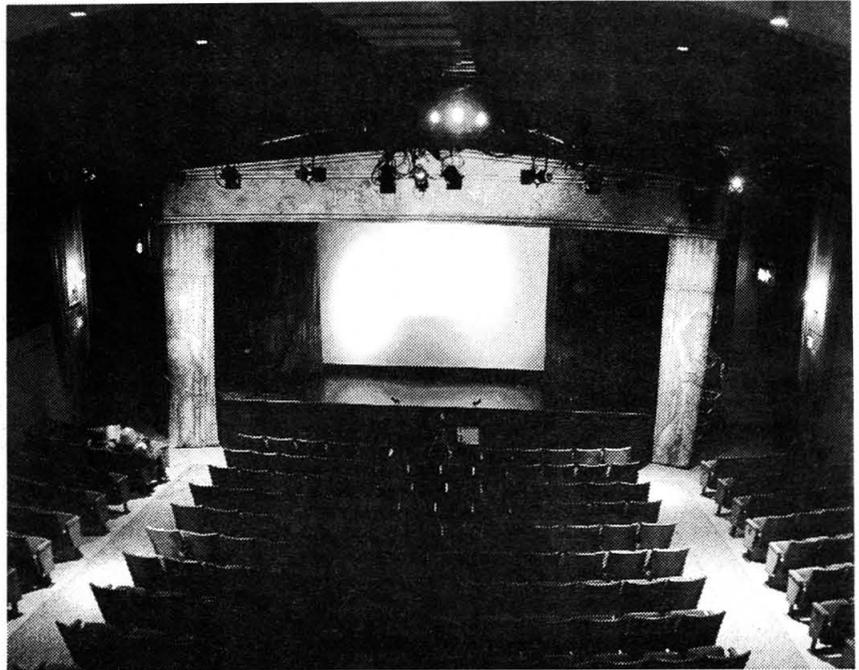


Photo Courtesy of Lakeshore Theater

Chris Ritter renovated the interior of the Lakeshore Theater, 3175 N. Broadway Ave., from what used to be a single-screen theater.

and MySpace as well. These pages will show clips from shows and allow theater goers a chance to voice their opinion on shows.

"I'm really interested in comedy that's not obvious comedy—that's new and different and appeals to different audiences," Provenza said. "We really want [the college crowd] in there—a crowd that is just sort of discovering comedy or just learning what it is they like about comedy and having them

become our friends. We're in it for the long haul."

Armando Salgado, a 20-year-old Lakeview resident, looks forward to having another spot to go and thinks the upcoming schedule sounds promising.

He said he gets frustrated when some of his friends who have already turned 21 go out to clubs and concerts and he has to stay home or find something else to do.

Salgado also said that while there are certain clubs in the city

he can go to shows at, they are often filled with teenagers and can sometimes get overcrowded and too crazy for him.

He thinks this place might be a break or somewhat of a step up from that.

"It sounds like some place I can take my older friends and impress them," he said.

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Dead stripper tells all

Murder mystery with a hint of dark comedy delights audiences

By Kristin Kalter/Assistant A&E Editor

When the lights illuminate a dark theater stage and a scantily dressed woman dances with a tease and speaks to the crowd in the spotlight, a man in the audience whispers to his girlfriend, "This is off to a good start." He must have been in for a treat, as the stripper/porn star, Rosalie (Betsy Elizabeth Ann McKnight), is seen in few clothes throughout the play. But it is never distracting; she acts as the storyteller, who is actually dead for most of John Gurare's "Landscape of the Body," directed by one of Columbia's own instructors, John Mossman at Artistic Home, 1420 W. Irving Park Road.

The dark comedy murder-mystery tells a fun and insightful, yet disturbing and tragic story of a dysfunctional family and the unpredictability of life. It's worth checking out by not only mystery lovers, but everyone else as well because even though it is seemingly a depressing storyline, it is hopeful and doesn't leave crowds crying.

Although certain points in the story are a little confusing, they are all made clear through well-placed narrations and scene changes.

The plot revolves around Betty (Michelle Graft), a single mother, who is questioned by Detective Holahan (Victor J. Doylida) about the details of the murder of her son, Bert (Kevin Morse); he con-

siders her the prime suspect.

Betty traveled to Greenwich Village in New York from Maine in the 1970s with 14-year-old Bert to try and rescue her sister Rosalie from her life of sex and lies. But after Rosalie dies in a freak accident the two end up stranded there, and Betty becomes tied with characters from Rosalie's past, as she begins to lead the life of her sister. Betty takes over for Rosalie by dating and working for the flamboyant and hilarious Cuban cross-dresser Raulito (Christian Castro) and acting in porno films on the side.

Through a series of flashbacks told by the dead Rosalie, the audience is clued in on Bert's murder and given explanations for some of the previously confusing scenes, which might have been left unclear otherwise.

Each character is played with convincing charm and confidence. The mother and son seem to both love and despise each other. Those two characters personalities were the hardest to figure out; it seemed as though they had multiple personalities at times, but once they share an emotional scene towards the end of the play, it is understood.

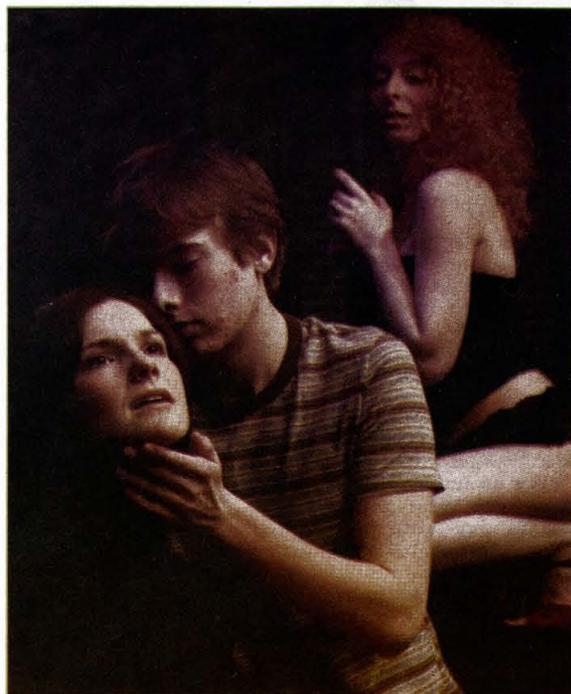
The storyline reveals they are both essentially leading more than one life, not far from how most people go through their

daily lives, really.

Betty is disappointed she didn't provide Bert with a father figure, and he is hurt and confused as to why she doesn't find the happiness in what they had by themselves. He ends up wandering off to a group of freakish, almost cartoon-like friends who tell crazy stories and prey on unsuspecting men in the streets of New York for money and watches. His relationships with his friends leave the audience guessing about Bert's sexuality and his role in the group.

The explanation of how the seemingly sweet and innocent Betty ended up as the prime suspect in a murder case doesn't become clear until the end, but it is revealed that many people in her life, at the time, ended up either randomly disappearing or dying. This all leads to an ultimate reflection on what life is all about and how the paths we all choose may determine unimagined consequences or rewards.

Even though death and heartache permeate the story, the audience is led to believe there is some glimmer of hope. And there is rarely a scene that doesn't produce even a small laugh or chuckle. Although the set is somewhat limited and tight, it was brought together fairly well with the effective use of lighting and side doors. This play is a breath of fresh air



Courtesy of the Artistic Home

Pictured above is the scene in which Betty has a heart-to-heart conversation with her son Bert, as her dead sister, who acts as the plays narrator is seen off in the back in her usual attire.

and a break from the usual night out at the movies or night in front of the TV. It's more entertaining than most mystery films out now and definitely more insightful than "CSI." Also, the cast is definitely worth checking out with one former and two current Columbia students.

"The Landscape of the Body" runs through April 15 at the Artistic Home, 1420 W. Irving Park Road, with a special Columbia night on Thursday, April

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'Landscape of the Body'
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Searching for a voice

Performance ensemble 'Lynx' literary and performance art

By Alison Shipley/Staff Writer

Bright lights create silhouettes on a bare stage. Drumming and hip-hop music pumps through the audience's ears and the shadows begin to move. One by one, each silhouette dances to the beat of the music. The choreographed footwork is clearly displayed. The graffitied murals lining the walls of the auditorium become blocked out because of the light illuminating the stage and the dancers.

The dancing is one part of every show the Kuumba Lynx Performance Ensemble presents. KLPE features children, teens and young adults in a show called WORD! that uses rap, graffiti, footwork, breakdancing and the power of spoken word to convey the messages of those who have been silenced and misrepresented.

The goal of Kuumba Lynx is to provide youths with a safe and nurturing place to discover themselves through art, music, dance and creative performance. WORD! deals with the difficulties of racism and how racism is present in today's society.

The performance group prepared for its April show at Truman College by previewing its act at Alternatives, 4710 N. Sheridan Road, March 23, 24 and 25. The five performances were meant largely to gain audience feedback.

Jacinda Bullie, program director for Kuumba Lynx, said hip-hop serves as a voice of silence and is a powerful tool in empowering communities.

"Hip-hop is close to my heart," she said.

KLPE's mission statement on the flier from the performance declared that hip-hop's power is in "edutainment." By using the hip-hop arts movement to increase social consciousness, creativity and universal freedom, the group hopes people can develop healthy hearts, minds and bodies and create strong community foundations.

The performance ensemble is organized by volunteers, and anyone who is interested is free to participate. Wayne Cauthen is one such participant.

"I have a lot of fun out there," said Cauthen, 18, a breakdancer

who raps for KLPE. "It's a lot of work, but it's really worth it."

Cauthen said a friend told him about the performance held at Alternatives, and that's how he got involved.

"I came out one day and said to my friend, 'Man, this is amazing!'" he said. "And there was a guy behind me that said 'You think break-dancing is amazing? You wanna come learn? I've been coming ever since.'"

At the performance, a motif of graffiti and street art shown through the spray painted murals line the walls. The mosaic scheme of dancers and words like "love" and "hope" decorates the exterior of the building. One rap included the lyrics, "Whether it be pen to paper or can [of spray-paint] to wall, it's still a beautiful creation."

Zachary Alhamed, 22, attended the performance and said he learned graffiti is meant to be art and isn't meant to be a form of vandalism.

"It's more than just paint on the wall," said Alhamed. "It represents emotions and the community."

One part of the show had eight costumed performers dressed in black jumpsuits with barcodes sewn onto their outfits. Performers had price tags on their foreheads that read "\$.99," and they break-danced around what was referred to as The Beast—a character wearing a big mask with protruding horns.

The mask had an oil spill on it and a picture of Africa. There was a large gun, drugs and money signs on the mask.

The group explained that The Beast represented all of the "isms" in the world as well as corruption in the police department and in the federal government. It also symbolized people who have been underrepresented and voices that have been silenced.

The performance ensemble has performed at many colleges including the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

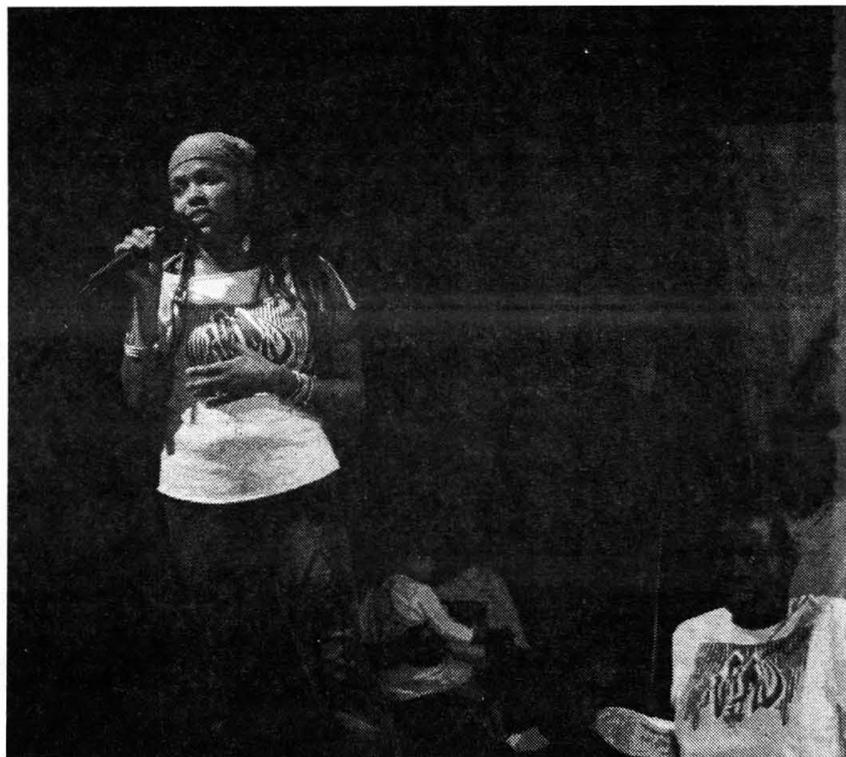
"Usually it's a lot of fun here,"

said Sonja Moore, executive director of KLPE. "But it's so stressful when [the group] is practicing for the big performance. But it's really cool once you get up there and get to dance and then get an audience's response."

Moore has been the executive director of KLPE for almost two years, but this was her first year not actually performing. She said the group has traveled to different places including trips to Arizona, New York, Cuba and have recently been booked to perform in New Orleans.

The ensemble practices at Alternatives from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. every day leading up to the preview performances each March.

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Alison Shipley/The Chronicle

Members of Kuumba Lynx Performance Ensemble use literary and performance art in their production of WORD!

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On the Mark

Mark Wahlberg discusses new film, career

By Allison Riggio/Associate Editor



MCT

Mark Wahlberg plays a sniper framed for an assassination attempt on the president in his new movie 'Shooter.'

Mark Wahlberg may have been nominated for an Oscar for his role in last year's crime drama *The Departed*, but the actor said he doesn't plan to go out of his way to find roles that will win him another chance at the honor.

In Wahlberg's latest film, *Shooter*, he plays an ex-sniper framed by the government for an assassination attempt on the president. His character finds himself as the lead suspect in the very crime he was trying to prevent. *Shooter* hit theaters March 23, and Wahlberg took a few minutes to talk with *The Chronicle* about the movie and his plans for the future.

The Chronicle: Your last few films have been dramas. Do have any plans to go in a different direction, or do you think you've found your calling in a serious role?

Mark Wahlberg: No, I try to do something different each time. David O. Russell, who wrote and directed *Three Kings* and *I Heart Huckabees*, is actually writing a broad comedy for me right now. So, you know, we want to try to switch it up every time now.

You've been in a lot of movies where you played these really iconic roles. So what's your favorite character you've played so far?

I'd have to say it's between this [sniper] character, Dirk Diggler [from *Boogie Nights*] and Sergeant Dignam from *The Departed*.

Why?

[Dirk's] high up there ... they're all extremely talented and good at what they do.

In interviews, you've said you plan to retire from acting around 40 and you're 35 now. So why, first of all, and how does this affect what projects you choose from here on out?

Well, I said it for two reasons. At the time I was pretty frustrated with the kind of movies that I was being offered and the kind of movies that they were making. So we committed to only making the kind of movies that we would want to go and see which has certainly revived my passion for filmmaking.

I also have two small children, and you know, I've been focused on me for a long time and at some point, obviously, my attention is going to have to shift to them. But hopefully, I'll be in a position where I can still make a movie every year or two and, you know, be able to work, you know, from time to time.

How did you prepare for this role, and how was it different from your preparation for *The Departed*?

Well [for] *The Departed*, I basically lived my whole childhood developing that charac-

ter. And with [*Shooter*], I had no previous sniper training, so we went to sniper school and physically I had to really transform. Before, I was much heavier from *The Departed*. So I had to get in physical and mental shape.

What makes *Shooter* different from other high-intensity action movies?

Well, the high-intensity action movies that they've been making lately aren't really the kind of character-driven movies that I love and that I grew up watching in the '70s. This is kind of a throwback to that. You know, you've got a guy's guy who's all about honor and integrity and, you know, it reminded me of the great films that I grew up watching. It's much more of a Travis Bickle or a, you know, Dirty Harry, than it is, you know, a Terminator-type character.

What kind of stunt work did you get to do for the film?

I did everything [the director, Antoine Fuqua] asked me to do, which was pretty much all of it. You know, you certainly want the audience to feel like they're really watching me go through all these things and not feel like they're cutting away to a stunt man constantly. So, more than [what] was probably safe, but, you know, we survived, so it was worth it.

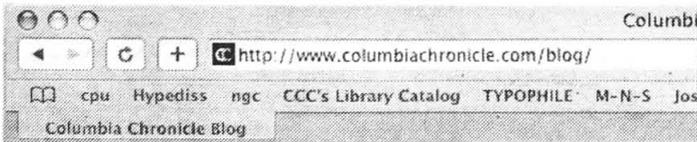
How has being nominated for an Oscar affected the way you choose roles?

Well, I certainly can't just start looking for English period dramas and stuff that's going to get me nominated again. I got to just continue to make the kind of movies that I want to see and that people want to see me in and really not change much. But, you know, I've certainly gotten a lot of offers since the Oscar nomination. But you just kind of do what we've always been doing.

You mentioned about your role in *The Departed* that your whole childhood was developing that character. Could you elaborate a little more on what sort of experiences you had that formed that role?

Well, you know, I grew up in the street and [got] into a lot of trouble. I'd, you know, spent a lot of my childhood in and out of Boston police stations and, you know, dealing with cops and crooks and, you know, I just had a pretty tough upbringing.

But, you know, it was all things that I was able to use in playing that part. I really didn't have to do much preparation. I was more familiar and comfortable with that world than anybody else involved, including Martin Scorsese. So, you know, I was glad that, you know, after causing my parents all that grief that I was able to put it to good use.



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hungry hungry hunter!

Posted by: HunterClauss @ 4:32 pm

I actually got hungrier while eating my roast beef Pot Belly's. I fear I'm becoming a tubbie monster

THE COLUMBIA
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Punch-Drunk Woe

Sandler reigns over uneven drama

By Matt Fagerholm/Assistant A&E Editor

He sits and laughs loudly as inconsequential chaos unfolds on the film screen. His eyes crave for the predictable patters of loud video games he plays on his apartment's plasma screen. And when he isn't banging drums in a band, he's wearing headphones while gliding on a motorized scooter down empty city streets. Judging by the above description, this man sounds like your average social hermit, hiding in a shell of distraction to offset the misery of loneliness.

Yet this particular man, as played by Adam Sandler in the new drama *Reign Over Me*, is attempting to fill a particularly tragic void in his life, and it's his journey that makes up the heart and soul of the entire film. If the film had focused primarily on this man's story, it may have been a great film. As it stands, it's merely a good one, and a mighty problematic one at that.

Sandler is Charlie Fineman, a widower who lost his wife and three daughters on 9/11. Since then, Fineman has receded into a childish, passive-aggressive state that is typical of most Sandler characters. The difference with Fineman is that his emotional problems have left him somewhat deranged. This is when a face from the past re-enters his life in the form of ex-college roommate Alan Johnson, played by the reliably superb Don Cheadle.

of women in his life, then Johnson, a busy dentist and family man, suffers from an overabundance of them. He has an icily demanding wife, the woefully underdeveloped Jada Pinkett Smith; a flirtatious patient, played by Saffron Burrows; and a socially aloof receptionist, played by Paula Newsome, who delivers the same hilarious performance she gave as the insensitive bereavement liaison in *Little Miss Sunshine*.

All Fineman and Johnson need is to rekindle their manly friendship—or do they?

This is where writer/director Mike Binder's film begins to derail. One moment the two old friends will be sharing a laugh, the next Fineman will be throwing Johnson against a wall, while shattering anything in sight. The script wants the audience to believe that Johnson is in such need of friendship that he's willing to overlook Fineman's mental instability, a fact that stretches credibility to its breaking point. There are also numerous muddled subplots and themes that further confuse matters. After attempting to seduce the married Cheadle, Burrows suddenly develops a conscience and is positioned by the film as an ideal match for Sandler. Such inexplicable transformations are commonplace in *Reign Over Me*, which shifts between comedy and drama like a trucker shifting between "drive" and "reverse." It all makes for a rather jarring experience.



Don Cheadle and Adam Sandler play former college roommates in the new drama 'Reign Over Me.'

And yet the film is somehow saved by the sheer strength of Sandler's work. After proving himself capable of dramatic depth in writer/director Paul Thomas Anderson's brilliant *Punch-Drunk Love*, Sandler seems to have been working toward this performance for much of his career.

There is a prolonged scene late in the film where the camera simply rests on Sandler's face, as he finally recalls the memories that haunted him for years. As he speaks of when he saw the plane hit the tower, and how he at that moment felt his family burning, Sandler brings a human face not only to every life lost on 9/11, but to every survivor who lost a loved one that day. It's one of the most heartbreaking pieces of cinematic

acting so far this year.

Yet what continues to resonate long after the end credits roll is not only Sandler himself, but the true power of his character's tragic journey.

There's something rather ingenious about Fineman attending a theatrical marathon of Mel Brooks films, which seem to have always provided a mindlessly amusing refuge for even the loneliest among us. As a scene from *Young Frankenstein* unfolds on the screen, in which Marty Feldman disguises himself as a disembodied head while singing, "I ain't got no body, and nobody cares for me," Fineman laughs louder than ever. The scene pokes fun at the pain of isolation, and his laugh is an act of rebellion against the

silence closing in upon him.

Yet once he fills the silence by speaking about his pain, he has then broken from his shell and made his first step toward re-entering the world. His story is a rewarding movie-going experience in itself, and sorely deserved to reign over the missed opportunity that is *Reign Over Me*.

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com

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Directed by
Mike Binder



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Rwanda's 'Gates' of Hell

Former BBC journalist makes new film about the 1994 genocide in Rwanda

By Matt Fagerholm/Assistant A&E Editor



MCT

A genocide site in Mbulire, Rwanda displays skulls of victims of the 1994 genocide. Journalist David Belton covered the genocide and used his experience to co-write and produce the new drama 'Beyond the Gates.' The film, which opened in Chicago March 30, stars John Hurt and Hugh Dancy, and is directed by Michael Caton-Jones.

At 23, David Belton received a job that would be any journalist's dream. He began working for BBC's current affairs program "Newsnight," which he produced and directed for six years. During that time, Belton covered a wealth of world events, such as the eviction of Margaret Thatcher, the war in Bosnia and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Yet in 1994, Belton covered an event in Africa that shook him to his core. During a 100-day period, the clash between Rwanda's ethnic groups exploded. Extremist Hutus slaughtered an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

Eight years later, Belton decided to write a film about the genocide.

Beyond the Gates, produced and co-written by Belton, focuses on a Catholic priest and English teacher who find themselves caught up in the impending genocide. Both men must decide whether to flee for safety or stay with the doomed Rwandans. The film stars John Hurt and Hugh Dancy, was directed by Michael Caton-Jones and opened in Chicago, March 30.

The Chronicle spoke with David Belton about his extraordinary experience in Rwanda, as well as the film it inspired.

The Chronicle: Describe your experience covering the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

Belton: It was very unlike anything I've done before. I'd seen quite a lot of conflict by then, some in Africa, some in Europe, but I've never witnessed that. And it wasn't just the bodies. I've sometimes described it as kind of a moral vacuum. It was as if the whole moral attitude of the country had been sucked out. People were literally walking around doing stuff which the day before was really bad and now was really good, and vice versa.

So it was kind of moral inversion going on, sort of a 180 degree, and that, as a 26-year-old, was

quite frightening. There was nothing to grip onto. It was morally slippery. You couldn't get a foothold on this rock face.

Are the characters in *Beyond the Gates* based on people you encountered while covering the genocide?

The part of Father Christopher, played by John Hurt, was not based so much as inspired by a real priest I knew out there. He was a creation priest named Vjeko Curic. He was one of two priests who stayed throughout the genocide, and he sheltered us when we were there. So he was an extraordinary man, and I felt personally inspired by him and humbled really. He was a very magnetic, charismatic character, and in a sense that was an inspiration for the part.

Where are the limits of your courage, where is the depth of your faith, and where does it exist? On that continuum, where do you sit? I thought that was sort of an interesting character point from which we could build. [These priests must deal] with a country that day by day gets poorer instead of richer. That's something people in this country or in the United Kingdom have no understanding of.

Why was the film's original title *Shooting Dogs*?

We loved the title because it absolutely summed up the internal hypocrisy of what happened with the West and our relationship with Africa, and in particular Rwanda. We colonized the place, and then we abandoned it, and it's typified in a UN soldier saying, "The only thing we can do is shoot dogs." From that scene came the title.

The reason we changed it was because it's a tough title, and though it worked pretty well in Rwanda and the UK, we wanted to try to make this film have a broader base and to bring people in. It's about to get people into a film about genocide.

Describe the screening for *Beyond the Gates* that was held in Rwanda.

I was there at the Rwanda screening having a hernia trying to get it all done. It rained five hours, and it swamped the stadium, the screen collapsed [and] the electricity exploded. We knew it wasn't going to happen. There were 3,000 people shivering under the stands, and we just thought this was a disaster. [However] if there is a God...the electricity started up and the screen lifted.

We played [the film] for an hour and 50 minutes, and there wasn't one malfunction. There were tears

pouring down my face. It was a very moving experience. Rwandans were blown away and very upset by it. They found it traumatic, [but] they were pleased that [the film was] part of their cultural history. That's what the Rwandan minister [Joseph Habineza] said after the screening. We felt that this was what it's all about. If we can get audiences here in Chicago, great, but that was the motherload.

What message do you want audiences to take away from this film?

Don't believe politicians when

they tell you stuff because they're probably not telling you the truth. They certainly didn't tell the truth in '94 in America, and they didn't in Britain either. Both our governments actively conspired to reduce the U.S. force in Rwanda, so John Major and Bill Clinton have a lot to answer for. I think healthy, rational skepticism of our political leaders is really important.

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Reviews

MUSIC



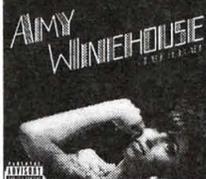
Amy Winehouse
Back to Black

She's got the voice, the looks, the attitude—just not the music. On her second album, Winehouse, an admitted drunkard, laments about her management “trying to make her go to rehab.” She refused. Instead, Winehouse wrote dull, directionless songs not even worth downloading. —*B. White*



Ted Leo & The Pharmacists
Living with Living

The wiry skinhead's new album is as political and pissed off as ever. His general sound is the same, fast-paced punk coupled with his shrill and poignant lyrics, but the sentiment of this new album seems more retrospective and frustrated than others. A good listen for anyone politically active, semi-conscious and still optimistic. —*J. Ewert*



Amy Winehouse
Back to Black

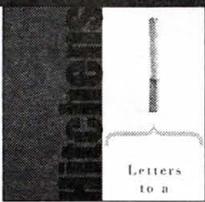
Despite her badass hipster look and appeal, U.K. import Winehouse can lay down a sweet soul album. Her smooth voice combined with simple and classic instrumentation make the explicit lyrics warning on the album cover an afterthought. Though it's not mind-blowing music, it's definitely worth checking out for anyone who enjoys Lauren Hill or Lily Allen. —*T. Breyne*

PRINT



Rolling Stone

This month's Rolling Stone magazine, albeit a better edition than last month's, when, gulp, Fall Out Boy was on the cover, still manages to continue its downward spiral into the bleak and uninteresting. Except for a decent story about Watergate era spy E. Howard Hunt, there are better ways to spend five bucks. Add four more and you've got Hustler. —*C. Jakubowski*



Letters to a Young Contrarian
By Christopher Hitchens

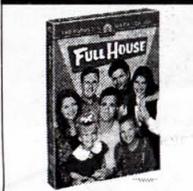
This book to young idealists addresses the importance of truth in an increasingly grey world. Revolutions begin, he writes, when one lives “as if” the injustice one is combating no longer exists. Although often arrogant, Hitchens' writing compels the reader to both love and hate him while pondering his words. —*S. Yaccino*



The New Yorker
April 2

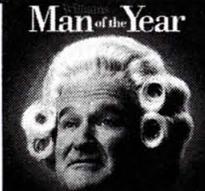
While the April 2 issue of The New Yorker is not the best one this year, there is a standout profile on Gordon Ramsey, the lovable tyrant from Hell's Kitchen. Much like the reality show, his rage seethes from the pages. —*E. Kasang*

FILM & TV



Full House DVD
Season Six

No Hearts
After a long, agonizing wait, the sixth season of “Full House” is finally out on DVD! Remember the episode where Uncle Jesse becomes a rock star in Japan? Or when Michelle gets to be princess for a day at Disney World? OK, I don't either. This season sucked. —*J. Galliant*



Man of the Year DVD
Directed by Barry Levinson

No Hearts
Robin Williams, Christopher Walken and Laura Linney must have been lured with candy-coated hundred dollar bills or been victims of magic mind-manipulation. No reasonable explanation exists for three talented and in-demand actors to participate in such an unimpressive, unfunny and uninteresting film. —*B. Palmer*



Black Gold
Directed by Marc & Nick Francis

If you think coffee is a big part of your life, *Black Gold* will make you think twice. The film tells the brutal story of the Ethiopian coffee farmers' struggle to feed themselves and their children. *Black Gold* makes anyone—from the casual coffee drinker to the connoisseur—question their brew. —*J. Covarrubias*

MISC.



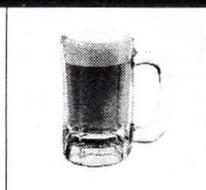
String Cheese

Remember this delicious childhood snack? I do. While traveling through the dairy section at my local grocery store, I noticed a prominent display of string cheese and couldn't resist. The flavor. The hunger satisfaction. The grab-and-peel interaction. I didn't even know they still made that stuff. But I sure am glad they do. —*A. Riggio*



Aquaman

No Hearts
He fights crime. Under water. No matter what anyone from the late fifties will tell you, the ability to withstand the intense pressure of deep sea diving and the ability to surface without developing a mortal case of “the bends” isn't a super power. Nor is the ability to speak with fish. —*S. Baltrukonis*



Tuesdays at Cactus Bar and Grill, 404 S. Wells St.

Now that warm weather is here—kind of—businessmen and college kids alike can sit outside and revel in the \$3 Miller Lite pitchers and appetizers at Cactus Bar and Grill. Located at Van Buren and Wells Streets, the bar is just close enough to go get a nice buzz and a greasy appetizer between classes. —*T. Breyne*

Premium Blend

Taking a closer look at Chicago's local bands

Unicycle Loves You, but not more than they love each other. With live shows comparable to “sex with sweatpants on,” the five giggly band mates seemingly enjoy practicing, because they really like spending time together. Jim Carroll (vocals and guitar), Nicole Vitale (bass and vocals), Derek Przybylo (drums), Jon Pollock (guitar and vocals) and Adam Labrada (keyboards and percussion) make up the quirky pop-rock band Unicycle Loves You and managed to squeeze in some time after practice to share some laughs with The Chronicle.

The Chronicle: How would you describe your music to someone who has never heard it?

Jim Carroll: I can never do that. That's the one thing—I can never describe it. People who just saw our show at the Double Door just said that to us: “We can't really pinpoint you guys.” We kind of like it that way.

What inspires your music?

Carroll: I've just been doing music since I was 14. Music is one of those things. No other species can really make music. I mean, elephants can paint, but ...

Nicole Vitale: Well, Derek [Przybylo] says the 1997 St. Louis Rams inspire him to make music. [laughs] [As for myself] every musician like John Lennon, Tom Waits, David Byrne, Frank Zappa and Frank Sinatra [inspire me].

Carroll: I'm obsessed with the '60s, and The Talking Heads I [have] listened to since I was a teenager, [and] also Pavement and Guided By Voices.

What do you hope people walk away feeling after they listen to your music?

Carroll: I hope they feel surprised and excited. I hope they feel strange in a good way. I want there to be a surprise like they have never heard that before.

What is a live show like for Unicycle Loves You?

Jim: Derek says it's like sex with sweatpants on. [laughs] For my answer, I'd say it depends on if there are a lot of people there or not. The less people [that] are there, the more nervous I get.

Why is that?

Jim: Because if you're in a room doing something with one person watching, you can see their face, and that's it. Or if it's a crowd you can say these are all faceless people. I mean, you don't really say that, but it's easier to not look at them as individuals. Our first two shows were so well-attended, so we were spoiled for the first two. We automatically were expecting people, but it's the best feeling, you know, being on stage no matter what.

Unicycle Loves You is playing at the WLUW Record Fair, Pulaski Park Fieldhouse, 1419 W. Blackhawk St., April 14 and 15. For more information on Unicycle Loves You, visit <http://www.myspace.com/unicycle> or www.unicyclelovesyou.com.

—*C. Mahlmeister*

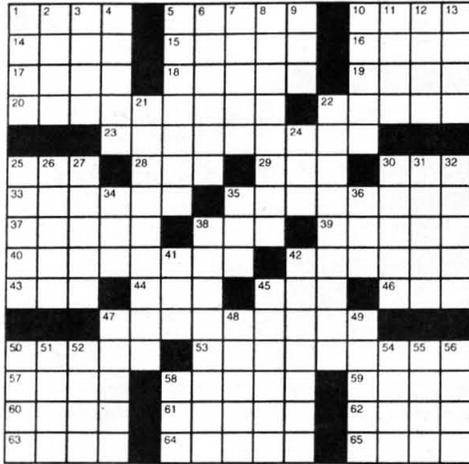
Unicycle Loves You



Courtesy of Unicycle Loves You

Crossword

- ACROSS**
 1 Golfer Karrie
 5 Audible kiss
 10 Skater Lipinski
 14 Throw hard
 15 Paddle craft
 16 Vivacity
 17 Location
 18 Furious
 19 Privation
 20 Old-time newsman
 22 Experiments
 23 Lebron James' squad
 25 Male swan
 28 Part of a min.
 29 Printer letters
 30 Time off work: abbr.
 33 Kiner and Ellison
 35 Sally Field movie
 37 First-stringers
 38 Black goo
 39 Infamous Helmsley
 40 Wobbled
 42 Whaler's cohort
 43 6th sense
 44 Bled
 45 Astronaut
 46 Limb
 47 Braves owner
 50 "Misery" star
 53 Anti-government activist
 57 "Jane ____"
 58 Fantasy genre
 59 Brainstorm
 60 Having little fat
 61 One-armed bandits
 62 Christmas carol
 63 Eurasian vipers
 64 On edge
 65 If all ____ fails...



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4/2/07

- DOWN**
 1 Come again?
 2 Prefix for dollar or Disney
 3 Concoct
 4 Mel of cartoon voices
 5 Neck wraps
 6 "Flashdance" song

- 7 Seraph or cherub
 8 Passageway
 9 E or G, e.g.
 10 Lauren of "The Love Boat"
 11 Lamentor's cry
 12 Wild speech
 13 Pismires
 21 Soft fabrics
 22 Margarita ingredient
 24 Clean air grp.
 25 Shipping box
 26 "Bellefleur" author
 27 Censor's insert
 30 Stringed instrument
 31 "Lou Grant" star
 32 Amulet
 34 Touch lightly
 35 Down in the dumps
 36 Narc's org.
 38 Octopus arm
 41 Cool!
 42 Daily genesis

Solutions



- 45 Surgical implants
 47 Future adults
 48 Alliance
 49 River of Cologne
 50 Composer Bartok
 51 Affirmative votes
 52 Pitfall
 54 False god
 55 Notices
 56 Narrative story
 58 Mach+ plane

TO THE NINES

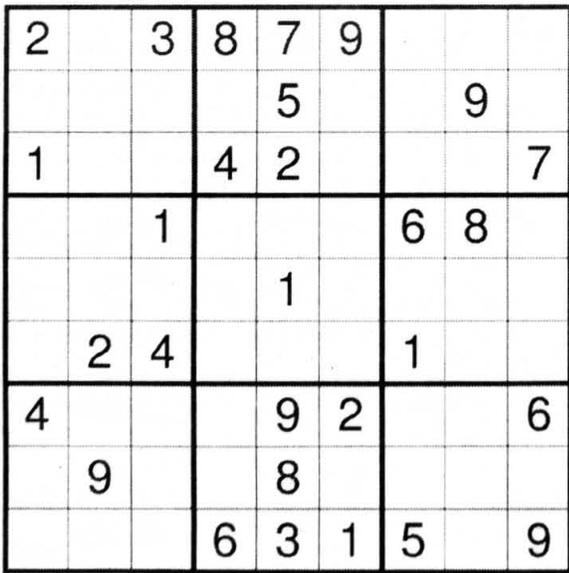


We spotted **Eden Malato**, a freshman film major, walking down the 600 block of South Wabash Avenue several times before we got a chance to stop her. Decked out in what seems to be the stereotypical punk rock gear—ripped jeans, rocker t-shirt, fishnets, Vans sneakers and hair and make-up done up—she said she doesn't get inspiration for her style anywhere in particular. "Mostly I make my own clothes, and whatever feels comfortable is what I wear," she said. What she wore this particular day came from a range of stores, including Hot Topic, Forever 21 and Marshall's.

Kristin Kalter/The Chronicle

Sudoku By Michael Mepham

Level: 1 2 3 4



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

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

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

-  **Pisces (Feb. 20—March 20):** Although the money seemed good at the time, you will regret taking on Gary Busey in a cage match.
-  **Aries (March 21—April 20):** You will turn 21 this week, do 21 shots of hard liquor and die of alcohol poisoning.
-  **Taurus (April 21—May 21):** While walking home at night from a long day at work, you will hear a screeching noise that can only be described as a dolphin choking on a rabid squirrel. No worries, though. It's probably just A&E editor Chrissy Mahlmeister.
-  **Gemini (May 22—June 21):** As you crack the shells to your delicious peanuts, you will unwittingly release a nut fairy, who will grant you three wishes. She'll appear to be a cross between monocle-clad Mr. Peanut and Whitney Houston from *The Bodyguard*.
-  **Cancer (June 22—July 23):** Who wears short shorts? The stars say you wear short shorts.
-  **Leo (July 24—Aug. 23):** Wearing a derby hat makes even the most non-threatening dweeb look like he's cooking up some sinister plan.
-  **Virgo (Aug. 24—Sept. 23):** Captain Planet warned us all of the dangers of global warming and we just mocked him and his ring-wearing companions, especially the Indian kid with the "heart" power. Now we're all going to suffer for it.
-  **Libra (Sept. 24—Oct. 23):** Run next time a tall lanky dude in sweatpants asks if you'd want to go to Long Schleng Silvers.
-  **Scorpio (Oct. 24—Nov. 22):** That light at the end of the tunnel ... it's not Heaven. It's an oncoming car.
-  **Sagittarius (Nov. 23—Dec. 21):** Apples are to oranges as your breath is to a fresh patch of daisies.
-  **Capricorn (Dec. 22—Jan. 20):** No matter how many different intellectual spins you put on it, a graphic novel is still a comic book.
-  **Aquarius (Jan. 21—Feb. 19):** Read the following: During a D&D adventure, an elf wizard rolled a d20, and with a bonus dodge perry, slew the owlbear. If you understand this, you are a dork.

Cicadas buzz into Chicago

Mating cycle of 17-years begins again this spring

By Kaylee King
Staff Writer

Eric Gyllenhall and his two sons Aaron, 10, and Ethan, 11, are in for an eventful spring. The Oak Brook residents and bug lovers will soon set out to hunt a small fraction of the millions of little white nymphs that will crawl out of the ground, grow into cicadas and fill Chicago's skies this June.

This spring, Chicagoland can expect to see and hear a rush of these cicadas. The bugs, resembling a half-moth, half-grasshopper, carry a lusty tune and will appear in the highest numbers since 1990, according to a press release from the Notebaert Nature Museum. The pulse comes as 2007 ushers in a batch of 17-year periodical cicadas.

According to John R. Cooley, Ph.D., a professor at the University of Connecticut and cicada guru, the insects will come in numbers of one to two million per acre but offer no harm to Chicago residents.

"They may die in piles, and it may smell like road kill," said Cooley, who is currently working on a cicada-based research program with National Geographic.

When the ground temperature reaches approximately 62 degrees, it will trigger the bugs to emerge from the ground as nymphs, most likely during the evening. Five to six days later people will begin to see and hear the bugs by their ticking, hissing and whistling sounds, Cooley said.

But not everyone in Chicago can expect a tree full of cicadas this spring, since they tend to reside in older neighborhoods where the soil has not been recently uprooted, which causes the nymphs to die.

Cooley said neighborhoods on the North Side of Chicago can expect to see the thickest pulse.

"You won't see them in the newer neighborhoods," said Doug Taron, Ph.D. and curator of biology at the Nature Museum.

"About a 100 mile radius around Chicago should pretty much take care of the cicadas this spring," Cooley said.

The cicadas will spend the month after emergence mating and laying eggs, which are laid in the earth, marking the start of the next 17-year cycle. After the mating process is finished, the adult cicadas will usually die within the same month of emergence.

They will shed brown shells, which will blow away like leaves, and clean up should prove to be nearly effortless and complete by July or August, Cooley said.

The Gyllenhalls plan to document this year's cycle on a blog, saltthesandbox.org, which will include images of the bugs and the animals that prey on them.

"We don't collect live bugs and then kill them," Gyllenhall said. "We collect them if they are dead, and they usually end up in Ethan's collection."

In response to the cicada pulse, the Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive, will run a cicada exhibit that opens April 20. It will feature photographs, models and specimens from the 1990 surge. The museum will also host hands-on family events on weekends that include activities revolving around the sound cicadas emit and giving kids the opportunity to make instruments that mimic their sound.

Gyllenhall does warn that these bugs may make people a little squeamish.

"Many people will get grossed out or scared of the cicadas, but this is an amazing thing going on," Gyllenhall said.

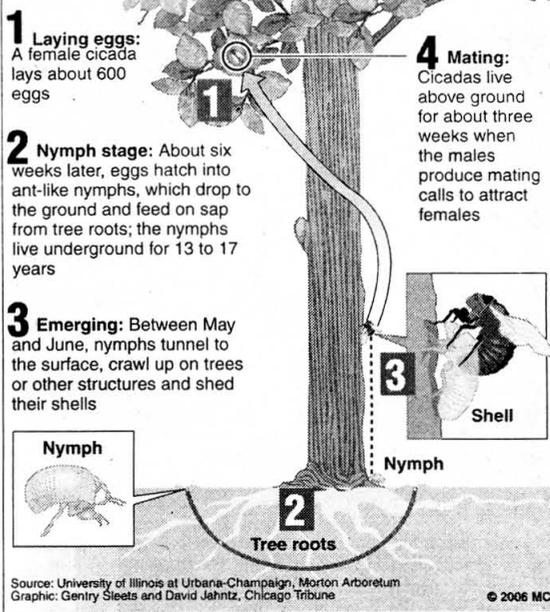
However, the cicadas won't be around to terrify for too long.

"There's not much you can do ... You couldn't buy enough bug spray," Cooley said. "Sit back; it will all be over in a month."

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Life cycle of the 17-year cicada

Periodic cicadas are expected next summer in parts of the Midwest. They last emerged in 1990.



Courtesy MCT

Foster care: Reunification may not always be best choice, experts say

Continued from Back Page

The department's last report in 2006 shows that more than 16,000 children reside in substitute care, a term referring to those who receive some form of care outside of their biological parents. The numbers also show a rapid decrease from 1997 when the number of foster care children reached nearly 52,000, according to Marlowe.

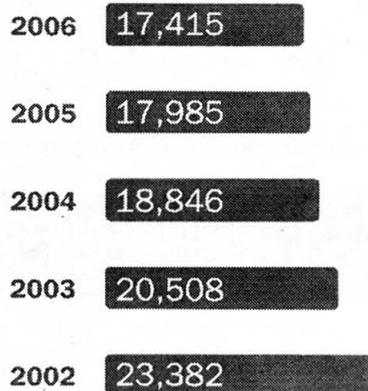
The major drop in the number of foster care children is a result of the Adoption and Safe Family Act, passed in 1997, which aimed to change the amount of children with special needs not being adopted by reuniting them with their families.

Currently, the child welfare system works with the biological families of children placed into foster care through different programs like drug rehab and courses meant to improve their parenting skills.

"In the past, it was more common for children to linger too long in foster care ... And not be moved towards the permanent family," Marlowe said. "So Illinois went under a major initiative to identify and support moves toward permanent families for children in youth in the system, and it is seen as a national example."

5-YEAR CHILD CARE SPECTRUM

Number of foster care children



Data compiled from the DCFS website

Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

S.O.S is just one of the foster care homes whose model often caters toward the reunification of families. With 24 housing units set aside for just foster families, the biological parents can reside in the same housing complex with their children and their foster parents while undergoing different drug treatment programs if needed, according to Bob Andorka, the director of planning and development at S.O.S.

Although reunification may have significantly decreased the number of foster children, some experts see major problems regarding the recent initiatives made.

According to Dr. Kelley Staley, a pediatrician and child abuse specialist at the University of Chicago's Child Protective Services, the process of reunification may not always be the best option.

Although she does agree that maintaining family connections can be a positive experience for children, some family members are not adequately prepared or familiar with the child.

"The problem that we see is that when children who are medically complex, either because of the injuries that they have received or because of their own underlying health problems, sometimes these rela-

tives aren't prepared to take care of these kids," she said. "And so it would require additional training, and I think it would be difficult for these relatives when they have children of their own to care for."

Staley added that depending on the age of the child, they have different needs for family situations where adoption could be seen as a better alternative to consider over reunification. Infants, for example, need to have some sort of stability in their lives in order to maintain bonds to their parents. Removing a child from a family situation could cause negative effects, resulting in confusion, learning disabilities and anger.

Marlowe ensures that family members who are reunited with their children are adequately trained and have undergone programs, whether it be for drug abuse or necessary life skills, enabling them to be better parents.

Still, regardless of how well-trained a parent might be prior to regaining custody of the child, others say problems can still result that DCFS isn't adequately addressing.

According to Gail Aranga, a former case manager for DCFS, the lines of communication between DCFS and the biological family are closed too soon.

"You can't just place a kid back in the home and leave them," Aranga said. "It's not going to work; and the problem that happens is that cases get closed, and as the kids get more and more comfortable in the home, there is more acting out because they have so much anger from being removed in the

first place."

She also agreed that from her experience some families are not as prepared as they should be once taking in a child, whether it be their own or one they are adopting. Children can struggle with major anger problems of being removed that may not show until their older years, a situation she said not all parents have experience in dealing with.

Aranga said that living in a group home can be a good option to consider for older children because it would prevent them from having to "choose between their loyalties" of their biological parent or foster parent.

Still, Marlowe said there are cases where DCFS remains in contact with certain families to make sure the needs of the child are being met and the parents are getting the help they need.

When it comes to George, Debbie and Charlie returning home, their mother who suffers from alcoholism has relapsed, further postponing the process of reunification. According to Stephanie Anderson, a case worker for S.O.S., since the children have been in the care of the village for over a year, and the goal of reunification is within one year, the door is quickly closing on how many more chances their mother will receive before the children are no longer members of her family.

*George, Debbie and Charlie's names have been changed in this story in order to protect their identities.

A black eye for Chicago Police

Officers try to shake bad rep after bartender beating

By Don Babwin

They might be among the best crime-fighting tools Chicago police officers have: surveillance cameras everywhere as silent witnesses, poised to chronicle crimes in progress and help officers get bad guys off the streets.

So imagine the irony of the department finding itself being held up to ridicule around the globe because a security camera—this one in a tavern—caught one of its own officers pummeling a woman bartender half his size.

"He's tarnished our image worse than anybody else in the history of the department," Police Superintendent Phil Cline said of Anthony Abbate, a 12-year veteran now charged with aggravated battery.

In a department that has been fighting the perception of lawlessness on the force, this story, with the help of 24-hour news channels and YouTube, has pushed its way into living rooms and stayed there in a way few have.

Not only that, it has combined the worst stereotypes of Chicago cops that the department has been trying to shake since its most famous and widely viewed act of brutality: the beatings of

protesters at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

Police have been criticized for waiting a month to arrest Abbate and for initially charging him with a misdemeanor. They also have faced allegations that someone walked into the bar and tried to bribe and then threatened the woman to keep her from pressing charges.

Then last week, as Abbate made an appearance on the charges, fellow officers apparently used squad cars to help the accused officer duck the media—an incident that so angered Cline he demoted a police captain.

"It revealed every stereotypical aspect of what it means to be a Chicago cop," said Laura Washington, a prominent Chicago journalist and DePaul University professor who has been critical of the department.

Chicago's police department is certainly not the only one to come under fire because its officers allegedly abused their powers. The Los Angeles Police Department for years dealt with the fallout of the grainy images of its officers beating Rodney King in 1991. Just recently, the New York Police Department has been hit with questions about sending undercover officers around the world to observe activists who planned to protest at the 2004 Republican National Convention.

But the Chicago department finds itself weathering a particularly fierce storm.

"This paints an overall general picture of the police department which is not the case," said department spokeswoman Monique Bond.

Cline, she said, reacted decisively in the wake of allegations about Abbate and other officers. This week he announced he will speed up the process of getting officers accused of misconduct off the streets.

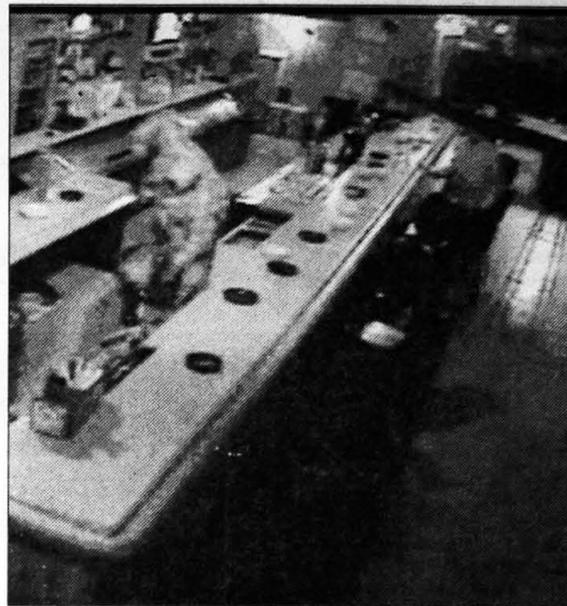
He also has urged a police board to fire Abbate and announced this week that he was stripping six other officers of their powers amid allegations that they were involved in the beating of four businessmen in a bar. A videotape has not been made public in this incident.

Critics, though, wonder if Cline and others aren't acknowledging how widespread problems are within the department.

If anything, they say, the two cases illustrate for all to see the kind of abuses that have been going on for years.

The caught-on-video beatings come as one-time death row inmates fight in court for restitution over alleged beatings. Last year, special prosecutors issued a report finding that in the 1970s and 1980s police had tortured scores of black suspects by kicking, beating and shocking them to get them to confess to crimes.

"This is another brick in the wall of unbroken police brutality and violence that has spanned my career," said G. Flint Taylor, a civil rights lawyer for the former



This image from a video released by FOX News Chicago shows an alleged altercation between Chicago police officer Anthony Abbate, center, and a female bartender on the floor at a Chicago bar on Feb. 19.

AP

inmates. "It is a microcosm of a lot of cases."

Even those who disagree say the recent incidents have seriously wounded the department.

"There is always in the aftermath a feeling ... that this is a common situation even if it's not," said Richard Ward, a criminal justice professor at Sam

Houston State University in Texas, who said the department has vastly improved the training and monitoring of its officers in recent years.

"It always takes longer to rebuild the image," he said.

AP

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Accusations: Campaigning turns negative as election nears

Continued from Back Page

other?" Askew said after the meeting. "When I got the mailings, two different mailings, not only were they making false statements and misrepresentations, he broke his word. If you lie to me, if you break your word, I cannot put my name behind you."

Fioretti denied the mailings were negative and said it was only an issues statement for voters to differentiate among all of the six candidates running in the 2nd Ward race.

"It was an issue statement specifically," Fioretti said. "We've always run a positive campaign, issue-oriented, and that one was just what [Askew] said about the issues."

In the first election, Haithcock received fewer votes than any other incumbent alderman, but received the endorsements of the third and fourth place finishers in her race. Following the endorsements, Fioretti issued a press release accusing Doody of taking a \$74,000 bribe and a promise for a job in the mayor's office for the endorsement.

Doody was unable to be reached for comment.

The most recent back-and-forth between the candidates is only the latest in a string of developments that have unfolded since the primary election. The weekend before the Feb. 27 election, the Haithcock campaign revealed in a ward mailing that a woman had obtained an order of protection against

Fioretti several years ago and called the candidate "a stalker of women."

In light of the mailing, the National Organization for Women, a group that previously endorsed Fioretti, withdrew its support. Shortly after, Fioretti released documents indicating that the order of protection was vacated a week after it was filed and that Fioretti first filed a police report against the woman in question for allegedly harassing him.

In lieu of Haithcock's "stalker" claim, Fioretti has since filed a lawsuit against the 14-year incumbent seeking a restraining order against Haithcock and her campaign. The restraining order was not granted, but a trial date is set for April 3.

After the entire story surfaced, NOW re-endorsed Fioretti and called Haithcock's tactics "desperate." Despite the lawsuit, Haithcock continues to

"We think Bob [Fioretti] will be a much better alderman than Haithcock will. Just by agreeing to meet with the strikers and hearing their concerns."

—Lars Negstad, research director for Unite Here Local 1

insist that Fioretti is, in fact, a stalker.

Last week Fioretti received the endorsement from onetime 2nd Ward candidate Kenny Johnson along with Johnson supporter and U.S. Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.

Even with Haithcock's recently added support, some groups in the South Loop are unhappy and vow to unseat her.

Unite Here Local 1, the Chicago area labor group



engaged in the Congress Hotel workers' strike, has thrown its support behind Fioretti. Lars Negstad, research director for Unite Here Local 1, said the group nicknamed Haithcock "Missing Madeline," because she's refused to meet with and listen to the group's concerns. The strike will be in its fourth year this June.

Negstad said the group's frustration with Haithcock has been growing, but reached a tipping point when she accepted a campaign contribution from the Congress Hotel. Records show that Haithcock received \$1,500 from 520 S. Michigan Ave. Association LTP, which is the address of the Congress Hotel. In addition, Haithcock voted against an ordinance that would require hotels to inform their guests if employees are on strike.

"We think Bob [Fioretti] will be a much better alderman than Haithcock will," Negstad said. "Just by agreeing to meet with the strikers and hearing their concerns. He's visited the picket



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Above, workers from the Congress Hotel, 520 S. Michigan Ave., picket outside the establishment March 30. This June, the strike will reach the four year mark. Workers are upset with incumbent Alderman Madeline Haithcock, below, for her "no" vote on an ordinance that would require hotels to notify guests if their workers are on strike. According to campaign finance records, Haithcock received a \$1,500 contribution from the Congress Hotel in late 2006.

line a number of times. Even before I met him, I heard about him through the strikers. He's really about fighting for the people in the 2nd Ward and fighting

for issues that need to be fought, not the traditional pay-to-play politics."

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Gender: Women finding easier passage into city politics

Continued from Back Page

racers; the others are in the 2nd, 3rd, 15th and 16th Wards. There are 12 total aldermanic runoffs, five of which are man-versus-woman races.

Alderman Daley said she feels stiffer competition because two women can be measured against each other in equal terms.

"The competition is making me look at things different," Daley said.

She said she finds herself carefully sizing up the details of her background in relation to Smith's, but she never gets the impression people think women are less effective as aldermen.

"I've really never experienced any problems," Daley said. "I deal with developers and homeowners and I never felt they are treating me any differently [than they would a man]."

Before Jane Byrne was elected mayor in 1979, the 1971 Chicago municipal election

resulted in the city's first female aldermen, Marylou Hegland and Anna Langford. Langford, elected by the South Side's 16th Ward, was the first black woman in City Council.

"It was quite a victory, because [Richard J.] Daley said as long as he lived there would not be a woman in city council," Langford said. "But after I

"I deal with developers and homeowners, and I never felt they are treating me any differently [than they would a man]."

—Vi Daley, 43rd Ward alderman who is facing another woman in the April 17 runoff election

was elected, Daley was welcoming and friendly; he told me I was elected by the people and that if I needed anything to call his personal secretary."

Langford said other aldermen also received her well.

"There was never hostility, but I used to give candy to people, so maybe that was it," Langford said jokingly. "[The council] called me 'the candy lady' and Harold Washington would send for candy."

The rising number of women involved in all local, state and national government reflects a

steady but too-slow natural process, said Paula Lawson, president of the Illinois League of Women Voters.

"I really think it starts at the local level," Lawson said. "[For example,] our state representative was on her village board first."

Lawson, now in her 50s, said there were no women on her own village board 20 years ago. At that time, a woman would gain office if her husband died, she said.

Langford and Alderman Daley both said they never expected to become aldermen—running for the office grew out of previous involvement in their respective communities.

Langford, who practiced law before working on City Council, said she ran for alderman after getting sick of the racial separation and inconsistencies in her neighborhood.

"I felt people weren't being treated right," Langford said. "And I thought, 'Well, I guess I'm going to have to get in there and run.'"

Langford said she encouraged incumbent aldermen Dorothy Tillman of the 3rd Ward and Freddrenna Lyle of the 6th Ward to get into politics.

In Chicago, the masculine "alderman" applies to both sexes; other cities use political-correct terms instead. New York City has "council members" and Los Angeles uses the

Number of Women in Illinois Senate

Year	Percent	National Rank
2007	27%	17
2000	25%	16
1992	23%	22
1986	17%	18
1979	11%	17

Source: Center for American Women in Politics
Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

titles "councilmen and councilwomen."

But Langford said she doesn't mind.

"It's not what you call me, it's how you treat me," Langford said.

Langford said she cares more

about whether the candidate has union support than their gender.

"I certainly don't want the union-backed candidates to win," Langford said. "I want a Wal-Mart in my ward."

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Gourmand: Mysterious closing upsets customers

Continued from Front Page

Linnane said the menu and layout of the restaurant would definitely be changed.

"Yes, we will still have coffee," Linnane said. "Will it still be a coffee shop? Not necessarily; it's not set in stone."

Shayna Plaut, a Columbia liberal education teacher who routinely held office hours at Gourmand, said the closing affected times she could meet with her students.

"I had to locate another venue in order to have my office hours," Plaut said. "I had to speak with the manager at Panera, and he was receptive, but it's not going to be nearly as conducive because Gourmand was set up physically that it was best to have office hours. And the environment was one that was receptive."

Plaut said she liked supporting independently owned ven-

ues and was upset that there wasn't any notice it would be closed.

"It would be nice if they had something on the windows," Plaut said.

Other businesses in the area could only speculate as to what was happening to the coffee shop.

"The rumor is that it's going to be a Mediterranean cafe," said John LaPine, owner of Printer's Row Fine and Rare Books. "But none of their employees seem to know what's going on."

Kat Wallace, a junior Columbia film major and frequent Gourmand visitor for the past three years, said she would be less likely to go there if it changed.

"It's not what Gourmand was," Wallace said. "Gourmand was really a variety of things and you could get a lot of things there. If it's just a Mediterranean restaurant it won't have the same variety."

Wallace said she doesn't like going to corporate coffee shops such as Caribou or Starbucks because they were too small or too crowded, and doesn't have the same environment as Gourmand.

"Yes, we will still have coffee. Will it still be a coffee shop? Not necessarily; it's not set in stone."

—Jeff Linnane, owner of Gourmand



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Regular customers of the Printer's Row coffee shop Gourmand, 728 S. Dearborn St. have been surprised to see that it is closed, with no indication of when it will re-open or what it will be.

"[Gourmand] is just a good place to stay for a little bit," Wallace said. "Now you're just left out on the street."

Linnane said he still wanted to

continue catering to students in the area, but methods of doing so would most likely change.

"The artists will be allowed to promote their work," Linnane

said. "That we will not be getting rid of. We probably will not have open mics."

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Palestine: PLO representative encourages two-state solution

Continued from Back Page

invited to know more so that they may take a position [on the conflict]."

Safieh further noted he believes students approach politics in an ethical manner and play an important role in the policy making. The younger generation reminds others that politics is about people, not power, he said.

The PLO representative began his speech by talking about the Palestinian elections of January 2006, where Hamas, a group known for supporting terrorism, gained 74 seats to the ruling Fatah. Although this created governmental instability, it was inevitable because the Palestinian people are ready for change, he said.

Safieh further noted he's confident the president of Palestinian National Authority Mahmoud Abbas and his Hamas-controlled government will work together in achieving peace with Israel, despite different agendas.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I'm authorized to tell in this forum that we the Palestinians are ready for peace now, and for peace in the

future," Safieh said. "And I will add that an area that was occupied in six days can also be evacuated in six days, so that the Israelis can rest on the seventh, then fully engage in nation-building and economic reconciliation."

Safieh was referring to 1967's Six-Day War where Israel gained control of the Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank and Golan Heights.

As a result of Israeli occupation in the West Bank since 1967, Safieh said 70 percent of Palestinians live in poverty, 60 percent are unemployed and the West Bank is "plagued" with around 650 military checkpoints. These checkpoints "strangle" the society and "suffocate" the econo-

my, because Palestinians lose about 8 million working hours every day, he said.

Despite the suffering, Safieh said he believes the solution to the conflict is the establishment of two separate states.

"Diplomacy is the art of delaying the inevitable as long as possible," he added.

"To succeed in the peace process, we need to agree on the final destination at the beginning and then move backwards toward the agreement," he said.

John Thomason, associate director of the Chicago chapter of the American Jewish Committee, a non-partisan organization, attended the March 26 lecture and said he was pleased to hear Safieh's perspective. He also agreed the two-state solution is a viable one.

"He is clearly a very good public speaker ... and represents his organization well," Thomason said. "We wish there were more [people] like him to continue this dialogue."

But Thomason said other organizations within Palestine continue to hinder the peace process.

"Unfortunately, it's organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah that present a big challenge for us in engaging more directly," Thomason said.

Richard Chasdi, adjunct professor at the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies in the Department of Political Science at Detroit's Wayne State University, said most people agree that a two-state solution is the only way of resolving the conflict.

But Chasdi stressed both neighboring countries and the United States must become more instrumental in the peace process.

"The linchpin for any sort of quest for peace in the region is the Israel-Palestinian-Arab crisis," Chasdi said. "The resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian dilemma would take the wind out of a lot of the sails of those who view the United States as supportive of a bastion of Western imperialism in the guise of Israeli."

While taking questions from the audience, Safieh was scrutinized when a man questioned how Palestinians could desire peace, yet receive missiles from other countries and "teach hatred to the young generation through anti-Semitic propaganda."

Safieh said he and the PLO are committed to non-violence

and pointed to President Abbas' recent efforts to enforce a bilateral cease-fire rejected by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert.

In continuing his answer, Safieh also stressed that a misconception exists regarding the number of suicide bombings that occur at the hands of Palestinians.

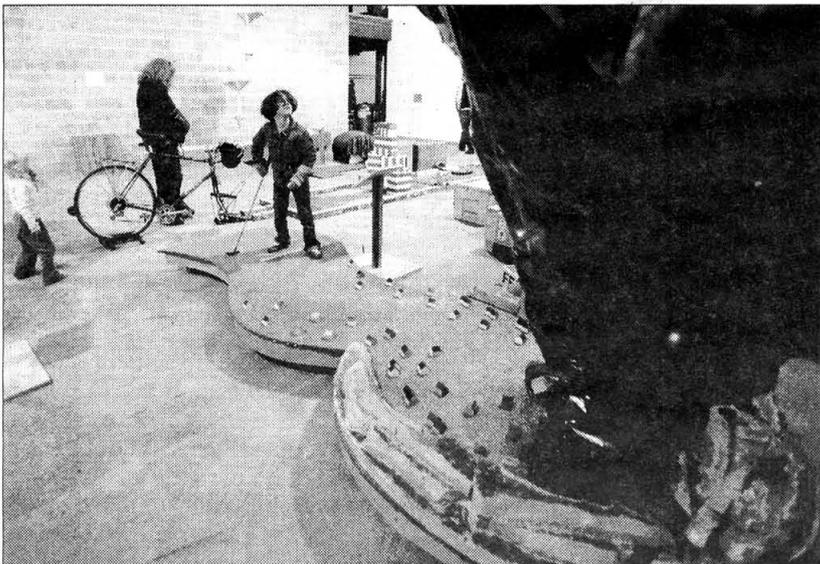
"Sir, I believe in universal principles, and I'm not a child of a lesser God," Safieh said. "Our victims also count, and I want you to operate, talk and think in the future on the basis of that principle."

In ending his speech, Safieh remained optimistic that the United States will begin to support the Middle Eastern peace process in a more constructive and balanced manner.

"We are not inviting America to sacrifice a traditional friend [Israel]," he said. "We are offering America an additional one: Palestine."

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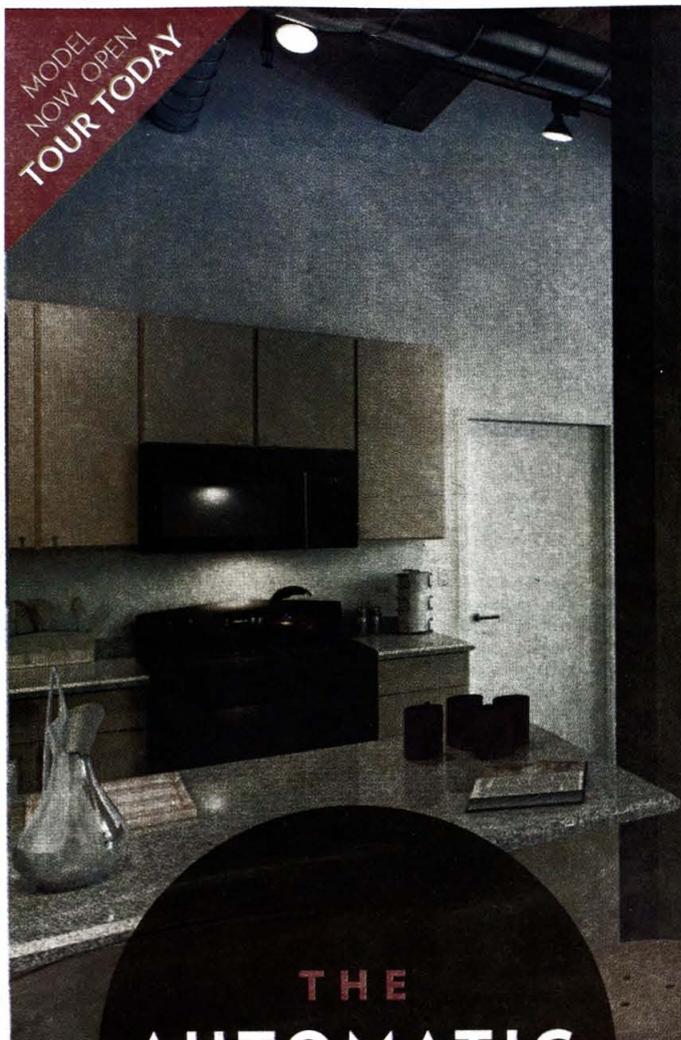
Putt Putt for global change



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Isabella (last name withheld by request) attempts to make a putt March 29 at a green designed by Michael Dinges to reflect the effects of global warming. When someone sinks the putt, the ball rolls into a container marked FEMA. The green is part of a nine-hole course created for the first annual Putt Putt green design competition put on by an artist collective called Material Change. The competition was located at Experimental Station, 6100 S Blackstone St.

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Estimated 10,000 unaware of infection

Stigma and misconceptions about HIV tests keep people away

By Dana Nelson
Assistant City Beat Editor

Despite efforts to raise awareness and get people tested for HIV/AIDS, 10,000 people in Illinois do not know they are HIV positive, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) reported March 8 in a call for state legislators to take action.

Using statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, the AFC, an organization dedicated to preventing and raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, calculated 40,000 to 42,000 people in Illinois have the virus. Of that estimate, only 31,789 have tested positive, according to a December 2006 surveillance report from the Illinois Department of Public Health, which includes the most recent statistics available.

That means one in four people with HIV is unaware he or she is HIV positive.

"I think it's related to people thinking they're not at risk for HIV; that's probably the leading indicator," said David Munar, associate director for the AFC. "People think they're not at risk or haven't been exposed to HIV so they don't get tested."

Another issue with people not knowing is the length of time it takes for results from HIV tests to come back.

"Testing takes too long," said Kristen Orser, a Columbia graduate student working on a proposal to Health Services at Columbia to offer free rapid HIV testing.

She said for normal blood tests, it takes up to two weeks to get results, and people often do not return and never find out if they're positive.

According to the CDC, 30 to 40 percent of people who get tested nationally do not return for their results.

With OraQuick, a rapid HIV test which can produce results in 20 minutes, people are more likely to wait to find out, Orser said. Columbia's health center does not currently offer HIV testing for its students on a regular basis.

Other people may not be getting tested because of the negative associations with HIV/AIDS, said David Roesler, executive director at Open Door Clinic, a group which works to prevent HIV/AIDS and provide support for those infected.

"Most of the people [who] do not know their status are people that are affected the most by the stigma and discrimination that HIV/AIDS brings with it," Roesler said. "And those people are minorities."

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, blacks account for 51.5 percent of the population infected with HIV/AIDS, although they make up only 15.1 percent of the general population. Hispanics represent 12.3 percent of the general population and 14 percent of this number

are infected with HIV/AIDS.

"I think this should be talked about in the pulpits," Roesler said. "I think this should be talked about in their community's social groups. And it should be a constant discussion as to how to educate their community and encourage their community to get tested."

Roesler said minority groups often live in poorer areas, which could lead to less access to good education and the inability to afford medical care. According to the AFC, 20,000 people who are HIV positive in Illinois do not have health insurance.

Amy Hawkins, English and cultural studies professor at Columbia and Critical Encounters Faculty Fellow, said the reason HIV/AIDS flourishes in minority groups is largely political.

"Essentially, HIV is an actual virus, and AIDS is a metaphor for all of society's ills," Hawkins said. "It's latched onto homophobia and racism."

Hawkins said because people still have the mindset that those with HIV/AIDS are gay or drug users, discrimination can occur and prevent those with the virus from getting the care they need.

Additionally, she said education was not enough to prevent HIV from spreading and the facts used are misconstrued to fit cultural beliefs.

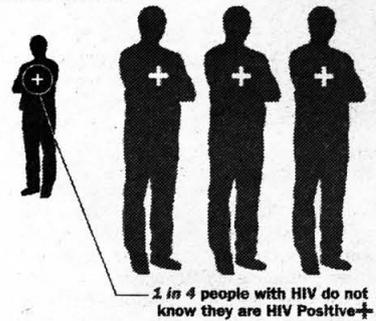
An example of this is the theory that men and women are equally responsible for the spread of HIV.

Hawkins said men were more likely to spread the virus because it was harder for women to transmit.

HIV Statistics for Illinois

40,000-42,000 in Illinois have HIV
10,000 are undiagnosed
20,000 are uninsured

Calculated by the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.



Josh Covarrubias/The Chronicle

HIV can be transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk, but there are higher concentrations of the virus present in blood and semen, which makes men more likely to spread HIV than women, according to a May 2006 report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Roesler said men were even more likely to spread the disease due to their behavioral choices.

"Often the women at risk are at risk because the men they're having sex with are having sex with men," Roesler said. "Those women are at risk because they don't know the men they're having sex with are having riskier sex than they know."

According to the CDC, 74 percent of HIV/AIDS cases are males.

Munar said the CDC was leading a national effort to encourage

health providers to routinely offer HIV testing for persons aged 13 to 64 regardless of known risk factors. There are many discussions about the subject and bills pending in state legislatures as well, he said.

Unfortunately, not all of these bills are helping the fight against HIV. On March 18, an Illinois state House committee voted against a bill authorizing distribution of condoms to state inmates, who account for 511 known cases of HIV/AIDS.

Illinois has the sixth highest rate of infection, following New York, California, Florida, Texas, and New Jersey, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. The CDC estimates 40,000 people nationally become newly infected every year.

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Scoop in the Loop: Sold to the wrong team



By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

Last week I became a Cubs fan. While riding the Red Line I gazed unamusedly at a set of multicolored advertisements lining the top of the train car when it happened—I angrily made my switch.

As part of the new Chicago White Sox ad campaign for the 2007 season, small white boards stamped with the approval of the imaginary "South Side Board of Tourism" pose questions written by fictional people from the North Side saying things like, "How do I greet the locals on the South Side?" or my personal favorite, "Will I have cell phone service on the South Side?"

I was appalled. I could feel my cheeks fill up with an embarrassingly bright color of red as I read on to find, not surprisingly, that the answers to the questions were even more offensive.

In response to the question of how people should greet the locals, allow me to paraphrase the ad's response. It went something

like this: "Using a hello or hi would be appropriate, unless, of course, a hand is extended. Then you would also extend your hand, lock palms and shake gently."

They even went so far as to explain what a high five was and to not be frightened if people begin to scream loudly at U.S. Cellular Field.

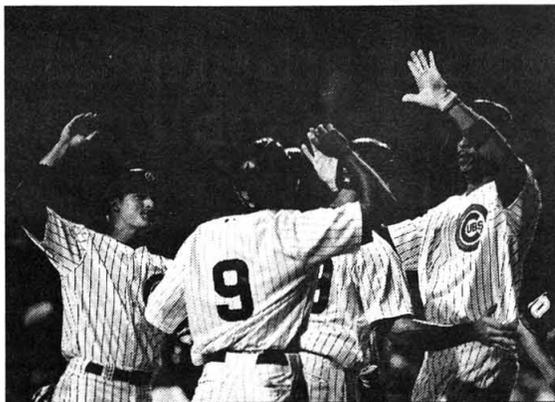
Other questions as part of the campaign read: "What is a parking space?" and, "I like to eat. Do they have food on the South Side?"

I understand that the ads are completely sarcastic and are supposed to be a joke, but I'm not laughing.

Chicago has been a city that has been racially divided since its beginning. With neighborhoods like Ukrainian Village or Chinatown, name's screaming segregation. Even the city's neighborhoods not labeled by a particular culture remain ethnically divided, but Chicago's South Side remains one of the largest segregated communities in this city.

Problems like a lack in affordable housing, an increase in homelessness and drug abuse have been ignored and not adequately dealt with in many communities that lie just south of the downtown area.

Behind the humor in the campaign, a nasty truth exist as to who really visits the South Side. It really wouldn't be much of a surprise to me if people really did have these questions because who really goes there these days?



MCT

Many of our city officials sure don't.

When it comes to places like Bronzeville, Auburn or Englewood, these questions sadly may not be much of a joke. Many South Side neighborhoods seem like scary, alien worlds to those not interested in seeing all aspects of city living and these ads contribute to that awful stigma even more.

It's a harsh reality when it comes to the South Side and how many people don't take interest in migrating to its communities and experiencing a different type of life they won't find in Wrigleyville or Lincoln Park.

Places like Bronzeville and Pilsen have thriving community bonds I haven't felt anywhere else

in this city. Neighbors know each other and families stay close by. These neighborhoods are truly places where people care about their community and want to see it grow.

The types of ads produced for the White Sox further contribute to a growing dilemma that Chicago's South Side is the forgotten part of this city. Instead of encouraging people to come to the South Side to see a game at U.S. Cellular Field and grab a hot dog—oh, and of course, discover what a parking space is—I say venture further south and get to know many of the lost parts of Chicago.

jzimmerman@chroniclemail.com

In Public

Tuesday, April 3

Join the International Museum of Surgical Science and the Hektoen Institute of Medicine for a "painful" lecture series called "Understanding Pain." Learn about facing pain through a discussion regarding Davy, Freud and early anesthesia. The event will be held at the Hektoen Institute of Medicine, 2100 W. Harrison St., and will begin at 5:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$5 or more. RSVP to Marnie Dawson at marnie@ims.org or call (312) 642-6502 ext. 3130.

Thursday, April 5

Visit the Chicago History Museum at 6:30 p.m. to join in on a discussion with Patrick Ryan from Chicago 2016 about Chicago hosting the Summer Games if it wins the bid over Los Angeles. The event is free and begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. Call (312) 642-4600 for more information.

Saturday, April 7

Get your groove on at the Arie Crown Theatre, 2301 Lake Shore Drive at McCormick Place, for the annual showcase "The Best of the Best," which features some of the top Indian dancers from around the country. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.com.

Sunday, April 8

The Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., presents the 2006 documentary, *Na Kamalei: The Men of Hula*. The film looks into the all-male hula school of Hawaiian dancer Robert Camizero. The screening will begin at 5:30 p.m. and tickets are \$9 for general admission and \$7 for SAIC students. The event will be held at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St. Contact the Film Center at (312) 846-2600 for more information.

Metro news briefs: a short week in review

Snip snip

According to a new report, heterosexual men should be circumcised due to compelling evidence that shows it reduces their chances of contracting HIV by 60 percent.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported the World Health Organization and UNAIDS, the U.N. agency that coordinates the fight against AIDS, still suggests using condoms and protection, but circumcision still reduces their risk.

"We must be clear," said Catherine Hankins of UNAIDS. "Male circumcision does not provide complete protection against HIV."

Studies suggest that male circumcision could prevent 5.7 million new cases of HIV infection over 20 years in sub-Saharan Africa.

\$900,000 in drugs on the Southwest Side on March 28 and charged a 25-year-old man with a felony for the possession of five kilograms of cocaine, according to the Chicago Tribune.

According to the article, officers from the narcotics and gang investigation section were staking out the home of Giovanni Zamora, located on the 5500 block of South Kildare Avenue. Officials knew he would be dealing drugs and carrying them in his van, which lead to their initial investigation.

Police found more than 11 pounds of cocaine with an estimated street value of \$625,000 in his van. Marijuana with an estimated value of \$90,000 and brown heroin worth about \$35,000 were also found by police at another location, Officer Amina Greer reported.



MCT

Illinois resident Bill Slater shows his Barack Obama love with the license plate on his 1997 Ford Taurus. Obama announced in February he will be running for president in the 2008 election.

A valuable bust

Chicago police confiscated an estimated

Keep the change

A frustrated cab driver called police March 23 after an intoxicated rider refused to wake up, pay the fare and get out of the cab. When police arrived on the scene, they awoke the 36-year-old man and told him to pay the fare or be arrested for theft of service. The offender attempted to push past police to enter a high rise building at 1212 S. Michigan Ave. Police again told him that he would have to pay, so he pulled out \$20 for the cab driver and walked back toward the building, striking one of the officers in the face as he passed by. Police then wrestled the resistant offender to the ground, handcuffed him and took him into custody.

Smoking up the CTA

An officer patrolling the Roosevelt Orange Line station March 24 noticed a 19-year-old man loitering on the train platform after five trains had passed. The officer noticed the man light a cigarette and arrested him. During a routine pat-down, the man was found to be carrying two blades in his belt and front pocket. One was longer than 8 inches. Police took the man into custody for processing.

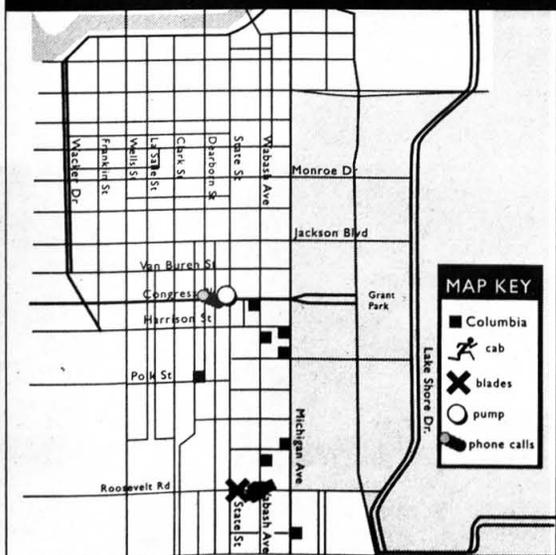
And you thought it only happened in the movies

A 30- to 40-year-old man drove off from an Amoco Gas Station, 50 W. Congress Parkway, on March 25 without removing the gas pump from his car. The attendant at the station heard the line break and looked out to the lot, making eye contact with the offender. Instead of stopping, the offender sped off in his white car westbound on Congress. The attendant then called the police, but during a search of the area, the man was not found.

Telephone of terror

A 23-year-old woman was the victim of several threatening telephone calls to her home at the University Center, 525 S. State St., on March 21 and 27. She said the first offender was a 26-year-old woman who knew the victim's boyfriend and had a child with him. The victim reported to police that the woman said, "It ain't over. I'm gonna get you." The second phone call, the victim reported, was a 26-year-old man who threatened to beat her up.

Off the Blotter



Joshua Covarrubias/The Chronicle

Political push and pull



Andrew Nelles/The Chronicle

Incumbent 2nd Ward Alderman Madeline Haithcock, left, listens to advice from her newest endorsement and onetime challenger David Askew. Haithcock, along with candidate Bob Fioretti, right, attended the Homeowners of West Town's Q&A and position forum at the Miles Square Health Center, 2045 W. Washington Blvd. on March 26.

Endorsements stir up race for 2nd Ward alderman

Part of The Chronicle's ongoing election coverage

By James H. Ewert Jr.
City Beat Editor

As the 2nd Ward aldermanic race intensifies, so does the political mudslinging—and over the past several weeks, the bout between candidates Bob Fioretti and incumbent Madeline Haithcock has gotten dirtier than ever.

With only a few weeks left

before the April 17 runoff election, the two candidates convened on March 26 during the Homeowners of West Town's monthly meeting at the Miles Square Health Center, 2045 W. Washington Blvd., for a Q&A and position forum. In her first public appearance since receiving the endorsements from previous challengers David Askew and Larry Doody, Haithcock appeared as confident as ever.

With Askew close in tow and taking notes for the alderman he previously criticized for a lack of availability, Haithcock and Fioretti responded to West Side homeowners' concerns about

education, development and safety issues, among others.

During the nearly two-hour event, Haithcock often referred to the newest addition to her campaign platform—citizen advisory councils, an idea to get more ward residents involved in decision making, and one previously touted by Askew's campaign.

"The advisory board will be made up of five sections," Haithcock said to a resident inquiring about the recent development in his West Side neighborhood. "Your area, the west, the near West Side, the Loop and near South Side. You will

decide what you want to do in your community, what development to do, how tall you want that building, how many houses you want and what you want to come there."

Askew said he chose to endorse Haithcock because of a negative and misleading mailing sent out by Fioretti shortly before the Feb. 27 election. In the campaign literature, Askew said there were false statements made, but did not give details.

"Back in August [2006], we sat down at Penelope's for lunch and Fioretti said to me, 'Can we agree not to go negative on each

See Accusations, Page 31

A Palestinian perspective on peace

Representative lectures on Middle East foreign policy

By Brent Steven White
Associate Editor

Amid continued calls from many countries for the United States to take a more active and balanced role in the Middle East peace process, the United States representative for the Palestine Liberation Organization spoke on his perspectives of Middle Eastern peace at The Chicago Club, 81 E. Van Buren St.

Afif Safieh, a former staff member for Yasser Arafat, the former president of the Palestine

Authority who died in 2004, addressed members of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a non-partisan organization that hosts public and private events with guest lecturers from around the world.

Selected to lead the PLO office in Washington, D.C., in 2005, Stieh spoke about achieving peace with Israel, Palestinian history and culture, and his optimism concerning American students' interest and activism toward the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He also answered questions and received criticism from audience members.

About 100 people attended the event on March 26, according to event coordinator Hugh

McMullen.

Having served as president of the General Union of Palestinian Students in both Belgian and France in the 1970s—the only Palestinian to be elected twice in two different countries—Safieh said despite many officials shunning the collective student voice, he's seen a vast amount of interest in the Middle East conflict at American universities.

"We live in a shrinking world, an interdependent world, where this crisis is no longer just a region crisis; it has global repercussions," Safieh said. "So for one's self-interest, and besides the elements of intellectual curiosity, people are

See Palestine, Page 32



Rachael Strecher/The Chronicle

Afif Safieh, Palestinian Liberation Organization representative to the United States, speaks at the Chicago City Club, March 26.

Women defy gender roles in elections

Chicago's municipal election results reflect national trend

By Beth Palmer
Assistant Campus Editor

Women could potentially hold 21 of the 50 seats in Chicago's City Council after the April 19 runoff.

The Feb. 27 municipal election gave Chicago a female city treasurer and 12 women aldermen. These results reflect the nationally increasing number of women in office.

According to data from the Center for American Women and Politics, a research entity at Rutgers University in New Jersey, U.S. Congress is currently 16.3 percent women, up from 3 percent in 1979. In Illinois, the percentage of women in the state Senate rose from 11 percent in 1979 to 27 percent in 2007.

Chicago women's political history also dates back to the 1970s, the decade of the city's only female mayor and first women aldermen.

Some experts credit progression of time for the national trend, others improved political training. But gender discrimination rarely exists, according to one female Chicago alderman who said she never encounters sexism at work.

Women are their own competition for the first time, said Clare Giesen, executive director of the National Women's Political Caucus, a Washington, D.C.-based grassroots organization that touts the slogan "When women run, women win."

"In so many cases, we have women running against women," Giesen said. "It's fairly new. The women's movement started in 1971, but it's taken until the last five years [to have more than one woman running for the same position]."

Alderman Vi Daley, of the near North Side's 43rd Ward, received 48 percent of the vote in the recent Chicago municipal election. She now faces the municipal runoff election against Michele Smith, who received 33 percent of the vote in the February election. Runoff elections occur when candidates don't receive 50 percent of the vote.

The 43rd Ward race is one of four woman-versus-woman runoff

See Gender, Page 31

The long way home

Foster care system undergoes nationwide changes

By Jenn Zimmerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

Names have been changed in this story in order to protect the identities of the children mentioned

Dirty, hungry and alone, 7-year-old George and his two younger siblings were found by police

sleeping in a booth at their local McDonald's in the south suburb of Hickory Hills. In hopes of returning the children, police arrived at their home only to find the floor littered with empty alcohol bottles and trash—a life much different than they have now.

A year and a half later, George, Debbie and Charlie are now foster children living in Chicago's S.O.S Children's Village, located in the South Side's Auburn-Gresham neighborhood, under the care of

their foster mother, Ms. Davis. However, like many other foster children, they will eventually return home to their mother as part of what experts say is a major change occurring in the child welfare system involving reunification.

According to Kendall Marlowe, a spokesman from the Department of Children and Family Services, foster children who are reunited with their biological parents or

See Foster Care, Page 29



Mauricio Rubio/The Chronicle

Chalk drawings adorn the sidewalks outside of the S.O.S. Children's Village at 74th and South Parnell streets. The latest DCFS report shows more than 16,000 children reside in foster care.