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Columbia Chronicle (03/17/2008)

Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago March 17, 2008 Volume 43 Number 23 ColumbiaChronicle.com



GORGEOUS GLASS

(Left to right) Cecilia Buehler and Alicia Hill, both volunteers at the Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, admire 'Macchia,' a set of brightly colored glass sculptures created by artist Dale Chihuly on March 13. This is part of 'The Glass Experience,' a new exhibit at the museum that runs until September. See page 13 for full story.

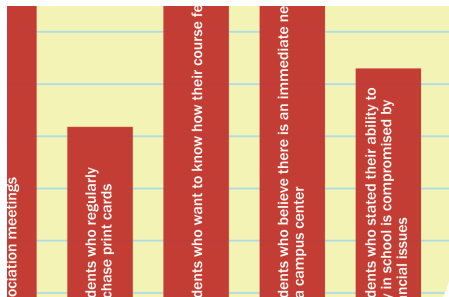
Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE



THE SOUND OF A COMEBACK

IN 2006, shortly after releasing their second album, Chicago foursome The Hush Sound decided to call it quits. But after realizing the scope of their fanbase at one of their first headlining shows outside of Chicago, the four friends decided to keep the beat alive. The Chronicle talked with drummer Darren Wilson about the band's new album that will drop March 18 and how the temporary break-up affected their new sound.

» SEE PG. 18



Aquarium jumps to help save frogs

Shedd Aquarium takes part in Year of the Frog, a global effort to save endangered amphibians

by Meha Ahmad
Staff Writer

OUR KERMIT-LIKE friends may not be hopping around forever.

About one-third of the 6,000 known amphibian species are threatened by extinction, according to the World Conservation Union. Frogs face an extinction rate even faster than the one that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago, said amphibian experts at the Shedd Aquarium.

In an effort to bring awareness to the threats amphibians face, the Shedd Aquarium, along with zoos and aquariums around the world, are taking part in Year of the Frog—a movement to ensure the global survival of thousands of species of frogs.

Leap Day kicked off the start of Year of the Frog at the Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive. Children and their parents got to see a wide range of amphibians up close, from the large, green and jumpy North American bullfrog to the tiny brown Mantella frog of Madagascar. They took part in frog workshops and made paper frog hats on Feb. 29, though Year of the Frog will continue to raise awareness and funds throughout the year. They also learned about threats amphibians face worldwide, including depletion of habitats, diseases and pollution.

Kara Glavan, 10, of Elmhurst, Ill., a self-acclaimed “frog freak,” said she likes to spend time in the warmer months outside catching



Amber Raber of Grand Rapids, Mich., takes a close look at one of the Shedd Aquarium's bullfrogs during the 'Leap Day' celebration on Feb. 29.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

frogs and enjoyed the frogs at the Shedd Aquarium, calling the exhibit “neat.”

“I’ve seen hundreds of frogs,” Glavan said, as she watched two large green and brown marine toads trying to burrow themselves deeper into the aquarium’s soil. “I like them because of their cute big eyes.”

Year of the Frog is a campaign established by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the World Conservation Union, Amphibian Ark and other global conservation groups. For the rest of 2008, the campaign aims to bring awareness to the declining amphib-

ian around the world, raise funds for future conservation endeavors and address the threats frogs face.

Habitat loss, pollution, global warming, infectious diseases and stronger ultraviolet light due to ozone thinning are some of the threats to amphibian life. Frogs are regarded as sensitive animals or “indicator species”—usually illustrating whether an environment is healthy or not because their skin is very sensitive and permeable to the

» SEE FROGS, PG. 38

LACK OF CENSUS

PARTICIPATION IN a recently released Student Government Association student census was underwhelming, leaving the organization with limited long-term use for the data. Marketing and advertising that focused more on giveaways for completing the survey than traditional publication based advertising appeared to be ineffective, according to the SGA.

» SEE PG. 3



DUUUUDE

WHEN TWO fans of the 1998 Joel and Ethan Coen film *The Big Lebowski* decided to have a party to celebrate “everything Lebowski” in 2002, they didn’t expect many people to show up. But six years later, mega-fans from around the world flock to the annual Lebowski Fests hosted in several cities across the United States, including the first Lebowski Fest hosted in Chicago March 7–9, and have become a part of the massive phenomenon surrounding the film.

» SEE PG. 20



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

‘Ruff’ times for dogs

I’M A sucker for animals. I don’t care if it’s a photo, video or real life—most cats and dogs will yield an “aww” from me—so when they come up in the news, I can’t ignore reading about them.

Some people may automatically say “So what?” but I think our society’s treatment of animals reflects back on us, and it’s a constant reminder of how we can better ourselves as a whole.

The first story that sparked my attention was about a raided puppy mill in Peotone, Ill. Authorities found approximately 50 dogs stacked in cages and covered in excrement in an unheated barn.

Then there was that controversial YouTube.com video of American soldiers throwing a puppy off a cliff in Hawaii. Sure, the whole thing could have been faked or the dog may have been dead, but no matter how you try to rationalize it, the act was still disgusting.

But another recent story this week didn’t only tug on the heartstrings, it also brought up a very real and rarely discussed problem.

On March 7, the SouthtownStar reported on yet another sad animal situation, which has become one of the many consequences of the current economy: People abandon their pets when financial times are tough.

The writer, Donna Vickroy, told the story of one pooch that was brought to a shelter by a realtor after the realtor had found it

in a house that was in foreclosure. It was estimated that the dog had been left there alone for three weeks.

This is not an isolated incident. Cook County animal control officers have commented on how they’ve been rescuing more pets than ever from homes in foreclosure. According to the article, when families move away or are evicted, they usually leave their pets behind, as they’re an additional financial burden.

What’s really tragic is since many people already feel guilty about having to leave their pet, they rarely do the right thing by bringing it to a shelter. This means that even more pets are abandoned at unsafe locations without any food, water or care.

Hearing stories like these are particularly difficult after hearing about a friend who’s breeding her dog.

She’s one of those people who happily dealt with the consequences of an unsprayed dog, simply so she could have her pet bred with Mr. Right a few months ago. Now she’s looking forward to selling the pure-bred pups for big bucks.

I hate thinking about how she’ll make money off of increasing the pet population, while most shelters struggle to get by on donations. And when hard times hit, it seems these shelters experience awful scenarios on both ends: Not only do people cut back on donating funds, but there’s also



MCT

an increase of abandoned animals.

What is encouraging is that people are stepping up to help. The gruesome YouTube.com video was quickly yanked, and hundreds of people have called the shelter housing the Peotone pups hoping to give them a home.

While I know it’s difficult for college students to take in a pet (if only those dorm rules would relent) there are some solutions, and now is a great time to get involved. Volunteer at shelters—the number of animals brought in increases each spring, or donate to one in your area. Or, if you’re confident you can take on the responsibility, adopt one and change your life and your pet’s life forever.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

CAMPUS POLL: What is your commute to school like?



“I take the Metra Kenosha [Pacific North] line from Highland Park. I buy a \$36 10-ride pass every other week.”

Jennifer Crotty
Senior
Arts, entertainment and media management



“I take the Red Line from Wilson to Harrison from Uptown, just north of Wrigleyville. I use my U-Pass.”

John Jones
Junior
Advertising art direction



“I usually drive or take the Metra Electric from Country Club Hills. It’s not that far, but it can be a hassle sometimes. I wish they’d compensate for the students somehow.”

Candice Edwards
Senior
Journalism

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Clarification:

In the March 10 issue of The Chronicle, a City Beat story, “Blackstone back in business,” reported The Blackstone Hotel will feature a restaurant called Mercut a la Planza with Catalina cuisine. The name of the restaurant is actually Mercat a la Planxa and offers modern Catalan cuisine.

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Letters can be faxed to (312) 344-8430, e-mailed to Chronicle@colum.edu or mailed to The Chronicle, 33 E. Congress Parkway, Suite 224 Chicago, IL 60605-1996.

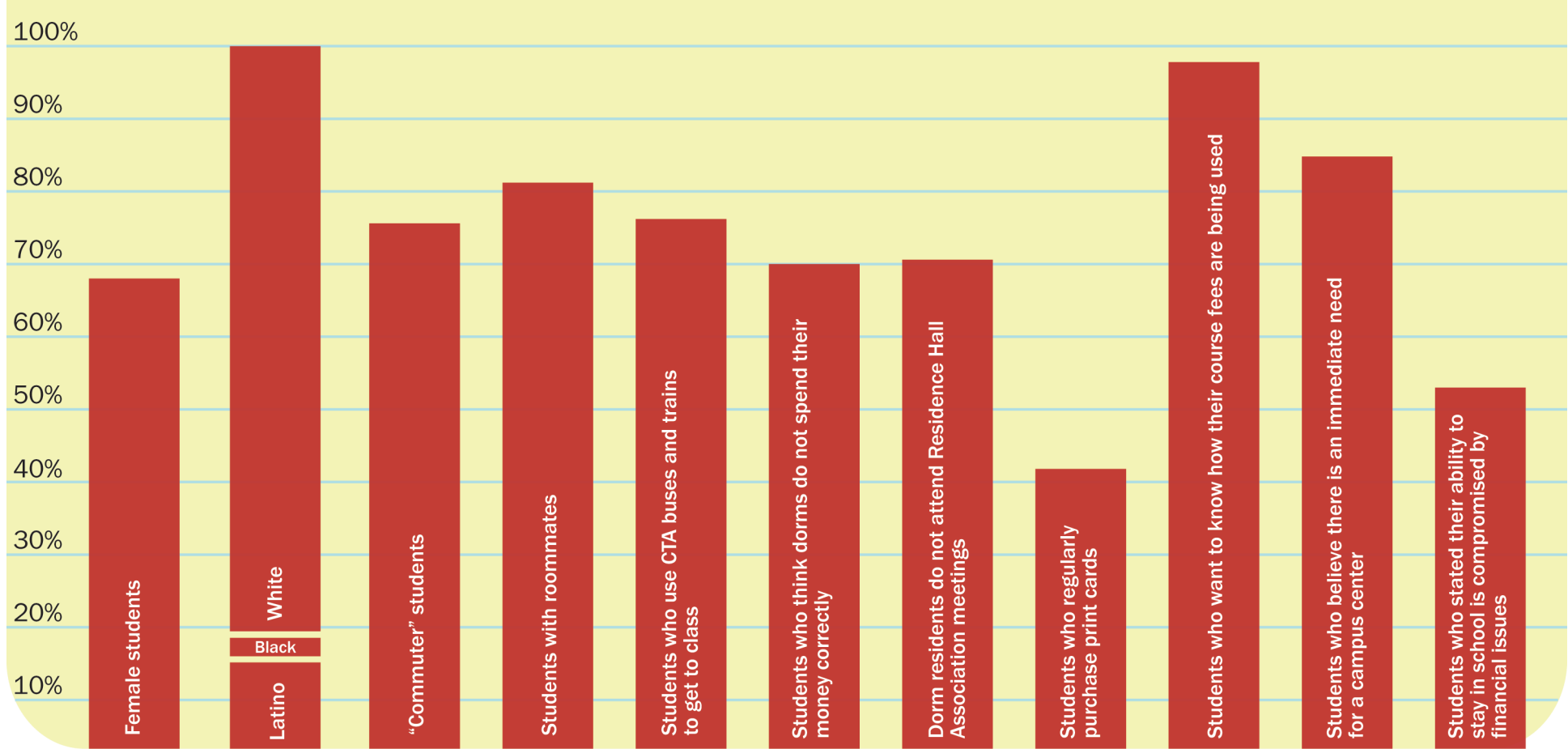
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Campus News

STUDENT CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS (based on a survey of 292 Columbia Students)



The above graph highlights data received from a recently authored student survey by the Student Government Association. The survey was made available in December for about six weeks.

Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

Students don't come to their census

Limited census feedback limits long-term relevance of data obtained

by Robert Bykowski
Campus News Editor

INEFFECTIVE MARKETING is partially to blame for the low amount of student feedback the Student Government Association received with its recent student survey, according to SGA representatives.

The survey, which was released prior to winter break and was available for six weeks, intended to gather information from students about their majors, demographic and concerns.

The census ended up receiving slightly fewer than 300 responses, according to Andrew Breen, a SGA senator and member of the Academic Affairs Committee that authored the survey. The estimated 292 responses is nearly half of the previous survey's results offered during the 2005-2006 academic year, according to Breen.

Marketing and advertising the survey, which was handled differently than during the '05-'06 survey—with more

money spent on giveaways and web-based advertising than traditional methods—failed to incite large student compliance, according to Breen.

Dominic Cottone, director of Student Organizations and Leadership, estimated around \$30 was spent on marketing the survey via Facebook fliers.

In addition to marketing the census through the college's website, the SGA spent more money on raffle-type items to be given out to students who took the survey.

"Their goal was to get more students to participate in the survey than they had last time, and they thought if they offered better prizes to those students for completing the census, then they might get more of a turnout," Cottone said. "It actually played against them."

Some of the prizes offered were gift cards to various retail outlets, and the ultimate prize was a laptop from the Apple Store, an aspect to the marketing Cottone feels would've enticed more students if advertised more.

"I think if that laptop had been advertised a week or two before the census and people realized they could win a laptop for doing

this, then more people probably would've come out for the census," he said. "The Academic Affairs Committee did a wonderful job drafting up the census. I just think it needed more advertising time."

In the future, Breen suggested more emphasis should be put on advertising and a "man-on-the-street" approach where senators would hang out by various buildings with a laptop and make it easy for students to take the survey between classes. Breen said a little of that was done this time, but apparently not enough.

Emanuel Aguilar, a senior fine arts major, didn't take the survey. Aguilar said he didn't know about it, and advertising methods such as e-mail or advertising on the college's homepage of the website probably wouldn't reach him.

Aguilar said he generally finds most of his information by looking at the walls around Columbia, which are often littered with fliers and advertisements.

Marketing aside, the real problem of the low feedback is the data's importance is diminished, Breen said. The low turnout and participation means the SGA won't

publicize the results as heavily or extensively as they have in the past, Breen said.

"I don't think the administration would have much interest in a survey that had less than 1,000 participants," Breen said.

In the past, results of the survey were sent to the office of Institutional Advancement for their edification, but the small sample size diminishes the worth of the data to the administration, Breen and Cottone said.

"As anyone in research and evaluation will tell, if you get 200 or so students who give you feedback on something, it's not representative of the 12,000 student population," Cottone said.

The administration might not have much use for the data, but Breen said the SGA can still benefit.

"I think the '05-'06 survey guided what we did [in the SGA during] '06-'07, and I think this survey can serve much the same purpose," Breen said. "Just because there was a low turnout doesn't mean it can't be used. It certainly can't be quoted or used as evidence, but I think it's a good benchmark to guide what we're working for."

rbykowski@chroniclemail.com

Columbia in 10 seconds ... or less

Free yoga classes location changed again

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, free Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday yoga classes will be held in the 11th Street Campus, 72 E. 11th St., room 111A. Room 111A is the first door on the left in the building.

Librarians to offer mid-term assistance to students

TWO LIBRARIANS will be in the Hokin Annex in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., on March 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. and on March 20 from noon to 2 p.m. to aid students with assignment needs.

Film screening and discussion of Iraq film 'Winter Soldier'

POLITICAL GROUP the World Can't Wait will screen *Winter Soldier* on March 17 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. A discussion will follow the screening.

MYOASIS e-mail accounts to be deleted

ON MARCH 24, all existing MYOASIS e-mail accounts will be deleted. Students and faculty are advised to retrieve any pertinent information from their MYOASIS accounts prior to the cut-off date.



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Student Government Association presents

Dr. Warrick Carter's State of the College Address

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

1104 Conaway Center

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.



Students learn leadership in workshops

Office provides students opportunities to learn how to be a leader, head projects

by Miles Maftean
Assistant Campus News Editor

STUDENTS CAN learn how to organize projects and develop leadership skills by attending a number of workshops and guest speeches during a weeklong event.

Columbia’s fifth annual Leadership Week will take place from March 31 to April 4. It is put together by the Office of Student Organizations and Leadership to stir up student involvement at Columbia.

“This is our office planning for student organizations and general students to come out and get involved,” said Dominic Cottone, director of Student Organizations and Leadership and coordinator of the event.

According to Cottone, in the past students would only come to certain events because they were interested in that certain subject. This year, the office tried to get more students involved by making events that have broader appeal. The Wellness Fair is one part of the event the office created as a means of involving more students than just the organizations and its members.

“Students felt like it was just geared toward the student organizations and not enough toward the general student population, so that is what we decided to do this year,” Cottone said.

Students can attend several workshops that relate to social activism, including



Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, speaks at an event from last year’s Leadership Week.

Courtesy DOMINIC COTTONE

“The Artist as a Leader (Yes, You!)” and “Creative Tools for Social Change.” Each workshop has a specific feature that the office hopes will interest a number of students. The workshops are put together by certain

individuals in and out of Columbia. Sandra Allen, director of Public Relations Studies in the Marketing Communications Department, will present one event on March 31 focusing on how organizations

can engage students to become involved called “Don’t Put Rocks in Your Mouth.”

“We will try and help students understand how they can get across what their organization is, what the purpose is and what a difference being in the organization [can do] for a student’s life,” Allen said.

Another speaker for the workshops will be Tom Tresser, a social activism professor from DePaul University and the School of the Art Institute. Tresser will present four workshops for this year’s Leadership Week, including “The Artist as a Leader” and “Creative Tools for Social Change.”

“I hope to show some of the ways that creativity and democracy work together and feed upon each other,” Tresser said. “We also want to give some of the history of community organizing in Chicago.”

On April 4, the “Manifestations” event will feature some Manifest urban arts festival works as a means of getting students excited about the annual end-of-semester festival and giving a short preview.

The Student Government Association will also play a part in Leadership Week. On April 1, campaigning will begin. Senators from around the campus will campaign for fall 2008. On April 2, students from the SGA will lobby for more educational funding at the state capital in Springfield, Ill.

“Hopefully, they will listen to us and not continue cutting money from education where it is so greatly needed,” said Lara Magyar, executive vice president for the SGA.

» SEE LEADERSHIP, PG. 9

Columbia College Chapter of the
American Civil Liberties Union

ACLU A/V Contest

“What should the next White House do to defend civil liberties?”
Record your response to the question. No Video Recorder? No Worries!
On April 1, 7, and 14 from 5-7 p.m. stop by the lobby of
623 Wabash to express yourself on video and or a digital voice recorder
for the camera shy. Win a membership to the ACLU and a giftcard for \$50
You can also submit videos yourself before April 20th @
cccc.aclu@yahoo.com
http://www.youtube.com/ccccaclu

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Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

Presented by the **Fiction Writing Department** of Columbia College Chicago

STORY FESTIVAL OF WRITERS Week

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TO THE PUBLIC

Stories Without Borders MARCH 16-21, 2008

ALUMNI DAYSpecial pre-events for alumni only:
2-4:30 PM (1:30 PM doors)**STORY WORKSHOP® ALUMNI CLASSES**

This is a mini-version of the typical Story Workshop® class taught in the Fiction Writing Department.

Workshop leaders: **Andrew Allegretti**,
Betty Shiflett, **John Schultz**
Sulzer Regional Library
4455 N. Lincoln, Chicago

5:00-6:30 PM

ALUMNI RECEPTIONOpen to alumni and CCC Fiction Writing students. *All ages*Co-sponsored by Office of Alumni Relations
Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln, Chicago**SUNDAY, MARCH 16**

7:00 PM (6:30 PM doors)

2ND STORY, A PERFORMANCE SERIESincorporating storytelling, sound effects, and music. Featuring storytellers **Bobby Biedrzycki**, **Sheree Greer**, **J. Adams Oaks**, **Megan Stielstra**, and music by **DJ White Russian** and **Seeking Wonderland**.Hosts: Amanda Delheimer and Sam Weller
Open to public, ages 18 and over.
Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln**MONDAY, MARCH 17**

11:00 AM

PART-TIME FICTION WRITING DEPARTMENT FACULTY READING & OPEN MIC featuring **Gina Frangello**, **Lila Jakanovic**, and **Devon Polderman**.

Host: Lila Jakanovic

Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

2:30 PM

**SHORTY READING:
FULL-TIME FICTION WRITING DEPARTMENT FACULTY OPEN MIC.**

Host: Betty Shiflett

Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

MONDAY, MARCH 17

6:00 PM

READING AND CONVERSATION:**Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni**, *The Palace of Illusions* with Booklist associate editor and Open Books WLUW-FM radio host, **Donna Seaman**. Book signing to follow. Presented in conjunction with Columbia College Chicago's *Conversations in the Arts: Up Close with...series*.
Harold Washington Library
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State**TUESDAY, MARCH 18**

11:00 AM

FICTION WRITING DEPARTMENT UNDERGRAD READING OPEN MICHosts: Fiction Writing Department Student Board Members
Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

2:30 PM

CONVERSATION: Aimee Bender, *The Girl in the Flammable Skirt* and **Cristina Garcia**, *Dreaming in Cuban*.

Book signing to follow.

Host: Ann Hemenway
Harold Washington Library
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State

6:00 PM

READING & CONVERSATION:**Aimee Bender**, *Willful Creatures* and **Cristina Garcia**, *A Handbook to Luck*. Book signing to follow.Host: Patricia Ann McNair
Harold Washington Library
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State

9:30 PM

GRAD READING OPEN MICHosts: Chris DeGuire and Ann Hemenway
Ages 21 and over.
Sheffield's Beer Garden
3258 N. Sheffield, Chicago**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19**

9:00 AM

PUBLISHING BOOT CAMP(8:30 AM Breakfast) with publishing expert **Marcela Landres**.
Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

11:00 AM

PANEL: BEYOND THE BOOKSTORE TOUR, A LOOK AT GUERRILLA MARKETING FOR AUTHORS with **Jonathan Messinger**,books editor, *TimeOut Chicago*, publisher, Featherproof Books, and author, *Hiding Out*; **Hillary Carlip**, publisher, *FreshYarn.com*, performance artist, and author, *A la Cart: The Secret Lives of Grocery Shoppers*; **Eric Kirsammer**, owner, Quimby's Bookstore and Chicago Comics; **Shawn Shiflett**, author, *Hidden Place*; **Johnny Temple**, publisher, Akashic Books. Host: Sam Weller, *The Bradbury Chronicles: The Life of Ray Bradbury*
Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

2:30 PM

PANEL: NEW AMERICAN VOICES, POVERTY & PRIVILEGE with **Junot Diaz**, *Drown*; **ZZ Packer**, *Drinking Coffee Elsewhere*; **Colin Channer**, *Waiting in Vain*; **Alexis Pride**, *Where the River Ends*; **Don De Grazia**, *American Skin*Host: Ian Jack, columnist, *The Guardian*, author, and former editor, *Granta*.
Harold Washington Library
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium, 400 S. State

6:00 PM

FULL-TIME FACULTY READINGwith **Don De Grazia**, *American Skin*; **Alexis Pride**, *Where the River Ends*; and **Betty Shiflett**, award-winning short story writer.

Host: Eric May

Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

11:00 AM

PANEL: PUBLISHING FROM START TO FINISH with **Ian Jack**, columnist,*The Guardian*, and former editor, *Granta*; **Donna Seaman**, author, *Writers on the Air: Conversations About Books*, associate editor, *Booklist*, and host, *Open Books* on WLUW-FM radio; **Marcela Landres**, publisher, *Latinidad*; **Gina Frangello**, author, *My Sister's Continent*, and publisher, *OV Books*; **Robert Weil**, executive editor, *W.W. Norton*. Host: Sheryl Johnston
Columbia College Chicago
Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash2:30 PM
STAGED SCENES FROM PLAYWRITING STUDENTSHosts: **Tom Mula** and **Lisa Schlesinger**
Film Row Cinema, 8th floor, 1104 S. Wabash

6:00 PM

LITERARY ROCK & ROLL: READINGS by **Junot Diaz**, *The Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*; **ZZ Packer**, from her novel-in-progress, *The Thousands*; **Colin Channer**, *The Girl with the Golden Shoes*; performance artist **Hillary Carlip**, author, *A la Cart: The Secret Lives of Grocery Shoppers*.Music by **Mucca Pazza**, a 30-piece "circus punk" marching band. Book signings to follow. All ages welcome.
Metro, 3830 N. Clark**FRIDAY, MARCH 21**

7:00 PM

HAIR TRIGGER MAGAZINE 30TH ANNIVERSARY RELEASE PARTYThe Fiction Writing Department celebrates its award-winning anthology with readings and refreshments. Host: Chris Maul Rice
Columbia College Chicago
Hokin Gallery, 623 S. Wabash**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** Fiction Writing Department, 312-344-7611, storyweek@colum.edu

COLUM.EDU/STORYWEEK

or visit MYSpace.com/StoryWeek

Story Week is made possible in part by a grant from the Illinois Humanities Council, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Illinois General Assembly. This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency. Story Week is sponsored in part by the Chicago Public Library and Metro. Host Hotel: Located downtown 1 block from Columbia College and within easy proximity to many major attractions, the Hilton Chicago offers historic luxury and contemporary amenities. For reservations call 877-865-5321.



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State of the college update

Rising debt, student center among annual speech topics

by Christopher Brinckerhoff
Staff Writer

THE ANNUAL State of the College Address by Columbia President Warrick L. Carter will give faculty, staff and students an update on plans for development and other issues that impact them. After the president’s speech on March 19, there will be an open floor question and answer session.

While he couldn’t say for sure, Mark Lloyd, associate vice president for Marketing and Communication, said the president will likely cover issues including safety and security, the proposition for a student center, plans for the Media Production Center and rising student debt.

Brian Matos, president of the Student Government Association that will present the speech, said the two biggest issues the association hopes will be addressed are the student center and course fees.

SGA representatives have been asking the college to look into ways to offer more disclosure on how course fees are collected and dispersed. The SGA first asked the Cultural Affairs Department to look into them about four years ago. Matos said the association asked the president’s office about it last fall, and the president convened his cabinet to discuss the matter.

“We want course fee clarity, which means, there currently is no way to track exactly where your course fee dollars go,” Matos said. “If you owe a hundred dollar

course fee for a class, we can’t necessarily say that hundred dollar course fee covers something specifically for your course.”

Rafaela Stalbalk, a junior journalism major, said the course fee issue is important for students and their parents. Stalbalk said she’s paying about \$600 in course fees this semester, and she doesn’t know what most of them pay for.

“It should be put out there more because it’s a lot of money,” Stalbalk said. “I think it’s important for the students to understand exactly where that money goes, and it’s a little bit shady.”

Matos said another topic the SGA wants to be addressed at the event is more attention to the proposed student center, which the SGA feels will fill a void in many students’ experiences at Columbia.

“The lack of a student center is really having a negative impact on Columbia students,” Matos said. “If they’re not corroborating, if they’re not talking to each other, if they’re not feeling connected to the college, it’s a little blemish on a student experience here.”

Lloyd said the president has had the goal to develop a new campus center, which would house a student center, for a long time, but it could cost as much as \$90 to \$100 million.

Julie Cundiff, a senior fashion retail management major, said a student center could help students from different majors collaborate. She’s currently working on a project that she needs a photographer for, and a student center would be a good place to meet one.

“I think all of our majors kind of fit together in some way: photo shoots, or



Warrick L. Carter, pictured at last year’s State of the College Address, will deliver this year’s speech on March 19 at the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

being dressed appropriately, or even music,” Cundiff said. “When you’re talking about redesigning or just doing up the look of an artist, those two things kind of go hand in hand.”

Lloyd said the president will also discuss the plans for the Media Production Center, the college’s first new building, which expects to break ground about a year from now. The president will share details with an artist’s rendering for the new building.

The president will also talk about students’ increasing debt loads, Lloyd said. He said the issue is a national problem and tuition has been moderate in recent years.

“Our tuition here is a lot of money for students,” Lloyd said. “We know that. The Pell Grants have not kept pace with even the general rates of inflation, let alone higher

education inflation. MAP Grants have not kept pace, either. And then you’ve got this credit crunch crisis which is also changing lenders’ lending policies, and students are paying more out of pocket, families are paying more just in interest rates. So I know he’s going to address that, but that’s a macro problem.”

Lloyd said the president would acknowledge the tragedy at Northern Illinois University and respond to SGA’s recent resolution regarding the college’s security firm, Wackenhut.

The SGA will present Carter’s State of the College Address on March 19 from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Conaway Center in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

chronicle@colum.edu

create...
change

SUMMER & FALL 2008

It’s almost time to REGISTER!

What you need to know:

Your registration time slots for both summer and fall semesters can be obtained in March by going to the *Register for Classes* screen on OASIS (under CX-Enrollment). Set the options to *Summer or Fall 2008*. Time slots are based on your cumulative credit hours. Emails with your summer and fall registration time slots, and other registration information, will be sent to your Loopmail account. If you have problems logging into your email account, please contact OASIS User Support at 312-344-7788.

GRADUATE STUDENTS: Registration time slots do not apply to graduate students. All continuing graduate students register beginning March 17 for the summer semester, and April 7 for the fall.

SUMMER 2008		FALL 2008	
Seniors	Monday, March 17 - beginning at 6 a.m.	Continuing degree-seeking	Monday, April 7
Juniors	Tuesday, March 18 - beginning at 6 a.m.	undergrad registration begins	
2BA/PCRT	Tuesday, March 18 - beginning at 1 p.m.		
Sophomores	Wednesday, March 19 - beginning at 6 a.m.	Open Registration (all students	Monday, August 18
Freshmen	Thursday, March 20 - beginning at 6 a.m.	including degree-seeking &	
Open Registration	Thursday, March 20 - beginning at 1 p.m.	students at large) begins	

The above time slots will remain open for summer registration until Wednesday, May 28 at 11:59 p.m. (CST).

The above time slots will remain open for fall registration until Monday, September 8 at 11:59 p.m. (CST).

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

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

FOR FALL ONLY

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

Columbia

COLLEGE CHICAGO

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

My Africa

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

by Ian Bogere

Senior, Film and Video Department

Africa is my home. I dearly love her, but she comes to mind when I think about poverty and privilege.

No one seems to care about her people, even though she has made many people rich. For centuries, many Western countries became rich from all the materials they took from Africa during slavery, colonialism and imperialism, with all the forced labor for Europe and on the cotton fields here in America.

Then, they continued to colonize her, teaching her how to live in their own way, under the gun. This brought fear to the continent, but thank God for the heroes and heroines who fought for her liberation, despite the turmoil.

Today, the continent is still a prisoner of the post-colonial effects. The colonial powers made sure to ingrain a structured educational system that would flow to every child. This has blinded many about who the good guys are and who the bad guys are. This system is the number one cause of war, which is the cause of poverty to one group and privilege to another.

The source of a chaotic society is the ignorance of history. When I see images of people in Darfur dying because of other people who ignorantly want to wipe them out because of race and power, I am reminded of poverty and privilege.

When I see child soldiers I am reminded of poverty and privilege. When I see children with their fathers and mothers working in the muddy mines of Africa, I am reminded of poverty and privilege.

When I see all the so-called rich countries raping the African continent, its children

waking up as early as 4 a.m. to work in fields and dig for coltan in pits that are filled with worms and snakes so that everyone in this so-called rich Western culture can have a cellular phone, I am reminded of poverty and privilege.

When I see wars here and there, and see people like Benazir Bhutto being assassinated just because she was fighting for peace, I am reminded of poverty and privilege.

There are people in this world that enjoy privilege even at the cost of the lives of others. I don't think we see what's behind a chocolate bar, so long as it tastes good to us. I don't think we see what's behind the soap, medicine or food that we buy as long as they are just things we have to buy. Almost everything from the lotions we use, the shampoo and all the other bodily cleansers and moisturizers, to the medicine and food that have extracts from cocoa which is mostly shipped from Ghana and other cocoa fields in Africa.

As long as people have privilege, they are mostly blind to the ongoing poverty in other parts of the world, and yet these

are the places that offer these materials at the cost of less than a dollar to a worker each year.

In spite of all this, when I think about home, I have hope. I hope that we can stop procrastinating about contributing to change. I hope that the day

has come for us to start dealing with the problems that affect us all as one human race, despite our gender, race, religion, age, class or culture.

We mustn't stand divided and detached. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "An injustice somewhere is an injustice everywhere."

The aim of Critical Encounters is to encourage you to engage with difficult questions about poverty and privilege. Hopefully, you will feel inspired to write your own narratives, which you can send to me for inclusion in this column or on our website.

—Stephanie Shonekan, CriticalEncounters@colum.edu, Colum.edu/CriticalEncounters.

critical encounters:
POVERTY
+ privilege

» LEADERSHIP:

Continued from PG. 6

Another major event that will be a part of the Leadership Week is the all-day health and wellness fair. This event, co-sponsored by the Health and Counseling Center, will offer a number of health resources, including free AIDS and HIV testing.

The Office of Student Organizations and Leadership hopes students will receive much information about leadership from the events and start getting involved.

"We want those students to realize that there are different things they can do on campus that they do not think exist," Cottle said.

Apart from the workshops, students can get involved in a number of other events. A Peace Corps recruiter will visit on April 1 and talk about being a volunteer and how students can get involved.

Some students find the workshops will be promising for someone who truly wants to become a leader and be more involved.

"Well, I think that it would be pretty cool to learn how to be a leader, so I will definitely go," said Ben Beutel, a freshman music performance major.

Leadership Week is free to all and will run from March 31 to April 4.

mmaftean@chroniclemail.com

EVENT LISTINGS

March 31:

Noon-1:00 p.m.: Building an Effective Organization
1-2:00 p.m.: The Artist as a Leader
6-7:00 p.m.: Don't Put Rocks in Your Mouth

April 1:

SGA Campaigning begins: All Day event
Noon-1:00 p.m.: Journey to Job Readiness
1-3:00 p.m.: Peace Corps

April 2:

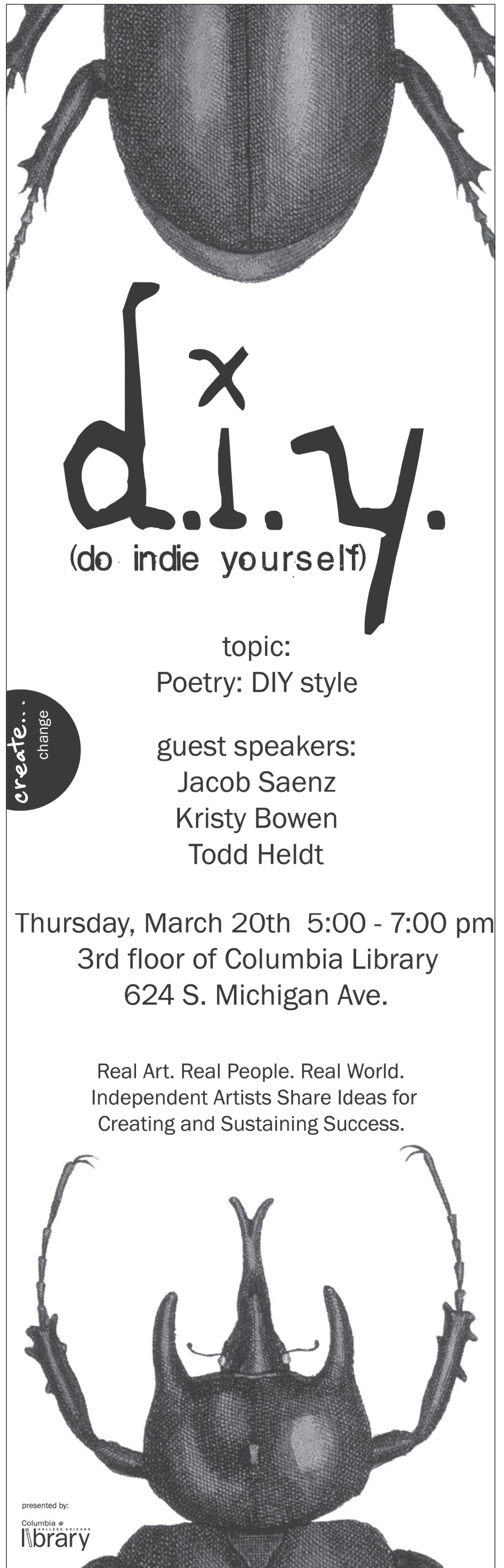
SGA Student Lobby Day: All Day event
Noon-1:00 p.m.: Cultural and Diverse Leadership
1-2:00 p.m.: Catching Communications
6-7:00 p.m.: Creative Tools For Social Change
7-8:00 p.m.: Basics of Community Organizing

April 3:

Noon-1:00 p.m.: Basics of Community Organizing
1-2:00 p.m.: Building an Effective Organization

April 4:

Health and Wellness Fair: All Day event
Noon-1:00 p.m.: The Artist as a Leader
1-2:00 p.m.: Creative Tools for Social Change



diy.
(do indie yourself)

topic:
Poetry: DIY style

guest speakers:
Jacob Saenz
Kristy Bowen
Todd Heldt

Thursday, March 20th 5:00 - 7:00 pm
3rd floor of Columbia Library
624 S. Michigan Ave.

Real Art. Real People. Real World.
Independent Artists Share Ideas for
Creating and Sustaining Success.

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create...
change

On-campus health clinic opens for full-timers

Full-time instructors, staff receive new health center at Columbia

by Eric Rehm
Staff Writer

A NEW on-site clinic opened on March 5, for full-time faculty and staff enrolled in the Columbia College health plan. The clinic will be free for those in its health plan, and no co-pay or deductible is required for those who qualify.

According to Patricia Olalde, director of Human Resources, Columbia periodically reviews the benefits available to faculty and sees what can be offered. Olalde said vice president of Business Affairs Mike DeSalle pitched the idea about two years ago and wanted to offer more in the way of employee health benefits. From there, the plan developed into what it is today.

The site is located in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., in what was previously the payroll office. The clinic will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

According to the office of Human Resources, employees are not the only ones who can use the plan. Their spouse, domestic partner and eligible dependents who are at least six years old may also use the clinic. The site can be used separately, or in conjunction with a family doctor.

According to a memo sent to faculty, the

clinic is not available to those in the Illinois Blue Cross Blue Shield HMO due to the plan's restrictions.

"We're really excited, and we hope that the employees take advantage of these great benefits," Olalde said.

On staff are two Care ATC (Around-The-Clock) physicians, Dr. Gary Bucher and Dr. Leigh Roberts. Bucher is available on Wednesdays and Fridays while Roberts has Thursday hours. In addition to the two doctors, there will also be a nurse practitioner on site.

Bucher specializes in men's health. Before he came to Columbia, he worked at Radius Health, a specialized men's health clinic in Irving Park. Roberts specializes in women's health and HIV, and works at a family health clinic in Chicago.

"I'm bringing primary care to the workplace, and we really hope that it's going to have lasting benefits for people's health," Roberts said. "Essentially anything you would go to the doctor for, to talk about or work on, you'll be able to do [here]."

The clinic will provide the types of services that a patient would get from a regular visit to the doctor's office, including lab tests and certain medications. The provided physicians still adhere to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which provides privacy security for medical data.

"They still have the same patient-doctor relationship," Olalde said. "The college has no access to their medical files."

Barbara Iverson, a full-time journalism professor, said the clinic is a good idea.

"I usually go every year to get my blood tested," she said. "It's convenient. One time when I was riding to another job I fell off my bike and my knees were all scraped," Iverson said. "It wasn't a big medical emergency, but it would be nice to have a sanitary place to clean that off and not get an infection. It's really supportive."

Since the college's health insurance plan is only open to those full-time faculty and staff members enrolled in one of the plans, some faculty are not able to utilize the clinic.

Kenneth Hope, a part-time professor at Columbia, isn't enrolled in one of Columbia's health plans and therefore cannot use the new clinic at Columbia. "It seems sort of restrictive," he said.

"It's a good idea for some," Hope said. "It's a good start. Maybe they can expand it later."

Hope said he'd like to see the program grow to include patients who are not enrolled in one of Columbia's plans, so even part-time teachers and staff could use the facility.

The on-campus health clinic for full-time faculty and staff is located in the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave., suite 402. To make an appointment or for more information, call (800) 993-8244.



Dr. Gary Bucher is one of two physicians at the new health clinic for Columbia's full-time faculty and staff members.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

chronicle@colum.edu

Can we get a show of hands?

Election packets are ready for pick-up.

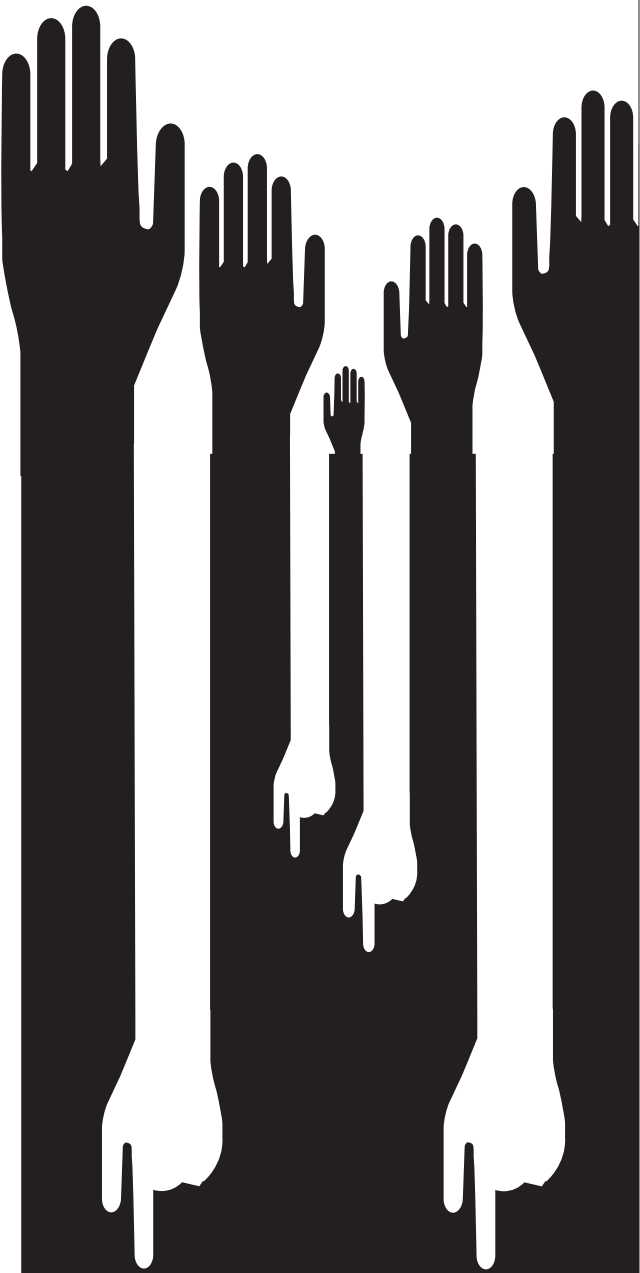
If you plan on running for senate in the **2008 Student Government elections** pick up your election packet, located in 1104 S. Wabash lower level HUB office C.

Applications available: Monday, March 3rd
Applications due: Monday, March 31st
Campaigning begins: Tuesday, April 1st
Elections will be held the week of April 21st - April 25th

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO 
INNOVATION IN THE VISUAL, PERFORMING, MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION ARTS



Packets are due
March 31st





John Benjamin from Harris Bank looks at a photograph by Moe Sekiya at the opening reception of the 'Everyday Runway' gallery show in the C33 Gallery, located in the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE



Tim Long, the director of the Portfolio Center, observes a display of shoes at the opening reception for the 'Everyday Runway' gallery show in the C33 Gallery of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

Asian fashion hits the streets

New Columbia exhibit sheds light on Asian street fashion, influence in America

by Miles Maftean
Assistant Campus News Editor

ASIAN STREET fashion is the central focus of a new gallery that saw heavy attendance at its opening reception.

The Center for Asian Arts and Media and C-Spaces presented its newest gallery, "Everyday Runway: Asian Street Fashion and Beyond," which is on display until April 25. An opening reception was held on March 13 in the C33 Gallery of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

The gallery features many works in different mediums. Artists used photography and fashion design to show some of their work in the gallery. Illustrated personal stories, videos, garments and fashion magazines reflected the theme of the gallery, which focuses on Asian urban aesthetic, youth identity and how American popular culture affects it.

"I come up with these hair-breaking ideas, and then the center and I put it together," said Nancy Tom, executive director for the Center for Asian Arts and Media.

The center organized the exhibit and put all of the works together. Members of the center tried to find artwork to mirror the theme of Japan and Korea's contemporary style.

At the reception, attendees were wel-

comed with music and entertainment. Members of the Columbia community joined the large crowd of attendees to see the many works of art featured and to see the winner of the shoe contest.

The contest consisted of designing a sneaker and decorating it with paint, spray-paint or other art materials. Nivan Yahaghr, a freshman film and video major, took first place in the contest.

"I'm really glad I won, but I honestly felt guilty," Yahaghr said. "All of these shoes were really good."

Among the competing contestants was Mark Anthony, a senior visual communications major from the Illinois Institute of Art. His artwork received an honorable mention.

"This gallery is an awesome concept, and I thought it was fitting to bring the work into the competition," Anthony said.

The gallery was hosted by C-Spaces, a division of the office of Student Affairs.

Betsy Odom, the exhibition coordinator for C-Spaces, said preparations for the gallery went smoothly and the turnout at the opening was good.

Odom said many classes at Columbia came to the exhibit throughout its opening week and she received positive feedback.

The exhibit will run until April 25 in the C33 Gallery of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building. The exhibit is free and open to the public from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

mmaftean@chroniclemail.com

ColumbiaWorks So Can You!



The 2008 Spring Job Fair

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Hermann D. Conaway Center

1104 South Wabash
Avenue, Floor 1

Visit www.colum.edu/jobfair
for details.

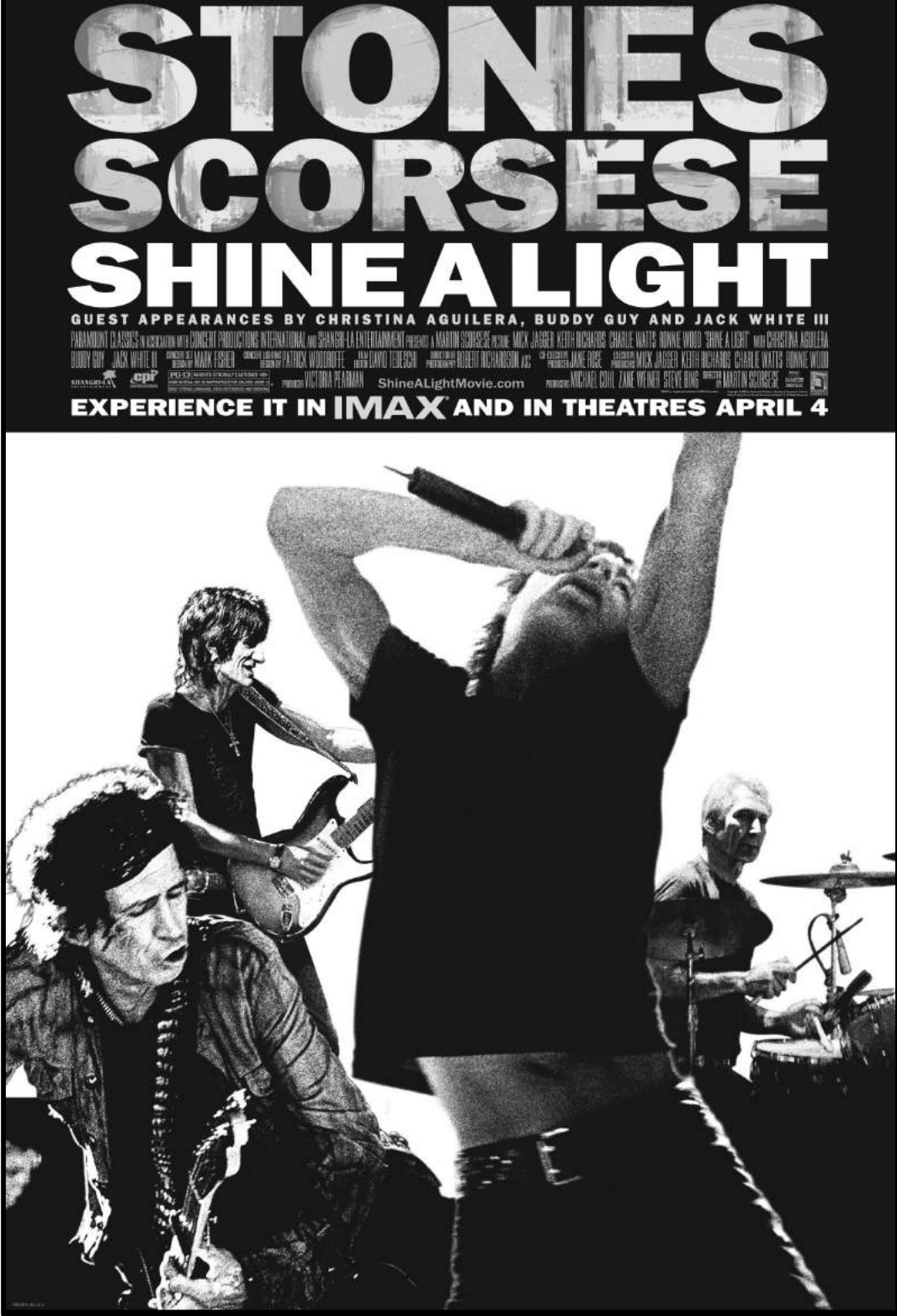
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part-time, and on-campus job and
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Arts & Entertainment



(Above) A visitor checks an exhibit with displays of Tiffany glass lamps behind an Andrew Lloyd Weber exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry's exhibit 'The Glass Experience,' 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive. (Below) Visitors view the opening of 'The Glass Experience' on March 13. (Bottom right) Ari Willis, 3, and his brother Noah Willis, 6, wander through the exhibit of 'The Glass Experience.' (Bottom left) Eric Meek, master gaffer, aka glassblower, creates a bowl while visitors watch.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

House of glass

Museum of Science and Industry hosts glassblowers, displays from around the world

by **Becky Schlikerman**
Associate Editor

ERIC MEEK starts with a small piece of molten glass that glows orange. From there emerges a piece of smooth, shiny glass after a labor-intensive and scorching process.

Meek is a gaffer, or glassblower, and his work is part of "The Glass Experience," an exhibit at the Museum of Science and Industry, 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive,

that opened on March 13 and runs until Sept. 1.

Throughout the exhibit, Meek and other gaffers from the Corning Museum of Glass in New York will demonstrate glassblowing techniques, and employees from Botti Studio of Architectural Arts in suburban Evanston will demonstrate the process of creating stained glass windows. In addition, they are restoring some of the glass from Chicago Cultural Center's Tiffany Dome at the exhibit.

The exhibit also features "Macchia," a

» SEE GLASS, PG. 17





Just another semi-Colin **by Colin Shively**
Assistant A&E Editor

Lollapalooza’s lost it

The revived annual rockfest Lollapalooza will kick off again this summer on Aug. 1 in Grant Park with Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails spearheading the music festival. Yet with tickets expected to soar to \$180 or more by summer, it is time to ask yourself: Is it worth it?

Chicago Tribune music critic Greg Kot announced the headlining bands on March 8 in his online blog. Within a day, numerous comments were posted on the Tribune’s website describing Lollapalooza as “too expensive” and “too corporate.” Well, I am right there with them. It is a waste of money.

If you were one of the lucky ones, you might have gotten ahold of one of the early bird tickets on March 7. The next batch will be sold on March 25 for \$60. However, once those are gone—they are gone. Tickets will then skyrocket in price. The coordinators of Lollapalooza say it is a fairly priced ticket when you break it down: One dollar for every band at Lollapalooza.

But wait—lots of bands play at the same time, so there is no physical way to see every band. Did they think of that?

The bands are scattered throughout Grant Park with no set organization to

genre, popularity or anything of the nature, which gives ticketholders one heck of a time trying to figure out which select bands they will see and how they will get there.

Asking \$180 for a ticket when only a handful of bands can be viewed means there is a large amount of money being wasted by the purchasers. I find it rather senseless to spend that much money when there is no way to see all the bands.

But there are ways they could lower the prices for the tickets.

The most logical way, to me, is to have the ticket buyers choose the bands they wish to see and buy individual tickets for those concerts. With that, they will be charged the prices that line up with the number of bands they will see and listen to, in the end saving money, mass amounts of confusion and time. This could also draw more customers in that will purchase tickets for the less-popular bands.

With that, the organizers should devise a method of arranging the bands throughout the park and have ticket checkpoints so customers who are privy to a certain genre or artist know the area they are supposed to be in.

If this annual festival is going to go cor-



Fans cheer at the '07 Lollapalooza music festival. MCT

porate, it should think like a corporation and know tickets that are specific to certain bands and prices will draw more customers into the festival.

csively@chroniclemail.com



Chrissy knows best **by Chrissy Mahlmeister**
Managing Editor

Thank God we don’t have a quad!

There’s a reason why I chose to go to Columbia—to avoid state schools, duh. Unfortunately I spent a year at one, which will remain unnamed, but while I was there I learned a lot of things. And it wasn’t just in my classes. What I learned was that state schools, no matter where they are, all have things in common, what I’d like to call “state school phenomenons.” These shady acts of “having fun” probably all stemmed from small-town boredom, but they’re universal across the board.

Let’s take a look at some of my most mind-boggling experiences at a state school that wouldn’t happen in a million years at Columbia.

Poo dollar: OK, this couldn’t ever transpire here, mostly because we don’t have one central dining hall, but this freak-of-nature activity would keep frat dudes laughing for hours. Basically what would happen is one mighty man would take a dollar and, uh, wipe it on his fanny, hence the name “poo dollar.” Near the entrance of the dining hall, the doors were always filled with people entering and leaving. The guys would put the dollar on the floor right by

the door for any potential student to see. The frat guys would sit at their lunch table and pretend nothing was going on. The victim walks through the door and in his blur of hunger he goes for the lonely dollar on the floor. Frat spies from across the way notice him going for the dollar and once it’s in his grip they all stand up at once and scream “POO DOLLAR! POO DOLLAR!” The victim then either drops the dollar like it’s the plague and runs away embarrassed, or some people don’t even think twice and stick it in their back packet. I forgot to mention the dining hall is filled with hundreds of people.

Four story beer bongs: Apparently just a good old beer bong isn’t enough, and dudes have to take it to the extreme. To me it just seems like death in a handbasket, although they would probably find it “sweet” that they would die in such an “honorable” way. Basically a dude that lives in an apartment on the fourth story will stick the insanely long beer bong out the window with the culprit at the bottom ready to drink it. Although it may look hilarious, it’s not really because most of it is foam and they

just end up spilling most of it on themselves. Well, that’s what they get.

Walk of shame: This was my favorite part about going to a state school: witnessing the sad, disheveled shuffle back to the dorm from a long night of partying, and whatever else happened after, the next morning. Sometimes I would even wake up early and walk around the campus to spy on people. Hey, don’t judge me. There was seriously nothing else to do.

“See you at the quad”: That godforsaken quad. It grossed me out beyond belief, and I thank my lucky stars that when I go to class now I don’t have to walk through gross chicks laying out and tanning, medieval sword fighting, sweaty dudes playing Frisbee and on-campus groups trying to recruit me anymore. Now I just have to pass by homeless people, and I’m down with that.

Although these activities seem pointless to me, I can only imagine what the typical college student would feel after one visit to our campus. At least our crazy endeavors will hopefully get us a job one day.

cmahlmeister@chroniclemail.com



THE BIG BANG THEORY CBS 3/17 at 7 p.m.



In the 2008 premiere of this show about geeks and love, friends and scientists Sheldon and Leonard are asked to present their work at a physics conference. But Sheldon is too arrogant to share the honor, and Penny’s attempts to mediate between the two don’t work out too well.

JUST FOR LAUGHS ABC 3/18 at 7:30 p.m.

Who doesn’t love hidden camera pranks and gags? This show, based on the Canadian series of the same name, brings back the days of “Candid Camera” and could even be considered a tamer version of “Jackass,” minus all of the gags involving genitals.

FUTURE WEAPONS Discovery 3/19 at 7 p.m.

This show explores what weapons are in the works for the future, which are reminiscent of the *Terminator* movies. This episode features inflatable armor, shoulder-fired grenades and the A10 Thunderbolt ground-attack plane.

MISS GUIDED ABC 3/20 at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.



Despite Ashton Kutcher’s involvement with this series about a former geek’s return to her old high school as a guidance counselor, it looks like Judy Greer (“Arrested Development” and *Jawbreaker*) is going to seriously deliver in this quirky sitcom. Kutcher and Jamie Lynn Spears (will she be pregnant?) guest star in the first two episodes of the show.

BUBBLE BOY MyTV 3/21 at 7 p.m.

In perhaps the best performance of Jake Gyllenhaal’s career, *Bubble Boy* chronicles the struggles of a young boy trapped inside a large bubble he needs for survival. Though the movie is pleasantly funny in a mind-numbing sort of way, please note our sarcasm.

IT’S ME OR THE DOG Animal Planet 3/22 at 7:30 p.m.

Dog trainer Victoria Stillwell works with pet owners who are at their wit’s end with their unruly pets. In this episode, Stillwell helps an owner who has trained her Chihuahua like a cat and can’t handle the dog peeing in the house and biting everything anymore. Yo quiero watch this show.

ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

60 The amount of money early-bird tickets for this year’s Lollapalooza music festival cost before they sold out almost immediately. According to Rolling Stone, Radiohead and Nine Inch Nails will headline the three-day music festival, for which full-price tickets often cost \$195, without service fees.

100 The number of Biggies that rapper Jamal Woolard surpassed to portray slain rapper Notorious B.I.G. in the upcoming biopic *Notorious*, according to Rolling Stone. Woolard, who performs as MC Gravy, segued from a career in dealing drugs to rapping. He was also shot in the buttocks before an interview two years ago but brushed it off and carried on with the interview anyway.

1,116 The number of people who gathered at Nottingham Castle in England to break the world record for most people dressed as Robin Hood in one place at one time, according to the Lancashire Evening Post. The crowd—clad in tights, hats with feather and tunics—nearly doubled the previous year’s record of 606 Robin Hood wannabes.

TOP 5



Benjamin Andis, Graphic Designer

The best Hollywood infant actors

Fraser Clarke Heston in ‘The Ten Commandments’: Exhibiting awe-inspiring theatrical range, Charlton Heston’s newborn son plays a phenomenal baby Moses. From the blood-curdling screams to the nearly inaudible cooing, Fraser’s portrayal of an infant messenger of God is brilliant.

Olivia Hughes in ‘Raising Arizona’: Sure, T.J. Hunter did a fine job as Nathan Jr., but Olivia stole the spotlight with her remarkably subdued performance as Arizona Quint #3.

Chase Browndorf in ‘Flirting With Disaster’: No one has handled David O. Russel’s infamous on-set rage quite as gracefully as Chase. He kept his cool and courageously immersed himself in the emotionally and physically demanding role of “Baby (uncredited).”

Sofia Coppola in ‘The Godfather’: Infant Sofia broke gender barriers and arguably upstaged Al Pacino as Michael’s godson in the christening scene, by far the most powerful infant role of her career.

William T. and Henry J. Deutschen-dorf in ‘Ghostbusters II’: Playing Baby Oscar took guts, but these infant twins were tough as nails.



Emilia Klimiuk, Graphic Designer

Famous people I would not mind hanging out with

Vladimir Putin: Putin’s got everything going for him. What other world leader could pull off a shirtless fishing photo shoot, a movie based on his life and a music video by two hot chicks singing about how they want “a man like Putin” because their boyfriend is not good enough? Rumor has it that Putin tries not to blink. He and I could just sit in his Kremlin office and stare into each other’s eyes all day. Maybe, like Bush, I’ll see his soul.

Stephen Hawking: While completely paralyzed, Hawking somehow managed to work, be famous and cheat on his wife with his significantly younger nurse. He must have seduced her with his raspy computer-generated voice. Last year he floated around in zero gravity. What else will he do? Narrate his own books on tape? Oh wait, he already did.

Abraham Lincoln: Abe gets extra points for style. Tall, skinny and dressed in all black: He would be the hippest boy in town.

Pope John Paul II: I always wanted to ride around in his bullet-proof Pope mobile.

Ivan the Terrible: What a name! Of course I would hang out with him.



Kimi Badger, Senior Graphic Designer

Things summer will bring

Summer romance: The presence of bright sunshine makes my heart happy. I hope this summer I can share the bliss of summer with someone equally as happy. Summer activities are more fun with a cute boy by your side.

Scoping out good sidewalk cafes: Nothing’s better than working on a laptop at a cute coffee shop with the sun on your shoulders.

Being thrown into the real world: When May finally rolls around I will officially be a college graduate. Yipes! I am looking forward to spending the summer looking for a “real” job and forcing myself to grow up a little.

Flying kites at the beach: I have two unopened kites in my closet that were neglected last year. This summer I am going to make a point of flying them as often as possible at the beach.

Box wine: Yeah, terrible, but oh-so tasty and cheap. Wouldn’t it be nice if you could buy a box of wine, clean out an old glass jar, fill it with some of the box wine, then take it to the beach and enjoy.? Well you can’t. It’s illegal.

JACKASS OF THE WEEK



MCT

NOT SO MAGICAL

IT’S NO secret that overzealous fans of celebrities are usually jackasses, but one particular Harry Potter fan/jackass has taken it to the next level.

After receiving a death threat from a stalker, actor Daniel Radcliffe, who has portrayed the lead character in the past four *Harry Potter* films, is now being protected at all times by four ex-SAS bodyguards, according to *The Sun*, a British tabloid. While filming the sixth film in the blockbuster movie series, Radcliffe switched cars three times one weekend, and his regular driver of seven years was temporarily let go.

Movie bosses at Warner Bros., who refuse to discuss the security alert, ordered the new security detail. A security insider said Warner Bros. is treating the threat seriously and has ordered protection for Radcliffe at all times on set and to and from shoots, *The Sun* reported.

Who does this idiot think he is? Sure, countless other celebrities have had their share of stalkers, but what kind of stalker is actually brave enough to threaten the life of Harry Potter? Remember: This is the kid who defeated the most powerful, evil sorcerer, Voldemort.

Potter will take you down faster than you can say “Can I have your autograph?” Back off jackass, and leave the poor wizard alone.

—J. Galliant



by Claire Lutz
Staff Writer

VINTAGE-INSPIRED LOOKS are still a part of the top trends for the season as we move from winter into spring fashion. This particular look, which is specifically geared toward low-maintenance fashion pieces, can be thrown together effortlessly.

Sophomore cultural studies major Sarah Koch was spotted just outside the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building sporting a plaid shirt with skinny jeans and a simple pair of white canvas shoes. Koch said she borrowed the plaid shirt from one of her guy friends the night before, who purchased the shirt from a thrift store in Minnesota. She said plaid is timeless.

Along with the plaid shirt she wore a white V-neck T-shirt. V-necks are basic and trendy enough that they can be worn under a variety of different styles and can



Sophomore Sarah Koch mixes vintage clothing to model the transition between winter and spring fashion.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE



be bought anywhere from Target to American Apparel.

Skinny jeans are yet another basic that look good with just about anything. Although this is a very winter-driven outfit, her canvas shoes are a trend for spring that has already begun to get very popular. Canvas shoes look great with just about any style of bottoms, especially skinny jeans and shorts. Look for canvas shoes at Urban Outfitters and various thrift stores.

This look can be topped off by any jacket. Koch’s olive green military jacket completes the look, along with the argyle socks her

mother sent her last St. Patrick’s Day. Koch’s look is very simple, comfortable and unisex. This look can be altered and worn by men and women alike. Check out blogs like FaceHunter.Blogspot.com for more advice on vintage trends, and try stores like The Village Discount, a large thrift store located in various neighborhoods in the city, to look for some of your own vintage finds.

Want to recommend a current trend? E-mail us at chronicle@colum.edu.

—Claire Lutz is a junior marketing communications major

LEADERSHIP WEEK 2008

MARCH 31 TO APRIL 4

ALL EVENTS (UNLESS NOTED) TAKE PLACE AT
1104 SOUTH WABASH AVENUE, LOWER LEVEL / ORG HUB

MONDAY
MARCH 31

12PM - 1PM
TOM TRESSER:
Building an Effective Organization

1PM - 2PM
TOM TRESSER:
The Artist as a Leader

6PM - 7PM
SANDRA ALLEN, CHAIR, PR STUDIES:
Effective Public Relations

APRIL 1
TUESDAY

12PM - 1PM
SHANITA AKINTONDE:
FACULTY, MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS,
Journey to Job Readiness

1PM - 3PM
THE PEACE CORPS

STUDENT GOVERNMENT (SGA) CAMPAIGNING BEGINS: Be on the lookout for student senate candidates campaigning to represent you

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 2

12PM - 1PM
KIMBERLY WEATHERLY, DIRECTOR, AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL AFFAIRS:
Cultural and Diverse Leadership

1PM - 2PM
RICHARD ZEID:
FACULTY, ART, AND GRAPHIC DESIGN,
Developing Eye Catching Communications

6PM - 7PM
TOM TRESSER:
Creative Tools for Social Change

7PM - 8PM
TOM TRESSER:
Basics of Community Organizing for Artists

SGA STUDENT LOBBY DAY:
Students from the Student Government Association will lobby for more educational funding with representatives at the State Capital in Springfield, IL.

THURSDAY
APRIL 3

WELLNESS FAIR
731 S. PLYMOUTH / THE COURT
10AM - 2PM
Free health screenings, assessments, rapid HIV tests, free massage, and more. Don't hesitate to enjoy free Jimmy John's sandwiches and giveaways. Visit the website: www.colum.edu/wellness for complete details.

12PM - 1PM
TOM TRESSER:
Basics of Community Organizing for Artists

1PM - 2PM
TOM TRESSER:
Building an Effective Organization

FRIDAY
APRIL 4

12PM - 1PM
TOM TRESSER:
The Artist as a Leader

1PM - 2PM
TOM TRESSER:
Creative Tools for Social Change

MANIFESTATIONS
1104 S WABASH CONAWAY CENTER
7PM - 10PM
Come out and join Columbia's student organizations in the Conaway Center for exhibitions, performances, and a look at their creative work. Food and soda will be provided. Watch the orgs compete for one of three grand prizes!

Tom Tresser:
Building an Effective Organization

This workshop will lay out the fundamentals for building an effective campus organization that will outlast your own participation. Think of it as establishing a new nonprofit organization. Most of the elements that make a nonprofit successful can be applied to your student organization. We'll look at mission, recruiting, leadership, communication, recruitment, programming, and sustainability.

Tom Tresser: The Artist as a Leader
Did you ever think of yourself as a leader? Would you believe that the very same values and skills that brought you to Columbia College might make you an excellent leader in the public arena? This workshop will lay out the argument for creativity as a national value, as a basis for a new winning politics, and therefore as the basis for a new definition of leadership.

Sandra Allen, Chair, PR Studies:
Effective Public Relations
"Don't Put Rocks In Your Mouth"
Using your message to create the gotta-wanna principle. Or, how to engage students and build involvement in your club or organization.

Shanita Akintonde, Faculty, Marketing Communications:
Journey to Job Readiness
Students will learn strategies and tips on how to 'market themselves' to increase their career options upon graduation.

The Peace Corps
Serving as a Peace Corps volunteer is an experience like no other. Volunteers learn a new language, exchange ideas, and take part in their communities as partners and friends. Peace Corps volunteers work hard with and for the communities in which they serve, but it is often the volunteers who feel they have been most richly rewarded. A Peace Corps recruiter and returned volunteer will be on hand to answer questions and give information about becoming a volunteer.

Kimberly Weatherly, Director, African American Cultural Affairs:
Cultural and Diverse Leadership
Come out and learn more about leading in diverse groups, and how people cross-culturally work together for the common good of humanity.

Tom Tresser:
Creative Tools for Social Change
Hip-Hop and voter registration. Media hacking and globalization. Street theater and commercialization. Increasingly, activists are turning to creative techniques to effect social change. The line

between impacting social protest and creative work is becoming blurred. This workshop will introduce you to the work of creative change agents called the Interventionists. Come and meet the Yes Men, Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping, the Billionaires for Bush, and the Guerilla Girls!

Tom Tresser:
Basics of Community Organizing for Artists
Did you notice the word "Change" plastered all over the place at Columbia? Did you know Chicago is one of the global capitals of community organizing? Community organizing is where citizens band together in the face of powerful opposition to create real change for themselves in their neighborhoods. This workshop will introduce you to

the proud tradition of Chicago-style direct action organizing and the work of Saul Alinsky and his successors. We'll take a special look at how artists can participate in this powerful democratic civic work.

Leadership Week is sponsored by the Office of Student Organizations and Leadership.

The contact is Leslie Watland at 312.344.6685.
www.colum.edu/leadership



» GLASS:

Continued from PG. 13

Studio restores 480,000 pieces of glass from Cultural Center dome

series of bright, towering glass sculptures meant to resemble a forest, created by Dale Chihuly, a renowned glass artist.

In addition, more than 200 glass artifacts, ranging from a Dorsett Catalina fiberglass boat to Tiffany lamps and microscopes, are on display, said Geoffrey Curley, manager of temporary exhibits for the Museum of Science and Industry.

The glass-themed exhibit was developed because the material is such a large part of daily life, Curley said. He said it's an innovative medium that has influenced human culture.

"Without it, we wouldn't have progressed," Curley said.

It's an industrial material that most people don't think about, like steel or rock, Curley said. Nonetheless, glass is an important part of society, he added, because it's everywhere and lasts a long time.

In the exhibit, museum-goers can watch employees from the Botti Studio restore 100-year-old glass from the Cultural Center's Tiffany Dome, a stained glass dome at the Chicago Cultural Center's Preston Bradley Hall, 78 E. Washington St., said Chris Botti, owner of Botti Studio, 919 Grove St., in Evanston. The studio has been contracted by the city to restore and conserve the original glass by dismantling, cleaning and refitting each pane.

There are about 480,000 pieces of glass being restored, Botti said. However, about 7 percent of the glass will have to be replaced.

But Kokomo Opalescent Glass in Kokomo, Ind., the same company that created the original glass, will also make the replacement glass, Botti said.

Four of the studios' employees will be working at the museum to do this while 11 others will continue to work from the studio.

When the restoration is finished—in late April or mid May—natural light will shine through the dome, which has not happened since World War II, when domes were "blackened out," with



(Above) Visitors of the Museum of Science and Industry check out the opening of 'The Glass Experience' March 13 as glassworkers from Botti Studio in Evanston work on preservation of architectural glass.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

an opaque exterior and lit with artificial lights, Botti said.

There are also live glassblowing demonstrations from Meek and other gaffers from the Corning Museum and patrons can watch the glass-making process.

A gaffer starts with molten glass that's made out of sand, limestone and soda ash that's heated to 2,100 degrees, said G Brian Juk, a gaffer from the Corning Museum of Glass.

A gaffer then blows through a blowpipe, creating a bubble from the small ball of blazing, liquid glass. He shapes and molds the glass that's attached to the pipe by turning and twisting the piece, using gravity and heat, as he's been reheating the glass throughout the process in a furnace that is 2,400 degrees, Juk said.

Juk, who began working with glass 10 years ago, said it's a fun and exciting medium because the glass is moving and it seems alive.

"There's also that mystery that you can't touch it, but you still have to mold it," he added.

Beth Ribikawskis, a student at Marine Valley Community College in Palos Hills, Ill., said she enjoyed the glassblowing demonstration.

"It's neat to see how they make it," she said.

Curley said he hopes the exhibit will educate and impress people, each on an individual level.

"At every turn we want people to think 'I had no idea that glass did that,'" Curley said. "Glass is ter-

ribly innovative [and] maybe we can be too."

But to Elaina Komala, a student at Lake Forest College, the appeal of glass is not innovation with glass. Instead, she admires the historical practice.

"It's old tradition that's still

being done in the same process," Komala said.

The exhibit will run until Sept. 1. Tickets for "The Glass Experience" are \$23 and include general admission to the museum.

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Chris Botti, owner of Botti Studio, shows a piece of historical window pane his company is restoring, some of which is being done at the exhibit.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

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The Hush Sound:

a breakup turned make-up



(From left) Vocalist/drummer Darren Wilson, vocalist/pianist Greta Salpeter, vocalist/guitarist Bob Morris and vocalist/bassist Chris Faller comprise the local band The Hush Sound. Following a brief breakup after releasing their second album, the band took their sound in a new direction to record their latest album, 'Goodbye Blues.'

Courtesy DECADYDANCE

Chicago twentysomething quartet releases anticipated third album

by Jessica Galliard
A&E Editor

AFTER SIGNING with Fall Out Boy bassist Pete Wentz's label, Decaydance, in 2005, just months after forming the band, Chicago quartet The Hush Sound seemed to rapidly take off. The band set out on arena-sized tours with Panic at the Disco and Fall Out Boy, and singles like "Wine Red" and "Crawlin' Towards the Sun" were immediate radio hits.

But after the release of their second album, *Like Vines*, strenuous touring and close quarters began to take their toll on the four friends—vocalist and pianist Greta Salpeter, vocalist and guitarist Bob Morris, vocalist and bassist Chris Faller and vocalist and drummer Darren Wilson—who started the band in their late teens. Though the band decided to break up in 2006, shortly before embarking on their first headlining tour, they decided to finish out their touring schedule.

It was at their first headlining show in Minneapolis in 2006 that the band members realized the scope of their fanbase and decided to stay together. As a result of the band's change of heart, their third album, *Goodbye Blues*, which will be released March 18, presents soulful vocals and pop beats that still elicit the occasional toe tap. Before beginning a 2 1/2 month tour with Panic at the Disco on April 10, the band will play a record release show at Beat Kitchen, 2100

W. Belmont Ave., on March 18.

The Chronicle spoke with Wilson about the band's new album, how the temporary break-up influenced their new sound and the appeal of the Chicago music scene.

The Chronicle: What can fans expect from the new album?

Darren Wilson: It's definitely a new direction for the band. I think we've grown up a lot as musicians, and Bob and Greta as songwriters have come a long way. Especially in comparison to the last album, it's just taking the next step.

Why did you break up after the release of the second album?

It was a first-time experience for all of us. When you have the same four people plus a couple of crew members grouped up in a 15-passenger van for months at a time, you're not getting a lot of sleep and you're not eating very well, there's a lot of things you're learning. It was just a lot of really minute petty things that just grew and then it turned into bigger problems, which stemmed from stupid arguments. It was really nothing that you can point to and predict. It was definitely hard. It was not an easy task for us.

What made you decide to get back together?

The first show of our headlining tour was our first time we had done a headlining

show outside of Chicago. It was nearly sold out in Minneapolis, and I remember just being like, "These people are here for us. These are our fans." Until that point, we hadn't realized how many fans we really had. Throughout the course of the tour, it was just like we all kind of woke up a little bit and realized what we had between the four of us. It's a really unique thing and really unique music.

I think it definitely put something in the back of all of our minds, and once we vocalized it with each other, it was like, "Yeah let's keep going. Let's make this work."

And we did. And I know that every single one of us has been very pleased that we did. I don't know what I would be doing right now had we chosen to stray from that.

Did temporarily breaking up influence the new sound on the new album?

It did ultimately, because I think we got a lot of the bad out of our system. We let a lot of things go that were bugging us before, just the little petty things that ultimately don't really make a difference. I think once we got past all that we were able to look at what's really important between music and ourselves as friends.

Like I said, when we were on the Fall Out Boy tour it was the first tour we'd ever done, and being put on this huge thing like that is hard for 19-, 20-, 21-year-olds to handle. It was just a hard thing for us to be able to

grasp right off the bat.

What is it about the Chicago music scene that has produced so many successful bands?

When Fall Out Boy came out ... it really opened the door for a lot more diverse bands out of Chicago. It just put the spotlight on the city and really brought people's attention to what we have.

Chicago for a long time has been known to have an amazing music scene. In the past it's been blues, jazz, Buddy Guy and what-not, but now in the 2000s we're seeing a new wave of pop music coming out of here, which is awesome. I'm very excited to be part of that.

What advice do you have for young, aspiring musicians?

I would say keep your ultimate goal in mind. Realize that when you play music the feeling that that gives you is much more important than dropping somebody's guitar amp.

You have to take a step back and take the bigger picture of things, because if you don't you're going to get lost amongst a bunch of crap and a bunch of things that irritate you but shouldn't.

The Hush Sound will release their third album, Goodbye Blues, at Best Buy, 2100 Elston Ave., on March 18 with acoustic performances. The band will also play a sold-out show at Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., at 7 p.m.

For more information about The Hush Sound, check out their MySpace at MySpace.com/TheHushSound or their website at TheHushSound.com.

jgalliard@chroniclemail.com

TV program shows duality of youth

'High School Confidential' follows 12 teenage girls for four years

by Frazier Moore

SINGLE MOM Sharon Liese knew challenges awaited her daughter in high school.

"I knew the four years coming up were going to be transformative," Liese said. But back in 2002, she couldn't find the sort of helpful information she was looking for—a parent- and teen-friendly documentary that would shed light on the high school experience.

So her search became a do-it-yourself project.

She got approval to film in her daughter's Overland Park, Kan., high school. She put out a call to incoming freshman girls and enlisted a diverse group of 12.

Then, that fall, the rookie filmmaker began a four-year effort to cover those girls' stories, both in and out of school, as they progressed from ninth grade through graduation in spring 2006.

The result is "High School Confidential," a candid and revealing eight-hour series. The second episode airs at 10 p.m. EDT on March 17 on WEtv.

Most episodes focus on a couple of the students, blending footage throughout high school with on-camera interviews as each girl grows up before the viewer's eyes.

Issues include drug and alcohol abuse, sexual experimentation, broken families, cliques and social pressures, sickness—all part of the curriculum of teenhood.

Jessi is an aspiring actress who still lives in Overland Park. In high school, she suffered from depression, drank too much and had a miscarriage. Upon graduation she would move to Los Angeles on a theater scholarship, but after 10 days she was seized by a panic attack and returned home.

Even Lauren, the school's drill-team captain and an honor-roll student, wasn't spared. A medical test for an unrelated condition revealed she had a brain tumor.

Liese's daughter, Justine, had bowed out early as an on-camera subject.

"She did one interview," Liese said, but they agreed it was too close for comfort. "She wasn't gonna answer my questions real honestly with me."

But Justine involved herself in other ways. As a student at the school, she could serve as a go-between, scouting activities and events worth filming.

And it was Justine's suggestion that the girls be furnished with video cameras to use in situations where a crew might not be welcome. Good idea: When a party starts, the partyers bring out the camera.

Was Liese surprised when she screened some of this footage?

"Yes, I was!" she replies with a burst of laughter.

"High School Confidential" is a remarkable exercise of trust at

many levels.

Liese was a well-regarded member of the community when her project got the go-ahead from school officials.

"I had been a good PTA mom," she said.

Meanwhile, she trusted herself to pull off this ambitious venture. She owns a corporate marketing firm that creates videos (it remained her "day job") so she was no stranger to film production. But never had she tackled anything on the scale of a documentary series.

"I always had faith that something would come of it," Liese said during a recent visit with a couple of her "stars" to New York. "But you don't really know until you get into editing."

And only at the conclusion of shooting did she land a partner, New Line Television, which supplied a team of two dozen editors

to help sculpt her 500 hours of raw footage into narratives.

But the "Confidential" girls might have taken the greatest leap of faith, counting on the fairness of how they would be depicted.

Why did Jessi say yes to being in the film, as she faced ninth grade already full of fear? The would-be actress recalls thinking "maybe it'll look good on my resume."

"But as I got into more and more situations, and made more and more mistakes, and learned from them, I realized that other people will learn from this, too, if they see it," she added.

"At the beginning, it didn't seem like a big thing," Lauren said, thinking back to Liese's invitation. "I was like, 'OK, she wants to do a little documentary? Good! I'll have a home video.'"

And though no one was prepared for the brain tumor storyline, Lauren and her parents let film-



(Left to right) filmmaker Sharon Liese, daughter Justine Liese, Ali Lohan and mother Dina Lohan arrive at a special screening of WEtv's 'High School Confidential' at The Times Center in New York March 5.

AP

ing continue as she got more tests and waited for a diagnosis. (She ultimately was given a clean bill of health and is now a sophomore at the University of Denver.)

"I knew that even if it wasn't for this documentary, [Liese] would want to be there," Lauren said. "She wasn't there just as a director. She cared."

"For all the girls, she kind of

became a second mother," Jessi said. "She let us talk to her about everything."

"And she kept it so private and confidential" Lauren said. "There were big issues for her not to talk to our parents about. But she was very respectful of that. She kept so much to herself."

AP

I WANT

TEAM SPIRIT

GLORY

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

Renegades
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO

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vs.
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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12:00pm

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(Left) Tom Esterline of Indianapolis has attended more Lebowski Fests than anyone, with the exception of the co-founders, and says he dresses and acts like ‘The Dude’ most of the time.

CHICAGO ABIDES

FANS OF CULT CLASSIC ‘THE BIG LEBOWSKI’ GATHER FOR FIRST LEBOWSKI FEST CHICAGO

Outside the bowling alley, three twenty-somethings struggled to help their friend zip up the back of his costume. With the zipper obviously stuck, Dan Wiltgen begrudgingly stepped out of the rug he had tailored to fit him to work with the closure. His friends, also in costume, joked while Wiltgen worked to adjust his zipper on the ground.

One friend in a white suit and aviator sunglasses said, “I really want to go out like this [again] sometime.”

Inside, the smell of beer and bowling shoes overpowered the large bowling alley packed with fans decked out in khaki vests, long-haired wigs, floor rugs and other interpretive costumes, like a group of four friends dressed in navy blue Confederate military uniforms and a Pocahontas costume.

This elaborate garb is just the beginning of the obsession and dedication to a huge phenomenon that has been in the works since the movie’s release.

Originally planned as a small gathering of fans of *The Big Lebowski* in 2002, parties like these have cultivated into an annual celebration of the film where fans replicate the characters’ obsessions with White Russians and bowling. After the large turnout at the first festival, the two co-founders began hosting a series of celebrations across the country to pay homage to the 1998 Coen brothers’ film that initially failed at the box office but later turned into a massive cult classic. A decade after the film’s premiere, a sold-out Lebowski Fest visited Chicago for the first time March 7–9, and the phenomenon created from the film continues to grow.

At the opening night party of Lebowski Fest Chicago on March 7, the Portage Theater, 4050 N. Milwaukee Ave., hosted a screening of the film after performances from tribute bands Bluemoon Swamp and The Steepwater Band. Fans also flocked to the Waveland Bowl, 3700 N. Western Ave., for nights of bowling, film trivia and costume contests.

Hordes of fans attend the festivals dressed like the main characters in the film, including a pedophile bowler in a tight, purple bowling uniform named Jesus, a gun-toting Jewish convert with a temper problem and an old slacker affectionately known as “The Dude.”

It was these characters and their dialogue in the movie that would entertain Will Russell and Scott Shuffitt, co-founders of the festival. While working as vendors at a tattoo convention in July 2002, Russell and Shuffitt

STORY: JESSICA GALLIART

PHOTOS: RACHAEL STRECHER

DESIGN: BENJAMIN ANDIS

would quote lines from the movie with other vendors. Russell and Shuffitt then realized if they can have a tattoo convention, why not a Big Lebowski convention?

The two friends then organized a small Lebowski Fest in Louisville, Ky., in 2002, expecting a few friends to show up and go bowling, Russell said.

“We didn’t really expect much,” Russell said. “We were really blown away when 150 people showed up in costume. It was just amazing. We did it again, and it was even bigger.”

In the eight years it has been running, Lebowski Fest has expanded to several cities across the United States and Europe, including Lebowski Fest UK in August 2007. Fans of *The Big Lebowski*, aptly named the “achievers,” have traveled to Lebowski Fests from as

“I’M ON ‘DUDE’ TIME.”
—TOM ESTERLINE, WHO HAS BEEN TO NEARLY A DOZEN LEBOWSKI FESTS, INCLUDING SOME OVERSEAS.

(Below) Fans of the film ‘The Big Lebowski’ gather for the first ever Lebowski Fest Chicago on March 9 at Waveland Bowl located at 3700 N. Western Ave.



Jen Rossano wears a Lebowski-inspired costume her mother spent hours making for her.



Todd and Jenny Bowers drink and bowl at their first Lebowski Fest March 9 at Waveland Bowl.



Chad Case's wife sent him to the Lebowski Fest from Idaho as a Christmas present.



Chuck Laberge, aka Minneapolis, enjoys a White Russian at his first Lebowski Fest.

far away as Singapore to arrive decked out in costume and ready to bowl and drink White Russians. One fan, Tom Esterline from Indianapolis, has attended more festivals than any other achiever—besides Russell and Shuffitt, Russell said.

“[Tom] came over to Scotland and London and Louisville,” Russell said. “[He is] kind of the traveling achiever; he just kind of roams.”

Esterline—who, with his relaxed demeanor and attire, routinely wins the costume contest for the best “Dude”—said Lebowski Fest Chicago was one of the best fests he has attended. Although he doesn’t always dress exactly like “The Dude,” with cargo shorts, oversized T-shirts and “jellies,” he said his usual attire is pretty close and that he’s on “‘Dude’ time.”

“I can relate with the resolve of The Dude’s conflicts at the end of the movie,” Esterline said. “Everything turns out OK for him.”

The growing festival is representative of a larger, cult phenomenon the film has produced, despite its dismal premiere in 1998. Russell and Shuffitt penned *I’m a Lebowski, You’re a Lebowski*, a fan book, with tips on “Dude-ifying your life,” the real story behind the film and a foreword by Jeff Bridges, who portrays the main character in the film. A documentary about Lebowski fans, *The Achievers*, has also been in the works for about five years and wrapped up filming Lebowski Fests at the Chicago festival.

Eddy Chung, director of the documentary, said he discovered a whole new culture of people that developed from the film after attending a festival five years ago.

“It’s not a cult classic, but [it’s] a culture,” Chung said. “These guys have taken it to another level. Instead of saying ‘yes,’ they say “‘The Dude’ abides.’ You can say a line from the movie and they know exactly where it comes from.”

Russell said although he didn’t appreciate the movie the first time he saw it, he fell in love with it after watching it a few more times.

“IT’S NOT A CULT CLASSIC, BUT [IT’S] A CULTURE ...YOU CAN SAY A LINE FROM THE MOVIE AND THEY KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT COMES FROM.”

—EDDY HUNG DIRECTOR OF DOCUMENTARY ‘THE ACHIEVERS’

“I think people approach the movie as any other movie where you follow the plot and get caught up in the whodunit mystery,” Russell said. “That’s not really where the good stuff is. It’s a natural thing to do when you watch a movie to follow a plot, but a plot is really the framework.”

Though Russell said there’s a consensus that it takes a few viewings of the film to appreciate it, Oliver Benjamin said he loved the movie from the start. Benjamin, who lives in Thailand for most of the year, created Dudeism, a religion he developed from studying meditation, yoga and *The Big Lebowski*.

“The movie really spoke to me,” Benjamin said. “The more I watched it, the more I realized there were some strong congruencies with Eastern philosophy, and I kind of realized the movie has a lot to say about how

one should live their life in this day and age. He takes ideas from people, and he doesn’t judge anybody unless they really deserve it. He tries to get along with everybody and tend to his own little garden.”

Since launching his website, Dudeism.com, Benjamin said more than 20,000 people have signed up to become ordained ministers of Dudeism, allowing them to preside over

weddings, funerals, baptisms and pet-spaying services, among other things. The religion recognizes various celebrities and historical figures as great dudes, which are not gender specific, in history, including Buddha, Snoopy from “Charlie Brown,” comedienne Sarah Silverman and Lebowski, who is considered “The Dude.”

“I think that’s what people didn’t like about *The Big Lebowski*—[The Dude] didn’t accomplish anything,” Benjamin said. “There were all these red herrings and dead ends, [but] I think that’s what made it so great. In the last line of the movie when he says ‘The Dude abides,’ it means no matter what kind of s--- came his way, he stayed true to himself and never really dropped his kind aspect.”

Ron Falzone, associate chair of Columbia’s Film Department, said *The Big Lebowski* is

definitely one of Joel and Ethan Coen’s finer films.

“I think like all of the Coen brothers’ better films, it creates a universe all its own that’s strange, surreal and yet it’s always founded on human behavior,” Falzone said. “‘The Dude’ is an enormously universal character. His desire to do something with his life without necessarily submitting to the rules everybody imposes on him—that’s universal. And I think the fact that it’s done in a surreal and funny way is what makes it so endearing.”

Lebowski Fest is sometimes described as a Star Trek convention without the geeks. Though Russell and Benjamin agree, to an extent, Falzone said he doesn’t think it’s quite like a Star Trek convention.

“Most of the people who have taken [on the movie] are probably like me, who are older, who know the whole scope of the Coen brothers’ career in a contemporaneous way,” Falzone said. “I still remember going to the theater to see *Blood Simple*. People who are in their 20s, they didn’t have that. For them the Coen brothers probably start after *The Big Lebowski*.”

Though the Coen brothers have given “neither a blessing, nor a curse” to Lebowski Fest, Russell said they tend to move away from their projects once they’ve finished them.

“We talked a lot about the Coen brothers, and one of the things we learned is that when they’re finished with a project they really don’t want to have anything to do with it and [they] move on to the next one,” Russell said. “We haven’t moved on, but they have, apparently. They’re winning Oscars and whatnot.”

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(Middle) Jeff Dowd poses for a photo with four fans of 'The Big Lebowski' at the second annual Lebowski Fest in 2003 in Louisville, Ky. Dowd was the inspiration for the main character in the 1998 film.

Courtesy WILL RUSSELL

The real 'Dude'

Inspiration for main character in 'The Big Lebowski' discusses the film's cult phenomenon

by Jessica Galliard
A&E Editor

WITH HIS thick mustache, curly 'fro and relaxed attire, Jeff Dowd exemplifies everything about Jeff "The Dude" Lebowski, the main character in *The Big Lebowski*, a film about an old slacker who finds himself in the midst of a kidnapping plot. But Dowd, a Los Angeles-based film writer and producer, isn't just a fan of the movie *The Big Lebowski*—he inspired the main character.

After gaining a reputation for his role as one of the "Seattle Seven," a group of protesters who were arrested in 1970 after a Seattle demonstration turned violent, Dowd went on to work in the film industry as a top writer and producer. He later met and became close friends with directors Joel and Ethan Coen, who based the main character in *The Big Lebowski* on him.

As the first special guest at a Lebowski Fest, a celebration of all things *Lebowski* that travels across the country every year, Dowd now attends as many Lebowski Fests as he can. Besides being worshipped by *Lebowski* fans regularly, Dowd has also become a prominent producer in the film industry. He has worked as a producer on films like *Ferngully: The Last Rainforest*, *Kissing Jessica Stein* and *Blood Simple*, the Coen brothers' first directing endeavor. Dowd, who has

been called "The Dude" since kindergarten, is now editing his book, *The Dude Abides: Classic Tales and Rebel Rants*.

The Chronicle spoke with Dowd about his experiences with *Lebowski* fans, what he likes about Lebowski Fests and the attention he's gained from the film.

The Chronicle: How did you feel about attending Lebowski Fest the first time?

Jeff Dowd: I had huge doubts about it. Have you seen the ["Saturday Night Live"] sketch with William Shatner and the trekies at the Star Trek Convention? That's what this is. Get a life, trekkies. Are these people going to be a bunch of insane, fanatical people in costumes and have no life? No offense to any trekkie out there. So I go there, and what do I discover? These people are not socially inept; in fact, it's the opposite. They're very social people. Smart enough to get Joel and Ethan's sense of satirical irony. And they come from all walks of life. There's doctors and lawyers from Chicago. There's college men and women.

How have you seen the movie affect people?

I'm at the New York [Lebowski Fest]. This guy comes up and his wife is with him. He

says, "Dude, I gotta thank you; you saved my life. I'm a voluntary fireman. I carry my stuff with me everywhere and [during] 9/11 I was next to the twin towers when it happened. I saved a lot of people's lives. I've seen a lot of people die in front of me. I've never seen people jumping out of buildings. I watched dozens of people flying out of those buildings. I lost a lot of people I knew. I was so emotionally devastated I had post traumatic stress disorder." His wife said he became worthless as a father.

[He said,] "I saw doctors, psychiatrists [and] therapists. I took every kind of pill. Nothing worked. One day I noticed a copy of *The Big Lebowski*. I put it in the DVD player, and for the first time in six or seven months I smiled. Then I started laughing and laughing. Then I watched it again and again. That

was my cure." He said it's like *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, that book.

"If [the Coen brothers] hadn't made this movie I might not be where I am today."

He's going to be a great father again, great husband, a

great lover; the family's doing great. And it's all thanks to *The Big Lebowski*. That's what *The Big Lebowski* does. You can watch it any time you want. At the end of the day it's a happiness drug, stronger than Prozac, stronger than the antidepressants.

Why do you think the movie has developed such a strong fanbase?

One of the things that fascinates me is why do people like this movie so much? It's a phenomenon. The Lebowski festival

is just the tip of the iceberg. This movie is being watched by millions of people again and again. What's up with that? I can explain it on one level; on one level it's really simple.

The thing about *Big Lebowski* is that it has 10 or 15 sequences that work really well. So you can pick it up anywhere and watch 15 minutes. They work. It doesn't really matter, you could pick it up during the Jesus scene; the scene is just a brilliant scene in every respect—acting, how they do the pan [where] Danny slowly turns. It's like an album; you can go back and visit an old friend. You feel good. Why do people take ecstasy? Why do people smoke pot or drink? Why do people watch sports games? It makes them feel good.

How have you handled the attention from fans of the movie?

Regrettably I get people coming up to me at Harvard saying, "Yeah, I go to Harvard. I watched this movie, and it changed my life." And I go, "Oh, I hope you didn't drop out. You saw this movie and decided you wanted to become a slacker or something?" That's not me. That's what Joel and Ethan [Coen] imagined I was like in the '70s for a year or so between when I was a political activist and went back to work. It's a character.

To me, what [do] I think about being "The Dude?" Joel and Ethan [Coen] laid a great gift on me. Obviously the icon status is an interesting opportunity. The head of Twentieth Century Fox says, "My daughter can't believe I'm talking to you. [She says], 'You're talking to "The Dude?" Wow.'" I run into Harrison Ford, and he's like, "Dude! How are you doing? Give me a hug."

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REVIEWS



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OK, so this is really nerdy, but if you're interested in Chicago history, this one's for you. Search "Chicago Days" on the website and find more than 150 stories about some of the most significant events the city has seen since the Chicago Tribune's first edition in 1847. —A. Maurer



'TOP CHICAGO BANDS TO WATCH IN 2008' ARTICLES

Music critics like Jim DeRogatis at the Chicago Sun-Times and Beep! editor Lisa Balde have announced their top bands to watch in 2008. Please take notice that The Chronicle has profiled at least three of those bands. Maybe we—and corporate media—really do know what we're doing. Scoooooore. —J. Gallart



THE NEW YORKER, MARCH 17 ISSUE

The New Yorker has been on an upswing during the presidential election. Hendrik Hertzberg and Ryan Lizza have been at the top of their games, and this week Lizza published one of the best accounts of the Clinton Campaign ("The Iron Lady") I've read yet. —W. Giglio



MOVIES / DVD / TV



'DIRT' SEASON TWO PREMIERE

After a year-long absence, "Dirt" has finally returned to my living room. Courtney Cox plays cutthroat Lucy Spiller, editor in chief of DirtNow magazine and is as ruthless as ever. You'd think after being stabbed she'd have some humanity, but it only made her meaner. Keep digging, Spiller; your fans missed you. —T. Bearden



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Looking for a reliable, legal place to watch your favorite movies and shows online for free? Check out Hulu.com, a website owned by NBC Universal and News Corp., to watch episodes the day after they debut and some feature-length films. Right now the content's somewhat limited, but I'm excited to see what they come up with. —A. Maurer



'SMALL TOWN GAY BAR' DVD

I expected this self-explanatory documentary to focus more on homophobia-infected rednecks and their backwoods opinions, but rather, it's more about the ostracized patrons and the familial bond they form. Sometimes it's interesting, and sometimes it's not. —R. Bykowski



MUSIC



ELVIS COSTELLO: 'THIS YEAR'S MODEL' DELUXE ED.

The deluxe edition of *This Year's Model*, by Elvis Costello, reminds one of the first time Costello music ever hit the senses. The double-disc contains the entire *This Year's Model* album, along with a live disc from the Warner Theater that includes some previously unreleased songs. —M. Maftaan



FISCHERSPOONER: 'ODYSSEY'

In high school I did a project on *The Catcher in the Rye* with the sound of Fischerspooner lingering in the background because I loved the band so much. Somehow I forgot about them in the drunken mess that was college, but thankfully iTunes had led me back to the homeland with a new favorite album alongside me. —C. Mahlmeister



ROGER CLYNE AND THE PEACEMAKERS: 'TURBO OCHO'

This audio experiment (a new song created and recorded daily for eight days) is by far my favorite alt-country band (as if anyone has more than one). It isn't their greatest work, but it's good enough to toss into a playlist mixed in with some of their better albums. —R. Bykowski



RANDOM



BUBBLE TOP ICED COFFEE LIDS

My favorite Dunkin' Donuts store ran out of flat lids. When only filled with a simple iced coffee, the bubble top is a large annoyance. My straw barely reaches the bottom of my cup and flops around the lid. Not to mention this will easily spill if I knock it over. —K. Badger



'SPLINTER CELL: CONVICTION DELAYS'

When I finished *Double Agent*, I couldn't have been more excited to play the next game. But month after month, Ubisoft has tortured consumers with one delay after another. My enthusiasm has begun to wane. With how long they've had to polish it, it better shine brighter than the sun. —S. Baltrukonis



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R.E.M. sings the song of South by Southwest

Popular groups look to help attract audiences to SXSW

by Nekesa Mumbi Moody

R.E.M. CAN usually be found playing arenas and esteemed concert halls. But last week, the rock hall of famers were among the acts trying to catch a break and artists looking to build their audience at the sprawling South by Southwest music festival.

The multiplatinum rockers played Stubbs BBQ in Austin, Texas shortly after midnight March 12 before an energetic crowd of a couple thousand, marking the first time they've played the annual extravaganza in their nearly three-decade career. But it's hardly a downgrade: Playing a showcase at SXSW has often been a way for a veteran act to make a big splash with a new project, or re-establish themselves in the spotlight, especially if it has dimmed in recent years.

"That is something that has become over the years what the whole thing is about," said music journalist Alan Light, who's participated in SXSW for years (though he opted to stay home this year).

"It is interesting and I guess a bit ironic that this festival that was really initially about sort of the discovery of new music and really supporting and creating a platform for unsigned and for underexposed bands, because of the kind of audience it gathered, suddenly became a place where Robert Plant or Pete Townshend or The Cult were playing to sort of get their credentials



The band R.E.M. performs at the South by Southwest music festival in Austin, Texas.

AP

re-established," he added.

Besides R.E.M., whose new CD *Accelerate* is out April 1, the festival also kicked off March 12 with a performance from Van Morrison (who has a CD *Keep it Simple* due out April 1, as well). Daryl Hall from Hall & Oates, Alejandro Escovedo and the Ponderosa Stomp, which is a revue designed to give much-deserved recognition to unheralded and sometimes obscure music veterans, are also among the countless acts scheduled to perform at SXSW, which ended March 16.

Ira Padnos, the curator of Ponderosa

Stomp, first brought the revue to SXSW two years ago.

"It's a very good fit. It's enabled performers to definitely get back out there and get gigs and remind people they are still alive," Padnos said. "For instance, as soon as Barbara Lynn got off the stage last year, she was offered a gig ... It's allowed people to know that these guys are still vital and out there, and it's helped to revitalize a career."

One of the more memorable examples of how a SXSW performance breathed new life into a languishing artist was Ike Turner.

Though a rock legend, he was known more as the disgraced ex-husband of Tina Turner and hadn't had an album in over two decades. But his performance at SXSW, which Light still recalls as "pretty amazing to see," reminded audiences of his rich musical legacy and helped build excitement as his album was released in 2001.

While established acts performed alongside fledgling artists and bands during SXSW's 22-year existence, the festival's reputation was built on fresh faces who used the festival as a launching pad, whether to secure a record deal or broaden their audience with buzzworthy performances.

But veteran artists and bands have found that SXSW can provide an invaluable boost as well, given the audience of music journalists, record executives, radio programmers and other key industry insiders.

"R.E.M. actually is looking to reconnect with the critics and tastemakers who are there," said Blender magazine editor-in-chief Joe Levy. "It's the equivalent of going to a superstore. You don't have to tour the country and connect with all these critics ... All you need to do is show up in Austin."

It's also a way to underscore musical credibility, Light said.

"It's a very insider audience, a very sophisticated audience, so to take the risk of putting yourself out there in an up-close setting in front of an audience ... [and] showing that you're in fighting shape," he said. "This is to demonstrate that they can really go out and win over real music people."

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(Above) College comedian Jason Ritchey performs his routine at Zanies, 1548 N. Wells St., during the second round of RooftopComedy.com's National College Comedy Competition on March 10. (Below Left) Columbia student and comedian Kevin D. Williams won the night's event and will move on to the next round in Aspen, Colo. (Below center) Columbia student Matt Jones performs his routine. (Below right) Columbia student and comedian Jason Hodge, a semi-finalist, performs his stand-up routine. Eight Columbia students competed against eight Northwestern University students, and in the end, a Columbia student won.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE



Students crack up packed venue

Columbia, Northwestern University student comedians battle it out for national title

ON MARCH 10, there was jumping, running, screaming and silly faces being made, and that was just in the first two acts.

Eight Columbia comedians went head-to-head against eight Northwestern University comedians for the right to move on in a competition to be the funniest college student in America.

Zanies Comedy Night Club, 1548 N. Wells St., was standing room only when Columbia students Jason Hodge, Jason Ritchey, Lance Allen, Matt Jones, Will Crespo, Kevin D. Williams, Nick Paul and C. J. Toledano participated in the regional match-up. The event was part of RooftopComedy.com's National College Comedy Competition.

"It's a lot harder than it looks," Hodge said after his 5-minute routine. He went first out of the 16 competitors from the two schools. "You can get up there and just go blank."

Williams, of FunnyManKev.com, won the event,

which was judged by a panel of local radio and television celebrities. Ballots were also given to each member of the audience.

"I've been performing stand-up for 15 years," Williams said. "It's now in the hands of the people that watch the [website]."

Each college can support their comedians by voting at RooftopComedy.com/College, said Jennifer Stokes of RooftopComedy.com.

"Video clips of each comedian will be posted so that anyone can see what they may have missed and then vote," Stokes said.

The organization's website states that the event is a nationwide search to find the funniest stand-up comedian and short filmmaker among 32 colleges and universities. It has a grand prize of \$1,500.

The first round of the competition was held at Columbia on Feb. 21. The acts will be profiled on RooftopComedy.com to give people an opportunity to see the routines. The third and final round will be held in Aspen, Colo., on May 30 and 31.

—J. Warner



Priceless pedigree brings ‘Pettigrew’ to life

Frances McDormand, Amy Adams exuberantly energize a breezy period farce

by Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

PURE, UNBRIDLED warmth is the predominant feeling one has while watching *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*. It’s the warmth of a campfire where people first gathered to share stories, basking in the collective comfort and exhilaration of escapist fantasy. There is admittedly nothing exceptional about this particular fantasy, but it delivers one of the primal pleasures that cinema has been routinely celebrated for offering. It floods the darkened theater with an irrepressible glow, generated by two stars whose brightness could rival the sun.

There are perhaps no two actresses in modern film who are as appealing as Frances McDormand and Amy Adams. They are both renowned for playing characters who are so strong, empathetic and often hilarious that audiences can’t help but root for them whenever they appear onscreen. McDormand’s pregnant cop in *Fargo* and Adams’ pregnant southern wife in *Junebug* are two of American cinema’s most unforgettable portraits of idealistic optimists striving to make sense of an increasingly cruel world. There truly is no country for old men—or Miss Pettigrew, for that matter. Guinevere Pettigrew, as played by McDormand, is an instantly sympathetic victim of a coldly indifferent society. It’s London,



(Left to right) Frances McDormand and Amy Adams star in the comedy ‘Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day.’

circa 1939, and Pettigrew is a recently sacked governess with a humbly tattered hairdo only Tim Burton could love. Her selfless nature outweighed by feverish desperation, Pettigrew appears on the doorstep of glitzy actress Delysia Lafosse, played by Adams, posing as her new social secretary. Soon, Pettigrew is swept into Lafosse’s dizzying high society life of cheerful double-crossing, ruthless ambition and fashion beyond her wildest dreams. When Pettigrew improvises her employer’s way out of a rough spot, their friendship proves to be a match made in heaven. Both women are sheltered innocents helping each other discover how to be true to

themselves in a world of deception. If this plot seems a bit dated, it isn’t just because it was adapted from Winifred Watson’s 1938 novel of the same name. The script by David Magee and Simon Beaufoy strives so hard to follow in the footsteps of ’40s screwball comedy that it often stumbles in the film’s first half hour. It’s strange that such breezy material landed in the hands of director Bharat Nalluri, whose last film was the not-so-whimsical HBO miniseries *Tsunami: The Aftermath*. Yet it is the tangible gravity Nalluri brings to the story that saves it from being a mindless trifle. Once McDormand and Adams are allowed to relax into their characters, the film begins to work its enchanting spell. Like Anthony Hopkins’ repressed butler in *Remains of the Day*, Pettigrew is a caregiver who never learned to care for herself, and the grace with which McDormand makes her inner transformation is deeply touching.

Lafosse is the perfect follow-up role for Adams after she channeled the carefree exuberance of Julie Andrews in *Enchanted*. Here, Adams seems just as animated as her previous cartoon character, complete with over-the-top line deliveries and eyes that sparkle with childlike mischief. Yet this broad approach is justified by her character’s fast-living, self-absorbed personality that’s always putting on a show—mainly for herself. A terrific scene late in the picture, when Adams once again gets to utilize her slender yet melodic pipes, allows her to expose the pathos beneath the facade. Two stand-outs of the large supporting

cast are the exquisite character actor Ciaran Hinds, who brings startling delicacy to the role of Pettigrew’s possible love interest, and the helium-voiced Shirley Henderson, best known as Moaning Myrtle in the *Harry Potter* films. As one of the film’s few downright wicked specimens, Henderson is so icily mesmerizing that when she sheds a tear, it’s the emotional equivalent of watching rain slap against a glass window. If there’s any major turnoff for audiences in *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*, it’s the title itself, which is reminiscent of the condescending ’50s game show “Queen for a Day.” Thus, *Miss Pettigrew* joins the esteemed group of superb films—including *Cinderella Man*, *Gone Baby Gone* and *Breach*—unfairly overlooked because of their lousy titles. Yet with the marquee names of McDormand and Adams, it wouldn’t matter if the title was *The Hottie and the Nottie*. These ladies have more life than most Hollywood heroines on any given day.

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com

FILM BITS

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Film review

Blue collar robbers quit their day jobs

Crooks go for the big score in a city filled with villains, cops, double agents

by Wes Giglio
Commentary Editor

ACTOR JASON Statham has made a career playing bare knuckled anti-heroes and ‘roided-out supermen in forgettable action fare, but until *The Bank Job* he’d never been given a leash long enough to really act on. He doesn’t lose his trademark working class slur or the seemingly permanent 10 o’clock shadow bristling along his jaw, but *The Bank Job* makes him a family man as well as a tough guy, with all the moral contradictions that those relationships imply. It’s nice to see his persona put to good use in a film that’s about more than guns and girls.

The Bank Job is a refreshing film. It’s set in the ‘70s, but it ignores bell bottoms and cheesy music and focuses on recreating the unconventional stories that marked the era’s best films. It’s a heist movie with no cleverness or elaborate setups. The thieves dig a tunnel under the bank they want to knock over and then use a blow torch to get through the floor of the vault. There aren’t any big movie stars, smooth operators or jokey inter-group antics.

It’s the story of a few London roustabouts

and small-time crooks who get together for the score of a lifetime—robbing the safety deposit boxes of a downtown bank. They take the job on the recommendation of Martine, a former friend and sometime lover of Terry, Statham’s character, played with seductive reserve by Saffron Burrows.

But the gang’s in deeper than they think. Martine is tipped to the bank’s weaknesses (the alarm system will be down for two weeks) by a high ranking officer she’s sleeping with in MI-5, the English CIA. The agency actually wants the bank robbed so Burrows can secure some embarrassing photographs of Princess Margaret in a tryst with a black radical named Michael X. X is an extortionist slumlord posing as a British Malcolm X, and he’s in bed with a lot of bad people (pornographers, crooked cops)—all of whom have incriminating photographs and ledgers of their own in the vulnerable safe deposit boxes.

With all that information, it would have been easy for the filmmakers to make *The Bank Job* slow and bloated, stuffed with exposition and light on plot development. But director Roger Donaldson keeps the film swift and strong, pacing the action with fresh revelations and taking time to develop the characters and their relationships with each other.

Terry has a peculiarly (and again, refresh-



Actor Jason Statham plays the stoic anti-hero in ‘The Bank Job.’

MCT

ingly) honest relationship with his wife, played by Keeley Hawkes, telling her what she doesn’t want to hear whenever she asks. He acknowledges the dangerous nature of the job, and when she asks about his relationship with Martine he doesn’t avoid her. Hawkes imbues the character with remarkable naturalism; she has the air of a woman who’s been crossed but retains her faith—against her better judgment.

The movie is a decidedly rumpled blue collar affair, and the harsh dealings and harsher accents stand in opposition to star-driven caper movies like *Ocean’s 11* (and *12* and *13* and whatever). Anything remotely aristocratic is firmly stomped on—the lone upper class member of the crew is used purely for cover, but in the end it’s his “poncey” accent that gives the rest of the crew away.

The Bank Job has equal contempt for the

“Whitehall chaps” running the government. They’re all criminals themselves—petty, hypocritical and disloyal to a fault.

It’s a pleasure to watch the intricate three-way dance performed by the film’s three main groups, all of whom need something the others have got. The robbers (“villains”) have the money and the photos, the government’s got money and power, Michael X has his small army of corrupt cops and pornographers armed with guns and hostages.

The film resolves itself with a good-natured working class sneer and typical honesty. It says crime pays, if you’re smart, connected—and lucky.

jgiglio@chroniclemail.com



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Are you going to register for Summer 2008?

Are you wondering how you will finance your summer charges and expenses?

The Office of Student Financial Services is now accepting applications for Summer 2008 Federal Financial Aid. Summer Federal Financial Aid is determined by calculating a student's remaining eligibility for the 2007-2008 academic year. Please follow the steps below to have your file reviewed for your eligibility.

1. All students who are applying for 2008 Summer Federal Financial Aid must have a 2007-2008 FAFSA application on file with Student Financial Services. The deadline for you to complete your FAFSA for 2008 summer eligibility review is May 1, 2008.
2. Complete the Summer 2008 Financial Aid Application found through Student Financial Service’s website at www.colum.edu/student_financial_services and click on Spotlight. The deadline for you to complete the 2008 Summer Financial Aid Application is Friday, June 13, 2008.
3. Submit any additional paperwork requested from you to finalize your 2008 summer financial aid.

For more information regarding Summer 2008 federal financial aid, loan options, and tuition and fee rates, please visit our Customer Service Options Page or call our Help Line at **1-866-705-0200**.



Citizens play mayor for a day

THE EMERALD Society played some traditional Irish tunes at the kick-off of Chicago’s St. Patrick’s Day celebrations on March 8.

Two bagpipers and two drummers set the mood in the South Loop at Binny’s Beverage Depot, 1132 South Jefferson St. While the Irish-American policemen took a break from their instruments, perhaps for a cold Guinness or Jameson, the bar served as a venue for the Inaugural Mayor Daley Impersonation contest.

Hosted by Jameson Irish Whiskey, the Mayor Daley Impersonation Contest gave contestants the opportunity to share their complaints or praises for the face of Chicago politics. Contestants were allowed to imper-

sonate either Mayor Richard M. Daley, or his father, former Mayor Richard J. Daley.

Contestants were given prompts or possible quotes to read. The favorite quote of the day was Richard J. Daley’s remark about the police tactics during the 1986 Democratic National Convention: “The policeman isn’t there to create disorder; the policeman is there to preserve disorder!” Jose Martin (right) won the contest with his flawless impersonation of Richard M. Daley’s distinctive stammering.

Martin won a Jameson gift basket and was even implored by the crowd to give two encore impersonations.

—D. Thompson



Sharon Wilson and Jose Martin (above) act out in the Mayor Daley Impersonation Contest on March 8.
Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

PREMIUM BLEND

The Ivorys

IN AN inconspicuous Lincoln Park basement, three high school freshmen decided to create a band in the spring of 2003. After years of practice and open-mic performances, the trio officially became known as “The Ivorys.”

Drummer Brendan Peleo-Lazar, bassist Sam White and guitarist Rob Thomas created their own unique rock ‘n’ roll sound, which has led them to perform at various concert venues in the Midwest. Their songs have also played on WXRT and “Fox News in the Morning,” and they have an EP. Now college freshmen, The Ivorys are eagerly looking forward to the future.

The Chronicle recently spoke with Peleo-Lazar, an arts, entertainment and media management major at Columbia, about his band’s influences, goals and passion for the art form.

Q The Chronicle: How have your role models influenced your style?

Brendan Peleo-Lazar: We’ve all been playing our instruments for a very long time. We all love old music like Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, as well as new music like The White Stripes and Arctic Monkeys. But we never go into my practice room in my basement and are like, “Oh my god, we have to rewrite ‘Misty Mountain Hop’ by Led Zeppelin.” A lot of bands do that. We just take our influences to a certain degree before we’re like, “Yeah, we all like them, but we want to do our own thing.”

Q What type of experience do you like to give audiences during a concert?

We were sick of seeing boring acts play.

They’re like, “Oh, this is our next song; I wrote it about my ex-girlfriend.” Nobody cares. So we just try to have fun up there. We know it’s entertainment, and we try to bring the best of both worlds by having an awesome live show where we’re totally energetic mixed with really good songs. In the studio we like to mess around. But live, we’re not playing to any tracks, we’re only a trio—guitar, bass and drums—so there’s no overdubs live. It’s like The Who playing “Tommy” live.

Q What songs has your band produced that you are the most proud of?

We have an EP, a self-title on iTunes, and we have it on every single place on the Internet. We don’t look too far into our songs, like, “Oh man, I’m so glad we wrote that.” We just try to improve on it every time, and we’re going back into the studio late May/early June, and we just try to keep going. We’re actually most proud of songs we haven’t recorded yet, because we’re actually going to experiment a lot more on these new songs.

Q What ideas do you attempt to convey through your music?

We actually have gotten a lot of bad raps like, “Oh, your songs don’t mean anything,” and I’m like, “Maybe not to you, but they actually do.” We’re trying a little bit harder to have them mean something. Before, it was a little vague to figure out, but now there are actual messages and half are just inside jokes that no one else gets. So we try to have fun with it but at the same time we’re really serious.

Q What’s the challenge of practicing while attending different schools?

It is difficult, but it makes us look forward to playing a lot more. We can’t just ditch school like other bands. It does hold us back because we would have done a lot more if we weren’t in school, but what can you do? We send each other demos over e-mails, so we’ve been working on stuff without being in the same room. This summer we’re going to record more, and we’re lining up a gig right now in late May either at the Vic or Park West for a charity event.

Q What do you love about music?

There’s so much emotion involved in it. We listen to classical just as much as rock

‘n’ roll. How a classical music piece can just make you cry—have you ever thought about that? Isn’t that just weird? We’ve always been interested in it. We just wanted to have fun really, and we’re just lucky. We have a producer here that helps us out, and we’re just glad we have some commercial [appeal] in our music. We don’t even try to be commercial, we just are.

The Ivorys will perform an all-ages show at the Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave., on March 22, along with Bury Me at Makeout Creek and Cavashawn. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7. For more information about The Ivorys, visit TheIvorys-Band.com.

—M. Fagerholm



(Left to right) Sam White, Brendan Peleo-Lazar and Rob Thomas comprise ‘The Ivorys.’
Courtesy THE IVORYS

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Bank deals

6 Become inflated

11 Took a chair

14 Orderly arrangement

15 Major artery

16 Nest-egg \$

17 Emulates Ella

18 Reside

19 Insider's advice

20 Undermines

22 Bloodsucker

24 Before, before

25 Used straws

26 Big Bird's whereabouts

32 Calm intervals

33 Non-member

37 Dental exam?

38 Picks out

40 Baby's call

41 Willis movie, "The Last ____"

43 Dutch flower

44 Optimus Prime and his cohorts

47 Street market

50 Rope-a-dope puglist

51 Bradley and Epps

52 Climbers

58 Siesta

59 Vietnam's capital

61 Eastman's camera

62 Mind-reading letters

63 Medical condition: suff.

64 Foe

65 987-65-4321 grp.

66 Moonshine maker

67 On edge

DOWN

1 Highland girl

2 Black-and-white cetacean

3 Part of U.A.E.

4 Western alliance letters

5 Methods

6 Emblems

7 Actor Rob

8 Bauxite and galena

9 City in GA

10 Calculates a score

11 Prepare to take notice?

12 Turn up

13 Recorded

21 Exist

23 Most favorable

25 Solidifies

26 Mess maker

27 Continental cash

28 Do in a dragon

29 Nothing but headlines

30 Sounds a horn

31 Worn track

34 Disney chipmunk

35 Abu Dhabi ruler

36 Knocks

38 Fly high

39 Play on words

42 Auto collisions

43 Bauble

45 Skin treatment

46 Bullring cheer

47 Skeleton

48 Gather

49 Composer of "Weasels Ripped My Flesh"

52 Opposed to

53 Agronomist's concern

54 Completed

55 Early garden

56 Male sheep

57 Hebrides isle

60 Tiny army member

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3/17/08

Solutions

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HOROSCOPE

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Aries (March 21-April 19) A person you care very much about offers good advice. It may be different than what the crowd is doing, and what they value. Friends come and go; maintain your principles.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) As you get into making changes, you'll find out what will work. Adjustments will be required. There's always a bit of a gap between fantasy and reality.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Your research uncovers more of the answers you've been seeking. Some of your previous suppositions were inaccurate. It's good to know.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) There is some shopping that has to be done, but don't get carried away. You feel like you can afford the very best, but don't get a whole lot of it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't let the others wander off on a wild goose chase. Keep them on schedule and within budget, especially if it's your money.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The Paperwork Fairies have not come in over the weekend. Unfortunately, the stack of stuff is still demanding your attention. This, you cannot delegate.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Meetings and other social interactions take you away from the tranquility of your nest. It's a struggle, but you'll adapt and survive.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You're pretty good at working within the system, but sometimes it grates. You'd rather do things your way, but you can modify your plans.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Don't go racing off on a wild goose chase. Let the geese come over to you, if there's something they need. Send them a memo to that effect, so they'll know what to do.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You're going to have to scratch a few items off your shopping list. Move them to your wish list. Never give up, of course, but do be practical.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Don't argue with a person who has your best interests at heart. Let this person be your coach to help you through a difficult time. But make the decision yourself.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Get into the job at hand, and watch for breakdowns and setbacks. If you're expecting them, you'll be less surprised and upset when they happen.

SUDOKU

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

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6		4	9					
2			8	5			9	
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COMIC RELIEF

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3/22

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“Brutus doesn’t drink – he’s punch drunk.”

Commentary

Editorials

State of the College

At noon on March 19 at the Conaway Center, 1104 Wabash Ave., Columbia President Warrick L. Carter will deliver his annual State of the College address. During the speech he will give credit to the college where the administration feels credit is due, as well as lay out a plan for the next academic year. However, one thing Carter’s address is sure to lack is the perspective of a Columbia student. Here are some things The Chronicle hopes he addresses.

The biggest student concern in the coming year is the ever-increasing cost of attending Columbia. Tuition went up again this past academic year, rising 4.75 percent. Columbia cannot continue to raise tuition faster than the rate of inflation without taking dramatic steps to alleviate Columbia students’ financial burdens.

Among all private colleges, the average institutional financial aid per student is \$5,700, according to the College Board. At Columbia, the average institutional financial aid per student is \$633. Columbia’s administration cannot continue to raise tuition without a serious commitment to increasing financial aid. Columbia also needs to take steps to lower the cost of textbooks and class fees—according to The Associated Press, textbook prices are at an all-time high throughout the country.

Another issue is institutional commitment to green initiatives. This is an issue that doesn’t just affect Columbia students—conservation is a boon to the entire city because it reverses pollution and waste while promoting economic growth.

Columbia has several admirable green programs, like the low-flow toilets and motion-sensor lights being installed in the bathrooms, but the college needs to

make a commitment to full integration of green policy within the school. That means making sure every new building has the smallest possible environmental footprint and renovating all the old buildings to match. It means an emphasis on recycling and purchasing recyclable products. Columbia is doing a lot of things right when it comes to green policy, but there are many ways it can and should improve.

As the costs of a Columbia education rise every year, so do the costs of American health care. It should be no surprise that another major issue is student health care.

Columbia needs to commit to providing inexpensive, basic health care to all students who don’t have a plan of their own. The old Koster plan was nearly \$200 a month, a cost high enough that only 200 domestic students (international students pay for health care through tuition) were signed up for the program.

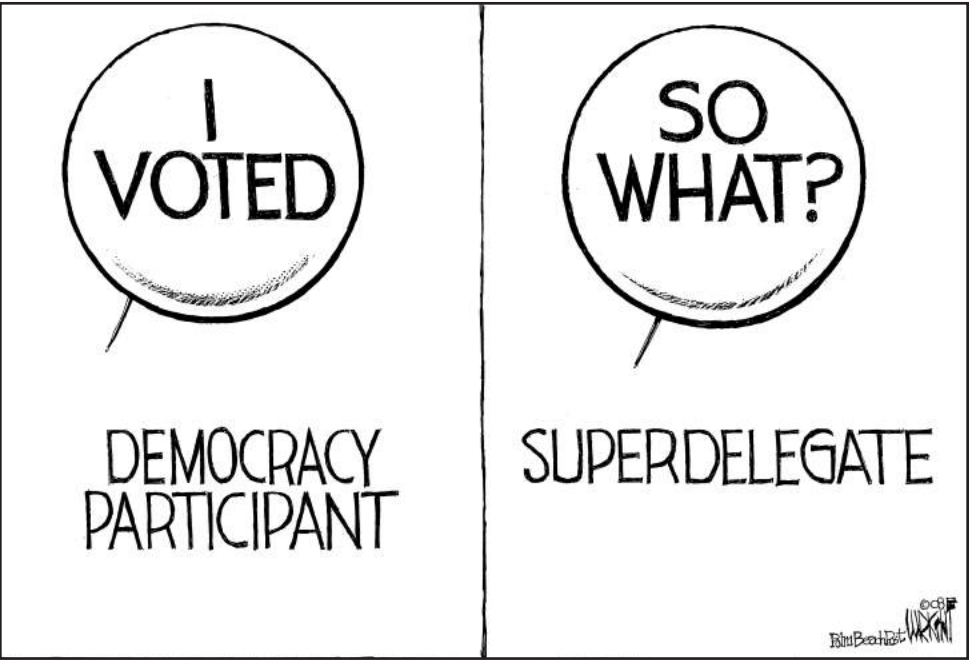
Another major concern of college students is campus safety.

The school has promised a state-of-the-art warning system to be installed in every room of every building, and the simultaneous e-mail, phone and text message emergency notification system is up and running. Students and faculty have access to mental health professionals who can help avoid another incident like the ones at Virginia Tech University and Northern Illinois University.

There are dozens of issues students want addressed. This list constitutes only a few, but it represents some of the highest priorities of the student body. Carter has a chance to serve his students by listening to their concerns and fixing them.



MCT



MCT

Separate and unequal

Recently, Columbia opened a new health clinic on the fourth floor of the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. The clinic will have two ATC (around-the-clock) physicians and a nurse practitioner, who will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., three days a week. There’s only one catch: Columbia students and part-time faculty and staff members aren’t allowed to use it.

The only patients the clinic is authorized to treat are full-time faculty and staff. And that’s a very small percentage of Columbia’s population.

While a health clinic for full-timers is convenient, they don’t need it as much as part-timers do. Part-time faculty and staff don’t have health care provided to them by the school, even though they get paid less than full-timers. And all full-time faculty and staff already have health care plans provided by Columbia.

The cost of health care rises precipitously every year, and for those without access to the preventative care, routine vaccinations and treatment of minor injuries the clinic provides bear a heavy burden when they’re forced to go to the emergency room without insurance. Another troubling aspect of

this new clinic is its separation from the already functioning student health clinic. It’s wasteful to set up and fund a completely different on-campus health clinic when one already exists. The administration claims there is a legal reason for the separation—the Sage medical group that staffs the student clinic specializes in caring for students exclusively. But that doesn’t mean the two clinics, with separate staffs, can’t share space.

The best solution to this problem is to combine the full-time faculty and staff health clinic with the student health clinic and find a way for part-timers to take advantage of it. The expense of combining the two programs would be negligible—if 10 medical professionals can care for 12,000 students, then the three already employed at the faculty clinic should be more than adequate to cover an extra thousand full and part-time teachers and staff.

Combining the clinics and getting part-time faculty and staff access to care is fair and fiscally defensible. Having two separate clinics, with one that serves the best interests of the three percent of the college that need it the least, is not.

Letter to the Editor:

Re: OASIS commentary

Bravo to Miles Maftan for his commentary about instructors not posting grades on OASIS. For the 3rd year in a row most of my students tell me that I am still their only teacher who maintains an online gradebook.

Students, calculating your precise grades isn’t some nice thing that teachers only do when they’re feeling generous. It is part of our job to make sure you are aware of your status in the course. I strongly encourage you to make your teachers accountable for the way they assess your performance in a course and NOT just at Week 15.

Instructors, yes, it is a slight pain to construct the online gradebook before the semester starts. But it’s really not that hard and once you’re done, you never have to calculate another grade. OASIS does it for you.

I have noticed that maintaining an online

gradebook both motivates my students and improves our communication.

(If a student goes from an 87.6 percent to an 82.3 percent in a week she’ll typically come to talk to me about it and we’ll discuss plans to raise the grade.)

Department and program heads can decide whether or not they want to encourage instructors to maintain OASIS gradebooks. Why doesn’t the college mandate it, as Maftan suggests?

Our students deserve to know their grades and to not be shocked by them when the semester is over. A simple CIT workshop on online grading will improve an instructor’s teaching and record-keeping. It will also improve students’ experience in our courses.

Jennie Fauls
English Department

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

Your community needs you



by **Becky Schlikerman**
Associate Editor

I don't know any of my neighbors. Although we share the same common spaces and neighborhood, the most communication we've had consists of waves and smiles. I can hear my downstairs neighbor's television while he gets ready for his day. But I don't think I've ever actually met him.

We all just go about our business, rarely seeing each other but knowing we're there.

This scenario is most likely the same throughout many Chicago neighborhoods, and it results in detached communities.

This detachment is harmful. If people don't care about their neighborhood, who will advocate for its benefit?

I went to a Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) meeting on Feb. 20 at the Northwest Settlement House, 1012 N. Noble St.—each community has its own CAPS program that is divided by police district and then sub-divided into small beats so each meeting is neighborhood specific.

At the meeting I saw my neighborhood's residents, business owners and police officers discuss pertinent issues about the community.

My West Town neighborhood never seemed very active. Chicago Avenue, the main drag of my neighborhood, is bustling with nightclubs and bars, which don't seem community-oriented at all.

But I was wrong.

Owners from different nightclubs and

bars showed up at the CAPS meeting. They are, after all, a big part of the community.

These residents and owners listened to each other's concerns and discussed community issues with each other.

Going to this meeting got me thinking. Obviously some business owners and residents care about their neighborhood and participate, so why don't all of us?

Involvement and investment in your community benefits the neighborhood and you, the resident. Without the involvement of residents—who are directly affected by any issues a neighborhood has—decisions are made that might be in contrast to the interests of the people who live there.

People can get involved in many ways.

Attend community meetings, like CAPS meetings, to meet neighbors. These types of gatherings also provide neighborhood news, most likely missed by media outlets. When I went to the CAPS meeting in my neighborhood, I found out what new restaurants and stores were opening up nearby. The schedule for CAPS meetings can be found at CityOfChicago.org.

Community members can also get involved with public schools in the neighborhoods by becoming community representatives on local school councils, which are elected bodies that oversee each public school in the city. These councils hire and fire principals and control the budget for the school. You can be the community's voice for a school in your neighborhood. In fact, elections are coming up in April. Visit CPS.K12.IL.US/AboutCPS for more information. There are also non-traditional ways to get involved.

The Neighbors Project, a non-profit group that supports community involvement, is a good resource for atypical suggestions

that can bring a community together and benefit it.

The group's website, NeighborsProject.org, offers ideas on how to start being more active in your community, but with a little twist. For example, the website has a guide on how to organize a block party.

But it also offers help and ideas on bigger projects.

One such undertaking is the Food & Liquor project, which started when an Uptown resident realized there was a lack of grocery options in her neighborhood. This resident teamed up with the Neighbors Project and is trying to develop a fresh food program with the convenience stores in the area.

But there are also simple suggestions from the group.

One thing you can do is simply say "hi" to your neighbors, according to the website. Other suggestions include getting to know local elected officials by attending meetings. In fact, most Chicago aldermen have public meeting nights called Ward Nights where he or she talks to residents.

There are different ways to help and get involved, so just ask yourself, "What does my neighborhood need?" You may find that what is an issue to you is an issue to all residents.

bschlikerman@chroniclemail.com



LIQUID LIBRARY

Side-swiped by Residence Life



by **Colin Shively**
Assistant A&E Editor

There are many reasons why high school graduates leave their home state to go to college: bigger opportunities, more adventures and oftentimes to get away from parents who have enforced rules and restrictions on their kids.

So what happens when a school fails to enforce its own written rules in the residence life contract and handbook signed by students? Students get angry.

Columbia's Residence Life Handbook states that "guest privileges will be suspended in a discipline situation until the resident has a judicial hearing." Yet when my friend was fined \$50 for an infraction, there was no judiciary hearing before the final decision to charge her.

Her infraction, as stated in a letter sent to her via U.S. mail, was that she "loaned her key card" out to another resident. The other resident then attempted to re-enter the building with her keycard. He was caught because the 2 E. 8th St. Building implemented a new security system on Feb. 28, according to a news flier given to all residents. Every time students swipe their key cards to enter the building, their picture appears on the computer screen. Naturally, in this case, the resident, being male, did not look like my friend, a female,

and Residence Life began its disciplinary procedures. In the handbook, it is prohibited for students to lend their keycards out to anybody for any reason. But my friend did not do it on purpose.

It was an honest mistake.

"He took it by accident," my friend said. "I seriously thought it was his and not mine; they are ridiculous by fining me for a little misunderstanding."

After repeated calls to Residence Life concerning the differentiating key cards between dorms, no calls were returned.

The keycards are all identical at 2 E. 8th St.—all white fronts with a magnetic strip on the back, with no identifying marks to

differentiate between cards. Slip-ups can happen. Yet Residence Life seems to believe that mistakes, like my friend's, are punishable by an outrageous fine. After my friend looked into the fine, she learned she will not even have a chance for a rebuttal because Residence Life had already made its decision to fine her.

Residence Life seems to have side-stepped its own rules in the case of this student accidentally breaking the rules. If Columbia values students living on campus, then why is it making harsh decisions without a proper meeting to hear the student's point of view? That's not a good image for Residence Life. For Residence Life to keep up

its appearance in the college community, it needs to make sure to be fair and just in all instances of discipline. It can not pick and choose who gets a hearing and who doesn't; the handbook states that all disciplinary actions will have a judiciary hearing.

There are many ways to make sure this accident never happens again. One way would be to create key cards that feature identifying marks, or picture IDs. For instance, the residents at The University Center, 525 S. State St., have key cards that have their picture printed on the card as well as "The University Center" clearly marked. There can be no confusion as to whom the card belongs to with this type of identification. Why do the residents at 2 E. 8th or even The Residence Hall, 731 S. Plymouth Court, not possess the same type? If a resident marks on the key card, he/she is given a \$50 fee at the end of the school year. This could be stopped if there were designs on all the key cards for Residence Life buildings.

The fact of the matter is Residence Life needs to be fair when disciplining students. When Residence Life doesn't respond to each situation accordingly and fairly, it's putting its integrity at risk, which might cause students to choose other living options while attending Columbia. Just because it set the rules for on-campus housing, does not mean it can work around them whenever it chooses.



The 2 E. 8th St. dormitory keycards are indistinguishable from one another.

Rachael Strecher THE CHRONICLE

cshively@chroniclemail.com



create...
change

WANT TO STUDY ABROAD?



Contact information:
Catrina DeBord
Office of International Programs
600 S. Michigan Avenue
P: 312 344 6852
F: 312 344 8460
E-mail: cdebord@colum.edu

Get an introduction to Columbia’s international programs, learn about your study abroad options and get your questions answered.

Informational meetings held every Friday.

Columbia 
COLLEGE CHICAGO

PHOTO BY CATRINA DEBORD

City Beat



FEATURE PHOTOS: (Above) Protesters carry a sign down Michigan Avenue toward the Chinese Consulate in a March 10 protest march to mark the 49th anniversary of the 1959 National Uprising against China's occupation of Tibet. (Below) Baku Nawkha, who is originally from Tibet and speaks almost no English, protests. (Right) Nawa Dolker shouts to the crowd that gathered at Water Tower Place. Dolker and other students came from Bloomington, Ind., to take part in the march.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE



Trying to take back Tibet

MORE THAN a hundred people marched to the Chinese Consulate, 100 E. Erie St., in Chicago on the morning of March 10. The crowd, made up predominantly of students and Tibetan immigrants, was marching to commemorate the 49th anniversary of the 1959 National Uprising against China's occupation of Tibet.

Chinese forces invaded Tibet in 1951 and have ruled it as an autonomous region ever since. There have been many claims that China rules Tibet in a harsh and oppressive fashion, but China refutes all such claims. Tibetans tried to shake off Chinese rule during the National Uprising in 1959, but were unsuccessful.

To mark the 49th anniversary of the failed uprising, Tibetans and students from all over the Midwest met at Water Tower Place,

835 N. Michigan Ave., to demonstrate and demand Tibetan freedom. They held signs demanding a boycott of Chinese-made goods and condemning Chinese oppression. With megaphones and homemade noisemakers, protestors called China to withdraw from Tibet.

Political prisoners were also honored as signs and shirts demanded the release of Tibetan Buddhist figures Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and silenced Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the 11th Panchen Lama, or Great Scholar.

After a number of people had gathered, the protestors marched down Michigan Avenue to the Chinese Consulate. The line of marchers spanned two blocks, interrupting traffic under police supervision.

—D. Thompson

Website to put local businesses online

SaveChicago.com to help advertisers nix junk mail; increase business in Chicago

by Susheela Bhat
Assistant City Beat Editor

WHILE IT may be easy to find a sale online, finding a sale in one's neighborhood involves walking by the stores, looking through a newspaper or finding a coupon in the mail.

One man wants to change how local Chicago businesses advertise their sales and bring it into the Internet age.

Steve Misetic is the founder of SaveChicago.org, a new online company that wants to attract Chicago shoppers to become members of an easily searchable website of local Chicago businesses and nonprofit organizations.

As of last week, 2,000 companies and nonprofit organizations have signed on to SaveChicago.org.

SaveChicago.org will give any local businesses and nonprofit organizations the ability to put up their most recent inventory; announce immediate sales, offer deals, coupons and eliminate wasting money paying for the outdated junk mail system.

"SaveChicago.org is my way of leveling the playing field for small Chicago businesses and nonprofit organizations," Misetic said. "My goal is to put the local businesses online and unite them with local nonprofits [and to] give them both a place where they can get to Chicago residents and keep Chicago dollars where they

belong, in Chicago." For a local business, the means of advertising include fliers, coupons and other traditional print methods that are costly, inefficient and outdated in a world of instant bargains from popular online companies like eBay and Amazon.

According to a recent global survey conducted by marketing industry analysts from the Nielsen Company, more than 85 percent of the world's online population has used the Internet to make a purchase, up 40 percent from two years ago, and more than half of Internet users are regular online shoppers who make online purchases at least once a month.

"I didn't see the point in sending out that money people spend online to these out-of-state and overseas corporations when I could create an online market for local business that is unique to our city for online shoppers," Misetic said.

The company is barely three months old and the website is still sparse. Although SaveChicago.org is in an embryonic phase of development, Misetic has a three-step approach planned to make his company work.

The first step is to bring in nonprofit organizations.

Rivendell Ensemble Theater Company, 5775 N. Ridge Ave., was one of the first to join SaveChicago.org. Misetic worked with the company to get its new theater space. In return Rivendell joined Misetic's business.

"What nonprofit organizations like our theater company would do is to get our



Courtesy STEVE MISETIC

local supporters to become members of SaveChicago.org," said Tara Mallen, the producing artistic director of Rivendell Ensemble. "We have free advertising on the website, so the supporters that became members would have up-to-date information on what is going on with their nonprofit and access to information from local businesses."

Anyone can become a member of SaveChicago.org, and by becoming a paid member of the website Chicago residents would be able to take advantage of all the online sales, saving money and getting the instant information each business would post.

All the businesses would have to do is get on board and advertise. This is the second step of Misetic's plan.

"We joined SaveChicago.org because it would save us some time, and it was a really easy way of getting some advertising into the community," said Kevin Swier, co-owner of Ras Dashen Ethiopian Restaurant, 5844 N. Broadway St.

Swier was not sure how much SaveChicago.org increased his business. The restaurant has been around for 25 years, while SaveChicago.org is approximately three months old.

Swier said he liked the idea and that he

had initially posted some specials from his restaurant. He hopes to take more advantage of the website in the future.

The third step of Misetic's plan with SaveChicago.org is about making some money, with a twist. The nonprofits don't pay for advertising on the website, and as of right now, the businesses can enjoy 12 free weeks, but after the free trial, they can purchase packages ranging from a few weeks of advertising to a few months.

The twist is that half of the money the local businesses spend on advertising will go to fund the Chicago nonprofit organizations. The supporters of the nonprofits can continue to support them by shopping at any of these local businesses, buying products online or taking in real-time coupons.

"It really is a win-win situation, the businesses spend less money on print ads and junk mail, gain a few more customers and the money they've spent goes to fund good nonprofit organizations that could really use the support," Misetic said.

With about three months under its belt, Mallen said the company still has a long way to go before it saves all of Chicago.

"It sounds like such a good, new idea, that it really can succeed," she said.

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ATA Airlines to leave Midway

Flights from Midway permanently cancelled for ATA

by **Susheela Bhat**
Assistant City Beat Editor

EARLIER IN the year, ATA Airlines was one of five airlines that signed agreements to support privatization of Midway International Airport. The struggling ATA began to downsize its services as it was giving the go-ahead to the city's plan of leasing the busy South Side airport to a private operator. One month from now, it will be leaving Midway for good.

ATA Airlines will stop all domestic and international flights out of Midway within next two months. The low-cost carrier has had financial troubles over the years, which played a part its decision to leave Chicago.

"ATA had five daily flights out of Midway and were cutting down their service for years," said Chicago Airport System representative Karen Pride.

Like many European airports that have gone private, Midway would become a company that could charge airlines different prices than the city to lease space, as well as set different prices for parking and other airport services.

The airline has been hit hard by the high cost of fuel and maintenance of the planes. The decision to leave Midway was not as much of a timing issue as much as it was a business decision, said ATA spokesman Steve Forsyth.

"Initially we signed on to the privatization agreement [with Midway] because they

needed a certain number of airlines to say they were interested," Forsyth said. "The decision to leave the airport was a corporate one, based on our lack of profits with these routes. With all of these factors and trying to remain a low-cost carrier, it just wasn't feasible."

ATA plans to stop its domestic flights from Midway to Oakland, Calif., and Dallas/Fort Worth by April 14 and its international flights to Cancun and Guadalajara, Mexico by June 7.

For travelers, one less airline at Midway is one less option to choose from.

The fuel costs are driving up prices across the entire industry. Airlines have struggled due to rising oil prices, of late between \$109 and \$110 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"If demand trends mirror prior recessions, a \$9 billion loss in the airline industry can't be ruled out. In that scenario cash becomes scarce for many," said analyst Jamie Baker in a report on U.S. Airlines for the financial services firm J.P. Morgan Chase.

ATA, which has had a hub in Midway since 1992, tried a few strategies before deciding to leave the airport.

A few years ago, the company attempted to appeal to business travelers by boosting service out of Midway to major markets and adding a business class cabin. Shortly afterward, ATA filed for bankruptcy in 2004.

Once they recovered from bankruptcy in 2006, ATA joined forces with a giant in low-fare carriers, Southwest Airlines, and offered a code-share service, where customers could either book the flight as ATA



Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

or Southwest from Midway on some of their routes.

For some people who travel exclusively as part of their jobs, the loss of an airline comes as a surprise.

"It is important to have choices with the cost of flying these days," said Rob Macari who does sales for Lending Solutions, Inc. "I use Midway almost exclusively and prefer the low-cost airlines to the bigger companies. Considering how busy the airport is, I am surprised ATA would want to leave, but it makes sense."

Despite its departure from Midway, ATA will not be fading into obscurity.

"We began as a charter carrier about 35 years ago, and this is more economically profitable for us," Forsyth said.

The carrier will return to its roots and operate as a shuttle for tourists to vacation destinations. After it leaves Chicago, ATA will only fly out of Oakland, Los Angeles, Phoenix and Las Vegas to five cities in Hawaii.

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Sarah Dunlap (right) and her family came all the way from Ann Arbor, Mich., for the ‘Leap Day’ celebration on Feb. 29 at the Shedd Aquarium, 1200 S. Lake Shore Drive. Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

» **FROGS:**
Continued from Front Page
Aquarium educates on amphibians’ habitat

surrounding area, according to the National Biological Information Infrastructure.
“It’s always been understood that frogs are like the canary in the coal mine,” said Herb Halberg, Shedd Aquarium’s floor program interpreter.
Halberg said frogs’ heightened sensitivity helps in early detection of environmental

problems.
“Things that affect frogs today could affect us years from now,” Halberg said.
Another, much bigger, threat to amphibian life is the fungus chytrid. Chytrid is a rapidly dispersing, infectious and deadly disease causing the massive amphibian population decline and threat of many species’ extinction. Chytrid is untreatable and can kill up to 50 percent of amphibian species and 80 percent of individuals, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
Halberg said because of their sensitive skin, amphibians react more easily to the environment than humans do, so it’s “up

to us to watch the frogs.”
“Anything we do that’s going to help the environment is going to help the frogs,” Halberg said.
Simple efforts individuals can do to help include conserving water—whatever water that is saved remains in the frog’s habitat without being chemically treated; reducing the use of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas) to slow the rate of climate change; and trying not to pollute. Amphibians take in chemicals through their skin, so it’s best to keep our trash out of natural environments.
One of the goals of Year of the Frog is to engage the public in amphibian conservation, according to the Association of Zoos

and Aquariums. At the Shedd Aquarium, a steady stream of spectators to the exhibit seems to fulfill the goal.
“This exhibit is really popular,” said Melissa Kruth, Shedd Aquarium’s public relations coordinator. “There are people always coming in and out, looking at [the frogs].”
Kruth said due to the dangers to the total frog population, it was time to inform the public more on the issue.
“Leap Day seemed the perfect time,” she said.

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Scoop in the Loop

by Brett Marlow
City Beat Editor

A dollar won't do ya

A friend of mine always knows what to say when something wonky goes down, and I think her trademark phrase, “Seriously?” applies perfectly to this iffy situation—increasing cab fares.

Seriously?

Mayor Richard M. Daley is proposing to increase cab fares by \$1 as gas prices continue to soar, the Chicago Tribune reported last week. Fares would increase 50 cents when gas prices stay at \$2.70 or more for a week straight. Gas prices more than \$3.20 would trigger a \$1 increase.

While it may not seem like much at first, those bucks are going to add up. When was the last time gas was close to \$3 even? It's been a while.

On my cab ride home from O'Hare International Airport last week, I asked a cabbie to stop about seven blocks away from my house because I ran out of money and refused to pay more than \$40 for a 13-mile cab ride. The other times I've “cabbied” it to O'Hare, the fare has been around \$30. Would I be willing to pay any higher? No.

Some say they take cabs because public transportation isn't always reliable, and I would have to agree.

When you're in a rush, waiting at a station isn't going to cut it. But why should we be paying more for cab rides because the cost of gas is going up? Gas prices have been high for a while.

I feel like there should be an alternative solution. Could taxi companies bring more fuel-efficient or hybrid vehicles onto the road and into their fleets? That would save them money in the long-run by saving money on gas. It would make more sense to me. I'm doing my best to be empathetic



Chicago cabs fares could see an increase from 50 cents to \$1 as gas prices rise.

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to the cab drivers who earn money from driving taxis, but whose fault is it that gas is so high? Taxi companies' costs would be less when the vehicle purchases pay off and the consumer wouldn't be stuck footing the bill for all the motorists and SUVs on the road.

I take cabs only when there aren't any other quicker routes or out of necessity, like getting to an appointment or the airport on time. And I think many people resort to cabs for those reasons too, but paying more just seems ridiculous. The city is thinking about privatizing parking meters, the sales

tax was just increased, what's next—will there be a toll to cross the street? That's exaggerated, but it's all a little ridiculous.

However, under the proposal, cab drivers who feel the need to jack the price when this new gas rule isn't in place would be forced to pay if they violate the terms. According to the Chicago Tribune, fines would range from \$500 to \$1,000, and cabbies' licenses could be revoked.

Looks like they are serious.

bmarlow@chroniclemail.com

In Other News

Just beet it

Throughout the city, communities are using a new approach to melt snow and ice—beets. According to the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation is using a beet juice and salt concoction instead of straight salt to decrease the damage after snow melts. The beet juice does not completely replace salt, but reduces the amount Streets and Sanitation would need, making some environmentalists happy. The sugar beet juice may work more effectively than straight salt by melting ice sooner than salt does, Street and Sanitation workers said.

Bye Blue Line branch

The CTA is cutting the 54/Cermak branch of the Blue Line for six months. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the branch of the line is being shut down April 27 due to low ridership. CTA officials said the cut is part of an experiment to reallocate service in the affected area. Those traveling to UIC and others who take the branch on the line will have to transfer in the Loop instead, or resort to buses for service. Nearby Green Line and Forest Park Blue Line trains will see increased service, as well as more buses in the area. CTA president Ron Huberman told the Chicago Sun-Times, “The 54th/Cermak Blue Line trains currently run every 30 minutes during rush hour and have six to eight people per car.”

Balancing budgets

Mayor Richard M. Daley announced March 13 that he's slashing the city's budget. According to the Chicago Tribune, Daley named increasing unemployment, housing foreclosures, rising gas prices and the overshoot in the snow clean-up budget as reasons for the cuts. Daley told the Chicago Tribune that residents might see decreases in city services, but none have been named. Freezes will be in place for hiring in city departments and a cut in overtime pay.

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

Explosive build-up

A 64-year-old female was relaxing with her daughter, 33, and son-in law, 30, in her apartment, 1143 S. Plymouth Court, March 9, when they heard an explosion from the wall-mounted heater/air conditioner unit. The daughter evacuated her mother from the building and called the authorities while the son-in-law contained the fire with a small fire extinguisher. The Chicago Fire Department arrived on the scene to put out the fire. They say the explosion was caused by dust buildup and no proper ventilation.

Bottled up

While shopping in a convenience store, 600 S. Dearborn St., on March 9, a 20-and-21 year-old female began to fight. According to police reports, the 21-year-old offender became irate and struck the 20-year-old victim across the face with a broken bottle while punching her repeatedly. When an 18-year-old witness attempted to break up the fight peacefully, she was also hit with over the head with the broken bottle. Police arrived on the scene and the offender was taken into custody. The two victims refused medical attention and will appear in court.

In and out

A 21-year-old female was physically and verbally assaulted at her job on March 12. According to police reports, the victim stated that the 22-year-old offender was coming out of the office at 731 S. Plymouth Court, and appeared upset. He pushed the door open as he was leaving, as she was coming in. The offender pushed the female and said, “Get the f--- out of the way.” The victim has never seen the man before this incident, and she did not seek medical attention.

Gone in 90 minutes

On March 6, a car was stolen at 700 S. State St., and one was broken into at 815 S. Wabash Ave., within an hour and a half of each other. The victim of a stolen car was a 33-year-old male who parked his 1993 Gold Oldsmobile in a lot. Meanwhile, the victim of the theft was a 54-year-old man who parked his 1999 Dodge Dakota on the street. His car was broken into and told police that an unknown amount of tools, worth more than \$5,000, were stolen from his car. Police said they have not located the offenders in either case.

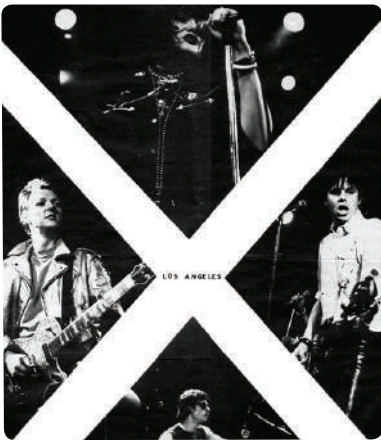
Manchester Orchestra

Friday @ 6 p.m.

Signed to the label that also works with Medeski Scofield Martin and Wood, Government Mule and Fountains of Wayne, Manchester Orchestra is going to be huge before long. Beyond coming up with one of the coolest album titles ever, their debut, *I'm Like a Virgin Losing a Child*, has received rave reviews from Rolling Stone, Alternative Press and Paste magazine. Hailing from Atlanta, this band's strength comes from its singer/songwriter/guitarist Andy Hull, whose mature lyrics betray his young age.

With Say Anything, Biffy Clyro and Weatherbox

House of Blues
329 N. Dearborn St.
(312) 923-2000
\$14.50-\$17



X (with all original members)

Wednesday @ 8 p.m.
It's been 31 years since X was the West Coast's first vision of what would one day become punk music. But they did it loud and fast before the music got stripped down to three-chord songs and spiky haircuts. John Doe, their lead guitarist, is legendary for his blazing work on a six-string, and a glimpse of the entire band still together three decades in will be worth every penny of the (admittedly hefty) admission price.

Metro
3730 N. Clark St.
(773) 549-0203
\$25



monday

Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

6 p.m., Harold Washington Library
400 S. State St.
(312) 344-7861



Story Week 2008

Part-time faculty reading and open mic
11 a.m.–1 p.m., Film Row Cinema, 8th floor
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-7861



Lorca's search of 'Art as a Whole'

6:30 p.m., Instituto Cervantes
31 W. Ohio St.
(312) 335-1996



Queer in Color Series: Brownout—'Resistance Rhymes with Color'

8 p.m., Hokin Annex
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-8664



The Best of Second City

4 p.m., Second City Chicago
1616 N. Wells St.
(312) 664-4032
\$14-\$19



tuesday

Aimee Bender and Cristina Garcia

2:30 p.m., 6 p.m., Harold Washington Library
400 S. State St.
(312) 344-7861



Glorytellers, Who Shot Hollywood

9 p.m., Schubas (18+)
3159 N. Southport Ave.
(773) 525-2508
\$10



Planning for 'What If...?'

Thursday @ noon
Sorry to break it to you ... but rich or poor, for better or worse, you will one day die. The good news is, you're not the only one. It happens to everyone, but you better be ready when that day arrives. No one likes being unprepared for those unsettling "what if?" questions. So stop denying the dark "what ifs?" that come with hitch-hiking down that glorious road of life. Death, disability, marriage and divorce: There's no cure for these inevitabilities, but in order to make them a lot more manageable, check out this seminar and learn how to plan for the unthinkable.

Harold Washington Library Authors Room
400 S. State St.
(312) 747-4396



Trivia Night/2-for-1 appetizers

8 p.m., Cans Bar and Canteen
1640 N. Damen Ave.
(773) 227-2277



wednesday

'DUDE!' A Bro-Mantic Comedy

9 p.m., Chicago Center for the Performing Arts
777 N. Green St.
(312) 733-6000
(Buy in advance! It'll sell out) \$10



Bell X1, David Ford

9 p.m., Schuba's (21+)
3159 N. Southport Ave.
(773) 525-2508
\$12 (\$10 at the door)



Story Week 2008: Publishing Boot Camp

9–10:30 a.m., Film Row Cinema, 8th floor
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-7861



Parts and Labor, Pterodactyl

9 p.m., AV-aerie
2000 W. Fulton St.
(312) 850-4030
\$8



Homeless Benefit

8 p.m.–midnight, Trace
3714 N. Clark St.
(773) 477-3400



thursday

Stories without Borders: Literary Rock & Roll

Readings by Junot Diaz, Z. Z. Packer, Colin Channer, Hillary Carlip
Music by Mucca Pazza
6 p.m., Metro
3730 N. Clark St.
(773) 549-0203



The Flatliners, Cobra Skulls, The Uptons

10 p.m., Reggie's Rock Club (18+)
2109 S. State St.
(312) 949-0121
\$6



Beer Tasting

5–8 p.m., Sam's Wine and Spirits
50 E. Roosevelt Road
(312) 663-9463
\$30



Nelson Algren's 99th Birthday Party

Saturday @ 8 p.m.
Considered one of the great Chicago authors, Nelson Algren trapped the spirit of the Windy City in the pages of his famous novel *The Man With the Golden Arm*. He had an eye for the smoke-filled poker games, the down-on-their-luck junkies and the seedier sides of this great toddling town way back before it became the hulk it is today. Show some respect and make sure this author's work isn't forgotten by appreciating them through live readings by such poets as Charlie Newman and Joe Rorty, or just enjoy the live blues band.

St. Paul's Community Church
2215 W. North Ave.
\$7 (\$5 for students)
(773) 235-4267



friday

Gallery Talk: Focus—James Bishop

Noon–1 p.m.
Express talk: Toshiko Takaezu
2–2:30 p.m. Art Institute of Chicago, Gallery 100
111 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 443-3600
Free with admission



Hair Trigger Magazine 30th Anniversary Release Party

7 p.m., Hokin Gallery
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 344-7861



The Silents, Waste, Architects, L.A. Kings

8 p.m., Reggie's Rock Club (18+)
2109 S. State St.
(312) 949-0121
\$6



'Rocky Horror Picture Show' 'Sin City'

Midnight, Music Box Theatre
3733 N. Southport Ave.
(773) 871-6604



saturday

'The Darkest Star' Opening Reception

8 p.m.–midnight, Framingmode & Gallery (18+, 21 to drink)
1526 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 566-0027
\$10 donation



Blacklisted, Holy Roman Empire, Convicted, Dead City

5 p.m., Reggie's Rock Club
2109 S. State St.
(312) 949-0121
\$10



The end of Lent/Spring break begins seminar

Tuesday @ noon
Lent's ending comes just shortly after the beginning of break, so those of you who gave up vices for religion are coming up on a long, luxurious week of enjoying them again. Everyone knows that American college students on spring break are world-renowned for their class, self-control and in-born maturity. But for those few who just don't quite know when to say "when," Columbia is holding a seminar just for you.

Gearing Up for Spring Break
Noon–12:45 p.m., Ferguson Auditorium
600 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 344-8700



sunday

'My Dinner With Amy'

Final night
8 p.m., Theatre Building Chicago
1225 W. Belmont Ave.
(773) 327-5252
\$25



Easter Brunch at Viand

11 a.m., Viand
155 E. Ontario St.
(312) 642-5859
\$24



ongoing

Mondays
California Clipper Bingo
9:30 p.m., California Clipper
1002 N. California Ave.
(773) 384-2547



Tuesdays
Tour of the Chicago Theatre
Noon, The Chicago Theatre
175 N. State St.
(312) 443-1130
\$5

Know about an upcoming event that other Columbia students should know about?

Give us a heads-up. We'll be sure to consider it. Make sure you tell us at least 10 days ahead of the event.

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