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Columbia Chronicle (02/18/2008)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago February 18, 2008 Volume 43 Number 19 ColumbiaChronicle.com



Northern lights shine on

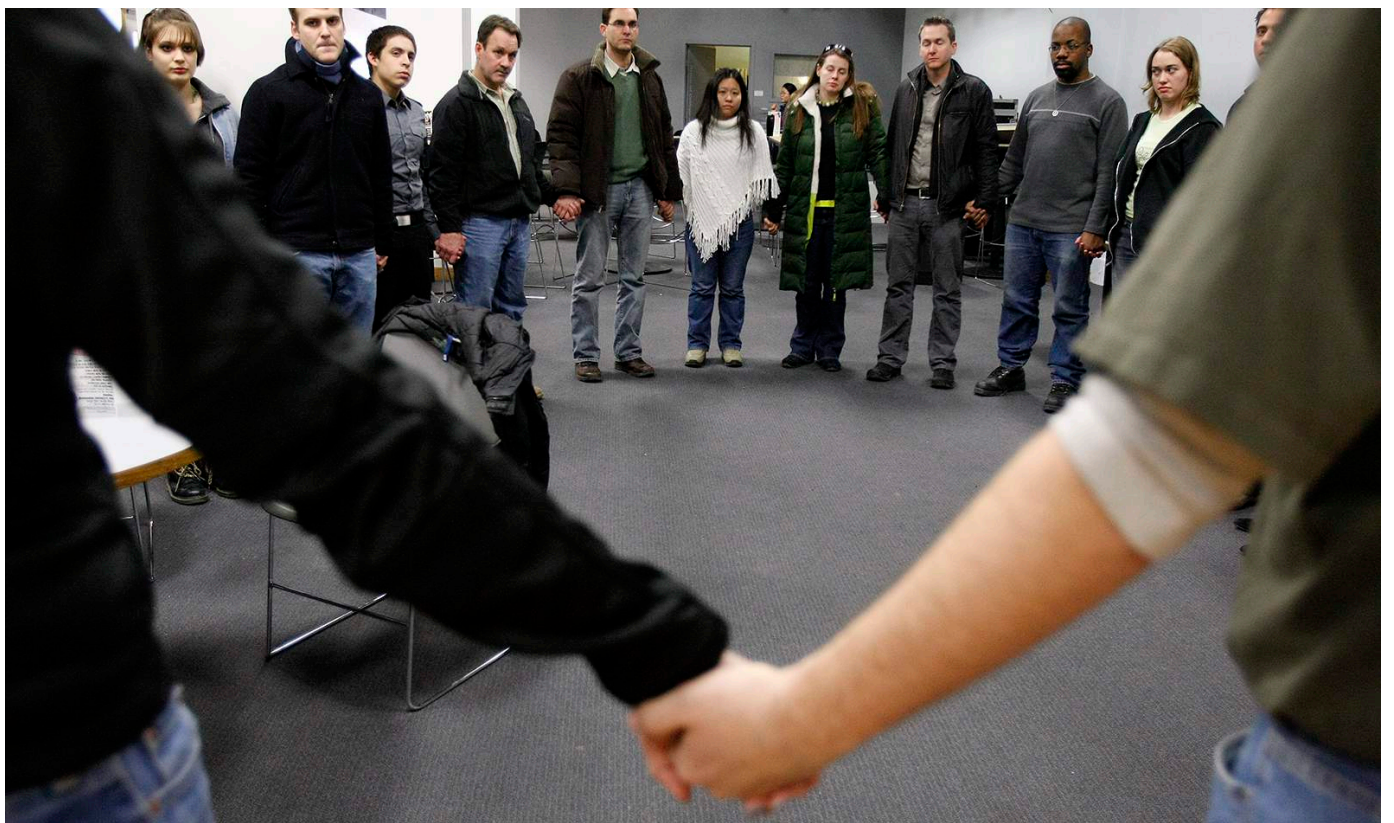
Hundreds of students, faculty and family members gathered at a campus vigil on Feb. 15 at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill. They were there to honor and remember the five students who were killed after a gunman opened fire a day earlier in a lecture hall before taking his own life. NIU students listened to their president speak and held candles during the third vigil of the day.

Campuses across the country hosted their own vigils in wake of the tragedy. Before the Columbia community gathered for the college's vigil, administrators released a note of sympathy.

"All those who live and learn on college campuses share a common bond. Whenever violence erupts on any campus anywhere, we are all affected," the statement read.

(Top and center) NIU students placed roses and candles on memorials scattered all over the university's campus. Photos by Tim Hunt.

(Bottom) At Columbia, a group of students, faculty and staff held a moment of silence in the Wabash Campus Building's Hokin Annex, 623 S. Wabash Ave., for victims of the NIU shooting. Photo by Andrew A. Nelles.





Editor’s column by Amanda Maurer
Editor-in-Chief

From erased to embraced

For 115 hours last week, I didn’t exist. At least to Columbia, that is. After a professor asked why I was no longer on her class roster, I checked OASIS. My schedule for the spring ’08 semester couldn’t be found. I assumed the system had hiccupped. But it wasn’t only my schedule that was missing. I checked my Course and Fee Statement, and it was practically blank. The only items listed were a few scholarships. The only item charged to me? Ironically, my graduation fee. According to OASIS, I was not a student this semester. After I discovered the problem, the next 18 hours were some of the most stressful I have experienced in a while. How did this happen? Would I get back into my classes? When would it be fixed? I must admit that my life would still be chaotic if it wasn’t for the help and concern of several college administrators. To those who aided me, I offer a sincere thank you. Four years at Columbia have taught me there will always be battles with the college; however, I’m proud to say my worst problem, losing my courses, was remedied in the most professional manner. It was the best experience I’ve had with the college yet. So I offer my story as a warning to other students out there.

After realizing vital parts of my account had been deleted, I called the OASIS hotline as soon as I was out of class. The man on the other end was very helpful, but only to the extent of relaying my story. However, the next morning an administrator promptly called me. He said this has happened a few times before—usually because of an OASIS glitch. But my situation was different. According to OASIS, the person who had deleted all of my classes ... was me. He said three scenarios could be to blame. The first was that I had dropped my courses on my own. It was easy to assure him I wouldn’t, mid-semester, drop all of my classes before graduation. I’ve enjoyed my time at Columbia, but not enough to stay another semester. The second was that I had never signed out of OASIS on some computer, and someone either dropped all of my classes thinking it was their own schedule or did it maliciously. While this could be true, I like to think that I’m more careful with a system that contains so much important and personal information. The third scenario was the worst—someone found my ID and password, logged in as me and deleted everything. However, I thought one thing was hilarious about this situation. As awful as it was to have my semester cleared, I almost feel

bad if someone did it. The person must have had nothing better to do, because I found out the exact time and day the event occurred—5:08 p.m. on Feb. 8, a Friday. Fortunately, my situation was quickly remedied. Later the next day, or about 115 hours after I had been deleted, several college officials made sure I had been reregistered for all of my classes. However, I think a problem remains and needs to be addressed. This is an obvious reminder that students, myself included, must check their accounts often. Granted, some students may find it difficult or troublesome to check it every day, which moves me on to my next point. Unusual activity on OASIS must be somehow monitored by college officials. This is a plea. If drastic changes are made to an account, could someone call the student and inform them? Maybe it could be similar to some banks’ policies that flag an account if there’s an overzealous amount of spending. Even if the classes are deleted intentionally, at least there’s the assurance the action was verified. In the end, what was a shocking and stressful experience became one that strengthened my faith in the college. Thank you, Columbia.

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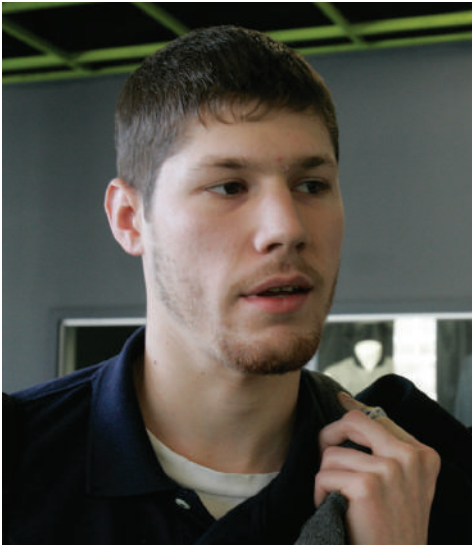
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CAMPUS POLL: What do you think Columbia can do in response to the NIU shootings?



“Considering the fact that Columbia is an arts school, I think they would do some sort of exhibition about the tragic shootings.”

Kit Whittanen
Senior
Film and Video



“When something like that happens it is really unexpected and senseless, but the important thing is to make the students aware.”

Justin Stowell
Junior
Film and Video



“At this school, we have to accept people for who they are and not bully the people that stand out.”

Keyana Ray
Freshman
Film and Video

Clarification:

In the Feb. 11 issue of The Chronicle, Rachel Stapinski said she had not been taught by any full-time faculty at Columbia, when in fact she did. The quote was printed in the article: “Adjunct, full-time faculty ratios lopsided.”

Campus News



Manifest goes vroom vroom

Art cars a new part of Manifest

by Tim Bearden
Assistant Campus News Editor

COLUMBIA'S STUDENT organizations are bringing Manifest out of the tents and into the streets with a new exhibit called "Transmissions."

It's a new event to Manifest in which student organizations decorate or build full-scale models of cars. The 23 student organizations that have signed up will showcase their club as well as decorate a car to embody what their group does. Traditionally, student organizations have set up tents in parking lots around the campus for the end of the year celebration, but this year they will be lining up along Wabash Avenue to show off their creativity.

According to Tara Vock, administrative and events assistant in the Office of College Wide Events, the office is hoping to block off Wabash Avenue from Congress to 11th Street with each of the cars displayed in rented parking meters.

"We're trying to bring Manifest away from the parking lots," she said.

Although the city is looking to privatize the parking meters, Vock said that shouldn't be a problem this year when it's time to obtain the permits.

Brittany Sherman, the chair of the Student Organization Council, said in the case the college couldn't get the permits, the event would most likely move back into the parking lots.

In addition to creating a car based on what each student organization does, the clubs also have the task of creating a car based on Columbia's green theme.

To go along with the green theme the office of Student Life has invited Bio Tour, a vegetable oil-fueled bus touring the nation, to visit, according to Vock.

She also said that "Transmissions" was a collective idea that spun off of other events.

Vock attributed the idea for "Transmissions" to Kari Sommers, assistant dean of Student Life, but she didn't want to take all the credit.

"It's the idea of the office of College Wide Events," Sommers said. "We were looking for a way to include the students and I think we found it."

The idea stemmed from three different places: Low Riders, the Latino Alliance's annual car show, the Graffiti Club spray-painting Sommers' car and last year's



FEATURE PHOTOS - Chicagoans gathered to pummel each other with soft pillows during 'War With Down.'

(Above) Bryan Brown and Meghan Megyes, both Columbia students, battle during 'War With Down,' an approximately 30 person pillow fight in Seneca Park, 228 E. Chicago Ave., Feb. 9.

(Left) Meghan Megyes takes a hit from Adam Crossetti, a sophomore art and design major, who chased participants with his 'Star Wars' pillow during the pillow fight.

(Right) Andrew Kiefaber and Deb Megyes battle during the pillow fight.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

» SEE MANIFEST, PG. 11

Columbia in 10 seconds ... or less

McDonald's media reps coming to Columbia

In order to fill open positions, McDonald's representatives are coming to Columbia to speak with students in media arts on Feb. 21. They will be in the Portfolio Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. looking to hire talent from the college.

Shakespearean style tragedy takes the stage

"West Side Story," a play loosely based on "Romeo and Juliet," will be performed in The Getz Theater, 62 E. 11th St., Feb. 21 to Feb. 25. On Feb. 21 it will feature a preshow discussion with Rick Boynton of Chicago Shakespeare Theater.

Comedy Improv show put on hold

Wise Ass Comedy Night will be replaced on Feb. 21. This weeks show will be the Rooftop Comedy Contest. The lucky stand-up comedy winners will go onto a regional competition and then on to Internet voting.

Literary icons brought to life by the Dance Department

Dance COLEctive will bring female authors to life. It features the Bronte sisters who penned their works under more acceptable male pseudonyms. "Written on the Body" will be performed in the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave., Feb. 21.

Show business legend speaks to Columbia

Actress discusses Columbia, race, writing and other endeavors with students

by Tim Bearden
Assistant Campus News Editor

COLUMBIA'S CONVERSATION in the Arts series brought Diahann Carroll to speak with students about her life as a star in show business on Feb 14.

Carroll has worked in nightclubs, film, television and theater showcasing her skills as an actress and performer. She was the first black female to star in her own television show called "Julia," which not only won a Golden Globe Award, but also was the top show in the Nielsen ratings for six to eight weeks.

Carroll spent the rest of the day talking with Columbia students. She visited with the Journalism Department in the afternoon in the Convergence room. And she spent the evening at the Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave.

The Chronicle spoke with her about her experiences as a professional female media icon.

The Chronicle: So what brought you to Columbia?

Diahann Carroll: An invitation actually. And because every time I ask for any information about Columbia it seems to get better and better. Everyone seems to think very highly of what's going on here.

You were the first black female with your own television show.



Actress Diahann Carroll speaks to students and faculty at the Convergence Center, in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on Feb 14.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

It's kind of embarrassing to think about it, because that's not that long ago. I think it's been a struggle, an upward battle all the time, but interesting. The more the challenge, the higher you raise the bar to each time you take on that challenge. Our show was ranked number one in the Nielsen ratings for six to eight weeks and no one expected that. A television series starring a black woman presenting something other than the ordinary scenario about a black family was quite something. I was very proud

to be asked to do something like that.

You just appeared on "Grey's Anatomy." How did you like that?

It was extraordinary for me in many ways. I really think [Shonda Rhimes] created something that hasn't been done before. It didn't deal with any racism at all. Once again I felt a part of something that was a new idea. I had no idea she was going to call and ask me to do the show. It's a constant motion, a constant movement. We used to do a scene, we'd do it about two or three

times, then the camera would stop and we'd move to the next area. This camera just goes all day. At first I was frightened by it. It takes a few minutes to get used to it, but once you do it's exciting work.

What are you doing now?

I'm finishing a book for the publishing house Harper Collins. It's killing me if you want to know the truth. It's an autobiography. When you've been around as long as I've been, there's a lot to tell and how does one tell it? What is pertinent to today? I like to connect my past with what's going on today or else I don't feel that young people would get anything out of it. That's the real purpose for the book. It's kind of a template. I want to show where I fell into some pitfalls and maybe could be helpful. And that's what were hoping for.

What's the typical day in the life of an actress?

Well, there is no formula. Everybody brings their own life into their work. During a career of over 50 years I think I may have auditioned three times, maybe four. Auditioning is more a part of your era.

Do you have any advice for the young actors and actresses at Columbia?

Only do this if you love it. Don't break your heart if you don't love it because it certainly is going to break your heart. That doesn't mean you won't be reinstated, but it's very hard work. But I love this profession. It's done well by me and I think I've done well by it. I feel satiated. Not satisfied, but satiated.

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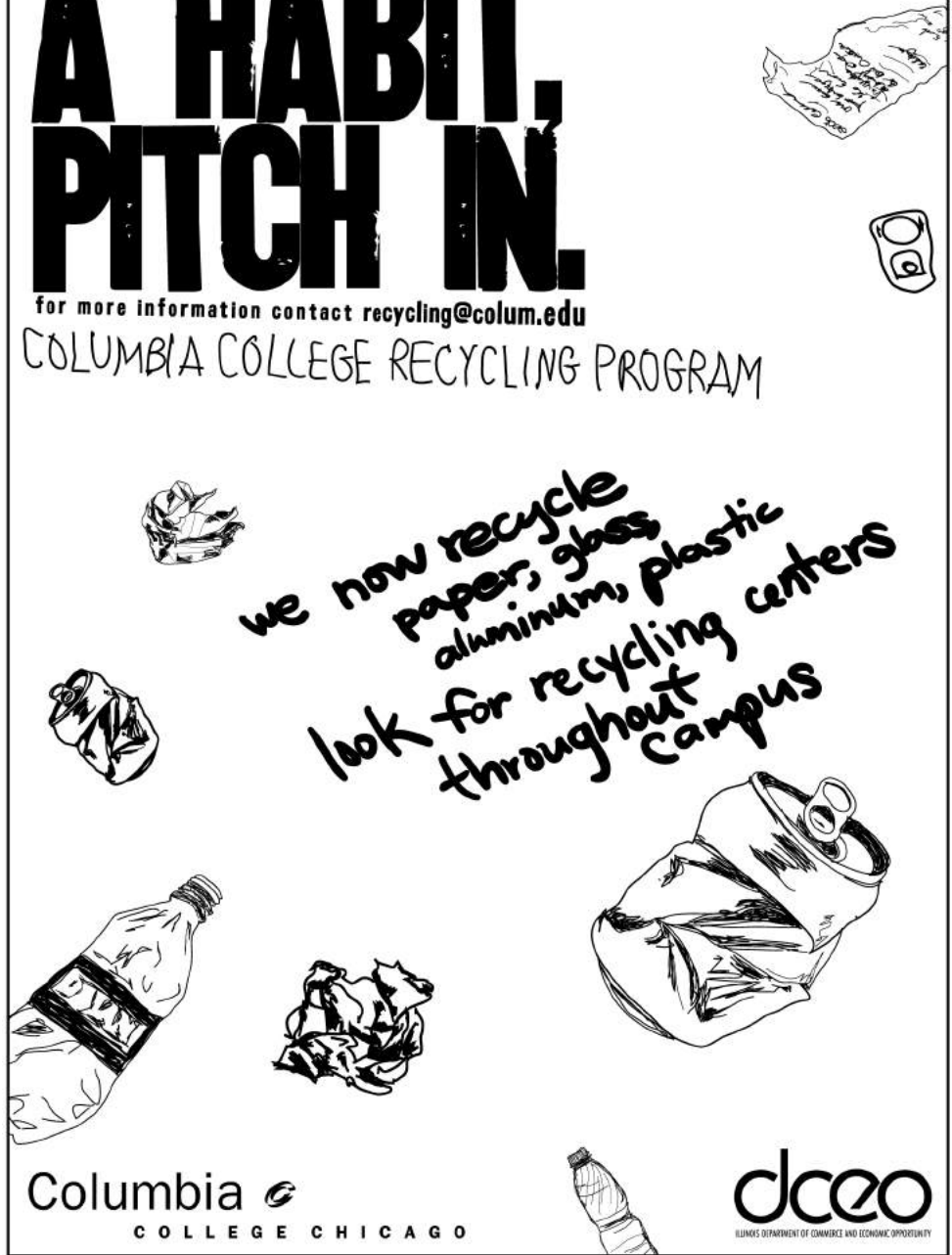
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The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago

1014 S. Michigan at 11th St.

Concert Hall Events

Tuesday February 12
Student Concert Series
7:00 PM

Wednesday February 13
Fernando Jones Panel
Discussion: The Music Biz
7:00 PM

Thursday February 14
Corky Siegel and The Chamber Blues with Marcy Levy in Concert
12:00 PM

Friday February 15
Jazz Gallery in The Lobby
12:00 PM

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

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Columbia 

COLLEGE CHICAGO

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Biggest Mouth to take the prize

Event doubles award to \$1,000 in fifth annual competition

by **Miles Maftean**
Assistant Campus News Editor

FOR ONE lucky student, the open mic session Biggest Mouth could be the first step in creating opportunities that will advance his or her creative interests and goals.

The fifth annual Biggest Mouth event will offer auditions on Feb. 23 and Feb. 26 in the Hoken Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Sixteen contestants will be chosen to compete against one another for a \$1,000 prize on April 17 for the Biggest Mouth event.

Sharod Smith, the programming coordinator of the office of College Wide Events, said this event was planned for all genres of music, spanning from light acoustic guitar to hip-hop.

Students who have competed in the event before have performed with different mediums, including the spoken word, deejaying and synched dancing routines.

This year, the top prize has doubled from last year's \$500.

Additionally, the winner will get the chance to network his talent to the panel of judges that choose him or her.

The panel of judges are industry professionals from a variety of areas, such as music executives and radio managers.

"They'll be judged by panelists in the industry that can actually help them, like talent buyers," said Ayisha Jaffer, the president of the Student Programming Board.

According to Zach Eastman, the public relations coordinator of the SPD, the winner could also receive an extra prize on top of the money that could help more.

"[In] earlier years there have been incentives, like Studio Chicago donated studio time, and there will be certain things like that this year," Eastman said.

Specifically, Eastman said that judges will be looking for a number of attributes in the eventual winner during the auditions and the event.

Jaffer said the judges are searching for how the performer can get the audience involved and excited, the actual talent and quality of the music, the clarity of the music and the overall performance.

Jaffer said anyone could try out for the auditions. They are trying to make the pool as diverse as possible with the different mediums used.

Previous Biggest Mouth performances have been received positively. Jonathan Prate, a junior arts, entertainment and



Matthew Heller expresses his talents on the piano during the Big Mouth performance in 2006 at the Conway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Michael Jarecki THE CHRONICLE

media management major, attended a previous Biggest Mouth event and was impressed by the talent that performed.

"I thought it was entertaining with good acts," Prate said. "It definitely showed a lot of Columbia's best and brightest."

The auditions for the Biggest Mouth event will take place on Feb. 23 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and Feb. 26 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Hoken Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. The auditions are open to all Columbia students.

mmaftean@chroniclemail.com

Columbia College Chicago is currently engaged in a self-study process encompassing the entire spectrum of the college's mission and function as part of maintaining its accreditation status with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (HLC/NCA). At present, a self-study committee comprising 33 members of the college community—including faculty, students, staff, and administration—is engaged in the extensive self-evaluation process. The self-study theme is the impact of Columbia College Chicago's dramatic growth on teaching and learning and on institutional organization.

We want to share what we are learning – and learn from you!

COME AND
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THE ACTION!

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Town Hall Meeting
Thursday, February 21, 2008
2:00 - 4:00 P.M.
Ferguson Lecture Hall



SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos: Our little brothers and sisters

Critical Encounters’ Roots and Routes: Weekly Narratives of Poverty and Privilege

by RoseAnna Mueller
Faculty, Liberal Education

In 1954, after a boy was arrested for stealing from the poor box of a church in Cuernavaca, Mexico, the young priest in charge, Father William Wasson, opted to take custody of the boy rather than press charges. A week later, the judge who granted custody to the American priest sent eight homeless boys to live with him, and by the end of the year, Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos [our little brothers and sisters] became home to an additional thirty-two young boys.

Since then, more than 15,000 children have grown up in the NPH family, which operates orphanages in Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, Peru and Mexico. Currently, more than 2,800 children born into poverty or neglect are being lovingly cared for and given unlimited possibilities through this charity that relies on donations and volunteers.

Columbia faculty, staff and students arrived in Cuernavaca on Jan. 6, 2007 to spend a two-week J-term learning Spanish and Mexican culture at the Kukulcan Educational Spanish Community.

Although the trip had been planned to include excursions and cultural opportunities every day, because our arrival coincided with Three Kings Day, the day most Latin American children receive their presents, one of our best and most rewarding “excursions” was an unplanned one. The academic director of the Kukulcan’s favorite charity is NPH, housed in an old sugar plantation not far from where the group was studying. She arranged for Kukulcan students to visit the

children and treat them to a special lunch, presents and play time.

Sugar plantations dating back to Colonial times dot the lush countryside around Cuernavaca, “The City of Eternal Spring.” Hernan Cortes owned one, which has been converted to a hotel. Another one has been turned into my favorite aquatic park, with seventeen pools. The orphanage near Cuernavaca is in an old sugar plantations.

In one of these old haciendas, more than 200 children from age one to high school are cared for by three paid staff, a host of volunteers who committed to a two-year stint in order to ensure continuity and “graduates” of the orphanage, who return to volunteer for two years after they graduate from their higher education.

NPH orphanages are not orphanages in the traditional sense, since the children who live there are not up for adoption. Instead, they are cared for and educated at the institution until they graduate from high school, which are funded for either a vocational or university education.

Most of the children we spent the afternoon with were elementary school age. They gobbled down their sandwiches and

scrambled for the candy and fruit we contributed to their pinatas. The girls cradled the generic “Barbies” and the boys ran after the mini-soccer balls we gave them. They mugged for the three

photographers in our group, and came alive under the attention they were getting. But that day it was our group who received the greatest gift: the smiles, laughter, hugs and gratitude from the many appreciative, behaved and let’s not leave out cute, children.

We are hoping to put together an exhibit from the photos taken on that marvelous day to help raise funds for this charity. In the meantime, if you wish to make a donation, you can through NPHAmigos.org.

The aim of Critical Encounters is to encourage you to engage with difficult questions about poverty and privilege. You can send me your own narratives for inclusion in this column or on our website. Guidelines are on our website.

– Stephanie Shonekan (criticalencounters@colum.edu) www.colum.edu/criticalencounters

critical encounters:
POVERTY
+ privilege



FEATURE PHOTO - Sexual jeopardy

Elspeth Ryan rings in to answer a question at Columbia’s third annual Sexual Jeopardy, part of Sexual Awareness Week and For Columbia With Love. The event was hosted by Counseling Services, Residence Life and Student Health in the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, on Feb. 14.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

Student Financial Services

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change



Are you expecting a financial aid refund?

The office of **Student Financial Services** wants you to know about **D2U Direct Refund!**

This CCC Pay feature will allow students to receive their student account refunds via **direct deposit**.

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In order for parents to **sign up** for this **feature** students must first register them as third party CCC Pay users.

Say **good bye to waiting** for the mail by taking **five minutes to sign up** for D2U on CCC Pay found through your **OASIS** portal.

Please visit **www.colum.edu/sfs** or contact our toll free help line at **866-705-0200** for more information about this new customer service feature.

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Eliminate the 'net: Network in person

Students make one venue a hangout for artists to showcase their talents

by Miles Maftean
Assistant Campus News Editor

AS NETWORKING sites like Facebook and MySpace continue to provide easy communication between college students, they still lack the face-to-face interaction that thrives in the artistic community.

To provide that atmosphere, two Columbia students established a meeting ground for patrons of the arts at a local venue.

Andrew Coate, a junior arts, entertainment and media management major, teamed up with Pete Falknor, a junior arts, entertainment and media management major, to organize a variety of events at North Beach Chicago, 1551 N. Sheffield Ave. The venue, near DePaul University, will be the grounds for these events, starting with an acoustic night and art showing on Feb. 24.

“I’d like people to come and support local art and music and to just meet each other,” said Coate, manager of North Beach Chicago and organizer of the event.

Coate attended the University of Colorado for two years before dropping out to work at an independent radio station in Colorado. Coate said his love for local music grew there as he managed the radio station. He chose to transfer to Columbia last fall.

“I just decided after a while that I wanted to move and looked at the [Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department]



Andrew Coate, an arts, entertainment and media management major, was inspired by his interests to create events like the acoustic night on Feb. 24.

Rachael Stretcher THE CHRONICLE

at Columbia and was really impressed with what I saw,” Coate said.

When Coate came to Columbia, he wanted to showcase the many talented artists enrolled in the college. He started by focusing his efforts on North Beach Chicago, a venue that provides more than just a bar. People can engross themselves in a number of activities ranging from bowling to indoor sand volleyball.

Although the event is for those 21 and older, it still provides an opportunity for students to network. Coate decided to incorporate a number of different mediums, including poetry, art and music. The event will also showcase the work of artists for one night. An open mic atmosphere will be set up for musicians who want to perform. Coate also hopes people will come and network with one another.

“I just want people to meet each other and say, ‘Hey, I’ve been looking for a guitar player,’” Coate said.

The planning of the event started when Coate and Falknor met at Columbia in an Introduction to Management class.

From there, the pair pooled their efforts to foster events people could come to and

enjoy the company of one another. The two also want to provide an atmosphere where musicians can feel comfortable and perform their own breed of music onstage, whether it is hip-hop or acoustic guitar.

“We wanted to keep with the open mic idea, but organize it a little more so people definitely get a chance to perform,” Falknor said.

Another part of the venue that Coate said will attract a college crowd is the employees who work there.

A number of the staff members are alums or current students at Columbia. Coate explained the interests of the employees are exactly like the interests of Columbia students. Both groups enjoy live music, art and entertainment.

Since most of the employees are associated with Columbia, Coates said it allows students to relax with one another and communicate.

Many musicians that went to Columbia or currently attend will perform. One musician who will play at the event is junior graphic design major Leigh Collins.

“I hope that people come and listen and want to bring their own music in,” Collins said.

Students who would like their work displayed or to perform should contact North Beach Chicago and ask for proper instructions.

The acoustic night event will take place on Feb. 24 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at North Beach Chicago, 1551 N. Sheffield Ave. The event is free and open to the public that are 21 or older.

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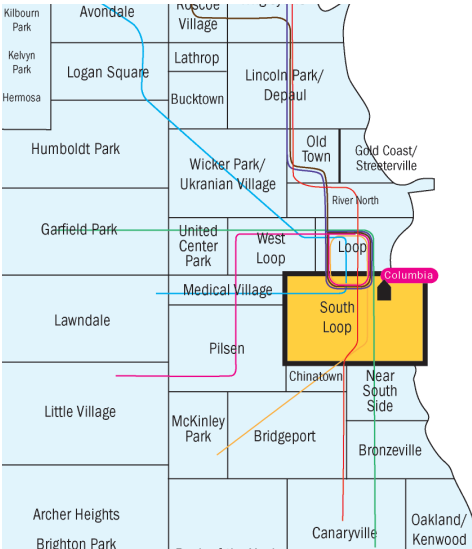
House Calls

A series on the impact of geographical environment on Columbia students' lives



Nora Clark, television major and Katie Skinner, journalism major

Printer's Row



Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

HIGH ATOP the ninth floor of a Printer’s Row neighborhood apartment building, Katie Skinner and Nora Clark have a view of the South Side of Chicago and U.S. Cellular field.

The kitchen is modernized with forest green marble-looking countertops and wooden cabinets. The countertops are divided by a black electric stove and the cabinets have a nook where a microwave sits above the stove.

Skinner is a comic book enthusiast. Her light walls are decorated with six comic books hanging on her wall and a poster of the original *Night of the Living Dead* movie. Her closet space holds shelves that are dedicated to action figures. As a journalism major, she hopes to write for a comic book magazine one day.

In Clark’s bedroom you’ll find quite the opposite. Her bedroom has a MADD Rhythms sign on the wall representing the dance company she works for and her window ledges are decorated with pictures of friends and family. Her bathroom area looks like it could be a dressing room.

They recently redecorated their unit and invited The Chronicle to take a look around.

Skinner and Clark also said it’s a quiet neighborhood and close to campus. The nightlife is no more than typical college students around the area. They suggest anyone who can afford to live in Printer’s Row look into getting an apartment there.

Q The Chronicle: So who redecorated the apartment?

Katie Skinner: Nora redecorated the whole place. She pretty much designed the whole thing.

Q Is that one of your hobbies?

Nora Clark: No, my parents are in Vermont so I was faced with making a lot of decisions on my own and luckily my first instinct was a good one.

Q Why did you want to be a television major

Clark: I hated everything else. I was in the [arts, entertainment, and media] management program and I hated that. Then I thought about the film program, but that was too intense for me. Because I think you have to be so dedicated to it, and that’s not how I was. I didn’t know all the films or directors. So that wasn’t a fit for me.

Q What do you hope to do with television?

Clark: Produce. I would like to make more work for tap dancers. I feel there’s a lot of trash on TV right now and I think a long term goal would be to put something more interesting on TV that appeals to artists.

Q What’s your major Katie?

Skinner: Journalism—magazine writing. I would really love to write for ToyFare one day, but we’ll see. It’s a tough thing to get into, but I hope to. It’s a dream of mine to write a comic book though.

To be the next subject of “House Calls,” e-mail rbykowski@chroniclemail.com

—T. Bearden



Katie Skinner and Nora Clark’s recently remodeled their kitchen. It was inspired by Clark’s parents home.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

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A ‘perfect storm’ brings youth out to polls

Young voters active this political season

by Allison Baker

THE MILLENNIAL generation is a constituency to be reckoned with in the 2008 Presidential Election. With each primary, young voters are doubling, tripling and even quadrupling their numbers at the polls. And estimates show that young voters will account for one-fifth of the electorate in November.

On Super Tuesday, youth voter turnout shot up in key primary contests from coast-to-coast. Voters between the ages of 18 and 30 more than doubled in Massachusetts, tripled in Georgia and more than quadrupled in Tennessee,

based on exit polls and turnout data analyzed by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. And this trend is only a continuation from earlier contests in Iowa and New Hampshire, which tripled and nearly doubled, respectively. The youth vote in New Hampshire actually beat out the 65 or older vote, a demographic traditionally given much more attention from candidates than their younger counterparts.

“I’ll guarantee you whoever wins the election will have won 70 percent of the youth vote or more,” said Matthew Segal, founder and executive director of the Student Association for Voter Empowerment and senior sociology major at Kenyon College in Ohio.

“The youth vote will be the deciding factor.”

Based in Washington, D.C., SAVE is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization founded and run by students.

Peter Levine, director of CIRCLE, said the situation is a perfect storm: A new, more engaged generation of young voters is coming of age, new technologies are available and campaigns are becoming more youth-orientated.

The high competition in both parties makes people feel like their vote holds more sway making them more likely to cast a ballot. With numbers expected to rival or surpass the boomer generation, the millennial generation has grown up with programs encouraging involvement and service.

Now they want to get political.

And, as Segal said, “The candidates are pulling them into the process.”

Traditionally, there has been a catch-22 where politicians see young voters as irrelevant and young voters, feeling written-off, think, “Why bother?” But candidates are recognizing the youth vote as a constituency worth winning over, and several have even appointed national youth vote coordinators.

“Many of [the candidates] are talking about access to higher education and the importance of creating jobs for young people,” Segal said. “That has come through best with Barack Obama, he’s really shown young voters that they aren’t just an added component,

but a main part of his campaign.”

Other hot topics with young voters are the war in Iraq, the environment and health care.

“I think that something that’s really inspiring people on both sides is finding a candidate that embodies their beliefs,” said Kate Barney, a SAVE associate and Kenyon alum. “They’re not just voting for their party, they’re going out to support a candidate that is representing very specific issues.”

Segal also credits the rise of social networking sites and websites like YouTube with attracting young voters by lowering the “historically stuffy” nature of debates. It opens up more dialogue, makes the election more accessible and holds the politicians more accountable. He cited the example of former Governor and Sen. George Allen (R-Va.) who lost his re-election after a clip of him making a racial slur was uploaded on YouTube and then picked up by the mainstream media.

“The politicians don’t like it because they’re losing more control of their own campaigns,” Segal said.

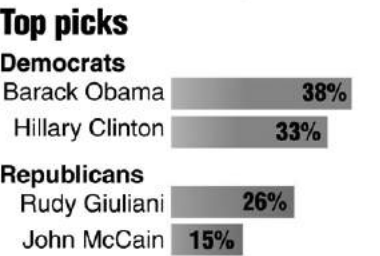
But, the constant coverage allows for a new level of transparency in politics and young voters are looking for authenticity.

“We don’t need [candidates] to go on MTV or talk to celebrities,” Segal said. “We’ve grown up in a day and age of such slick advertising that we can perceive disingenuous from a mile away like John Kerry driving the Harley onto the set of Jay Leno. When you have a substantive dialogue with us about higher education, jobs when we graduate, the environment, we’ll respond to the candidate that best reflects our ideology on issues.”

MCT

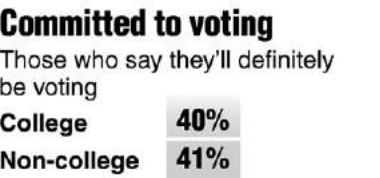
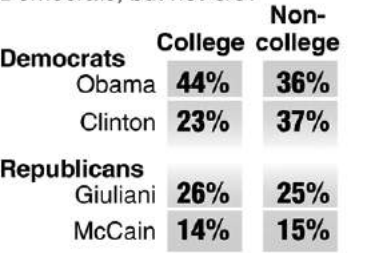
Young voters

How young voters feel about the presidential candidates, according to an online poll:



College vs. non-college

There’s a gap between students and non-students among Democrats, but not GOP



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Source: Harvard University Institute of Politics survey of 18-to 24-year-olds, 1,237 are college students, 1,289 are not, Oct. 28-Nov. 9, 2007; online poll, no margin of error calculated

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Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

#12 BEACH CLUB® 
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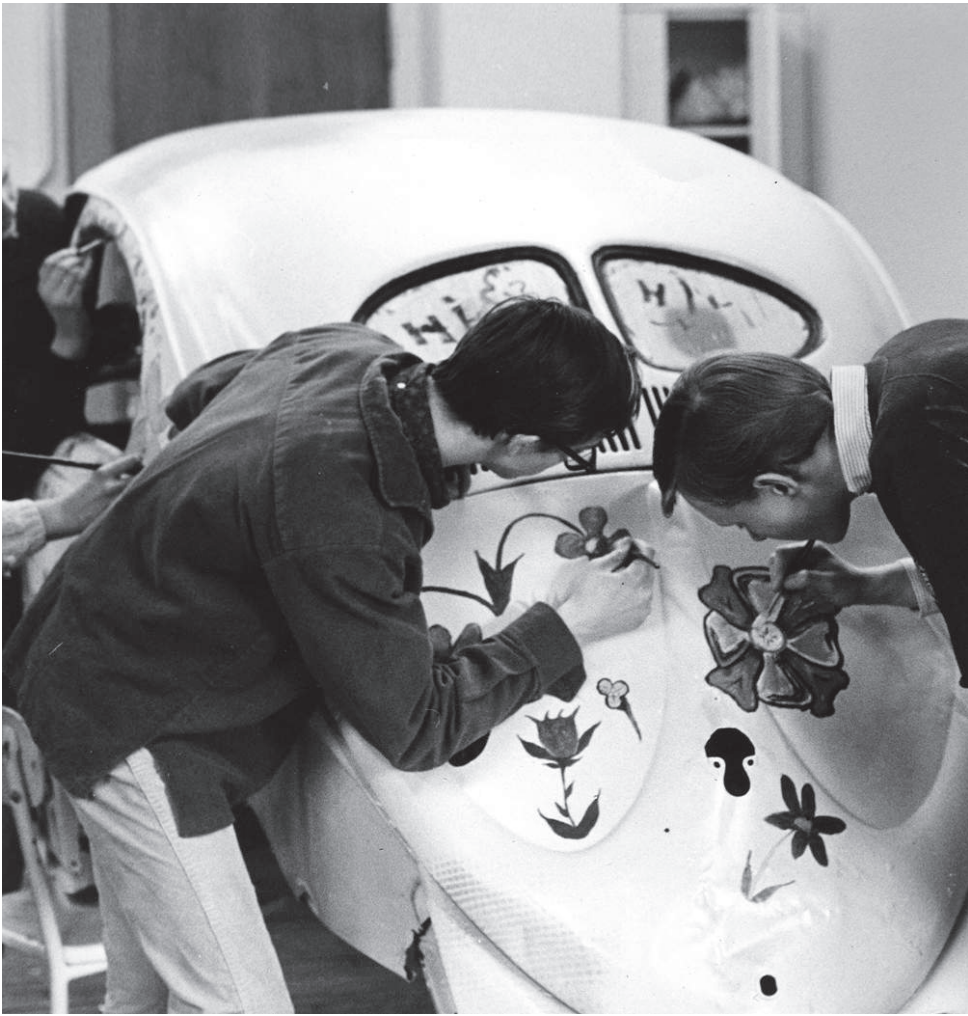


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Columbia students from the 1970s decorate a Volkswagen Beetle. Current Columbia students will be able to express themselves in the same way with this year's 'Transmission' event at Manifest.

Courtesy LIBRARY ARCHIVES

» MANIFEST:

Continued from PG. 3

Cars a growing part of Manifest display

display by Anne Wiens, director of Institutional Communications in the office of College Communications and Marketing, according to Sommers.

"[Wiens] has this blue 1964 Ford Fairlane that she had on display last year," Sommers said. "She dressed up in blue from head to toe; she had a blue wig and everything and handed out Blue Moon Ice Cream. It was actually really cool."

She attributed that and the success of Low Riders to the idea of "Transmissions."

However, this event is not exclusive to student organizations. Vock said faculty and staff, as well as Chicago car communities such as Hot Rods and Low Riders, will also participate.

"We're trying to get multiple cars from the Chicago community involved,"

she said.

Vock added they would like to see a total of 50 cars filling up parking spaces.

The student organizations have submitted their proposals and will talk about them at the workshop. Among the entries, two stood out to Sommers and Vock.

One of the cars submitted will be made entirely out of paper mache. According to Vock, it will have a handmade man and dog inside of the car as well.

The Vegetarian Organization is submitting a car made out of canned goods, which they will donate to a homeless shelter after the show.

According to Sherman, there has been a very positive response from the student organizations. Vock said the deadline for car proposals has passed, but she is willing to accept more up until the workshop tentatively set for March 5.

"The creativity students are bringing to this is absolutely fantastic," Sommers said.

tbearden@chroniclemail.com



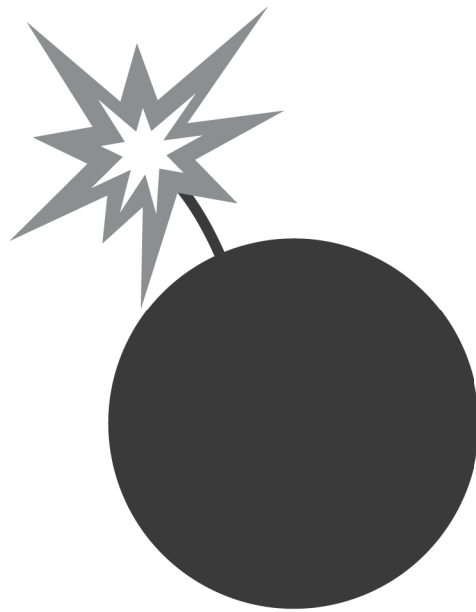
FEATURE PHOTOS - Students enjoyed henna tattoos, fortune tellers and massages at the 'Pamper Yourself Party' on Feb. 14.

Rikki Greenberg, a junior journalism major, has her fortune read by psychic entertainer Barbara G. Meyer. The fortune teller was part of the 'Pamper Yourself Party' at the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

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★★★★
**“BEST MOVIE
 REVIEWS EVER!”**
 — Wes Giglio, The Chronicle

“ASTOUNDING!”

— Matt Fagerholm, The Chronicle

“BEST PICTURE”

— Rachael Strecher, The Chronicle

This was one of those years where it was difficult to leave films out of a top 10 list, rather than struggling to find enough that are worthy. Movie-goers saw new films from established auteurs, some of the best comedies in years and a slew of great foreign flicks. Hopefully this list will highlight some films you haven't seen, or maybe haven't heard of, and foster some debate among the students at Columbia, especially those who want to write, direct, produce or criticize.

» SEE PG. 24



Oscar-nominated film anything but ‘Counterfeit’

Director Stefan Ruzowitzky, actor Karl Markovics bring a lost Holocaust story to the screen

by Matt Fagerholm
 Assistant A&E Editor

SALOMON SMOLIANOFF was Germany's most notorious counterfeiter when he was arrested and sent to a concentration camp in 1944. He had two choices: either die a swift death or assist a select group of Jews in manufacturing counterfeit money to help finance the Nazi war effort.

It's a moral dilemma of horrifying implications, and it's the true story from which director Stefan Ruzowitzky based his film *The Counterfeiters*. This Austrian drama is considered a front-runner for this year's Best Foreign Film Oscar and is due to open in Chicago Feb. 29.

The Chronicle spoke with Stefan Ruzowitzky and actor Karl Markovics, who plays a character inspired by Smolianoff, about bringing such an unknown and important true story to the screen.

The Chronicle: How did you both discover this story?

Stefan Ruzowitzky: It was quite a strange coincidence because there were two producers approaching me with more or less the same story within a couple of days, so I thought, “This has to be destiny.” I introduced them to one another, and this is how this German/Austrian co-production came about.

Karl Markovics: I first heard about this story through the script. When I read it, I only knew the story around Lake Toplitz—it's a lake in Austria where everybody thought there might be tons of gold from the Nazis. But the only thing they found were forged pound notes. So I knew that Nazis tried to make forged money to ruin the economy of the British and later the American economy, but I never heard about the Jewish inmates at a concentration camp doing this for the Nazis.

Why were you attracted to telling this

particular story?

Ruzowitzky: It was in reaction to the huge success of *Downfall*, which was really big in Germany, whereas *The Counterfeiters* did very well everywhere but in Germany, which is very absurd. And I think a movie like *Downfall* is, for a German public, easier to swallow because there you have the evil leaders, and it's like a Shakespearean drama. There's no ideology, and if Bruno Ganz [as Hitler] had a different beard it could be Saddam, as well. It's a brilliant movie in a way but it's not about society. Whereas if you're talking about the Holocaust, that's a different thing, it's more difficult to accept. I think if my movie doesn't work in Germany, it's not about the Germans who don't want to face their guilt, it's about Germans who don't know how to deal with the responsibility

» SEE NOMINEE PG. 17



Karl Markovics (above) plays a character based on the real Salomon Smolianoff in director Stefan Ruzowitzky's new Oscar-nominated drama 'The Counterfeiters.' Markovics portrays a notorious German counterfeiter who is arrested and sent to a concentration camp. There he is faced with the moral dilemma of either dying a martyr or using his skills as a counterfeiter to assist in financing the Nazi war effort. The film opens in Chicago Feb. 29.

Courtesy SONY PICTURES CLASSICS



The semi-Colin by Colin Shively
Assistant A&E Editor

A different type of ‘D list’

I tend to think of myself as someone who knows a lot of celebrity gossip. I know who has a bun in the oven, who cheated on whom and what drug Lindsay Lohan or any other pop idol is now injecting intravenously. But this next bit of information has gone over my head for quite some time, until now. UsMagazine.com reported on Jan. 17 that The Associated Press, in an apparently common practice, has pre-written Britney Spears’ obituary, just in case.

The entertainment editor at the AP, Jesse Washington, told UsMagazine.com that even though no one there wishes that Spears will die, they certainly do not want to be ill-prepared for a seemingly huge story.

Come again? Are we predicting Britney Spears’ death and looking forward to it? Is the media tempting fate, maybe even giving fate a little push ahead? At first, I thought it was rather tactless of the AP to have a “just in case they kick the bucket” obituary on hand. The media has already made predictions in the past, and most were wrong. Remember the famous Chicago Tribune

issue with the headline “DEWEY DEFEATS TRUMAN”? Not the brightest moment in media history. I thought the AP was falling into that trap of foreshadowing. But then I looked into it and saw that the AP and other publications have a constantly growing list of celebrities, national leaders and even past presidents of who may potentially die soon.

It leads one to wonder who the AP thinks is going to die soon. I surely thought these pre-death notices would shock the American people, if only for a second. Yet I once again missed the bandwagon of the growing past time of celebrity divination.

The rest of the world, at least the gossip part, seems to be right behind the AP on predicting celebrity deaths. Numerous Internet sites have raffles in which if you can predict the moment Spears will croak—you can win a new PS3 or other random prizes. Given Spears’ current track record, all the websites are predicting Britney will be dead by the end of 2008. The most common website, WhenIsBritneyGoing-

ToDie.com, also has other celebrities the public can vote on, with Amy Winehouse right behind Spears.

I personally would be rather sad if Spears joined the six-feet-under club. Spears has given us some real entertainment in the press room. I would hate for us to have to find some other celebrity to pick on when Spears gives us such a good opportunity. Yet from the look of things, the public may be right. At 26 years old, the ex-pop idol has spent almost three weeks in a mental hospital, had constant drug usage and even alcoholism. It all points to the pearly white gates for Spears.

I give kudos to the AP for being prepared. However, it is ridiculous and rather creepy that there are websites dedicated to Spears’ end. It used to be that Spears was worshiped as a sexual icon; now she has already died in the public’s eye. But let’s not jinx the future, we still have celebrity gossip magazines to sell.

cshively@chroniclemail.com



Chrissy knows best by Chrissy Mahlmeister
Managing Editor

Ban Comic Sans

I just don’t understand the undying love for certain, absolutely disgusting fonts. How can I possibly take anything you say seriously if everything is in a goofy Comic Sans typeface? It’s a deal breaker on first impressions and has even severed some family ties. If my cousin smothers her wedding invitation in Curlz MT, consider me busy that warm July afternoon.

I think the first time I realized my distaste for Comic Sans began around the age of 14 or 15 when my AIM conversations were at an all-time high. My computer screen would be littered with blinking and flashing boxes, most of them cluttered with disgusting AIM Expressions of 311. Just when I thought my eyes were bleeding enough from that alone, people had to come in and make their fonts lime green with a forest green background and, to top it off, Comic Sans.

Even back in the day when I would make friends and exchange screen names,

I would talk to them later that night and sigh in disbelief at their terrible color and font choices.

My view of them was forever changed, and I knew we would never have that much in common.

Ever since its birth in 1995, my frustration has festered. Now everywhere I look I see the dreaded Comic Sans laughing at me in the face. But it’s not funny, and others agree. There’s even a website dedicated to the hatred and over-usage of the tacky disgrace to humanity—BanComicSans.com.

While I’m happy that at least some people are taking this world problem into their own hands, other just-as-awful fonts are making their way into the mainstream. Cue in Curlz MT. I bet some tacky designer in Key West, Fla. made this “soo cute and soo girly font” to use for a sign to her clothing shop where she makes lime green capris with embroidered martini glasses sprinkled haphazardly all down the legs. It’s funny

these people call themselves “designers” when really they should be threatened for exposing the public to ugly things to use and reuse endlessly.

For the ladies and men who don’t want the extra flair in their font, but are true hemp-wearing hippies, they often choose Papyrus. This font choice is so obvious that it makes me cringe. Opening a vegan food joint? Slather Papyrus all over the menus, windows and signs to show how organic you really are. Choosing this font for a brochure on hiking is like choosing Brush Script for a “fancy” invite to a banquet. Don’t give in, people. Think outside the obvious box. Too many people have been there

So next time you’re scrolling down your drop-down menu in Word, don’t hesitate over any fonts that start with C and definitely don’t make it as far as P. Don’t worry, you’ll thank me.

cmahlmeister@chroniclemail.com

ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

5 The number of Grammys accepted by Amy Winehouse via satellite, according to The Associated Press. After snatching up such awards like Best New Artist and Record of the Year and performing at 4 a.m. London time, Winehouse failed to get the Album of the Year award, which went to Herbie Hancock.

1,200 The number of dollars that movie and television writers will receive each year for free one-hour webcasts streamed over the Internet for the first two years, according to the Associated Foreign Press. The deal brought about the end to talks between the Writer’s Guild of America and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

163,200,000 The price, in dollars, of the art that was stolen in a heist on Feb. 10 from a Zurich museum. The Associated Press reported that pieces by Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as other artists, were stolen by an armed gang.



FLAVOR OF LOVE 3
VH1 2/18 at 8 p.m.

Flavor Flav is back to his usual antics. After finding love twice before, Flav has a broken heart that needs mending. What could possibly heal his fractured heart? Only female contestants dressing up as nurses can give him the ultimate remedy.

NIP/TUCK FX 2/19 at 9 p.m.

In the season finale of “Nip/Tuck,” there will be tragedy. The best part? Sean confronts the price of fame, and hopefully it will go out with a classic Hollywood bang.

AMERICA'S NEXT TOP MODEL
CW 2/20 at 7 p.m.

The 10th season of “Top Model” returns tonight and it’s going back to the basics. Thirty-five models show off their best runway skills and only 14 finalists fly to the city that never sleeps to begin another salacious season.

MAKE ME A SUPERMODEL
Bravo 2/21 at 9 p.m.

The models get down and dirty in the woods in a wilderness-themed episode. Later in the show, they strut on the runway, sharing the stage with wild animals.

MONK USA 2/22 at 8 p.m.

In the second part of the two-part season finale, Monk tries to clear his name after he is falsely arrested for murder. The twist here is everyone else thinks he is dead, buying Monk some time to take care of business.



PROJECT RUNWAY Bravo 2/23 at 7 p.m.

Relive all the trendy moments of season four with this reunion special. From designing WWE divas to an avant-garde trenchcoat perfect for a Chicago winter, this episode showcases the best and worst moments of the season.

THE OSCARS ABC 2/24 at 7 p.m.

The biggest night of film almost turned into the biggest press conference of the year, but with the Writers’ strike resolved, the show will go on. The public can now praise *Juno* and *There Will Be Blood* without any hesitation.

A hit above the rest

Columbia alumni create \$1.2 million feature film based out of Chicago

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant A&E Editor

IT WAS the first day on the set of a feature film. Cameras were being prepped and lights were being set up. Veteran actor Frank Vincent, who played Phil Leotardo on “The Sopranos,” was ready to play Lou Marazano in the feature film *Chicago Overcoat* and was very surprised when he arrived and met the crew.

Vincent was expecting to work with seasoned professionals in the business and to his bemusement, said to the crew, “Where did all these kids come from?”

Chris Charles, the associate producer and casting director, told Vincent to give them a couple of days to show Vincent that the recent college graduates can be professional and efficient on the set.

Sure enough, two days later, everyone was on schedule and everything was shot on time, Charles said. A week later, it was Vincent who approached Charles and the crew about another film that he wanted to do with the crew.

Having a professional attitude and keeping focused showed the actors on the set that age does not matter. The focus and the attitude of the crew is what led six Columbia alumni, who graduated in 2006 and 2007, to finish the film *Chicago Overcoat*, a feature-length film loosely based on

a former mob ring known as the Chicago Outfit, Charles said. The movie, with a \$1.2 million budget, was shot on location in Chicago and at the Joliet Correctional Center in Joliet, Ill. Featuring big-name actors, the film is currently in post-production and is scheduled to premiere this summer. The film, which is produced by the crew’s production company, Beverly Ridge Pictures, will be submitted to the festival circuit, so the movie can find a distributor and a release date.

Columbia alumni John Boshier, the producer of *Chicago Overcoat*, and director Brian Caunter, who co-wrote the script with Boshier, said they were inspired by directors Joel and Ethan Coen to write and produce the movie.

“We went ahead and decided to make a gangster crime drama, in the vein of *Blood Simple*, by the Coen brothers, but we wanted to keep it simple,” Charles said. “Our goal was to make a small, easily contained movie, and through the excitement of the process of making this film, it evolved into a much larger undertaking.”

Chicago Overcoat is about the aging hitman Marazano, who takes one last job for the Chicago Outfit so he can fund his retirement. Marazano must kill three key witnesses who plan to testify against top Outfit bosses in a trial involving the mob, police and city officials who are attempting to cover up a potentially lucrative scandal.

Once the story was written, Charles said it was a matter of finding the funds and acquiring the talent to produce the film.



Frank Vincent stars as a hitman in ‘Chicago Overcoat,’ a feature film loosely based on the former mob ring the Chicago Outfit. Six Columbia alumni worked on the film with a \$1.2 million budget.

Courtesy CHICAGO OVERCOAT

Charles said Armand Assante, who played Dominic Cattano in *American Gangster*, told the crew he was impressed by the level of writing from a group of young college graduates. Featuring big-name actors helped the crew gain the confidence of investors and the movie progressed forward, Charles said.

Boshier was responsible for finding investors, but before seeking them out, the crew had to detail every aspect of their movie through a business plan that investors can look at to see what the movie is about and who is attached to the cast and crew.

“We wanted to show our level of professionalism and commitment [to the film],” Charles said. “As a result, we put a lot of time and effort into making a very lengthy,

detailed business plan.”

Chicago Overcoat was written and shot over the course of 11 months and wrapped its shooting schedule in November.

The movie was shot at many different locations around the city. Charles said many scenes were shot in the Pilsen, Chinatown, Beverly, Bridgeport and Logan Square neighborhoods, among others throughout the Chicago area. Charles said 95 percent of the cast and crew had ties to Chicago.

“We are all Chicagoans, and we really want to make films here in Chicago with a Chicago cast and crew,” Charles said. “The city itself is just as much of a character [in this film].”

» SEE OVERCOAT, PG. 17

CHRISTINA RICCI JAMES MCAVOY CATHERINE O'HARA AND REESE WITHERSPOON

What Makes Us Different Makes Us Beautiful.

PENELOPE

SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT AND STONE VILLAGE PICTURES PRESENT A TYPE A FILMS AND TATRA ACTIVE FILM PRODUCTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH GROSVENOR PARK MEDIA. "PENELOPE" CHRISTINA RICCI, JAMES MCAVOY, CATHERINE O'HARA, PETER DINKLAGE, RICHARD E. GRANT AND REESE WITHERSPOON. LINE PRODUCER PAUL RITCHIE. MUSIC BY JUDY TALBOT. COSTUME DESIGNER JILL TAYLOR. CASTING BY SUSIE FISCH. EDITOR JON GREGORY. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS AMANDA MARATHON. PHOTOGRAPHY MICHAEL ANASTHEOS. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LESLIE CAVEY, PHIL ROBERTSON. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS DYLAN RUSSELL, MICHAEL ROGAN, CHRIS CARLING, ROBIN GREENSPUN, DANNY GREENSPUN, ANDREW MOLASKY, CHRISTIAN ARNOLD-BEUTEL. PRODUCED BY REESE WITHERSPOON, SCOTT STENDHOFF, JENNIFER SIMPSON. WRITTEN BY LESLIE CAVEY. DIRECTED BY MARK PALANSKY.


PG-13 PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED - SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN

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IN THEATRES FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH!



(Left) Glassblowing artist Pearl Dick gathers heated glass at the end of a metal rod. Slowly rotating the rod, Dick lets excess glass drip off before it will be placed back into the furnace. (Right) Once Dick has the right amount of glass, she uses tweezers to begin molding the glass into shapes.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

In the heat of the moment

Glassblowers turn up the temperature for art

by Colin Shively
Assistant A&E Editor

EVEN IN the negative wind chill temperatures of a Chicago winter, the heat is always above boiling inside the building located at 1250 N. Central Park Ave. The structure consists of one large room and houses a multitude of burning furnaces, razor-sharp blades and buckets of water. Here, in this building, art is created from fire.

In its seven years, Chicago Hot Glass has been a home to glass molding artists, hobbyists and thrill seekers every day of the year. Here, glass blowers delve into pools of liquid glass, burning at an average of 2,080 degrees, to create glass sculptures of different proportions and colors.

Hot Glass, a gathering spot for parties, demos and artists, also plays host to local artists and instructors like Ian Duncan and Pearl Jacqueline Dick, who have been blowing glass for three and eight years, respectively. Duncan has been featured at the Prism Gallery, 1048 W. Fulton Market, and Dick at the Habatat Gallery, 222 West Superior St.

At Hot Glass, Duncan and Dick are instructors for the various demos and classes Hot Glass offers to those who are interested in learning the glass blowing trade. They have beginning classes through expert level classes for those who have experience in the field. Classes can range from \$55-\$70 depending on class style and instructor, and reservations are required.

To both Duncan and Dick, glass blowing is a way of life.

“Creating glass is almost like a dance,” Dick said. “You move with the glass as it spins in the air. I always get hypnotized just watching the glass flow over itself.”

Glass blowing, Dick said, is more difficult than it appears to be. However, once the aspiring student understands the methods and techniques of handling glass, it can become second nature.

In order for the liquid glass to adhere to the metal rod used to hold the ball of hot glass, the rod is heated to 1,000 degrees or more in a firebrick furnace, named the “glory hole.” Once the rod has been heated, the artist can then gather the molten glass from the furnace onto the tip of the rod. Then the artist can remove the glass while making note to constantly rotate the rod in order to avoid spilling the glass onto the floor.

“It really is a matter of balance once the

glass is on the rod,” Duncan said. “After that it is just about color, personal technique and whatever you really want to do.”

The glass blower can add color to the glass by lightly touching the glass to color pellets and slowly rotating the glass in order to spread the color. The heated glass is then returned to the glory hole and slowly rotated, melting the beads of color and mixing it with the glass. To create a multi-colored effect, another coat of clear liquid glass is layered over top of the colored glass then colored again.

The remaining stages in forming the glass pieces require the use of metal and wooden hand tools. Once the desired colors have been melted into the glass, the glass blower will take the rod and glass to a bench where he/she will be able to adjust the shape and size of the glass. The tools that Hot Glass provides greatly vary on the artist’s needs. Each station is equipped with jacks, tweezers, diamond shears, a puffer and wood molds.

To maintain the consistency of the glass, glass blowers rotate their fingers, continuously spinning the rod and glass. The artist can then use the tweezers to pinch the glass or create air bubbles and the diamond shears to cut unwanted glass. Once the glass has been shaped and the cut line—the area where the glass will be removed from the rod—is cooled, the artist can get ready for the final steps.

Using a wooden stick, which the Hot Glass employees named the “Bang Stick 3000,” the blower lightly hits the cut line, breaking the glass and separating the rod from the glass section. Using fire resistant gloves—the glass is still 200 degrees or more—the artist places the glass piece in the annealer, an oven-like machine where the temperature is slowly brought down to match the room in order to avoid cracking. The cooling process takes an average of 12 hours.

“Depending on what local glass dealers want and what the artist feels like doing, the annealers can sometimes have about 30 pieces of glass in them cooling overnight,” Duncan said.

Multiple risks are involved while glass blowing, yet the instructors at Hot Glass know how to handle any situation, Duncan said. To this day, there have been no serious accidents at Hot Glass; they have only had singed hair and fingers, which are common with glassblowing. In order to protect themselves and students, everyone is required to

wear protective eye glasses, fire-resistant gloves and heat-resistant boots.

During the winter, overheating is not an issue at Hot Glass, Duncan said. However, over the summer, instructors and professionals take careful steps to avoid heat stroke and exhaustion.

“Right now it feels good in here because it is colder than hell [outside],” Duncan said. “But in the summer when it is 90 [degrees] out there, plus we have all the glory holes lit in here, it can get over 100 degrees, which can be dangerous at times.”

Despite the hot summers, Hot Glass still tailors to the public needs by being the only rentable glass blowing facility in the Chicago area. Renters are able to use all the equipment and glass substances to make their glass pieces.

Hot Glass also hosts numerous parties throughout the year that are open to the public. Parties can include demos on glassblowing, reduced rental fees and specialty

drinks to the 21 and up crowd.

Chicago Hot Glass’ next party will take place on March 29. For class and party information, or to make reservations, visit the website at ChicagoHotGlass.com or call (773) 394-3252.

cshively@chroniclemail.com

GLASS BITS

What: Private glass blowing lesson
When: Anytime, Call for an open time
Cost: \$55-\$70 for an hour. Depending on glass needs and instructor
Where: 1250 N. Central Park Ave.
Experience: Beginners welcome
Contact: (773) 394-3252



Dick’s finished glass horse stands freely before it will be placed in the annealer to be cooled.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

» **NOMINEE:**

Continued from PG. 13

Markovics describes meeting Adolf Burger

of their grandparents, because those who were involved are in their 90s, and almost all of them are dead.

My audience is grandchildren like me, the generation who are aware of the dimension of the crime, and that there is a responsibility, but [who] doesn't know what to do with it. It's like if I would accuse you of slavery and killing all Native Americans, you would go, "Yes, I know, but it actually wasn't me." It's the national heritage, and what do you do about it?

Your role is not the typical leading man.

Markovics: This was what attracted me so much to it. The space I got to act was very narrow because I'm in this camp, I'm not allowed to do many things because I'm just a Jew. I'm nothing, a number. But on the other hand, I wanted to get the audience feeling what's going on inside. I did 12 years of theater before I did my first television work. I started at a mime theater company in Vienna so my approach to acting is very physical, sensual and emotional, not German-like intellectual.

How did you go about making your protagonists flesh-and-blood people and not inspirational clichés?

Ruzowitzky: When I reread my first draft, I found out I had fallen for these positive clichés. All my Jewish protagonists were cultivated, wise, intelligent, and that's dangerous because if you say Jews are so much more cultivated and intelligent as we are, you say at the same time they are a different race. So what I tried to do was show they are just normal Germans. When Adolf Burger [Smolianoff's friend in the camp] was asked whether he has any bad feelings toward Germans, he always says no, because most of his fellow inmates were German Jews.

How did your interaction with actual Holocaust survivors influence your portrayal?

Markovics: Adolf Burger is 91 years old now, and he wrote an autobiography, part of which tells of his experiences in this camp where he was making the money. The first time I met Mr. Burger was onset when he was visiting us during work, but the only thing I said to him was, "Hello Mr. Burger, pleased to meet you."

I didn't want to talk with him too much at that time because we were already shooting, so I tried to trust my feelings from the script, all the historical stuff and the book.

Afterwards, we talked a lot about this time. He loves the movie, and it's a great honor for me that the real guy I play, Salomon Smolianoff, was Adolf Burger's best friend. They met in the camp and became friends and since the Berlin premiere, Adolf Burger always calls me his best friend. So it's really wonderful.

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com

» **OVERCOAT:**

Continued from PG. 15

Caunter developed work ethic at Columbia

On the second to last day of filming, the cast and crew shot a scene at Joliet Correctional Center, a supposedly haunted jail facility where the popular television show "Prison Break" was shot.

"Filming in a dilapidated prison that has been closed down, it was really eerie," Charles said. "A lot of us in the cast and crew felt this negative energy, and we heard stories from the correctional officers who worked there about some of the stuff that happened. It was really creepy."

Columbia alumnus Clint Vaupel, the film and equipment manager at Columbia, said he has worked with Kevin Moss, the director of photography for *Chicago Overcoat*, and Charles on film projects before. He said he admires the talent of Charles, Moss and the crew and

he credits Columbia for pushing them to be successful.

"[They] are creative and talented," Vaupel said. "[They] knew exactly what they wanted and projected it well. They have strong work ethic, [and] Columbia prepared them well for working in the film [industry]."

Caunter said the classes at Columbia were helpful in implementing structure and work ethic, but he found the knowledge to create films by going out and getting experience on a set, working as an assistant or working alongside a cinematographer.

"You can't cross your fingers and do what the Film Department wants you to do," Caunter said. "Columbia can teach you some things, but you have to take it upon yourself to try hard and make films and be a part of the filmmaking community."

For more information about *Chicago Overcoat*, visit BeverlyRidgePictures.com/Chicago_Overcoat.

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com



The crew of 'Chicago Overcoat' films as Frank Vincent prepares for the final shootout scene in the movie.

Courtesy CHICAGO OVERCOAT

I WANT

TEAM SPIRIT

GLORY

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



Renegades

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TOP 5



Robert Bykowski, Campus News Editor

Ways to spend Sundays now that football is over

Eat healthier: It’s difficult to maintain any sort of healthy diet when every foot- ball game requires fried foods, fast foods and fattening snacks. Jewel potato wedges, until next fall, I’ll miss you.

Watch more hockey: The Bears’ season might be over, but just a few miles away, the Blackhawks are in the middle of a resurgence. They’ve got young, talent- ed players; a new owner; home games finally broadcasted on TV and a com- petitive mindset. The red is definitely rising on the West Side.

Do more things my girlfriend wants to do: What are these things? I don’t know. Maybe a museum or some other girly thing like “talking” would do the trick. Maybe she likes hockey.

Sleep more: Between pre-game shows, noon games, 3 p.m. games, post game shows, 7 p.m. games and SportsCenter recaps, Sundays during football are a major investment. Maybe now I can sleep in longer and go to bed earlier.

Get ready for the next season: Pre- season might be six months away, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t a ton of other football to be had. There’s free agency, the draft, the combine, offseason training activities and more. Football is a yearlong event.



Tim Bearden, Assistant Campus News Editor

Comedians

Richard Pryor: OK, this is a little home- town pride coming in. Pryor grew up in Peoria, Ill., where I’m from, so his place on my list is mandatory. He definitely started a trend for black comedians and broke down the racial barrier in a time that it wasn’t popular to do so. I have to give him respect for that. Did I mention he’s from my hometown? Just checking.

Robin Williams: I can laugh at his material non-stop; whether it’s the first time I’ve heard it or the 100th. His ADD-induced comedy makes him stand out, and you never know what to expect. Nanoo, nanoo long live Mork.

Bill Cosby: J-E-L-L-O pudding anyone?

Denis Leary: This bitter comic brought rage to the stage with a fury only matched by the Old Testament God him- self. Uninhibited comedy the way Lenny Bruce intended it to be, only popular.

The public at-large: The majority of comics are people watchers. Without the public, comedy would be limited to family history and dirty diapers. So you, the public, are the best comics of all. Keep them laughing and don’t forget to tip your wait staff.

Thanks, I’ll be here all semester!



Miles Maftean, Assistant Campus News Editor

Ways to be the worst son/ daughter

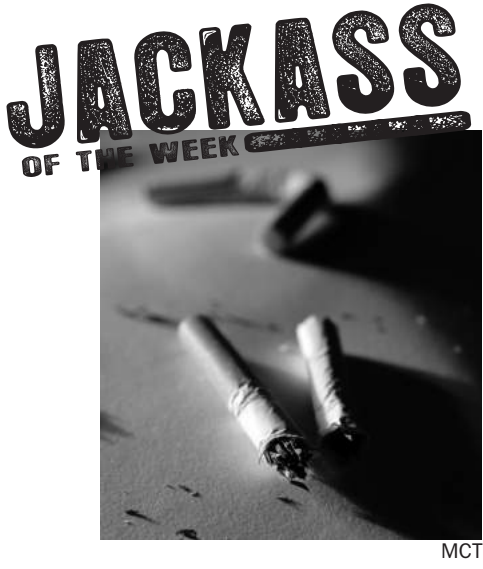
Create a lawsuit your first year in high school: Ask your school’s 85-year-old librarian out on a date only to be banned from the library for all four years of high school. It’ll also create a timely lawsuit against yourself.

Pull little pranks: Feed your mom some lie about you losing a limb in a car acci- dent while you were driving to buy milk from the store. Watch her hilarious reac- tion from the kitchen window, outside and out-of-reach from her death grip.

“Soup-up” your ride: Put duct tape racing stripes on your recently-crashed 1988 Mustang, which your parents bought from an uncle, just because you think it looks a little cooler than plain white.

Change your major: Tell your parents you want to become a lawyer instead of attending an aircraft mechanic college after they spent thousands of dollars on tools. Then, switch gears again and fulfill your lifelong goal of becoming a rock star.

Prioritize video games first: Play another hour of that Mario game, you earned it. Just tell your parents the reason you failed Copy Editing was because you were prioritizing your time (destroying the huge piranha in that water level).



BUTTS WILL ROLL

FEUDS BETWEEN neighbors can quickly escalate from caddy conversation to violent slapfests. But instructing a dog to urinate on the neighbor’s stroller and suing for clean air? Yikes.

Jonathan and Jenny Selbin filed suit in Manhattan Supreme Court label- ing their neighbor, Galila Huff, “evil,” according to the New York Daily News. In the suit, the couple said Huff’s 1 1/2- pack-a-day smoking habit makes the fourth-floor hallway of their building smell “like a casino” and endangers their young son’s health from secondhand smoke seeping into their apartment.

Jenny Selbin said Huff, who has lived in her apartment for 15 years, allowed her dog to pee on their doorstep and their son’s stroller. Huff, 57, said the bitter, back-and-forth battle between her and the Selbins has driven her to try to sell her apartment, according to the Daily News. She offered her apartment to her feuding neighbors for a discount.

OK, we get it. At some point, smokers will be completely outcast from society, sidewalks and even their homes. But Sel- bins, that point in time is not now.

However, that doesn’t merit Huff’s behavior. Instructing a dog to urinate on a stroller? Really? Take the dog outside for potty breaks, put a towel underneath the door and invest in some fans, lady.

In this situation, everyone’s a jackass.

—J. Galliant

check me out

by Elaine Tsang
Staff Writer

From the endless amount of boots to choose from at stores, finding the right pair suitable for blizzards can be tricky. They have to be comfortable and reasonably priced.

Minnetonka Moccasins women’s front-lace knee-high boots are the way to go. They are comfortable, reasonably priced and stand out from typical winter boots. They also come in four different colors so you can get a pair for each occasion. Celebrities like Kate Moss and Lindsay Lohan have been spotted sporting these boots, reminiscent of Pocahontas.

Senior arts, entertainment and media management major Tori Kavooras wore her tan Minnetonka boots with a black turtleneck and skinny jeans. She coordinated her Tool high-collar cream jacket with a white tie that accentuated her waist. Her Minnetonka boots



Tori Kavooras’ Minnetonka Moccasins represent one of a variety of styles she wears. “I buy what I like as long as it looks good when I put it together,” she said.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

complemented her tan Forever 21 leopard- print-lined oversized tote bag to complete the look.

“I don’t possess one style, I try to incorporate all,” Kavooras said. “I buy what I like, as long as it looks good when I put it together.”

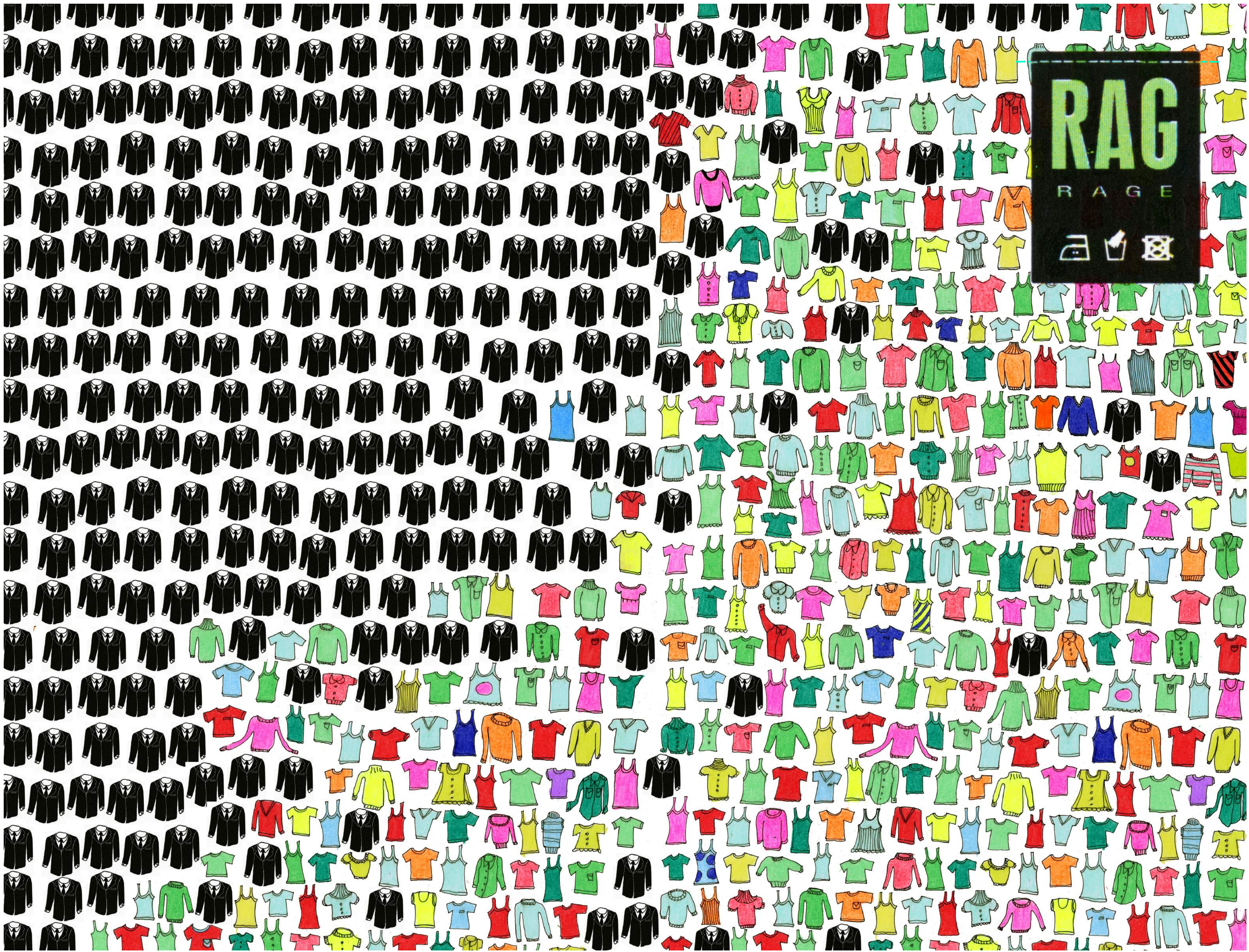
Wearing a durable pair of boots is vital to surviving in the Windy City.

The downside to boots like Minnetonka Moccasins is the suede exterior, which isn’t waterproof, but with a \$4.99 can of water- resistant spray, the problem is solved.

Minnetonka Moccasins also make shoes for all seasons and guys, as well. Check out the different styles at Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand Ave., or 24 N. State St., or at MinnetonkaMoccasinShop.com.

Have a question about current trends or want to recommend one? E-mail us at Chronicle@colum.edu.

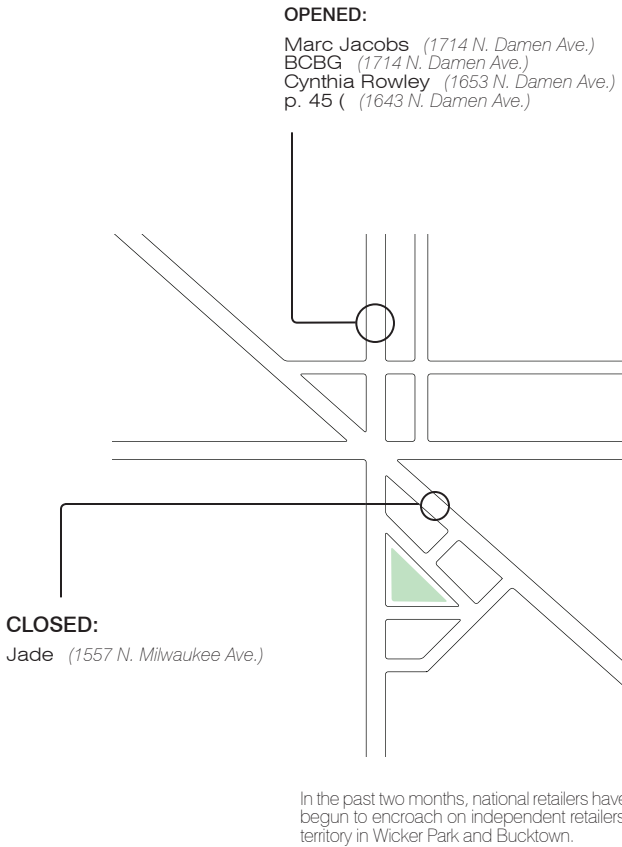
Elaine Tsang is a senior fashion management major at Columbia.



THE CORPORATE PULLOVER

Are the national chains poised to edge out independents?

Story: Colin Shively
Illustration & layout: Emilia Klimiuk



The bohemian and indie style of Wicker Park has long been its trademark and an attraction for aspiring artists of all genres. The small shops, rich with colorful local designers, line the streets of Damen, North and Milwaukee avenues. Locally owned restaurants waft the scents of coffee and food into the streets, drawing the passersby into their artsy environments. This unique style of alternative clothing and living has created many new independent stores that have formed Wicker Park and Bucktown. Now, however, the smells and sights of one-of-a-kind food and styles might soon be overshadowed by the mass-produced clothing of national retailers looking to take advantage of Wicker Park's potential.

With high-end brand names like Marc Jacobs, BCBG Max Azria and other national retailers now appearing in Wicker Park within the past two months, the struggle to maintain the culture of the neighborhood has become strained as residents and retailers fight to avoid becoming a second Magnificent Mile.

"You have two factions here," said Paula Barrington, executive director of the Wicker Park/Bucktown Chamber of Commerce. "The general public sees the new stores coming in, and they are excited about the newcomers, yet they are still part of the clientele of the privately owned boutiques already here."

Barrington said the independent companies have made Wicker Park what it is today—a highly desirable place to shop and live. Because of the appeal to shop, Barrington said Wicker Park and Bucktown have been seeing a changing demographic of residents and consumers entering the Wicker Park area.

"We are seeing more young families moving in now and a lot more children in the neighborhood because of the changing neighborhood," Barrington said. "Unfortunately, we have also seen a few of the aspiring artists leaving the area because of the rise in renting for housing and work spaces."

The changing scene of Wicker Park has not escaped public attention in downtown Chicago. Abe Lentner, assistant director at the City Designs Center located at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has taken notice of the threatened culture in Wicker Park.

"It is not really gentrification of the population there, it is more of a gentrification of retailers," Lentner said.

Barrington said because of the high-end national retailers emerging into the area, landlords and property owners are realizing that these companies can pay the higher prices for rent. Yet because of the rise in rent prices, some independent



companies may struggle financially when the leases are renewed annually. This could become detrimental to local retailers as they may be forced to relocate, taking part of the culture away from Wicker Park.

"It is a concern to the neighborhood at times," Barrington said. "We don't want to see any of our stores leave this area. They created this neighborhood and are a part of it. We just urge the clients and landlords to take the independents in to consideration."

The residents of Wicker Park have long supported the artistic side of the neighborhood. College students and graduates often retreat to Wicker Park and Bucktown because of the unique sense of style and culture found in the area. Yet now the changing demographic might be reworking the culture of the neighborhood.

Residents in the Wicker Park/Bucktown neighborhood are living examples of the push and pull between local and national retailers, Barrington said. The customers in Wicker Park are the ones who will be the deciding factor in which cultural style becomes the dominate presence.

Laura Ramirez and Camoie Johnson, who both live in Wicker Park, have always shopped at independent stores and restaurants.

"We get the most unique style and designs in our independent stores," Ramirez said. "Plus, you also get to help the local businesses by shopping there. It just shows great support for the community to shop at the independents."

Both Ramirez and Johnson said they were upset when the Levi's Store, 1552 N. Milwaukee Ave., opened in the neighborhood. Johnson and Ramirez both agreed that Wicker Park should stay the artsy neighborhood that it has been molded to be.

"This is all just gentrification here," Johnson said. "I hate the new stores coming in trying to alter the mood in this place. It is perfect just the way it is."

Johnson and Ramirez were not the only two residents that disagreed with the opening of the new stores. Four months ago, representatives for the designer store BCBG said their employees were welcomed by graffiti and an attempted break-in when the store opened its first morning.

This is not an uncommon occurrence in the new stores.

"This is a city, and it is bound to happen," Barrington said. "I wish we could catch the people who did it. The only thing we can tell the new stores is to take the

necessary precautions to protect their business."

Apart from the residents who walk the streets, the shops that line the streets of Wicker Park are influenced the most on both sides of the tug-of-war between high-end culture and indie culture. Some of the stores are neutral or unconcerned about the national retail invasion.

Located at 1643 N. Damen Ave., p. 45 is an independent clothing retailer that has been selling the clothing of local Chicago fashion designers. Despite being in close proximity to Marc Jacobs, 1714 N. Damen Ave., the storeowner does not feel overly threatened.

"Though we are located near Marc Jacobs and BCBG Max Azria, p.45 does not feel that it will have many problems with the new retailers," said Tricia Tunstall, p.45 owner. "We have our own set consumer. They know what we carry is unique and you can't get it anywhere else. The local retailers and national retailers will be fine together."

With the new retailers in Wicker Park, Tunstall said she thinks more people will be coming to the neighborhood to shop, and most shoppers do not limit themselves to one store. To make sure p.45 stays in the race, they are planning on increasing customer awareness of their store by renovating their store in order to make it more appealing to the public.

Barrington said because of the changing demographics in the area, the older buildings, which stand ready to have an artist transform it into an urban bohemian-chic shop, may soon find themselves overshadowed by more new-age style structures as the new retailers put forth the money to have buildings renovated.

"We don't really have a say in what comes in and what goes," Barrington said. "It just follows what the economy is doing at the time. And with the economy in this so-called recession, companies are trying to put more money back into the market."

The gentrification of Wicker Park and the Bucktown area shows no sign of slowing down to the Chamber of Commerce. The new buildings will be built and when the leases are signed, the new stores are coming in.

"I think the independents will be fine, and so will the nationals," Barrington said. "They know how to balance things out. The culture, the feel, the look of this amazing area will hopefully survive this transition. High-end and indie cultures can co-exist."

Spectacular suspense abounds in ‘4 Months’

Romania’s Palme d’Or winner
finally comes to Chicago

by Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

FEBRUARY CAN be a frigid wasteland, and this year there’s a bad film for every snowflake. Moviegoers must utilize their explorer instincts to unearth the cinematic treasures truly worth their time and money. *4 Months, 3 weeks and 2 Days* is such a treasure.

Though this Romanian drama won the top prize at last year’s Cannes Film Festival, it has opened in Chicago with little fanfare. Although it received better reviews than any movie in 2007, Romania refused to submit the film for Oscar consideration—fearing its subject matter would reflect negatively on the nation’s worldwide image. Thus, one of the greatest films of recent years is in danger of being forgotten altogether.

The film opens with two young women sitting in a dorm room, their prolonged silence fraught with uncertainty. One of the women is Otilia, played in a mesmerizing performance by Anamaria Marinca, who eventually utters, “OK,” to her friend Gabita, played by Laura Vasiliu. For the film’s first half-hour, the viewer is unsure about what Otilia is agreeing to, as she sneaks onto buses and races from one hotel to another.

The excruciating suspense builds as Otilia runs up against one obstacle after another until the film’s plot comes into chilling focus. If you are lucky enough to not have heard anything about the plot, then stop reading and head out to the Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave.

If you’re still reading, then you probably already know that Otilia is helping Gabita arrange an illegal abortion in communist Russia. The story takes place a mere two decades ago, making the plight of its characters all the more shocking. As the women attempt to negotiate with a threatening abortionist, and Otilia finds herself in more danger than she may have ever expected, the film begins to cast its unsettling spell.

Cinematographer Oleg Mutu, who shot another Romanian spellbinder, *The Death of Mr. Lazarescu*, uses his camera like an X-ray. He shoots the action in each scene with unbroken takes and often stationary angles that focus on details long enough to reveal their complexity, and in some cases, malevolence. A jovial birthday dinner becomes a trap, a dog’s bark becomes a signal for alarm and a mirror becomes a portal to inner agony. The film creates an atmosphere of such profound fear that the viewer becomes entirely consumed within the characters’ frightening world.

This is the first part of director Cristian Mungiu’s ironically titled series, “Tales from the Golden Age.” It recalls a moment in Romania’s all-too-recent past with the visceral realism of a documentary.

Yet the Romanians who have criticized the film for being an unflattering portrait of their nation have entirely missed the point, since the mere fact that a film like this can now be made in Romania is itself a sign of progress. The oppression witnessed in this film can be related to the governments of any country—the Iran of *Persepolis*, the Germany of *The Lives of Others* or the America of today.

Some have compared Mungiu’s film to Mike Leigh’s brilliant *Vera Drake*, which took an equally unbiased look at how a Brit-



Director Cristian Mungiu won the Palme d’Or at Cannes for ‘4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days.’ MCT

ish abortionist was arrested in the 1950s for assisting impoverished mothers. With similar tact, *4 Months* illustrates the horrifying risks women have taken to exercise their right to choose, while never taking an opinionated stance on the subject. Like Leigh, Mungiu knows that the greatest truth can be found in pure observation, not righteous preaching.

Released at the tail end of 2007, *4 Months* joins a varied group of splendid films that deal with the taboo issue of unplanned pregnancy. If there’s been any trend in these films, it’s the fact that when the pregnant protagonist decides to keep her baby, the issue is presented in a feel-good comedy like *Waitress*, *Knocked Up* or *Juno*. Yet when an alternative to birth is sought, the result is a cautionary nightmare like *Stephanie Daley* or this film. This is not to say that these films are presenting abortion in an unfavorable light. They are merely exploring the issue in all of its gut-wrenching intensity and moral complexity. Perhaps no film about abortion could ever be described as “feel-good.”

In any case, *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* is a film guaranteed to rattle the soul of anyone who enters the theater doors. It’s an experience as uncompromising as it is unforgettable.

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com

FILM BITS

‘4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days’

Writer/Director: Cristian Mungiu
Running time: 113 minutes

Rating: R
Now playing at the Music Box Theatre,
3733 N. Southport Ave.



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James Cackovic

THEATER

Eric Turner





WES’ TOP TEN FILMS OF 2007

1. ‘THERE WILL BE BLOOD’

The best American film in a long, long time. See “Best Film” to the right.

2. ‘THE DARJEELING LIMITED’

Wes Anderson’s fifth film strikes many of the same notes as his first four—melancholy, broken families and dreamers who come up just short of their vision of themselves. Owen Wilson plays Francis Whitman, a heavily bandaged suicide survivor who brings his brothers to India in hopes of finding their mother and reconnecting with one another. Anderson lends his trademark dollhouse sensibility to the train the brothers occupy, but the rest of the film is allowed to breathe in the exotic air of India. *Darjeeling* is the one Anderson picture where exteriors share focus with his meticulous interiors, and the contrast serves the film well. Owen Wilson, muted where he’s normally vibrant, hasn’t been this good since *Bottle Rocket*.

3. ‘NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN’

4. ‘BLACK SNAKE MOAN’

Black Snake Moan garnered mostly negative (or just plain confused) reviews on its release. It’s the wrong movie for modern audiences who like their visceral pulp laced with irony. Writer-director Craig Brewer serves up an earnest, southern-fried, blues-soaked folk tale stuffed with sex, violence and redemption—in short, the contents of the Bible. Christina Ricci turns in a fearless performance that rivals her best work. The film is a ready-made should-be cult classic with the verve and inventiveness *Grindhouse* aspired to but never had.

5. ‘CONTROL’

Sam Riley plays the tragic hero of this little-seen film about Ian Curtis, front man for the seminal band Joy Division. *Control* captures the group’s exhilarating (and brief) rise to the top of the British underground scene only to fall apart when Curtis hangs himself the day before they were to fly to America for their first tour. The long steadicam shot of Curtis walking down the street to the thumping beat of “No Love Lost,” dressed in a black trench coat with “HATE” written in chalk across the shoulder blades, deftly evokes the mix of rebellion and workaday slogging Joy Division emerged from when Curtis arrives at his destination—his day job.

6. ‘KNOCKED UP’

7. ‘THE ORPHANAGE’

The Orphanage marks a blessed departure from Japanese horror retreads, torture-porn blood and guts and the jump-scares that pass for fright in today’s multiplexes. *The Orphanage* uses simple tension and suspense to build a slow-burning ghost story shot through with nasty shocks given the space to grow into real fear. It’s one of those films where the viewer may realize they’ve been forgetting to breathe, or that their hands are covering their mouths.

8. ‘PERSEPOLIS’

9. ‘LUST, CAUTION’ *Lust, Caution* is another film that didn’t get enough praise when it came out. Director Ang Lee has made a slow, pleasurable piece of cinema that shifts without warning into the anarchic and the carnal. Lee shows he’s a filmmaker in control of his aesthetic and his material. He’s an auteur who knows how to shoot a burning cigarette, express his character conflicts through their faces as well as their bodies and understands how difficult it is to kill someone—and how easy.

10. ‘I’M NOT THERE’

The film’s gimmick of dividing Bob Dylan into just a few of his many different public and private personas is so simple and, from a classification and evaluation standpoint, so obvious, it’s almost strange no one has tried it before. Todd Haynes writes, directs and finds the right mix of historicity and creative inference to produce the second-best Dylan film ever made, behind Martin Scorsese’s *No Direction Home*.



BY WES GIGLIO & MATTHEW FAGERHOLM

BEST FILM



‘THERE WILL BE BLOOD’

There Will Be Blood is a tour de force. The film examines capitalism in its naked infancy at the oil fields of the American West and is an indictment against the false prophets of organized religion and the free market. The film is a grim reminder that wherever oil flows, so too, inevitably, does blood.

Nominees:

- *No Country for Old Men*
- *Juno*
- *Control*
- *Into the Wild*

BEST DIRECTOR



PAUL THOMAS ANDERSON *There Will Be Blood* Anderson’s career is like a fine, five-course meal. The appetizer of *Hard Eight* left us wanting a little more, the splendid but just short of cohesive *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia* signaled the arrival of a new American auteur, *Punch Drunk Love* cleansed the palette with a light but skillfully concocted sorbet and *There Will Be Blood* is the impossibly good main course.

Nominees:

- Julian Schnabel *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly*
- Ethan Coen & Joel Coen *No Country for Old Men*
- Wes Anderson *The Darjeeling Limited*
- Todd Haynes *I’m Not There*

BEST FOREIGN FILM



‘THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY’

This audacious adaptation of Jean Dominique Bauby’s memoir is filmmaking at its very finest. As the paralyzed Bauby learns to communicate by blinking his eye, his achievement is all the more inspirational since the film allows him to evolve as a flawed human being and not an immaculate symbol.

Nominees:

- *After the Wedding* (Denmark)
- *Control* (Belgium)
- *Lust, Caution* (Taiwan)
- *Persepolis* (France)

BEST SCENE

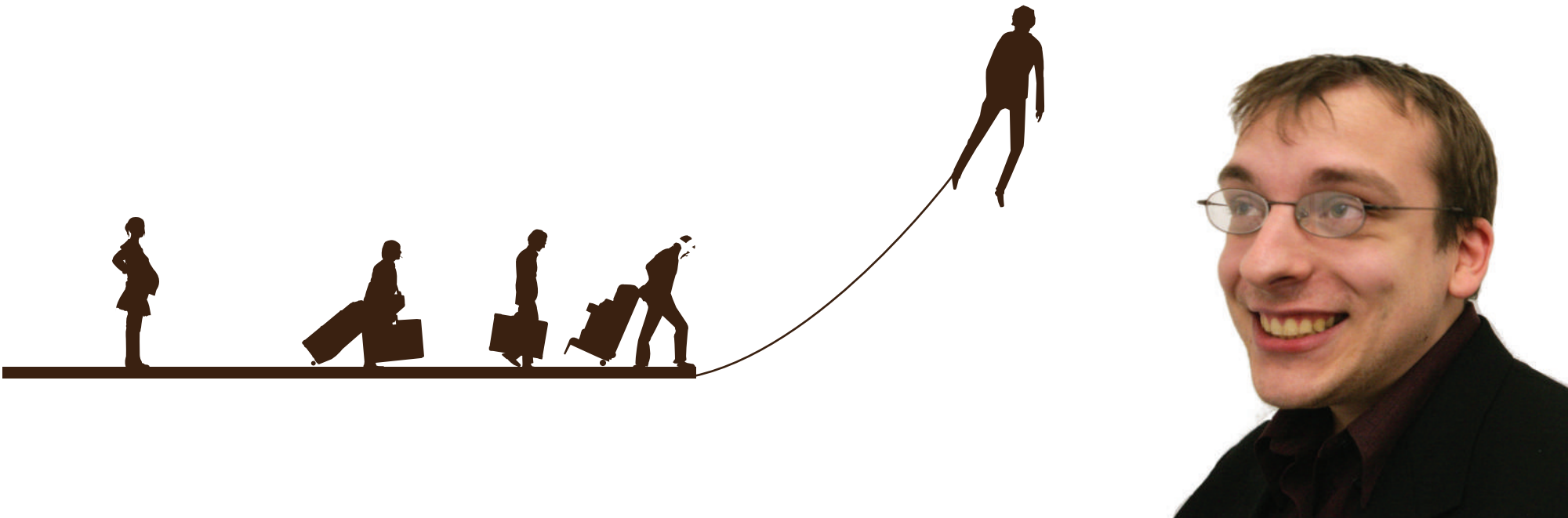


THE FIRST KILLING *Lust, Caution*

A group of moneyed Chinese students have been planning an elaborate assassination for months in a crowded apartment. A high-ranking official gets wind of their plan and goes to the apartment. The timid students try to stab him to death, unable to deliver decisive blows. Ang Lee lets the scene play for what seems like an eternity.

Nominees:

- The Baptism *There Will Be Blood*
- The title scene *The Assassination of Jesse James*
- “I drink your milkshake” *There Will Be Blood*

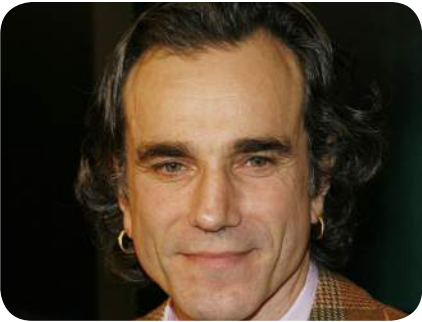


BEST ACTRESS



ELLEN PAGE *Juno*
How great it is to have an actress be celebrated for her talent, as opposed to her screwed-up life. Page's performance deserves to be such a smashing success with audiences. She masters her character's pretentiousness and arrogance, while making her growing maturity and empathy shine through. Page is pure magic.
Nominees:
- Marion Cotillard *La Vie En Rose*
- Jennifer Jason Leigh *Margot at the Wedding*
- Keri Russell *Waitress*
- Wei Tang *Lust, Caution*

BEST ACTOR



DANIEL DAY-LEWIS *There Will Be Blood*
There are few performances in the history of cinema that have the power, the depth and the audacity of Day-Lewis's jaw-dropping work in *Blood*. Method acting has been popularized by everyone from Marlon Brando to Heath Ledger, but rarely has it been so excitingly utilized. It's one for the ages.
Nominees:
- Sam Riley *Control*
- Javier Bardem *No Country for Old Men*
- Emile Hirsch *Into the Wild*
- Owen Wilson *The Darjeeling Limited*

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR/ACTRESS



CATE BLANCHETT *I'm Not There*
A rare instance of stunt casting that works, Blanchett pulls off playing Bob Dylan in his *Highway 61 Revisited* days. Her voice is spot-on, and her femininity underlines the androgynous, unknowable, near alien character Dylan himself played for several years before breaking his neck and dropping out of sight.
Nominees:
- Tommy Lee Jones *No Country for Old Men*
- Leslie Mann *Knocked Up*
- Hal Holbrook *Into the Wild*
- Michael Cera *Juno*

BEST VILLAIN



BILLY MITCHELL *The King of Kong*
With malevolent hair to rival Bardem's bowl-cut in *No Country* and an egocentric ruthlessness as American as his tie, this villainous video gamer embodies the classic Hollywood persona of a bad guy. The fact that he's an actual person makes his onscreen mischief all the more frightening and hilarious.
Nominees:
- Eli Sunday *There Will Be Blood*
- Grendel Beowulf
- Anton Chigurh *No Country For Old Men*
- Sweeney Todd *Sweeney Todd*

MATT'S TOP TEN FILMS OF 2007

- 1. 'JUNO'**
The best movie going experience I had this year was director Jason Reitman's extraordinary human comedy that offered a great showcase for two young female artists: actress Ellen Page and screenwriter Diablo Cody. Together they create one of the most distinctively stylized and yet entirely believable protagonists in recent memory. This is a film to treasure through shared laughter and tears.
- 2. 'NO END IN SIGHT'**
The most important film of the year is Charles Ferguson's Iraq war documentary that puts all the others to shame. It's the first film to let the outrageous facts speak for themselves.
- 3. 'NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN'**
The most cinematically pleasing film of the year is this profoundly suspenseful and haunting thriller from Ethan and Joel Coen that challenges viewers in unexpected ways.
- 4. 'THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY'**
Julian Schnabel's phenomenal film adaptation of Jean-Dominique Bauby's memoir is the year's most visceral picture—placing the viewer within the author's paralyzed body.
- 5. 'I'M NOT THERE'**
Some films don't reveal their greatness the first time around. Upon first viewing, I found Todd Haynes' audacious biopic to be the year's most frustratingly inaccessible film. Yet after seeing Martin Scorsese's Bob Dylan documentary *No Direction Home*, I gave Haynes' films a second shot, and found it to be an exhilarating celebration of artistic and personal experimentation.
- 6. 'THE KING OF KONG: A FISTFUL OF QUARTERS'**
This instant classic of a documentary tells a story so uproariously loony and deeply poignant that one would swear Christopher Guest dreamed it up. And yet the people onscreen are all too real, as they compete for the title of "Donkey Kong Champion." It's a satire on capitalism every bit as resonant as *There Will Be Blood*.
- 7. 'ATONEMENT'**
Pride & Prejudice director Joe Wright's period drama is a swooning romantic fever dream that is more about the heightened reality of memories and desires than of reality itself. It also contains the year's most breathtaking show—a five-and-a-half minute tour through the chaos of war.
- 8. 'AFTER THE WEDDING'**
Susanne Bier's spellbinding domestic drama was nominated for the 2006 Foreign Film Oscar but was released in the United States last March. It deserved to have been nominated this year. The performances have an intimate power rarely seen in American film.
- 9. 'L'ICEBERG'**
Reviving the art of silent physical comedy is an incredible feat, and this marvelous oddity from Belgium film pulls it off. It's like a Buster Keaton vehicle directed by Wes Anderson.
- 10. 'INTO THE WILD'**
Sean Penn's achingly beautiful and devastating character study deserves to have the number of Oscar nods reserved for *Michael Clayton*.

To prove how great this year in film was, here are my runners-up: *Away from Her*, *Once*, *Sicko*, *Waitress*, *Stephanie Daley*, *There Will Be Blood*, *Superbad*, *Knocked Up*, *Persepolis*, *Ratatouille*, *La Vie En Rose*, *Sweeney Todd*, *The Great Debaters*, *Margot at the Wedding*, *Hairspray*, *In the Valley of Elah*, *Paris*, *Je T'aime*, *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford* and *Michael Clayton*.

REVIEWS



SIIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD



WORTH A GIGGLE



HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



MARCH ISSUE OF OUT MAGAZINE

Out’s spring fashion issue detailed all the latest warm weather fashions that I have unfortunately been missing out on due to Chicago’s “inclement weather.” From slim fit cardigans to aussie Bum’s bootylicious swimwear, I now know I have a lot to look forward to once winter is gone. —C. Shively



FEB 14-20 ISSUE OF TIME OUT CHICAGO

Whoa, imagine opening the Feb. 14 issue of TimeOut Chicago and seeing a photograph shot by one of The Chronicle’s former staff photographers! For all those wondering, you can find him on page five. Kudos, Michael Jarecki, for proving a real job is possible after graduation. —A. Maurer



FEBRUARY ISSUE OF NYLON MAGAZINE

I seriously get the sweats when I page through this bad boy every month. I love it so much, but when I ripped it open this time it was all about London—YES! I’m going there over spring break, and now I am excited as ever to get a glimpse of these beautiful garments in real life. —C. Mahlmeister



MOVIES / DVD / TV



‘GONE BABY GONE’ ON DVD

Ben Affleck’s directorial debut is a superb Boston-set noir starring his brother Casey, who’s supported by a stellar ensemble including Amy Ryan, who deserves her Oscar nomination. The film takes several unexpected twists, and though Affleck’s handling of them is a tad overwrought, it’s still a rock-solid effort. —M. Fagerholm



‘CHARLIE BARTLETT’

This entire movie is trying to be *Ferris Bueller’s Day Off*, but instead it’s just an annoying wannabe that I wanted to turn off. Charlie even tries to do the whole pose Ferris does on the cover of his movie, but it’s 10 times less endearing while being 10 times more awkward. Ugh. —C. Mahlmeister

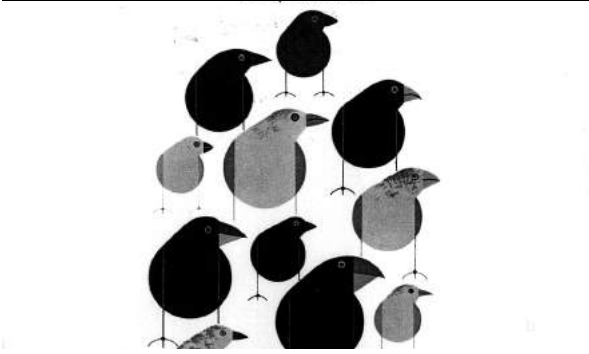


‘DIARY OF THE DEAD’

“I see something s--- happening in the world, and I slap some zombies on it,” director George A. Romero told Rolling Stone recently, referring to DIY video culture. The characters are filming their own mummy movie when the dead rise for real and seek out munchies, complete with shaky camerawork and fellow actors screaming for their friend to put the camera down. —S. Harvey



MUSIC



THE SPINTO BAND

The Spinto Band is cute indie pop from Delaware. Listening to this album made me happy. There are interesting harmonics, fun keyboards and captivating, wavering vocals. Check them out in Chicago in March. —B. Schlikerman



MICHAEL JACKSON: ‘THRILLER 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION’

First of all, I adore Michael Jackson—well, his music. Though this CD/DVD package wasn’t as amazingly fabulous as I thought it would be, I’ll take it. The booklet is gnarly, the DVD has my favorite performance he ever did and, well, it’s solid gold M.J. Need I say more? —J. Gallart



LIFE LONG TRAGEDY: ‘RUNAWAYS’

Begrudgingly, I like this. I wanted this to be filled with hardcore anthems like their last album, *Destined for Anything*, but this is wholly different. There are still trace remnants of their previous style, but this is a darker, more complete and cohesive effort. —R. Bykowski



RANDOM



RED MOLESKINE WEEKLY PLANNER

For someone keeping track of a million things, I have fallen in love with this little weekly planner. It has the perfect everything—plenty of space to write weekly events, tons of on-the-go need-to-know information, even pockets! Now I can carry my whole world around with me everywhere I go. —A. Maurer



FUR-TRIMMED, HOODED WINTER JACKETS

Aside from their hideousness, their functionality in the winter wasn’t fully thought out. They might keep you warm, but the snow that collects in the hood and then melts, ugh. To those who wear them, keep your hoods up, and not draped over a bus seat. I don’t like your snow melting on my lap on my bus ride home, OK? Thanks. —B. Marlow



FE-BOO-ARY

Why Fe-boo-ary? Because this month sucks! The weather in Chicago is absolutely appalling, my original Valentine’s Day plans were a total bust and job and school work are starting to pile up. And my W-2s, which should have come early this month, are supposedly lost in transit, which begs the question, where da money at? —D. Kucynda





A chilling adventure

THE LAKEVIEW Polar Bear Club took their annual winter dip in Lake Michigan to benefit a needy family. More than 100 local and regional swimmers went in the freezing water at Oak Street Beach, 1000 N. Lake Shore Drive, on Feb. 9.

This year's frigid swim raised more than \$12,000 to support Jessica Rowell and her 2-year-old daughter, Dajjiha.

Rowell and her daughter have been in a difficult living situation for the past two

years, spending time between different family members and public shelters around Chicago. Rowell receives minimal help, financial or other, from Dajjiha's father.

The group's website, LakeviewPolarBearClub.com, states that donations from this event may finally help get medical care, schooling and a safe and stable environment for Rowell and Dajjiha.

—Story and photos by Jody Warner

PREMIUM BLEND

Animate Objects

IT ALL started at a battle of the bands for the University of Illinois Triangle Fraternity in Urbana-Champaign, Ill. A group of guys put a band together, and their efforts resulted in the birth of Animate Objects. The diverse group of musicians, which includes MCs Alan J. "Wondur Wie" Griffin and Antar "CZAR Absolute" Jackson, keyboardist Artur "A-Dub" Wnorowski, bassist Prashant Vallury, drummer Brian "The German" Derstine, guitarist Steven Dobias and DJ Mike Mabborang, claim to embody the new spirit of hip-hop. Their first album, *Riding in Fast Cars with Your Momma*, was named as a metaphor for "taking hip-hop to the next level."

Animate Objects participated in the Armed Forces Entertainment tour and have won various awards, most recently a 2008 Independent Music Award for their song "El Dorado."

The Chronicle recently spoke with band members CZAR, Vallury and Dobias about their band's role in modern music and how they've dealt with their recent success.

Q The Chronicle: Why do you think your band embodies the future of hip-hop?

Antar "CZAR Absolute": I really feel like this generation that we're in right now is a new integration of not only cultures and ideas but ways of expression, and I guess we just happened to fuel that through the hip-hop medium. [We're] a band that has people from all sorts of varied backgrounds, [and] we come together to create one unified entity. I really feel like that's where society's going, and we sort of embody that.

Steven Dobias: We kind of started out without a purpose. We just wanted to make

good music. After our first show people are saying that we're the next big thing and they're comparing us to The Roots and we're like, "What the hell? We don't even know each other really." CZAR and I were the first ones on board to say, "Let's do this," and so really all you need are a couple people to push the rest forward. For the first year-and-a-half, we were just pushing the members forward to the point where our album came out. And now everything's being pushed at us, and I like this better. It's a very affirming experience.

Q What's an Animate Objects concert like?

Prashant Vallury: I think when you see us play live, our crowd is one that's all "rah-rah," with their hands up. For us it's kind of awkward at times because you'll look out and it'll seem like they hate everything you do. And when you walk offstage they're just so animated and eager to share their thoughts with us about how they thought the show went.

CZAR: One of the good things about our live show is that no one show is exactly like the other. You never know what you're going to get. You can come to an Animate Objects show [and] hear live vocalists, cellists, violinists and percussionists. We always try to keep it moving every time we come onstage.

Q How did your band become involved with the armed forces entertainment tours?

Vallury: I was at South by Southwest with our keyboard player, and we went to the trade shows to see what free stuff we could get. We met some army people there, and

they listened to our music and told us we were the band they've been looking for. We went to Guantanamo Bay, of all places.

We are a very political band, but we're not overt with our message. We didn't go to stress a political agenda. CZAR and I both come from families that have had people serve in the military; CZAR's family in the U.S., and my family back in India. So we recognized the sacrifice that had to be made, and we went to basically show our appreciation and also sneak around and see what's really going on down there. It was a very unique experience. I don't know if I would go back to Guantanamo Bay, but I would love to connect with all those soldiers again.

Q Why do you think "El Dorado" became such a success?

Dobias: I feel like it's a feel-good song.

It's one of those songs that you can put on and just ride to.

Vallury: The song almost wasn't on our first record. We thought that we were finished and as we were about to rap up, our keyboard player made a rough version of the track, and we all instantly fell in love with it. The chorus kind of signifies what we're all about. I mean we got in this on a whim, we didn't really expect to still be together five years later but we are. And we don't know really know how it got started, but we're enjoying every minute of it, and we're down to ride.

Animate Objects is currently playing out of town but plans to schedule a concert in Chicago this April. For more information on the band, visit Animate-Objects.com.

—M. Fagerholm



(Left to right) Prashant Vallury, Steven Dobias, Brian 'The German,' Antar 'CZAR Absolute,' DJ Mabborang, 'A-Dub' and Wondur comprise the hip-hop band Animate Objects.

Courtesy ANIMATE OBJECTS



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ACROSS

1 Tablelands

6 Tip, as one's hat

10 Quick and skillful

14 Up in the rigging

15 Surface size

16 French pronoun

17 African river

18 Track gathering

19 Primary

20 Headwear

22 Big mugs

24 Most clammy

29 Mountain subdivision

30 Star of "Misery"

31 Level of lethargy

33 Bitter

35 So long, in Soho

36 50/50 shots

39 Sockeye and chinook

44 Fish choice

46 Pacific island group

47 Authorized

53 Kissers

54 Dylanesque singer

55 Guesses

57 Harmony

59 Fill too tightly

60 Injection

61 Word of honor

64 Oxidizes

68 Track meet distance

69 Male parent

70 Wading bird

71 Gets the point

72 Historic periods

73 Therefore

10 Humble (oneself)

11 Stritch or May

12 Tosses

13 Past and present

21 Shakespearean contraction

23 Court proceedings

24 Jazz singing

25 Texas city

26 Corn servings

27 Fixed

28 Afternoon parties

32 Family school grp.

34 Light coat

37 Island dip

38 _____ gin fizz

40 Sled dog

41 Leave out

42 Curt negative

43 Give guff to

45 Tennis doubles?

47 Bursts of energy

48 Jughead's pal

DOWN

1 Buddy

2 "Xanadu" band

3 Abel to Adam

4 People from Kabul

5 Ermine in summer

6 Woman in distress

7 Product to mine

8 Fixed charge

9 Singer Domino

49 Actress Kidman

50 \$100 bills

51 Engraves

52 N, E, W or S

56 Fen

58 Medicinal quantity

62 Melodic tune

63 Chorus syllable

65 Immoral misdeed

66 RN's niceness

67 Sault _____ Marie

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2/18/08

HOROSCOPE

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Aries (March 21-April 19) Your comfort level is going up, through your own efforts. Others might think you're lucky, but you know you work hard for what you get. Enjoy it without guilt.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) You don't chase fame; you'd rather have the fortune and your privacy. You can step into the leadership position if necessary, however. If it's natural, do that now.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Recent developments reveal lots of unanswered questions. Other people want to know, and you can discover the answers. They'll appreciate your efforts.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) You should be in pretty good shape financially. Travel conditions will be excellent for about four weeks. Does that give you any ideas? Take the initiative.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) A sense of foreboding is temporary, and most likely inaccurate. You'll soon be your enthusiastic, optimistic self again.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Consult the grapevine if you want all the latest gossip. Find out what's going on behind the scenes. It never hurts to be prepared.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Share your recent adventures with friends; you'll find a warm reception. Don't spend too long with the crowd, however. You'd miss a romantic private moment.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A domestic dispute is about to lose importance. You and the other person may never see eye to eye. There's no need to be upset. Notice what's so and amend your plans accordingly.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The next phase in your plan is beginning to take shape. You've already taken the first step to making it happen. Imagine all the things that could go wrong, too.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) As you're allocating finances over the next few days, set aside funds for your own education. The next four weeks will be good for upgrading your skills.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Creativity is required on today's assignment. You also have to be careful how you spend your money. You should be getting used to all of that by now.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) It's time to get back to work, now that you know what you're doing. You and your partner are unstoppable when you're headed in the same direction.

SUDOKU

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

1					4		8	2
8		5		7		9		
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COMIC RELIEF

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“Don't take it personally, Ed. Your wife told me I was a terrible kisser, too.”

Commentary

Editorials

Blood begets blood

Six of the Guantanamo Bay prisoners accused of helping to plan and execute the 9/11 hijackings are finally being brought to trial. The charge is murder and conspiracy. Unfortunately, it's a military trial, and the prosecution is asking for the death penalty. Such a trial, which would take place out of the public eye and be independent of the United States' justice system, is asking for trouble. And the death penalty, if applied, would only serve to make the prisoners martyrs in terrorist cells around the world.

The prisoners, including the supposed "mastermind" of the attacks, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, will be tried in front of a military commission, whose members will both issue a verdict and set a punishment. Despite the claims of military personnel that "We are going to give them rights that are virtually identical to our military members," the trial will be out of sight of cameras and away from news organizations, according to CNN. There will be no jury and no guarantee that statements and confessions obtained through torture will be inadmissible or even suspect.

There's no good reason to hold these trials out of sight and with restrictions that violate the rights of the accused. Other alleged terrorists and mass murderers like Timothy McVeigh have been tried this way, with no negative repercussions and no suggestion that the military should be involved.

Apart from the unconstitutional nature of the proposed proceedings, the suggested

punishment of death is counterproductive. The men who hijacked the planes on 9/11 died as martyrs to their cause and believed they would receive a reward in the afterlife. Their deaths inspired terrorist groups everywhere, and terrorist leaders like Osama bin Laden still invoke their memories today.

The last thing the United States military needs is more terrorists to fight in the Middle East and around the world. Putting these men to death would raise their status in the eyes of their would-be followers and give Al Qaeda motivational fodder. The effect would be increased if it gets out that the prisoners weren't given a fair trial, or if it's revealed their confessions were extracted through waterboarding or other forms of torture.

In all legal proceedings, the United States has a moral and ethical responsibility to be transparent and fair. However, in this case, as in many others, there is an additional responsibility to American security at home and abroad. In this case, the death penalty would be ineffective as a punishment—suicide bombers will not be frightened by lethal injections. To execute these men would solve no problems, heal no wounds and serve only to motivate their compatriots.

For this crime, there is no "appropriate" punishment. But life imprisonment is a safer, wiser alternative to the death penalty. Logic compels the military to turn these prisoners over to the justice system and drop their request for execution.

Can't win it, still in it

Mike Huckabee is showing impressive perseverance in the face of long odds by staying in the race for the Republican nomination. Even on Feb. 12, after losing to John McCain in three straight contests, he renewed his commitment to staying in the race until one of the contestants has the 1,191 votes needed for a delegate majority. That's a good thing for voters, which means it's a good thing for his party.

According to the talking heads and pundits on the 24/7 news networks, Huckabee's campaign is finished. According to CNN, if he won every primary and caucus remaining, but McCain still received 40 percent of the vote, he still wouldn't win the nomination. Huckabee is behind in cash raised, staffers employed, states carried and delegates won, but he's doing his party (and, indirectly, his running mate) a service by staying in the race.

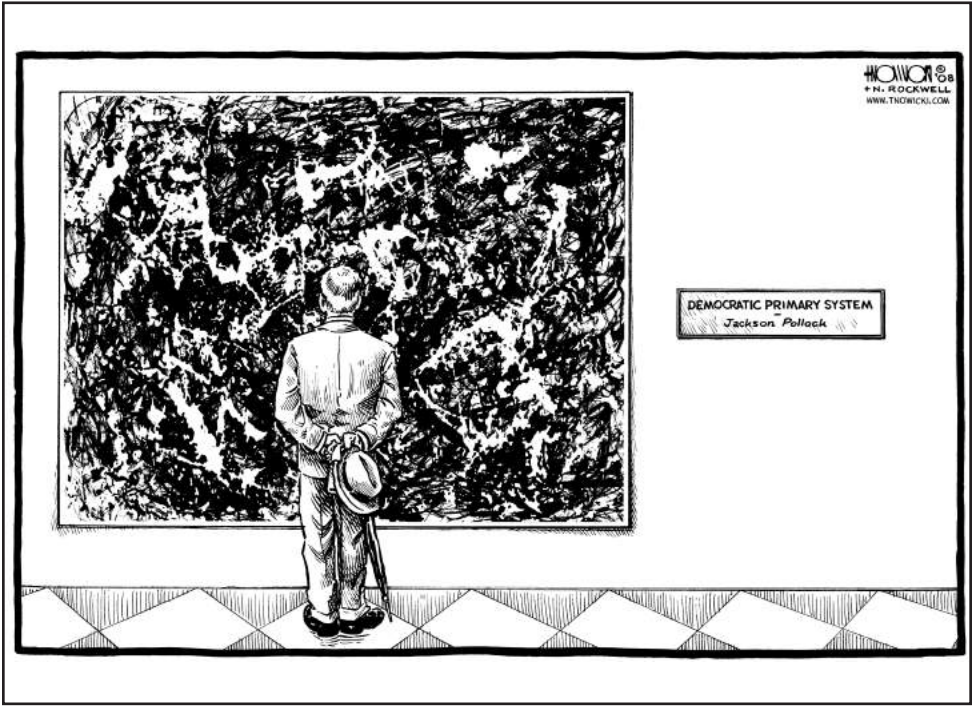
The foundation of democracy, and therefore of the primaries and caucuses that decide the presidential nominations, is choice. Without Huckabee in the race, Republican voters are deprived of an alternative to McCain's more centrist policies. If Huckabee dropped out, he would relegate a large part of the electorate (and perhaps even the majority) to an inevitable Republican nominee they didn't vote for and don't support. It's not as if Huckabee isn't getting any votes—he won Kansas and Louisiana and lost narrowly in Washington state on Feb. 9. In the more recent Potomac Prima-

ries on Feb. 11, he lost in all three states but garnered 41 percent of the vote in Virginia, a traditionally centrist state McCain was expected to run away with.

The argument of Republican strategists and election night studio analysts is that Huckabee is weakening his party by creating divisions and lowering enthusiasm for the November general election. This ignores the simple truth that those divisions already exist, (and aren't going away) and that Democratic voters have been turning out in numbers nearly doubling Republican turnout, according to CNN legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin. It's fine for party bosses to want everybody rallied around one guy, but to demand it before the election is even over is absurd, and devalues the party's voters.

One person who should be learning from Huckabee's campaign, instead of merely wishing it would go away, is McCain. Voters across the South and in churches across the country clearly prefer Huckabee. Those are two groups that Republicans absolutely have to carry to have any chance at winning the presidency this year. McCain needs to adjust his priorities and commitments to fall in line with the party electing him. Huckabee's opposition should bring McCain closer to the voice of his party, and it should serve the voters by making their eventual nominee more palatable, and therefore more delectable.

Republicans heart Huckabee. McCain needs to adjust, rather than belittle.



MCT

Letters to the Editor: Re: War, Obama

I recently spoke at the "War. What Is It Good For?" forum on Feb. 13.

Columbia students gathered to hear a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, a veteran from the Gulf War in 1990 and student activists speak about the Iraq War. The forum was a success as many walked away realizing how prevalent militarism is, how awful our media is and how if we really "support the troops" we should bring them home now.

I noticed, however, that The Chronicle did not list the forum as an event that Columbia College would be holding in the newspaper on last week's "to-do list." This was an opportunity for students to stop business as usual and really think about the importance of ending the Iraq War and to convince students to fight for an end to our crusade in the Middle East. The Chronicle should have listed the event.

I did see that The Chronicle covered Barack Obama's Super Tuesday victories. I wonder if The Chronicle knows that according to Peace-Action.Org's Presidential Voter Guide, Barack Obama is the only candidate running for the Democratic nomination in this election that has not laid out a plan to cut military spending and fund human and environmental needs, which is what the American Friends Service Committee suggests that America do.

In fact, in a debate in January, John Edwards, Hillary Clinton and Obama supported the right military recruiters have under the No Child Left Behind Act to invade high school and college campuses to recruit students for the military without objection. Instead of discussing how recruiters target, exploit and manipulate students to get them to enlist, the candi-

dates gave Bush and champions of militarism another victory.

The Iraq Veterans Against the War will be holding a "Winter Soldier" hearing in Washington, D.C. from March 13-16. Students for a Democratic Society and other student groups on campus are planning to stream and air the testimony of veterans who have fought in Afghanistan and Iraq for all to watch on campus at their convenience throughout the event which will span four days. We are also in the process of planning an event to occur after the streaming of the hearing where students will be able to speak about how the Iraq War has affected them. We also hope the faculty will join students and support these events.

I am challenging The Chronicle to focus on the unnecessary and unadulterated militarization of America over the past decade. I hope you accept my challenge by running articles that focus on the effects of the militarization of youth in America in addition to your pro-Obama pieces.

Kevin Gosztola
Sophomore
Film and Video

Re: Adjunct faculty

Given that faculty salaries form a large portion of Columbia's budget, any demand for full-time faculty members must be accompanied by a concession to the need for higher tuition, fewer classes or larger class sizes. You get what you pay for.

Daniel Mellis
Graduate student
Book & Paper Arts

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 Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board

Finally, officials defend animal rights



by **Becky Schlikerman**
Associate Editor

advocates gathered at the Pets are Worth Saving (PAWS) shelter, 1997 N. Clybourn Ave., to decry carbon monoxide gassing as a legal way to euthanize animals. Legislation was proposed by Fritchey at the shelter to make this practice illegal, according to the Chicago Tribune on Feb. 10.

According to the Tribune, euthanizing cats and dogs in this manner is considered inhumane and it is illegal in other states. In fact, Illinois is one of only eight states that still sanctions this practice.

The process involves putting dogs and cats, separated by wire mesh, into a large container that is filled with carbon monoxide. While the gas is seeping in, the scared animals panic and may begin to fight. In some cases, workers have heard the animals' cries, according to National Geographic News.

It takes more than 30 minutes for the process to be complete. Even so, the process may not work in some cases and animals are not killed by the gas. Instead, they survive and wake up in a freezer, according to

It's not often animals get a politician to speak on their behalf. But thanks to State Rep. John Fritchey (D-Chicago), an animal rights issue has been brought to the forefront.

On Feb. 10, Fritchey and other animal rights

the Tribune. The process may be repeated in those cases.

It's not often one sees animal rights issues get attention from the media or politicians, but it's about time. Animal rights issues should be highlighted more often, and not only because animal rights groups such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have naked starlets decrying fur in an ad campaign. After all, animals can't stand up for themselves.

Although proposing a ban on this type of euthanasia is a good start, there really should be no need for animal euthanizing—barring any medical conditions that can't be cured or pain that can't be relieved.

Instead, pet owners should be responsible and spay and neuter their cats and dogs to curb the number of domesticated animals that are born with nowhere to go. Instead of gassing or lethally injecting innocent animals, why not prevent the overpopulation in the first place? According to the Tribune article, campaigns that encourage spaying and neutering have cut the numbers of animals that are euthanized down from 42,600 in 1996 to about 19,000 in 2006. This tactic is working, and should continue to be implemented at maximum capacity.

Rather than euthanizing animals in shelters that aren't wanted, pet-seekers should be responsible and adopt, instead of buying pets.

People shouldn't be handing over money for purebreds when there are animals without homes which they could be adopting. Why would someone pay hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars for a fancy dog?

Animal shelters throughout the country are filled with homeless dogs and cats.

It's a shame that people disregard animals in shelters just because they may not be good-looking. There's nothing wrong with mutts. In fact, purebred pets have genetic problems because in many cases they're inbred, and have a small genetic tree. Mutts don't have this problem.

Buying purebred pets may seem glamorous, but dogs and cats aren't accessories.

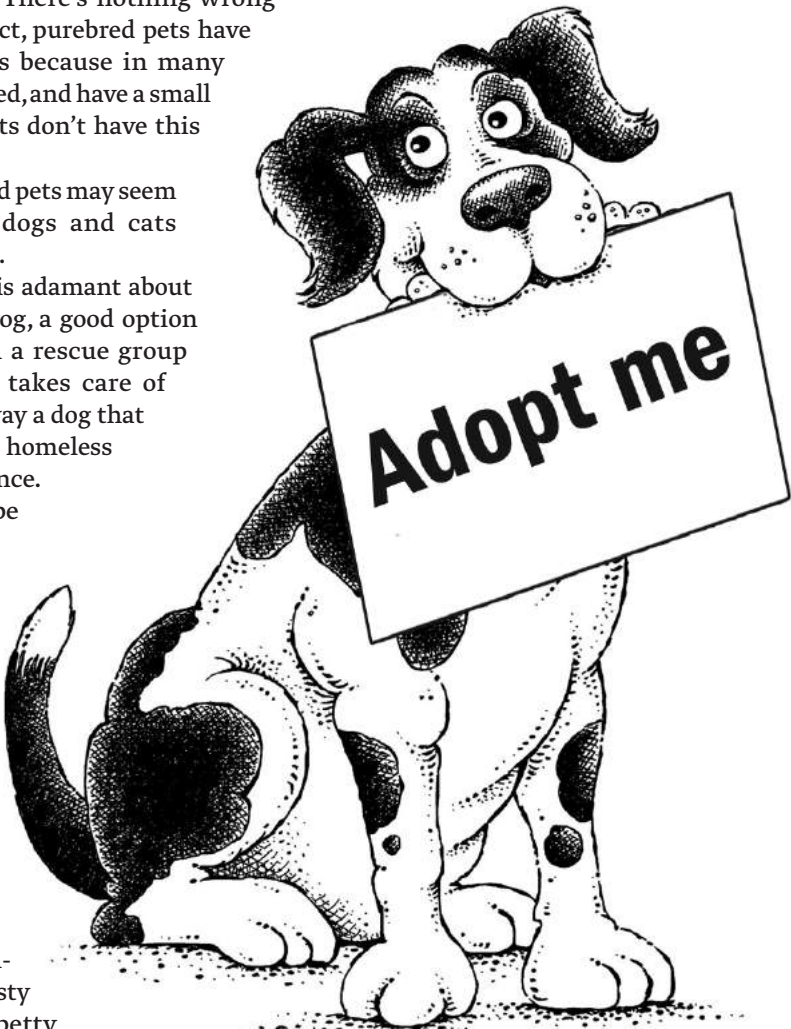
If a pet-seeker is adamant about getting a fancy dog, a good option is adopting from a rescue group that specifically takes care of purebreds. That way a dog that needs help and is homeless gets a second chance.

We shouldn't be concerned only about pets—there are other animals that need voices to speak on their behalf.

Maybe one day we'll hear politicians, inspired by Fritchey, condemning cruel, barbaric slaughterhouses, the nasty fur industry or petty cosmetic animal testing sooner than later

and use their power on behalf of animals.

bschlikerman@chroniclemail.com



Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

All delegates not created equal



by **Wes Giglio**
Commentary Editor

After eight straight primaries and caucuses have gone to Barack Obama, he's ahead in the delegate count for the first time since he won in Iowa. On the horizon, Wisconsin and Hawaii hold the next primaries, and Obama is polling ahead of Hillary Clinton there, as well. However, only 25 delegates separate the two nominees, and the Clinton campaign expects to do well in the voter and delegate rich states of Ohio and Texas. Campaign managers and Democratic Party leaders fear Democrats may be inching toward a brokered convention, with neither candidate having enough delegates to obtain a clear majority.

That's a major concern, because it would mean the candidate would be chosen by the nearly 800 party leaders and members of congress designated as "super delegates," and not the nearly 4,000 elected delegates or the nearly 15 million voters who sent them to the Democratic National Convention. That's fundamentally undemocratic and reminiscent of the conventions of old, where voters had no say in who would be their nominee.

One of the super delegates, Donna Brazile, has thankfully gone on record as opposing such a brokered convention, telling CNN, "If 795 of my colleagues decide this election, I will quit the Democratic Party. I feel very strongly about this."

She should. And the rest of the super del-

egates should be saying the same thing.

The super delegates are not only biased, (with twice as many supporting Clinton as Obama) they aren't tied to the vote of their respective states or districts. They're essentially free agents, and as of now would give an advantage to the candidate behind in states, elected delegates and total votes. That's the opposite of democracy. The Democratic National Convention needs to find a way to elect a candidate that's fair, and doesn't stand in opposition to the will of the people. Hopefully the delegate deadlock will be solved before then—if not, Chairman Howard Dean and the rest of the party need a plan.

Another monkey wrench thrown into the convention mess is the delegates from Michigan and Florida. One of the ways the

increasingly desperate Clinton campaign is hoping to break the tie is to include the delegates she won in Michigan and Florida.

Those states were denied eligibility in the Democratic primaries this year because they moved the dates of their contests without obtaining permission. The Democratic Party has stripped them of their votes and, so far, has stuck to that policy. Clinton never spoke against the party's decision until she won in Florida, where she promised a crowd of supporters she would "make sure" their delegates were seated at the convention.

Clinton claims voter disenfranchisement, but on that count, she doesn't have a leg to stand on. In Michigan, where she also won, she was the only candidate on the ballot, save Dennis Kucinich, and "uncommitted."

In Florida, none of the Democratic nominees (except her) appeared in the state, gave a speech, held a rally or ran an ad. It's absurd for her to lobby for those delegates, and it's dishonest to claim she even really won those states.

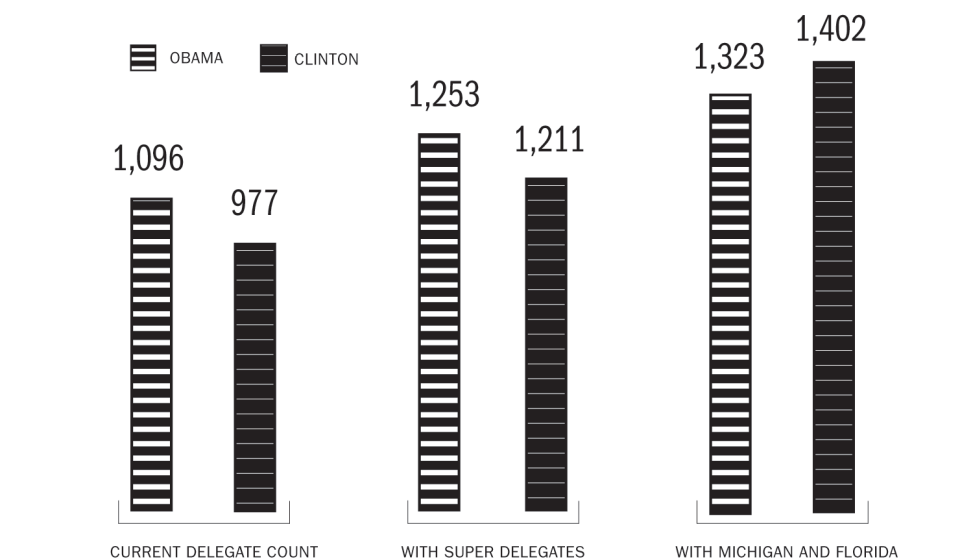
It's in the best interest of the Democratic National Convention to reject the Michigan and Florida delegates who come from states that were uncontested and disenfranchised beforehand. It's unfortunate that those Democrats didn't get to vote, and the convention should never have denied them their delegates, as they didn't move their primaries to a date earlier than any other state's election day.

However, it would be equally unfair to validate their election results, because no other candidates but Clinton ran in those states. Seating the delegates from Michigan, who were given no real options during their primary save "uncommitted," would be especially unjust.

The convention probably won't allow the delegates from Michigan and Florida to have a say in the nomination. The organization will, however, give voice to the super delegates. Giving super delegates a say in the primary process is patently unconstitutional, and as useless and anachronistic as the Electoral College.

A super delegate vote is embarrassing to a democratic institution, it's unfair to candidates and it renders the votes of thousands of citizens meaningless. By the next election cycle, the convention needs to abolish the practice. If they don't, they may find their base taking Brazile's advice.

DELEGATE vote breakdown



Numbers derived from CNN.

Emilia Klimiuk THE CHRONICLE

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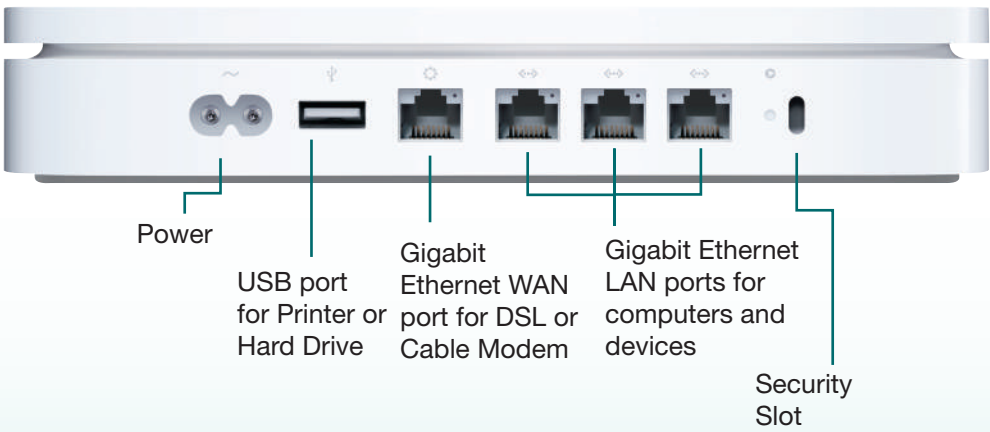
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City Beat



A group of cyclists gather at the Daley Center August 2006, much like the Chicago Bicycle Federation hopes its Sunday Parkway Events will facilitate.

Michael Jarecki THE CHRONICLE

Spoke up Sundays

Local bike group to pilot new weekend initiative to get more people pedaling

by Brett Marlow
Assistant City Beat Editor

THE STREETS of Chicago might start seeing more Sunday bikers than drivers, with a new pilot program to get more residents out of their cars and instead, pedaling their way around town.

The Chicago Bicycle Federation was recently awarded a \$15,000 grant from Bikes Belong, a Boulder, Colo. group that promotes bike-friendly culture in cities. The grant stemmed from \$100,000 donated by Recreational Equipment Incorporated, a company who sells specialty outdoor gear, to Bikes Belong to dispense for programs that will promote more ridership.

With the money received from the new

grant, the Chicago Bicycle Federation is working to plan events called Sunday Parkways to encourage people to get on their bikes more, and also bring communities together.

“[Sunday Parkways] is a free road-closure event that encourages physical activity through walking, biking and other non-motorized forms,” said Rob Sadowsky, executive director of the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, who is currently working on planning the events with the City of Chicago. “It’s kind of like turning street space into park space on a temporary basis on Sundays.”

The proposed route for the parkway events would be a 9-mile stretch from Logan Square to the Little Village neighborhood at 26th Street and California Blvd.

“We’re excited about this Chicago program because it’s something without question that will get a considerable number of

people riding bicycles in the city,” said Elizabeth Train, Grants and Research Director for Bikes Belong. “It’s something that will provide exposure for the sport, get people out riding in a really safe atmosphere. We saw this as a great opportunity to help Chicago increase its ridership and get more people out enjoying the city by bike.”

The budget to pilot the initiative is \$450,000. The federation has already raised \$190,000, including the grant. The money will be used to sponsor community activities like yoga, dance, aerobics and other events set up along the route.

The events are modeled after similar programs in Latin America where millions participate each Sunday, Sadowsky said.

“In Bogota, Colombia, it happens 77 times a year, plus major holidays,” Sadowsky said. “In Guadalajara, Mexico, which is very

» SEE BIKES, PG. 38

Landmarks could face wrecking ball

Organization takes political action to save city’s historical sites

by Colin Shively
Assistant A&E Editor

THE NON-PROFIT organization Preservation Chicago is getting ready to get political in order to protect historical landmarks in the city, some of which have been here since the late 1890s.

In a public release on Jan. 2, Preservation Chicago, 1011 N. Oakley Blvd., announced the seven most endangered historical landmarks in the Chicago area.

The list is comprised of Norwood Park, 5801 N. Natoma Ave., Devon Avenue Commercial District, 2230-2800 W. Devon Ave., Grant Park, Daly News Building and Plaza, 2 N. Riverside Plaza, American Book Company Building, 320-334 E. Cermak Road, Booker Building, 4700 S. Cottage Grove Ave. and the Chicago Athletic Building Association, 21 S. Michigan Ave. Also on the list,

though not a building, is the 1968 Chicago Landmark Ordinance, which is currently under view by companies who wish to build on the landmarks.

The president of Preservation Chicago, Jonathan Fine, said the “Chicago Seven” is what Preservation Chicago considers to be the most endangered areas that are at risk for losing their historical significance in Chicago.

Preservation Chicago is the only non-profit organization taking a stand against the reconstruction of the six endangered buildings and the recreation of the Landmark Ordinance.

The 1968 Chicago Landmark Ordinance was created after the destruction of Louis Sullivan’s Garrick Theater. The ordinance thus far has about 255 buildings listed as historic and 49 historical districts have been identified in the Chicago area. How-

ever, Fine explained the ordinance is not a law forbidding a company from destroying a historic landmark and building a new edifice. To this day, Chicago has not passed a law that protects historical landmarks.

“Because we are a sophisticated society, it is our responsibility to protect what our forefathers created for us,” Fine said. “We have to make sure that these buildings are here in a hundred years for our children and their children to see and enjoy.”

As with any old building, renovations are required in order to keep up with fire safety laws and electrical codes, and Fine acknowledges this. Preservation Chicago is not against restoring old buildings. “We understand that buildings have a lifetime,” Fine said. “And sometimes buildings have to be renovated to keep up with today’s culture. But the buildings that helped create today’s culture should always stand and be remembered.”

Preservation Chicago is not the only group that looks after and stands for

» SEE LANDMARKS, PG. 35

The big stink over ink

FDA launches study on chemicals used in tattoos

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant A&E Editor

THE FOOD and Drug Administration has announced plans to initiate a study on the chemical composition of tattoo inks and permanent makeup inks after reports of skin irritation, among other reactions with the pigment in tattoo inks, surfaced.

Due to concerns raised by scientists in the past couple of years, the FDA has launched the study to supplement research already found regarding safe tattoo practices. Tattoo businesses around the city have been largely self-regulated and city officials feel no need to impose legislation on tattoo parlors, as most locations are already prepared to deal with any consequences regarding irritation and undesirable reactions to tattoos. However, some Columbia students have found that using unsafe procedures or certain tattoo inks can lead to skin-related issues.

Stephanie Kwisnek, a spokeswoman for the FDA, said the FDA’s study will look into the reported unpleasant reactions to tattoo inks, concerns with tattoo removal and the variety of diluents and pigments that are used during the tattooing process, in order to see if any legislative action is needed to protect an individual’s health. Under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, the pigments used in tattoo inks, which are color additives, require pre-market approval.

“The FDA is aware of more than 150 reports of adverse reactions in consumers to certain permanent makeup ink shades,” Kwisnek said. “In addition, concerns raised by the scientific community regarding the pigments used in these inks have prompted FDA to investigate safe uses of tattoo inks.”

Studies have found that using non-sterilized equipment and plastic inks, combined with irresponsible tattoo artists, are to blame for tattoo-related

» SEE INKS, PG. 37



The FDA is looking into a study on the chemical composition of tattooing inks.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

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Below-zero weather hard on homeless



Darrell sits on the sidewalk near the intersection of Washington and State streets. Darrell lost his job as a printer and has been living on the streets of Chicago for the past three months. He doesn't go to shelters because he feels safer on the streets. He said shelters are full of ex-convicts and don't offer any encouragement to the homeless.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

by **William O'Brian**
Assistant City Beat Editor

COLD, SNOW and sleet can make navigating daily life in Chicago a challenge, but for Chicago's homeless, finding food and shelter in the frigid temperatures can be the difference between life and death.

On Feb. 10, the temperature in Chicago plummeted to 20 degrees below zero with the windchill. Some homeless shelters saw greater numbers of people seeking refuge due to the below-freezing temperatures and the demand was difficult to meet.

"We only have 32 beds, so we have to turn people away," said Shannon Degnan, social service intern at San Jose Obrero Mission in Pilsen, 1909 S. Ashland Ave. "We sent roughly 20 to 30 people that we couldn't accommodate to La Cruzada night shelter, [2624 W. Cermak Road., on Feb. 10], so hopefully no one is outdoors."

The demand for beds increases when temperatures drop to 10 or 15 degrees.

"Generally we don't have to send as many to La Cruzada as we did," Degnan said. "We may send five or 10 people there when the temperature is even 35 degrees, as opposed to the 20 or 30 people we sent [Feb. 10]."

Larger facilities in the city have been able to keep up with the demand better than some of the smaller locations. Pacific Garden Mission, 1458 S. Canal St., is one of the largest shelters in the city and tries to

prepare for as many people as possible.

"We have roughly 550 beds at any given moment," said Kermit Hagerman, men's division assistant director at Pacific Garden Mission. "So far we've been able to keep up, but we have brand new mats that we can throw down if we have to."

In a point-in-time count and statistical survey conducted on Jan. 27, 2007 by the Chicago Department of Human Services, out of the 6,715 homeless in Chicago, 4,988 were sheltered and 1,727 were unsheltered on that specific night. It is the unsheltered who are more susceptible to frostbite and even death, due to cold exposure, according to the Chicago Department of Human Services website.

"The guys that are staying on Lower Wacker Drive and elsewhere are hesitant to come in—for whatever reason—and it's these guys that get it the worst," Hagerman said. "I've seen terrible frostbite in our clinic and it makes you wonder when they don't come back. I hope they make it."

Many homeless men and women refuse to go to shelters, even when the weather is as brutal as it has been in Chicago the first half of February. The reasons are as diverse as the people themselves.

"I've been on the street for more than two years and I've only gone to a shelter three or four times," said Thomas G. a homeless man. "I went to Pacific Garden Mission

» LANDMARKS:
Continued from PG. 33

Grant Park is included in list of endangered locations

protecting historical landmarks.

Roberta M. Feldman, an assistant professor of architecture specializing in social responsibility at University of Illinois at Chicago, sympathizes with Preservation Chicago.

“Landmarks are important to any community because they are an embodiment of the history and culture of that community,” Feldman said. “Preservation is a significant idea because it is critical in keeping the culture of a given area or nation.”

Feldman described Grant Park as being an important landmark in identifying Chicago because few cities have a city park next

“Landmarks are important to any community because they are an embodiment of the history and the culture of that community.”

—Roberta Feldman

to a lake. Although opposed to the proposal to build a children’s museum in Grant Park, Feldman stressed that restoration of a given area is a way to capitalize on its recreational and tourist appeal.

Some groups believe that Grant Park is still in need of renovation.

The endangered list by Preservation Chicago has been criticized by those who believe there are no facts to support the claims made public by the organization

Bill O’Neill, president of the Grant Park Conservancy nonprofit organization and main supporter for the children’s museum’s construction, thinks there is no credibility in the endangered list.

“Grant Park is not endangered,” O’Neill said. “Twenty-five years ago in the 1980s Grant Park was falling apart with graffiti and the historical infrastructure was falling apart. We repaired it and made it like it is today. The museum will not take away from the culture, but it will add to the current culture and even help bring in a new culture that has never been seen before.”

Despite Grant Park being on the endangered list, O’Neill said the museum plans will keep the support of the mayor. O’Neill said if the museum is not built, Grant Park will lose culture and become obsolete in the future.

The endangered landmark list has brought attention to the lack of laws protecting and regulating construction on or near historic locations, Fine said. Preservation will stay political in hopes of making sure the public can enjoy the historical side of Chicago for years to come.

Now that the list has been issued, Preservation Chicago will continue to advocate the protection of landmarks in Chicago by holding meetings, demonstrations and other events to help raise public awareness.

cshively@chroniclemail.com



Chicago Athletic Association, 21 S. Michigan Ave., is one of a seven sites the Preservation Chicago wants to preserve.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

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» **HOMELESS:**

Continued from PG. 34

Dropping temperatures make homeless life more dangerous

when it was on State Street and man, that place was terrible. It was crowded and filthy and people will steal your stuff if you leave it [unattended] for even a minute.” Thomas came to Chicago from Madison, Wis., more than two years ago after he and his wife separated, combined with a lack of income, leaving him homeless. He described some of the reasons he will not go to a shelter.

“I’ve known people that have been sexually abused in shelters and were beaten within an inch of their life,” Thomas said. “And those Christian-run places force religion down your throat and won’t feed you if you don’t sit through hours of their preaching. I can’t do that.”

Thomas’ aversion to shelters is not uncommon.

“Many people have distrust for the system,” said Mark Collins, database manager for the Homelessness Management Information for the City of Chicago at the Chicago Christian Industrial League. “There is a certain freedom that people get used to—for good or bad—while on the streets and to them we represent just another institution.”

Collins said the people who refuse to go to shelters are potentially exposed to the elements the most. However, these people know where to go to get out of the cold.

“Some of the guys that have been around for a long time are pros,” Collins said. “The chronically homeless don’t survive very long on the street if they don’t know where



Plummeting temperatures this February has made life on the streets even more difficult than usual for Chicago’s homeless population.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

to go to avoid frostbite and such. Emergency room waiting areas, the train and soup kitchens, are all places that you better know about if you are on the street.”

It takes planning and cleverness to survive homelessness.

“Whether someone is chronically homeless or on the street for the first time, the amount of work that is involved is tremendous,” Collins said. “Some people think that the homeless are lazy, or just don’t want to work; it’s usually more involved than that.”

Homeless men and women expend much of their energy trying not to draw the attention of the authorities.

“These guys aren’t welcome in a lot of places and can’t stay in any one place

too long, either due to police or business owners running them off,” Hagerman said. “It is a day of constantly walking and thinking about how to get a bit to eat and what to do next. There is very little peace for those guys on the street.”

wobrian@chroniclemail.com

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» **INKS:**
Continued from PG. 33

Data show no public health risks from tattoo ink

side effects, infections and diseases, such as hepatitis and HIV.

Kwisnek said the actual practice of tattooing is regulated by local jurisdictions and according to Tim Hadac, a spokesman for the Chicago Department of Public Health, there is no evidence that has prompted the city and Illinois to pursue any restrictions on tattoo parlors, unless the establishment is found practicing unsafe techniques and using hazardous inks and materials.

“State legislators or city aldermen feel no compelling need to pass a law regulating tattoo practices,” Hadac said. “From a public health perspective, there is always some risk with tattoos, but the data collected, both locally and nationally, show that there is no public health risk [that needs to be addressed].”

Mike Dalton, a tattoo artist for 16 years, has worked for Chicago Tattoo and Company, 1017 W. Belmont Ave., for seven years. He said the tattoo industry is self-regulated, which explains the lack of safe tattoo ink legislation and practices. He said the FDA has only started approving certain inks for distribution.

“[Before], there [was] no requirement anywhere in the U.S. that [tattoo artists need] to use FDA’s approved ink,” Dalton said. “That is why no company has submitted their tattoo ink [until now] for approval.”

Zack June, a tattoo artist who works at the Chicago Tattoo Factory, 4441 N. Broadway Ave., said the staff uses all-natural inks

that are FDA-approved and do not use plastic inks, which run a higher risk of infections or adverse reactions.

“An infection is usually caused by some sort of bacteria, [like] staph bacteria, or someone being dirty,” June said. “The only [problem] that would happen with tattoo ink is a chemical reaction [to] the ink. If problems persist, we recommend [the client] see a dermatologist.”

Jessi Figlewicz, a senior audio arts and acoustics major, who has tattoos on her hip and ankle, said she does not fool around when it comes to skin art.

“I won’t go to a Chicago tattoo parlor, because they [are] overpriced,” Figlewicz said. “I think it’s safer to go to a person who does tattoos by appointment only and takes the time to get to know you as a person.”

Jeremy Beard, a freshman photography major with more than 30 tattoos on his body, said he reacts negatively to some of the chemicals in red tattoo ink. He said the type of ink can be harmful, depending on the person.

“After getting a tattoo, I see little bumps and experience irritation on my skin and it feels like poison ivy, but it went away after a while,” Beard said. “For the most part, inks that come from different companies use different chemicals. [For example,] many people have a problem with black light ink. [It gives them] infections and it doesn’t stay under the skin.”

He said tattoo artists are responsible for the products they use and the possible side effects of the ink used in tattoos.

“I think the tattoo parlors should definitely do research on the ink and see what is safe to use,” Beard said. “They [should] know certain inks can’t be used on the body.”

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com



Tattoo artist Mike Farrell works on Nelson Ramos on Feb. 14 at Tatu Tattoo, 1754 W. North Ave.
Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

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» **BIKES:**

Continued from PG. 33

Initiative hopes to promote non-motorized activity in city

similar in population size to Chicago, they do a 40-kilometer [nearly 25-mile] ride every Sunday and have 100,000 to 250,000 people participating.”

The events have yet to be announced, as the federation is still planning the details and routes with the city of Chicago, but Sadowsky said he hopes to have between three and five Sunday events this year. Its success will determine how many more happen. The goal is to eventually make this happen every Sunday.

Sadowsky said it’s also about bringing economic development to communities that participate in the event.

Mike Wasserman, president of the Chicago Cycling Club, said he is supportive and excited about the prospect of these events happening.

“We will certainly promote street closures and encourage our members and the community to go out and enjoy the streets as pedestrians and cyclists,” Wasserman said.

In 2005, Chicago was awarded a silver status rating from the American League of Bicyclists, which was also involved in determining who received the grant for these programs.

“We’re blessed to live in Chicago as bike-friendly as it is,” Wasserman said. “We see a lot of positive things happening to improve the biking ability of the city.”

Although Chicago is bike-friendly, the

aim of these events is to get more people on their bikes.

Cycling is more efficient than driving downtown, especially when it comes time to pay for parking, Wasserman said. He also said the health benefits that come with cycling cannot be discounted.

Wasserman said he also feels as if it’s a better way of getting around, and good for the environment.

“You’re not putting yourself into a steel cage and separating yourself from the rest of the environment, you can actually see 360 degrees around and interact with other people on the street or sidewalks.”

Angie Thornton and her partner Genevieve Smith both cycle as a means of transportation. They have participated in Critical Mass and other cycling events and said they would participate in Sunday Parkways, too.

“I do it mostly for the environment,” Smith said.

The couple hasn’t had many problems with motorists other than during Critical Mass, when drivers felt the need to yell at the cyclists.

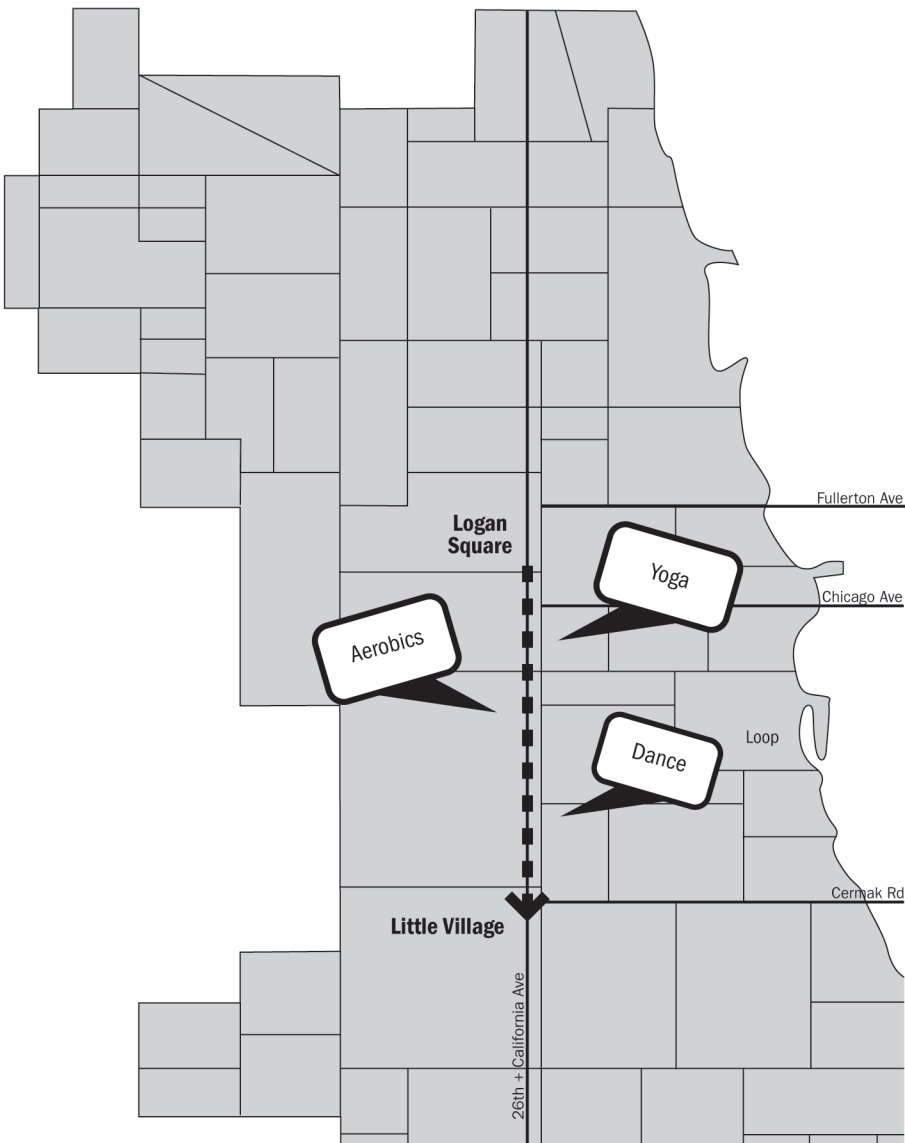
But Laura Thompson, a graduate student at Columbia, said she understands the needs for the road closures and the events, as she has participated in half-marathons before.

“My experience is that they close the roads too quick,” Thompson said. “They should consider keeping roads open a little longer.”

Thompson said she wouldn’t be bothered by the road closures, especially on Sundays when she doesn’t really go to congested areas of the city, like downtown.

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PROPOSED BIKE route for Sunday Parkways



Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

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Scoop in the Loop

by Brett Marlow
Assistant City Beat Editor

A lesson in legwork

After being sideswiped countless times while outside on what should be a smoke break, missing a train because a crowd of people thought it better to move slowly down el stairs instead of allowing me to pass and a group of tourists standing between me and my morning cup of coffee, I thought it time to address an issue in our city the rules of the walkways.

In a city of nearly 3 million people, the sidewalks and streets are bound to be crowded, but the flux of people walking every which way has become even more complicated because most people aren't applying the rules of the road to their foot traffic.

People chat on their cell phones, text on their BlackBerrys, push their children in strollers and strut to the beat of the tunes coming through their headphones. However we tread the path, there are ways to have manners about it.

While on my smoking breaks, I'm often bumped by people walking by, never saying or muttering, "Excuse me," or showing any signs of caring. I've often taken a step backward or inward depending on my place on the sidewalk to give them extra room to walk by, but even the extra few inches hasn't stopped some. If we were in cars, we would have been exchanging insurance info at this point.

As one who has never driven, I still know how to apply the rules of the road to the sidewalk. It's quite simple, especially this time of year when sidewalks are often cut in half by snow piles or are iced over, leaving little to no room for more than two people to walk by at the same time.

If a group of people are walking in a line, or taking up each "lane" of the sidewalk, and people are wanting to pass on either



Pedestrians walk across the intersection at Washington and State streets. Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

side of them, it's as if everyone is on a two lane road. Slow down the speed, get behind your pal and let the passer do just that. Another simple solution is to walk in pairs, forming almost a square rather than a line. There's no need to clog the entire street unless you're as hot as the cast of "Sex and The City." If not, split it up.

My mind works like my feet do; we like to go fast. The one thing that bugs me is the joy walkers, or if we apply the rules of the road to walking, call them Sunday drivers. I have no beef with anyone who is out for a stroll, but take that stroll to the Lakefront or a park they're prettier anyway.

It's frustrating to slow down the pace of my stride while behind someone who is barely moving. Tip two, be mindful of who is in front and behind you. Just like on the highway, there's a fast lane and a slow lane. Pick the one you belong in and stay put. Fast walkers don't like having to weave in and out of people taking their time, a straight line is much more convenient.

I'll admit I'm a repeat offender of what I'm about to gripe about, but I'm learning,

hopefully just like you. Walking through a crowd at a light or crosswalk can be challenging at times, especially if there aren't any visible gaps to walk through. Often there aren't and I'm forced to stop dead in my tracks or make a path for myself. It's often rude, I've walked through couples holding hands and mother and children, but they left me no choice. When crossing streets at lights, stake your claim. Pick a path, make a bee-line in and let it be known. No one likes to dance in between a yellow and red light.

Applying the rules of the road benefits everyone, the fast who get to walk briskly, the slow who get to go at their own pace. It alleviates congestion, frustration and awkward sidestepping. So next time you're out and about, be wary and observant, there might be someone behind you giving you the look of death as you take your precious time to get down the street, standing between them and their daily fix.

bmarlow@chroniclemail.com

In Other News

Sneaker trains

The morning rush hour will see reduced CTA Red Line service to the Loop starting March 30 as part of the ongoing renovation of the North Side rail corridor, according to the Chicago Tribune. The CTA has introduced "sneaker trains" in hopes of lessening the delays already being experienced south of the Belmont station. The extra sneaker trains will run about two per hour and will begin their southbound trip at the North/Clybourn station to provide extra capacity.

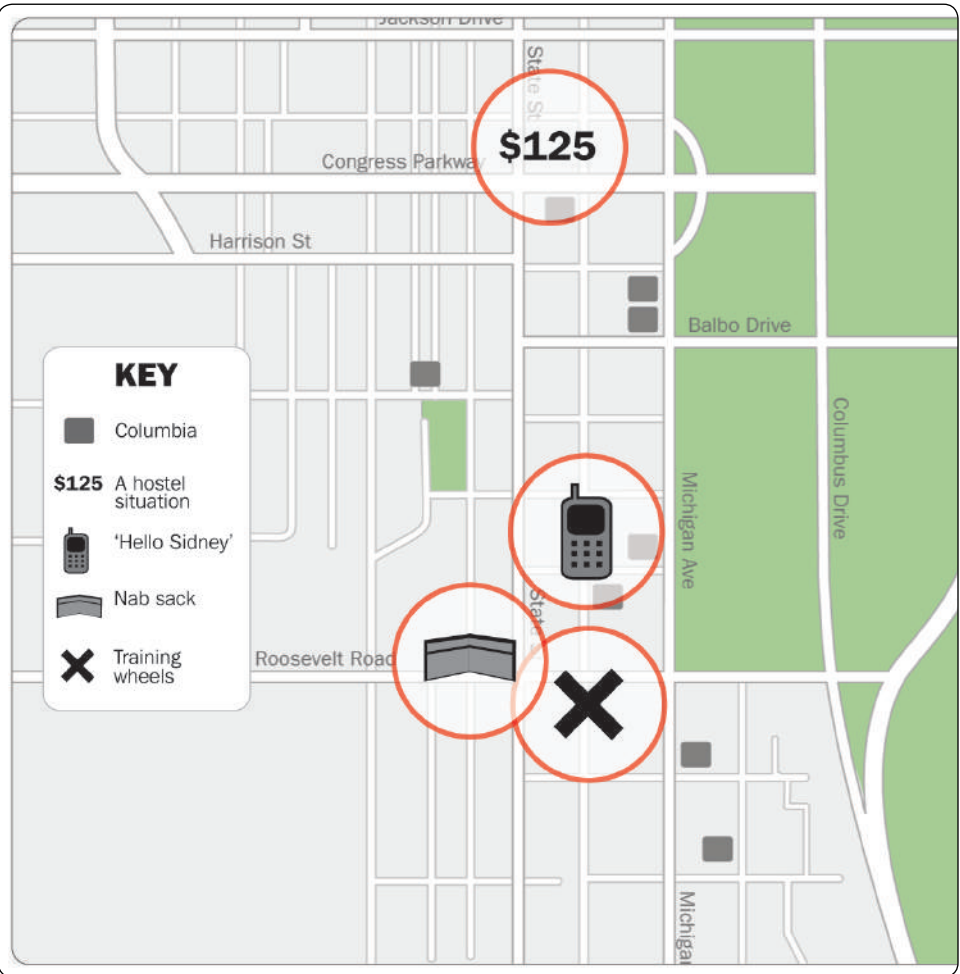
Bartender beating

The lawyer for police officer Anthony Abbate, who was videotaped beating up a female bartender, signaled Feb. 13 his client might plead guilty, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. Abbate, 38, is a 12-year police veteran charged with punching and kicking 115-pound Karolina Obrycka. The beating was caught on tape and gained worldwide attention. Abbate was suspended from the police force and is charged with aggravated battery, as well as official misconduct, communicating with a witness, intimidation and conspiracy in the Feb. 19, 2007 incident at Jesse's Shortstop Inn, 5425 W. Belmont Ave.

A special education

A Chicago Public School teacher bound a 9-year-old special education student into his chair with masking tape Feb. 5, supposedly because he would not sit down, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. The teacher, who obtained her teaching credentials last June, had been working at Medgar Evers Elementary School, 9811 S. Lowe St., for a week at the time of the incident, a public schools spokesman said Feb. 7.

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

A hostel situation

A white male in his mid-20s stole from Hostelling International Chicago, 24 E. Congress Parkway, on Feb. 9, according to police reports. The offender, described as clean-cut, wore a black hoodie and light jeans, entered the hostel and told a female behind the counter he had lost his wallet. After trying to look behind the counter, the female told him to look for his missing wallet in the garbage cans, and even assisted. When she got up to help, the male went behind the counter and stole \$125. Police were unable to immediately review surveillance tapes, and the offender was not apprehended as of press time.

'Hello, Sidney'

A 50-year-old male reported to police on Feb. 10 that a 37-year-old female had been calling and text messaging threats to him and his 26-year-old daughter's life. The male, who resides near 1020 S. Wabash Ave., reported to police that the female has threatened to send thugs to harm him and his daughter. According to police reports, the offender was cited in a message saying she may "Do him in" herself as she has stabbed someone before and gotten away with it.

Training wheels

According to police reports, a 16-year-old black male attempted to exit a Green Line train at 22 E. Roosevelt Road on Feb. 6, but was unable to before the doors closed. The male then exited through the emergency exits and positioned himself between two el cars. As the train accelerated, the victim jumped from between cars and hit a beam on the platform. The male suffered a swollen eye and lacerations to his forehead. Chicago Police notified the male's mother. He was treated at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, 1900 W. Polk St.

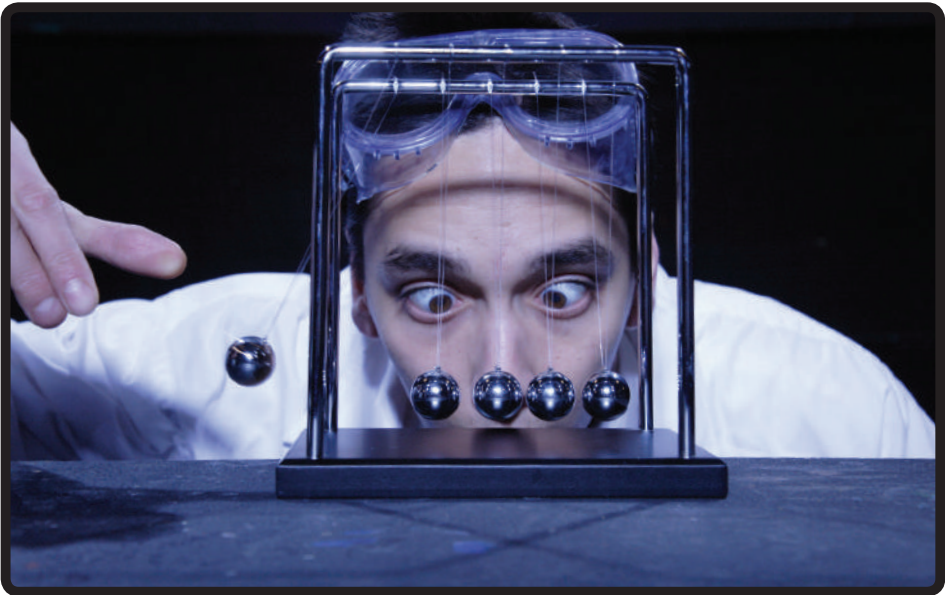
Nab sack

A 23-year-old female was robbed of her wallet, credit/debit cards, social security card and drivers' license at 1167 S. State St. while waiting for the el. According to police reports, the victim's belongings were nabbed from her backpack. She turned around after feeling a nudge on her bag, found it unzipped and her belongings missing. The unknown offender then ran off the platform. Her belongings were not recovered. Police advised her to report her cards missing.

‘Contraption’
Thursday, Friday, Saturday @ 8 p.m.
Until March 1

From the off-the-wall theater group The Neo-Futurists, who pioneered “Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind,” which is currently the longest-running show in Chicago today, comes “Contraption.” The quirks of inventors are the stuff of legends. Nikola Tesla, who invented the Tesla Coil (the lightning machines seen in laboratory scenes of early Frankenstein films) as well as alternating current, was also terrified of hair, despised jewelry and refused to stay in a hotel room with a number not divisible by three. This show will explore his and many other inventors’ quirks throughout history, questioning the nature of genius and its relation to madness.

Neo-Futurarium
5153 N. Ashland Ave.
(773) 275-5255
\$15 or \$10 with student ID



The Art Institute of Chicago

Monday–Wednesday, Friday
10:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday 10:30 a.m.–8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Culture: get it while its free. Through the month of February, admission will be free at the Art Institute of Chicago. Ticketed exhibitions will still have a cost of admission, but stop by to catch a lecture, a screening or just check out their collections. The Dada and Surrealist wings are two great places to start; or if you’re a photographer and paint isn’t quite your thing, there’s plenty for you here as well.

Free until March 1
111 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 443-3600



FREE

monday

Gallery Talk: The Art of Sculpture

1–2 p.m., Art Institute of Chicago, gallery 100
111 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 433-3680



FREE

African Heritage Month Lecture by Tom Burrell

Noon–3 p.m., Hokin Annex
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-7994



FREE

For Columbia with Love: Out from Under the Covers: A Sizzling Stand-up Comedy “Sex-Ed” Night for Gays and Straights Alike

5–7 p.m., Hokin Gallery
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-8594



FREE

Interactive Arts and Media Visiting Artists
Lecture Series: LiQin Tan

5–8 p.m., room 405
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-7957



FREE

tuesday

Life Skills Workshops: Get a J-O-B/Networking 101

Noon–12:45 p.m., room 311
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-8567



FREE

Managing Stress

Noon–12:45 p.m., main level suite 112
731 S. Plymouth Court
(312) 344-8700



FREE

‘86!’

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday @ 8 p.m.
Bartenders. Many tip them well; others don’t tip them at all. Many treat them like drinking buddies and confidants; some treat them like dirt scraped off their shoe. If you find yourself in the latter categories, then perhaps you should attend this final night of the play that examines those beer-jerkers who magically lubricate our conversations. This comedic play is an in-depth look at bartenders and the jobs they do so well.

Royal George Theatre
1641 N. Halsted St.
(312) 988-9000
\$25



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4:30–6:30 p.m., Portfolio Center, room 307
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-7280



FREE

Iran: Military or Non-military Engagement?

Journalist Stephen Kinzer
6:30 p.m., Northwestern University Thorne Auditorium
375 E. Chicago Ave.
(847) 912-0739



FREE

wednesday

Total Lunar Eclipse at 7:43–11:09 p.m.

Last one in Chicago until December 2010
Special viewing at the Planetarium with experts and telescopes if weather permits
7:30–11 p.m.
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive
(312) 922-7827

FREE

‘Winter Soldiers’

Benefit for Iraq Veterans Against the War
7 p.m., DePaul University Art Museum
2350 N. Kenmore Ave.
(773) 325-7506
\$10 donation suggested



Pope Brock

Discussion and signing of Brock’s latest book, ‘Charlatan: America’s Most Dangerous Huckster, the Man Who Pursued Him, and the Age of Flimflam’

6 p.m., Chicago Authors Room
Harold Washington Library, 7th floor
400 S. State St.
(312) 747-4300



FREE

African Heritage Month: Poetry Series: A Tribute to Alice Walker

12:30–2 p.m., C33 Gallery
33 E. Congress Parkway
(312) 344-7994



FREE

“Stunt Doubles, Companion Species, and the Lyric”: A Lecture by Danielle Pafunda

5:30–7 p.m.
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
Music Center Concert Hall
(312) 344-8819



FREE



Vintage Strong Beer Festival ’08

Saturday @ Noon–6 p.m.
For six hours, Delilah’s will be transformed into a veritable Wonka’s factory for the booze crowd during their 10th Annual Vintage Beer Festival. Three Floyds, Two Brothers, Greg Browne Brewing, Goose Island and oodles of others will be contributing beers. This will be your chance to sample more than 70 different ales of various vintages side by side, with many making their Chicago premiere. At \$20, it’s a total bargain and a unique experience for any connoisseur of the keg.

2771 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 472-2771
\$20

Submitting to Sundance 101

6–8 p.m., 8th floor
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-7280



FREE

thursday

For Columbia with Love: Blood Drive

10 a.m.–4 p.m.
731 S. Plymouth Court
(312) 344-8567



Gallery Talk: American Perspectives

1–2 p.m., Art Institute of Chicago, gallery 100
111 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 433-3680



FREE

Onerepublic, Josh Kelley, The Daylights

6 p.m., Metro (All ages)
3730 N. Clark St.
(773) 549-0203
\$21



friday

‘The Telephone Book’

Midnight
Music Box Theatre
3733 N. Southport Ave.
(773) 871-6607
\$10



Toasters, Fear Nuttin Band, Manic Sewing Circle, Waste Basket

5 p.m., Reggie’s Rock Club
2109 S. State St.
(312) 949-0121
\$12



Inept

6 p.m., Metro
3730 N. Clark St.
(773) 549-0203
\$10



Getting the Story...
Understanding the Legalese

Tuesday @ 10 a.m.
Sure, it’s for journalists specifically, but let’s face facts: plenty of artists out there potentially face lawsuits. Maybe you’re a documentary filmmaker and you want to avoid those court costs. Maybe you’re a political performance artist who wants to make a statement without crossing that blurry line into slander. This panel discussion will be moderated by the Joseph Bisceglia, the president of the Illinois State Bar Association.

Room 219
33 E. Congress Parkway
(312) 344-8919



FREE

saturday

The Acoustic Sideshow

10 p.m., Irish Oak (21+)
3511 N. Clark St.
(773) 935-6669
\$30 for an all-you-can-drink wristband



ongoing

Museum of Modern Ice

Until Feb. 29
55 N. Michigan Ave.
Millenium Park
(877) 244-2246

FREE

Semester in LA Open House

10 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday
6 p.m., Wednesday
1104 S. Wabash Ave., room 502
(312) 344-6717



FREE

Vaudeville-style Magic Matinee

Saturdays and Sundays until March 2
11:30 a.m., Music Box Theatre
3733 N. Southport Ave.
(773) 871-6607
\$13 (\$10 in advance)



Know about an upcoming event that other Columbia students should know about?
Give us a heads-up. We’ll be sure to consider it!
sbaltrukonis@chroniclemail.com



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