

9-17-2007

Columbia Chronicle (09/17/2007)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago September 17, 2007 Volume 43 Number 3



for waste



SWIMMING IN YOUTUBE SUCCESS

Water slide video viewed more than 250,000 times

Columbia student Ron Marks Jr. and his friends were staring blankly out the window one day when he decided to put his plan into action. Even though it might be expensive and dangerous, the possibility of building a water slide off of Marks' roof was too tantalizing to resist.

The video of Marks and his friends testing out the water slide has captured the attention of CNN, "The Early Show" and "America's Funniest Home Videos."

• SEE PG. 6



CHICAGO GETS MOONSTRUCK

Community festival returns to Chinatown

Moon Fest, a traditional Chinese holiday that honors family and the fall harvest, will be celebrated in Chinatown on Sept. 22. Chinese American Idol and traditional events such as a lion dance and Chinese opera are a few of the main events. Some see the celebration as part of Chinatown's resurgence.

• SEE PG. 37

Moving on out ... to the West Side



by Amanda Maurer
Editor-in-Chief

I can't tell if I'm excited or terrified. You've heard whirlwind romance stories, but here's one about apartment hunting. In the past four days (Sept. 10 to 13), I've found a roommate, found an apartment, seen the apartment and have started paperwork. The best part? This move came out of nowhere. I've been living at home since the beginning of my junior year; I decided to become a commuter after spending my first two years at Columbia in the dorms. Once I was thoroughly jaded with the dorm experience, I decided to try living at home. I was motivated by one large factor: money. I couldn't afford to live downtown at the time, and I couldn't (and didn't want to) take out any more loans, which I've already started paying back. Plus, the thought of living at home didn't bother me. I'm a family girl, and I enjoy spending time with them—and yes, even the cats—at home. Rent's free.

There's always good food. Frankly, there's no place like it. Staying at home really did seem practical. My family lives in Skokie, and so the commute didn't seem like it would be so bad: just hop on the Yellow Line (a.k.a. the Skokie Line, the Skokie Swift, or my personal favorite, the Skokie Pokey) and then transfer at Howard to the Red or Purple Lines. Easy, right? It was, until classes and homework started. And then I started working 40-plus hours at the paper. Soon I was spending close to 60 hours downtown every week. But it wouldn't end there. After a day of class and work, I would spend the next hour and a half on various trains bound for Skokie. If I didn't crash the moment I got home, I'd try doing homework, only to eventually crawl into bed and wake up to start it all over a few hours later. My social life was replaced by work and commuting. I'd rarely stay out, and hated the idea of visiting anyone in Chicago on the weekends. Needless to say, I burned out. But I thought everything was OK. My life was super busy, but it was my life. However, during the last week of the spring semester, I found out it wasn't only my life. I hadn't realized the toll my crazy schedule was having on my family's lives too. I was never around, and if I was, I would be exhausted and impatient. I was an awful person to live with. We fought about this. Often. Some of the worst fights I've ever had with family members had to do with my wanting to move. So, when this summer started, we wanted to figure out a way that would

make this school year easier for everyone—so last year wouldn't repeat itself. We discussed (and by discussed I mean yelled about) the possibility of living downtown this year since I could finally afford it. But nothing worked out. Either studios were too expensive, or far away or previous potential roommates fell through. But then Sept. 10 happened. A friend's friend needed to move by the end of the month and was looking for a roommate. Was I interested? I was all ready to spend another year at home. I knew what it would mean: making my life difficult, straining my relationship with my family and giving up having a social life. But it was life. I'm a firm believer that everything happens for a reason, and so this seemed like an opportunity where I couldn't say no. Without hesitating I said, "yes." Then came the time when I had to discuss it with my family. This time it was a discussion and not one word was shouted. I think we were all hoping that some solution would present itself, and I think this was it. And my mom, who has been a big advocate for my staying at home, has conceded. This is a big deal. A big step. I know what this means to her. I can only imagine how hard it was for her when all of us left to live at college for a few years, leaving her alone. And obviously last year was no picnic for either of us. But this year it'll be different. I'm excited.

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IN YOUR OPINION:

How would you feel if medicinal marijuana were legalized?



"I have chronic migraine syndrome and I would rather smoke every day and every night."

Paul Cope
Freshman
Film and Video



"I will suddenly develop the disease that it was legalized to cure."

James Hull
Sophomore
Music Composition



"I feel like it would benefit people who need it the most, like people who are sick who need marijuana."

Nikki Kallnowski
Junior
Early Childhood Education

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Campus News

Columbia sued by former employee

Fired Audio Arts and Acoustics Department staff member claims breach of contract

by George P. Slefo
Associate Editor

According to court documents filed in the Cook County Circuit Court last week, "everyone is at each others' throats" in the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department.

Reid Hyams, an instructor and full time staff member in the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department, was not getting along with his coworker and faculty member Jack Alexander, according to the court documents. The quarrel came when Alexander demanded his office be moved because of an ongoing conflict with the department's secretary, according to the lawsuit.

The solution was to give Hyams' office to Alexander, who was furthest from the secretary, and move Hyams into the basement of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, according to the suit. Hyams became frustrated that he had to move his office in the basement because Alexander couldn't get along with the department secretary, according to the court documents.

On June 18, while Alexander was away from his office, Hyams placed a note on his door that read: "Jack sucks donkey c---," according to the legal documents.

About five or six people witnessed Hyams place the note on Alexander's door and some found the prank funny, according to the court documents. However, as Hyams became distracted by a phone call in his office, Elliott Scott, assistant to the chair in the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department,

saw the note and instantly brought it to Doug Jones, chair of the Audio Arts and Acoustics Department, according to the suit.

When The Chronicle brought the lawsuit to Jones' attention on Sept. 12, he said "no comment."

After Jones learned about the note, an investigation followed the next day, according to the court documents. Doreen Bartoni, dean of the School of Media Arts, concluded that Hyams' behavior was unacceptable and terminated him on June 25, according to the legal documents.

"This isn't about money ... Unfortunately, we weren't able to [get a response from Columbia] and that's why we had to file the lawsuit."

—Stuart Gimbel, Reid Hyams' attorney

The Illinois Department of Employment Security ruled Hyams was not guilty of misconduct, according to a letter sent to Annice Kelly, vice president and general counsel at Columbia, according to the legal documents.

Hyams filed suit 11 weeks later.

According to Hyams' attorney, Stuart Gimbel, of Kamensky, Rubinstein, Hochman and Delott, Hyams would "definitely" consider reinstatement as an option.

"That's what we would like to see

happen," Gimbel said. "Right now, [Hyams] is hoping that things can be worked out."

Hyams stated in the suit that he felt he was treated unfairly and decided to file a civil lawsuit with the Cook County Circuit Court last week. Currently, Hyams is suing Columbia for breach of contract and for terminating him without warning on the "sole instructions and demands of Bartoni," rather than following proper administrative procedure, according to the lawsuit.

"This isn't about money," Gimbel said. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to [get a response from Columbia] and that's why we had to file the lawsuit."

Mark Lloyd, associate vice president and chief marketing officer, said by law Columbia cannot make any comments regarding the termination of Hyams.

"In general terms, the college is consistent with its practice [when dealing with termination]," Lloyd said. "I cannot comment on [Hyams'] particular case."

Lloyd said anyone can sue Columbia and these types of allegations happen frequently.

"They're not unusual," Lloyd said. "These are always one-sided stories—when these kinds of stories appear in print, the employer is always prohibited from talking."

Columbia was also sued in 2005, when Accra Shepp, a black male and former photography professor at Columbia, filed a lawsuit similar to Hyams. Shepp is suing for \$2.3 million for breach of contract and racial discrimination, among other charges. His trial begins on Sept. 28.

gslefo@chroniclemail.com

Calendar

'Fifty years on the road'

A presentation and discussion with Jack Kerouac biographer Gerald Nicosia will be held on Sept. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the 8th floor Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The event will also feature an interview with John Schultz, reception and book signing.

For more information, call Linda Naslund at (312) 344-7861.

'A Taste of Asia'

Come enjoy a welcome reception for the Asian community on campus during an event held by the Office of Asian Cultural Affairs. The event will feature "A Taste of Asia," where attendees can indulge in free authentic Asian cuisine. The event will take place on Sept. 19 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

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

Student Government Association meeting

The SGA Senate meeting will be held on Sept. 19 at 5 p.m. in the downstairs HUB in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The SGA meets every Tuesday at the same time and location and all students, faculty and staff may attend.

For more information, call the SGA office at (312) 344-6657.

'Dream Lives of Butterflies' reading

Jaimee Wriston Colbert, author of *Climbing the God Tree*, will read from her new book, *Dream Lives of Butterflies*, at Fiction Writers at Lunch in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., at 11 a.m. on Sept. 21.

For more information, call the Fiction Writing Department at (312) 344-7611.

College battles post 9/11 drop in international student enrollment

by Beth Palmer
Campus News Editor

WHILE DOMESTIC enrollment steadily increases at Columbia, international student enrollment slowly but steadily drops.

But for the first time, Columbia will proactively address the decline with two new efforts aimed to increase awareness of Columbia around the globe and offer financial aid to international students.

"It's no secret—ever since 9/11 the United States has not been a preferred study destination," said Gigi Posejpal, assistant dean of International Student Affairs. "Other countries saw this as an opportunity ... now our big competitors are Australia, Canada and the U.K. [where] tuition is cheaper and distance is smaller."

Columbia's 154 international students—a combination of graduates and undergraduates—represent more than 40 countries including Estonia, France and Pakistan. By default, all international students are part of the college's International Student Organization, which spurred the creation

of three merit-based international student scholarships this year and also supports Columbia's decision to send a recruiter to Asia this year.

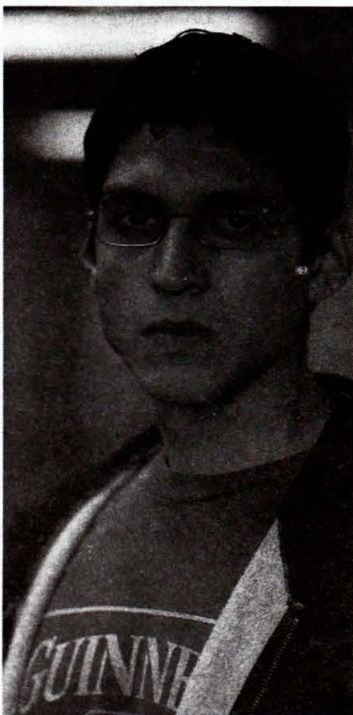
On Sept. 29, Stephanie Strait, who was and adviser at Columbia until 2003, leaves on a four-week tour of college fairs in cities including Shanghai and Tokyo. Enrollment Management hired Strait because she was familiar with the school.

"What we're really interested in is the international students' contribution to the diversity of our student body," said Debra McGrath, associate vice president of Enrollment Management.

Strait will travel with representatives from other colleges through Linden Educational Services, which charges \$23,000 for the trip, not including air fare.

"When you first start doing something like this, you kind of have to make a commitment to it. You can't just do a single trip over there and expect your numbers to suddenly skyrocket," McGrath said. "You

»INTERNATIONAL, PG. 8



Juan Galindo, president of the International Student Organization, came to the United States for the first time when he moved to Chicago from Guatemala to attend Columbia.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

No ifs, ands or blunts about legal medical marijuana

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus News Editor

IT HAS been a blazing media issue for years, but now recent studies featured in the documentary *Waiting to Inhale* has conservative columnist Debra Saunders hooked.

The film *Waiting to Inhale* will premiere in Chicago on Thursday Sept. 20 at the Film Row Cinema on the 8th floor of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. There will be a post-screening discussion featuring Jed Riffe, the film's director; Melanie Dreher, dean of the College of Nursing at Rush University; and James Gierach, a campaigner for drug policy reform and former Cook County prosecutor. The panel will be moderated by renowned documentarian Gordon Quinn, the director of *Hoop Dreams*.

The Chicago screening is co-sponsored by Columbia's Television Department and by the Public Square at the Illinois Humanities Council, which, according to Riffe, gave *Waiting to Inhale* a production grant.

Waiting to Inhale observes the medicinal use of marijuana and its effect on people suffering from illness. The film intertwines stories of individuals struggling with illness with controlled studies that prove that marijuana helps alleviate many side effects such as nausea and terminal pain. The documentary also discusses the role of marijuana as a gateway drug in the stories of teenagers whose lives have been lost due to addiction.

Riffe said he was motivated to create *Waiting to Inhale* by the "death sentences" that awaited victims of AIDS in the '80s.



Robert Randall, known as Patient O, is the first person in U.S. history to be granted permission to buy and smoke medical marijuana.

Courtesy JED RIFFE FILMS LLC

"The only way for people to eat when they were sick was to smoke marijuana and it made them eat and keep the food down. They were able to take medicine without feeling sick," he said.

Riffe was able to film Dr. Donald Abrams' study on medicinal marijuana's effects on AIDS patients which, according to Riffe, was the first clinical study on the subject since UCLA did a study with Dr. Joel Hochman in 1970.

Waiting to Inhale features both studies, but getting there was not an easy road, according to Riffe and the documentary. Coupled with governmental pressure from the Drug Enforcement Agency, researchers and patients in the film had to deal with government interference, arrests, raids and court battles in their quest to be able to study and smoke medicinal marijuana. Even Riffe took the road less traveled when he said that he and his crew were chased off a mountain by the Drug Enforcement Agency during the filming process.

Though that road might have been slightly bumpy for Riffe during filming, *Waiting to Inhale* certainly fared well with film festivals. Riffe's film was the winner of World-fest Houston 2005 Gold Special Jury Award and a winner in the Eureka! International Film Festival.

Aside from co-winning Best Documentary at the 2005 New Jersey International Film Festival and being an official selection in the Australian International Film Festival, Riffe is hearing the accolades of his peers. Conservative columnist Debra Saunders reviewed *Waiting to Inhale*, referencing the documentary's many stories to form her stance on the issue of medicinal marijuana.

Saunders offered her opinions on the topic of marijuana in the San Francisco

Chronicle last September, saying that marijuana use should not be a crime for anybody who is sick or well. Referencing many of the individuals with terminal illnesses in the movie, Saunders forms a strong side with these people, often citing their relief after smoking or taking Marinol, a FDA approved prescription pill that is like marijuana. She also said that these individuals' costs are cut due to the cheaper costs of medicinal marijuana.

Eric Scholl, a faculty member in the Television Department, serves as the liaison between Columbia and the Public Square at the Illinois Humanities Council.

"We did a screening last [semester] with a documentary called *Forest Through The Trees* with the Public Square at the Illinois Humanities Council," Scholl said. "It was great, so we are doing it again."

Alice Kim, the director of the Public Square at the Illinois Humanities Council, a non-profit organization that brings awareness to social and cultural issues, said the Public Square stresses social justice within these issues by creating public spaces to discuss these topics. Currently, it is showing *Waiting to Inhale* through its Civics Cinema Series, which is a collection of documentaries that foster debate about various issues affecting the present day society.

Kim hopes to educate the public by showing *Waiting to Inhale*.

"The film is a springboard for discussions about various issues," Kim said, stating that issues such as medicinal marijuana are

»MARIJUANA PG. 14

The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago 1014 S. Michigan at 11th St.

Concert Hall Events

Tuesday September 18

Cantate Deo in Concert
At the Sherwood Concert Hall
6:00 PM
Student Concert Series
7:00 PM

Wednesday September 19

Student Jam
12:00 PM
Sebastian Huydts and Eric Lamb in Concert
7:30 PM

Thursday September 20

Howard Levy in Concert
12:00 PM
Howard Levy Workshop
1:00 PM

Friday September 21

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby
12:00 PM

DEADLINE EXTENDED! NOVEMBER 16, 2007

The Turner Award in Music Composition has been established by Allen Turner, Chairman of Columbia College's Board of Trustees.

THE SONG

A competition open to all current full-time Columbia College students. We're looking for the BEST student songwriters in the college.

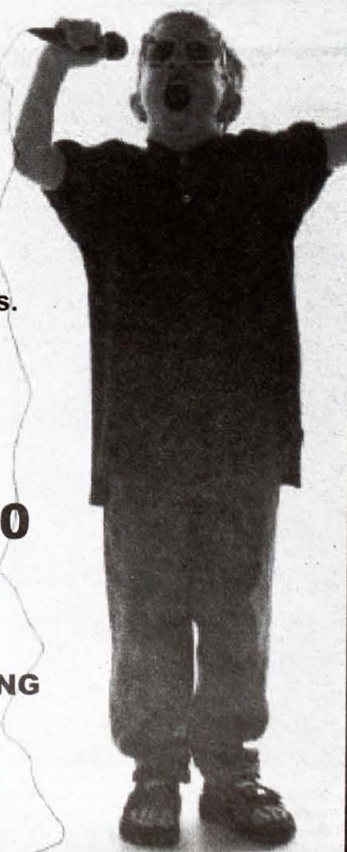
FIRST PRIZE: \$500

SECOND PRIZE: \$300

THIRD PRIZE: \$200

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Apple Store robbed



In the early morning of Sept. 10, thieves broke into Columbia's Apple Store.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

by Amanda Maurer
Editor-in-Chief

TWO OFFENDERS have been charged with felony burglary after robbing Columbia's Apple Store, located in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, at approximately 1:00 a.m. on Sept. 10.

According to Martha Meegan, director of Campus Safety and Security, the offenders jarred the Apple Store's glass door by hitting it with a brick and kicking it in. Campus security officers and the Chicago Police Department

responded immediately, she said.

In the area that morning, officers captured two offenders breaking into a car. While being held, it was discovered they had the stolen merchandise which included iPods, a USB cable and earplugs, Meegan said. Security camera footage from the Apple Store confirms the offenders' identities.

Meegan said the college plans to look into installing a gate for extra security in the future.

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Obituary

Tragic cycling accident claims life of Columbia photography student

Belgian man's death is second loss for Chicago's XXX Racing-AthletiCo this season, first for Columbia's small community of international students

by Beth Palmer
Campus News Editor

A SENIOR photography major died in an organized cycling event on Sept. 11, 2007.

Pieter Ombregt, 27, came to Columbia in 2003 from Belgium. His death has not only affected Columbia's Photography Department, but the international student community and the network among cyclists that reaches all corners of the globe.

"I can't believe this happened," said Elizabeth Ernst, a faculty member in the Photography Department. "I've been at Columbia for 17 years and there is a very short list of students who would compare to Pieter."

As reported in the Chicago Tribune, Ombregt crashed into a barrier post about 6:45 p.m. going 30 mph. He was taken to St. James Hospital and Health Centers in Olympia Fields, where he died about three hours later, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. An autopsy Sept. 12 determined his death was accidental and caused by injury to his cervical artery.

Ombregt had approximately four laps left in a 20-lap race around an Ace Hardware warehouse on the 21900 block of Central Avenue, according to the

Tribune article.

One of Ombregt's fine art photo series, which can be viewed on pieterombregt.com, included himself dressed in an orange jump suit and with a shaved head standing in modern architectural settings throughout Chicago.

"Having Pieter as a student was a rare gift for a teacher," Ernst said. "He always made my day better. He never complained about work load, always pushed himself."

Ombregt's death impacted Columbia's small international student population, who make up about 1 percent of the college's over 11,000 students.

"This is a major loss," said Gigi Posejpal, assistant dean of International Student Affairs. "His uncle told me that Pieter said these were the happiest years of his life. He was very happy here."

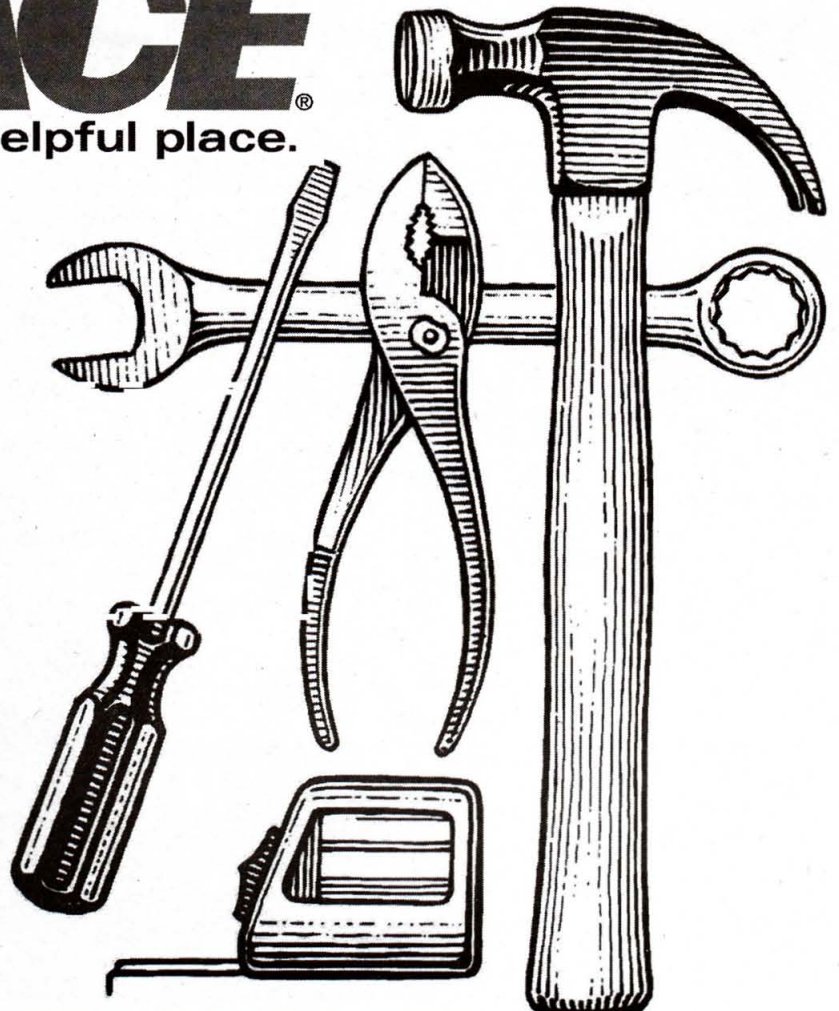
Ombregt raced for XXX Racing-AthletiCo, the team he represented as he raced on Sept. 11. The race was part of a series sponsored by the South Chicago Wheelmen and was supposed to continue until the end of September. However, the South Chicago Wheelmen have ended the series for the year, according to their website.

Ombregt's death is especially tragic for the cycling community who lost another member of the XXX Racing-AthletiCo team, Beth Kobeszka, earlier this summer.

A memorial service took place on Sept. 16.

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Film student's online video slides to success

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus News Editor

THE SUMMER can be a good time to get a tan, but for some Columbia students, being out of school meant more opportunities to be bored and build a two-story water slide.

Ron Marks Jr., a senior film and video major, his brother Nick, his friend Dan Thurnhoffer, a sophomore photography major and Jan Teves, an Illinois Institute of Technology student, decided in the summer of 2006 to build a water slide from Marks' two-story roof.

Their homemade video, featuring each of them shooting down the slide into an inflatable pool, was posted seven months ago, but has gained popularity on YouTube.com because of break.com and MyspaceTV. The video recently became an online hit with more than 250,000 hits on YouTube and more than 565,000 hits on MySpace TV, while other media outlets have been gulping it up recently.

Marks and the video were recently featured on CNN, The CW, "The Early Show" and featured last December on "America's Funniest Home Videos." Marks is simply excited by the attention.

"It's been fun. This [video] was created a year ago, so it's kind of strange. I had [the video] on YouTube for a long time," Marks said.

What became an online phenomenon began out of boredom. Marks' parents were out of town when the plan was hatched,



Left: Ron Marks Jr. watches his friend test out the slide from the second story.

Courtesy RON MARKS JR.

Thurnhoffer said.

"Jan Teves and my little brother Nick got a bunch of plywood [and other materials] and we put whatever we could find underneath it and created a water slide," Marks said.

Over the course of seven days, a two-story water slide was created. Thurnhoffer was in Colorado when the slide was being built but came back just in time to see the water slide being tested.

When he arrived, Thurnhoffer was surprised to see a two-story water slide and his friends sliding into the kiddie

pool. By nightfall, attention on the handmade slide had reached a peak. More than 30 people tested the two-story slide, except Thurnhoffer, who had a broken arm during the one day the slide was in operation.

Thurnhoffer said the only injury resulting from the water slide was a concussion Marks suffered.

According to Marks, during the construction of the slide the Lombard Police Department were called and Marks' uncle, Officer Bud Marks, picked up. He called Marks and asked him if he was building a slide and Marks lied and told

his uncle he was building a water slide down the stairs. Officer Marks dismissed any notion that his nephew was doing anything dangerous.

Marks' parents eventually found out about the slide when his uncle called them a few days later after he discovered Marks suffered a concussion due to the slide. After finding out about the slide, Marks' parents were initially angry, but are now fine with it, Marks said.

Along with having a successful video on Myspace TV and YouTube, Marks' water slide video gained notoriety in the media circuit.

Recent media coverage and having a popular YouTube video has been an overwhelming experience for Marks and his friends. Thurnhoffer hopes the media coverage continues.

"This [video] spread like wildfire and I hope it doesn't stop," Thurnhoffer said.

Devon Kay, a sophomore music major, was one of the students who saw the video and he was motivated by the slide.

"When I saw the video, it made me want to try sliding down a roof, but I didn't want to get hurt," Kay said.

Marks said it was a carefree activity to do and it allowed him to get in touch with his wild side.

"You go to an amusement park and you get [to go on] a bigger slide, but the appeal to it was that it was off the back of a house," Marks said.

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

Get ready for election 2008 with Project Vote Smart

Richard Kimball, president and founder of Project Vote Smart (PVS), a non-partisan, not-for-profit, online searchable database containing a wealth of information on elected officials and political candidates, will speak about the history and mission of PVS and explain how citizens can Vote Smart in the next election with the online Voters' Self-Defense System.

This event is co-sponsored by the Critical Encounters Program, the Civic Engagement & Responsibility Committee, and the Illinois League of Conservation Voters [www.lcvillinois.org].

Project Vote Smart has been lauded for its unbiased and detailed information about candidates' positions on causes and issues. PVS has been called "heaven for political junkies" (USA Today) and recommended for its "reliable, meat and potatoes political information" (New York Times). The American Political Science Association has honored PVS as "The Best" source for accurate political information on the internet.

Diverse political figures including Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Michael Dukakis, Barry Goldwater, Geraldine Ferraro and John McCain helped found PVS. Explore the organization's resources at www.vote-smart.org.

Register to Vote, and then Vote Smart!

To register, bring a photo ID with your current address (or a utility bill showing your current address if it is different from that on your ID)

Monday, September 24, 2007, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
1104 S. Wabash, Conaway Center, 1st Floor
Free and open to the public

Columbia 

COLLEGE CHICAGO

SPB gains \$40,000 in budget, 50 new members

by Beth Palmer
Campus News Editor

SHAROD SMITH and three others were the only members of the first Student Programming Board at Columbia.

That was three years ago—now it has over 50 members.

Smith, programming coordinator of the Office of College-Wide Events, now serves as adviser to the Student Programming Board, an organization that throws events like concerts, talent shows and costume parties, with the goal of bringing together students from every major to a common event.

The SPB has come a long way since its creation in 2004, garnering attention from Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, and the Student Government Association, which voted to increase the SPB budget by \$40,000 this year.

"It was agreed that [SPB] was underfunded," Kelly said. "[SPB] has become a major part of student life."

Kelly said while Columbia offers many events around campus, there is a shortage of mainstream events that have the ability to create unity among all groups of people. That's where SPB comes in, he said.

The next SPB event is a Halloween bash, a party that SPB president Ayisha Jaffer said the board is known for; it will have DJs, food, tarot readings and a costume contest.

Jaffer said the event will be on Oct. 25 in the Hokin Annex of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Later in the year, SPB will sponsor Biggest Mouth, an annual school-wide talent show, and Chaos, an end of the year concert by a mainstream recording artist.

Jaffer said she and the executive board of SPB plan to look for students of every major to bring their individual expertise to the organization. They want to utilize students' skills in graphic design, music performance and film and video, to name a few.

"The main thing [SPB will do] is diversify," she said. "We've been known to do mostly music events in the past."

SPB events benefit the college by making Columbia more competitive and by keeping students on campus, Smith said. Every college has some form of a student activity board, he said.

"It's a two-fold thing," Smith said. "For students involved in SPB it's a great resume builder ... [plus,] every college has one."

The SPB has been a launch pad for several members in its three years of existence. In fact, both the former president of SPB and the current president found jobs through planning events at Columbia.

Freshman audio arts and acoustics major, Greg Keefer, said he's heard of events by the SPB.

"There's a lot of stuff like that I'd really

like to do, it's just kind of tough to commute down for everything," said Keefer, who travels two hours to Columbia. "But I'd

definitely attend if I lived in the area."

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SPB President Ayisha Jaffer speaks at the Student Programming Board meeting on Sept. 11. The meeting was held to introduce new members and discuss the organization's new budget.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE



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Athletics holds fall field day

by Robert Bykowski
Assistant Campus News Editor

COLUMBIA'S STUDENT Athletics Association will be throwing a welcoming party for sports lovers on Sept. 21 in Grant Park from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The event, sponsored by the Renegades, will be a day for students interested in athletics to sign up for sports teams, enjoy pick-up games and otherwise network with each other. It will take place in the same general location as Convocation, near Balbo Avenue and Columbus Drive.

With many of the currently recognized sports teams expecting to have representatives in attendance, Fall Field Day should be a good opportunity for students to express their interest in Columbia athletics, said Renegades marketing and events coordinator Sarah Bixeman.

"The [sports teams] are going to use Fall Field Day as an opportunity to get more interest in sports and allow people to sign up for sports they might be interested in if they weren't able to go to Convocation," Bixeman said.

Some of the currently recognized sports teams include soccer, lacrosse, fencing and baseball for males, in addition to a co-ed soccer team.

Pick-up games of volleyball, tennis and soccer are being planned for the event, and Bixeman expects there to be relay races and other "silly games."

Various student organizations will also be present at Fall Field Day, but beyond having a representative from the organizations in attendance, director of Student Organizations and Leadership Dominic Cottone figures much of the support will happen behind the scenes.

"I've already talked to a number of the student organizations and let them know that part of their involvement is to help recruit students to attend Fall Field Day," Cottone said. "And, at the same time, also help with manpower with certain things that Athletics may need."

Bixeman estimated the cost of the event to be around \$1,600, with the majority of the money spent on securing the location. Bixeman said the event will benefit students.

"It's for the students, and it's going to give back to the school and the school community," Bixeman said. She added the event will also benefit athletics by generating interest.

While student Steve Smith, a junior music business major, had no interest in the event or Columbia athletics, fellow student Travis Moore, a senior film and video major, showed some interest in attending, and cited soccer as the sport he would be interested in.

» INTERNATIONAL Continued from PG. 3

Students take initiative, present need of aid to college administration

have to invest in the area. Over time is when you start to see some payoffs of that effort ... I think it is a wise investment."

Although there's no guarantee that Strait will return on the same trip next year or whether Columbia will participate in the tour next year, McGrath said she hopes and expects the international recruitment to continue.

Kim Jean, a senior marketing communications major from Saint Lucia, an island in the Caribbean, took the lead in creating an official packet explaining the need for an international student scholarship.

Since international students cannot fill out a FAFSA, they cannot qualify for most sources of aid through Columbia, the government and private distributors. Jean said the International Student Organization decided to act formally by writing the Columbia administration about the state of international students.

The number of international students has dropped from 3 per-

cent of undergraduate enrollment to 1 percent of total enrollment in the past five years and from 7 percent to 3 percent of graduate enrollment, according to Columbia's website.

"With only 154 students, we thought we were at risk of being extinct," Jean said.

And Jean, who works in the office of International Student Affairs said the number one ques-

GPA and attended continually for four years.

It was a day she will never forget, she said.

"That day it was very emotional, I was so happy I cried," she said. "The response was so rewarding; [it showed] initiative does pay off."

The scholarships are only available to incoming students, so the initiative Jean took won't directly

national students we all share something in common."

Galindo, a junior music major, said the decreasing number of international students stems from students' personal financial situations but also from the college not promoting itself abroad.

"The college itself would benefit [from a large international population]," he said. "Networking-wise, it becomes international."

Julie Moses, a junior art and design major, said she had a student from France in a class called Contemporary Issues in New Media who greatly contributed to her learning.

"She had so many ideas I would never think of—things off the wall and abstract," Moses said. "I think we have a lot to learn from other countries."

Moses said she learned a lot in that class, both from the curriculum and the French student. An increased international enrollment would be positive for Columbia, she said.

"I think it's pretty cool [that Columbia is recruiting internationally]," Moses said. "The one thing I really like about Columbia is they promote diversity."

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"I think it's pretty cool [that Columbia is recruiting internationally.] The one thing I really like about Columbia is they promote diversity."

—Julie Moses, junior art and design major

tion foreign students ask when they contact Columbia is, "Does the college offer scholarships for international students?"

On Aug. 15 Jean received a letter from Columbia outlining the college's response: Every year, the college would award three \$3,000 scholarships on a merit basis to incoming international students. The awards would be renewable for four years as long as the recipient maintained a 3.0

benefit her. But, she wanted to make sure lack of finances did not keep future students away from Columbia, she said.

Juan Galindo, president of the International Student Organization, appreciates the scholarships and the international recruitment.

"I think it's a wise investment to have the college represented in other countries," he said. "We wanted that [because] as inter-

Durbin speaks on financial aid



Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., spoke to a crowd of about 25 students and school officials in the Sullivan Room in Roosevelt University, 400 S. Michigan Ave., on Sept. 14. Durbin brought two students to the microphone to share how they rely on financial aid. Durbin also shared financial aid information for students and stressed the importance of colleges being responsible with tuition rates.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

SGA pores over proposed changes to constitution

One senator calls for review of amendments in ad-hoc committee

by Robert Bykowski
Assistant Campus News Editor

MEMBERS OF the Student Government Association tip-toed between frustration and efficiency while discussing proposed amendments to its constitution during the association's meeting on Sept. 11.

Following organizational formalities and a moment of silence for victims of 9/11, the senators of the SGA became immersed in more than 10 pages of proposed amendments and changes to its constitution. The changes were conceived by the executive board over the summer and need to be voted on by the senate.

In slightly less than two hours time, the SGA found itself through only five pages of changes before the meeting was tabled. SGA president Brian Matos said the at-times confusing and frustrating meeting was a product of the democratic process.

"This is democracy at work," Matos said. "This is as long as our meetings are going to go. There were a lot of changes that [the executive board] proposed."

From the outset of the meeting, there were discrepancies.

Before the senate was able to address the addition of two words to one sentence within the constitution's mission statement, art and design senator Miles Vance, a fine arts major, called for the formation of a constitutional review committee to examine the way the amendments were

presented to the senate.

"Robert's Rules has a strict way of presenting changes, and the way you present something has to be clearly written out," Vance said. "The recommended changes weren't following the guidelines that were set up [by Robert's Rules]."

Matos countered by informing senators that such an action would delay the possibility of enacting the constitution and its proposed amendments by at least a month. Other senators questioned the need for an

senate, but couldn't decide on a similar request involving the president.

Matos said there were two main reasons to remove the voting privileges of the SGA president.

"I think that sometimes it influences the senators," Matos said. "When they are new to the senate and they see the president voting for something, they feel somehow they're being an opposition to the leadership if they vote against it, and that might not be the reason they're voting for it. I

can be put into effect, so all of the amendments voted on will have to be voted on again at the SGA's Sept. 18 meeting. The voting is expected to stay the same, and the perception is that when the senate re-votes on the amendments previously voted up, it should be quicker.

Additionally, because of an increased familiarity with Robert's Rules, SGA Vice President Annie Slezickey has confidence the SGA can get further into the constitutional amendments on Sept. 18 than they were able to on Sept. 11.

"I have confidence in my senate that they will be able to comprehend, understand and quickly go through the constitution in one meeting," Slezickey said.

Despite the apparent hiccups and sluggish pace of the SGA meeting, senators had positive things to say about the meeting.

"I thought it was open for debate, I thought it was very democratic," Vance said.

Commuter senator and sophomore television major Kelli Van Antwerp echoed Vance's sentiments, adding that the meeting seemed to go better than the previous year.

Dominick Cottone, director of Student Organizations and Leadership and SGA adviser of five years, said the meeting was on par with constitutional meetings in years past.

The Sept. 18 SGA meeting plans to eschew most of the meeting's staples and immediately get into the constitution.

"It is in no way fair for the president to vote against something and then have the power to veto it if he or she doesn't get their way. That's not right."

—Brian Matos, president of the Student Government Association

ad-hoc committee, and Vance's call to question was voted down.

From there, the senate picked apart each amendment it faced, at times word by word, and voted accordingly. Some amendments passed intact, some passed with caveats and changes and some were tabled until other amendments in the future were dealt with.

One proposed and tabled amendment dealt with the voting privileges of the SGA president.

The senate approved a passage within a "Voting Members" section that removed the student representative to the board of trustees as a voting member of the student

know that when I was a senator that's how I felt when the president was voting for or against something."

The second reason, the reason why the amendment was tabled, was because of an amendment deeper in the constitution which would give the president the ability to veto with the senate needing two-thirds majority vote to override the veto.

"It is in no way fair for the president to vote against something and then have the power to veto it if he or she doesn't get their way," Matos said. "That's not right."

According to Robert's Rules, any amendments to the constitution need to be voted on at two consecutive meetings before they

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Project Vote Smart to visit Columbia

by David Lister
Staff Writer

THOUGH THE upcoming presidential election is still more than a year away, many candidates have already begun their campaigns. Richard Kimball hopes to help students make the right decision when they vote next November.

Kimball, founder of Project Vote Smart, is visiting Columbia Sept. 24 to discuss the organization's history and Election 2008. The event will be held in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

This is just one stop on a nationwide tour for Project Vote Smart that will last until the 2008 elections. Mike Wessler, media director for Project Vote Smart, said the

goal is simple.

"We want to let voters know they have a tool that is unbiased," he said.

Kimball will also be introducing the Voter's Self-Defense System, which is now a complete database of every candidate and elected official's voting record, public statements, biographical and contact information and campaign contributors.

Kimball ran for the U.S. Senate seat in Arizona in 1986, but lost to John McCain. However, McCain and other political figures such as Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Michael Dukakis, Barry Goldwater and Geraldine Ferraro helped Kimball found Project Vote Smart.

Project Vote Smart was incorporated in 1988 and is a non-partisan and non-profit organization. It does not accept funding from corporations, political action committees, special interest groups or organizations that support any candidate.

Carol Gulyas, a reference and instruction librarian at Columbia and a member of the event's co-sponsor, the Civic Engage-

ment Committee of Columbia, said Project Vote Smart can help voters prepare for the upcoming campaign season.

"There is a complete swamp of over-information, not a lack of information," Gulyas said.

"It makes it hard for students to navigate. Vote Smart is a rare source of independent information, and that's why it's so important."

Gulyas said people will also be able to register to vote at the event, a service that Columbia has recently started when

students pick up their U-Pass and when incoming students register for classes.

"It's one of those frighteningly simple ideas and it shows that Columbia is committed to this," she said.

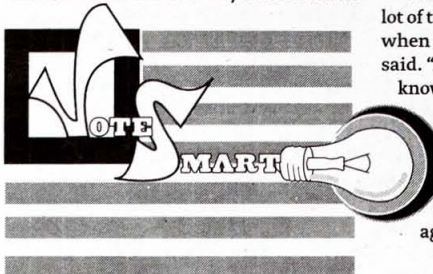
Gulyas said more than 600 students registered to vote during the school's fall semester U-Pass distribution.

Sal Cano, a senior journalism major, said non-partisan organizations like Project Vote Smart are important for any students interested in politics.

"For people who vote, it's good because a lot of them automatically think conspiracy when they hear about politicians," Cano said. "And [Project Vote Smart] let's you know what their biases are."

Cano said events like this are a step in the right direction for Columbia.

"I think it's good to encourage students, but I'd like more encouragement on the knowledge of voting



Allyson McGovern THE CHRONICLE

New class withdraw option improves OASIS

by Beth Palmer
Campus News Editor

THIS TIME last year, students sent to the Records Office to fill out class withdraw forms asked, "Why can't we do this online?"

The complaints did not fall on deaf ears. During the Summer 2007 semester, a new online class withdraw system ran without a kink.

"It's another example of how we're using

technology to make it easier for students to navigate Columbia," said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. "We take a while, but we catch up."

Students can withdraw from classes on OASIS using the same screen they add and drop classes with. More than 200 students withdrew from classes during the summer launch and there weren't any reported problems, said Marvin Cohen, director and registrar in the Records Office.

"This summer, it was amazing—students

just seemed to adopt it," Marvin said.

While convenient for students, the system also eliminates a task for his staff, who had to manually enter the changes. It eliminates human error on both sides, he said.

Although OASIS has evolved since its launch in 2003, Marvin said he wants to continue to increase its services to students. Last year, the Records Office added an immunization page where students can check to see if their medical records need

an update. Next, OASIS will allow students to request transcripts online.

Tanya Osika, a junior graphic design major, said she withdrew from classes at Columbia by filling out forms in the Record Office.

"I'm not pissed that I couldn't do it online," Osika said. "But I'm glad they realized there's an easier way to do that then making us run around like monkeys."

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Credits (left to right): Jodi Adams; Annelise Kasudia; Janelle Olson.

Note: These cards from past years are provided as examples only and are not intended to suggest or restrict the range of acceptable artwork.
In fact, we're looking for OUT-OF-THE-BOX and OFF-THE-PAGE ideas.

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Critical Encounters' Roots and Routes: Weekly personal narratives of Poverty and Privilege

'Making News: Paper Routes and Communities'

By Wayne Tukes

Adviser in the Academic Advising Center

I GREW up and came of age on the South Side of Chicago known as Bronzeville. At the time, I believed we were relatively well off. The community consisted of families, professionals, laborers, underemployed, unemployed and small business owners. The houses ranged from single family brick homes, to three-flat buildings, to apartments and kitchenettes. I lived in a two-flat family building with extended family members.

When I was about 11 years old, I was quite concerned about my image (hip) and performance (basketball) as it related to gym shoes. I desired to move out of wearing P.F. Flyers and Keds gym shoes and into the Chuck Connors Converse gym shoes. In order for me to make that happen, I had to seek my first job and the income it provided. So, in 1959, I got a newspaper route. This provided me the opportunity to achieve my immediate objective (gym shoes) and placed me in close proximity to the people and places in Bronzeville.

I acquired my Converse and they seemed magical, but something else happened—I got used to the income.

In fact, I changed paper routes and began delivering to neighboring Hyde Park, where the University of Chicago is, in 1961. The contrast became a critical encounter of people, places, cultures, things—a whole new ambience. That was the first time I assessed the notion/reality of poverty and privilege.

In Hyde Park, the houses ranged from architectural mansions (with coach houses) to large co-op apartments. The people were more diverse in ethnicity and occupations—professors, students, CEOs, doormen, etc. And, of course, there was a close proximity to Lake Michigan. On the Bronzeville paper route I had to deliver newspapers and collected money at the end of the week. On the Hyde Park paper route I did not have to collect money myself. I only delivered the newspaper, but I noticed there were different types of papers—The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, etc. In Bronzeville I had to carry the newspapers in a bag on my back. In Hyde Park I had a cart to carry them. In Hyde Park, milk, orange juice and eggs were delivered to the homes of the customers, like the newspapers. In Bronzeville those items had to be purchased at the local grocery store.

The difference between the two neighborhoods especially showed during the holiday season. In Bronzeville, I would receive cards, gifts and tips that I could put in one or two pockets, but in Hyde Park I received so many cards, gifts and cash that I needed socks and pillowcases to transport them. In fact, I was able to purchase my entire annual wardrobe (including Converse) with the proceeds.

I appreciate Bronzeville (and its recent rebirth) and learned a great deal from my paper route experiences there. But Hyde Park, in contrast, represents another world; and I appreciate those enlightening experiences too.

The exposure to its diversity shook my notions of things and forced me to enlarge and deepen my youthful shallow and narrow frame of reference. It challenged me to ask the question: Why are there such differences and disparities between neighboring communities?

Of course, at that season in my life, I was

critical encounters:

POVERTY + privilege

impressionable and attempted to process, to the best of my ability, those contrasting experiences.

As I continued to grow and mature, the inquiry only became richer as it concerned poverty and privilege and not only included the South Side, but the global implications of these phenomena.

Today, these concerns continue to remain when I question group and individual dynamics.

Can you inherit poverty (debt) like you inherit wealth? If you inherit your parents' assets (wealth), do you also inherit their liabilities (debt)? What premises and methodology of socio/economic change becomes appropriate to address these disparities? Does the price of gym shoes today have anything to do with these disparities?

The aim of Critical Encounters is to encourage you to engage with difficult questions about poverty and privilege. Each week, Critical Encounters will present a personal narrative from a student, faculty, staff or administrator of Columbia.

I welcome your reactions to each of these narratives. Write to me at criticalencounters@colum.edu about what you think, how these narratives made you think about your own journey, whether you agree or disagree with the views that emerge from these narrative.

Hopefully, you will feel inspired to write your own narratives, which you can send to me for inclusion in this column or on our website, colum.edu/criticalencounters. Guidelines are on our website.

—Stephanie Shonekan



Wayne Tukes, the author of the essay.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

A Conversation with Biographer
Gerald Nicosia
at Columbia College Chicago

The Trip Endures

Kerouac and the Beats



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Gerald Nicosia

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MCT

A right to romance

In his new book, a psychology professor argues the Constitution protects professor-student love

by Robin Wilson

Paul R. Abramson is a happily married, 57-year-old psychology professor at the University of California at Los Angeles. He said he has never had a serious romantic relationship with one of his students.

Nevertheless, Abramson doesn't think universities have any business telling professors whom they can date. In 2003, UCLA's Academic Senate did precisely that, joining a growing list of universities that have banned romance between professors and students.

Abramson says the rules violate faculty members' constitutional rights.

"The right to romance," he said, is protected by the Ninth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. University rules that bar professor-student relationships are as dangerous as policies that dictate whether professors can believe in God or what they can say in the classroom, he argues.

The professor lays out his arguments in a book due out this fall called *Romance in the Ivory Tower: The Rights and Liberty of Conscience*. Mr. Abramson talked to The Chronicle of Higher Education about the issues by telephone from his home outside Los Angeles.

The Chronicle of Higher Education: How effective have campuses been in stopping relationships between professors and undergraduates?

Paul Abramson: I think what's more likely is a professor dating a grad student. Or a teaching assistant dating an undergraduate. That's where romance is likely to occur. And those are pervasive throughout the university, despite the rules. The relationships are more clandestine now and anxiously initiated. People go through all the disfigurements to keep it quiet: changing the way we look at each other, the way we touch each other, the way we walk.

So all of these professors and teaching assistants are breaking the rules?

Yes, with the potential for termination. Love is a very powerful emotion, and that propels one forward. Think of it in terms of gay rights: All the prohibitions did nothing to preclude the clandestine pursuit of one's love interest. What these policies are doing now is creating a very chilling effect on romantic pursuit, if not precluding it. They're just forcing it underground.

That sounds like a dangerous situation for professors who are involved in such relationships.

If you're doing something that is illegal, you're basically giving someone a justification for firing you. So, for example, let's

say you start doing research on Charles Dickens, and I hate Dickens and I don't think he belongs in the academy, and you come up for tenure. And I say, Prof. X is sexually involved with a student; I think we should get rid of her. The real reason we want to get rid of you is your work. But by having the relationship, you're making yourself vulnerable to dismissal.

You talk about lofty principles being at stake here, Constitutional rights. What are they?

For me, this is not an issue about who's sleeping with whom. It's an issue about where the power to make the choice resides. Is it something that resides in an institution like a business or a university, or is this in that sphere of personal autonomy over which only you get to choose? We make choices over things that are exceedingly intimate: who to love, what to believe in, the character of our writing and speech. These are part of the fundamental nature of who we are, and they represent the autonomous way we relate to the world. What's more fundamental to an adult than making a choice about who to love?

Describe how you believe the Ninth Amendment to the Constitution protects, as you put it, "the right to romance."

In the first eight amendments, you have explicit rights that are enumerated or described. To preclude the government from saying: 'Anything that's not on this list we control,' Madison created the Ninth Amendment. It says despite all those rights enumerated above, you cannot deny or disparage rights that are still retained by the people. Madison is saying, despite all the things we've described, the people still retain their fundamental rights. The right to reproduce is one of these. So one of the inherent rights of humanity is the right to reproduce, and you have to choose who you are going to reproduce with, who you are going to romance and love.

How are university policies banning relationships between professors and students any different from policies that companies have developed to prevent relationships between employees and the workers they supervise?

In industry they're referred to as non-fraternization policies. They say, I don't want you to date anyone here. But industry is up front about it because they say, 'You guys could get angry at each other, and sue each other or us. We don't want to deal with that, so we're stopping it.' But universities don't do that. Universities present themselves as if they're taking this moral high road that they are trying to protect students. I believe this is disingenuous. What they're really trying to do is reduce their liability. That's reasonable, but I want them to be honest about it.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

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New curriculum keeps environment in mind

Architecture students give Captain Planet a run for his money

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus News Editor

Columbia students can hug a tree and breathe in a sigh of relief—architecture studying in the graduate program now includes sustainable design.

This semester, the architectural studies and interior architecture Masters of Fine Arts program will teach an eco-friendly design process which will utilize environmentally conscious materials. This method is called sustainable design. In order to complete the MFA program, students must complete a three year, 60 credit hour program, with students taking classes such as Design Studio I: Sustainability Theory and Materials and Methods: Sustainable Design.

Under the direction of Joclyn Oats, the director of the new program, a committee was created in 2003 to re-evaluate the graduate architectural studies and interior architecture program, according to Tim Cozzens, coordinator of the undergraduate interior architecture program.

"One of the issues that came up during the re-evaluation process was utilizing sustainable design in the future. We felt a necessity to do our part to change the mindset of the interior architecture students on how spaces are designed and built," Cozzens said.

The change to a greener graduate program in architecture comes at a time where more individuals are hopping on the eco-friendly bandwagon. Having an architectural MFA,

with an emphasis on sustainable design, will be an asset and a necessity to future architects and designers, according to Taryn Holowka, director of communications at the U.S. Green Building Council.

"The innovators [in architecture and design] don't want to do it the old way, they want to build more green-friendly buildings. [Those innovators] have a step up in the market," Holowka said. "[Right now] we are promoting and putting together a curriculum for sustainable building design with various colleges."

"It's a growing awareness that individuals are slowly practicing in their careers, especially in building design."

—Joe Leamanczyk, project manager for Campus Environment

Columbia has stepped up to the plate, with many of the buildings created or redesigned after 2003 utilizing sustainable design practices such as having eco-friendly carpet, furniture, using low volatile organic compound materials and energy-efficient lighting among other materials, according to Joe Leamanczyk, project manager for Campus Environment.

"It's a growing awareness that individuals are slowly practicing in their careers, especially in building design," Leamanczyk said.

Awareness has influenced the undergraduate architecture program as well. Even though they might not have classes that utilize sustainable design, there is course work that speaks to sustainable design and its practices, Cozzens said.

Eventually all students and professionals will have to utilize sustainable design, Holowka said, but it doesn't mean professionals haven't already started building and designing more environmentally conscious buildings.

"Looking at our numbers right now, we have over 1,000 buildings that have been certified as LEED (a national rating system for developing more sustainable buildings) and over 8,000 buildings are in queue to be built in sustainable design," Holowka said.

Crystal Glover, a Columbia graduate and design associate for RGLA Solutions, a financial, retail and food-service design firm, agrees with Holowka.

"People should go into the field having a background and a base in sustainable design so they infiltrate their firms with their knowledge. They need a younger push, so that students can educate their employers about sustainable design," Glover said.

Even senior audio arts and acoustics major Matthew Beck realizes that the future holds more resourceful materials.

"Sooner or later, we won't have a choice with what we use," Beck said. "Personally, I don't think in my lifetime we will see a change [to sustainable design and eco-friendly materials], but maybe in a hundred years or so."

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

» MARIJUANA

Continued from PG. 4

Post-screening panel discussion includes drug policy expert

not often talked about except in a negative matter.

Kim said she hopes the discussion after the film will enlighten students on the various issues the movie presents.

"[We have] experts on drug policy reform and an [individual named James Gierach] involved in the criminal justice system," Kim said. "We want to foster debate and dialogue through social and cultural events [like these] where we can discuss various issues. [With the Public Square] we are trying to create more of a participatory democracy to discuss these issues."

Michelle Eisa, a freshman film and video major, agrees with helping individuals who are terminally ill.

"I think medical marijuana should be available for those who need it," Eisa said.

The Chicago premiere of 'Waiting to Inhale' will take place at the Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The film premieres in Chicago on Sept. 20 at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a panel discussion. Admission is free.

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

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Panel Discussion About Financial Management and Getting The Most Out of a Record Deal

PANELISTS:

Michael Freeman
Producer/Engineer and Owner of Coachouse Music

Nicholas D. Meiers
Financial Advisor and Owner of Nodak Records

Erik Selz
Owner and President of Red Ryder Entertainment, Inc. (Andrew Bird, The Magnetic Fields, Ralph's World)

Steve Smith
Vice President of A&R, Aware Records Manager, A-Squared Management (MAE, Five For Fighting)

Thursday, September 27, 2007
5:30 - 8:00 p.m.
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The Recording Academy, Chicago Chapter
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THE RECORDING ACADEMY

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THE RECORDING ACADEMY

Arts & Entertainment

Smucker Spreads The Word

Birthday parties growing old



by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

I recently attended a friend's birthday party and I realized as I get older, the meaning of the "birthday party" has changed. It feels like not so long ago birthdays consisted of going to school with treats for the whole class and then inviting those kids to come to my parent-chaperoned birthday parties. I remember piñatas, party bags and how important it was to have a cool cake and awesome party invitations with my favorite superhero on it. I remember opening big packages filled with big plastic toys that would wow all the party attendees but would eventually just sit around the house or get chewed up by the dog.

In high school, parties consisted of going to someone's house while their parents

weren't home. Sometimes the parents were home, and they would buy booze for everyone, and watch as the person throwing the party ran from room to room trying to keep the party and the guests from getting out of hand. Usually people just showed up for high school parties whether they were invited or not and just about every bedroom in the house became a love nest for people who just couldn't wait to get home.

As the night went on, the party would get crazier. Sometimes, the party would get so out of hand that a neighbor would call the cops. There was always a kid who, at any sign of authority, would alert everyone the cops had arrived, which in turn would make every person in the party scurry for an exit or a hiding spot like cockroaches when a light is turned on.

In college, birthday parties changed yet again. While there are still some similarities between the parties I attend now and the memories I have of parties from my youth, there are a lot of differences, too.

For instance, now, instead of bringing presents to a party, you bring alcohol or something to eat. At a college party, guests can always tell the birthday person apart from everyone else because they are three times more drunk.

Most of the parties I attend now don't have any form of cake and instead of singing the dreadful birthday song, most of

the time a simple, "Happy Birthday" and a handshake will do. The person having the birthday won't remember what happened that night anyway.

I remember as a kid it was a big deal telling everyone how old you were. At college parties, the person's newly-acquired age may get dropped in conversation but otherwise, it's basically trivial information. As long as the drinks keep coming, everyone is having a good time.

Why the celebration of someone's birth turns from a festivity to a casual meeting event may never be fully understood. Maybe as people get older, they start to believe they are going to be on this earth for a while and simply being alive for one more year isn't that much of an accomplishment. Maybe people begin to realize each passing year brings them one year closer to meeting their maker. Maybe after a certain age people would be more willing to celebrate turning a year younger instead of a year older. Whatever the case, we're not getting any younger and the birthday is a constant reminder that our time on this earth is limited and that we should do what we can to make the best of it.

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Chrissy Knows Best

Can it, Casanova!



by Chrissy Mahlmeister
Managing Editor

Yeah, yeah. Women complain about men, men complain about women. It's old news, right? Well, no. If men actually listened to aforementioned women complaining, there wouldn't be any problems. I have a few bones to pick with some specifically shifty lads out there.

The whistler dude: OK, maybe I'm an idiot, but since when did whistling at a young lady ever work? I don't even get the point of it. What are they expecting her to do? Dodge through speeding trucks and motorcycles to run across the street to her future lover and upon her safe arrival, they'll exchange sweet butterfly kisses and giggly thumb wars? That won't happen, and

it's mostly because no woman wants to run in high heels and/or get sweaty in her cute outfit.

But not only is it awkward to be whistled at, but there was no class that taught us how to appropriately respond. Some dudes can whistle unfortunately loud, and that can draw more attention than we'd like, but if she pretends she can't hear it, people on the street will automatically label her as mean. If she smiles for the sake of avoiding awkwardness, whistler dude will retell this story to all his buddies over roast beef sandwiches and brewskies at lunch and misconstrue it into, "Bros, this totally hot chick was sooo into me today."

The guy that thinks every chick is hitting on him: I'm sorry but where did these insane egos come from? No, the barista at Starbucks is NOT hitting on you. It's a little thing called her doing her job. This one always amazes me because it seems that being nice automatically equals flirting. It's almost as if men are asking us to be jerks just so we'll be left alone.

Sometimes I'll be thinking of a hilarious inside joke I have with myself and I can't help but smirk. After coming back from spacing out, I notice a fellow across the train with one eyebrow raised in my direction. Just when I was enjoying a pure moment of me-time, some ego-monster

had to come and ruin it.

The chap with terrible timing: The only thing more awkward than the initial holler is the actual approach. Seriously, this one just makes me mad—some men never, ever think about their timing.

So listen young lads, if you're sitting next to a pretty lady and you want to ask her out, don't ask right away because if she denies you, there is a potential 20 minutes both of you have to sit their awkwardly in silence on the el. Just don't do it.

Also, incorporate the surroundings. Her boyfriend could be nearby on the train but sitting in a different seat due to overcrowding. Another reason to just not do it.

If you plan on asking a woman out through a post-it note (hey, it's happened) don't leave it on her desk at work for EVERY single guy in the office to see so they can make fun of you, especially if she has a super hunky boyfriend at home.

So pretty much, if you're a dude, and you like chicks, just think a little bit before your hormones start raging toward the opposite sex. Yeah, we ladies know we're hot, but you're not.

cmahlmeister@chroniclemail.com

Calendar

Monday

Go on a walking tour with the Chicago Architecture Foundation, 224 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 116.

For more information, call (312) 922-3432.

Tuesday

Estrojam will open up with the Outdanced Party at 9 p.m. at Funky Buddha Lounge, 728 W. Grand Ave.

Visit estrojam.org for more information.

Wednesday

Ira Glass talks with Nicolas de Torrente and fellow aid workers in the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State St., at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit doctorswithoutborders.org.

Thursday

Free screening of *Waiting to Inhale*. After the 6:30 p.m. screening at the Film Row Cinema located in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., a panel will discuss the documentary.

Call (312) 422-5580 or see pg.4 for more information.

Friday

The Italian Style 2007 festival is this weekend. The event runs through Sunday at the Crystal Gardens, 600 E. Grand Ave.

For more information, visit italian-chamber.us.

Saturday

Dr. Richard Wrangham lectures on distinguishing humans from animals today at 1 p.m. at the Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive.

For more information, visit fieldmuseum.org.

Sunday

The Bears play at 7:15 p.m. at Soldier Field, 1410 S. Museum Campus Drive.

Visit chicagobears.com for more information or to get tickets.

Top 5



Derek Kucynda, Assistant Campus News Editor

Ways to ressurect Britney Spears' career

Get Kanye: Call Kanye West and get him to mentor and produce your next al—oh wait, that collaboration is not going to happen anytime soon.

Play the publicity game: Britney, stop acting as your own publicist. You failed. Instead, find Paris Hilton's publicist and snatch her up like you snatch up gallons of ice cream and hot wings at the gas station.

Stay away from Vegas: Do not pass go, do not go to Vegas. There are too many failed marriages, too many places to get drunk and too many instances to perform badly on live TV, Britney.

Mommy knows best: Moving back in with your mother will do you good. You can actually spend time with your children. She will also enforce curfew and a healthy work habit. Mommy says no booze after 9 p.m.

Oh Lord, talk to me: Brit, say this to the Almighty One: "It will be the hardest thing to do since you created the world all those years ago, but you can try to help me figure out how to clean this heaping mess of things and booze that I'm stuck in."



Beth Palmer, Campus News Editor

Things said in regard to my hair color

"Redheads are from the devil:" A super-senior with purple died hair with a blank stare and an expressionless face randomly said this to me, a scared high school freshman, when I was behind her in the cafeteria line waiting for a pizza puff.

"Redheads will be extinct in 100 years:" Apparently, National Geographic reported this stat and recommended procreation among redheads to preserve the genetic code that produces red hair.

"Is that your natural color:" If a girl asks this, she's truly wowed by the tones in my hair. If a guy asks me this he's being a pervert, wondering if all of my hair is red.

"You're a little too redhead for me:" A guy friend said this to me with complete sincerity, comparing my looks to my friend's blonde highlighted looks. Other guys have told me, "You'd be hot if you dyed your hair."

"You redheaded stepchild:" I've always wondered when and how "redheaded stepchild" became a derogatory term. Since I don't really know what it means, I'm not actually offended when people use it in conversation. But I like to tease people and act like I'm pissed because I actually am a redheaded stepchild.



Robert Bykowski, Assistant Campus News Editor

Staples and superstitions when watching the Bears game with

Potato wedges from Jewel: At least one pound of potato wedges must be purchased from Jewel prior to each game. Potato wedges may not be consumed in the off-season.

Consumption of Vitamin Water: One must consume anywhere between three and five bottles of Vitamin Water each game, preferably of the "54" variety for obvious reasons.

The safety "dance:" Prior to the snap, when opposing offense is within its own five yard line, raise arms to form the gesture for a safety and then rub hands together feverishly, thus raising chances of a safety.

Jersey standards and procedures: New jerseys introduced at the start of the year must be abandoned for the remainder of the season if the player is deemed to be having "a bad year."

The "solid:" The generally male fist-colliding gesture, locally referred to as a "solid," must follow a good, but not a "great" play (great plays call for stand-up high fives). Attendance is required to convey said "solid."

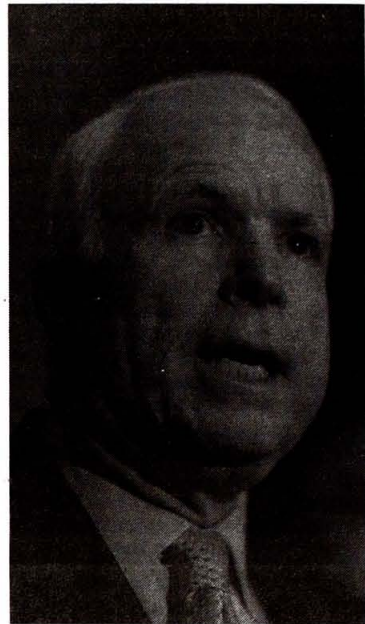
Jack Ass

OF THE WEEK

McCain's 'Straight Talk'

Republican Arizona senator and presidential candidate John McCain wasn't stumped by a fifth grader, but by a tenth grader.

McCain was a guest speaker at Concord High School in Concord, N.H. on Sept. 4. The 71-year-old senator fielded questions about Iraq, his age, risk of Alzheimer's and possible death while in office, reassuring an inquiring student that his age would not affect his leadership if elected president.



MCT

"I'm a 24/7 worker," McCain said. "Thanks for the question, you little jerk.... You're drafted!" McCain jokingly said to the student, according to The Washington Post.

But these days, some politicians aren't so up on the lingo of, well, let's say, the average American. In the world of text and instant messaging, acronyms are a part of daily life. But McCain failed to decrypt the code.

Sophomore William Sleaster asked the senator what he would do for the rights of LGBTs.

McCain? Stumped. After acknowledging to the crowd that he hadn't any idea what the initials stood for, it was soon clarified.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender," a voice from the crowd shouted, the Post reported.

Alzheimer's? Death? Stupidity? Check.

Sleaster stepped away from the microphone after telling McCain, "I came here looking to see a good leader. I don't." McCain told the crowd he supports the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the Army and also is against same-sex marriages, according to CNN.

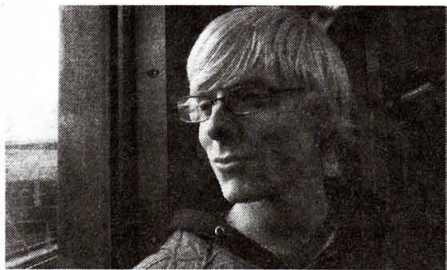
It might have been the fourth letter that did it. USA might be hard enough to remember. Good luck on the "Straight Talk" campaign trail and be glad Rosie wasn't in attendance. TTYL, McCain!

-B. Marlow

HOW TO

Give mom sex advice

with Brett Marlow



Explaining to your mother that top and bottom are more than directions is hard enough, but when she asks for sex advice after it's been a few years since she's been around the block, it's time to reassure her that it's just like riding a bike. The chain might be rusty, but that's nothing a little grease can't fix.

It's time to get the pedal pumping.

What to wear and how to Nair:

- No one wants to floss while in between your legs. A Brazilian wax may be too much for the first date, but that pink bottle of Nair will show you care.
- Forty is the new twenty. The skimpier, the better. Ho it up.
- Flip-flops are big no-no's for old toes. Break out the wedges from the '70s, they're seeing a comeback.
- After birthing kids, your body isn't what it was in high school. Go for class and for something that's going to last. Vickie's will be your old lady's new best friend.

Those generation gap questions:

- No, Mom, AIDS is not something you contract from kissing and your chances are pretty skinny on getting it from pulling a "Lewinski."
- Condoms aren't rubber tires anymore. Wear them, but have fun with them. From what I hear, warming liquid makes the racetrack a little more exciting than just a few laps.
- Wireless companies have plans for a reason. No, your weekend phone-sex sessions won't rack up your phone bill, but the phone company will get a kick out of your dirty text messages ... if you master that skill.
- Teach your mom how to use emoticons in e-mails to your future stepdaddy (or mommy, let's not discriminate). Remind her there isn't a button for a smiley face on the keyboard. It's a colon and a parenthesis. Be sure to hold down the shift key. If she doesn't get it, trust me, she'll call or e-mail in all caps

Time is of the essence:

- Give it up on the first date. Be a hussy. Think Samantha Jones from "Sex and the City."
- Children are no longer an STD, to worry about these days, you are! Sexy. Tan. Divorcee. If Stella can do it, momma can do it.
- Most importantly, though, the clap isn't something you do after seeing AC/DC rock out with their junk, out and not something your kids want to hear about. Hold your applause, thanks.

Mental health:

- No one wants to really hear about one's parents' sex lives, so maybe after you're asked this question and do your best to help out, Google a psychologist to work through this one. Or if you're mom's a no-holds-barred, you'll be fine—you're used to this like I am.

Custom toys offer new way to play with yourself

Company allows customers to make 12-inch plastic replicas of themselves

by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

WHILE PEOPLE may not be able to work crime fighting into their busy schedule, in the world of action figures, it's just another day.

Herobuilders.com, a company based out of Oxford, Conn., allows buyers to make their 12-inch plastic dreams come true by building action figures that are exact replicas of anyone.

Everything from a person's hairline to the prop he holds in his hand is fully customizable and at the buyer's discretion. The company can create custom tattoos, earrings, prosthetics and even clothing for a client's action figure. If need be, customers can even have a voice chip placed into the chest that allows them to leave a personal message, which can be changed by the push of a button.

"There's nothing on the face of this planet that we can't do," said Emil Vicale, owner of herobuilders.com. "We've done everything over the past six years. Absolutely everything. It's been phenomenal."

According to Vicale, the functionality of their system is in the ease of its use for the customer. The first step in creating a custom superhero is to e-mail herobuilders.com, letting them know what the customer wants, including clothing, tattoos, etc. After that, they attach a photo of their face and they are ready to go to the

next step. Vicale's company then sends the customer a model of the toy's head and gives the option to either create it or tell them what should be changed. After the toy is given the thumbs up from its creator, it appears on the doorstep two to three weeks later.

While the price, \$425, is a little steep for some, Vicale said they've sold more than 3,000 action figures this year.

If a person is having trouble trying to justify spending that money on their replica, Vicale gave the example of a girl whose mother had an action figure made in the form of the girl's deceased father. Since the 7-year-old girl had memories of her father in a wheelchair, Vicale's company was able to create a toy of her father and her father's wheelchair as a positive reminder for the girl of who her father was.

Vicale's clients also include stars like Jack Black, Michael Moore, Owen Wilson and Will Farrell.

"It's really great," Vicale said. "We've worked with so many different people from different walks of life."

Action figure collector and writer of the blog Kastor's Korner, Kahlia Quotap shares Vicale's enthusiasm for custom-made action figures. While he is mostly a collector of six-inch action figures, Quotap can see why someone would be intrigued to buy one for themselves.

"It's not for me, but it would be something really neat to put into your collection," Quotap said.

David Gutterman, owner of Quake Collectibles, a vintage collectible store in Chicago that specializes in action figures, said

action figures help those people find peace among their childhood heroes.

"[Action figures] take you away from real life, into a fantasy world that is a little more light-hearted," Gutterman said.

Gutterman said in his last 16-plus years of business, his top seller has been *Star Wars* action figures. Although he's heard of people selling custom-made figures, he said they usually are props for toys that were not already made or toys that were slightly altered from their original form. He said people often sell these custom-made toys on bidding sites such as eBay in order to support their action hero collection habit or to make a little bit of extra money on

the side.

Columbia graduate student Jared Holloway, who has fond childhood memories of his favorite Batman toy, said he would be interested in making a custom toy of himself, but only for fun.

"[I would make one] for no other reason than amusement, to pass the time. [they are made for the] same reason folks make themselves into 'Simpsons' characters," Holloway said.

lsmucker@chroniclemail.com



Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are just two of the action figures created by herobuilders.com

Courtesy HEROBUILDERS.COM

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Clive's brawny, Paul's puny, they're more than a little looney

Owen's latest flick is just one big boisterous 'Shoot 'Em Up'

by Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

KISS KISS *Bang Bang*, the title of 2005's self-aware satire of the murder-mystery, was a phrase made famous by Pauline Kael. When the legendary film critic learned that the Italian slang for a James Bond picture literally translated to "kiss kiss bang bang," she claimed that the phrase concisely expressed cinema's ageless allure.

I'm not sure who coined the phrase "shoot 'em up," which seems to better illustrate the appeal of video games than films. Still, it's an accurate description of writer/director Michael Davis's self-aware satire of action spectacles, *Shoot 'Em Up*, which could also be fittingly titled *Kiss Bang Bang Bang*.

This is one of the year's most colossally silly pictures and is already destined to become a cult favorite. Many critics from across the nation have taken offense to its wall-to-wall violence, vulgar characters and gratuitous gore. Yet the film is, in actuality, no more offensive than a classic Looney Tunes short, which *Shoot 'Em Up* consistently resembles.

Clive Owen stars as Smith, a wisecracking loner with an endless supply of carrots, for which he finds several efficient uses. Paul Giamatti is Hertz, a pudgy, bumbling killer, whose evil plans are thwarted every step of the way by Smith. If Smith and Hertz sound a whole lot like Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, it's no coincidence. The plot could easily fit in a five-minute cartoon, but

Davis has 93 minutes to kill, and thus stuffs them with some of the most ingeniously choreographed and delightfully preposterous action sequences in recent memory. All of them involve Smith taking out endless hordes of Hertz's mobsters, sometimes all at once.

Among the most jaw-dropping is Owen's sex scene with Monica Bellucci, which is sidelined—though not necessarily interrupted—by six invading gunmen. Owen wheels around the bedroom, blasting them all away, while staying firmly joined with Bellucci, to whom he quips, "talk about shooting your load."

Every scene more or less follows this exact structure. They're tied together by the tender threads of a story involving Smith's dedication to protecting the infant of a woman killed by Hertz's men. Smith entrusts the baby to prostitute DQ, played by a wooden Bellucci whose swooning accent verges on being incomprehensible.

On the heels of last year's masterpiece, *Children of Men*, Owen once again finds himself righteously protecting a child, and his performance is a triumph of suave goofiness. While the casting of Giamatti as a sleazy villain may raise a few eyebrows, it is a successful reminder of the actor's underrated versatility—it's also worth noting that his next role will, in fact, be Santa Claus.

There's nothing particularly remarkable about *Shoot 'Em Up*, which lacks the subtle wit of *Hot Fuzz*, the imagination of *Kung Fu Hustle* and the subversive brilliance of *Kill Bill*. But it certainly gives the homemade stylized opuses of Robert Rodriguez a run for their money, since Davis proves he has

the attention to detail and the unbridled invention to rival any of Hollywood's action directors—that means you, Michael Bay.

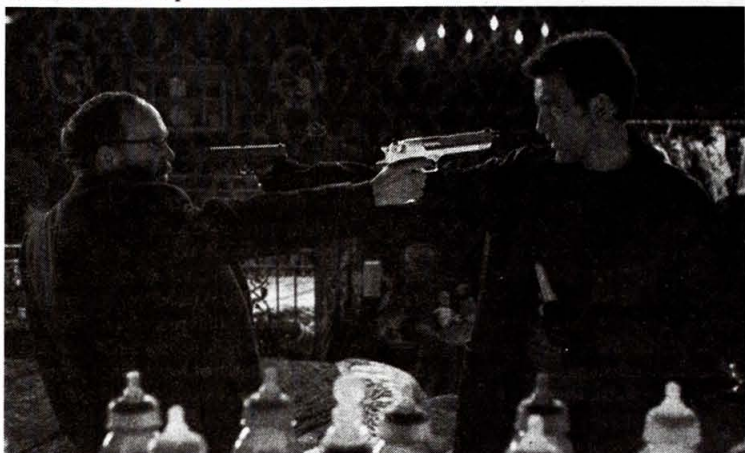
And while Rodriguez's *Sin City*—another ultra-violent cartoon featuring Owen—was a visual masterwork, its array of hollow brooding inhabitants eventually wore out their welcome. *Shoot 'Em Up* has the benefit of having characters driven by amusing quirks. The biggest laughs in the movie stem from Smith's volatile anger at everyday nuisances—inconsiderate drivers, abusive mothers and guys who loudly exhale after taking a sip of coffee.

There is nothing to gain from a movie like *Shoot 'Em Up*, and there's really nothing to lose either—except the cost of an over-

priced theater ticket. Though Davis is no Tarantino, he certainly matches that filmmaker's enthusiasm and affection for the cinema; and there are moments when his action scenes achieve a kind of grandeur that Fred Astaire or the Three Stooges might have admired.

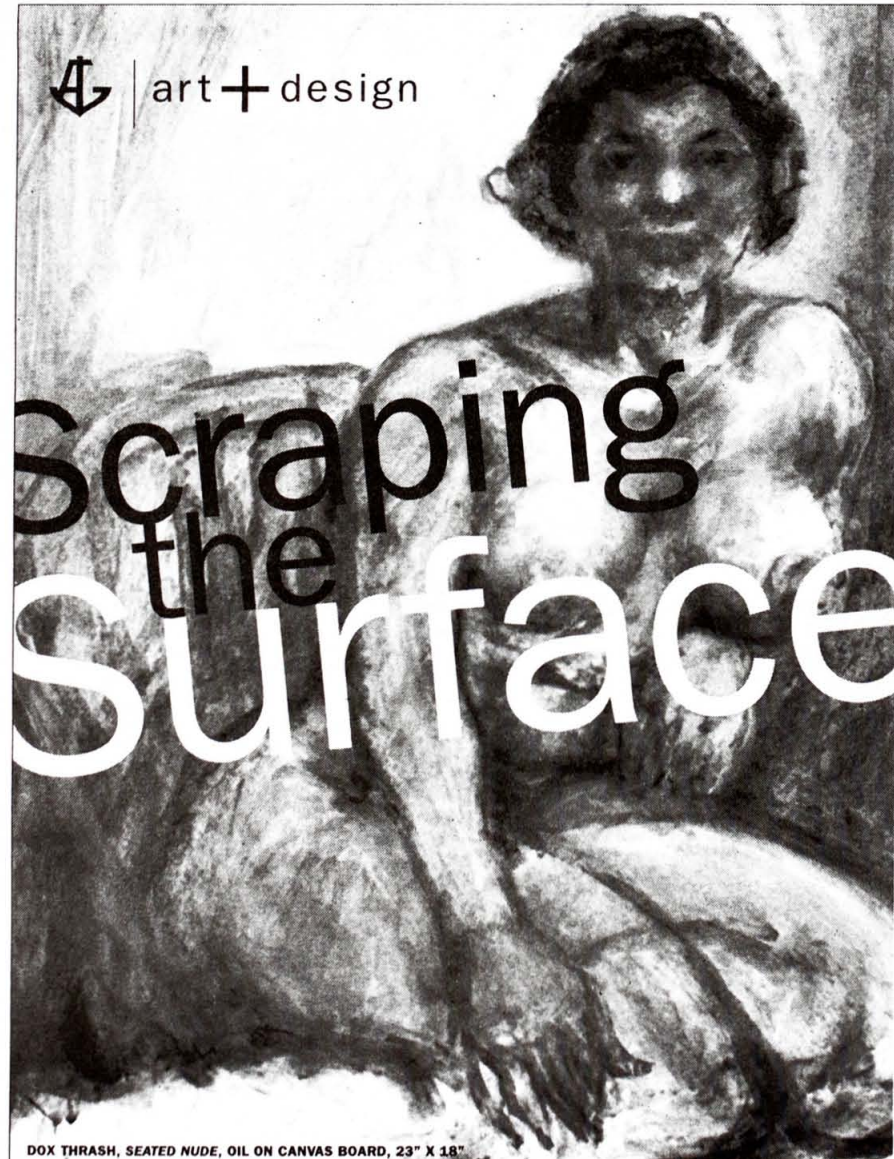
Moviegoers craving a little kissing and banging in their filmic diet won't leave disappointed because, as Hertz memorably declares, "Violence is one of the most fun things to watch."

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com



Paul Giamatti and Clive Owen channel Elmer Fudd and Bugs Bunny in director Michael Davis's delightfully over-the-top, proudly inconsequential 'Shoot 'Em Up.'

AP



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Brown Girls: Dox Thrash's Nudes

Kymberly N. Pinder, Ph.D.
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

September 28, 2007
6:30 – 7:30pm

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623 S. Wabash Ave., Room 203

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create...
change

Virgin adds high-tech features in new U.S. airline

by Brett Marlow
Assistant A&E Editor

THERE'S A new bird in the sky and it's changing the way passengers are accustomed to flying.

Virgin America is a new airline that first took flight in August and has renovated the way passengers are used to being entertained while in the sky. The airline has added and enhanced in-flight features by adding a hip, modern spin to their aircrafts' cabins.

"We call ourselves 'the next generation carrier with affordable fares,'" said Abby Lunardini, director of Corporate Communications for Virgin America, because of the new features the company has on its planes.

"We wanted to bring some really innovative features onto the plane," Lunardini said.

Virgin America, not to be confused with Virgin Atlantic, which operates as a separate airline, offers its passengers satellite television, radio, video games and a catalog of 3,000 MP3 files that are free to listen to. Passengers can create playlists while flying and can listen to them if they have a returning flight, Lunardini said.

The system, housed in a 9-inch widescreen seatback television, is credit card based, Lunardini said. Passengers can order food through touch screens or use the keyboard at their seat to page a flight attendant. From the screen, passengers can access program guides to see what's airing on which channel and have access to a limited version of Google maps. Lunardini said "it's not quite what people are used to at home, but passengers can view maps at street level."

Just like users would have screen names and the ability to invite their friends to chat on an online messenger, passengers have access to an in-flight chat allowing them to chat with other passengers during the flight. Chat rooms are also set up around various TV programs.

"You could be watching CNN and then split screen and have an entire plane chat about what's [happening] on CNN," Lunardini said.

Taking a new spin on flying, entertainment isn't the only thing the company has changed from the norm on its planes.

Virgin America has stripped the typical fluorescent lighting from its planes and has added what it calls "phase mood lighting."

"It [changes] between different shades of purple, to pink to a blue range and is based on the daylight outside," Lunardini said.

Sophomore photography major Matt Waskey flies home to New Jersey a few times a year. Even with iPods and laptops, Waskey said the concept of Virgin's features is cool as long as tickets stay reasonably priced.

But the carrier is no virgin in bringing innovative technology to planes.

JetBlue Airways, which has seven daily flights out of Chicago to New York City and Long Beach, Calif., has been offering some similar features since 2000.

In JetBlue's seatbacks, there are

7-inch screens that allow passengers to view about 40 channels of free DirecTV and listen to more than 100 channels of XM Satellite Radio, although some of the planes are still being retrofitted for this feature, said Alison Eshelman, spokeswoman for JetBlue Airways. Although the airline does not offer downloadable music or other Virgin America features, it wouldn't rule out the possibility of future enhancement.

"I do know we offer a very competitive in-flight entertainment system for our customers and they definitely enjoy the service we provide," Eshelman said. "I can't say what our plans for the future are, per se."

JetBlue, however, does offer more legroom in its 150 seat planes, offering 34 to 36 inches of legroom. Virgin America offers 33 inches. The airline offers unlimited and trans-fat free snacks to its passengers, but does not allow them to order through the screens Eshelman said.

Virgin features eight first class seats on its 149 passenger planes with enhanced seats that lay nearly completely horizontal, Lunardini said. Virgin is still working its food options out, but for now, is offering California sushi rolls on its first class menu and items like granola and yogurt for regular cabin.

Currently, Virgin serves five cities: Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco, New York and Washington, D.C., but has plans to expand over the next few years, Lunardini said. Chicago hasn't made the airline's flight path yet, but it is on the company's list of cities under consideration, which also includes Milwaukee, Detroit, St. Louis and other major cities in the United States.

Karen Pride, spokeswoman for the City of Chicago's Department of Aviation said Virgin and the department have had discussions about flying into Chicago's O'Hare International Airport but nothing has been solidified.

"There's a request process and



Courtesy VIRGIN AMERICA AIRLINES

application," Pride said. Discussions are on-going, but Pride could not discuss any further details.

Chicago-based United Airlines, which flies out of O'Hare, has started a new coast-to-coast premium service with reconfigured airplanes that have been equipped with individual handheld DVD players and have laptop power so passengers don't need to worry about plugging in their adapters or chargers. The new service offers more legroom in first, business

and its economy classes, and flies out of three of Virgin's hubs: New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas.

For business people and the technology savvy, Virgin America's planes are also outfitted with two USB ports in each row, electrical outlets and by 2008 they hope to have Internet and audio books available to listen to, Lunardini said.


bmarlow@chroniclemail.com

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Thursday Sept. 20th: Auditions @ 5:30pm (731 south Plymouth)

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*Club Team Tryouts:
Saturday Sept. 22nd
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(League begins Sunday Sept. 30th)

*3-on-3 Basketball Tournament:
TBA

*5-on-5 Intramural League:
Informational meeting Wednesday, Sept. 15th @ 7:00pm (1104 south Wabash, 1st floor)

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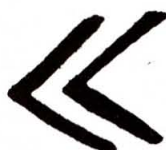
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The big freeegan deal



People all across the country are fighting consumerism by cutting back on their own waste — meet the freegans.

Story by: Jessica Galliard

Graphics by: Kimi Badger
+ design

Photography by: ANDREW A. NELLES



Dressed in a crisp button-down shirt, khaki-colored trousers and sporting a helmet, George Christensen rides his bicycle through alleys and circles parking lots late into the night when most are sound asleep. With a basket in tow on the back of his bicycle and his white hair peeking out from the bottom of his helmet, he's not quite sure what he's looking for on this particular night. If there's something he's really hoping to find while he's picking through dumpsters to stock up on food, he's got a fool-proof plan.

"Sometimes if you wish for it, you'll get it," Christensen said.

Christensen is one of thousands in the United States and worldwide who have embraced the non-consumerist, freegan—a combination of "free" and "vegan"—lifestyle. In an effort to fight capitalism and consumerist waste, freegans use atypical strategies, like urban foraging, free markets and community gardening, to participate as minimally as possible in the conventional economy and consumption of resources. But despite the seemingly strict definition of freeganism and the misconceptions brought up because of it, many are adapting freegan practices into their daily routines, emphasizing some more than others.

Madeline Nelson, 51, a member of the thriving community of freegans in New York City, went from "rags to riches to rags" leading up to when she became a freegan two-and-a-half years ago, she said. Until she turned 30, she was involved with radical politics and social change, becoming an activist for the women's movement. But when she decided she was "getting really tired of being poor" from not making a lot of money with her activism, Nelson shifted into the corporate communications field, where she found herself getting pulled into the capitalist mindset.

"I really think it could happen to anyone; it's very seductive," Nelson said. "You find yourself with money, with respect and influence, you feel like you're winning this game and you figure, 'Why not continue?'"

But when she started to cut down on her consumption and impulse buying—mostly shoes, books and CDs—Nelson took it a step further and attended a "trash tour" of New York City showing how to dumpster dive. The tour had a huge impact on her, she said, and she decided to pursue it further. Over the course of the next six months, Nelson became a freegan, she said.

"I was really trying to put the brakes on [consuming], because I could see how rampant consumerism is destroying the world as we know it," Nelson said. "I moved from merely a light-consuming lifestyle to attempting to do the total boycott, which is what the freeganism ideal aims for."

Although freeganists aim for a total boycott of

consumerism, many freegans eat meat, hold down jobs or live in rented apartments.

At 56 years old, Christensen spends six months of the year in his modest Wicker Park apartment and the other six months traveling anywhere from Colorado to France with his bicycle. And though he camps out and spends a little money when he travels, he barely spends anything on food when winter rolls around in Chicago—when the temperature drops and foods stay fresher for longer in dumpsters outside of grocery stores.

For the active, non-vegan bike messenger, who lives the freegan lifestyle but doesn't attach himself to any specific group or community, his reasoning behind dumpster diving is a combination of things.

"I go dumpster diving partially to get some exercise, to go for a nice ride with some purpose," Christensen said. "I'm always curious what might be put out; I almost do it more as a lark."

About 15 years ago, Christensen attended an environmental conference that gave seminars on dumpster diving to reduce waste. He said it was at these seminars that he discovered how easy and natural it is to forage through dumpsters for food that has been thrown out.

"I wasn't really aware of dumpster diving and the vast quantities [of food thrown out]," Christensen said. "It's pretty appalling that this stuff is going into landfills."

Once a self-proclaimed shopping addict, Nelson now uses free markets and swap meets to replace her clothes once they've become worn, grows fruits and vegetables in her own garden and uses her bicycle and public transportation to get around New York City.

"It's mostly just withdrawing," Nelson said. "My discipline is to keep giving away more than I get, to continue to reduce the amount of belongings that I have instead of accumulating or acquiring."

Nelson said the community of freegans in New York City has grown to include everyone from radical and university groups to retired people, and freeganism in Chicago has also spread across different ends of the age spectrum.

Alfred*, 22, said as a kid growing up in Chicago,

walking up and down alleys to garbage-pick was a form of entertainment and a way to pass the time when he was bored.

"I ride my bike everywhere I go, and Chicago is a very unique city of alleys," Alfred said. "There are so many streets and alleys just lined with garbage cans, and you just garbage-pick to entertain yourself. Even my mom did it when I was a kid."

Now older, Alfred's motives to forage through dumpsters for food, bicycle parts and anything else he may want or need have evolved from a way to entertain himself into doing his part to cut down on everyday waste.

"The meat industry and the bio-engineered agriculture industry [are] horrible, and it's not something that needs money at all," Alfred said. "They're rich and exploiting."

"My needs are so minimal that there's not much more than I need to be searching for. Food is the one necessity... I can pick up a week's worth of food or so on my bike on one hit."

— George Christensen

Alfred's motives have changed since he was a garbage-picking kid, but he now manages to have some fun when he's rooting through the trash. He found 120 dozen eggs and almost a dozen gallons of whole milk in one dumpster, and Alfred said he has found some other weird things while dumpster diving.

"I just found a copy of the [Chicago] Tribune and the [Chicago] Sun-Times from when [John] Lennon died," Alfred said. "It was in a weird clean-out situation for this store before it gets thrown out into the garbage."

Although Christensen hasn't found any strange artifacts like Alfred has when foraging, he's usually only looking for food he can eat himself or share with friends. Christensen said he can often haul 80 to 90 pounds of food if he attaches a few more baskets onto the front and back of his bike on one trip to his usual round of dumpsters.

"My needs are so minimal that there's not much more than I need to be searching for. Food is the one necessity," Christensen said. "I can pick up a week's worth of food or so on my bike on one hit."

Since most food is thrown away because it has passed its expiration date, many wonder if pulling food from a dumpster can have any health consequences.

Nutritionist Cynthia Harington said digging through dumpsters for food doesn't sound like a very wise thing to do, and foragers could easily become sick.

"There's a whole limitation of caution there," Harington said. "You could pick up a bacterial infection, loose stools, headaches, high fevers."

Although she doesn't agree with dumpster diving, Harington said foragers need to take extra precautions when picking out foods.

"If you're going to do it, you better use all the precautions you can by washing your food, boiling your vegetables, peeling your fruit and making sure that your meat is cooked thoroughly," Harington said. "If it smells rotten, don't do it."

When Nelson began dumpster diving for food

after embracing the freegan lifestyle, she said she struggled with embarrassment from the reactions of on-lookers.

"It's something that's socially unacceptable. You need to face that part of yourself that would be embarrassed by that and work with it," Nelson said. "Rather than people giving you a funny look and being embarrassed, talk to them. That's been my technique, and I think it opens lots of doors."

Whatever perceptions people may have of freegans, many in the community have what others may consider normal lives, Nelson said. She said people living by the freegan ideals in her community include a high school teacher, an investment banker and a graphic artist.

Even if digging through the trash for food may not sound appealing, Nelson said she tries to emphasize the importance of repairing and reusing resources people already have. Repair shops are folding across the country because things are being made cheaply, in a way that repairs to a broken item can cost more than the brand new item itself.

"[Repair and reuse] is getting outside of the money economy, which is possible, and moving toward what a lot of different groups are calling the gift economy," Nelson said. "In other words, giving your time to people, getting what you need from what already exists. There are so many consumer goods already available that we need very little more."

As for Christensen, after two hours and many miles covered on his bicycle, he managed to go home with a couple packages of powdered donuts, one carton of eggs, a package of bright red cherry tomatoes and several unopened boxes of individually wrapped packages of herbal tea, which he doesn't drink but picked up for his friends.

But did he get what he wished for?

"I've got a completely stocked fridge at home," he said. "I think I'll be OK."

*Last name has been withheld for privacy reasons.



Hanson evolves from boys to men

Zac Hanson talks about their new album

by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

ZAC HANSON and his two brothers Isaac and Taylor have been very busy lately. Besides going on a journey to South Africa and Mozambique, the band has also been recording their fourth studio album *The Walk* on their own record label, 3CG Records. The album, which continues their new found indie music style, is the follow-up to their 2004 album, *Underneath*. The band is currently touring in support of the new album and is going to play two shows at the House of Blues in Chicago on Sept. 29 and 30.

The Chronicle: You have two shows in Chicago for this tour, is there something you like about Chicago's fans?

Zac Hanson: Chicago has always been a really good city to us, and we've had really good reactions there. So we just have been able to play more shows there than other places. In some ways Chicago, is big city mid-America, and we're guys from Oklahoma so it's always received us really well.

When people think Hanson, they think "MMMBop." Do you ever wish you hadn't written that song?

Well, no. We've had lots of songs that have been popular songs that have done really well. I think that song, more than others, was a combination of something that became cultural and not about music. I think the people you're talking about, the people that when they think of Hanson they think of "MMMBop," they're the type

of people who got into Hanson because it became cultural, not because it was music that they heard and then went out and bought the record.

People dance while they listen to music, they sing while they listen to music, they even run while they listen to music. Why did you decide to name your album 'The Walk'?

There's a title song on the record called "The Walk" and it came from that song. So much of life is when you conquer your own fear and the decisions people make to either be in the spotlight and try to do something great or stay in the shadows with the crowd. In a lot of ways there were a lot of messages behind that song that represented what we've been doing with our label and the choices you make as a band to put yourself out there.

How does the album title relate to your career?

I don't think anything we've been doing has been running. We steadily just take a step forward with every record. We never try to rush to be something we're not. We're going to let our music evolve naturally.

With fewer people buying music these days, where does the desire to create new content come from?

If you let yourself think about the fact that you've probably not sold enough, you'll stop making music. You have to believe at some level that whoever steals your record, it's going to make them a fan. They'll buy concert tickets or a T-shirt or go buy the next album. You have to believe there's that kind of effect that will make people want

to purchase it.

How do you build a relationship with your fan base?

You have to build the connection more and more so that they know they're getting something great. They're going to get something quality. We're willing to spend six times as much on a lot of things instead of a great song you can listen to for the rest of your life. I think music needs to become a part of people's everyday life. It can be part of everything you do. Who knows, the

music industry is changing so much right now I don't think anyone's figured it out yet.

Hanson is playing *House of Blues Chicago*, 329 N. Dearborn St., on Sept. 29 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 30 at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the *House of Blues* at (312) 923-2000 or go to www.hob.com/Chicago.

lsmucker@chroniclemail.com



The trio's new Album 'The Walk' is creating a buzz amongst fans.

Courtesy TAYLOR CROTHERS

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Make neighbors green with envy

by Brett Marlow
Assistant A&E Editor

THERE'S A green movement that's in bloom and more people are becoming interested in ways to shrink their environmental impact. Individuals who want to implement a little Mother Nature into their own place don't have to worry about breaking the bank. It can actually pay off, for them and the environment in the long run.

Although renters can't make changes to the apartment's existing structure, they can make changes in their own living spaces that are environmentally friendly.

"People who rent have a real problem because most of the things that affect whether or not a place is green or not, they can't do," said Lloyd Alter, correspondent for the environmental blog TreeHugger.com.

However, making an apartment more green really comes down to being a little more conscious of a few things like watching what is bought, used or brought into the apartment, said Jessica Mondo, a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited professional at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill architectural firm.

There are even local stores like Greenmaker Building Supply Co., 2500 N. Pulaski Road, and resources like the Chicago Center for Green Technology, 445 N. Sacramento Blvd., that can help.

If a building's landlord isn't attentive to making sure things are running efficiently, there are things to check for, said Meghann Maves, a resource librarian at the Chicago Center for Green Technology.

Check for open cracks in the spaces between windows and doorways that allow heat to escape in the winter. Weather proof-

ing strips are available at home improvement shops to solve the problem.

"Renters can be more involved by checking their appliances, see if they're Energy Star or are being maintained efficiently," Maves said.

Changing regular light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, or CFLs, is one of the most important things renters can do, Alter said.

"Lighting is usually 6 to 7 percent of your utility bill," Maves said. "By using CFLs, you're saving money in the long run."

Maves said in order to get the most out of the bulbs, be sure to use the bulbs in "high-frequency areas" where they'd be on for long periods of time.

Plugging in gadgets, or "ghost energy consumers" like a cell phone charger, mp3 player charger or a computer into a surge protector and turning it off when not needed can also save a little on the electric bill, Mondo said.

There are also things a renter can do to cut down on water usage.

Switch out existing fixtures like shower heads or add a component called a retrofit handle for the toilet, which allows the renter to control how much water goes with each flush, said Josh Hirsens, a sales associate at Greenmaker Building Supply Co. The shop sells goods like environmentally friendly products for the home and garden, remodeling and building supplies. Changing an existing shower head in the bathroom for a low-flow, oxygen-infused shower head aids in water conservation, Hirsens said. The bonus to these products is that the water pressure isn't lost, but water is saved.

Furnishing a place can be fun, but knowing what that sweet chic couch



Greenmaker Building Supply Co., 2500 N. Pulaski Rd., specializes in environmentally friendly products for home repair.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

is made from might not be worth it. Alter recommends avoiding purchasing cheap furniture made from particle board because it contains formaldehyde. Vinyl is another material to avoid, Alter said. Vinyl is made with chlorine, which Alter explained is a "bad greenhouse gas" made from oil. When vinyl is disposed of it emits harmful chemicals.

Instead of going for the new stuff, take advantage of thrift shops or look on websites like craigslist.org or on a free-cycle website to see who is giving away furniture for free that they no longer need, Alter said. The reason to buy used items is that new items, fresh out of the box are full of chemicals. By reusing old items, they have already emitted many of their chemicals, Maves said.

Even decorating can translate to being green. Greenmaker sells a line of paint called low VOC, volatile organic compound, which does not have an odor like regular paint.

Another concern for renters is their indoor air quality. Mondo recommended open-

ing the windows and letting fresh air in. A space's indoor air quality can improve if plants are placed around the room, Mondo said.

A good tip to go by is one house plant per each 100 square feet, Maves said.

It's also important to watch what cleaning substances are used in the space.

"It's best to buy products that say they are non-toxic, biodegradable or safe enough for a baby to be in an environment with. A bleach smell does not always mean clean," Maves said.

Seventh Generation is a company that makes a line of eco-friendly household cleaners and recycled paper goods which are available at stores like Whole Foods, Walgreens and online. The products might cost more on the shelf, but the cost toward protecting the environment pays off.

"Being green does not have to be difficult," Mondo said. "Just think smart."

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Snag a luxury bag on a budget

Online rental websites bring new meaning to 'bag lady'

by Brett Marlow
Assistant A&E Editor

THE ROLLING Stones sang, "You can't always get what you want." Well, they had it wrong.

With the help of a few websites, the world of online rental has expanded beyond movies and DVDs. Companies are making the often coveted and not-always-so-affordable latest designer styles of handbags available to rent for a portion of the retail price tag.

Bag Borrow or Steal, which started in 2004, is a company that lives up to its name, allowing its guests and members to buy or borrow the latest in handbags for as long as they'd like.

Fashion Week in New York wrapped up Sept. 12 and fashionistas wanting in on the latest and greatest handbags from Coach, Chanel, Gucci, Balenciaga and Fendi, among others, for this season don't have to wear out their credit card's magnetic strip.

Bag Borrow or Steal, founded by two men who watched their wives and sisters run in and out of each other's closets looking for the perfect bag, works with more than 250,000 women who have borrowed the handbags and jewelry the site offers. Registered members pay a monthly fee anywhere from \$5 to \$10, said Lynn Ridenour, senior vice president of Marketing for Bag Borrow or Steal. The site offers more than 3,000 styles of handbags to rent, ranging from less expensive rental styles like Dooney & Burke to higher end, luxury handbags from Louis Vuitton or couture. The company aims to allow women obsessed with fashion to have access to a world of luxury at an affordable cost, Ridenour said.

Members or guests must be over 18 years old and have a valid credit card. To rent a bag they can log on to bagborroworsteal.com and search through the different styles and variety of designers. Once a bag has been chosen, either for a weekly or monthly rental, the bag is then packaged in a dust cover and shipped within the country via UPS in an ordinary cardboard box.

"We're not advertising there's luxury handbags in it," Ridenour said to ensure security.

The package is then delivered to the member. Customers pay for shipping and can choose whether or not to take insurance that covers minimal wear and tear on the item, Ridenour said.

With Bag Borrow or Steal, guests don't have to worry whether their bag is a knock-off. The company carries 100 percent authentic handbags by purchasing them directly through designers or through their authorized distributors, Ridenour said.

Bag Borrow or Steal is not alone in this endeavor. Kara Richter, founder of a similar online rental service for handbags From Bags to Riches, which started

in 2004, offers the same opportunity for women interested in the latest handbags. Ridenour said their handbags, upon return, are put through a 10-point inspection test. Both Richter and Ridenour said they have refurbishment processes in place to restore the bags to like-new if not new condition.

"One of our commitments to our members is providing them with new or like-new experiences with bags," Ridenour said. "We've found that because these are ladies that just adore handbags, they treat our bags as if they had borrowed them from a dear friend."

It's been a rare case that a bag has been stolen or returned severely damaged, both women said.

Bag Borrow or Steal reserves the right to charge the customer in full if it is beyond normal wear and tear, Ridenour said. Richter's policy is similar.

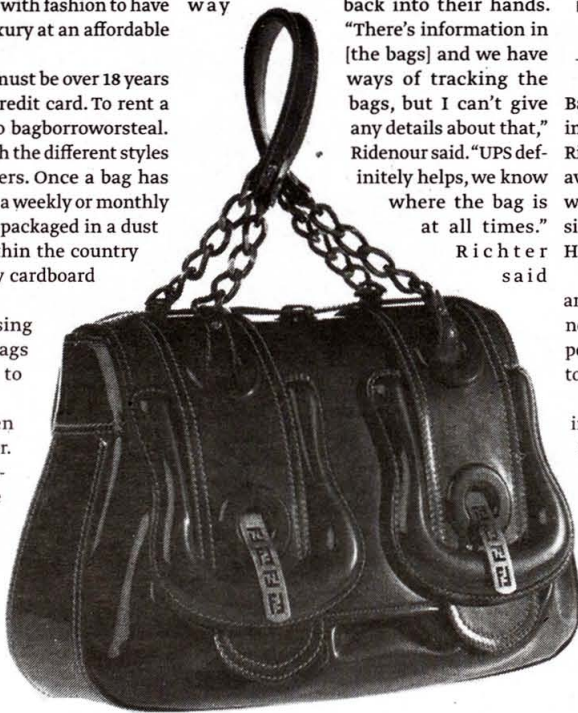
"If the bag is lost or stolen, the customer is responsible for the cost of the bag," Richter said.

From Bags to Riches offers authentic designer handbags that normally retail anywhere from \$600 to \$1,200, with its higher end bags costing around \$299.95 a month to rent. The site requires no membership fee to rent a bag. Unlike Bag Borrow or Steal, shipping and insurance are included within the rental price and are not additional fees, Richter said. Bag Borrow or Steal's highest bags usually rent for around \$235 a month, Ridenour said. Shipping to and from costs its members \$9.95 and insurance is optional.

Both companies have tracking systems in place so they know when the bag has arrived to the customer and when it is on its way

back into their hands. "There's information in [the bags] and we have ways of tracking the bags, but I can't give any details about that," Ridenour said. "UPS definitely helps, we know where the bag is at all times."

Richter said



A patent blue leather Fendi handbag, with aged brass hardware and beige contrast stitching, is one of Bag Borrow or Steal's most popular handbags to rent. The bag normally retails for \$1,750. Members can rent it for \$95 a week or \$275 a month.

Courtesy BAG BORROW OR STEAL

through DHL, she knows when the bags have reached their destination and are on their way back. Their bags are also tracked with serial numbers and dates within the bag.

As styles emerge and change, so do From



Debbie Fitzgerald shows off her Louis Vuitton bag on the Magnificent Mile. With the rise in popularity of handbags, Fitzgerald said she is not interested in renting a bag and would rather own.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

Bags to Riches and Bag Borrow or Steal's inventory, but some bags are meant to stay. Richter said in determining which bags stay available and which are "retired," she talks with trend experts and also takes into consideration how durable the product will be. Her competitor has the same philosophy. "We look for bags that wear well and that are going to hold their style factor," Ridenour said. "We also come from a business perspective looking at bags that are going to have some lifetime to them."

Amy Salinger, a fashion consultant based in New York and Chicago, said bag borrowing or renting isn't something she would ever do but said she thinks it's a good idea for the right people.

"If you're interested in carrying a designer bag and cannot afford it, then sure, it's a great idea, but you're not really investing anything," Salinger said. "It's like [leasing a car]. If you're interested in driving around the nicest, newest model for that two year period, then go crazy. But if you want to invest in something and have a piece that lasts over the years, then you're wasting your time."

For Emily Massa, a national makeup artist at Sephora, the concept is ideal. "The most I've spent was \$450 on a Chanel bag," Massa said. "This site sounds great because I spent all that money on the bag and ended up giving it to my mom. Unless you're loaded or a trust fund baby, you can't buy a new bag each season, trends go in and out quickly."

Both companies allow its members and

guests to purchase bags if they cannot part with them and through close-out sales during the year.

Richter said Coach is very popular on her site. Fendi is another that's hot right now with Bag Borrow or Steal, Ridenour said.

For fall, however, Ridenour said to look for metallics, patent leather and shiny handbags.

Don't forget big bags.

"Big bags are always going to be in style because they're realistic. You can fit a lot in them," Salinger said.

For fall, Salinger said to expect a lot of animal skins like crocodile, ostrich and alligator in the higher end bags and patent leather in more affordable handbags.

"I think patent leather is a material people go for because it is expensive looking but doesn't necessarily cost a fortune," Salinger said.

Metallic handbags are also a staple and aren't going anywhere, Salinger said. In particular, bags ornamented with bronze colored hardware are something that fits in well with fall and people will see a lot of, she said.

To tote around one of these high end handbags visit bagborroworsteal.com, or frombagstoriches.com. For fashion consulting in Chicago visit amysalinger.net.

bmarlow@chroniclemail.com

Rockers tout green touring

Musicians keep the environment in mind when hitting the road

by Preston Jones

THE MUSIC industry is turning green.

No, it has nothing to do with slumping retail sales, endless label mergers or leaked albums being downloaded online. Instead, the intense focus on "greening" everything from tour buses to CD cases stems from what Pollstar Editor-in-Chief Gary Bongiovanni calls "part of the shifting consciousness of the American public."

"I think the music business might've been a little ahead of the curve on that," Bongiovanni said. "The Dave Matthews Band, in particular, comes to mind as being someone who advocated green touring ... [but] it's certainly more in people's minds."

More than ever, artists of all stripes—from the arena-packing Fall Out Boy to the indie-rocking Andrew Bird—are employing various methods to reduce the environmental impact of touring, recording and releasing albums.

"What's nice is that [going green] has obviously caught on," said Adam Gardner, guitarist/vocalist for rock band Guster and co-founder of eco-minded nonprofit organization Reverb. "It's gone from 'What's biodiesel?' to the post-'Inconvenient Truth' era. There's a lot more awareness now. Everyone now is interested and wants to take action."

The most visible area of the music industry being affected by environmental awareness is touring. Numerous nonprofit orga-

nizations (such as NativeEnergy, Global Cool and Reverb) work with artists as diverse as the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Norah Jones to draw up plans that, among other things, help reduce waste, offset carbon dioxide emissions, promote eco-friendly merchandise and encourage recycling.

Gardner, who co-founded Reverb with his wife, environmentalist Lauren Sullivan, stresses that bands don't have to start from scratch to go green. For some musicians, thinking more globally can be as simple as powering armies of trucks and buses with biodiesel, a clean-burning alternative fuel typically produced from such renewable resources as vegetable oil.

"It's not all or nothing," Gardner said. "We're not this group that's pushing bands into this, we're just there to help bands that want to do it anyway."

Of course, individual artists and bands aren't the only ones thinking greener. Most major music festivals, from Austin City Limits (helping the city maintain the grass at Zilker Park, where the festival is staged) to South by Southwest (offsetting energy used at venues during the festival), are working to limit or undo potentially harmful environmental effects. Many tours and festivals take the seemingly small step of reducing waste or purchasing carbon credits to offset CO2 emissions, but in Turley's mind, these actions represent a giant leap forward.

"[Greening] has definitely accelerated," Turley said. "It's really amazing in the last three years where this has come. When we

were trying to make this happen 10 years ago, it was a pretty tough sell. Five years ago, it was starting to turn the corner, and now it's just amazing."

Gardner sees a similar spike in interest, citing Reverb's involvement with more than 500 tours since its creation in 2004 and the more than 15 projects Reverb has undertaken thus far in 2007.

"At this point, we have so much coming in from bands and management, bands solicit us, [but] it didn't start that way, it started with me calling my friends [in] touring bands," Gardner said.

While environmentally friendly initiatives are taking a more firm hold in the world of indie record labels, Seattle-based Sub Pop Records was the country's first "green-e" certified record label in the country, which entails purchasing renewable energy credits. But the major record labels, such as Warner Music Group, aren't sitting idly by.

Earlier this year, the Warner Music Group announced a slate of initiatives aimed at cutting CO2 emissions, using more post-consumer recycled content in all standard releases and hosting carbon-neutral events. It's a vivid example of the "trickle-up" theory, as many artists, rather than the companies supporting them, have galvanized their employers to re-think their impact on the Earth.

"[Our initiatives were] a culmination of the leadership of the company and artists talking about the topic at the same time," said Mike Jbara, WEA Corp. executive vice



The Dave Matthews Band stays one step ahead of other bands by advocating green touring.

MCT

president and chief operating officer. "They were both led by a strong desire to make the company's environmental profile represent its values."

Andrew Sullivan, head of multimedia marketing for Sub Pop, said while the label didn't set out to flaunt its environmental achievements, it has served as a role model of sorts for the industry.

But for all of this forward momentum, it will be years, if not decades, before any quantifiable change is seen.

"I would say that in all my experience of doing this, it's not a sprint, it's a marathon," Turley said.

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WORTH A GIGGLE



HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



TUESDAY'S EDITION OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Some college students call Tuesday "boozeday" but a science reporting class made me call Tuesday "Buy The NY Times ... day." I recommend this special edition because it features the weekly "Science Times" section completely dedicated to explaining controversial medical practices, environmental debates and archeological treasures. —B. Palmer



OCTOBER ISSUE OF VANITY FAIR

I don't care how many ads Vanity Fair prints. This book-like magazine makes me feel important, and I'm usually never disappointed by the features. Check out "Inside Bush's Bunker" about the failure of the Bush administration. I didn't think it could be condensed into nine pages, but the magazine definitely did it. —J. Galliant

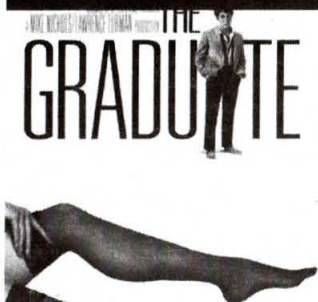


THE CTA'S DOOMSDAY PUBLICATIONS

The CTA needs to make cuts, but one area it has seemingly neglected is its printing costs. I'm sick of seeing "Insufficient State Funding" posters and letters everywhere I go. Here's an idea, print just enough for trains and buses, and leave the rest to the media. —A. Maurer

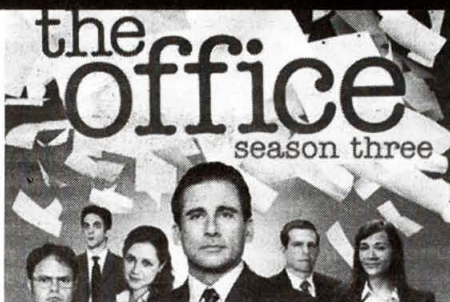


MOVIES / DVD



THE GRADUATE 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

The movie that begat Hollywood's Golden Age is being re-released for its 40th anniversary. The film has aged badly, as it dates from a time when to merely suggest existential ennui was considered fresh and exciting and real in American movies. Garden State, don't laugh (or do), really is its progeny. —W.Giglio



THE OFFICE: SEASON THREE

Season three of the Emmy Award-winning show is definitely worth \$29.99. You'll love the deleted scenes, blooper reel and "Kevin Cooks Stuff in the Office" just as much as the actual episodes. There's something magical about a show's extras being almost funnier than the ones that make it on the air. —S. Harvey

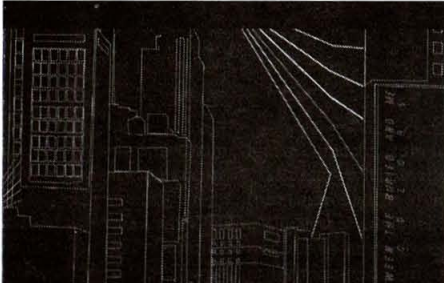


GOAL 11: LIVING THE DREAM

This three-part movie series features Santiago played by Kuno Becker living his dream as a soccer player for the Real Madrid team in Spain. The film shows an inside look to the world of soccer with cameos by renowned soccer players such as Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and David Beckham. —S. Tabares



MUSIC



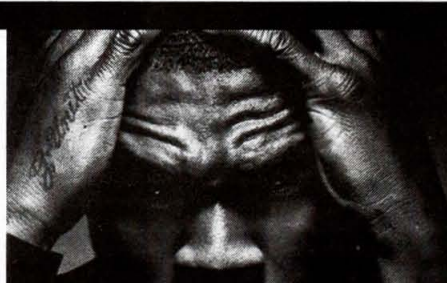
BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME: 'COLORS'

This reminds me of every single hardcore show I was dragged to in high school: A bunch of dudes circling each other and throwing out weird dancey moves while I stood in the corner hoping I didn't die to the sound of terrible music. —C. Mahlmeister



W/IFS: 'ADDICTED TO BAD IDEAS'

W/IFS' brand new album offers more of the same old perfection. Telling the story of Peter Lorre with a mixture of old school punk, Gypsy melody and big band orchestration, it seems the group has outdone itself once more. Got an open mind musically? Buy it. You won't regret it. —S. Baltrukonis

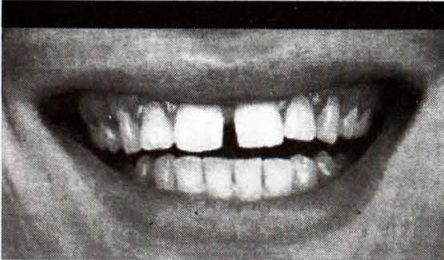


50 CENT: 'CURTIS'

If you're wondering who won the Kanye West vs. 50 Cent battle, it sure wasn't 50. Even with the help of Justin Timberlake, Timberland, Dr. Dre and Eminem, the rapper still couldn't make an album that was worth more than his name. The question is, will he keep his promise to never make a CD again? —L. Smucker



RANDOM



TOOTH GAPS

They are so mystical and mysterious. Imperfectly perfect with a tinge of flavor. A built-in water gun to squirt at friends, and something I adorned for 16 years until the inevitable braces got slapped on. I just miss it. I miss you gappy. Come back. —C. Mahlmeister



POM TEA

OK, so I've never actually had POM Tea before, but I've learned from my brother it comes in neat glass bottles that you can wash and reuse as regular drink glasses. My environmentally friendly brother has already donated six glasses to my apartment. Why recycle when you can just reuse? —Q. Milton



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Jesse Eisenberg throws a provocative 'Party' in new film

The 'Squid and the Whale' star discusses politics, war and sophisticated comedy

by Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

HE'S PAINFULLY neurotic, wholly innocent and utterly irresistible. He also happens to be the most fashionable movie archetype of the moment. Young male nebbishes have been popularized by actors ranging from Adam Brody to Michael Cera, and now Jesse Eisenberg brings his latest incarnation to the screen in *The Hunting Party*, which opened Sept. 14.

In the film, directed by Richard Shepard, Eisenberg plays Benjamin, an aspiring journalist fresh from Harvard who travels to Sarajevo with news cameraman Duck. There they encounter Duck's old partner, former reporter Simon, who claims he's found the hiding place of Bosnia's most notorious war criminal. Together, the trio sets out to capture him and ends up being mistaken for a CIA hit squad along the way. The Chronicle spoke with Eisenberg about preparing for the role, shooting on location and his favorite brand of comedy.

The Chronicle: Describe the real-life journalists you hung out with in order to prepare for the role.

At least from my experiences of hanging out with these journalists whom this movie is based on, they're aware of everything that's happening in the world, not just the area that they're currently in. It was really fun to speak with them about world politics, because they are so incred-

ibly in tune into what's happening, regardless of where they're currently stationed.

One of your upcoming films is *Adventureland*, the new comedy from *Superbad* director Greg Mottola. What attracted you to that project?

I saw [Mottola's] movie *Superbad* and I was even more excited to work with him on [*Adventureland*]. [*Superbad*] was such a big comedic movie, but the acting was very realistic. Sophisticated comedy comes from a real place and not just [from] people falling down and doing silly things. I was also surprised that *Superbad* was such a successful movie because it's the kind of movie you'd watch and think maybe people wouldn't get all of the jokes, [particularly] the quieter ones. But that's the kind of comedy I'd be interested in doing.

Describe working with Richard Gere and Terrence Howard, who, respectively, play Simon and Duck.

I was actually really surprised when they sent me the script and I saw that those were the two actors playing the roles because I had always thought of them as more dramatic actors, and I read the movie as more of a comedic [piece]. But when I got there I realized how perfect it was because they're intense actors and they're realistic actors, and the comedy I thought was enhanced by that kind of style. In the movie their characters have been friends for several years and have kind of lost touch. They're very different guys, of course, and yet there's this strange kind of excitement that exists when they're together.

Do you feel that war criminals are much easier to catch than the interna-

tional community makes it out to be?

In Bosnia, it's extremely likely that it's not just that [Radovan Karadzic] is good at hiding. There have been reports of him



Jesse Eisenberg stars in director Richard Shepard's 'The Hunting Party.'

Courtesy THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

being at a dinner, and he's published two plays and a book of poetry. The country is unlike Tora Bora, or wherever Bin Laden is. This country is not in the mountains where somebody could probably hide and the terrain is more easy to get lost in. Bosnia is a country of 4 and a half million people, the size of Kentucky. Just yesterday they released a report that a German woman wrote a book that discussed how the Russians were probably complacent in keeping this guy from getting caught, so I think the movie points its finger at a few different organizations, and I think there's probably a lot of truth to it.

What was the experience of shooting on location?

The movie was shot in Bosnia and Croatia. We couldn't go into some of the areas [where] the movie takes place. The political position of the movie might've put us in a dangerous situation in the areas that are still controlled by the Bosnian Serbs, who are criticized in the movie. But shooting in the countries [where] the war took place was both sad and also a really wonderful experience. The crew that was working on the movie were all locals, and everybody had a story. They had lost an immediate member of the family or a cousin or something. Everybody had a political position as well. For the most part everybody was really pleased that we were making the movie, and thought that the movie was really important and really relevant. Even though the movie takes place in 2000, the guy the movie is about is still on the run.

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Fashion follows suit with re-emergence of classic wardrobe

Dressy, polished looks are peaking in popularity

by Elizabeth Wellington

After years of mismatched fashion irreverence (which included pairing teal shoes with everything), the classic suit is re-emerging in a much different landscape than the last time it dominated womens' wardrobes in the 1980s.

Dresses, the most feminine of fashion items, are peaking in popularity as more women are moving away from dressing like men in order to be taken seriously in the workplace. We are even seeing more and more cleavage during daylight hours.

Still, dark-hued menswear blazers and skirt (or pant) combinations are dominating clothing racks this fall. However, they are back with a twist. To keep the apparel delicate, contemporary designers such as Nanette Lepore, Rebecca Taylor and Tracy Reese are giving tweeds, plaids and herringbones a womanly touch with ruffles, ruching and ribbon trim.

And by pairing matched separates with glossy, patent leather shoes and oversized bags, women are giving today's suit the we-scoff-at-rules edge that has been the subplot of the ready-to-wear story for the last five years.

"Everything is very polished," said Denelle Drake, fashion spokeswoman for Neiman Marcus in a King of Prussia, Pa. mall. "Suits are very important, especially those with straight cuts and embellishments."

After seasons of pointing out the popular-

ity of denim (low-rise, high-rise and skinny) paired with all things voluminously (some would say sloppily) Bohemian, women are showing how today's suit can reintroduce itself to the city's fashion enclaves.

Metallic belts, round-toed T-strap shoes, sparkling clutches and denim may annoy staunch suit wearers. Don't these more frivolous items overpower the suit's seriousness?

But retailers and fashion pundits say the suit denotes a certain sense of order by its very nature. The biggest difference between the suit of today and yesteryear is that it's more flexible, they say, and just like its wearer, is much more likely to transition from work to play.

"The essence of a suit is about order and class," said Maureen Doron, owner of Skirt, a boutique in Bryn Mawr, Pa.

"However, suiting changes," she continued. "This season we are going to see women not just wear suits to the office, but to cocktail parties and weekend social events."

Tory Burch, Tia Cibani of Ports 1961 and James Coviello all showed tweed jackets with jumper dresses as well as gold lame blouses and men's trousers. Michael Kors paired pencil skirts with bomber jackets, all in the same color family, for an unexpected suited look.

But high fashion isn't the only place you can find unique turns on the classic suits. Kohl's, J.C. Penney, Target and Macy's INC are all featuring separates to help us duplicate the look. Just keep these tips in mind:

Bell sleeves are key to blazers, as are wide lapels. Look for pleats, gathers, ruching and



Suits for women are dominating the world of fashion and clothing racks now more than ever.

MCT

rosettes. Topstitching along pockets and collars is another detail that gives pieces a crisp, suited look.

Wear suit pieces together or apart.

"This season's trends give women more creativity and personal style when it comes to stretching a wardrobe," said Hope Greenberg, fashion director at Lucky magazine. "It used to be that women were really restricted to wearing a suit together all the time."

Stay away from nude pantyhose, unless

they are very sheer. A bare leg can take you into late November, and then you go right into opaque tights as it gets colder out.

But you must be careful when pairing a blazer with a dress. While there aren't any hard and fast rules, stay away from boxy suits and boxy dresses.

That look will put you straight back in the 1980s, the last place you want to be when you put on a suit this fall.

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Premium Blend

with Starter Kit

IN THE western suburbs of Illinois, two young men met at the local Barnes and Noble. They shared their dreams of forming a rock band, and in 2002, Starter Kit was born. This local quartet specializes in alternative/emo rock. The band consists of lead singer and bassist Mike Perez, vocalist and guitarist Emo Manuel, drummer Chris Javorski and guitarist Ryan Aquino.

Their new full length album *Secrets* will be released on the day of their concert at Chicago's Beat Kitchen. The Chronicle recently spoke with guitarist Ryan Aquino.

The Chronicle: How was Starter Kit formed?

Ryan Aquino: Well, originally it was Mike and Emo, the drummer and the guitar player. They went to high school together, and they'd been in bands on and off throughout knowing each other because they both had always dreamed of being in a band. So they formed it, and then myself and Mike, the singer and bass player, joined in later during variations of the band.

So basically that's how we got this far. Before Mike, now our full-time vocalist, we went through a couple [vocalists] and also a couple different band names. Mike is probably the best singer we've had thus far. So we stuck with him and stuck with the name Starter Kit.

How did you personally become

involved in the band?

Emo is my cousin. We both went to Northern Illinois [University] too and [the band] eventually wanted another guitar player, so they asked me to play. I started playing with them and stuff, and we've just been together ever since.

How has your band evolved over the last half-decade?

I think we've evolved a lot because when we first started, we were just a straight-up punk band and our songs just kicked you in the face. And lately we've been experimenting with more dynamics, and putting more overtones in our songs like the piano, the guitar, the organ in the new CD. It's a lot more experimental.

How would you describe your band's musical style?

Kind of like a cross between rock and punk. Our new CD has a lot of slower jam stuff to it. And we did a lot of new styles experimentally on our upcoming album.

What should audiences expect from your latest album *Secrets*?

We've been working on that album for the past year, off and on, and just trying to get the songs as tight as possible before actually releasing them. Most of those new songs aren't live yet because we've been concentrating on writ-



Starter Kit band members. FROM LEFT: Emo Manuel, Mike Perez, Chris Javorski and Ryan Aquino.

Courtesy STARTER KIT

ing it and wanted to wait and surprise everyone when we finally have everything ready to go. The Beat Kitchen will be our first show where we play all our new stuff.

Starter Kit performs at the Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., on Sept. 22, concurrent to the release of their new album *Secrets*. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the show starts at 5:30 p.m. Admis-

sion is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. All ages are permitted at this early show, which also includes performances by American Taxi, Counterpunch and The Sophomore Year. For further details on the concert, call The Beat Kitchen at (773) 281-4444. Visit myspace.com/starterkitrock for more information on Starter Kit.

—M. Fagerholm

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21-April 20) Group events and last minute invitations are this week complicated but rewarding. Long-term social loyalties versus new friendships are accented. Later this week, watch finances.



TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Money plans will soon simplify. Use this time to streamline time schedules, discuss large investments or finalize home repairs. Don't hold back: This is the right time to expand your social circle.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21) A unique introduction may captivate your imagination over the next few days. New friendships are genuine: Respond quickly to all invitations. Go slow: Tensions may quickly escalate.



CANCER (June 22-July 22) Yesterday's business alliances will now be strengthened. Common priorities are worthwhile and will soon be established by older colleagues. Let others express their feelings before offering an opinion: All is well.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Early this week, someone close may discuss private events, broken promises or failed relationships. If so, offer empathy but encourage new ideas. Stay alert: Small details are vital.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Business relations are fast-paced and emotionally demanding this week. After Friday, a trusted friend or close relative may provide unique insights into family decisions.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Over the next few days, friends and lovers may ask subtle questions and expect detailed answers. Areas affected are yesterday's romantic promises, social planning or future home goals.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Renovations, home decisions and minor finances are now highlighted. Be flexible: Creative suggestions are unusual but worthwhile. Stay detached: Tempers may flare.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Long-term romance is pleasing and seductive this week. Some Sagittarians may also experience the return of an old lover or distant friend. Friday through Sunday accent important family discussions.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Employment negotiations will work to your advantage over the next eight days. At present, new job placements or unique promotions may be on the agenda. A demanding week: Stay balanced.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Social confidence now attracts potential lovers. Carefully consider all invitations. Later this week, many Aquarians will encounter a rare family or social power struggle. React with sensitivity.



PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Family discussions are this week positive and rewarding. Previously silent loved ones may now provide a detailed description of their long-term needs. Listen and offer support.

CHECK ME OUT



AINHIZE BARRENA

DIGITAL MEDIA TECHNOLOGY
SENIOR

For senior Ainhize Barrena, a digital media technology major, dressing well isn't something she has to think about too intensely.

While walking toward the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., against the strong gusts of winds, Barrena managed to keep her strands of pink-tipped hair tamed.

Wearing a long, dark-green fall jacket, faded brown pants and jewel-tone green sneakers, Barrena said she often shops at H&M for the funky styles and the affordable prices.

"I just have fun with what I wear," Barrena said. "I like when things don't quite match."

—J. Gallart

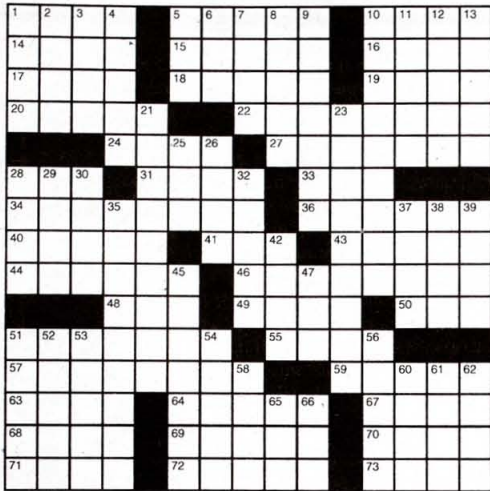
Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

Crossword

Crossword

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 1 Plays a part
 5 Postal sticker
 10 Mr. Bunny
 14 Trellis piece
 15 Bonehead play
 16 Burn balm
 17 Skin opening
 18 Capital on the Nile
 19 Be sure of
 20 Ex-QB Bart
 22 Lesson
 24 New Jersey NBA-ers
 27 Loses one's temper
 28 Actor Kilmer
 31 Felines
 33 Mineral spring
 34 November event
 36 Rarely
 40 So out it's in
 41 Mas' mates
 43 Depart
 44 State categorically
 46 Canvasser
 48 Knight's title
 49 gin fizz
 50 Before, in poetry
 51 Continue
 55 Bell sound
 57 Settee for two
 59 Golf-course hazards
 63 Portent
 64 Small crown
 67 Kind of thermometer
 68 Impudently bold
 69 Heavenly hunter
 70 Storage building
 71 Heavy imbibers
 72 Bridge support
 73 Weapons talks, briefly

DOWN
 1 Small snakes
 2 Coagulate
 3 Skater Lipinski
 4 Severe
 5 Jiffy
 6 -la-la
 7 Extra dry
 8 Folkways
 9 Systematic series of actions
 10 Certain fund-raisers
 11 Of an arm bone
 12 Barnyard fowl
 13 Stitched
 21 Parish priests' pads
 23 Offensive
 25 Skater
 26 Babilonia
 26 Halt
 28 Designer Wang
 29 Pub servings
 30 Why don't we?
 32 Goes over the edge
 35 Curved pastries
 37 Dinner and a movie, perhaps
 38 Above
 39 Scant
 42 Auctioned off
 45 Christmas star's place
 47 Old card game
 51 Liquid impacts
 52 "___ and Juliet"
 53 In the open
 54 Cow collective
 56 Flagrant
 58 Follow closely
 60 Opera song
 61 Gloomy atmosphere
 62 Aperture for coins
 65 Joey in Australia
 66 ___ Arbor, MI



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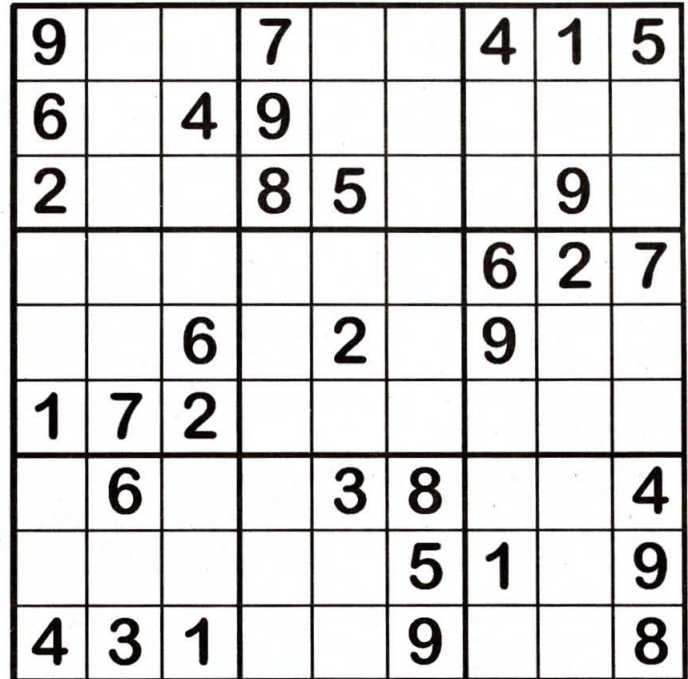
9/17/07

Solutions



Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.



Joke of the week

A pirate walks into a bar with a steering wheel stuffed in his pants. The bartender says, "Do you know you have a damn wheel in your pants?" The pirate responds, "Argh! It's drivin' me nuts!"



Comic Relief

CARRY 3 Murdoch's irreverent adventures in bad joke-telling by Akeem Lawanson e-mail: hillmeupp@yahoo.com



Commentary

Editorials

Long, long walks ahead

The Chicago Transit Authority is facing a \$110 million deficit, rendering the system incapable of meeting payroll obligations in December. In response to the impending crisis, which the CTA labeled "Doomsday", Governor Blagojevich authorized an emergency disbursement of \$24 million from next year's budget.

But this temporary reprieve has only postponed the doomsday scenario, which will now occur on Nov. 4. On that date, fares are expected to go up for every train and bus ride. Several bus routes may even be discontinued, and hundreds of employees could be facing unemployment.

On Sept. 17 the Illinois State Senate will convene to discuss the crisis. The plan being discussed would raise \$435 million annually for the CTA, Metra and Pace. To do this, certain taxes would have to be raised—the real estate transfer tax, as well as the mass transit sales tax.

Unsurprisingly, the plan was defeated in the house.

Gov. Blagojevich has promised not to raise taxes as well, and seems unwilling to budge. Pres. George H. Bush found himself in the same situation several years ago, and reneging on his campaign promise may have cost him his bid for re-election; a lesson Blagojevich has undoubtedly retained. But Governor, read our lips: Chicago needs a healthy CTA.

Thousands depend on the train to get

them to work every day. Their children depend on it to get to school. College students, who are far too poor to buy a car, need it to get home. Travel brochures need it to make Chicago more attractive to prospective tourists. Tourists need it so they can spread large maps in the middle of the aisle and find their way to the planetarium.

The el has become a symbol for everything Chicago wants to be. The silver trains muscling their way through the big-shouldered city are a democratic institution. Everybody rides the CTA. We all wait outside or underground in the terminals for the right color to take us where we want to go. The trains aren't scary or dirty as they are in New York—Chicagoans are Midwesterners, and we believe in the common man and the common good.

A symptom of a healthy democracy is concession to its citizens. The CTA is an invaluable resource to the people of this city. We should be proud of it, we should promote it and we should make sure it has enough money to continue to serve.

Call state senators and representatives. Tell them the trains and the buses are the arteries and conduits of the workers, the students and the artists, but three dollars is too much for the privilege. Tell them without these people Chicago becomes something different, something harsher and colder, a place where it's a long, long walk to where you need go.

Lack of progress report

Last week, beginning on Sept. 12, Congress saw the testimony of Gen. David Petraeus, the chief commanding officer in Iraq. His testimony was about the controversial troop surge, and his report was cautiously optimistic. He claimed sectarian violence had gone down 50 percent across Iraq, 80 percent in Baghdad, which fulfilled the stated goals of the 30,000-troop surge.

Whether or not those numbers are accurate is something lawmakers are not conceding to the military. Opposition to the war is growing among representatives and senators, and the balance of opinion is beginning to reflect the feeling of the general populace. Recent CNN polls show that 53 percent of Americans don't believe the surge strategy is working in Iraq. The members of Congress, in one of those rare instances of caring, seem to be listening.

The anti-occupation contingent in the Senate is populated with republican members as well as democrats, with some of the toughest questions coming from republican leadership.

"Is this war making us safer?" asked John Warner (R-Va.). Petraeus' answer was a rousing "I don't know." Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) criticized the contradictions between Petraeus' testimony and the evidence supplied by other branches of government.

Another important question was answered as well—when can our troops come home? Petraeus first gave the heartening news that the surge could end in March, bringing back about 30,000 troops.

But he echoed the administration in saying that setting any kind of timetable for overall withdrawal was detrimental to progress in Iraq and unfair to the soldiers fighting there.

It seems more unfair to the military that its leaders won't tell the troops when they can come home. It seems doubly unfair to the fighting men and women in Iraq that those same leaders have no idea if their efforts are making their homeland safer. It is patently, obscenely unfair for those leaders to ask soldiers to keep dying for a mission without end or moral justification. It is unfair to the soldiers that the administration is not asking itself these questions before Congress does.

The Commander in Chief remains obstinate in his perception of Iraq as a battle for freedom, as well as a winnable war. For the administration, the departure of the surge troops marks progress, and should satisfy anyone advocating for U.S. withdrawal from Iraq. However, this way of looking at troop levels is (surprise!) misleading. The surge was always supposed to end—this withdrawal was part of the original—and questionable—plan. Bringing troop levels to pre-surge numbers is not progress, it's staying the course. That's a phrase pro-war officials used often in 2003 and 2004—for some reason, it's fallen out of fashion.

There was one thing in Petraeus' testimony that everyone seemed to agree on. If the war proceeds as is, he expects 60 Americans to die every month.



Akeem Lawanson THE CHRONICLE

Letters to the Editor:



tions are accessible through the library's online catalog (I-Share); the card catalog is no longer in use.

5. Individuals wishing to use Special Collections materials should contact Wendy Hall, Special Collections Librarian at 312-344-7121. Special Collections hours are Monday-Thursday from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., and by appointment.

Again, thank you Beth and The Chronicle staff for including the library in the first issue of the new school year.

My vision of Columbia's popular culture collection is a major expansion of our existing special collections materials in areas including, but not limited to, the visual and performing arts, advertising, media, music, fashion, sociology, politics, literature and history. There are many ways popular culture is represented and our collection would reflect this. Embarking on an endeavor such as this will take time, money, space and the support of the entire Columbia College Chicago community. The Friends of the Library is one step toward making this dream a reality and everyone is invited to join us.

For more on the Friends program including membership information, see our website at: http://www.colum.edu/Friends_of_the_Library/Friends_of_the_Library.php.

Kim Hale
Head of Collection Management,
Columbia College Chicago

Library corrections

To the Editor:

I want to thank Beth Palmer for her Sept. 4 article entitled, "Library promotes program to help build 'pop-culture Mecca.'" It was a great introduction to the Friends of the Library Program and our Special Collections. However, I did want to clarify a few items mentioned or implied in the article:

1. Special Collections materials are not displayed publicly on the fourth floor but are housed in the Special Collections room. Materials in this collection do not circulate for security and preservation reasons. The items mentioned were displayed specifically for The Chronicle photo shoot.

2. Monies raised through the Friends of the Library program will go to support all of the Library's collections, including Special Collections.

3. Special Collections contains books featuring the works of artist Andreas Serrano and photographers Robert Mapplethorpe and Sally Mann, not the actual items themselves.

4. Cataloged materials in Special Collec-

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

—The Chronicle Editorial Board

Improper use of 'Holocaust' in Israel



by Rachael Strecher
Assistant Photo Editor

I stood in horror as a young Jewish settler pointed at a member of the Israeli Defense Forces and screamed "Nazi!" He had just been evacuated from the house his family had been squatting in for three months in the Jewish settlement of Hebron.

This was shocking to me for several reasons. Not only was a Jew calling another Jew a Nazi, but it was over an eviction. An act which is considered to be a legal reaction to someone who has broken the law by residing in a place that they do not own or rent in any other city in any other nation.

This was to be the first of several times in Israel and the Palestinian territories that I was confronted with people who felt it was their right to compare their lives to the horrific event that coined the term "genocide." It would come in the form of a press release faxed to the office where I worked: "Stop Nazi Zionist Oppression" (sent, surprisingly, by the small group of Orthodox Jews who believed that Israel should not be a state until the coming of Messiah). I saw it on the Palestinian side written on the separation wall: "Israel=Nazi." Or the Palestinian cab driver who would conversationally say, "Why do the Jews treat us in such a way that they were treated in World

War II? Why have they not learned?"

During the Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Ov, the day where Jews mourn the destruction of their temple thousands of years ago by the Romans, I heard it again. Young Jewish men and women sat wide-eyed, listening to a rabbi explain how the secularization and intermarriage of Jews was like another Holocaust, except that nobody was noticing it. One girl gushed that it totally changed her perspective and life's path. This made me think of my own happily mixed-married family and I tried to find comparisons between our way of life and the Holocaust. However, the only yellow star I ever wore was the mildly ill-conceived one I got tattooed on my foot when I turned 18 years old.

I had sort of learned to keep my mouth shut when faced with ideology conflicting with my own and even when confronted with raging bigotry. But I had had enough. "Listen. If you want to compare my life and the life of my family to the Holocaust, go ahead. But I'd like to challenge you to say that to a survivor." She stammered that she would never do that.

"Exactly," I said. "I think that's because on some level, you must realize how grossly offensive that is." Then I felt bad. It wasn't her fault the use of the word had touched her so deeply. It creates an almost visceral reaction from those who hear it, especially young, impressionable American Jews.

That is why people are so ready to use it to further their own agenda. It gets things done. Changes minds. Works people up. But at what cost? When people throw around the word genocide so nonchalantly, doesn't that cheapen it? The word was invented because of the Holocaust and was meant to be weighty, to have a lot of clout. It not only gives America the right, but also the responsibility to invade sovereign nations

and supercede existing administrations. Former President Bill Clinton was terrified of it. President George Bush used it for questionable reasons.

The idea of both Jews and Palestinians invoking images of the Holocaust for political reasons is disgusting. The only people in this day and age who have any right to compare their lives to the Holocaust—and who can do so without cheapening the tragedy and dishonoring those who had to go through it—are the people of Darfur, who

are dealing with true genocide.

Being evicted from your home is hard. Living under an occupation is even harder. Neither of them comes anywhere near the senseless killing and forced extermination of an entire race of people.

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One of the few people allowed to use the Holocaust today—a survivor—at a protest to ask that the Israeli government grants Holocaust survivors more than 20 dollars a month in Aide.

AP

Ulyanovsk: Comrades, start your ovaries



by Wes Giglio
Commentary Editor

There are few opportunities in life during which a person can say to himself, "Self, I am so glad I am not Russian." But Sept. 12 was one such day.

In the province of Ulyanovsk, married couples were extended a lavish half-day off of work, during which they were encouraged to procreate. The factories and shops will empty for a few glorious hours, during which the streets will echo with the snoring of exhausted men and the plaintive cries of unfortunate children who have discovered their parents' enthusiasms.

Lately, the population of the region has been in sharp decline. I think this is possibly because in Ulyanovsk working only half the day is considered vacation. It is, after all, the birthplace of Lenin.

If a couple is lucky enough to conceive during the half day of bliss, then the race

is on. If their child is born on June 12, Russia's national day, he or she will be called a patriot and his or her parents will be given any or all of several prizes. Some will drive away in new cars, others will receive refrigerators and some will have to settle for cash. Couples giving birth on June 13 receive a screaming child and a pervasive feeling of jealousy, as well as a car seat rendered quite useless. Children of these unfortunate couples will live out their lives having failed,

on their very first attempt, to satisfy their parents' expectations.

Imagine the desperate situation the socially awkward teenager faces on the Day of Conception, the unfortunate title of the newly minted holiday. Perhaps he has seen Natalya sneaking off with Ivan (the terrible), who does not deserve her and does not understand her the way he does, would not rub her feet and kiss her hurts as he would, plastic engagement rings slipped temporar-

ily on their trembling fingers. Where can he go? Certainly not home. His parents will be exercising the marital bed, and even if he cannot hear them or see them, the hateful knowledge of their carnal activities will invade his brain, spoiling the morning. I suppose he will go to the movies.

And the proprietor of the local Walgreens, how long will it be until his business recovers? No men will wander up and down the aisles, wondering what the right card is to let her know he's sorry and that she should now allow him to come back to bed and have sex with her. No roses or bouquets of flowers bought and worried over, no need for chocolates, notepaper, little trinkets or industrial size boxes of Trojans. The cash/refrigerator incentive will have temporarily replaced begging and pity as the prime Ulyanovskian aphrodisiacs.

And what of the women? There will be no avoiding the dreaded deed this morning, no—the state has officially sanctioned a time for your disgusting husbands need to, as he incorrectly terms it, "make love."

Oh, it will be a great and terrible day in Ulyanovsk, but let the residents be comforted—this interruption, this hiccup in the whirring machine of life, will only last so long. Soon, so soon, we can get back to work.

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Akeem Lawanson THE CHRONICLE

»MEGA MALL

Continued from Back Page

Some want the structure closed but the vendors hope to re-open

"A lot of them were crying," Lee said.

Vendors waited for about a year and a half for the Mega Mall to re-open after the mall shut down for building code violations.

"Finally, they were happy that the mall was open [but] not even a year [has passed and] they have to go through this again," Lee said.

If the Mega Mall doesn't re-open, Lee will have to look for a new place to set up her business, she said. The Mega Mall is a desirable place for vendors because it's near the highway so employees and customers have easy access, she said.

"It will be nice to re-open, otherwise we have to totally change our life," Lee said.

The fate of the Mega Mall is still undecided and the vendors are waiting to learn what will occur next.

"Right now it already happened so we just have to deal with the future," Lee said.

Critics of the Mega Mall claim it's a harbinger of illicit activity, but Lee said those allegations aren't true. She said the rumors that prostitution and gang activity are present at the Mega Mall are unfounded and security guards and police patrol the area diligently.

Some want the land of the Mega Mall to be developed into a new establishment.

"The city [of Chicago] is seeking acquisition authority for that property," Colon said.

Though Colon is sympathetic of the vendors plight, he wants to use the property to create a public market.

"It would be an opportunity for lots of



The Mega Mall, 2500 N. Milwaukee Ave., is boarded up due to a fire in one part of the building.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

small businesses, very similar to the Mega Mall's configuration, [to] be able to create an identity with lots of different food vendors," he said.

Colon said the neighborhood has lost grocery stores and his plan would be an alternative to a "big box" store like Jewel or Dominicks.

Other critics see the fire as a catalyst to destroy the mall.

"If it caught on fire and they have violations, that should be looked into," said Ramona Nazario, a Logan Square resident.

Nazario said the property the Mega Mall currently uses should be redesigned for services such as low-income housing or an after-school program.

"They need to speak to the owner," Nazario said. "They need to see what he can do to make it safer because I wouldn't want anyone to lose their business. If they don't see any way around it, then we can develop something that will benefit the whole community."

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Enjoy the freedom.



Caribbean Festival

Union Park, 1501 W. Randolph St., was alive with Caribbean flair during the three-day Caribbean Festival. Various cultures were celebrated with food, live music and the selling of wares.



Susana, above, sells giraffe figurines from Uganda, her country of origin, at the Caribbean Festival Sunday, Sept. 8 at Union Park.



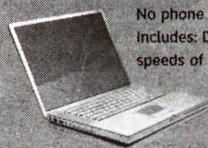
Marilyn Buzk, of Belize, practices with her Caribbean dance troupe before going on stage at Caribbean Festival.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

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Bike rental program talk of the town

Chicago Mayor wants to institute bike rental program modeled after a Parisian system

by George P. Slef
Associate Editor

Paris is a city rich with bicycle rental services. By the end of 2007, more than 20,000 bicycles will be for rent, with at least 1,400 locations where patrons can drop off their bikes. After traveling to Europe and renting a bicycle in Paris, Mayor Richard M. Daley has brought the topic to Chicago.

Although there is no date in sight, Daley's transportation administration is looking into bringing a bike rental program to Chicago.

"For a lot of people this is fresh news to them," said Rob Sadowsky, executive director of the Chicago Bicycle Federation. "But what people don't know is the [bike rental proposal] has been brewing for some 18 months ... I work with JCDecaux and am under contract for a very small \$2,000 to bring a bike rental program to Chicago."

JCDecaux, the second-largest outdoor advertising company in the world, operates the Paris bicycle rental program through government contract, as well as builds bus shelters and park benches. In turn, the company sells advertising for the bus shelters and makes millions of dollars, Sadowsky said.

Sadowsky has been working on bringing the bike rental program to Chicago for

more than a year.

Sadowsky said the mayor was excited about the idea after he visited Europe, and upon his return to Chicago, told his transportation administration to look into the program. While nothing has been made official, the biggest road block is raising revenue to fund the program, Sadowsky said.

JCDecaux has already made a proposal to Chicago for a bike rental program. Another company, OYBike, which provides rental services in London, also made an offer.

However, Chicago's plan wouldn't be as large as Paris'.

Chicago has asked the two companies to propose a 500 bike rental plan and a 1,500 bike rental plan to be used in the central part of the city. The idea is to have the bike pick-ups and drop offs along commuter stops in the city, according to the Chicago Tribune.

"The wheels of the government turn

slowly in Chicago," Sadowsky said. "In order for this to work it has to be done right, and it has to be financially viable."

Because there is no set plan for Chicago right now, the cost to rent a bike is not certain.

In Europe, cyclists who wish to use the bike rental program have to pay five euros for an annual membership, or about \$7. They then get to use the bike for free for the first 30 minutes. After that, it is one euro an hour, according to the Chicago Tribune.

The bike rental systems in Europe operate electronically and know what time a rider picks it up and drops it off, Sadowsky said.

Ideally, Sadowsky would like a unified fare card, similar to ones that allow commuters to use Pace, Metra and CTA around the city.

"[If you use this unified fare card] then we can go out and make contracts with credit card companies like Visa or MasterCard

and have them sell it to consumers," Sadowsky

said. "By doing this they are making transaction fees as well as the possibility of advertising."

The bikes are also built to be durable.

Sadowsky said the bikes can't be taken apart without special tools and won't break down like a regular bike might.

Other cycling enthusiasts are excited about the possibility of a Chicago bike rental service.

Michael James, a former Columbia instructor and member of the Heartland Cycling Club in Chicago, said his club supports anything that promotes the use of bicycles. While James doesn't agree with everything Daley does, he feels it's a good idea that Daley is taking a progressive approach with the city.

"Renting bikes would be beneficial to congestion and for health and we are all for that," James said. "It's great that he addresses this—I love the idea."

Kimberly Vlach, 18, a downtown studio photographer, said there would be less car congestion downtown if the bike program is instilled and if it eventually became like Europe's program.

Vlach said she doesn't live in the city, but she does use public transportation when she visits friends that live in the South Loop and Logan Square. She said if the bike rental service were to come to Chicago, she would use the service if it was affordable.

"I think it is a good idea," Vlach said. "It encourages people to exercise and ride bikes."

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Akeem Lawanson THE CHRONICLE

Church cemetery to be relocated for O'Hare

Federal appeals court allows airport to move 1,300 graves for expansion project

by Ashley M. Heher

A FEDERAL appeals court ruled Sept. 13 that the city can proceed with plans to relocate a church cemetery as part of a \$15 billion expansion at O'Hare International Airport.

In a 2-1 ruling, the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals said lawyers representing St. John's United Church of Christ in Bensenville failed to prove that relocating the 1,300 graves in the St. Johannes Cemetery to accommodate the project violates religious freedom.

"We conclude there is nothing inherently religious about cemeteries or graves, and the act of relocating them thus does not on its face infringe upon a religious practice," Judges William J. Bauer and Diane P. Wood wrote in their ruling. "The city has demonstrated that it has accommodated the religious concerns as much as it is physically possible without compromising its compelling interests."

Judge Kenneth F. Ripple dissented. City officials were reviewing the decision and did not immediately comment.

Mayor Richard Daley praised the ruling while speaking at an unrelated news conference, the Chicago Tribune reported.

"We are very excited about this decision," Daley said. "It came out on the side we asked for. We think it is important we

keep moving on in regard to the expansion of O'Hare International Airport."

The 440-acre O'Hare project calls for expanding and reconfiguring runways to reduce delays and building a new terminal with more gates and parking on the airport's west side. The FAA has said the expansion was expected to reduce delays at the airport by 68 percent.

The project would also require the city to buy and raze 2,600 homes and 200 businesses in the suburban communities of Bensenville and Elk Grove Village. Those towns also are plaintiffs in a lawsuit over

the expansion and are fighting to stop the project. And officials there, as well as members of St. John's United Church of Christ, said they plan to appeal the case.

"It's really a hard blow for all of us because we've fought so long for this," said Linda Dickson, a spokeswoman for

Bensenville. "The thought that something could happen and that they could have to go through and proceed is not something we're willing to accept yet."

Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson said the suburbs and church will work to get an order of protection that would block Chicago officials from relocating the graves.

"You won't see bodies dug up tomorrow, I guarantee that," he said.

Abner Greene, a professor at Fordham's law school, said the decision argues Chicago didn't discriminate against the

church and its cemetery because of religious views.

"When the court is trying to figure out whether the city has discriminated against this group, one thing that's helpful to know is [whether] what's being regulated is inherently religious," he said. "All the court is saying is a cemetery or grave is not on its face religious like a cross might be or a mezuzah."

A similar appeal lodged against the Federal Aviation Administration is pending before the U.S. Appeals Court in Washington.

Rosemarie Andolino, executive director of the O'Hare Modernization Program, said the city will tread carefully as it takes control of the cemetery.

"We understand that this is a very sensi-

tive and difficult time for those involved," Andolino said. "We will continue to proceed with the utmost care and compassion when dealing with the families of those interred at St. Johannes."

Churchgoers at St. John's believe the bodies buried at the graveyard should remain undisturbed until Jesus returns to resurrect the remains, said church spokesman Bob Bell.

"To have a city of Chicago worker with a shovel digging up my grandmother's parents, her sister's, a long line of family members going back to the founding of the church ... is offensive to us," Bell said. "We're not going to sit by and simply say 'Go ahead, do whatever it is you like with our family.'"

AP



Planes at O'Hare International Airport can be seen in the background near St. Johannes Cemetery, which will be relocated as part of a \$15 billion expansion at O'Hare. Approximately 1,300 graves will be moved.

AP

Moon Festival rises



A traditional Chinese holiday brings culture to Chicago

by Becky Schlikerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

COLUMBIA STUDENT Amy Lin and Columbia alumnus Jason Sun fondly recall celebrating the Moon Festival, a traditional, family-oriented Chinese holiday, while growing up in Taiwan. Both remember the popping firecrackers and sweet desserts associated with this holiday.

Now the celebration is coming to Chicago on Sept. 22 at Chinatown Square, 2108 S. Archer Ave., from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. The holiday is taking on a modern twist while still staying rooted in its traditional values.

At this year's celebration, organized by the Young China Club, a networking group for young professionals, the main events are Chinese American Idol, which includes a \$1,000 prize, a lion dance with 25 lions and a traditional Chinese fashion show, said Chris Huang, president of the Young China Club. Other events include Chinese opera, martial arts demonstrations and a lantern show as well as vendors selling food and merchandise.

The Moon Festival, or Mid-Autumn Festival as translated from Chinese, is an ancient Chinese holiday that celebrates family, said Angelika Cedzich, assistant professor of religious studies at DePaul University.

It is the second largest Chinese holiday,

the first being Chinese New Year, Sun said. He describes some of the celebrations in Taiwan as a "super-sized street fair."

Most compare the Moon Festival to Thanksgiving as it is celebrated near the end of the fall harvest, Cedzich said. Though the bountiful harvest is celebrated, the feast associated with the celebration is also reminiscent of Thanksgiving, Sun said.

"It's a time for celebration and relaxation," Cedzich said.

During the holiday, families gather together and have a banquet, which includes moon cakes, a round, traditional Chinese pastry with a flaky crust that is filled with sweet or savory fillings, eaten during the celebration.

"This roundness of the moon cakes is taken as a symbol of the roundness and of the togetherness and happiness of the family," Cedzich said. Roundness is an important element of the Moon Festival.

The symbolism of the moon comes from the Chinese principle of yin and yang, Cedzich said. The moon symbolizes the yin phase and the sun symbolizes the yang phase. During the Moon Festival, the yin phase is in effect, Cedzich said.

It's a folkloric celebration, Sun said. In turn, people tell mythical tales that correspond to the celebration. One popular ancient myth tells the story of an archer who was awarded a pill of immortality. His wife, Chang'e, took the pill and was transformed into a three-legged toad, Cedzich said.

Cedzich explains this is part of Chinese



The Moon Festival, organized by the Young China Club, will present a variety of performances, including a Chinese American Idol, a lion dance with 25 lions, a traditional Chinese fashion show, Chinese opera and martial arts demonstrations.

Courtesy YOUNG CHINA CLUB

Popular Religion, which she said doesn't have a particular "ism," meaning it's influenced by other traditions like Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. Yet, "it's not identical with [all] of them and it's also not simply a mixture of all of them," she said.

To some like Sun and Lin, an arts, entertainment and media management graduate student, the celebration of the Moon Festival in Chicago is symbolic of resurgence in Chinatown.

"I'm glad to see they're starting to have more festivals and events here," Sun said.

"Hopefully they'll get more people, especially locals, to come back to Chinatown."

The Chicago celebration is important, Cedzich said.

"This proves the enormous vitality of Chinese culture," she said.

For more information about the Moon Festival in Chicago, go to youngchinaclub.org/moonfestival2007.html.

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AIDS Foundation asks for \$1.5 million increase

 **Lack of funding could cause people living with HIV/AIDS to become homeless**

by Silvana Tabares
Assistant City Beat Editor

ADVOCATES ARE calling for additional funding for people living with HIV/AIDS for the city's budget next year.

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago fights against HIV/AIDS and raises funds to provide services for people living with HIV/AIDS. The foundation held a town hall meeting on Sept. 11 to address concerns on AIDS housing. Advocates are organizing a campaign to request an increase of \$1.5 million to the City Council for housing services, such as rental assistance, in the City Council 2008 budget. People living with HIV/AIDS rely on the assistance and could lose their aid in January if additional funding does not get approved.

In Chicago, funding for people living with HIV/AIDS comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program. The funding goes to the Chicago Department of Public Health which gives subsidies to agencies like the AIDS Foundation.

The AIDS Foundation offers rental assistance, a program that provides rent payments for people disabled by HIV/AIDS

for five months out of the year. Franklin Gray, who was diagnosed with HIV in August 2001, said he is able to afford a \$650 one-bedroom apartment in Chicago's South Side with the help of rental assistance and social security disability insurance. He said he is grateful for the support because he is able to buy food, afford medications and save enough money to one day be independently financially stable.

"I went from homelessness to dying to being alive," Gray said. "I am truly alive now."

Gray, a member of the AIDS advisory Housing Committee to campaign for additional funding said he is concerned he may lose his rental assistance if the City

Council does not increase \$1.5 million to fund AIDS housing next year.

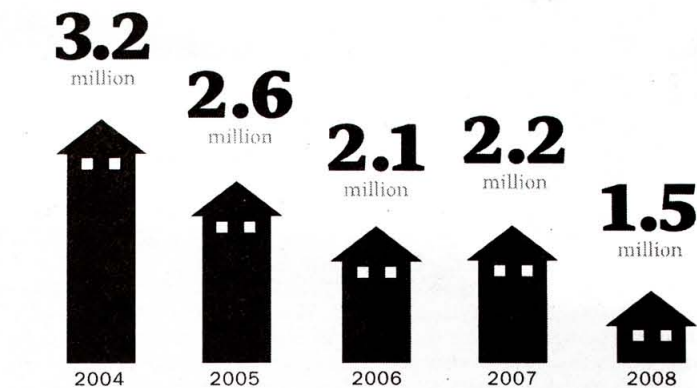
John Peller, director of government relations for the AIDS Foundation and lead organizer for the campaign, said 650 people depend on rental assistance. If the foundation does not receive extra funding, 211 could lose assistance in January 2008 and

become homeless.

"This program is surviving on one-time funding and that's not a way to keep people stably housed," Peller said. "There is not enough funding to make things work the way they are supposed to."

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago is also collecting petitions from the public

AIDS rental assistance funding



Funding for rental assistance decreased more than 50 percent within four years.

Emilia Klimiuk THE CHRONICLE

to lobby local alderman to support the campaign for more funding toward AIDS housing. Petitions would be distributed to the City Council in October.

In July, 44th Ward Alderman Thomas M. Tunney circulated a letter to the City Council and 35 members signed on to a resolution to the budget director to support the increase of \$1.5 million for AIDS funding for the 2008 city budget. But budget hearings will still be conducted next month by the entire City Council on how much additional funding, if any, would be approved.

Fifth Ward Alderman Leslie A. Hairston was one of the members that signed on to Alderman Tunney's resolution.

"I think its important legislation," Hairston said. "We can't keep coming up with initiatives and say that something needs to be done without properly fund-

ing it."

Peller said if the City Council approves the extra funding, \$400,000 would be allocated toward rental assistance and the remaining \$1.1 million would go toward housing services such as community residences, a group living facility with supportive services providing substance abuse treatment as well as alleviating the expenses of maintaining medications and health care.

Mayor Daley will release the city budget in early October and a full budget committee meeting will take place in November. If additional funding is included in the budget, it will be approved in mid-November and take effect Jan. 1.

stabares@chroniclemail.com

City Beat Index



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Scoop in the Loop: Dining with dogs



by Silvana Tabares
Assistant City Beat Editor

AN ORDINANCE allowing customers to dine with their dogs has been approved by the City Council. Beginning Jan. 1, 2008, dog owners can now freely take their best friends to outdoor cafes and restaurants.

Some dog-friendly eateries in Chicago already welcome dogs, but now the ordinance makes it official for restaurants to choose to allow it.

However, there are certain restrictions and conditions both dog owners and restaurants need to follow.

Restaurants with outdoor seating that are interested in following the ordinance must apply for a \$250 license, which is good for two years. Restaurants must post a notice letting owners know dogs are welcome at their establishment.

The ordinance does not permit dogs to sit on chairs, tables or counter tops or to eat off dinnerware. And restaurant owners must provide disposable towels and liquid hand sanitizer at all outdoor tables as well as clean and sanitize tables and chairs

between seatings.

Dog owners must carry current proof of rabies vaccinations and restaurant employees have the right to refuse dogs that are unleashed or disobedient.

Still, health officials disagree with new regulation and say it would be an unsanitary practice.

According to the Chicago Tribune, an official from the Chicago Department of Public Health said dogs carry fleas and germs and their dog hair and saliva would contaminate tables and floors.

But it did not stop 47th Ward Alderman Eugene Schuler and chairman of the City Council's License Committee to support the ordinance. Schuler said it is OK to allow dogs at restaurants as long as the restaurant provides a safe and clean environment for people.

I have never owned a pet, but I think the idea of taking your dog out to a restaurant is a good idea.

Europeans do it, so if the rules and regulations have worked in Europe then there is no reason why the ordinance would not work in Chicago.

I remember dog-sitting for a family member this summer and I was not able to eat at an outdoor restaurant because dogs were not allowed. It was frustrating; I ended up going home and ordering take-out.

The new ordinance would allow owners to spend more time with their dogs rather than having them locked inside the house or in a car, which is illegal.

Many people think of their dogs as children or companions and it is unfair for people not to be able to eat with their dog

at their favorite outdoor restaurant.

And they are more behaved than most children. I remember eating at a restaurant where children were crying and running around, yet their parents were not asked to leave.

I have encountered many pleasant and harmless dogs when their owners take them shopping, to the lake and outdoor festivals and have not had a problem.

As long as the dog is leashed, well-behaved, groomed and carries current proof of a rabies vaccinations tag, then I would not mind dining with them at the next table.

I doubt every outdoor restaurant in Chicago will participate in the ordinance.

People against the new regulation can choose to eat inside the restaurant or dine somewhere else.

Now that dogs are taken care of, what about cats?

stables@chroniclemail.com



Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

Calendar

Monday, Sept. 17

If you like Indian classical music, enjoy a free concert featuring Grammy-nominated L. Subramaniam play the violin. The performance begins at 6:30 p.m. in the Pritzker Pavilion at Millennium Park.

For more information visit milleniumpark.org.

Wednesday, Sept. 19

If foreign poetry strikes your interest, Puerto Rican poet and author Urayoán Noel will be reading his poems in Spanish at the Guild Complex, 1002 N. California Ave. The reading is a 21-and-over show and will begin at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Visit guildcomplex.com for more information.

Thursday, Sept. 20

For a night of music, attend One World Under One Roof and listen to music by the Amazonas, Beat the Donkey, Brina, Kiran Ahluwalia, Chango Spasiuk and Helder Moutinho. The event is part of the 9th annual World Music Festival. This free concert begins at 6:30 p.m. and will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center in the Claudia Cassidy Theater, 78 E. Washington St.

Visit cityofchicago.org for more information.

Friday, Sept. 21

Enjoy the last days of summer outside and watch *Happy Feet* at Touhy Park, 7348 N. Paulina St. The free screening is part of Movies in the Park, sponsored by the Chicago Park District. The film begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to everyone. More classic and contemporary films will continue to be featured in neighborhood parks around Chicago until the end of September.

Visit chicagoparkdistrict.com for a complete list of movies.

In Other News

Uptown violence

The third fatal shooting in one week has residents of the Uptown neighborhood scared, according to the Chicago Tribune on Sept. 11. The most recent shooting involved Mario Bell, 25, who was shot in the head by a man in an orange cab on North Hazel Street on Sept. 10. The two other victims are Philippi Larrmarri, 32, a homeless man who was shot numerous times on Sept. 6 while sleeping on a park bench on the same block as the most recent shooting, and James Lane, 29, who was walking on the 4600 block of North Clifton Avenue when he was shot on Sept. 7.

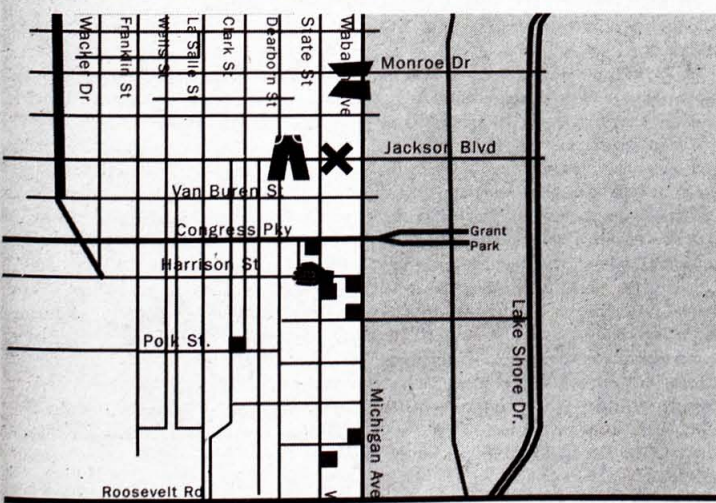
Salty burger

A McDonald's employee in Georgia was arrested and spent a night in jail because a police officer's burger was too salty, according to the Chicago Sun-Times on Sept. 10. Kendra Bull said she accidentally spilled salt on hamburger meat and her supervisor and co-worker tried to brush it off. Wendell Adams, the police officer who ate the salty burger, said it made him sick, but Bull said she had a salty burger from the same batch and didn't get sick. Remains of the questionable burger were sent to the state crime lab and Bull was charged with reckless conduct.

Investigation slams CTA

The Chicago Transit Authority was slammed by a federal report regarding the 2006 Blue Line derailment and fire on Sept. 12, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. Federal inspectors cited poor track conditions, which were the result of incomplete inspections, falsified records and poor management. The report also criticizes the ventilation system, which didn't clear smoke from the fire during the derailment, and the emergency response of the CTA. The first fire truck arrived in 22 minutes because the exact location of the train could not be pinpointed. The CTA said it's tackling these issues, according to the article.

OFF THE BLOTTER



KEY ■ Columbia ▲ Bad touch ● Theft X Ex threat ● Gun punch

Allyson McGovern THE CHRONICLE

Letting it all hang out

A 36-year-old male was seen touching himself inappropriately by several people in the CTA tunnel between the Jackson Blue and Red Lines on Sept. 1, according to a police report. The report said he exposed himself and began aggressively stroking himself in public view. A CTA security guard saw the male and called police. He was then taken into police custody.

Ex threat

A 20-year-old female called the police on Sept. 9 after being called and text-messed threats at her office, 2 W. Jackson Blvd., from her 25-year-old ex-boyfriend, according to a police report. The messages said he was going to "shoot her a--" and "meet her at her house and shut her a-- up." The police are currently investigating the threats.

A bad request

A 37-year-old male who wanted to switch seats on the CTA had another thing coming. On Sept. 7, the male reported to police that he asked if he could sit on the outside seat due to his large size. The 30- to 35-year-old female who was sitting next to him became upset, pulled out what looked like a handgun and hit him across the nose and forehead with the butt of the gun. She then fled the train at the next stop at Harrison, 608 S. State St., in an unknown direction, according to the police report.

Laptop woes

A 24-year-old female had her Macintosh laptop stolen from a locker at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, 112 S. Michigan Ave., she reported to police on Sept. 8. The victim said she had left it over the weekend and returned to find it missing. The laptop's estimated value is \$2,800.

Compiled by Chronicle staff through information provided by the Chicago Police Department.

City Beat

Mega Mall in ruins

Amidst controversy, livelihood of local vendors is at stake

by Becky Schlikerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

THE MEGA Mall, a flea market shopping center in Logan Square currently closed because of a fire, is at the center of a business and real-estate controversy, but the plight of the small business owners who occupy the mall goes unheard, according to Mega Mall supporters like Abdi Maya.

A fire in one of the buildings that connect to make up the Mega Mall, 2500 N. Milwaukee Ave., resulted in the structure closing down less than a year after being shut down for building code violations.

The cause of the fire is still unknown and so is the future of the vendors who essentially comprise the Mega Mall.

Lawrence Ordower, the attorney representing the Mega Mall's owner Kyun Hee Park, said the plan is to fix and re-open it as soon as possible. Ordower estimated that 12 thousand square feet were destroyed out of about 80 thousand square feet. He said the

damage estimates were unknown.

Critics of the Mega Mall claim the building is unsafe and unattractive, according to published reports from the Chicago Tribune.

Though the cause of the fire is still unknown, 35th Ward Alderman Rey Colon said authorities know it was not accidental. The Chicago Fire Department has turned over the investigation to the Chicago Police Department, he said.

"They found that it wasn't electrical and it wasn't by natural causes. There had to be somebody involved in setting this," he said.

One of the vendors affected by the fire is Jinnie Lee, owner of J Fashion, a men's clothing booth located next to the part of the building that caught on fire.

"It's terrible because finally the business was catching up," Lee said. She said her business and others had been stocking up for the busy fall and holiday season.

The Mega Mall is known for affordable merchandise sold by various vendors. The booths are located throughout the buildings and 14 were located in the part that burned, said John McDermott, housing



Alderman Rey Colon said the fire that destroyed parts of Mega Mall, 2500 N. Milwaukee Ave. was not started by natural causes. The rest of the building was not destroyed and vendors hope the mall will re-open.

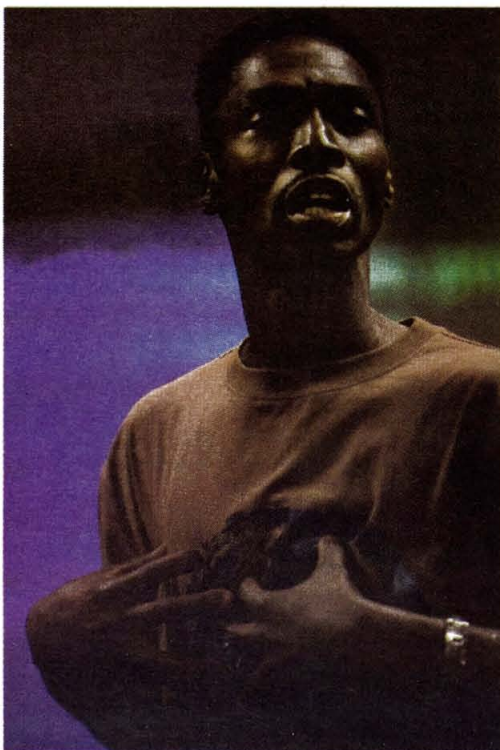
Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

organizer for Logan Square Neighborhood Association. Vendors haven't been able to go into the building to check out their merchandise and booths because the scene is still under investigation and it is unclear what condition the rest of the building and merchandise is in, Lee said.

The fire started sometime after midnight on Sept. 8, according to published reports. Lee arrived at the burning building after 12:30 a.m. and saw other vendors at the scene of the fire.

» MEGA MALL, PG. 35

AIDS housing crisis



The AIDS Foundation of Chicago held a town hall meeting to address housing concerns for people living with HIV/AIDS on Sept. 11. The foundation is organizing a campaign to request an increase of \$1.5 million from the city's budget next year for housing services. At the meeting, Franklin Gray, above, spoke about how the lack of funding for rental assistance would affect him next year.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

» CRISIS, PG. 38

No quarters for parking



Chicago implements a new device for drivers to pay meters

by Silvana Tabares
Assistant City Beat Editor

CHICAGO DRIVERS will no longer need to carry a roll of quarters just to pay parking meters while at work, shopping or in class. They can choose a new method to pay parking meters using their cell phone and credit card.

Similar to the I-PASS used for tollways, ParkMagic is an electronic device the city of Chicago is going to implement for drivers to pay for on-street parking anywhere in the city starting this month.

The ParkMagic device will be placed inside the owner's car windshield. Drivers will be required to own a cell phone to call an automated phone number to enter the parking zone number located on the meter and the length of parking time. After entering the information, the ParkMagic system verifies if the account has credit available, then deducts the parking amount and an expiration time will appear on the device. It takes less than 30 seconds to use and prevents people from being ticketed through this new process.

Some students at Columbia are considering buying the device.

Jake Librizzi, an audio arts and acoustics major, said he would buy it but does not own a credit card.



Parking meters on Wabash Avenue display blue stickers designating Zone 1. Drivers pay 25 cents for five minutes.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

"I think it's a good step, doing it without the quarters," Librizzi said.

The method is commonly used in countries overseas such as Europe and Asia and now Chicago will begin to make use of the new method.

Ed Walsh, spokesman for the city's Revenue Department, said the purpose of the program is to make it more suitable for drivers.

"We are always looking for ways to making it more convenient for people to park and make a payment," Walsh said.

One thousand ParkMagic devices will be available for purchase at City Hall during the last week of September. Each device will cost \$15. The limited number of devices is part of a pilot test program.

There is no cost to the device; the \$15 will be credited to an account and can be used to pay parking meters at any of the six zoning

» METERS, PG. 34