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Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago October 29, 2007 Volume 43 Number 9

A second chance for Selena



Selena Garza hugs the man who saved her life. She and Augustine Reyes, the man who donated bone marrow to aid her during her battle with leukemia, met for the first time on Oct. 22. Within 24 hours of Reyes entering the National Marrow Donor Program registry, Garza had found her match.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

In a rare opportunity, a 10-year-old girl meets the man who saved her life

by Silvana Tabares
Assistant City Beat Editor

IT WAS in March 2006 when 8-year-old Selena Garza started feeling pain in her bones, particularly in her arms, and her family members did not understand why until they noticed discoloration on her skin that looked like bruises.

She was immediately admitted to the nearby McAllen Regional Hospital in McAllen, Texas and was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, a cancer of the white blood cells and the most common leukemia in children. She began chemotherapy, but after going through genetic testing, physicians told the family chemotherapy would not cure her cancer. They said Selena had a 10 percent chance of survival.

"I was going through a hard time. It was painful. I thought she wasn't going to make it," said Selena's mother, Elena Garza. "But I prayed every day and night asking God not to take her away."

Physicians told the family Selena needed a bone marrow transplant. Approximately 3,000 patients worldwide with leukemia or other blood diseases

are searching for a bone marrow match, according to the New York Blood Center. Selena was able to find a match through the National Marrow Donor Program registry. She received a successful bone marrow transplant on Aug. 18, 2006 and was given the opportunity to meet the donor who saved her life.

About 25 percent of cancer patients find a match within their family, but the remaining 75 percent are referred to the National Marrow Donor Program, said Jeffrey Chell M.D. and CEO of the National Marrow Donor Program.

After the Garza family could not find a matching donor in the family, they searched the National Marrow Donor Program registry.

But Chell said the minority population is underrepresented in the registry.

"For Latinos on the registry, the chance of finding a match is 75 percent and for blacks it is 60 percent," said Chell, who works to recruit donors for the program, and Life Source, a non-profit corporation that supplies blood products to hospitals. Chell said the registry database is searched about 6,000 times a day internationally for people in need of a transplant.

He said there is a need of 10,000 transplants a year, and the National Marrow Donor Program is working to recruit

minorities around the U.S. because it increases the likelihood of someone finding a match in the program.

Finding a match for minorities can be difficult, but Selena was fortunate to have found a potential donor. Within 24 hours, the family learned a donor near the Chicago area was an identical match for Selena. The donor's name had been entered into the database that same day.

That donor was Augustine Reyes, 35, from Pingree Grove, Ill., who works as a quality control supervisor for Abbott Molecular, a corporation that works with typing genes to match for specific disease traits.

Reyes volunteered to join the National Marrow Donor Program registry during a Life Source blood drive held at his workplace. A few weeks after Reyes registered to be a donor at Abbott Molecular, he received a call that he was a match for a young girl suffering from leukemia.

He then underwent blood tests that were sent to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where Selena was transferred to in August 2006.

Reyes said he didn't know how long his name would be on the registry and was surprised that he was an identical match for someone so quickly.

• SELENA PG. 33



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY: SEND TEXT

Virginia Tech shootings create need for educational alert system

With Columbia's purchase of services from Send Word Now, an alert notification systems company, the college has given itself, and the security it provides, the ability to notify students and staff instantaneously in times of emergency via e-mail, text message and voicemail.

• SEE PG. 7



THE NAME OF THE GAME

Second-ranked Scrabble player in Illinois heads to World Championship

Since Scrabble's creation, it has remained a fixture in the board game arena. The multi-colored board and signature wooden tiles became the generation-spanning center of attention for family and friend gatherings. But add in a few chess clocks, hundreds of spectators and a commentator and the World Scrabble Championship is born. The competition between grandparent and grandchild may get intense, but at the World Scrabble Championship, Scrabble enthusiasts pull out the big guns to win the title of World Scrabble Champion.

• SEE PG. 16

Tribune hits turbulence with toy story



by Amanda Maurer
Editor-in-Chief

Last week a tiny Chicago Tribune headline peaked above the fold, its type in all caps. Placed right under a Tribune investigative article and next to a heartbreaking story about the Southern California wildfires ran the headline: "HAVE YOU SEEN HER DOLL?"

It caught me off guard. I wasn't sure if I had read it right. The Tribune, a 160-year-old newspaper with one of the nation's highest circulation numbers, had run a story about a lost doll on its cover.

The beginning of the story summarized the trouble of 9-year-old Abbey Ann Telan, whose American Girl doll, Marisol Luna, had been lost on a trip home to Orlando, Fla. Her family was flying out of Midway Airport when a piece of the girl's luggage, with the doll inside, was sucked out of the plane's opened cargo door. It had not been recovered.

It seemed a little out of place. It was clear why the other articles made it to the front page. They covered timely conflicts that impacted a great number of people. Yet in the middle of all of that, there was a photograph of Telan

and her doll.

Certainly it was a tragic experience for the little girl. The way it was presented it was a human interest story, one that could have tugged at the heartstrings of readers. But its impact seemed to end with her and her family, and the issue paled in importance when compared to other news.

The article concentrated on an element of the situation that wasn't solid news. The most important part wasn't that Telan lost her doll, but that the plane's cargo door opened mid-flight.

But instead of going into the details of the mechanical problem, there were a few more paragraphs about how Telan couldn't sleep without the doll, a model that had been discontinued by the American Girl Dolls company because Luna's background story was considered racially offensive.

After Telan's story was information about another passenger who had also lost (and eventually found) a piece of his luggage (that contained an obsessive amount of Notre Dame clothing).



Allison McGovern THE CHRONICLE

I was perplexed. How could these two parts of the story be more important than the door opening mid-flight?

It wasn't until the last eight paragraphs of the story that there was any mention of the real conflict. As any person could logically assume, if a door opens on a plane in the air, there are consequences. Apparently some passengers suspected there was something wrong with their flight from the beginning, and a few began to panic. Twenty minutes passed before the pilot addressed the situation by saying there was a pressurizing problem on the flight.

According to the story, some passengers prayed out loud and another tried to make a 911 call, but was stopped by a flight attendant.

Granted I'm still a student, but this situation seems to carry a bit more weight than a lost doll.

In journalism school, students are taught that a good news story includes one (or more) of several qualities including timeliness, proximity, conflict and human interest.

The Tribune investigation and the California wildfire articles were obviously the big news stories of the day—they each touched on several of newsworthy qualities. And perhaps the Tribune's editors decided to place this story on the front page because it's a human interest piece and people would pick up the paper to find out more. However, this shouldn't have been why it should be on the cover.

For 160 years, the Tribune has maintained a reputation for its integrity and quality of stories, and it was disappointing to see they ignored that for a day, all for a discontinued doll.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CAMPUS	1
A&E	15
COMMENTARY	30
CITY BEAT	32

Management

Amanda Maurer Editor-in-Chief
Chrissy Mahlmeister Managing Editor

Campus News

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Derek Kucynda Assistant Campus News Editor
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IN YOUR OPINION: Are you dressing up for Halloween?



"I'm dressing up as a pirate ... I think it's sort of a group bonding thing. We meet all these new people and that's really a chance for us to let inhibitions go."

Morgan Graham
Sophomore
Fiction Writing



"I'm not sure. I haven't got a costume yet, but I don't know. I'm going to a Halloween party, at least, tonight."

Randy Huffman
Sophomore
Graphic Design



"I'm going as the Morton Salt girl. I just did a photography project on her and I thought it would work out."

Molly McCarty
Senior
Photography

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Campus News

Adjunct, alumnus passes unexpectedly at 34

Frank Crist: 1973 - 2007

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus News Editor

CO-WORKERS DESCRIBED journalist and Columbia faculty member Frank Bradley Crist, 34, as a person who motivated others to change themselves. From having a healthy work ethic to the ability to show compassion and loyalty to people who mattered most, Crist was teacher and a follower of these ideals.

Crist, who was a Chicago resident and an Indiana native, passed away on Oct. 17 at 1:15 a.m. As of press time, the cause of death was unknown.

Born Feb. 23, 1973, Crist attended Terre Haute South Vigo High School in Indiana and graduated from Columbia in 2004 with a degree in creative fiction writing. Before becoming a part-time faculty member in the Interactive Arts and Media Department, where he taught a class called Story Development, he worked as a computer programmer for six years in Silicon Valley, Calif., designed video games and bartended at several bars around Chicago.

He also became involved in several freelance video projects. During that time, he continually built upon his craft as a writer by taking jobs as an editor, comedy writer and journalist. In fall 2004, Crist came back to Columbia to pursue an MFA in creative writing.

Before his passing, Crist was working on his master's thesis. Under departmental guidelines, he was required to write a full-length novel. His thesis was titled *Murderess X*, which was near completion, according to Randall Albers, the chair of the Fiction Writing Department.

"He was a person with a bundle of talent," Albers said. "He was bringing a lot ... to [many] different areas."

Albers said Crist was a very engaging person and one of the nicest guys he has met. He said Crist was always at ease and he was able to connect well with others.

"He touched a lot of lives," Albers said. "People from a lot of different areas, in and out of Columbia, [were] e-mailing and calling me to say how sorry they were to lose Frank."

Aside from editing fiction anthologies, including Columbia's *Hair Trigger*



Frank Crist, 34, loved to write and hang out with friends. He was described as kind, enthusiastic and helpful. He was finishing up a master's thesis, a novel, called 'Murderess X.'

Courtesy JESSIE TIERNEY

magazine, Crist has written for the college's online magazine *Reservoir* since fall 2006 and became Campus and Community Editor in fall 2007. He was known for doing more than his share of work, and every section editor often found his articles in their inbox every week. He loved to write and always contributed to *Reservoir* each week, with at least three to four articles, according to Kaylee King, a junior journalism major and fellow *Reservoir* editor.

"He was the master and he'd get in every single section," King said. "If you look at *Reservoir*, his name is all over it."

King also described Crist as quirky, unique and having a helpful demeanor.

Another co-worker, Andrew Reilly, a graduate journalism student and *Reservoir* managing editor, also said Crist was very helpful individual as well as a really enthusiastic, intelligent and caring person.

"He told the best stories because he did so much and he had a lot to talk about," Reilly said.

Even though he was a teacher at Columbia, his attitude was very much like a student, according to his co-workers at *Reservoir*.

"He was a peer and he wasn't there to boss people around," said Reilly. "He just wanted to make [*Reservoir*] cool."

Crist had a knack for finding gallery exhibits and quirky profiles to report on, King said. Other co-workers like Reilly said Crist always wrote on a variety of topics, because he simply wanted to write and learn more about whatever he could. In the Fiction Writing Department, he wrote about relationships and topics that were edgy, and Albers said his writing was always interesting to read.

When he didn't work on articles, he contributed by helping other staff members with technology-based aspects, such as creating a question box on a website and helping record voice-overs to stream on the *Reservoir* website.

"He was always really positive and he'd come in and was really pumped up," King said.

Crist is survived by his mother, Janet Volkers, his father, Frank Crist Sr., his grandparents, four brothers and a sister.

Crist was universally liked and admired, Albers said, and he had something interesting and lively to offer to people in his presence.

"When Frank walked in, people just gravitated toward him," Albers said. "He lit up the room."

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

Calendar

Author Paula Kamen to read, discuss

Paula Kamen, author of *Finding Iris Chang: Friendship, Ambition and the Loss of an Extraordinary Mind*, will read from her book during a reading and discussion on Oct. 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

For more information, call Nancy Tom at (312) 344-8263.

Build a Technical Theater Portfolio

Theater majors can attend this Oct. 29 event in which local theater directors will talk about and discuss what they look for in a designer's portfolio. The event will run from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Portfolio Center in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., room 307.

For more information, call the Portfolio Center at (312) 344-7280.

Student Government Association meeting

The SGA Senate meeting will be held on Oct. 30 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.

Day of the Dead gala

The Latino Alliance will host a celebration of Dia de los Muertos on Nov. 2 in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. The event starts at 6 p.m. and will have food, dancing and music. The event has a formal dress code, and is \$3 for students, \$5 for others. Children are free.

For more information, call the Latino Alliance at (312) 344-7569.

Columbia in 10 seconds ... or less

Alumna guilty in reckless homicide of 3 local men

On Oct. 26, a Skokie judge found Jeanette Sliwinski guilty in three counts of reckless homicide and one count of aggravated battery, but also ruled she was mentally ill at the time.

During an alleged suicide attempt in July 2005, Sliwinski, now 25, crashed at high speed into a car, killing its passengers, Chicago musicians Michael Dahlquist, John Glick and Douglas Meis.

As of press time, Sliwinski's sentencing date is Nov. 26; she faces a sentence of up to five years, according to The Associated Press.

Renegades win tournament

Columbia's baseball team won a four-team tournament the weekend of Oct. 19—Oct. 21 after Michigan State University forfeited because it left a day early, according to Ryan Knight, the team's captain.

Michigan State caused the Renegades' only loss, 20-1. The Renegades beat Roosevelt University 10-4 and beat Northeastern Illinois University 14-5.

The tournament took place at the Chicago Gems Women's Baseball Club fields, 6700 S. 78th Ave. The Renegades baseball team will return to practice in January to prepare for their next games in March.

Results of CCFO survey released

The Columbia College Faculty Organization has published the results of its fall 2007 survey, which was available online to all faculty, artists in residence and lecturers. The survey attracted 181 respondents this year, a 29 percent increase from last year.

"Increasing the base salary percentage raise" was the most important issue to the most respondents, with more than 25 percent of the votes.

"Challenges from growth of college" was second most important with over 15 percent of the votes.

Smooth system replaces absent adjuncts

Officials said part-time professors do quit unexpectedly, but response methods work

by John Lendman
Staff Writer

WILLIAM CRAWFORD, a Pulitzer Prize winner and Chicago Tribune investigative journalist, signed up to teach a new six-hour Reporting and Writing II course this semester. By the third week, however, the students awaiting his arrival were told by a substitute instructor he resigned, burned-out from the heavy course load.

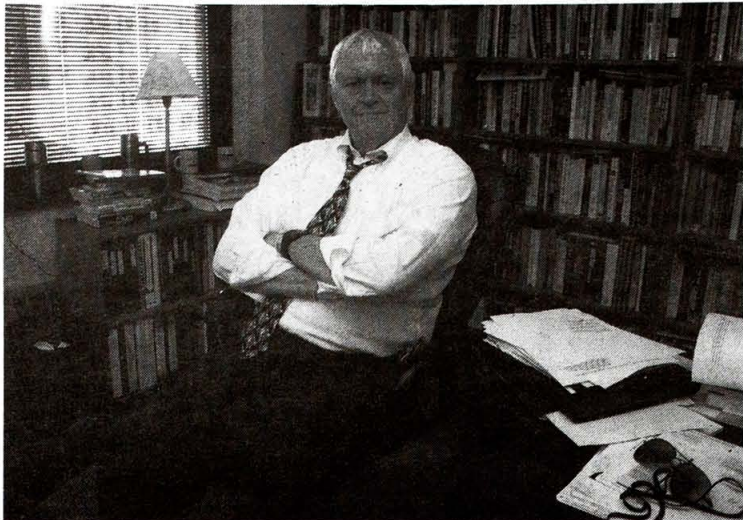
As an adjunct, Crawford was an example of Columbia's goal to employ part-time faculty who continue to work in the field.

Columbia officials said situations where adjuncts quit unexpectedly are rare, but even the few occurrences are too many. The college supplies a staff of coordinators to respond to such situations and both the students and staff involved in Crawford's replacement said the system worked well.

Columbia officials were unable to calculate the circumstantial quantity of occurrences.

"It does happen but it is pretty rare," said Steve Kapelke, provost and senior vice president. "The college doesn't have control over that, but what we do have control over is to replace that faculty member with someone who is equally qualified so the students aren't harmed [in the transition]."

Crawford, following his resignation, said the college was not at fault for his decision. He said he didn't leave because of a medical



Alton Miller, associate dean of the School of Media Arts, credits individual department coordinators with successful retention and support of adjunct professors.

Russell Augustine THE CHRONICLE

emergency or health issue, he simply took on more work than he had anticipated.

"I've taught at virtually every college in the Chicagoland area, but I need to cut down on my work and scale down a bit," Crawford said.

Crawford's course was taken over, one substitute later, by Wynne Delacoma, a Chicago Sun-Times music critic, who said she understands the pressure part-timers face.

"It's like students withdrawing from a class because it's not a good fit, or it's not working with their schedules," Delacoma

said. "It's hard to legislate these things, but you have to pick up the pieces and put them back together again as smoothly and quickly as possible for the students."

Columbia officials said they were prepared for Crawford's abrupt leave, thanks to the School of Media Art's coordinators.

"This personal relationship with part-time faculty members and the coordinators is a kind of glue you have to depend on to encourage communication," said Alton Miller, associate dean of the School of Media Arts.

Kevin Fuller, associate chair of the Sci-

ence and Math Department, said the adjunct faculty is pretty good at gauging time and communicating with their coordinators.

"We understand that adjuncts' primary employers come first, and we try to keep an open dialog," Fuller said. "Hopefully they feel they can handle what they teach and understand the responsibility [involved] or at least articulate the difference."

Kapelke said in order to retain and obtain the working professionals that make up Columbia's adjunct faculty, the college sets aside a substantial part-time faculty development fund, supports the teachers' projects and makes sure the coordinators are effective.

The responsibilities of a coordinator include recruiting, interviewing and recommending adjuncts for hiring or removal based on evaluations. Any given coordinator evaluates 10 or more adjuncts and schedules courses for an area of study each semester, according to the Columbia College Faculty Handbook.

There are certain grounds to justify an instructor leaving Columbia from teaching a course during the semester, according to Pete Insley, Part-Time Faculty Union membership chairperson. The recognized grounds for withdrawal are medical emergencies, a family crisis or when an instructor is asked to leave by the college. In addition, adjunct faculty members are limited to nine credit hours.

He said the union's job is to protect and sympathize with the faculty members bound by contract.

"You wish this sort of thing wouldn't

»ADJUNCTS, PG. 12

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Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

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Concert Hall Events

Tuesday October 30

12 Girls Band from China	12:00 PM
Student Concert Series	7:00 PM

Friday November 2

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby	12:00 PM
Fred Krubel Senior Recital	8:00 PM

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

SPB PRESENTS



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OF THE YEAR

FEATURING MUSIC BY
THE SOUND KIDS
&
DJ ARKITEK

HOKIN ANNEX 7P-11P
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It's almost that time again – REGISTER -starting November 5!

What you need to know:

- Prepare to register – check your official student email, login to OASIS to see if you have a registration hold, and visit www.colum.edu/records.
- Students with an unpaid balance cannot register – contact the Student Financial Services office at 1.866.705.0200, email sfs@colum.edu, or visit www.colum.edu/sfs to pay your balance.
- Students who are not in compliance with the state of Illinois immunization requirements, will have a registration hold. Check your immunization status on OASIS. Visit www.colum.edu/immunization for additional information.
- Make an appointment with your college advisor to make sure you are on track to graduate.
- Check with your major department to determine if faculty advising is required.
- Registration will remain open until midnight (CST) Saturday, February 2.

create...
change

Texts, e-mails to deliver info during campus crises

Columbia enters contract with Send Word Now to speed communication in emergency

by Robert Bykowski
Assistant Campus News Editor

MORE THAN six months after the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech, the effects still ripple throughout the country.

Since April 16, educational institutions nationwide have started adopting security measures that will enable school officials to instantaneously contact staff and students in the event of an emergency, and an entire security market has sprung up to accommodate. Columbia, recognizing a need for an adaptable, fast and flexible security notification system, has partnered with Send Word Now, a provider of on-demand notification services.

Send Word Now, headquartered in New York and formed in 2001, entered the educational sector after the events at Virginia Tech. Send Word Now provides a service that allows Columbia to contact staff, faculty and students instantly in a time of crisis via e-mail, voicemail and text messages.

Collecting student contact information is one of the primary hurdles in the educational market, said Mark Delaney, Send Word Now's senior vice president of Project Management. Delaney said schools tend to put the burden on students, when the responsibility to collect the information should fall on the school's shoulders.

Columbia is making a push to get as many people in the college community to sign up

by Nov. 1 because they intend to test the system on Nov. 15, and would like as many people participating as possible. The goal is to be able to get feedback from the participants regarding what goes right and what goes wrong, said Mark Lloyd, Columbia's associate vice president and chief marketing officer. Students and staff can sign up for the service after Nov. 1, but will miss the testing. Students can sign up via the "Students" tab in OASIS.

In order to contact students and staff, according to Lloyd, they need to give

Columbia the permission, which requires students and staff to update some of their information.

"Students, faculty and staff members don't take the trouble to allow the institutions to contact them in times of crisis until the crisis occurs, and by then it's too late," Lloyd said. "We really want people to take an affirmative step and update their contact information and give us permission to send them text messages."

Bernadette McMahon, associate vice president and chief information officer,

said another challenge is the national Do Not Call registry, which allows people to block telemarketers and other unsolicited phone calls.

"We can always use their e-mails, but when it comes to the phone numbers, to be in federal compliance, they need to [give us permission]," McMahon said.

Additionally, the testing may be the only way for Columbia and Send Word Now to determine how well the system works.

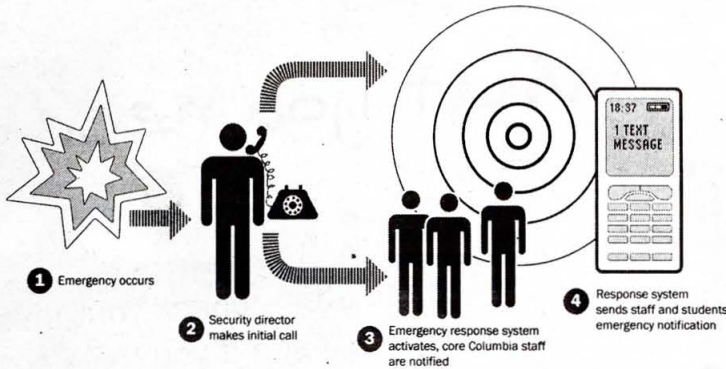
"Fortunately, so far, nobody [in the educational market] has had to use it for a real emergency," Delaney said.

Send Word Now's alert notification system has a chain of command that Columbia has not yet set in stone. For now, McMahon said, it is expected the initial call will come from Columbia's director of Campus Safety and Security, Martha Meegan. In a time of emergency, Meegan's first call will be to a selected group of first responders, which includes members of security and people within the president's office at Columbia. That call will be picked up and translated by Send Word Now's remote system and then sent out to all contacts on the list.

The system is flexible enough to allow Columbia to choose on a case-by-case basis which form of communication will be the primary method. Delaney said SMS, or text messages, are big in the educational market, but institutions should not stop there.

"SMS-based solutions are a prime interest, but at the end of the day, what we

EMERGENCY response system



The Send Word Now alert notification system will decode and translate a message received into an e-mail, voicemail or text message to be sent out to the contacts signed up for the service.

Emilia Klimiuk THE CHRONICLE

»SYSTEM, PG. 12

OPENING RECEPTION

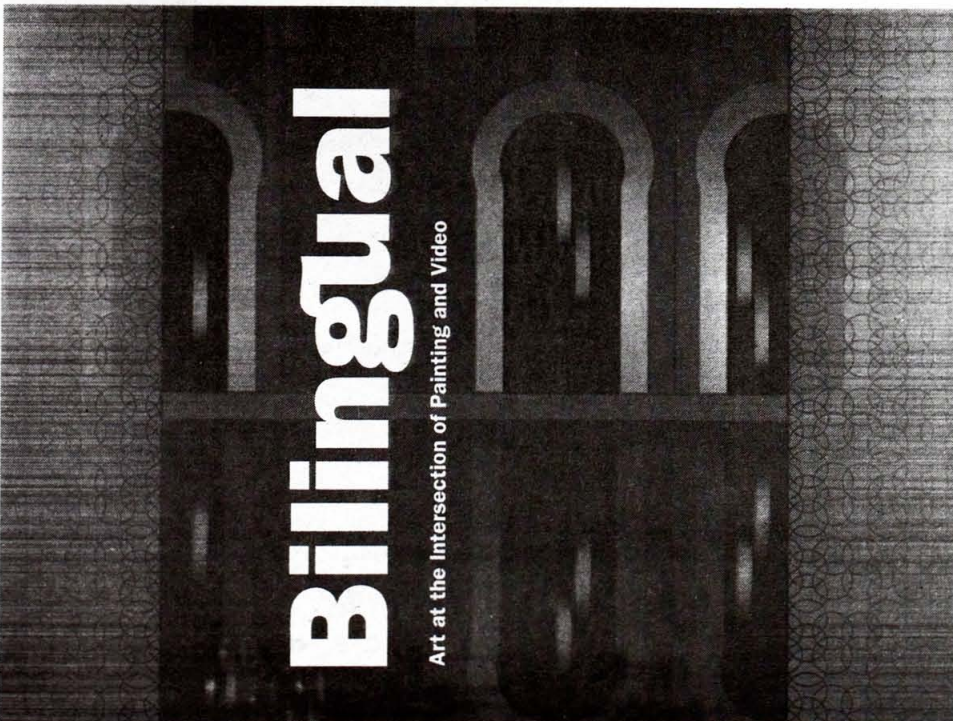
Bilingual

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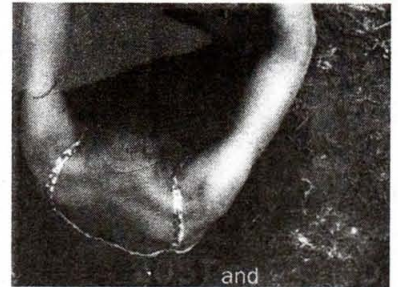
Reception: November 8, 5-7pm

LOST AND FOUND OPENS

Hokin Anenx Gallery

October 29, 2007 - January 2, 2008

Reception, November 8, 5 - 7 pm



"Like the misplaced mitten or errant earring, each one of us eventually ends up at the lost and found. When we have been abandoned, cast away, forgotten, set free, moved on, we are confronted with a bleak universe. When we lose sight of the path, however, we are suddenly free to go whichever way we choose. Being at the lost and found is a moment of utmost distress, and at the same time, a place to begin again."

Lost and Found is curated by IMAGe Unit, a collective of the Columbia College Chicago Interdisciplinary Arts and Media MFACandidates dedicated to the principles of collaborative and individual creative excellence. IMAGe Unit invited Columbia students of all disciplines to submit works based upon the theme "lost and found." The exhibition features a broad range of artworks from traditional photography to multi-media installation.

Clothesline exhibit hangs up a serious problem

Project aims to inform students about domestic abuse

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus News Editor

A YOUNG woman thought fixing dinner would be a nice thing to do for her boyfriend. She made him a meal that included onions, which her boyfriend did not like, and things turned for the worse—a tirade ensued, and the woman was left physically beaten over an ingredient.

This woman was a victim of domestic violence, which has become an increasingly problematic issue in the United States, according to Kelli Collins, the associate director of Residence Life.

At Columbia, the "Clothesline Project," a nationally recognized exhibit that addresses the issue of abuse against women, is on display at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court.

The project consists of T-shirts hanging from a clothesline, Collins said. Each T-shirt has a story involving domestic violence imprinted on the fabric. A panel discussion is also part of the project; it will address the issue of domestic violence and where to find help. The "Clothesline Project" is currently collecting donations to go toward

the Chicago Abused Women Coalition.

Between 1998 and 2002, there have been approximately 3.5 million violent crimes committed against family members, and almost 50 percent of the crimes involved a spouse, according to the American Bar Association's website.

Collins wanted to host the Clothesline Project because October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and the issue is educational to students, she said.

"The topic has been brought up through [incidents at the] Resident Life [office] and through counseling services," said Jackie Sowinski, the director of Counseling Services. "It is an issue we need to shed some light on."

Assistants in Residence Life and Columbia students helped Collins find the domestic abuse narratives. Though the students were not directly involved with the stories, they were able to find narratives online and through word-of-mouth.

Collins also contributed accounts of her past experiences with Columbia students who were involved in domestic abuse. In addition, The "Clothesline Project" was a collaborative effort with Collins, Sowinski and Mark O'Brien, the coordinator of Student Relations, who helped to establish the program, a display and the panel discussion, Collins said.

The panel discussion, which takes place on Oct. 31 at 12 p.m. at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, will discuss the issue of domestic violence and signs and signals to look for in an abusive relationship. The panel will also discuss what solutions are available to individuals who have been hurt emotionally or physically.

The panel includes Collins, Sowinski and Audra Rowe, a staff member at Universal

Family Connection, a community service agency that helps victims of domestic abuse.

Collins hopes the discussion will provide a way for individuals who have been abused to recognize that their situation has a definite amount of urgency that needs to

»CLOTHESLINE, PG. 13

"It is an issue we need to shed some light on."

— Jackie Sowinski, director of
Counseling Services



The 'Clothesline Project,' which features T-shirts with domestic abuse stories printed on them, is currently hanging in the lobby at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

New Studio Theater's 'Pack of Lies' opens

Director said play illustrates the fear of fellow countrymen's betrayal in Cold War era

by Christopher Brinckerhoff
Contributing Writer

FEAR OF communism during the Cold War, the theme in a new Columbia theater production, parallels today's fear of terrorism, according to the director and cast.

"Pack of Lies," which runs Oct. 24 through Nov. 4 at Columbia's New Studio Theater, located in 11th Street Campus Building, 72 E. 11th St., tells the true story of a family in a London suburb caught in the suspicions of being communists during the early 1960s.

English dramatist and scriptwriter Hugh Whitmore wrote "Pack of Lies" and the Columbia production is directed by Caroline Latta, a faculty member in the Theater Department.

"The issues of surveillance, to who you can trust, to how far can you invade people's lives are important today," Latta said. "In the poster for the show there's a dark curtain in the window, and you can't tell if there's someone there. So it's the feeling of being under surveillance."

In the play, the authorities use the British Official Secrets Act to lawfully spy on the main family in the play, the Jacksons, to prove their alleged communist ties, Latta said. She said the present day Patriot Act is based on the British Official Secrets Act, another element tying the issues addressed in the play to modern issues.

Passed in 2001 and revised in 2006, the



'Pack of Lies,' shown above, has a student cast and is directed by Caroline Latta, a faculty member in the Theater Department.

Courtesy DAVID PUSZKIEWICZ

Patriot Act increased the power of U.S. law enforcement to monitor telephone calls and e-mails, and access financial and medical records. Law enforcement was also given the authority to detain and deport immigrants suspected of terrorism-related acts, according to John Brehm, a political science professor at the University of Chicago.

Brehm compared the political climate during the Cold War to today.

"The strongest similarity would be our politicians' use of fear to moderate choice in favor of national candidates," Brehm said.

In "Pack of Lies," the Jackson family struggles with the ethical choices involved in allowing their home to be used as a sur-

veillance post by British authorities. Later in the play, the Jacksons realize they're exposing their close friends, the Krogers, as communists.

"The people in this play see their lives collapse in the process of deciding whether or not it's more important to be true to their friends.

By being forced into making this decision, the family itself is compromised," Latta said.

The Krogers are eventually confirmed to be transmitting classified information to the KGB, the former foreign intelligence and domestic security agency of the Soviet Union.

British authorities use the Jacksons' daughter's bedroom to spy on their neighbors. Deceit overshadows the household, putting the characters under extreme pressure. Their turmoil takes physical form in the wife's increasing illness.

Latta said one of the prominent themes in the play is the corrosive nature of telling a first lie.

"It becomes a tangled web very quickly," she said.

Travis Williams, a sophomore musical theater major, plays a British intelligence

official named Stewart.

"The government can play any role it wants to find out information. It's almost like the government played its own character in this piece," Williams said. "They just put their foot down and said you don't have an objection because you can't have an objection."

Todd Garcia, a junior musical theater major, plays Bob Jackson, the husband.

"This is kind of a commentary on what America is dealing with right now. We're living in times when what you say and what you do is so closely monitored by the government we don't know what they hear, and what they know," Garcia said. "It feels difficult to know what you can say, and what you're supposed to say."

The New Studio Theater is located in the 11th Street Campus Building, 72 E. 11th St. Tickets are \$10. Admission is free to all Columbia students with an ID, and half price for all other students with a student ID and senior citizens. Visit colum.edu/theater for the performance schedule and tickets, or call the box office at (312) 344-6126.

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SPB to throw mobster bash

Gangster-themed Halloween Party planned for Oct. 30 in Hokin Annex

by Robert Bykowski
Assistant Campus News Editor

TAROT READERS and Tommy guns will be in season on Oct. 30 as the Student Programming Board throws its third annual free Halloween party in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The party, which SPB has been working on since the second week of the semester, will carry a Chicago mobster theme: "Six Feet Under Chicago." The Al Capone era-themed party was chosen with a majority rule by the SPB, beating out a proposed voodoo theme.

"We want to do something different," said Marcus Foster, SPB vice president and junior arts and entertainment media management major. "We always try to set new standards and differentiate ourselves from everything else that's going on."

The mobster theme, Foster said, works well because it includes an aspect of the city's history. Further embracing the theme, one of the three costume contests during the party will be for the best mob costume. The other two contests are more traditional, looking for the most creative and the scariest costume. Students do not have to dress in costume to attend.

The SPB has also taken an unorthodox

approach to marketing the party. In addition to having a more standard advertising campaign consisting of a series of mobster-themed fliers, the SPB has been notifying people of the party via sidewalk chalk designs in heavily

congested areas.

"We're doing [the sidewalk designs] kind of sporadically," Foster said. "We thought it would be a different way to promote the event. It goes along with the theme, and [the sidewalk chalk] is like a mob hit."

Partygoers will celebrate the holiday against a soundtrack provided by The Sound Kids and DJ Arkitek, both of which are

Columbia student music groups.

"We asked the board what kind of music they wanted, and if they knew anyone, and they brought in performers and we voted," Foster said of the election process.

Foster said The Sound Kids have a dance/electronic sound, while DJ Arkitek is hip-hop.

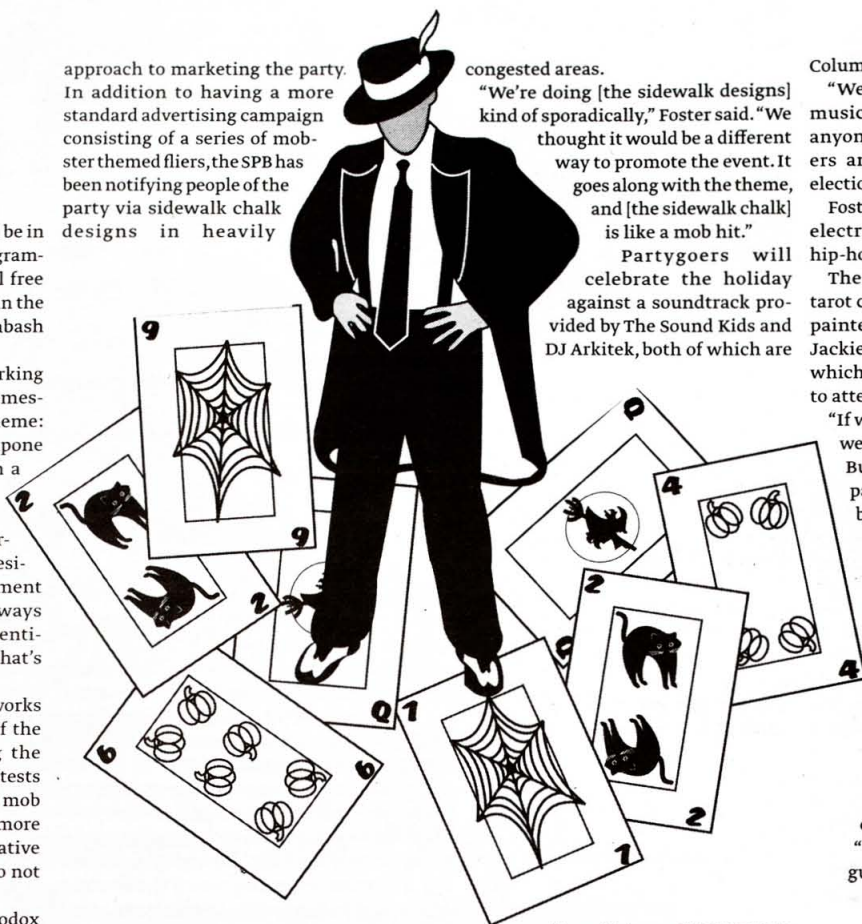
The party, which will have free food, tarot card readers, a Henna artist and face painters, was uninteresting to students Jackie Bumbul and Julie Folen, both of which had their reasons for not planning to attend.

"If we wanted to go to a college like that, we would've gone to a college like that," Bumbul said of the decision to have a party. "Columbia's trying too hard to become like a university."

Folen said she is too busy and the commute from her home in Addison to Columbia for the party doesn't interest her.

The students, both senior American Sign Language English Interpretation majors, said they would rather see the party's budget go toward something more beneficial to students, like free parking or lower tuition.

Despite their disinterest, Foster expects a pretty healthy turnout. "We've got 104 confirmed Facebook guests," he said.



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On Thursday, November 15, we will run a test of the system. Watch your Columbia email for details.

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

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

'Racing against race'

by Anita Simmons

Senior, Cultural Studies and Black World Studies

INTELLECTUALLY, I am rich. Economically, I am not so rich. I am aware that in the United States, there are variations in what Americans define as poor or rich. I am not from a middle-class family. On the economic scale, my family would fall somewhere in the lower strata.

When a person sees me, they wouldn't ordinarily think of me as being poor or economically deprived because I have tattoos, jewelry and a cell phone. I'm well groomed, and I'm employed. But what does that all mean when at the end of the day I'm still in debt?

Of course, all these things are materialistic and they shouldn't be used to measure a person's poverty or privilege. Just being an African American in the United States, I'm economically deprived because of unjust, unequal, systemic infrastructures that were put firmly in place with the start of slavery in the Americas. I see poverty and privilege as being radicalized words, simply because we live in the context of the United States.

Privilege is usually associated with well-off European Americans, and poverty is associated with the "minority" masses beneath them. There is no way in the U.S. that we can dissociate race from class, or economics, when the U.S. has the burdensome history of enslaving primarily African people for capitalist economic purposes. Poverty as an economic system cannot be eradicated without eradicating systemic racism. Don't get me wrong, as an American I do hold privileges of my own, as all Americans do, but that isn't justification for me to elevate myself above anyone else from another country less fortunate than my own. Just because I am an American citizen doesn't mean that I'm rich. That is the misconception people from other countries automatically assume of Americans.

When I lived in London for four months on a study-abroad program, people were appalled when they discovered that I wasn't rich, and I couldn't afford to live there on my own. Once I explained my personal experiences and how life is in the U.S. as a black American, they understood, and appreciated me more.

While on the subject of my travel experience, I must say that was definitely a privilege. It was a privilege for me as a young black woman having the opportunity to travel and to leave the country. In order to understand my enthusiasm, one must understand the conditions from which I came that have influenced how I perceive the world today.

I was born and raised in the Henry Horner Projects on Chicago's Near West Side. Due to gentrification, my childhood home is no longer standing. The buildings were torn down about six or seven years ago. I grew up in a single-parent household, the households people most readily associate with wayward children. When I was little, I thought I was the richest black girl because I never went without anything. I didn't have a

critical encounters:

POVERTY
+ privilege

father, but that didn't stop my mother from giving my two siblings and me all the love she had. Though we lived in public housing tenements, I thought we were living in luxury. My sister and I had our cat, our toys, play houses, Barbie dolls, Cabbage Patch Kid dolls, our music and of course each other.

On the outside, the projects were some of the worst places to grow up, but the magic that happened inside the apartment was what really mattered. Looking back on what seems like yesterday, I am grateful and fortunate. Today, I live in Roseland, one of the poorest communities in Chicago. So, much hasn't changed. I'm not complaining because things for my family could have been worse. I am indebted to my past because I know that I'm headed for a better future. There is such a thing as having both poverty and privilege because every day my life is my testimony. I am about to graduate from college and go on to receive my master's and Ph.D. in a field of my choice. This is intellectual richness, the richness that really matters.

The aim of Critical Encounters is to encourage you to engage with difficult questions about poverty and privilege. Write to me 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 narratives. Hopefully, you will feel inspired to write your own narratives.

—Stephanie Shonekan
(criticalencounters@colum.edu)



The author, Anita Simmons, writes about privilege.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

» ADJUNCTS

Continued from PG. 4

Working as an adjunct requires a certain personality, part-time faculty members said

are we supposed to do? The penalty would be firing but he already left," Insley said, referring to Crawford. "You can't force someone to work; you can only stop paying him for classes he didn't teach."

On the other hand, some of the most highly-trained professionals are not always successful at teaching their craft at a college level. It is a learning process for them as well as their students, said Bonnie Brooks, chair of the Dance Department.

"I've experienced [adjuncts] that go into shock when they start teaching at this level," Brooks said. "When you are observing, evaluating, mentoring and grading it can be challenging and not everyone is cut

out for it."

Alternatively, adjuncts such as Will Casey in the Theater Department continue to juggle their professional, personal and teaching careers. Casey currently teaches acting and directing classes, works in the advising center, juggles freelance acting jobs and still devotes time to his wife and two kids.

"Sometimes, since [adjuncts] are all working in the field, we'll frequently get cast for a show or a booking that takes us out of the classroom," Casey said. "So we all help each other out with each other's classes when we can."

He said the Theater Department coordinators and the close community of colleagues are very supportive and helpful, like a tight knit family.

"I really feel I help contribute to helping young artists and actors," Casey said. "It's a fascinating job but the struggles are all a part of working with the arts."

chronicle@colum.edu



Kevin Fuller, associate chair of the Science and Math Department, said communication with part time faculty is important.

Chuck Wu THE CHRONICLE

» SYSTEM

Continued from PG. 7

Send Word Now can deliver group-specific crisis warnings

recommend is being able to be disruptive when there's an emergency," Delaney said. "Any application that only communicates in e-mail or SMS is insufficient because the opportunity to ignore [a message] is great."

The system also allows for Columbia to create groups of users to send more concentrated notifications, if needed.

"If we only wanted to communicate to dance majors, it would be relatively easy for us to do that as well based upon the data we have available," Lloyd said.

One feature that made Send Word Now more appealing than other companies, Lloyd and McMahon said, is the ability to easily set up conference calls with the first responders. In the event of an emergency, a message could be sent to a first responder notifying them of the need for a conference call, which they could instantly join with a touch of a button.

Another reason Send Word Now was chosen by Columbia is the price.

"In response to Virginia Tech, we came out with an offer that we thought had a

little bit of an altruistic bend to it," Delaney said. "Our enterprise offering is \$30 per contact per year. In the educational market, we're charging \$2 per contact per year. We're not looking to make a lot of money off of [the educational market]."

Lloyd estimates it will cost Columbia about \$30,000 annually.

Ultimately, McMahon is optimistic students will sign up for the service.

"Before we had even [publicly] announced it, 50 students had already signed up," she said.

Tucker Schwinn, a junior photography major, won't be one of those students. Schwinn is indifferent to the service, unsure of how effective it could be. Schwinn said while it might be beneficial to be notified in the event of a fire, he's not sure how much he would pay attention to it.

Another photography major, sophomore Lindsay Levita, was also skeptical of how the system would reach her. She doesn't receive text messages and wouldn't be able to check her e-mail in class, but said she thinks the service is an important one to have at Columbia.

"[It's important] especially here in the city because anybody could just walk into these buildings," Levita said. "It's not like a campus."

rbykowski@chroniclemail.com

» CLOTHESLINE

Continued from PG. 8

Office of Residence Life, Counseling Center, can assist victims of domestic violence

be addressed.

"[The victims need] to understand that they are in an [abusive situation]," Collins said. "[They should] seek assistance and that can be done through [the Residence Life] office, through the Counseling Center, Health Service and many outside agencies, [such as] the Chicago Women's Advocacy Network."

Collins said there is a need to discuss domestic violence because individuals have to realize that it happens outside of the stereotypical man-woman relationship. Domestic violence can happen between roommates, friends, life-partners and family members and the abuse can be more than just physical violence.

Domestic abuse can take on many different aspects, Collins said. Physical beatings to mental abuse and verbal abuse, as well as intimidation, can constitute domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse, such as verbal and mental abuse, is a facet that is often neglected, especially with individuals who are not involved in the situation, Collins said. She said individuals, including herself, have a preconceived notion that domestic

abuse is a relationship-only dilemma. But it is an issue that can happen to anyone in any type of situation, she said.

"[Domestic violence] is about their emotions and it's about the feeling behind it and it's difficult to break off when you are a victim of that," Collins said.

Physical and emotional abuse, intimidations, the silent treatment, threats and checking phone and e-mail messages are all signs of a relationship that can potentially become more abusive over time, Sowinski said.

"I think that awareness, recognizing [the situation], reaching out [for help] and education can help [end domestic violence]," Sowinski said.

Awareness is the first step to finding help, Sowinski said and Brittany Gippe, a freshman journalism major, became aware

of her abusive situation that she had with her boyfriend and decided to leave him.

"I've actually been hit before. My ex-boyfriend had two of his friends hold me down while he beat the s--- out of me, so I'm strongly against [domestic abuse]," Gippe said. "I found help with my friends. [It's about] understanding that [domestic abuse] is

wrong [and] having the strength to get out of the relationship yourself."

The panel discussion will take place on Oct. 31 at 12 p.m. at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court. Counseling services are also available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

Strumming science



David Dolak, a faculty member in the Science and Math Department, speaks about guitar technology and scales during "From Pythagoras to Hendrix: The Development of the Tempered Musical Scale for the Guitar" in the Ferguson Auditorium, 600 S. Michigan Ave., on Oct. 24.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

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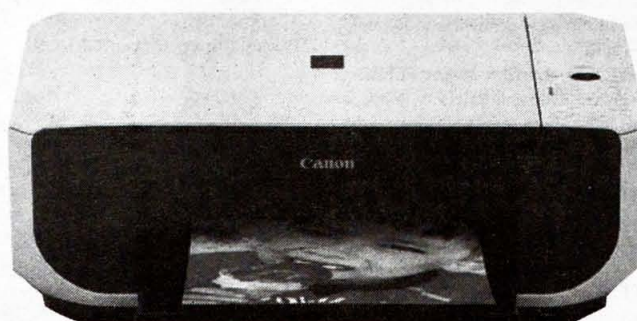
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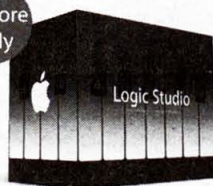
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Living the life of 'inescapables'



by Brett Marlow
Assistant A&E Editor

Taxes and death.

They're two things that are inescapable in life. But for me, the list of "inescapables" includes being taunted for a genetic disorder and what has become my personal favorite as of late, being likened to a deceased art icon because of the way I look. Thanks, genes.

A lot of times we wish we could control the things that are engrained in us, those which we can't control. But the question is, do we keep fighting it or do we just embrace it?

I would apologize, but there's nothing to be sorry for. I have albinism. I'm a person of no color. I'll have beautiful blond hair, which you can't get from a bottle, for the rest of my life. I don't go to the salon for this—it's natural! I won't worry about graying or having to cover up my roots. It doesn't sound too terrible now, does it? Too bad the

little chumps who criticized me in fourth grade didn't understand that.

I was teased and ridiculed as a child and still am. I'm called "Casper," "Powder," "Whitey," and any other derogative name or slur that could potentially relate to resembling a ghost or being born with little-to-no pigment. I field questions standing in line at coffee shops about the origins of my hair color. I've found it's easier to attribute it to my faux Swedish heritage than delve into science, genetics and my parents' sex lives. People find it easier to relate me with bunnies, mice and snakes. I walk down the street through crowds or stand at the checkout line at Jewel and there's always that schmuck who feels the need to point me out. "Hey, look, an albino!"

Or, it's the neighbor across the street back home who found out with albinism comes visual problems and nystagmatism (the involuntary movement of the eye back and forth). She took it upon herself to make me feel more comfortable by gyrating her body back and forth, and asking, "Does this help you see me better?" I stood in awe, thinking, "What an idiot." No, ma'am, my eyes may shake, but my sight is steady. If anything, I'll hypnotize you, and you will look like the one who is weird.

And each time, the schmucks, who try to make me comfortable with the way I am, reassures me that they find it fascinating and mean no harm. But do they see me pointing them out or acting like a maniac

to make them feel comfortable? No.

Friends have suggested I try a spray-on-tan or self-tanner, but when I think of what I'd look like with darker skin I think of Conan O'Brien and his celebrity baby mash-ups. Being pale seems better. My skin's like porcelain, according to the ladies who rub me like a little doll. And apparently, it's scoring me points in the look-a-like category as every homeless person wanting to bum a cig off me or drunken fool at a party always pays me the compliment (or insult, depending on what you think of his appearance) of comparing me to Andy Warhol.

I hated it at first. I had a bitter distaste for the verbal jabs regarding something I was born with; it was out of my control. Growing up, if I could do a reverse Michael Jackson operation, I might have. Being likened to animals was low and to the great Andy Warhol was OK: His art is amazing and awesome, but he's not the prettiest peach in the patch.

I've given up caring about all the things about me I can't control, and, like a good lover, I'm embracing the hell out of them.

Call me Andy Warhol. Do it. I'll pose for pictures if you want. Scream "ALBINO!" at me on the street. I'll spare you the trouble of taking an online test and reveal your IQ with my finger.

The one thing I won't do is worry about it or feel insecure about it.

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Chrissy Knows Best

Dressing the part



by Chrissy Mahlmeister
Managing Editor

It's crunch time. Only a few days before the big All Hallows Eve and, as usual, I still don't have a costume. But something that taunts me every year is: Should I try and look "hot" or should I just stick to a costume that reflects my awkward self? I don't know if all chicks go through this, but luckily, I've experienced both tragedies so maybe I can help some ease their costume worries.

My freshman year of college I attended Illinois State University (I know, it was a lapse in judgment). It could have been the 3:1 ratio of sorority chicks to "men" or the three-story beer bongs that clouded my young mind, but I decided I had to look "sexy" that Halloween. I spent close to \$50 at the nearest costume shop in Nowheresville, Ill. For some reason I had a real connection with a French maid costume and I didn't try it on (even bigger lapse in judgment). I got home that night, put it on and

looked in the mirror and basically wanted to cry. The skirt wasn't nearly a skirt. I put on some tights and another skirt underneath so I wouldn't be showing off my hoo-ha all night. Basically, before I even left my dorm room I already felt really uncomfortable, not to mention the heels I decided to pair it with were three inches too high.

As the night progressed, the endless tugging in every which way started to become more important than conversation, or worse, drinking. As people around me progressively got drunker, I just got more annoyed. I'm not usually the type of gal that attracts frat dudes, but when you're in a barely-there costume, they come a-flockin'. So, on top of feeling terrible about myself for a good six hours, the worst men on the planet were trying to make conversation and all my skinny friends just couldn't understand why I felt uncomfortable.

Now, before that fateful day, I had stayed true to my extremely weird ways. In high school, anything that's not "cool" is automatically not funny. But I think I was one of three people that didn't agree with that. So, the morning of Halloween I was getting ready and figured I should at least dress up. I went to my mom's closet and found these absolutely terrible high-waisted tapered jeans that were so light blue they were almost white. I immediately thought "Soccer mom. I absolutely have to be a soccer mom for Halloween." I laughed to myself for a good few minutes as I gathered a flowery sweater, a pale yellow mock turtleneck,

a straw visor, nasty sandals, pearls and, of course, a large pin of my brother when he was little in his soccer jersey. I blow dried my hair out nice and big and curled it under as gross as possible.

When I showed up at school that day, I was greeted with tons of blank stares and I immediately knew my humor wasn't on par with the rest of these jokesters. When I saw my friends, they freaked out screaming, "YOU'RE A GENIUS!" but they were about the only people, besides teachers, who actually thought it was funny. Most people weren't afraid to say, "Wow, you look really...bad," while some teachers thought it was so hilarious they pulled me out of class to show their classes my costume. Personally, I thought I was ahead of all of the typical high schoolers' fart jokes and standard Frankenstein and mummy costumes (and still do).

But regardless of any reaction I received, I was most happy when I chose a costume that I felt proud in. So, don't wear a revealing costume just because your friends are and don't dress up as something dorky unless you're prepared to get comments. At least wearing something is better than wearing nothing at all.

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Calendar

Monday

The New York Times columnist Frank Rich will be at the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State St., at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Arthur Miller's "The Crucible."

For more information, visit ChicagoPublicLibrary.com.

Tuesday

The Chicago Outfit, a new roller derby league, will host a costume party and open skate at the Fleetwood Roller Rink, 7321 W. Archer Ave., in Summit, Ill., from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$10.

For more information, visit MySpace.com/ChicagoOutfitRollerDerby.

Wednesday

Chicago's own "circus-punk marching band," Mucca Pazza, headlines the 8th Annual "Jukebox of the Dead" at the Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave., at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$12.

For more information, visit EmptyBottle.com.

Thursday

Previews of the Neo-Futurists' interactive show, "Mr. Fluxus," will play tonight at the Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

For more information, call (773) 275-5255.

Friday

Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., hosts the "International Exposition of Sculpture Objects and Functional Art," a showcase of work by nearly 100 dealers from 19 countries. Tickets are \$15 to \$25.

For more information, visit SOFAExpo.com.

Saturday

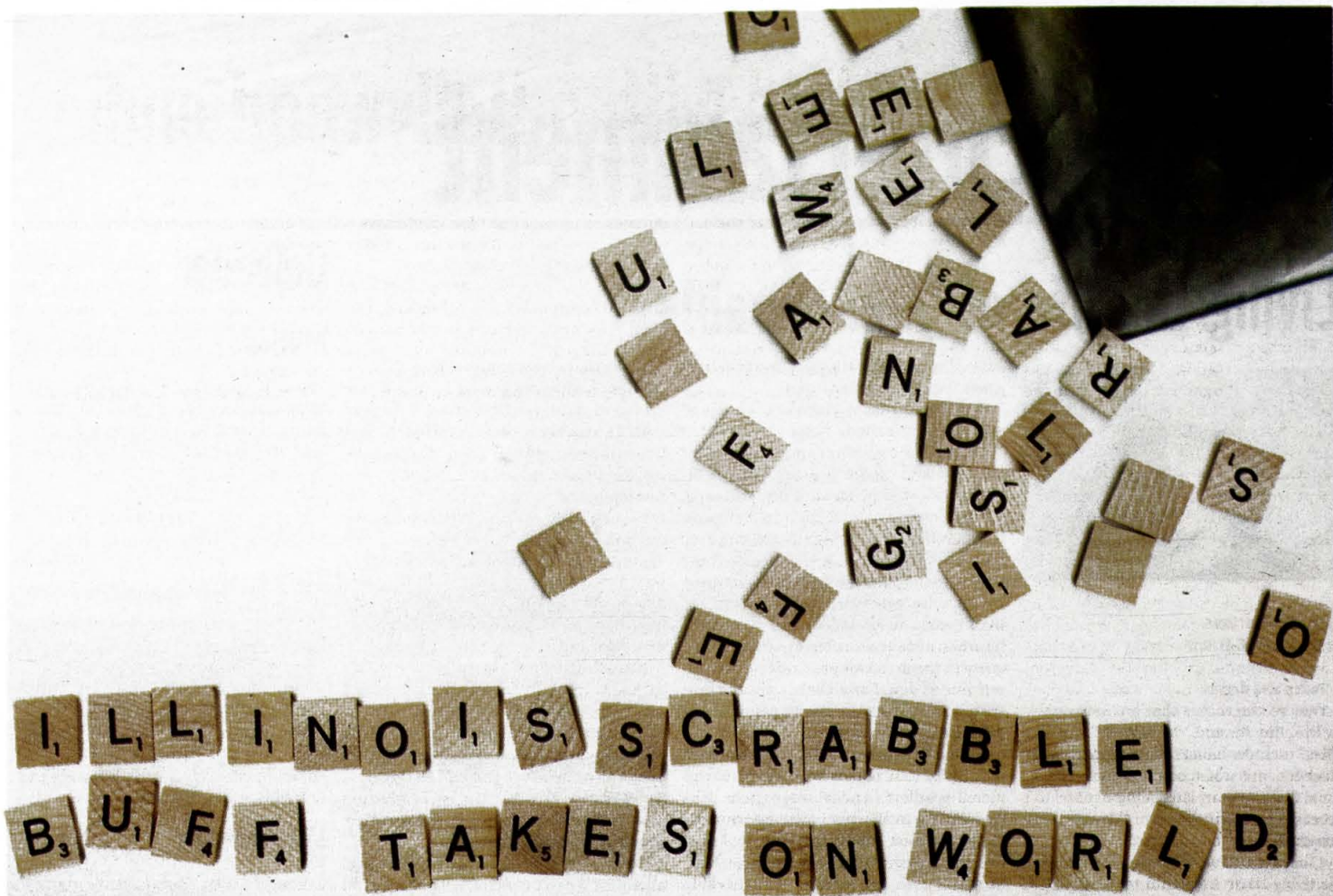
The Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave., offers free music and dancing workshops as part of its 50th anniversary celebration. Free classes will be held from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, visit OldTownSchool.org.

Sunday

A special edition of director Ridley Scott's sci-fi classic, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut*, plays at the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. Tickets are \$7.25 to \$9.25.

For more information, visit MusicBoxTheatre.com.



World Scrabble Championship tournament heads to Mumbai

by Jessica Galliard
A&E Editor

GROWING UP, 55-year-old Marty Gabriel always had a competitive edge. He competed in most sports, including touch football, in which he eventually joined the National Touch Football League championship team seven times. He could be considered athletic, maybe even a jock.

But during the second week of November, Gabriel, a Charleston, Ill. native, will only be thinking about letters, words and wooden tiles. As the second-highest ranked competitive Scrabble player in Illinois and ranked 23rd nationally, Gabriel will be one of 111 players competing at the World Scrabble Championship in Mumbai, India.

Started in 1991 and held every two years, the World Scrabble Championship was established to give national championship winners an opportunity to compete with each other in a worldwide tournament.

"The whole competitive Scrabble arena has really taken off in the last 10 years or so," said Philip Nelkon, a spokesperson for the World Scrabble Championship. "There's something like 50,000 [people] who have played English Scrabble competitively. And Scrabble as a competitive game has been getting more popular as well."

This year's tournament, held at the Taj President Hotel, will

allow spectators to watch as players compete one-on-one with 25 minutes for each player to make all of his moves throughout the game. Chess clocks are used to monitor time restrictions. All players use words from the World Scrabble English dictionary.

"We haven't changed the game at all. Sometimes you have to change the [tournament] rules because someone finds a loophole in the standard rules," Nelkon said. "Really if you sat down and played it, perhaps with the exception of chess clocks that we use to time each other, it would really just be like playing a normal game of Scrabble."

Spectators will be allowed to watch the games at the separate tables until the final round, where one of two finalists will win the best of five games. The final games will be broadcast in a separate auditorium for spectators.

"We want to encourage people to play. On the other hand, if you have too many people it can get disruptive to the players," Nelkon said. "People can shout out what people should be playing, and we have a commentator so that it makes it quite interactive and fun to watch."

Gabriel developed his fascination with the word game when he began dating his wife 10 years ago. He wanted to do something different from the typical dating activities, such as dinner and a movie.

When he asked her what kinds of board games she was interested in, his wife suggested chess or Scrabble.

"[When I was younger], I never played a complete Scrabble game because I was the perfectionist person who would take forever to make a move. I would get bored with the game," Gabriel said. "Once I started playing I realized it was a lot of fun, and we enjoyed it."

Gabriel became interested in the competitive element of Scrabble tournaments when he found a flier for the National Scrabble Associa-

tion and began going to local Scrabble clubs in the Charleston, Ill. and nearby Chicago areas. In the following year, he worked his way up the ranks, Gabriel said.

"When I decide I like something I just kind of plunge into it very quickly," Gabriel said. "[Competitive Scrabble is] the same kind of rush that you get when you're playing in a sporting event. You're trying to make the winning move. It's the same kind of pressure in a way, but it's kind of a good pressure if you enjoy it."

Created during the Great Depression in 1931 by an unemployed architect named Alfred Butts, Scrabble is one of few games that has not changed since it was first introduced, said Bruce Whitehill, also known as The Big Game Hunter. Whitehill has written several books about the history of board games, including *Americanopoly: America as Seen Through its Games*.

"Without making it sound like more than it is, it comes close to being the perfect word game," Whitehill said. "And I think its popularity is because it is so simple, yet there are enough things to make it interesting to play it again and again. It continually changes."

To compete in the 2007 World Scrabble Championship, Gabriel will be traveling overseas for the first time. He said besides learning the 30,000 words in the World Scrabble dictionary that are not in the North American Scrabble dictionary used in U.S. tournaments, he's mostly concerned about getting enough rest to stay sharp during the tournament.

"For a lot of the guys from other countries, it's not as complicated for them because they just play with the expanded dictionary. They're going to have a leg up on the word knowledge," Gabriel said. "A lot of it is how well you play and how sharp you are. It's like an athlete; they may have a good day, they may have a bad day."

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Real people saddled with a Hollywood ending

'Lars and the Real Girl' offers mostly authentic laughs

by Wes Giglio
Commentary Editor

LARS AND the Real Girl is the latest entry in the indie 'twee' genre, films about lonely people who are looking for the affirmation provided by human love and concern. The problem with the genre is the over-emphasized quirkiness laid over the pictures like lacquer, which can turn them into slight exercises in meaningless style or worse, studies in self absorption. *Lars* avoids the second trap and toys with the first, and the result is three quarters of a good movie.

Lars, played by Ryan Gosling, is a 27-year-old living in the garage of the house he owns with his brother Gus (Paul Schneider). In the garage he can avoid his new sister-in-law Karin (Emily Mortimer), who insists on hugging him, something he tells psychiatrist/doctor Dagmar (Patricia Clarkson) feels "like when you go outside and your feet freeze, then come back inside and they thaw. Almost exactly like that."

He works in a cubicle where he tries, with varying degrees of success, to avoid speaking to the secretary, his cubicle mate and a pretty girl down the hall. At home, Gus doesn't understand Lars and doesn't much try, thinking it best to leave him alone. Every day Karin begs him to come to the house and have breakfast or dinner with them, and every day Lars wiggles out of it. The cycle goes on uninterrupted, as Lars' demons reign his emotions in tighter.

Then, out of the blue, Lars appears at

the front door with Bianca, a 125-pound sex doll. The surprise felt by his family becomes alarm when Lars begins to talk to the doll as if she were real, insists that she be served dinner and asks if she can stay in the house with them, since she and Lars are "Christians and not married." Karin even consents to letting Bianca borrow her clothes. Worried, Karin and Gus trick Lars into visiting the town doctor, where they are told to support his delusion. They ask her when the delusion will end. She tells them, "When he doesn't need it anymore."

It becomes clear that Lars is attempting to break out of his shell, using a surrogate love interest incapable of hurting or even touching him.

Gosling does some wonderful work in this picture, using his entire body to communicate the paralyzing fear and constant anxiety Lars feels every day. He speaks in a slightly Norwegian accent, most memorably when he tells his cubicle mate he's "not really in the mood for porn this mornin'."

The film is full of great actors, and one of its pleasures is to watch them work. Clarkson is steady, graceful and calm, and she plays the doctor with a matter-of-fact sensibility that makes both Lars and the audience believe in her ability to help. Schneider turns in another great performance, in a naturalist mode, playing Gus in a minor key that makes his emotional reactions to his brother's pain more believable and poignant. After Lars loads Bianca into a car to take her to the lake ("where we used to play"), Gus unexpectedly tears up. But he doesn't cry, or hang his head or gesture—he just goes back into the house.

Emily Mortimer is as effective and lovely as always, and Nancy Beatty is great as an outspoken member of Lars' church who is the first to accept Bianca into Sunday services. She even gives her flowers.

At its roots, *Lars and the Real Girl* is about love and community, and for most of the film, the straight-faced performances and unobtrusive direction let a good script carry it. The movie is best when it observes without comment or pushy plot devices and allows the characters to work through their issues in simple, unforced ways. However, the film eventually cannot avoid sentimentality and overly quirky plot developments.

The ending of the film suffers from several unbelievable developments that stand in stark contrast to the unforced tone of

the first three quarters and inadvertently undermines several of the up-to-then sterling performances. One of the questions raised by the screenplay is, how far a community would go to support Lars' delusion? The filmmakers' answer is "all the way," but no matter how much a doll is humanized, it's still a doll. And there are scenes in the denouement that draw bad laughs from the audience.

Overall, *Lars and the Real Girl* is a good idea that worked up to a point—a point at which the director and writer made demands of the actors and the audience that were a little too ambitious.

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Gus (Paul Schneider) and Karin (Emily Mortimer) watch Lars (Ryan Gosling) prepare Bianca's food in the new indie 'twee' drama 'Lars and the Real Girl.'

MCT



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Top 5



Silvana Tabares, Assistant City Beat Editor



Dana Nelson, City Beat Editor



Becky Schlikerman, Assistant City Beat Editor

Board games while growing up

Candy Land: This was my first childhood board game. The goal is to be the first player to reach the candy castle. The Candy Land characters such as Jolly, Lord Licorice, Gramma Nutt and the Gingerbread People introduced me to delicious sweets.

Girl Talk: This is a version of the truth or dare game for young girls to put each other on the hot seat. Playing this game in junior high was embarrassing.

Clue: This detective game allows players to solve a murder mystery at a mansion. Playing characters like Miss Scarlet, Colonel Mustard and Mrs. Peacock and figuring out where and what killed Mr. Boddy made this game a challenging yet entertaining crime to solve.

Monopoly: This classic American board game continues to reinvent its game tokens and property deeds for modern times. I enjoy playing the electronic version, where players use debit cards instead of cash and choose a plasma television or Segway scooter token to move through properties like Wrigley Field and O'Hare International Airport.

Life: Players can choose a career, get married, have children and buy a house just by playing one game of Life.

Star staplers

Sexy Stapler: You've seen him in commercials across America. He's the sexy stapler of the Axe body products. He is definitely the hottest stapler around—and he makes no excuse for his sexiness.

Swingline Stapler: The most popular of all staplers, the Swingline stapler is known for its lead role in *Office Space*. Poor Milton never would have been a noticeable character if it hadn't been for that flashy, yet loveable, red stapler.

Vodka Stapler: More advantageous and more alcoholic than most, the vodka stapler from G4TV's "Attack of the Show" proves that staplers can do more than just keep paper together. Way to keep intoxication in the office, vodka stapler!

Jello Stapler: We all feel sorry for the poor stapler who was drowned in Jello during an unfortunate episode of "The Office." But he gained fame because of his brave endeavors, so who could blame him for taking on the task? Props to you, Jello stapler.

Virtual Stapler: This fellow keeps you clicking. The stapler on VirtualStapler.com gives millions around the globe hope when a real stapler isn't around. This virtual stapler truly is revolutionary in its field.

Places to nap

Couch: The couch is one of the most alluring places to nap because it's comfortable like a bed, but it's different enough that you don't feel guilty for sleeping during the day. Also, the nap on the couch is usually unexpected, making it even sweeter.

Grass: When the weather is warm, it's nice to lie on the grass at the park and read. This scenario is prime for naptime. No matter how well rested I am, the grass makes me sleepy, and I doze off.

Class: Although this isn't my favorite place to nap, it's unavoidable sometimes. For some reason the sound of a teacher lecturing is the equivalent of a sleeping pill. They should market teacher lecture tapes as sleep aids.

Car: Long drives in the car always make me fall asleep (good thing I'm never the driver). The soft hum and soothing motion lulls me to sleep. The best part is when I wake up, I've arrived at my destination.

Bed: There's something sneaky and deliciously naughty about getting into bed in the middle of the afternoon and going to sleep. But be warned: These types of naps are normally long and take up half of the afternoon. Plus you won't be able to sleep at night.

Jack Ass

OF THE WEEK

Hammer time



AP

In life, things don't always go as we want them to, but instead of making a big deal about it, most people move on and look toward the future. For 75-year-old Mona Shaw, a church-attending secretary of the American Association of Retired Persons branch in Bristow, Va., letting things go was not an option. Instead of choosing another phone service after she experienced poor customer service with Comcast, she went to their offices with a hammer and destroyed a keyboard, pushed over a monitor and almost destroyed a telephone.

According to The Philadelphia Inquirer, Shaw and her husband Don made an appointment in August to have Comcast install their phone, Internet and cable services. Shaw said not only did the technician not come on the scheduled day, the technician who finally showed up two days later left without finishing the job.

Shaw went to the Comcast office to complain and waited two hours only to be told that the manager had left for the day.

Instead of cutting her losses and trying to find another company to use, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that Shaw returned to the office with a hammer later that day and destroyed public property.

"I figured, 'Hey, my telephone is screwed up, so is yours,'" Shaw said.

Comcast called Shaw's reaction on Aug. 20 an "inappropriate situation." She was fined \$345 and has been barred from the Comcast office for a year.

Shaw ended up getting service with Verizon and DirectTV, an option she should have chosen in the first place instead of dealing with a company that clearly had poor customer service. There was never any reason for her to destroy a company's property and all she got out of it was a fine and a court date in December. Most people learn at a very young age that having a temper tantrum doesn't solve anything. The fact that she chose to act violently instead of filing a formal complaint or simply choosing another company shows her low maturity level.

—L. Smucker

HOW TO

Trudge through winter

with Brett Marlow



Chicagoans are having a sneak peek at what's to come in the next five months when winter strikes, but this weather is nothing! Get ready to see a sea of white snow cover the city, sand and salt on the train platforms and a slew of trips, slips and falls. Here are some tips to help you chill out about wondering how you're going to make it through the winter.

Outfitting Yourself

•Layering is key, even when it comes to your undies. Forget about thongs, both the kind you wear on your feet and in your crack. Long johns make a comeback every winter, and they're so much sexier.

•Don't bother doing your hair in the morning. It's only going to get wet, windblown or frozen. Why take the time to do it when you could just throw on a beanie and spend more time in your nice,

cozy and warm bed? Also, hats will keep heat from escaping through your head.

•If you're into pain, then don't wear gloves. For everyone else, have a nice pair or two handy. If they're cotton, practice taking your transit card out of your wallet with gloves on. It's an almost impossible task, but funny to watch.

•Snow boots are ugly as hell, but imperative. It doesn't matter what kind you have—the fluffy 'I just shaved a sheep and stuffed it in my boot top' kind or the hideous ones with a thousand straps and buckles, they're essential. Tuck the jeans in, guystoo. Don't be a wimp. It's fashionable.

Other necessities

•Weather.com is your new best friend. Check it the night before and the next morning. You'll feel it in your bones.

•Shower at night. Usually when you

have to be up for class, everyone else in your building is getting ready for work and using the same hot water. But they got to it first, and it's going to either flake out on you in the middle of the shower or take forever to warm up. This will make you and your nasty hair late for class.

•Have a supply of ChapStick and tissues in your bag at all times. People will look at you like you're disgusting if you wipe your waterfall of snot on your glove or jacket. Gross. Bleeding and cracking lips aren't very attractive, either.

What to do outdoors

•Drink something that keeps you warm. Hot chocolate or espresso is nice. Or just have a cigarette.

A different tune

'WackyWarrick' creator, fellow Columbia alumnus animate music video

by John Lendman
Staff Writer

WHILE HIS satirical animated films led to his termination at Columbia, alumnus and former employee Mark Phillips' unique blend of graphic design elements led him to take on a different endeavor: making a music video.

Phillips and his co-worker at Outside Inc., fellow alumnus Charlie Sato, directed and produced a music video for Brooklyn-based band Locksley's newest single, "All Over Again."

The two Film and Video Department graduates met as graphic designers at Outsider Inc., which produces television commercials in Chicago. In the video, Phillips and Sato showed off their Columbia-bred talents using elements of still photography, 2-D and 3-D animation in the music video.

Phillips attributes their success to social networking and cultivating professional contacts through school and work.

"Every job opportunity I've had has been through people I've known," Phillips said, referring to the contacts he's kept. "It's all about who knows who."

The video is set in the animated streets of Brooklyn, with Locksley plotting an escape from a monster molded from surrounding buildings in their single, "All Over Again."

The original plan for the video was to shoot the band live in front of a green screen, Sato said. That concept evolved into using stills of more than 1,000 photographs that took more than a month to prepare before they could start on the animation. The comedic escape sequence took Phillips and his team more than five months to manifest.

"It was challenging ... we were trying to get all this done while working after hours from our real jobs," Sato said. "It took longer than we anticipated."

Although they were not paid for their work, Phillips and Sato said they are grateful to have worked on a video for the band. Locksley has toured with bands including OK Go, We Are Scientists, Good Shoes and the Dandy Warhols.

"[Locksley] has been really easy to work with," Sato said. "The response we have been getting has been really positive."

Locksley's drummer, Sam Bair, said the band, which is currently on tour with Hanson, was impressed with the way the video was produced and loved the design elements Phillips and his team created. Bair and Phillips went to high school together in Wisconsin before reconnecting through each other's MySpace pages.

"I was impressed with how far he's gone from drawing little pictures with me in French class to animating [professionally]," Bair said.

Phillips and Bair collaborated early this year as Locksley was soaring in popularity after appearances on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" and "Late Night

with Conan O'Brien."

Bair said it is important to keep various contacts throughout one's career, because it's unpredictable when one might find people that are inspiring.

"We kept [Locksley] in the loop with our ideas," Phillips said. "They let us have free reign through the majority of the video."

It was his termination as a teaching assistant at Columbia in 2005 that motivated him to apply his talents to graphic design and animation, he said.

"I think being fired from Columbia was one of the best things that ever happened to me," Phillips said. "You don't really have that push [to go forth with your ideas] until they say you are banned from campus."

In December 2005, Columbia officials discovered Phillips' animated website satirizing Columbia president Warrick L. Carter. The administration cited claims that Phillips' spoof was a misuse

of company time, leading to Phillips' termination. WackyWarrick.com made Phillips notorious with campus officials.

Phillips said he still doesn't agree with the way in which he was fired, holding firm that he never worked on the website during company hours.

"All the bridges that are important to me, I still have," Phillips said. "I'm still in contact with my old teachers; I haven't burned anything there."

Currently, Phillips is working on a pilot for an animated television series called "Lab Rats." Having worked on the pilot even before

the Locksley video, he plans to pitch it to various networks.

"Lab Rats" will be much like the design elements of the Locksley video," Phillips said. "I've actually been working on the video with various Columbia alums."

chronicle@colum.edu



Columbia alumnus Mark Phillips and his co-worker, alumnus Charlie Sato, directed and produced a music video for New York-based band Locksley.


Chuck Wu THE CHRONICLE

I WANT

TEAM SPIRIT

GLORY

AND NOT TO SHOW UP IN FULL UNIFORM FOR A GAME THAT WAS CANCELLED THREE DAYS AGO.



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All Hallows Eve happenings

Story by Matt Fagerholm

Graphics by Kimi Badger

What is it about Halloween that is so universally appealing? Is it the deliciously malevolent sense of dread it evokes in every fading autumn leaf and beaming full moon? Is it the chance it offers to laugh in the face of death, which can only smile back in the frozen smirk of a jack-o'-lantern? Or is it simply memories of all the indulgent candy that once stuffed pillowcases years ago? Alas, trick-or-treating is an activity restricted to those far younger than the college age group, and students must find different ways of celebrating the holiday. Thankfully for Chicagoans, there are tons of local options they can choose from to make this week a spooktacular one.

Canvas of horror



One of the ever-growing art displays in Chicago is the "Halloween Art Exhibit," which showcases various types of holiday-inspired artwork from across the country. The exhibit's producer, Scott Jackson, said this year's exhibit boasts 20 more artist members than last year, culminating in a total of 60.

"The main attraction of the event is the many different styles and walks of life that either submit [individually] or as a group enter the show," Jackson said.

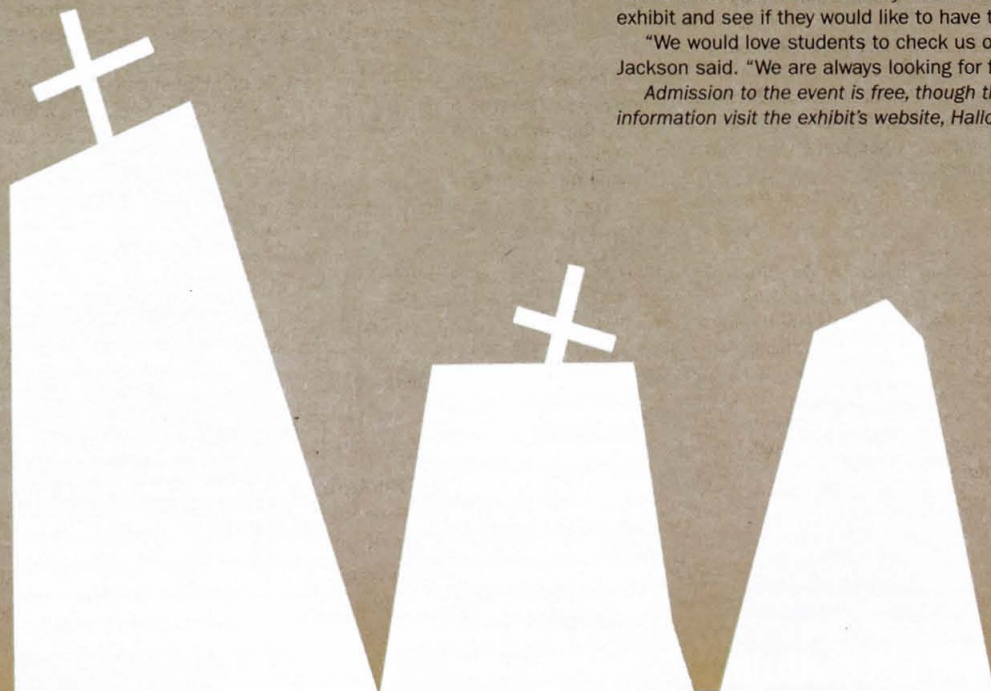
This year's exhibit takes place at the Mars Gallery, 1139 W. Fulton Market, and will have its closing reception on Oct. 31 from 7 p. m. to 9 p. m., along with live music from the

Sam Saunders Machine at 9 p.m.

Included in this ninth annual exhibit is a painting from Disney's Haunted Mansion, original pages from the DC comic *Batman* and work from Rob Zombie's album artist Dan Brereton. Jackson said any art students from Columbia should come to the exhibit and see if they would like to have their own art displayed there one day.

"We would love students to check us out, and maybe one day submit work," Jackson said. "We are always looking for fresh blood, so to speak."

Admission to the event is free, though there is a suggested donation of \$5. For more information visit the exhibit's website, HalloweenArtExhibit.com.



Calling all party animals



Those seeking a Halloween party have endless options to choose from in the Windy City. At Victory Liquors, 2610 N. Halsted St., the Metromix Scareoke Party invites the worst singers in Chicago to compete in a contest to see who has the most frightening vocal chords. It starts at 7 p.m. on Halloween.

Occurring at the same time that night is the 11th Annual North Halsted Street Halloween Parade, which can be viewed on a jumbo screen at the club Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., which will be hosting its own party. Compete in a costume contest for a \$500 cash prize, or watch spooky film clips and music videos on 32 screens.

For more information, call Sidetrack at (773) 477-9189.

Terror in the limelight



One of the most infamous horror films spoofed on the cult TV show "Mystery Science Theater 3000" was Harold P. Warren's ultra-low budget 1966 bomb *Manos: The Hands of Fate*—which translates to *Hands: The Hands of Fate*. After reading Dalton Ross' 2005 Entertainment Weekly article claiming the film to be the worst ever made, theater director Steven Attanasie was inspired. He had recently finished a production of "Little

Shop of Horrors," which he found to be a really good musical based upon a bad movie. Along with co-director Andy Grigg, Attanasie decided to see if he could do the same thing to *Manos*.

"Slowly but surely, [we] realized that there's absolutely no way we could turn that movie into anything good," Attanasie said. Together, Attanasie and Grigg have created, written and directed "Manos: Rock Opera of Fate," a musical comedy playing its final two shows at the National Pastime Theater, 4139 N. Broadway St., on Nov. 2 and 3.

The play follows the original film's plot of a hapless family that makes the unwise decision of staying overnight at a strange house inhabited by the Igor-like Torgo and his elusive Master.

The charm of "Mystery Science Theater" was how its heckling characters mirrored the thoughts of the appalled viewer.

"We wanted to give the audience a voice onstage," Attanasie said. "So we created a narrator character who is as misled as they are." The show opens with the narrator promising the audience they're about to see something great, before becoming disenchanted with the play himself.

Tickets for the spoofacular show are \$15 and can be pre-ordered at the play's website, Manos.NMTChicago.org.

Another satirical play based upon a far superior horror film is "The Birds," a darkly comic look at the making of Alfred Hitchcock's 1963 classic. This acclaimed production stars Tracy Repepe as Tippi Hedren, the real-life model-turned-actress who found herself the victim of Hitchcock's uncompromising artistic eye. The play is directed by Scott Bradley and written by David Cerda and Pauline Pang. It is a must-see for film and theater buffs alike.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 31 through Nov. 3 and tickets can be purchased at BrownPaperTickets.com/Event/19622. The play runs through Nov. 17 at the Berger Park Coach House, 6205 N. Sheridan Road.

Movie monster mash



If any movie theater in Chicago is haunted by spirits of the cinematic past, surely it must be the 87-year-old Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave. After re-opening in May 2006, the theater now offers classic and independent fare and is currently hosting the Six Corners Monster Movie Festival. The selection for Oct. 29 is the infamous 1925 silent version of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Fully utilizing the theater's pie-shaped auditorium, which is built to amplify sound, the film is presented with live theater organ accompaniment.

The theater's managing director, Dennis Wolkowicz, has affectionate feelings for the double feature playing Oct. 30. That night, the theater will showcase the work of independent filmmaker David "The Rock" Nelson, who's been given the unofficial title of Ed Wood of the 21st Century, or at least according to Wolkowicz.

"He makes some unusual horror films," Wolkowicz said. "But we think they're really campy, and they're quite fun. So we thought we'd give him a night in the spotlight."

Wednesday night's selection will be John Carpenter's 1978 original *Halloween*.

Tickets are \$10. For more information, contact the theater at (773) 736-4050.

Hunting for hauntings



If mere partying seems too banal an activity on such a chilling occasion, there are several haunted adventures to be had throughout Chicagoland. Theater on the Lake, 2401 N. Lake Shore Drive, will be hosting a Haunted Sanitarium Oct. 29 through Oct. 31 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. This theatrical spook house includes various themed rooms, as well as a lively waiting area.

Tickets are \$8 with a school ID. For more information, call the theater at (312) 742-7994.

Those brave enough to perform real-life ghost-busting can venture on Chicago's Ghost Hunting Tour. Register at GhostOfChicago.com, and for a \$55 fee, anyone can explore some of the city's most haunted sites using the techniques and technology of paranormal investigators. Reservations can be made this week for 7:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Nov. 1 through Nov. 4.

Those willing to venture outside Chicago for a cheaper price can check out Raven's Grin Inn Haunted House, 411 N. Carroll St., in Mount Carroll, Ill. This private residence is said to be haunted by no less than 37 ghosts, and though tours are year round, what better day than All Hallows Eve to bring out the dead?

The \$12 tours last between 60 and 90 minutes and run every day this week from 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. There are also tours during the weekend from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Visit HauntedRavensGrin.com for more information.

So, in the midst of midterms and deadlines, this is the perfect opportunity to carve out some free time and bask in the bewitching grandeur of this holiday. Why stay pent-up in a dorm room? Choose to party hard, hunt ghosts, survey Halloween art, watch a classic movie or face Torgo mano a manos! Michael Myers doesn't have to be the only twentysomething out on Halloween night.

Foundation advocates liveliness of American art in city

by Brett Marlow
Assistant A&E Editor

CHICAGOANS HAVE the next year to enjoy more American art from the Colonial times to the 1980s at more than 28 institutions across the city.

The Terra Foundation, which operated the Terra Museum of American Art until it closed its Michigan Avenue doors in October 2004, has diverted its efforts from solely exhibiting American art toward promoting it. The foundation is making an effort to show that historical American art is still alive in Chicago. The foundation has started a new initiative called "American Art American City" that runs until December 2008, to do just that—bring American art in Chicago and from other exhibitions to the forefront.

Elizabeth Glassman, CEO and president of the Terra Foundation, a private grant-making organization said its not an exhibition.

"American Art American City" features exhibits and collections of historical American art throughout Chicago. The initiative aims to encourage patrons to discover displays of American art throughout the city, whether they are in galleries, museums or public spaces.

American art does not have to be seen in exhibitions, but can be seen all over the city.

"The Park District has a collection of Progressive Era and Works Progressive Administration murals in its field houses, and it has a fantastic sculpture collection," said Jennifer Siegenthaler, program officer for the Terra Foundation. "CPS has a fantastic art collection and the city has, through federal and city funding, an incredible public



Jim Jacobs looks at the painting 'Tongues (Holy Rollers)' by Archibald J. Motley Jr. at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. The piece is on display as part of the Terra Foundation's 'American Art American City' initiative.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

art collection in addition to what's in the parks and what's in the schools."

The organization is also showing works that are not often on display, like watercolors from artist Winslow Homer. Other artists featured at various exhibitions throughout the city's galleries and museums include John Sloan, Alexander Calder and Andy Warhol.

Art is being displayed at places like the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., and Intuit: The Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, 756 N. Milwaukee Ave., among other venues. Other events including tours of the Chicago Cultural Affairs building, iPod tours, walking tours and other ways of discovering art of

the period are being offered, Glassman said.

"We really hope people will get out there and get to know Chicago from a new vantage point," Siegenthaler said. "It's a city known for its fantastic architecture, but it's also a city that has great American art."

The Terra Foundation is also reaching out to colleges like Columbia.

The Terra Foundation is helping to fund a lecture series aimed at promoting historic American art at Columbia called "Scraping the Surface," where art historians come to speak about the past of printmaking and artists share their practices.

Anchor Graphics, a printmaking group comprised of established and aspiring artists, is seeking to promote and educate

people about printmaking and holds six lectures a year. The lectures involve a contemporary and historical perspective and are funded by grants from the Terra Foundation, said James Iannacone, assistant to the director of Anchor Graphics.

"American Art American City" is trying to encourage and promote art-related activities going on around the city [in] various venues [and] they're promoting our lectures as part of that," Iannacone said.

Although the Terra Museum closed in 2004, the foundation is planning on doing more after this initiative, Glassman said.

"American Art American City" is funded by \$2.5 million in grants from the Terra Foundation and \$500,000 to promote the various events around the city, Glassman said.

"We were inspired by all the dynamic activities we saw other cultural institutions doing. They were coming to us for grants, and we saw how much was going on," Glassman said. "We thought it would be very exciting for people of Chicago to realize that there was a lot happening this year around one particular theme—American Art."

Anchor Graphics hosted a lecture series Oct. 24 with Esther Sparks, an art history professor and former museum curator, about printmaking in the 1960s.

Anchor Graphics will host another event on Nov. 29 with artist and social activist Sue Coe at the Film Row Cinema in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

In addition, the Museum of Contemporary Photography in the Alexandroff Campus Building, 600 S. Michigan Ave., is featuring "Farm Sanctuary Administration Photographs" until Nov. 1 in association with the initiative.

bmarlow@chroniclemail.com

OPENS FRIDAY

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A LOVE STORY

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LESLIE BOBB MIKAL P. LAZAREV WITH JOHN HAWKES AND TOM WAITS CASTING BY SHANNON MAKHANIAN VISUAL EFFECTS SUPERVISOR CHRIS DAWSON
MUSIC SUPERVISOR ROBIN URDANG MUSIC BY BOBBY JOHNSTON DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY VANKJA CERNJUL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER JONATHAN SCHWARTZ
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OPENS FRIDAY
CONSULT THEATRE DIRECTORIES AND LISTINGS FOR SHOWTIMES

REVIEWS



SHIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD

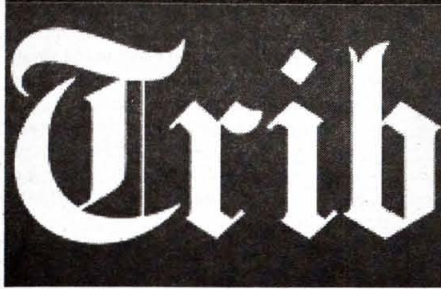


WORTH A GIGGLE



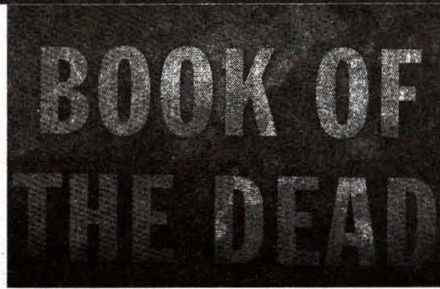
HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



CHICAGO TRIBUNE FRONT PAGE, 10/24

"HAVE YOU SEEN HER DOLL?" No, I haven't. That's because it's probably lying in a freaking cornfield. Of all things, the transportation reporter chose to write about a devastated kid who lost her American Girl doll to an open cargo hatch. Sorry about your hundred-dollar dolly, but that's not front page news. —S. Harvey



'BOOK OF THE DEAD' BY PATRICIA CORNWELL

Cornwell's leading lady, medical examiner Kay Scarpetta, is back in a new book of the ongoing series. Although I'm only halfway through, it's hard to put down in the midst of midterms, work and class. Cornwell never disappoints in the Scarpetta series, and I'm dying, so to speak, to know who committed this book's latest murders. —B. Marlow



PRINT MAGAZINE, NOV./DEC. 2007

This issue shows off all the winners of the Regional Design Annual for 2007, but what they don't tell you is that for each piece submitted you have to fork over \$35. Talk about a rip off. I gave it one smiley purely because something from The Chronicle was picked to be in there. At least they did something right. —C. Mahmeister



MOVIES / DVD / TV



'ACROSS THE UNIVERSE'

I had a rare moment at the movies last week where I was unable to tear my eyes away from *Across the Universe* until the very last song was sung. The actors, especially Jim Sturgess, do a great job covering The Beatles, while crafting a genuine love story in the context of a political era strikingly similar to the present day. —D. Kucynda



'FIDO'

Taking place in an alternate 1950s *Pleasantville*/"Leave it to Beaver" style post-apocalyptic America, the undead uprisings of WWZ have been quelled, and zombies are now domestic servants. This is the best horror-comedy that you may never see, and it has Tim Blake Nelson, too. Bonus. —S. Baltrukonis

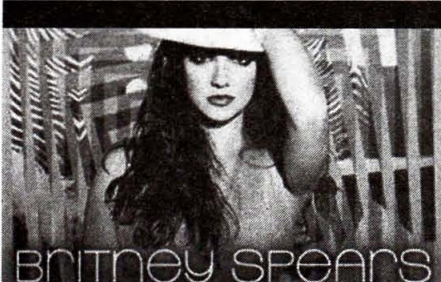


'TELL ME YOU LOVE ME' ON HBO

This show about three seemingly doomed couples that got a lot of hype for its graphic sex scenes is more than just awkward sex. Twentysomething Katie is obnoxious and repulsive, but the relationship between Katie and Dave is fascinating. The show's writers do a great job of exposing the reality behind tumultuous relationships and sex. —J. Gallart



MUSIC



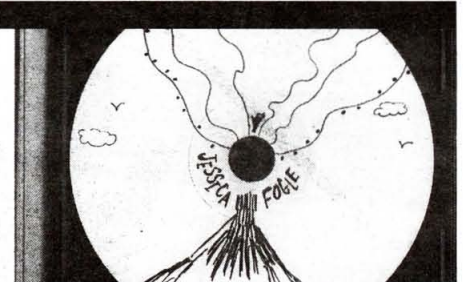
BRITNEY SPEARS: 'BLACKOUT'

Britney's producers deserve gold medals for their work. From crafting "Piece of Me," a deeply introspective track on Spears' media troubles, to "Toy Soldier," where Spears calls out ex-hubby K-Fed over a bass-bumping, drum-rolling beat, these producers and Spears are keeping their talents on the dance floor, where they belong. —D. Kucynda



ROBERT PLANT & ALISON KRAUSS: 'RAISING SAND'

As anyone who is familiar with these artists' music might guess, this unlikely match-up of vocal ability produced some very interesting musical offspring. Some of the more folksy songs feature a bluesy-sounding Plant with Krauss in the background, whereas more country-styled songs feature only a ghostly-sounding Krauss. —L. Smucker



JESSICA FOGLE: 'LIVE AT BERNICE'S TAVERN'

This Chicago singer/songwriter sounds like Ani DiFranco on *Educated Guess*. She pounds the piano, oblivious to the crowd. Fogle has an M.F.A. in musical theater composition from New York University. Listen to tracks at JessicaFogle.com, or hear her at Bernice's Tavern, 3238 S. Halsted St., on Nov. 3. —B. Palmer

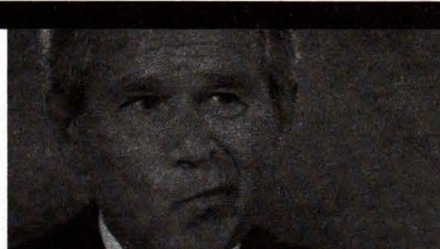


RANDOM



PEOPLE ACTING LIKE CATS

In the crowded southbound Red Line train, educated riders resort to animalistic roots. Instead of scratching a facial itch with their finger tips, balled hands emerge and the tops of their knuckles gently rub at the itch, resembling a cat cleaning and licking its paws. —B. Palmer



DENIAL

It has kept me from buying a winter coat this year. It's also very helpful to the Republican Party. —R. Strecher



THINKING OF A HALLOWEEN COSTUME

Halloween always seems to sneak up on me, and I'm left with no costume ideas. Maybe this year I'll get a burst of inspiration and think of something really clever. Or I'll just go with my back-up: throw on a stethoscope and be Dr. Quinn. —Q. Milton



Fans orchestrate classical tribute to Radiohead

Concert to feature transcribed Radiohead songs

by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

WHEN THE Gentlemen of NUCO orchestra began playing Radiohead's "Karma Police," the intensity on each player's face flowed through their hands and into the air as their bows moved furiously across the strings and wood to create the mournful tune. Although no one is singing, the melancholy melody that would be sung by Thom Yorke is, note-for-note, instantly recognizable, as are the acoustic guitar, piano and bass parts of the song that have been transcribed for violin, viola, cello, bass and percussion.

Seven members of Northwestern University's Chamber Orchestra, who call themselves The Gentlemen of NUCO, are showing their appreciation for Radiohead by playing an all-acoustic concert Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at Northwestern's Regenstein Recital Hall, 60 Arts Circle Drive, in Evanston, Ill.

The group will be playing Radiohead's *OK Computer* in its entirety with two violins played by Henry Wang and Hugh Palmer, Charles Asch on cello, Yoshi Nakano on viola, Corey Bertlesen and Patrick Slevin on percussion and Josh Fink, who spent more than two months transcribing the album note-for-note, playing bass.

"A lot of people think it took me all summer, but it only took me part of the summer to write it all out; I didn't start until August," Fink said.

The show will be recorded both nights, and all the money collected from the \$5

per-ticket shows will be donated to Oxfam America, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending global poverty by helping poor communities around the world.

"We are not profiting one cent off this

played orchestral versions of pop songs by No Doubt and Kelly Clarkson for past performances.

"This is the first really large scale thing [we've done as a group]," Fink said. "It was

said this album was perfect to recreate for classical instruments because a lot of the songs on *OK Computer* are very musically complex. The group hopes that Radiohead fans and curious folks alike will come to their performance and listen to the album in a way that is less familiar yet still in the same sound setting as the album.

"It's going to sound very different and very emotionally charged," Fink said. "We encourage the crowd to sing ... we want to represent [Radiohead's] music [with] the utmost sincerity."

Some critics, like Myrna Torres, the music listings manager for Centerstage Chicago, are already excited about the show. Torres, said she has seen and enjoyed bands who do performances like this in the past. She named The Gentlemen of NUCO as her editor's pick above groups and musicians like Modest Mouse and Kelly Clarkson, who are also playing shows on the same evenings.

"I'm a big Radiohead fan," Torres said. "It would be interesting to see Radiohead's music performed by an orchestra."

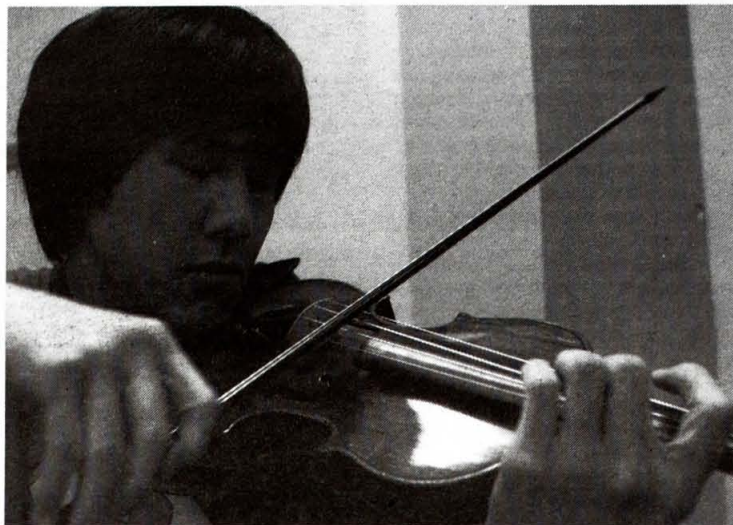
Anthony Smith, a senior audio, arts and acoustics major at Columbia, said as a fan, he thinks the idea of Radiohead's music being played on classical instruments is a bad idea.

"Orchestras don't rock, they orchestrate," Smith said.

Fink said they hope fans will enjoy the show.

"If I hear anybody in the audience singing, [I'll know] we've accomplished what we set out to do," Fink said. "We would be so happy if everyone sang along."

lsmucker@chroniclemail.com



Armed with only two violinists, a violist, a cellist and two percussionists, the Gentlemen of NUCO will perform their original composition of Radiohead's "OK Computer" in its entirety on Nov. 3 and Dec. 1.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

concert," Fink said. "We are doing it for our own enjoyment and the enjoyment of Radiohead fans."

This orchestra is not the first time they have turned rock songs into classical pieces. The group began playing together during the intermission of the Northwestern University Chamber Orchestra's concerts. These musicians have

kind of a hobby before, but this is a step into a more serious unknown."

Hasty said each of the musicians in The Gentlemen of NUCO are some of the best musicians at the school within their particular age group.

"They are an eclectic bunch of great musicians," Hasty said.

The members in The Gentlemen of NUCO



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Blog chronicles soldier's transformation

U.S. trooper's account reveals grit and grime of war

by David McLemore

THREE YEARS ago, Alex Horton joined the Army knowing he would go to war and hoping he'd find adventure. He did. The high school kid from Frisco, Colo. who quoted dialogue from Patton verbatim learned quickly that it was nothing like the movies.

During his 15 months in Iraq with the 3rd Stryker Brigade, Spc. Horton, 21, faced sniper attacks, improvised explosive devices, moments of horror and the age-old tedium and Catch-22 absurdities of military life. He chronicled what he saw in his blog, *Army of Dude*, a web-based journal that, in simple, eloquent prose, depicts the war as seen from a front-row seat.

The blog also is a road map of a young man's transformation in the crucible of war. He learned that soldiers fight for each other, not for policy or politics. That life changes in a flash. That friends die. And he came to believe that war, this war, is a waste of time, money and blood.

"I am not a spokesman for my generation or all soldiers or anyone else. I volunteered, and I knew what I was getting into," he said in an interview at his parents' home while on leave. "But when I got to Iraq, I saw that our efforts were contrary to why we were told we went there and what we hoped to accomplish. I am not anti-war; I'm anti-Iraq war."

Such glimpses into wartime experiences are no longer the territory of letters home or personal diaries. Troops in combat and those recently returned now fill the web

with their observations. Wired magazine estimates that there are 1,200 active military blogs.

Horton said his superiors never tried to censor his efforts, although this spring the army imposed tougher restrictions on military blogs.

Phillip Carter, an Iraq war veteran whose blog, *Intel Dump*, www.intel-dump.com, explores a variety of military and political issues, sees the growth of military blogs, called "milblogs," as something far more expressive than the long tradition of griping in the military.

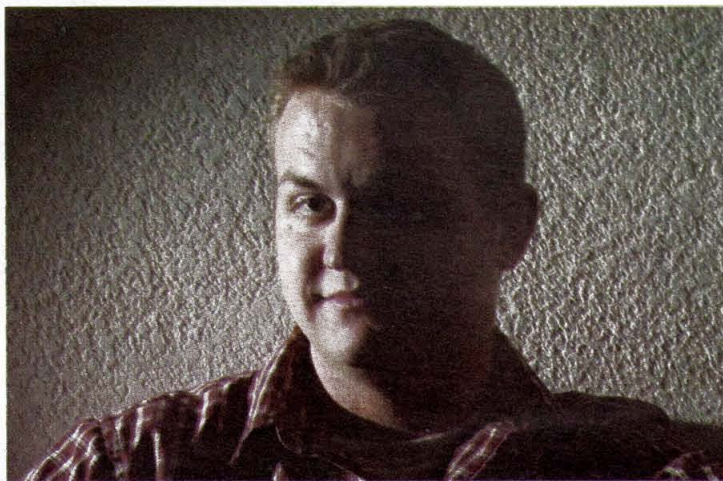
"Disillusionment is in evidence in any war. But now, soldiers coming back home find their disillusionment mirrors the American public's ambivalence with the war," he said. "These soldiers want to add to the public discourse. They want their stories told. They were there. They experienced it. Who better to tell the tale?"

Horton started his blog before his deployment, ridiculing the ironies of Army life, the hurry-up-and-wait attitudes and the occasional goofiness of the military.

After his brigade deployed to Kuwait, then crossed the line into Iraq in June 2006, his writing rapidly became less funny.

"When we saw what we were doing applied in terms of life and death in Iraq, that's when the blog changed," he said.

"At the beginning, you feel like you're invincible and if anything bad happens, it's going to happen to some other guy. Then when people start to get hurt and killed, you think to yourself, I better look out or I'll be next," he wrote in his blog. "The final stage comes after the second one wears on you after a while. Your thought is, I'm going to die next unless I make it out of here as



Alex Horton recounted how serious war was when compared to the military movies he watched in high school after he fought side by side with the 3rd Stryker Brigade for 15 months in Iraq.

MCT

soon as possible."

Some of the worst days occurred when friends were killed in a fierce firefight in Baquba, Iraq. Or in the long moments of terror while he was pinned down by machine gun fire. Or in the sense that time and American life had simply passed them by.

The military has long danced around how best to balance the web's instant communication between deployed soldiers and the folks back home and its potential threats to operational security for those in harm's way.

On April 19, the Army tightened operations security regulations to require soldiers to clear all blog entries and e-mails

with a superior officer, the strongest restriction of military Internet use since the Iraq war began.

But the Army's own review of military blogs found more problems with official military websites than with milblogs, according to Wired magazine.

Carter said most commanders have no problem with soldier blogs as long as they don't reveal sensitive combat plans or divulge secret material.

"The thoughtful officers and senior enlisted are all for it," he said. "They trust their soldiers to tell the truth, as unpleasant as it may be. In these times, the unvarnished truth is best."

MCT

'Sopranos' creator David Chase defends finale

Viewers upset with end to popular series, creator says Tony Soprano didn't get whacked

by Frazier Moore

JUST WHEN we made our peace with "The Sopranos" finale and moved on, David Chase has stirred things up again.

Breaking his silence months after the HBO mob drama ended its run, he is offering a belated explanation for that blackout at the restaurant. He strongly suggests that, no, Tony Soprano didn't get whacked moments later as he munched onion rings with his family at Holsten's. And mostly Chase wonders why so many viewers got so worked up over the series' non-finish.

"There WAS a war going on that week and attempted terror attacks in London," Chase said. "But these people were talking about onion rings."

The interview, included in *The Sopranos: The Complete Book*, published last week, finds Chase exasperated by viewers who were upset that Tony didn't meet explicit doom.

Chase said the New Jersey mob boss "had been people's alter ego. They had gleefully watched him rob, kill, pillage, lie and cheat. They had cheered him on. And then, all of a sudden, they wanted to see him punished for all that. They wanted 'justice'..."

"The pathetic thing—to me—was how much they wanted his blood after cheering him on for eight years."

In the days, and even weeks, after the finale aired June 10, "Sopranos" wonks combed that episode for buried clues, concocting wild theories. (Was this some sort



'The Sopranos' executive producer, David Chase, said there were no 'esoteric clues' or deeper meanings behind the blackout scene in the finale of the HBO mob-drama.

AP

of "Last Supper" reimagined with Tony, wife Carmela, son A.J. and daughter Meadow?)

Chase insists that what you saw (and didn't see) is what you get.

"There are no esoteric clues in there. No *Da Vinci Code*," he said.

He said it's "just great" if fans tried to find a deeper meaning, but "most of them, most of us, should have done this kind of thing in high school English class and didn't."

He defends the bleak, seemingly inconclusive ending as appropriate—and even a little hopeful.

A.J. will "probably be a low-level movie producer. But he's not going to be a killer like his father, is he? Meadow may not become a pediatrician or even a lawyer ... but she'll learn to operate in the world in ways that Carmela never did."

"It's not ideal. It's not what the parents dreamed of. But it's better than it was," Chase said.

And as for that notorious blackout in the middle of the Journey power ballad, "Don't Stop Believin'?"

"Originally, I didn't want any credits at all," Chase said. "I just wanted the black screen to go the length of the credits—all the way to the HBO 'whoosh' sound. But the Directors Guild wouldn't give us a waiver."

And while this unexpected finish left lots of viewers thinking their cable service was on the fritz, Chase insists it wasn't meant as a prank.

"Why would we want to do that?" he said. "Why would we entertain people for eight years only to give them the finger?"

AP

DJ Spooky's hip-hop splices, dices music and images

Paul Miller's deejaying blends visuals and soundscapes into a unique tool of communication

by Otis R. Taylor Jr.

IF HIP-HOP is the CNN of urban culture, as Public Enemy's Chuck D has said, then Paul Miller is the genre's revered global correspondent.

"In hip-hop, it's the way your words connect," Miller said. "A haiku can take you around the world in a phrase."

Miller, prominently known as DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid, has suggested that deejaying—at least his specialty brand of slicing and mixing sound and images—is representative of globalization.

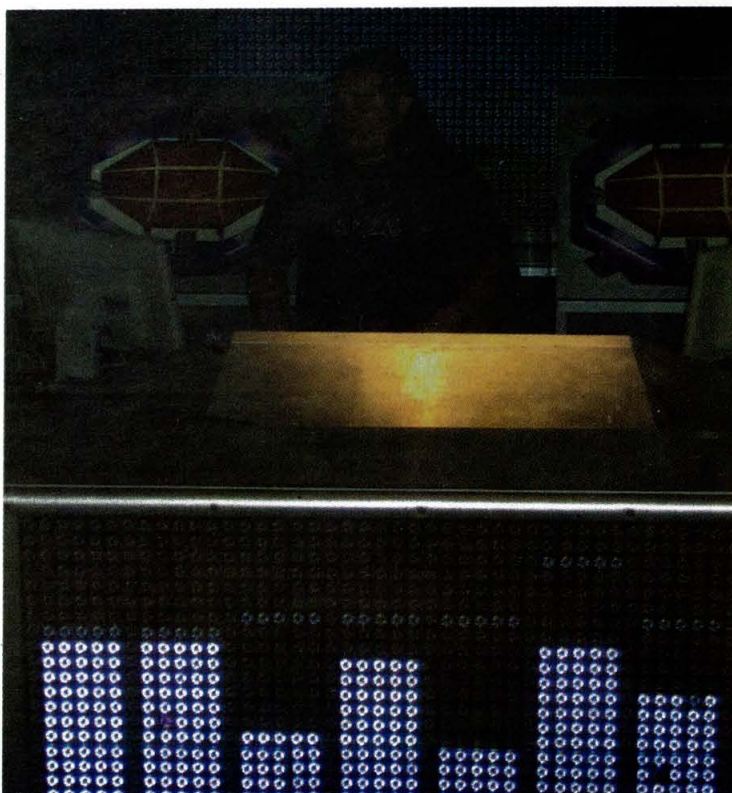
"We live in a time where everything from Katrina to Iraq has its own press release," he said. "The whole vibe is trying to cut through a lot of issues we're dealing with."

When searching for entertainment and information through newspapers, radio, TV and the Internet, people are like DJs.

Personalizing information and remixing it for blogs, videos and Facebook pages is essentially what DJs do with music samples: pull the best out—or what one perceives is the best—and leave the rest.

In performances, Miller takes this a step further with the use of visuals to accompany his lush and sometimes brittle soundscapes. The relationship between sound and art, at least for Miller, connects everything and everyone on a global scale.

"I've tried to get [the idea] out as more than just an American thing," Miller said. "Globalization is having people think another world is possible."



The art of deejaying, as argued by artist, writer and musician Paul Miller (aka DJ Spooky), plays a vital role in today's globalization. This position, held by the DJ pictured here, holds formidable power in society.

Miller's ideas and theories are without boundaries.

In 2004, the American premiere of Miller's "Rebirth of a Nation"—a visual and

audio evaluation of D.W. Griffith's controversial film classic, *The Birth of a Nation*—at the Spoleto festival was an interesting concept that was tepidly displayed.

Miller, who mixed images and music live, used a three-screen set—a larger main screen and two smaller ones on either side—to work new, digitally inserted images against the 1915 black-and-white film.

The collaged house floor plans, flow charts and assorted shapes sometimes looked like nothing more than an architectural design program, and it did nothing to hide the original film's ugliness, which depicted the rise of the Ku Klux Klan.

Still, it was an inventive performance, and that's why Miller has had media art pieces at the Whitney Biennial and The Venice Biennale for Architecture.

Sometimes lost in the images, though, is Miller's crisp production. The way he breaks songs apart—and puts them back together—is daring and fluid. But the image sequences colliding with the sampled parts of songs is part of Miller's larger communication theory.

"I'm really fascinated with globalization," Miller said, who has been mixing music from different continents, including using eclectic African music in hip-hop mixes.

The rise of DJs such as Girl Talk (who puts disparate artists like Nas and Pixies in caffeine-laced mixes), Dan Deacon, Diplo and Mark Ronson has put DJs into a spotlight glare not seen since the mid-1990s, when house and other rave music was popular.

Miller, like the DJs above, cuts and pastes together the things—songs, videos, press releases—that are now.

"This is everyday life," Miller said. "Deejaying is as much a part of [globalization] as a presidential election. 'That's the way I think deejaying has influenced everyone.'"

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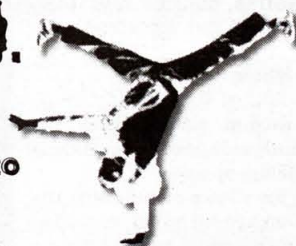
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Students get a kick out of Columbia



Students at Not Just for Kicks, an event hosted by the Columbia College Marketing Association on Oct. 24, enjoyed performances from rap group E.M.S., whose members consist of Columbia alumni; Epoch, also a Columbia alumnus; Mic Terror; OFASHO; and Angelo Supreme. Stores like Solemates Chicago, whose operations manager Ricky Rivera and owner Brian Merritt showed their merchandise, set up tables at the event. The event aimed to promote networking among Columbia students and the street culture associated with sneakers, said Arica Maldonado, president of CCMA.

Chuck Wu THE CHRONICLE



Pimp your laptop

Company produces custom-designed personal PCs

by Bridget Carey

PIMPED-OUT RIDES and custom choppers are nothing new. But what about professionally pimping your computer?

A new company in Homestead, Fla., called NVousPC (pronounced "envious PC") makes custom notebooks and puts together everything from the hardware to the personalized paint job.

It goes beyond slap-on stickers. Customers work with graphic designers, and every panel—not just the cover—can be customized with art.

The company launched in late August and President Oscar M. Zapata sees the firm's tricked-out computers appealing to college students and small businesses.

"We noticed that there is a market for this kind of high-quality, permanent image," Zapata said.

This generation of computer users has already bought into customized skins and plates for electronics like cell phones and video game consoles. But such enhancements are typically purchased from a manufacturer's existing inventory of designs.

"The way we see these machines, they are not just laptops but complete aesthetic extensions of your personality and lifestyle," Zapata said.

He hopes businesses will order notebooks with custom colors and logos as a way to market brands, he said.

The company has made a Miami Heat laptop in hopes the team will order more.

Zapata was an engineer at Miami-based Alienware, which builds high-performance desktops and notebooks, before he started his own company. NVousPC notebooks are not as high-tech and complicated as Alienware's machines, he said, and they are aimed at the mass market.

The company hopes to sell at least 1,000 units in the first year.

Zapata's plan is to get the notebooks in public places where they'll attract attention. Expect to see NVousPC notebooks on display at college campuses for orientations.

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HOW IT WORKS

- Customers log on to NVousPC.com and choose a notebook with an Intel Core 2 Duo processor. Customers select hardware, software and an operating system. Prices start at \$1,499.
- Customers choose colors and upload graphics to incorporate in the design.
- The graphic designers contact the customer to discuss the design. Another team assembles the notebook components.
- When the customer approves the design, the notebook is disassembled, the outside is painted and graphics are added.
- The process takes about 12 days.



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Featured Improve



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Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO
ADVANCING IN THE VIRTUAL, PROBLEM SOLVING, AND COMMUNICATION AREAS

Premium Blend

with The Coffin Banger

AS HALLOWEEN creeps around the corner, party hosts begin to dig through storage boxes of decorations to find that mix tape with creepy monster music. But one Chicago DJ has taken his adoration for oldies monster music and turned it into his profession, as the only DJ of his kind in Chicago.

Mixing music from the '50s, '60s and '70s, The Coffin Banger capitalizes on the lack of variety from oldies stations to bring a different type of sound to the DJ scene.

The Chronicle spoke with The Coffin Banger about his love for monster music, DJs in Chicago and his horror movie endeavors.

The Chronicle: What kind of music did you first start out deejaying?

The Coffin Banger: I was just doing exclusively '50s, R&B, blues, country and stuff like that. Then some of the rockabilly kids were coming in and asking me to play The Sonics. So I went ahead and decided to do '60s stuff and threw The Sonics in there. This went on and on, and eventually my friend turned me on to a website called Yacht Rock, which is two guys out of L.A. that put together spoof short films about the '70s soft-rock movement. I got turned on by that because it was all music that I loved that I didn't think anyone else appreciated. But apparently there was a huge following for it, so I threw the '70s in there too.

Why don't you incorporate '80s music into your sets?

I don't do the '80s because everyone in Chicago plays the '80s. Nobody does the '70s very often. It's not a huge market, there's not a whole lot of DJs that do that stuff, especially '50s. The '60s and '70s had a lot of great music as well, so that's why I drew in the '60s and '70s stuff. People were asking for it.

From there, how did you get into spinning monster music?

[Monster music was] something that I just dug. I met a guy who used to be my DJ partner who goes by Warlock. He has a pretty big collection and stuff that I haven't heard in a long time, kids' novelty records and a lot of new stuff. There's so much of that music out there. All these bands that you know a ton of songs by, they all wrote monster songs for some reason or another. I think when "Monster Mash" came out it was such a huge hit, everyone tried to jump on that bandwagon and tried to pull out a song to sell like "Monster Mash." No song ever came close to that. It's still one of my favorite songs of all time. I never get tired of hearing it.

Where do you like to spin in Chicago?

I like going to little old man bars. I like doing the local pubs, because I'm not a club guy. I'm not playing top 40 dance tracks. I try to keep a more mellow setting. If you want to dance, by all means ... but I try not



Peter Huels, known as The Coffin Banger, spins oldies and monster music at local bars and pubs. Courtesy THE COFFIN BANGER

to make a huge dance party. I try to play stuff at a moderate level, not to blare people out [but] to make a chill setting.

What do you do when you're not deejaying?

I met up with some kids that are making a zombie movie. I'm going to be helping to do makeup, promotions, acting a little bit and helping write the script a little bit. I'm kind of doing Rob Zombie. I really want to deliver something good, make something cool that will live up to my name, The Coffin Banger.

Where would you like to be five years from now?

I always wanted to be a DJ on the radio,

I always looked up to guys like Allen Freed, Wolfman Jack, guys like that. I would like to follow in their footsteps. I'm the only guy in Chicago in the bar scene that does this. It's pretty cool. I'm trying to do something different for bars and for people other than the norm that everyone else does.

The Coffin Banger will host The Coffin Banger's Monster Mash Party at 9 p.m. on Oct. 31 at Reggie's Live, 2109 S. State St. Doors open at 8 p.m. and admission is \$15 at the door, \$10 with a zombie costume. For more information about The Coffin Banger, visit MySpace.com/DJPete_Chicago.

—J. Galliard

HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21-April 19) There's going to be a mix-up, accidentally or on purpose. Try to have it not happen on your watch. Be extra diligent.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Keep your wits, you're going to need them. Read everything, especially the fine print, before you sign anything.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21) You're generally not a very good person to entrust with a secret. You can keep one if you must, and now that's a good idea.



CANCER (June 22-July 22) You'll have to look at the situation from a slightly different perspective and, remember, everything that doesn't work is one thing you can check off the list.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The debate rages on. It will never end. There's a faint chance for compromise, but don't hold your breath. After they're talked out, tell them what to do next.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Stay out of an argument that doesn't really concern you. If possible, get out of the area, so you don't have to listen to it. Provide counseling only upon request.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Again, restrain yourself. Whatever's holding you back is a good thing this time. You'll understand why soon.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It feels like you're wealthy enough to buy anything you want. OK, get a few important things but don't touch your savings account. And don't charge all that stuff, either.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You have the advantage in the upcoming debate. The other person's arguments are shallow and trite. Don't be afraid; do be gentle if possible.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Be careful on the job. There will be setbacks and complications. Not everything that could go wrong will, but you're in that arena.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Although you love your friends, you may not have the energy to do your normal socializing. You don't have to attend everything. Let them cover for you.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) If you get caught in somebody else's argument, offer incomprehensible advice. While they're trying to figure out what it is you said, you can make your getaway. Don't grin until you're out of sight.

CHECK ME OUT



ELISIANA DIAZ-MARTIN

PHOTOGRAPHY
JUNIOR

Gray skies, chilly temperatures and blustery weather are enough factors to knock the fashion out of one's attire. But junior photography major Elisiana Diaz-Martin manages to keep her fashion sense fired up as the icy season commences.

She describes her wardrobe as a "mix and match hodge-podge" of various styles. Diaz-Martin found her striking gold scarf at an open market in Italy.

The meticulously detailed blue bag she carries over her shoulder comes directly from her hometown, Fort Wayne, Ind., while her pointed-toe boots were purchased at JCPenney's.

While Diaz-Martin admits that her primary goal was to "keep warm," her sense of style still shines through.

—M. Fagerholm

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

Crossword

Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Not so
- 6 Tree juices
- 10 Pour out
- 14 Throws off
- 15 Chase away
- 16 Ms. Bombeck
- 17 Invigorating medicine
- 18 Gull's cousin
- 19 12 o'clock
- 20 Off target
- 22 Restroom sign
- 23 Add to the pot
- 24 Game counter
- 26 Sofas
- 28 Attempted to soundproof
- 33 The way in China
- 34 Gilbert and Sullivan offerings
- 36 Boasts
- 40 Actress Polo
- 41 Enticements
- 43 Iraq neighbor
- 44 Utopias
- 46 Fire desire
- 48 Corn holder
- 50 Like lasting friends
- 51 Weapons' depot
- 55 Passing fancy
- 56 Sunken grooves
- 57 Droop
- 59 Sweeteners
- 64 Time periods
- 65 Unsolicited e-mail
- 67 Chalke of "Scrubs"
- 68 Appellation
- 69 Morays and congers
- 70 Elroy Jetson's dog
- 71 Austrian range
- 72 Smeltery waste
- 73 Piece of bed linen

DOWN

- 1 Brine-cured cheese
- 2 Singer Tori
- 3 Collection of fluff
- 4 Move, emotionally
- 5 Fugitive
- 6 Mach+ plane
- 7 Attention getter
- 8 Skin openings
- 9 Fourteen-line poem
- 10 Of Capitol Hill
- 11 Recumbent
- 12 Get all melodramatic
- 13 Tapers off
- 21 Streisand title role
- 25 Flashy outfit
- 27 Keyboard key
- 28 Pamper
- 29 Learned monkey-style
- 30 Slight
- 31 Monarch's daughters
- 32 Tom's "Splash" co-star
- 35 Letter flourish
- 37 River of Pisa
- 38 Fail at a diet
- 39 Glitch
- 42 Divans
- 45 Family member
- 47 Jellyfish
- 49 Deep voices
- 51 Action site
- 52 Bucolic
- 53 Postal sticker
- 54 Collar part
- 58 Festive gathering
- 60 Long, deep cut
- 61 Comic Johnson
- 62 Once in a blue moon
- 63 Injection
- 66 NYC arena

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Solutions

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Sudoku

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

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

Comic Relief

Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Josh Shalek



PAUL

BY BILLY O'KEEFE MRBILLY.COM/PAUL



Commentary

Editorials

School needs GLBT minor

This semester, Columbia offers four classes dealing with the issues, history and social impact of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. There are three more of these classes in various stages of development at the school. However, the college will not offer a minor course of study that brings these classes together in a cohesive academic discipline, even though there will be enough to do so in the spring. In a progressive liberal arts college, especially one with a large and visible GLBT community, there really is no reasonable excuse for the absence of at least a minor in GLBT studies.

Colleges across the country have majors and minors in women's and gender studies, black, Hispanic and Asian studies, but GLBT courses are often ignored or forgotten in the mix. But the social importance of the gay community in America is being felt more now than ever before.

There have been discussions in Washington, DC about a constitutional ban on gay marriage, with its proponents and detractors fighting with equal passion and on either side of the issue. There is debate on gay adoption, civil partnerships, job discrimination and whether or not members of the GLBT community should be allowed to serve openly in the military. These civil rights issues are the icing on the cake of bigotry, unfair prejudice and discrimination that large portions of the GLBT community face every day.

Meanwhile, the media have begun to embrace gay culture in every medium. Films about the community are becoming more numerous, popular and profitable than ever before. Television has begun to include more gay characters and TV shows, and print and online media have raised awareness (and acceptance) accordingly.

All these issues point up the relevance and importance of the GLBT community in our nation's political and social life. Any subject that commands such a position on the national radar deserves the attention of academia.

DePaul University has had a major in GLBT studies for three years. Across the country, schools like the University of Minnesota and Indiana University are building departments, hiring professors, spending money and creating classes to serve, study,

understand and contribute to one of the nation's more under-served and discriminated-against minorities.

It's worth noting that at Columbia, the majority of students enrolled in GLBT courses are straight, according to Victoria Shannon, an adjunct faculty member in the Liberal Education Department. This shows there is an interest and desire for these courses that cuts across sexual and gender lines.

Starting a minor is difficult. Lisa Brock, chair of the Liberal Education Department, told The Chronicle last week that "It's a lot like steering the Titanic ... when you've got an idea ... it sometimes takes a year to turn that ship around." But Columbia wouldn't be starting from scratch. Why aren't the courses the school can offer next semester, including Gay and Lesbian Studies (parts I and II), Queer Theory and Queer Performance, enough for a minor in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender studies?

In addition, though the difficulty may be great, having a course of study relating to the GLBT community may become a necessity for liberal arts colleges. Gary Cestaro is a member of the Modern Language Department at DePaul, and was involved in creating its GLBT minor. According to him, "[GLBT studies] is becoming a standard part of the undergraduate curriculum in a number of universities."

Columbia, a purportedly progressive liberal arts college, can't afford to be behind the times when it comes to gender studies of any kind. The bureaucracy and red tape that may hinder the speed with which a GLBT minor is created should be no deterrent to its proponents, of which there are many.

It's time for this school, a place where the students and administration are devoted to change, to join the ranks of progressive academia.

The school has willing professors, an abundance of student interest and the academic and social imperative to go ahead with the creation of a GLBT minor within the Liberal Education Department. It should waste no time and make every effort to bring this new and important course of study to its rightful place as a part of the curriculum.

Letter to the Editor:

To the editors:

I am writing in response to the editorial "Elections need public funding" that appeared in the Oct. 8 edition of The Chronicle. Public funding would not, as the author put it, "level the playing field."

Ensuring that candidate A and candidate B have the same amount of money to spend during an election will not make candidate B as intelligent or charismatic as candidate A. Candidate A is able to raise more money based on their ideals, policies and their ability to communicate them effectively.

Is it so bad if our leaders are able to pos-

sess intelligence while being charismatic and amiable? Do these qualities not help a leader carry out their plans and make them more relatable? Maybe it is time to ask the underdogs what they can do.

How can they run a country if they cannot effectively get their message out to their people?

Cheryl Peters
Grassroots Political PR
Barnaby Dinges

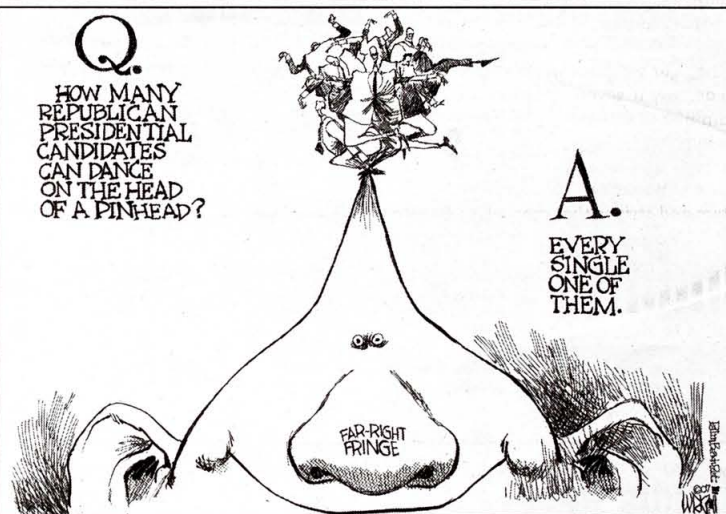
A TEXT MESSAGE FROM HOME

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS, FED UP WITH THE USELESS KILLINGS IN IRAQ, ADOPTED A SCATHING, HARD-LINE RESOLUTION ACCUSING GENGHIS KHAN AND HIS MONGOL HORDES OF GENOCIDE.



Q.
HOW MANY
REPUBLICAN
PRESIDENTIAL
CANDIDATES
CAN DANCE
ON THE HEAD
OF A PINHEAD?

A.
EVERY
SINGLE
ONE OF
THEM.



I LOVE HALLOWEEN!
YOU GET TO SCARE THE
HECK OUT OF PEOPLE!



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

Remember the 'speak softly' part



by Wes Giglio
Commentary Editor

Vice President Dick Cheney, in a recent address at the Washington Institute, said "We will not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon." This is the latest in a long line of tough rhetoric from the administration. President George Bush said on Oct. 20 "I've told people that if you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing [Iran] from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

It's safe to say that no member of the free world wants Iran to have a nuclear weapon. I would think it's safe to say that no rational member of the free world wants any country to have a nuclear weapon. However, it's hypocritical to condemn another country for attempting to arm itself, which Iran has not been proven to be doing, when America holds one of the largest stockpiles of nuclear weapons in the world, enough to destroy it several times over. But this administration has never been shy about its hypocrisy—in the same speech, Cheney derided Iran for trying "to keep Iraq in a state of weakness." Of course it's the old stars and stripes that created, propagated

and continues to preside over the weak Iraqi state, but no matter.

Nuclear science is relatively new, and nuclear politics is just as young, but it has taken on some defined features. Having a nuclear weapon is having power. World War III, a phantom war referenced constantly when other countries attempt to achieve nuclear capability themselves, is an effective tool for frightening and galvanizing the populace. Disarmament is nice in theory

but never practiced. Above all, the United States has the right and the privilege to build, threaten and kill with nuclear weapons, but apparently no other country does.

None of this is to say that Iran should have nuclear weapons—I believe they shouldn't. But I also believe this country shouldn't either, and the tough talk and unblinking hypocrisy doesn't help either situation.

The rhetoric embraced by the current

administrations, and several administrations in the past, is too tough. Conservatives will point to Reagan, how he single-handedly brought down the Soviet Union with hard-nosed demands ("Bring this wall down!") and direct threats (placing medium range warheads in eastern Europe). But historians will tell you it was economic strife, political breakdowns, glasnost and perestroika that crumbled the empire. Reagan's theatrics were meaningful only in the way this administration desperately wishes it could reproduce—status as the biggest bully/cop on the international block.

Theodore Roosevelt coined a phrase this administration would have done well to remember from school: Speak softly and carry a big stick. This does not mean a show of force, or a brandishing of power coupled with hardline ultimatums and promises of retribution. It doesn't mean condescension. It means careful and considered diplomacy backed up by your adversary's knowledge of your superior strength. Not only is this administration eschewing that kind of diplomacy in favor of screaming rhetoric, it is brandishing its big (and after Iraq, less frightening than imagined) stick to Iran while thwacking Iraq in the meantime, creating new enemies every day.

The United States should not consider itself in every case to be the policeman of the world, and that used to be a conservative position. Bush, Cheney and the whole crew need to tone down the rhetoric and take a diplomatic tack in dealing with the Iranian nuclear situation. You catch more flies with honey than vinegar, as the saying goes, and the administration needs to learn that lesson before we bring about World War III on our own.

jgiglio@chroniclemail.com



Iranian militia forces of Bassej participate in military maneuvers near the city of Qom, Iran on August 28, 2007.

MCT

Indifference is no response to Wackenhut Corporation



by Beth Palmer
Campus News Editor

I am ashamed.

The indifferent attitude the college has expressed toward Wackenhut Corporation does not match the high standard Columbia demands upon hiring administrators, teachers, interior designers and architects.

As reported in The Chronicle over the past year, Columbia officials said any problems between Wackenhut Corporation and its employees have nothing to do with the college. They said Columbia would become involved if the school's contract was in jeopardy.

Yet, the office of Media Relations pours out back-patting releases when Columbia hires eco-friendly architects and interior designers, and proudly bullets the cultural contributions on resumes of new deans and faculty members.

Denouncing Wackenhut Corporation by opening a bid for a new security contractor would make Columbia a leader in human rights initiatives among institutions of conscience.

Columbia has employed Wackenhut Corporation security guards since fall 2004, but as part of a new contract ratified this May,

guards pay \$397 a month for family health care, as opposed to the \$40 monthly dues, which covered healthcare, paid to their former union, Services Employee International Union Local 1.

SEIU Local 1 had expected a three-year renewal with the nearly 40 guards at Columbia when Wackenhut refused and drew up the new contract in May.

Wackenhut Corporation is also the subject of government investigations, as the largest provider of security for both Illinois and the U.S.

Most recently, Wackenhut guards were caught sleeping while on post at an Exelon nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania. In Africa, Wackenhut guards have been accused of using racial slurs with their black employees and forcing blacks to use separate bathrooms.

At an Oct. 6 hearing to discuss the firm, U.S. Rep. Danny Davis (Dist. 7) said he would recommend an investigation of Wackenhut's practices to the Congressional Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is currently investigating Blackwater, the security firm accused of misconduct in Iraq.

At the same hearing, Davis compared Wackenhut's practices to Blackwater. This alone should send a message to Columbia:

Why would our school want to be affiliated with such a company?

Taking the time to find a new security contractor would serve Columbia well. The reputation for taking such an initiative would be publicized among institutions of higher education and stir pride in alumni, students and faculty.

This decision would fall in line with Columbia's history of efforts made with greater humanity in mind.

For example, in February, the college entered into a two-year wind-energy contract and hired a "green" architect to redesign several spaces. The redesign makes the college more energy efficient and contributes less pollution.

Then there's Critical Encounters, Columbia's "college-wide examination of the ways important social issues affect, challenge, and change our thinking as a culture," according to the school's website.

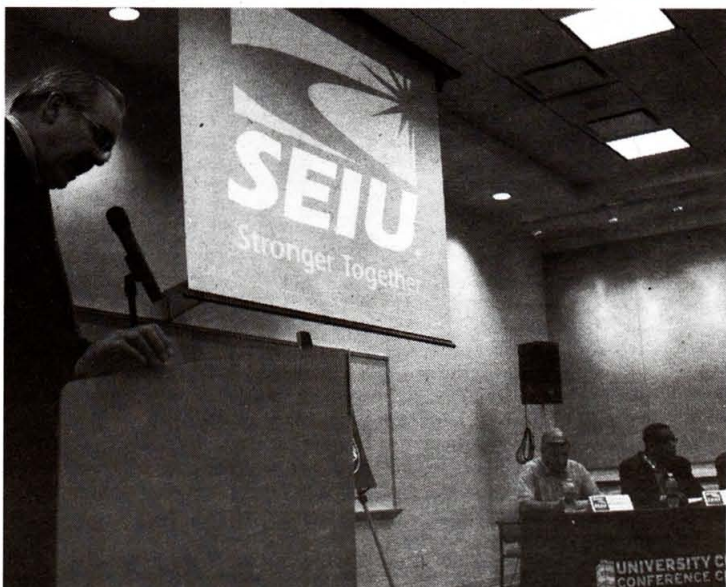
Labor rights qualify as an important social issue. In fact, Wackenhut could serve as a tangible case study for Critical Encoun-

ters: the guards who protect Columbia students, staff and faculty have substandard benefits.

Michael Bright, interim president of the United Staff of Columbia College, said it best in the Oct. 22 Chronicle article entitled "Columbia's security contractor faces investigation."

Bright was quoted in the article as saying, "As an enlightened institution, Columbia should not support a company with so many violations on their record."

bpalmer@chroniclemail.com



Tom Balanoff, president of the Services Employee International Union Local 1, addresses security personnel and Illinois politicians at an Oct. 6 hearing concerning Wackenhut Corporation.

Rachael Stretcher THE CHRONICLE

»RACE:

Runners said they look forward to next year's urbanathlon, but hope it will be more challenging

taxi hurdles, which were literally two taxis faced hood to hood right in front of the wall guarding the finish line at Butler

Field, was Beck's favorite.

"I spend my life in New York just stressed from all the taxis and I just wish I could hurdle them like I do in the race because it gives you a real sense that for once the city is standing still and you're the one that's moving," Beck said.

Men's Health not only provided a marathon but a festival as well. Free massages, breakfast, a reggae concert and a blues

band concert were available at the festival. There was also a tent with beer on tap and a meeting place for single runners to get acquainted.

"[We want] people to do these fun, exciting things and realize that there's more to the city and there's more to fitness than they may have otherwise realized," Beck said.

Even with the lack of water at the Chicago Marathon, Beck was not worried about people getting dehydrated. He said there were water stations all around the course, and the shorter course meant the racers wouldn't be running as long.

Some of the racers felt a little bit differently.

Christopher Cifsiel, a 23-year-old emergency medical technician in Chicago, said because of the running and the obstacles, the runners didn't have time to drink water. Klabunde said she felt there wasn't enough water on the course.

"But it's unseasonably warm out today too, so perhaps they didn't prepare as well," Klabunde said.

Other racers took it upon themselves to keep hydrated. One racer, 30-year-old Michael Finch, who has participated in races like this before, slung a harness filled with water bottles over his back.

With the positive outcome of the event, Beck said there was talk of bringing the Urbanathlon back to Chicago next year.

Beck said Chicago was very supportive of the Urbanathlon, and editors from Men's Health are thinking of having the event here again next year. Many of the racers at the event this year said they were planning on coming next year as well.

Some racers had suggestions of how



Mike Finch (right) assists his friend John Gaskell over the climbing wall at the finish of the 2007 Men's Health Urbanathlon.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

they would like to see the race changed for next year.

"I'd like to see more obstacles next year," said 23-year-old P.J. Grealish. "Make them a little bit more challenging—except Soldier Field, that was challenging enough."

ismucker@chroniclemail.com



John West finishes in 886th place in two hours and 51 minutes in the 2007 Men's Health Urbanathlon.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

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»SELENA:

Continued from Front Page

Reyes and Selena corresponded through anonymous cards and letters before they met

When Reyes found out the recipient was a young girl, he immediately thought of his 10-year-old son Gabriel.

"What if he was sick? What would I want somebody to do? I would want somebody to step forward for him," Reyes said.

On Aug. 17, 2006, Reyes underwent a surgical procedure in which his bone marrow was removed from the back of his hipbone.

The following day, Selena successfully received the transplant. Her remaining white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets were eliminated through radiation and chemotherapy and her new cells were derived from Reyes' marrow.

A year after the transplant procedure, Reyes began to learn more about his recipient. Both Selena and Reyes began to exchange anonymous cards and letters to one another forwarded by the National

Marrow Donor Program.

In one letter, Selena wrote: "I appreciate what you did to make me feel better again. God bless you very much and hope you get well soon! From the person you donated to and my family."

After corresponding through letters, Life Source and the National Marrow Donor Program arranged for Selena and Reyes to meet for the first time on Oct. 22 at his workplace, Abbott Molecular, 1300 E. Touhy Ave. in Des Plaines, Ill.

Selena's family and Reyes' wife and son, along with Abbott employees, Life Source

and the National Marrow Donor Program gathered at Abbott Molecular to see the two meet.

Elena was emotional as she expressed her gratitude to Reyes.

"I really don't know how I am ever going to thank you," Elena said. "If it hadn't been for you, [my daughter] wouldn't be here. You did a lot and I

"I don't really think I did anything special. God presented me this opportunity and I'm happy to have been part of it. This is a miracle."

—Augustine Reyes, the bone marrow donor who saved Selena's life

really appreciate it."

In a rare occasion, Selena was able to personally thank the donor who gave her a second chance.

"Thank you for giving my life back to me," Selena said to Reyes.

Reyes said he was happy to see Selena feeling much better.



Selena Garza stands with Augustine Reyes, who saved her life by donating bone marrow during her battle with leukemia. She and Reyes met for the first time on Oct. 22. Her mother, Elena Garza, looks on.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

"I don't really think I did anything special," Reyes said. "God presented this opportunity and I'm happy to have been part of it. This is a miracle."

Selena has been released from the hospital for almost four months and

physicians said her immune system is still recovering. She is being home-schooled and plans to return to public school soon.

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»TAXI:

Continued from PG. 37

Cab drivers said they are often pulled over for 'no reason,' ticketed for 'ridiculous violations'

outrageous fines for ridiculous violations," said Ted Budzynski, one of the cab drivers at the meeting.

John Rees, the driver who owned the famed "party cab," said he was often pulled over by the police and Department of Human Services for "no reason."

"We're under different scrutiny that the public is not subject to," Rees said. "The public ... has to do something to get pulled over. A cab driver does not have to be doing anything wrong. He just has to be driving while being a cab driver. I find that to be very disturbing."

Rees said a lot of tickets are deserved, but cab drivers can get ticketed for being more than 10 feet away from their cab, a rule he says is bothersome if the cab driver leaves to take a bathroom break.

"I think that's insane," he said. "That's humiliating."

Thomas Allen, the chairman of the committee for Transportation and Public Way and 38th Ward alderman, said the tickets can seem overbearing, but they are all in accordance with the rules and regulations set forth for taxi drivers.

"Things aren't arbitrary, the rules are written down," Allen said. "They may be in your opinion too draconian and a little too heavy handed, but you do have recourse. You're here, we're here to listen to you."

Allen said the police do their jobs and many people thought that cabs aren't pulled over enough.

Other drivers spoke of the dangers of driving alone and the vulnerability they face when armed offenders enter their vehicles. One cab driver related the story of being shot by a passenger and having to pay for medical care because he did not

have medical insurance.

While Allen made the point that the meeting was to listen to the opinion of the cab drivers, he made no movement to vote for a rate increase.

Reyes said the Department of Consumer Services looked at data from three major cab companies, the consumer price index and increasing gas prices and did not agree with raising fares.

"While we do recognize that the gasoline of course has an impact ... at this point in

time we do not recommend a fare increase," Reyes said.

She said increasing the fares would make Chicago's taxicab fares the fourth most expensive in the nation.

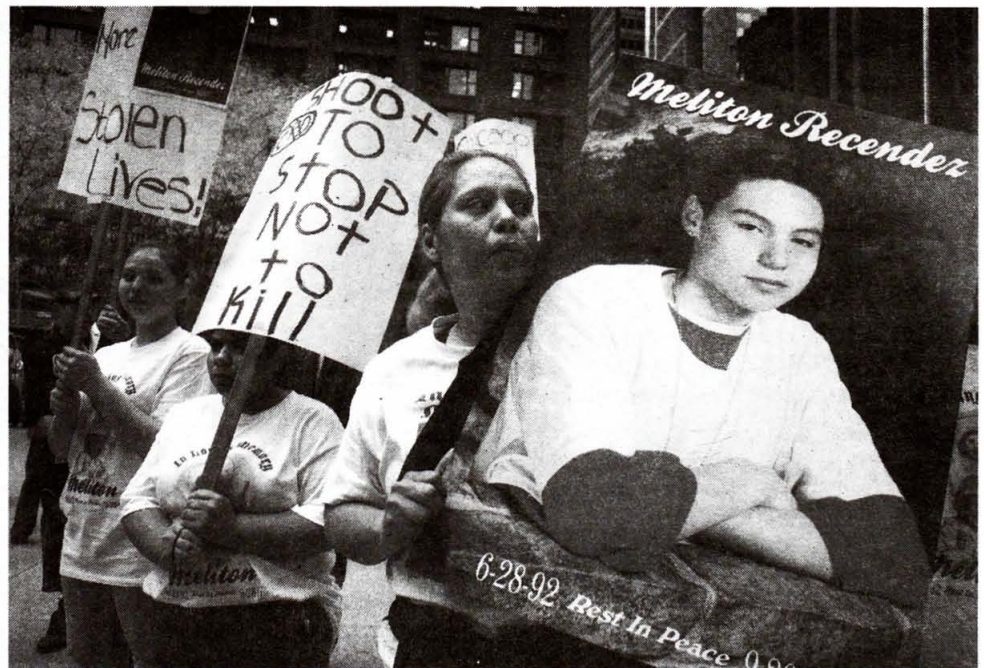
Reyes did say she would look into a surcharge, which would allow rates to fluctuate with rising and falling gas prices, similar to what takes place in cities such as Seattle. However, the meeting was adjourned without calling the amendment to a vote, leaving cab drivers wondering what would happen next.

Mike Faulks, a cab driver, said if the city could not decide what to do about this issue, it would be ill-equipped to handle a casino or the 2016 Olympics.

"If we get no meter increase, the next demonstration or rally we're going to have is going to be much bigger," Faulks said. "Make a compromise and give us something. This is a simple decision to make. Give us an increase and decide how much."

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Protest against police brutality



Elsa Cardenas holds up a photo of her son, Meliton Recendez, in Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., as part of a National Day of Protest Against Police Brutality. Recendez was shot and killed by Chicago police on Sept. 28, 1992.

Russell Augustine THE CHRONICLE

Seasoned manager honored by hall of fame



Tommy Lasorda celebrates 80th birthday with induction ceremony

by Brian P. Roach
Staff Writer

THE MAIN lobby of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame fronts a calm scene, but one floor above, the curator, coordinators and other employees are in a frenzy preparing for an anniversary, an induction ceremony and a birthday celebration condensed into one weekend.

The National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame, 1431 W. Taylor St., will honor legendary baseball manager Tommy Lasorda with a birthday celebration on Nov. 2.

Lasorda turned 80 on Sept. 22, but the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame decided to delay the celebration so it could be included in its 30th anniversary gala weekend.

Jeff Idelson, vice president of communications and education at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., said he was present on the day that Lasorda was inducted into Cooperstown in 1997.

"Tommy bleeds Dodger blue," Idelson said. "[The birthday celebration] will be a tremendous honor for Tommy because he's very proud of his Italian heritage. He's renowned nationally and internationally; he's baseball."

The inductees of 2007 to the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame include Geno Auriemma, Tom Barrasso, Fred Couples, Jean Cione, Dave Ferraro, Johnny

Musso, Penny Marshall, Mike Scioscia and Dick Vermeil. In addition to the inductees, the 2007 athlete of the year, Marco Andretti, and the 2007 sportsman of the year, Anthony Basile, will also be in attendance.

George Randazzo, the owner and founder of the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame, said he met Lasorda in the hall of fame's second year, 1978, and they've been friends ever since.

"[Lasorda] became involved with the hall in 1978 as the master of ceremonies," Randazzo said. "He's a great man."

The master of ceremonies is the featured guest speaker at events, Randazzo said.

The master of ceremonies this year is Chet Coppock, a prominent radio broadcaster for ESPN 1000.

Richard Policastro, the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame program coordinator and curator, said the party on Nov. 2 starts at 7 p.m. at the hall of fame and it will take place on the second and third floors. He said it will start with a cocktail reception and evolve into a dinner party. Policastro said he hopes to have at least one celebrity or athlete at each dining table integrating the special guests with other attendees. He expects the number of attendees to be in the hundreds.

Special guests include Yogi Berra, Jerry Colangelo, Tony La Russa, Tony Esposito, Angelo Dundee, Matt Biondi, Ray Mancini, Tony DeMarco, Carmen Salvino, Mike Lucci and Burt Sugar.

Kelly O'Mara, the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame community and corporate relations director, said she is looking forward to meeting all of the guests, but



Tommy Lasorda, above, turned 80 on Sept. 22.

MCT

she is very excited to meet Lasorda again and reminisced about the first time she met him.

"[The Hall of Fame] held a fundraiser with his new line of Lasorda wines this summer and he truly made the evening memorable," O'Mara said. "He loved to mingle with the crowd and take pictures with fans, he was very funny, had a lot of good jokes."

Lasorda was born in Norristown, Penn.

in 1927. Lasorda began his baseball career as a minor league pitcher. In 1948 he set a Canadian-American league record, striking out 25 batters and ended the same game by hitting the winning RBI.

After a brief playing career, Lasorda turned to coaching. He managed the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1976 to 1996, leading them to 61 postseason games, eight division titles, four National League pennants and two World Championships. He became the fourth manager in history to coach the same team for at least 20 years. Lasorda managed 3,040 professional baseball games accumulating 1,599 wins and 1,439 losses with a .526 winning percentage. In 2000, he managed the U.S. baseball team to its first ever gold medal at the Sydney Olympics.

Lasorda was inducted into the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame in 1989 and became the fourteenth manager inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was inducted on Aug. 3, 1997. His uniform was retired by the Dodgers 12 days later.

The induction ceremony begins at 10 a.m. and admission is free, but to attend the cocktail and dinner party later that evening, an individual ticket of \$200 or sponsorship of the event is required. Dundee and Lasorda will autograph books after the induction ceremony.

For more information, contact the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame at (312) 226-5566 or NIASHF.org.

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Sears spares the ozone with EPA program



Retailer is first to participate in appliance disposal program

by William O'Brian
Contributing Writer

THE CLIMATE is changing in the environment of big business.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency launched an event at Sears' downtown location, 2 N. State St., on Oct. 18, celebrating the participation of Sears Roebuck and Co. in the EPA's voluntary Responsible Appliance Disposal program.

Sears is the first retailer in the country to take part in the EPA's program to promote environmentally responsible disposal of household appliances. It will primarily concentrate on refrigerators, which will significantly reduce emissions of ozone-depleting substances and greenhouse gases.

"The new partnership between the EPA and Sears is expected to properly dispose of more than 1 million residential refrigerators and freezers this year alone," said Walter Kovalick, assistant administrator of the EPA. "The reduction of emissions, resulting [from] Sears' efforts, will be the equivalent of taking 650,000 cars off the road each year."

Older refrigerators, for example, have several recycling concerns, such as the refrigerant gases that are harmful to the ozone, foam insulation and components containing mercury—which Sears will remove, dispose of and recycle.

The Responsible Appliance Disposal program is designed to institute a remedy for

past pollution from appliances and set in place a system designed for success in the future.

"The partnership of Sears and the EPA's Responsible Appliance Disposal program are done with the environment in mind, using the best environmental practices available to protect human health," Kovalick said.

There are many logistical obstacles inherent to recycling. The reusing of materials requires many systemic updates, changing the way business has been done for many years.

However, there are more positive effects in addition to environmentally responsible business practices. Many companies are realizing monetary rewards as well. Recycling can cut costs and save money, and in some cases generate income.

"Liquidators used to get paid to pick up valuable recyclable material, now they pay us," said Larry Costello, from Sears' corporate headquarters in Hoffman Estates. "Still the most important factor in recycling is the benefits to the planet."

The EPA reports the use of scrap instead of virgin materials to make new steel results in a 97 percent reduction in mining wastes, 90 percent savings in virgin materials use, 86 percent reduction in air pollution, 76 percent reduction in water pollution, 74 percent savings in energy and 40 percent reduction in water use.

"Recycling not only keeps material from going into the waste stream, but there is the savings of not harvesting virgin material, which is beneficial to the environment as well as economically beneficial," said Chris

Sauve, deputy commissioner of the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation.

Sears customers said recycling appliances is rewarding and convenient.

"It seems that I recycle an appliance when I buy a new one," said Sears' customer Tiffany Jones. "[Sears will] take back my old appliance when they deliver the new one, and they say that the old one gets used in some way. That makes me feel like I'm doing something [to help

the environment]."

There are more than 11,000 appliance recycling locations throughout the United States. Twenty-two of these are located in Chicago, although some charge a fee to recycle the appliances.

For a complete list of appliance recycling centers in Chicago, visit ChicagoRecycling.org.

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There are everyday practices that can make a difference. Here are some suggestions from Chicago Recycling Coalition:



- Bring your own shopping bag to the grocery store
- Purchase in bulk
- Avoid heavily-packaged items
- Carry a reusable water bottle or coffee mug and pack lunches in reusable containers
- Minimize use of disposable goods (kitchenware, diapers, cameras, etc.)
- Use cloth napkins and rags instead of disposable napkins and paper towels
- Minimize carry-out food due to excessive packaging
- Read newspapers and other resources online when possible
- Print double-sided
- Use the library
- Share magazine and newspaper subscriptions
- Share the use of large household appliances (lawn mowers, snow blowers, etc.)
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Green groceries thrive despite cold climates



Technology has made it possible for farmers to produce in the cold

by Becky Schlikerman
Assistant City Beat Editor

AT ONE time, the beginning of winter meant the growing period was over for farmers. But farming technology has made it possible for select farmers to stretch out the season a little bit longer.

Because of this technology, the Green City Market is able to host the second Winters Farmers' Market, the only winter farmer's market in Chicago. It opens Nov. 3 and runs through Dec. 22 at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive. This year's market will sell seasonal produce such as winter spinach, squash, apples, chestnuts and leeks, among other items, said Dennis Ryan, the Green City Market manager.

The winter market was developed to give local farmers a venue to sell their products

later in the season because they were able to extend their growing time, said Pamela Reardon, public relations coordinator for the Green City Market.

The farmers are able to extend their season by using hoop houses and greenhouses, Ryan said.

Hoop houses and greenhouses provide a space for the plants to grow in the cold. The hoop houses are similar to greenhouses, but they aren't heated, whereas greenhouses are heated, said Maurice Ogutu, extension educator of horticulture for the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The hoop houses are covered in plastic, which traps sunlight and warms the area where the plants are growing, Ogutu said. But these hoop houses can't be used for fruit vegetables such as tomatoes or peppers because those require a lot of heat, he said.

Structures like the hoop houses extend a farmer's growing season later into the winter months and allows them to grow earlier in spring, Ogutu said.

This benefits farmers because the prices are higher for consumers when local food is limited, Ogutu said. Most of the produce is coming from out of state, he added.

By eating locally and seasonally, people are eating food that comes directly from the farm, a big difference compared to supermarkets, which sell products from all over the world. On average, produce in a supermarket has traveled 2,000 miles or more and has been in transit and storage for up to two weeks, Ryan said.

"By buying local and seasonal you're buying things that are freshly picked at their peak of flavor, their peak of freshness,

their peak of nutritional value," Ryan said.

Another difference between locally produced food and standard grocery fare is the standard of production.

In order to participate in the Green City Market, the farmers have stringent requirements to follow. They must be from the four state regions of Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana and Michigan, and their farms must operate in a sustainable fashion, Ryan said. The participating farmers have to grow food without chemicals, hormones, antibiotics or other unnatural additives, he said.

And they also have to keep other issues in mind. Ryan said the farms have to maintain a certain standard of operations in order to be a vendor with the Green City Market. For example, the care of the livestock and animals is inspected and must meet certain criteria concerning methods used to confine the animals and their ability to roam. Employee treatment is also investigated.

The farms are inspected by the farm forager, who finds farmers to participate in the market. The farm forager investigates to make sure the farmers are complying with the standards of the market and confirms if the farmers are growing what they agreed to, Ryan said. The farmers are investigated before they are approved as vendors and every two years after that. The Green City Market and the city of Chicago sponsor the farm forager, he said.

"While organic is simply looking at what's going into the food, we're looking at everything ... it's a bigger picture," Ryan said.

bschlikerman@chroniclemail.com



Green City Market will host the second Winter Farmers' Market at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive, from Nov. 3 to Dec. 22.

Courtesy GREEN CITY MARKET

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Cab drivers fight for fare increase



Aldermen adjourn meeting without taking proposed rate to a vote

by Dana Nelson
City Beat Editor

ON THE heels of a New York City taxicab strike is another big move from taxi drivers.

In Chicago, cab drivers spoke with aldermen during a meeting of the Committee of Transportation and Public Way on Oct. 23. They proposed an amendment to ordinances related to taxicabs, which would increase fares by 25 percent, make cabs safer for the drivers and passengers by adding cameras, instill a public vehicle safety inspection code, put limits on taxi lease rates and extend the number of available taxicab drivers' licenses.

The fare increase was the biggest point of the discussion, though unsupported by the Department of Consumer Services.

"We are very worried that it won't be long before it will become impossible for a hard-working entrepreneur to drive a taxicab here in Chicago, and even illogical for a simple worker to take a job as a cab driver," said Peter Enger, a full-time taxi driver.

The 25 percent increase would raise the base rate from \$2.25 to \$2.75 and third passengers would be charged \$1, as opposed to the previous 50 cent additional fee. Instead of the previous \$1.80 for each additional mile, passengers would be charged \$2.25, and for each 36 seconds of time, the passenger is charged 25 cents instead of the

previous 20 cents.

Consumer Services Commissioner Norma Reyes said under the proposed rate, a five mile trip would cost \$15.85, rather than the current \$12.70.

Drivers cited increased gas prices, cab lease rates, the cost to cash credit card transactions and cost of living rates as reasons why the rate should be increased. After making gas and lease payments on the car, drivers said they sometimes brought home as little as \$700 a week. Because of this, they said they worked long hours, sometimes 15 to 16 hours a day, and had little time to see their families or take vacation hours.

The long hours can make driving unsafe for both the driver and passengers, Enger said.

Drivers lease cabs in 12- or 24-hour increments. To lease a cab for a week can cost from \$300 to more than \$600 a week, Reyes said.

George Luftallah, one of the coauthors of the amendment and a cab driver, said the leases should not increase without a meter increase so that drivers aren't making less money.

The other alternative to leasing is buying a medallion, which is a metal permit to own and operate a taxicab that is placed on the cab. Many of these medallions are bought and owned by taxicab companies, though individuals can purchase one for around \$130,000.

Enger said the taxicab companies drive up the prices because they bought so many of the medallions at high prices. Two years ago, the medallions could be bought for \$48,000, he said.

"If people pay higher prices, then the



Taxi drivers said a 25 percent fare increase is necessary due to rising costs of gasoline and cab lease rates. Consumer Services Commissioner Norma Reyes said she doesn't support a raise and that the amendment would make Chicago's taxicab fares the fourth highest in the nation.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

prices keep going up," Enger said.

Jim Balcer, alderman of the 11th Ward, agreed with cab drivers that there should be a set price for the medallion.

"[The bidding] squeezes out the smaller, independent person," Balcer said. "I mean, who can afford \$130,000 for a medallion? That is absurd."

Taxicab companies levee the cost of medallions onto the taxi drivers without giving drivers a raise, which makes it difficult for the drivers to gain revenue without

increasing the hours they work "just to stay afloat in this new market reality," Enger said. "Here we are today, only asking for a 25 percent meter increase, just for immediate relief so we can at least tread water and stay in business."

One of the other costs of being a cab driver is the many tickets they can accrue for various violations, which some cab drivers find unwarranted.

»TAXI, PG. 33

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» MIGALA:

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Lira Ensemble uses authentic folk garb from Poland

Why do you narrate your dances?

The reason why I decided to add the narrative is because I was studying journalism. It was a natural thing to put information along with the music. I used to see ethnic performances and people would come out and do three songs and three dances and walk off and we would applaud. They never explained it and that drove me crazy. When I started my ensemble, I decided that I would always explain what is going on. As a narrator, I get to use my journalism skills by writing the narratives, trying to make them as brief but as informative as possible.

What ethnic groups are part of the Lira Ensemble?

We don't just have Poles or Polish Americans. We have people of every ethnic group. It really was more fun that way because we [can] explain what the songs are about [and discuss] what is behind these traditions. The sharing was so much fun that we kept it as part of the company. To this day, in order to be in the Lira Ensemble, you don't have to be Polish.

Are the Lira Ensemble folk outfits authentic?

Every one of the folk outfits we wear is

authentic folk garb made in Poland [and] excruciatingly expensive. They were expensive even during communism when things in Poland were much cheaper. But now that Poland is a free country, these things are getting more expensive every year. They are made out of silver and gold thread, not imitation. They are very beautiful and intricate. An authentic folk outfit for one singer or one dancer costs \$600 to \$700 and I have to dress the entire company. We buy almost all of it in Poland, even some of the dancers' shoes we buy in Poland because we want them to be authentic.

What main Polish composers are incorporated in the Lira Ensemble?

The first is Frédéric Chopin. Another [Polish composer] is Stanislaw Moniuszko; he was the father of Polish opera.

What is the goal of the Lira Ensemble?

We perform for a lot of Americans and our mission is to bring the best of Polish culture into American life. Although we do perform in front of the Polish community and Poles, our biggest job is to perform for Americans. [When] we perform this music, it's the first time [Americans] hear of this composer. But it's sad that Americans don't know enough about our culture, and that is why we are here. We try to tell them all about it and get them to appreciate it and love it as we do.

To learn more about Lucyna Migala, visit LiraEnsemble.com.

stabares@chroniclemail.com



Pictured above is the artistic director for the Lira Ensemble, Lucyna Migala.

Courtesy LIRA ENSEMBLE



Rick Skowrya and Christine Frankowicz, Lira dancers, perform in authentic Polish folk outfits.

Courtesy LIRA ENSEMBLE



The Lira dancers perform as an orchestra plays behind them.

Courtesy LIRA ENSEMBLE

City Beat Index



Religion



City Events



Environmental Issues



Transportation



Politics



Health and Science



Education



Social Issues



Business and Technology



Arts



Sports



GLBT Issues

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Scoop in the Loop: Less smoke signals



by Silvana Tabares
Assistant City Beat Editor

I am looking forward to warmer weather next year so I can go to the beach and enjoy a smoke-free environment while lying on the sand.

Now that the Chicago Park District approved a proposal on Oct. 18 to ban smoking at beaches and outdoor playgrounds, there are fewer places for smokers to light up.

People are allowed to smoke, but they have to stay at least 15 feet away from playgrounds and beaches. If smokers violate this new legislation, they will be fined up to \$500.

It seems as though Chicago is following the footsteps of Deerfield, Buffalo Grove, Oak Park, Lake Forest and even Wilmette Ill., which have already banned smoking at playgrounds and beaches.

This new regulation is a good idea and

I am glad the Chicago Park District and Alderman Danny Solis from the 25th Ward approved the bill. This would not only save the environment on our beaches, but Chicago residents would become role models for children as well as for the environment.

I am not a smoker and perhaps this is the reason why I agree with it, but putting that aside, I believe this would help create a cleaner Chicago because the sand at the beaches have cigarette butts.

Joel Brammeier from the Alliance for the Great Lakes said 30,000 cigarette butts were found in a three-hour cleanup at Chicago beaches. More than 5,000 of those were found in North Avenue beach.

This says a lot about our city.

The new law may help us take better care of our natural resources, like water. At the beach, cigarette butts are often found and eaten by animals and can percolate into the water, according to Brammeier. This may cause a problem for the environment by contaminating the beach water some of us swim in.

With Mayor Richard M. Daley seeking to create a greener Chicago, the smoking ban is a positive change for the city. It may also help smokers who are considering quitting.

The regulation also protects the environment where children play.

The law permits parents to call the police if they see smokers disobeying the ban. The police will then give them a ticket. This allows parents to be proactive and protect

their children's health.

Smokers are being kicked out of almost every public place in Chicago. They are already banned from smoking at offices and restaurants and must smoke at least 15 feet away from building entrances. I am relieved smoking is banned at restaurants because now I do not need to wait 30 minutes for a non-smoking table and sit in a smoking section and inhale cigarette smoke while I eat.

And on Jan. 1, 2008, smokers will be restricted from smoking at bars and sport arenas.

As more public places forbid smoking, less people will die of lung cancer and heart disease each year.

People have the right to smoke whether it is in the comfort of their home or car, but smoking in a public place affects the environment and the health of people who do not smoke.

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In Other News

Night-owl bars monitored

The Committee on License and Consumer Protection approved an ordinance on Oct. 24 that requires bars open until 4 a.m. to have surveillance cameras, outdoor lighting and a security guard at the premises, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. In addition, the guards, employees and managers will have to attend Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy meetings. The ordinance was issued as a response to noise and crime issues associated with the 209 late-night bars in the city. The bars have to submit a safety plan by Jan. 1, 2008.

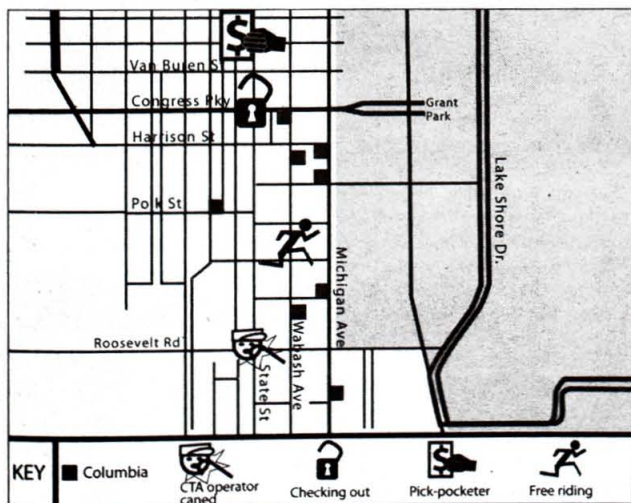
Lost ambulance

The ambulance that picked up Chad Schieber, the only marathoner to die during the Chicago Marathon, got lost going to the hospital, according to the Chicago Sun-Times on Oct. 24. The ambulance asked another ambulance for directions but went to the wrong emergency room. The ambulance was supposed to go to the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center, 1740 W. Taylor St., but couldn't find the entrance and ended up at West Side Veterans Administration Hospital, 820 S. Damen Ave., which is not part of the emergency response network. The ambulance was one of the Suburban entities that were called into the city due to the need for extra assistance.

Fancy new cards

A new design for Illinois driver's licenses and identification cards was unveiled on Oct. 24, the Chicago Tribune reported. The new cards, which will be phased into the system in the coming months, are said to be more difficult to counterfeit. Some of the new safety features include a secondary, smaller photo, tiny text that is difficult to copy and wavy lines that can only be read under a special light. Secretary of State Jesse White is quoted as saying the new cards will prevent fraud and protect the cardholder's information. The old cards had safety features as well, but they have been counterfeited. Old cards don't have to be replaced until they expire.

OFF THE BLOTTER



Emilia Klimiuk THE CHRONICLE

Compiled by Chronicle staff through information provided by the Chicago Police Department.

Calendar

Monday, Oct. 29

Celebrate Polish Heritage Month and watch the Lajkonik dancers of the Holy Trinity Polish Mission perform a variety of folk dances from various parts of Poland at Jefferson Park Branch Library, 5363 W. Lawrence Ave., at 7 p.m.

For more information, call (312) 744-1998.

Wednesday, Oct. 31

Enjoy Halloween with a novel twist by visiting the Whitney M. Young Branch Library, 7901 S. King Drive, for an afternoon of ghostly stories and creepy games from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information, call (312) 747-0039.

Thursday, Nov. 1

Participate in an open discussion on how the smoking ban will affect the city at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St., at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required.

For reservations, call (312) 642-4600.

Saturday, Nov. 3

Relax with an evening of Mexican dance and watch the Ballet Folklórico Cuyocán from Michoacán, Mexico perform at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St. The show begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$45.

For tickets, call (312) 334-7777.

CTA operator caned

A 46-year-old female assaulted a CTA employee on Oct. 15 at 2:55 p.m. at 30 E. Roosevelt Road, the employee, a 53-year-old male CTA operator, reported to police. The victim said he told the offender she needed \$2 to ride the CTA. She then became angry and hit the CTA operator on the back of the neck and upper back with her aluminum walking cane. The victim notified the police and the offender was taken into custody. Her cane was taken away.

Free riding

A 41-year-old male cab driver was dropping off four males on Oct. 23 when they jumped out of the cab without paying their \$20 cab fee at 900 S. Wabash Ave., according to the police report. The cab driver called the police, who searched the area, but could not find anyone matching the description.

Checking out

A 21-year-old female from England was staying at Hostelling International Chicago, 18 E. Congress Parkway, when her locker was broken into, she reported to police Oct. 15. The victim said she returned to find the padlock broken and \$70 worth of travelers checks stolen from her locker. The offender is unknown.

CTA pick-pocket

A 26-year-old male had his wallet stolen at the Jackson stop on the Red Line, 300 S. State St., on Oct. 22, according to the police report. The offender, who was a male in his 30s, bumped into the victim and stole his wallet. Soon after, the victim realized his wallet was missing and notified the police. Along with the wallet, several credit and debit cards and IDs were stolen. The offender has not been caught.

City Beat

Urbanathlon hits Chicago streets



Participants face urban obstacles in city marathon

by Luke Smucker
Assistant A&E Editor

AS THE sun began to rise over Butler Field, thousands gathered around the starting line, their hot breath seeping out in clouds in the crisp morning air as they stretched and prepared to race into the unknown. Some yelled to psych themselves up, but all were waiting for the crack of the gun to signal the start of the race. Though some may have run marathons in the past, no one had ever run this obstacle-littered marathon before in Chicago.

The second Men's Health: Urbanathlon took place in downtown Chicago on Oct. 20. More than 900 racers from ages 18 to 74 met at Butler Field in Grant Park at 8 a.m. for the start of the 12.5 mile marathon.

Unlike other city marathons, this event featured obstacles placed near famous Chicago landmarks, such as Navy Pier and Soldier Field, which forced participants to run, jump, climb and crawl their way to the finish line.

Matt Beck, a writer for Men's Health magazine and the creator of the Urbanathlon, said the race started as a way for the magazine to bring all of their health advice in the magazine to life.

The event was started in New York in 2006. This year it took place in Chicago,



John Gaskell and Mike Finch from Michigan leap over the taxicab obstacle at the finish line. Finch said he was interested in the event but had to convince Gaskell to come with him.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

and in spring 2008, it will take place in San Francisco.

Beck said the race shows people that fitness doesn't have to be confined to a gym or a weight machine.

"It's something that can be found in every city in America," Beck said. "It's not just because we've come to town that they are able to jog up and down Navy Pier. These are things that people have [always had] at

their disposal, we are just making it a little bit more fun for them."

One way that Men's Health made the race different from a normal marathon was by adding obstacles at landmarks around Chicago.

The first obstacle in the racers' way appeared at Navy Pier. It forced runners to hurdle 4-foot tall barricades before crawling through a 20-foot long by 3-foot

wide cement tube. At North Avenue beach, runners faced the marine hurdles, 5-foot tall wooden boards that runners were forced to pull themselves on and over one at a time.

"They were set in the sand and you had to jump out of the sand and then pull yourself over and land again. Jumping off the sand is not the easiest thing to do," said 40-year-old Roy Perkins, who participated in the urbanathlon.

After running back down the lake front for four and a half miles, the racers faced their next obstacle, the scaffolding maze, at Northerly Island. The scaffolding maze required runners to balance themselves on I-beams placed a couple feet off the ground. If participants touched the ground at any point, they had to start the maze over and could not continue jumping from scaffold to scaffold.

The next obstacle to overcome was a run up the stairs at Soldier Field.

"The stair climb at Soldier Field was definitely the most difficult," said Jacklyn Klabunde, 27, who was the first female racer to cross the finish line. "You entered the stadium by climbing stairs and once you were in the stadium you [moved up] to the 4th level and then you had to climb all the way back down and out the other side of the stadium, so it was very challenging."

The last obstacle, the 8-foot wall and

»RACE, PG. 32

Polish artistic director's heritage shines



Cofounder leads the nation's only Polish performing arts company

by Silvana Tabares
Assistant City Beat Editor

A NATIVE of Poland teaches Americans a deeper understanding of Polish arts by leading the only professional company devoted to Polish music, song and dance in Chicago, which has the second largest Polish community in the world.

Lucyna Migala, who was born in Krakow, Poland, cofounded the Lira Ensemble with Alice Stephens, a Lithuanian-American. As the company's artistic director, she develops the program for the concerts, narrates in English the various regional Polish songs and dance and explains their meanings.

The company started in 1965 as the Lira



The Lira Ensemble strives to introduce Polish culture to Americans with traditional performances like the one pictured above.

Courtesy LIRA ENSEMBLE

Singers, and now the ensemble includes dancers, a children's chorus, a symphony, instrumentalists, choreographers, conductors and staff composers and arrangers.

Migala spoke to The Chronicle about the Lira Ensemble, her position as an artistic director and how the company reflects the history and heritage of Poland.

The Chronicle: Why did you create the Lira Ensemble?

Lucyna Migala: In the 1960s I was in my teens and there were a series of Polak jokes going around. There was no cultural

sensitivity back then. People would say mean things about Polish people and it just drove me crazy.

I decided to show people [Polish culture] through song and dance because Poland has wonderful music and is famous for its music. [I wanted] not only to do the music, but also to explain the traditions behind the music. Every time we perform I explain what it means to be Polish and what our traditions are.

»MIGALA, PG. 38

INSIDE:

Chicago cab drivers argue for a fare increase, saying the costs to drive a cab are becoming too expensive.

»SEE PG. 37

A winter farmers' market opens up in Chicago. Growers say this wouldn't be possible without significant technological advancements.

»SEE PG. 36

Sears partners up with the Environmental Protection Agency to go eco-friendly with its appliance recycling program. They expect to dispose of more than 1 million refrigerators and freezers this year alone.

»SEE PG. 35

Chicago Artists Month

For the month of October, The Chronicle will feature five local artists, with additional coverage of important art-related issues.