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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago May 12, 2008 Volume 43 Number 30 ColumbiaChronicle.com



MAKING MUSIC

Will Whedbee, of Whedbee Violins, has been making fine-stringed instruments for more than 30 years. Students and professionals from countries worldwide seek his hand-crafted cellos, violins and violas, which he builds in his North Side workshop. Visit ColumbiaChronicle.com to see the other images in this photo essay.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

From the streets to cookie sheets

Bakery offers troubled young adults a second chance in the job market

by Colin Shively
Assistant A&E Editor

THE SWEET scent of muffins, scones and other assorted pastries waft through the oven doors and into the sitting lounge as they are placed behind glass cases and rested upon trays and dishes. Fresh coffee is brewed and the employees are busy at work, cooking more pastries. Yet these baked goods were not put into the oven by seasoned confectioners. They were baked by previously unemployed homeless youth.

At the Blue Sky Bakery & Cafe, 4749 N. Albany St., which opened on May 1, troubled and previously homeless youth in the Chicago area are getting a chance at a new life by being given the opportunity to acquire skills in the working class world, said Lisa Thompson, the executive director of Blue Sky Inn, a nonprofit organization that works with young homeless adults who are jobless. After opening its doors, Blue Sky Bakery & Cafe has already begun to give the homeless a new home—and a new life.

“All the youth that I work with have all stayed or are staying in a shelter or have experienced what we call ‘chronic homelessness,’” Thompson said. “That is where they have had at least three periods of being homeless in their lives.”

After working with homeless youth for the past six years at Blue Sky Inn, Thompson considered opening a bakery to benefit the young adults in the Blue Sky Inn program, she said. While seeing the need for jobs and job training increase throughout her time at Blue Sky Inn, Thompson con-

cluded that she could use her passion of helping young adults to open a bakery that helps train youths to get a job, she said.

Tim Reliford, a new employee at Blue Sky Bakery and Cafe, could not be happier to have the opportunity to get ahead in life, he said.

“This is a great place,” Reliford said. “I want to do acting. I am working on going to school to do theater. The bakery and [Thompson] are going to help me get there to do those things.”

All of the employees that currently work at Blue Sky Bakery & Cafe have either been homeless, are homeless or have a criminal background that prevents them from

getting other jobs. However, homeless youth cannot refer themselves to the bakery; the youth must be referred by a caseworker or by Blue Sky Inn in order to be considered, Thompson said.

The average age of the employees is between 17 and 25 years old, with all different cultural backgrounds represented in the staff of the bakery, Thompson said.

“All the youth I have right now have criminal convictions on their records,” Thompson said. “Two of them are felons. We have diversity here in the workforce, and they are not bad kids. They all wanted to work here

» SEE BAKERY, PG. 15



Timothy Reliford prepares cookies in the kitchen of Blue Sky Bakery, 4749 N. Albany St., which employs homeless and at-risk youth.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE



A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY

THOUSANDS OF athletes gathered at Soldier Field to compete in Chicago's spring Special Olympics. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the games that were started in Chicago by two prominent women in 1968. At a time when the world thought people with disabilities could not participate in sports, these women had the foresight to prove the doubters wrong.

» SEE PG. 40



STORM SEEKERS

MAY MARKS the beginning of tornado season for the Midwest, bringing along severe thunderstorms and ideas of emulating exciting storm chases seen in movies and online. Though professionals discourage amateurs from storm chasing, one suburban college professor has been showing wannabe storm chasers how to anticipate storms, find them and have fun while they're doing it—all for college credit.

» SEE PG. 20



SGA ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

NEW EXECUTIVE board leaders for the Student Government Association were voted in on May 6. The newly voted board members to the SGA will not officially be in their new positions until June 1, but Dominic Cottone, the faculty adviser, and Brian Matos, the SGA president, said they are excited to see what the new board will do next year.

» SEE PG. 3



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

A final thank you

This past year has been the longest one yet. As a reader, you now know my opinions and have learned of my lessons, and perhaps I’ll leave you with the most important one for my last column: You can’t do this alone.

I’ve tried it both ways: Once about a year ago I thought I was too busy with my job here, class and commuting to spend quality time with anyone. It was the worst year of my life. I lost friends, hurt family and stressed myself out to no end.

This year I changed that, and it’s incredible what you can do with the support of others. I’ve not only been able to survive class and The Chronicle, but working as close to full time as possible at an internship since April. I haven’t had a day off since the beginning of that month, and it’s been one of the most incredible times of my life.

So here’s to breaking the college rule that of class, sleep and partying you have to pick two. I’ve learned that with some support, you can do all three, plus more.

I owe so much to the following people. Of course there are many more including my Little Italy family, The Chronicle staff, its advisers, teachers and everyone I’ve interned with, but I couldn’t have done anything without the following people.

Chris: Words can’t express how you’ve helped me through my 75 weeks at the paper. You’re a fantastic boss, mentor

and friend. Thank you for helping me each and every week. You always go above and beyond for anyone, an attitude I’ve always been grateful for and hope can one day emulate.

Chrissy: My partner in crime. I adored getting to know you, and I love you. I’ll always remember the jokes, stories (and even a few tears) we shared. Best of luck in NYC—we’re so incredibly proud. But keep in touch, because who else can I ask: “Am I crazy right now?”

The Chronicle staff: To all members, past and present: Thank you for inviting me into your lives. It’s been a privilege working with all of you, and although I can’t wait to finally have my Friday nights free, I’ll always be thinking of you. Best of luck, I know you’ll be amazing!

Whoever decides Columbia’s scholarships: Thank you. When my mom first found out how expensive Columbia was (incidentally after I had sent in my rejection letters to the other colleges I was admitted to), she nearly killed me. The scholarships have kept me here and have allowed me to achieve goals I didn’t think were possible at Columbia. Thank you for proving me wrong with your generosity.

Ally: Meeting you changed my life. From fellow trifecta member to “wife,” you became one of my best friends—and fast. Your kindness, understanding and willingness to text me back at 3 a.m. will

never be forgotten. You adopted me into your family of friends and now I can’t imagine life without you.

Matt: You told me I worked more than anyone you knew—and then I took on my internship. Thank you for being (and staying) in my life. Your patience, support and surprises have kept me going these past few weeks especially. The past six months have been incredible, and I hope we have many more.

My brothers: Here’s a secret—I’ve always loved you. Even though we don’t say it (perish the thought of us even hugging), I adore you and am so proud you. That said, every random e-mail or picture message has meant the world to me, especially during the past few weeks. I don’t care if it was another picture of our family’s cats, or you talking about your new big-screen TV—they kept us connected; they kept us family.

Lastly, and most importantly, my mom: You will forever be my hero. Twelve years ago your life turned upside-down, and every day since you’ve slowly made it right again, taking bigger steps each time and impressing me more and more with your accomplishments. I couldn’t have done a fraction of what I’ve achieved without you. I love you.

amaurer@chroniclemail.com

CAMPUS POLL: Are you going to go to any summer music festivals?

» SEE FESTIVALS, PG. 24



“I plan on going to Warped Tour for sure. I will also go to Dirt Fest in Michigan. Those are probably the only two I’ll be going to this summer.”

Andrew Lynch
Freshman
Art and Design



“Yeah I’m going because that is what I do in the summer. I’m going to Rothbury, 10,000 Lakes Under the Sea, Summercamp and Birmingham.”

Cody Meltzer
Freshman
Graphic Design



“I plan on going to Rothbury, 10,000 Lakes Under the Sea, Summercamp and Riverview.”

Ryan Voke
Freshman
Graphic Design

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CORRECTION

In the fiction writing supplement found in The Chronicle’s May 5 issue, Matthew Novak’s “Meat and Gravy” and Timothy Hunt’s “Poop” were incorrectly published. Please refer to page 30 of this edition for the corrected versions of their fiction writing.

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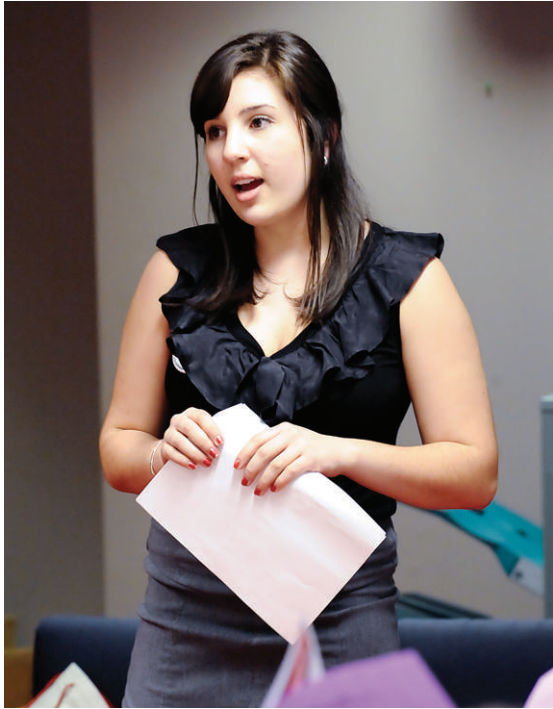
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Campus News



2008 executive board for the Student Government Association

(Top left) Jessica Valerio, Zach Dexter, Rachel Irving and (bottom left) Kelli Van Antwerp deliver their speeches on May 6 for executive board nominations in the Hub at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Valerio was voted in for president of the SGA, Dexter was elected to the executive vice president position, Irving is the new vice president of Communication and Van Antwerp will take over as vice president of Finance.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

(Bottom middle) Adam Werlinger was appointed as the student representative to the board of trustees. He's the third student who has been appointed to that position.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

SGA elects new executive board for 2008-2009

SGA decides on who's best to lead the new senate

by Tim Bearden
Assistant Campus News Editor

THE STUDENT Government Association elections have been held and the results are in. Voting for the senators ended on May 2 and the executive board nominees were voted on on May 6.

The new senators have already taken over as of May 6, but the executive board won't officially be in charge until June 1. The new

senate convened on May 6 to vote on their leaders for next semester.

Adam Werlinger was nominated for seats on the executive board, but did not participate in the elections as a candidate because he was chosen to be the student representative to the board of trustees, which is also an executive board position.

The position is not voted on by the senate, but rather chosen by the trustees themselves. Qualifications are the same as an elected executive board member, but he or she must also fill out an application and interview with the trustees. Werlinger is the third

student to be appointed to the position.

Jessica Valerio won the presidential election, Zach Dexter won the executive vice president seat, Rachel Irving will take over as vice president of Communications and Kelli Van Antwerp will fill the vice president of Finance slot.

The new senators to the SGA were Joshua Copeland, Kevin Gonsztola, Ryan Niemuth; Joseph Keiner, Michael Lencioni, John Trierweiler, Joseph Willis and Renaldo "Ray" Ramdeem.

The SGA also has a few returning departmental senators for next year: Chelsea

Johnson, Jenna Dillon, Adrian Polk and Rebecca Silvermintz.

The returning at-large senators are Sarah Cunniff and Rachel Stapinski.

Three at-large and two departmental senator positions opened up as a result of the elections.

Dominic Cottone, director of Student Organizations and Leadership and the faculty adviser to the SGA, said he is eager to see the new executive board in action.

"The first thing that stood out to me

» SEE ELECTIONS PG. 7

Columbia in 10 seconds ... or less

English Department welcomes two new faculty members

JENNY BOULLEY and Aviya Kushner, two creative non-fiction writers, were selected to join the faculty of the English Department in the school of Liberal Arts and Sciences for fall 2008.

Columbia employees invited to get 'MOVED'

THE DANCE Department is hosting free creative movement sessions for Columbia's faculty and staff in Room 401 at the Alexandroff Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. on May 15 from noon-1 p.m.

Various departments put on Industry Nights

IN CONJUNCTION with Manifest, there will be six Industry Night receptions for various departments on May 15. For more information contact the Portfolio Center at (312) 344-7280.

Manifest hits Chicago's streets May 16

COLUMBIA'S MANIFEST, the year-end celebration for the college, takes over Chicago's South Loop May 16. It will feature senior work, Transmissions and a concert by OK Go.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following Executive Board winners for the 2008-2009 academic year:

President: Jessica Valerio
 Executive Vice President: Zach Dexter
 Vice President of Communications: Rachel Irving
 Vice President of Finance: Kelli Van Antwerp
 Student Rep to the Board of Trustees: Adam Werlinger

Congratulations to the following Student Government Association winners for the 2008-2009 academic year:

Art and Design: Joseph Alexander Willis
 AEMM: Chelsea Johnson
 Dance: Jenna Kimberly Dillon
 English: Joshua H. Keiner
 Fiction Writing: HJenna Anne Corriveau
 Film and Video: Michael Lencioni
 Journalism: John Trierweiler
 Marketing Communication: Renaldo Ramdeen
 Music: Adrian Sean Polk
 Radio: Rebecca Sarah Silvermintz
 Television: Kelli Renee Antwerp
 Photography: Jessica Frances Valerio
 At-Large: Rachel Marie Irving
 Adam Werlinger
 Sarah Beth Cuniff
 Joshua David Copeland
 Kevin Alan Gosztola
 Ryan David Niemuth
 Rachel Irene Stapinski
 Zach Dexter

create...
change

Commencement back to previous venue, ceremony expands

Tips and information from Columbia officials

by **Becky Schlikerman**
Associate Editor

MORE THAN 2,000 Columbia students will walk across the stage and graduate on May 17 and 18 at the UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine Ave.

Columbia officials expect 700 to 750 students at each of the three ceremonies and about 5,000 to 6,000 guests at each, said Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs. Typically students bring an average of eight guests, he added.

“They’ll be very well attended,” Kelly said.

Although seating is first-come, first-served and commencement is not a ticketed event, there is no risk of being at capacity and running out of seats because the ceremonies have been split into three smaller sections, Kelly said.

However, Kelly said there is a pre-show during which students from the Music Department will play 45 minutes before commencement as people file in.

“If [people] want to see the pre-show and get better seats ... come early so that they get their seats, get situated and take in the pre-show,” Kelly said. He said there isn’t a bad seat at the Pavilion.

The seating is informal, as is the dress code.

“For a graduate, since they’re in robes, I don’t want to say they can wear anything, but pretty much anything, because they’re in cap and gown,” Kelly said.

As for the audience, they can relax as well.

“It’s a festive, important occasion and there is a dress [code] that comes with that but it’s also a large venue and ... it is an informal event in that you can come as you are,” Kelly said.

Graduates will be wearing robes that are black for undergraduates and silver for graduate students, said Marvin Cohen, director and registrar in the Records Office.

Whether a student receives a gold or silver tassel is determined by the last semester’s cumulative GPA, which must be a 3.5, Cohen said.

“[GPA] of course could change if this semester’s grades come in but we have no way of knowing,” Cohen said.

While guests file into the venue, graduates, who should arrive an hour early, will be lined up in the parking lot east of the Pavilion and prepare for the processional, Kelly said.

There will be signs, ushers and directions for the graduates, Kelly said.

“If the [students] get to the Pavilion, we’ll get them to where they need to go,” Kelly said.

Graduates march by major, with the graduate students first and the undergraduates following, and they don’t have to sit in any order. Instead, they can sit with friends, Kelly said.

The graduates will be called by major and degree, for example BFA or BA, and when they get near the stage they hand a card to the person reading their name and their name is announced.

On stage will be senior members of the

GRADUATION INFORMATION

Time and date	Honoree	Majors
SATURDAY MAY 17, 2008 1:30 p.m.	Dan Rather	Arts, Entertainment & Media Management ASL-English Interpretation Creative Writing - Poetry Fiction Writing Interactive Arts & Media Journalism Television
SUNDAY MAY 18, 2008 10:00 a.m.	Earth, Wind & Fire	Dance Dance Movement Therapy & Counseling Film & Video Liberal Education (Cultural Studies) Marketing Communication Music Theater
SUNDAY MAY 18, 2008 3:00 p.m.	Graciela Iturbide	Art & Design Audio Arts & Acoustics Education Interdisciplinary Arts Photography Radio Science & Math
Benjamin Andis THE CHRONICLE		

administration, the department’s chair, members of the board of trustees, the valedictorian and the graduate student speaker, among others.

Graduates will also be greeted by Columbia President Warrick L. Carter, Chairman of the board of trustees Allen Turner, and other senior administrators.

After students receive the diploma jacket—the actual diploma can be picked up at the Advising Center at the Wabash Campus Center, 623 S. Wabash Ave., after graduation—they return to their seats and wait for the end of the entire ceremony.

Kelly expects each ceremony to be about 2 1/2 hours.

» SEE GRADUATION, PG. 11

It’s that time of year again!

TIME TO COMPLETE YOUR 2008-2009 ONLINE FAFSA APPLICATION

Re-applying for your FAFSA starts the process to securing your student aid. You will need your Federal Student Aid PIN to access your 2008-2009 FAFSA On The Web Application.

- ➔ Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov
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- ➔ Go to www.pin.ed.gov to request a duplicate copy of your PIN if needed

Student Financial Services will begin awarding for the 2008-2009 award year April 2008.

Visit Student Financial Services’ Spotlight for more information at: www.colum.edu/Student_Financial_Services.



» **ELECTIONS:**

Continued from PG. 3

Close elections showed candidates' strong qualifications

was the students who were elected to the SGA board for next year were the senators who really worked as much as they possibly could," Cottone said. "... The ones who are putting in the time and effort are the ones who will really lead the executive board for the SGA to success. So I'm excited to see the new group come in and I'm really glad they're the ones who [are] getting involved."

Brian Matos, the president of the SGA, said he is also excited for the new executive board and feels things will carry on after he's gone.

"It's going to be great," Matos said. "Everybody who ran [is] well qualified ... dedicated, passionate, hard-working and just great examples of Columbia students from all the different majors they represented."

The way the elections worked was each candidate was given two minutes to convince the senate what made them qualified for the position. After the candidates delivered their speeches, the senate was then allowed two questions to each candidate with a minute response to each question given by each candidate.

According to the election guidelines, the initial round of voting requires a candidate to win by a 50 percent consensus. Those who do not achieve the 50 percent are then sent into what the SGA calls a "run-off" in which another round of voting occurs and the person with the most votes wins.

Those who lose one or both elections are then offered a chance to run for the remain-



Jenna Dillion, the Dance Department senator, looks on as she awaits vote tallies for the executive vice president run-off election in the hub at the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave. She was nominated for president, executive vice president and also ran for vice president of Communications and Finance.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

ing executive board positions, which is called "cascading elections."

According to Cottone, during a run-off candidates do not answer questions or deliver any speeches.

Run-offs of the evening were for executive vice president, vice president of Com-

munications and vice president of Finance. In each run-off the candidates were separated by four votes or less. All the candidates participated in the cascading process.

Valerio won the presidential seat with exactly 50 percent of the vote.

"I'm really honored and humbled my

peers put me in this position," Valerio said.

The new executive board will be introduced to their positions by those who currently occupy the positions.


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Scholarship tracking in its infancy, officials claim

by Christopher Brinckerhoff
Staff Writer

IN HIS March 19 State of the College address, Columbia President Warrick L. Carter said Columbia had 750 scholarships available for students, a number that might appear high to anyone who has checked out the scholarship page on Columbia’s website.

The claim of 750 scholarships, however, is largely accurate, according to officials.

Mark Lloyd, vice president of Marketing and Communication, provided a rough estimation of where the 750 institutional scholarships, which include departmental scholarships, come from and how they are broken down.

According to Lloyd, scholarships with multiple awards include the Open Doors Scholarship for approximately 300 students, the Opportunity Scholarship for approximately 200 students, and the retention scholarship for approximately 200 students. Lloyd also pointed out the Presidential Scholarship and the Trustee Award are awarded to multiple students as well.

The Open Doors Scholarships are directed at students from Chicago Public Schools, and any CPS graduate can apply, Lloyd said.

The Opportunity Scholarships are not present on the college’s website, but they are available for some new students from suburban high schools.

“The Opportunity Scholarships are targeted toward specific school districts in the suburbs, and there are 200 scholarships in that pool,” Lloyd said. “They range up to a

maximum of \$6,000.”

In addition to the Open Doors Scholarship and the Opportunity Scholarship, Lloyd said there are about 200 retention scholarships available to current students.

“These are designed for students who are already enrolled in the college who, as primarily juniors or seniors, need additional assistance in order to maintain their enrollment status at the college,” Lloyd said.

Columbia provided \$6 million in scholarship aid to students in 2007, according to a Student Financial Services brochure, and Columbia is intent on increasing that number, according to Institutional Advancement Vice President Eric Winston.

Winston said his office is making a concerted effort to increase the number of scholarships available to students through the college’s Capital Campaign.

The Capital Campaign, which began about a year and a half ago, has a goal to raise \$20 million by 2010, \$15 million of which will be for the new Media Production Center, and the remaining \$5 million will be a combination of scholarships, programs and operating funds. Winston said donations for scholarships will be distributed as soon as they are available and students won’t have to wait until the end of the campaign.

Winston said they are also researching how much money the college has in what are called inactive scholarships. These are endowed scholarship funds that haven’t reached the prescribed \$25,000 minimum in order to be awarded to students. An endowed scholarship fund needs to reach \$25,000 before the college can invest the

money. Once invested, the scholarship disbursement is based off the interest earned on the invested amount.

Donors are given a time frame to reach the minimum. If they don’t, the college can seek to pool the funds or dispense them outright, Winston said. But the college needs to contact the donors to give them a last chance to meet the minimum donation before a decision can be made about how the college will manage the money.

Winston couldn’t confirm how many inactive scholarships there are, but he said the office was researching the issue.

“There’s really no telling how many dollars are there because we’ve only really been addressing this thing since I’ve been here,” Winston said. “But we’re trying to get a handle on it.”

In order for students to receive any of the scholarships available, they need to plan ahead, Hilgart said. According to Hilgart, students need to start looking for scholarships at least a year in advance of when they’ll need the money.

Sophomore advertising student Caitlin Falster said she applied for scholarships when she was a freshman but didn’t receive any and has since been soured on the process.

Hilgart said receiving scholarships sometimes takes more effort than quickly filling out an application.

“I feel like there’s a fallacy out there where people keep saying there’s all these billions of dollars that go unclaimed every year, and I feel that it sets students up for thinking they can just go to Google and

click on a link and get \$10,000,” Hilgart said. “What students need to realize is that while there are scholarships out there, and while there are lots of dollars available to some students, they have to meet specific criteria. And they have to be willing to put in the time.”


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SCHOLARSHIP SEARCHING

Departmental scholarships and scholarships available for students of any major can be found on online. For more information on available scholarships, visit Columbia’s scholarship web page at Colum.Edu/Admissions/Scholarship. Below is a list of some of the departmental scholarships available:

- Art & Design
The Annual Pougialis Fine Arts Award
- Arts, Entertainment & Media Management
The Chuck Suber Scholarship
- Audio Arts & Acoustics
Hammerman Scholarship
- Cultural Studies
The Kamonige-Ferman Scholarship
- Dance
Forest Foundation Dance Scholarship
- Television
Al Lira Scholarship
- Film & Video
The Production Fund
- Journalism
John Fischetti Scholarship

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Metra amendment set to aid students

Metra, Coalition of Chicago Colleges meets for first time to determine reduced fares for students

by **Tim Bearden**
Assistant Campus News Editor

THE COALITION of Chicago Colleges, which consists of various student governments from Chicago schools, met with Metra executives on May 5 to discuss student discounts on its rail system.

Earlier this semester, the CCC submitted an amendment to the Illinois legislature to be attached to a current bill. The coalition hopes to expand the definition of students to encompass college students as well as grade school and high school pupils. Currently, Metra only grants discounts to the latter of the two groups.

Brian Matos, the president of Columbia’s Student Government Association; Kurt Gonska, the president of DePaul University’s SGA and Jarrod Wolf, University of Chicago’s student government leader, met with Philip Pagano, the executive director for Metra, on May 5 after the bill was drafted and sent to be approved by the General Assembly’s Rules Committee.

Matos said the student governments never would have gotten the meeting without the threat of legislation forcing Metra to fund its own program with no state aid, like they were forced to do with the seniors ride for free program.

“We, as college students and as student

governments, felt that Metra wasn’t going to listen to us because they hadn’t [in the past],” Matos said. “Up until this meeting there was no real effort on their part to talk to us and work this through.”

Judy Pardonnet, director of Media Relations for Metra, said there was no “change of heart” and the organization has always been open to talking about the issue.

“I think that Metra has always been open to looking at possibilities, but not at Metra’s expense, frankly,” she said. “Metra can’t subsidize the fare.”

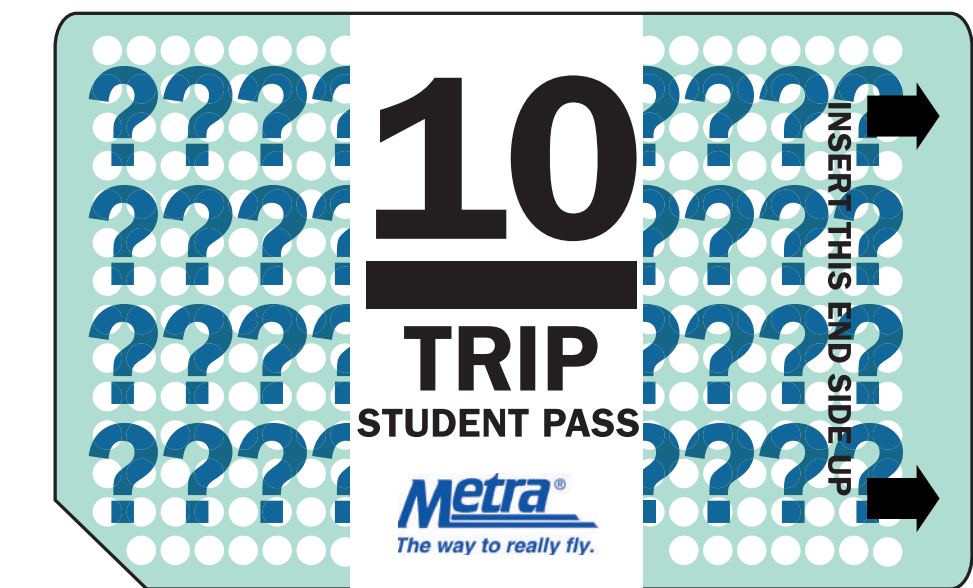
According to Gonska and Matos, the subsidies for the program were already in place after the free-rides-for-seniors program was implemented. They said the money that was funded is still there; however, Pardonnet said the money from the subsidy is no longer available.

“[The original subsidy] doesn’t exist anymore,” Pardonnet said. “They’re not going to give us any more money ... when we had a reduced fare program, the state of Illinois did provide reimbursement for the 50 percent the seniors did not have to pay. We did get subsidy for that, but we no longer do.”

Matos said each year the General Assembly gives \$33 million to each group associated with the RTA. He added that Metra gets the smallest piece of that funding and he doesn’t want to hurt their “bottom-line.”

“We are willing to work collectively with Metra and the state to fund the program,” Matos said.

Matos also said the Metra discount will



Benjamin Andis THE CHRONICLE

be primarily for 10-ride passes. He reasoned because one-ride passes wouldn’t be enough for students who come to school two to four times a week and monthly passes wouldn’t be economical because they start the first day of the month and end the last day of the month.

“A 10-ride pass gives the students more flexibility,” Matos said.

Gonska met with the legislature on May 7 to adjust the current bill to ask the state for funding. The original language of the bill, according to Matos, would have required Metra to take the funding hit, not the state.

“Metra gets money from the state to

provide discounts to seniors, people with disabilities, high school students and grade school students,” Gonska said. “So basically what we’re asking the state to do is broaden the definition to reach college students as well.”

According to Gonska, the proposed bill is currently being rewritten to ask the state for funding.

The bill, once it’s finished, will go back to the Rules Committee to be voted on to be attached to House Speaker Michael Madigan’s amendment to the Illinois Vehicle Code, House Bill 2144.

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Computer games prep students

Schools begin to mandate electronic gaming for learning

by Jodi S. Cohen

SCHOOL DISTRICTS eager to boost scores and keep pace with federal mandates are using computer games, electronic blackboards and even pep rallies to prepare students for state exams.

Technology in particular has become a mainstay for some schools as they prepare students for an acronym soup of tests.

For example, in late April and early May, students in the fifth through seventh grades in Bergen and Passaic counties will take the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge, or ASK, while eighth-graders will round out the year with the Grade Eight Proficiency Assessment, or GEPA.

Poor scores can spell dire consequences for schools, which under federal laws can be forced to bus students to other districts, replace teachers, or in the most extreme cases, convert to charter schools. The pressure to meet federal mandates for student progress has inspired districts to use traditional and not-so-traditional test preparation methods.

“A few years back we weren’t meeting all of the benchmarks in a number of areas, in a number of schools,” said Michael Romangino, schools superintendent in Cliffside Park, N.J.

He credits the district’s improvement to a mix of after-school test preparation, a core curriculum molded to state standards and a healthy dose of technology.

“We’ve kind of found a good balance, where we realize we have to integrate

things into the daily programs and then treat the after-school programs as a little extra prepping,” Romangino said.

And for fifth-graders stuck prepping for those tests, a few bells and whistles help the minutes fly by after school.

A sea of hands fly up at Cliffside Park’s School 6 when math teacher Donna Sevy asks for volunteers. Students in the after-school prep course all want a chance to demonstrate their mastery of the material on an electronic blackboard.

Using special markers or even their fingers, they can solve algebra equations or piece together slices of a circle to demonstrate percentages.

And students can keep practicing at home using web-based software from Study Island, in Dallas. The computer program, used by more than 6 million students nationwide, teaches math and language skills through video games.

Sixth-grader Pracheeta Dhawan said she doesn’t need any prodding from her parents to log in and study.

“They don’t have to ask,” she said. “It’s fun, and you get to learn more.”

The Bergenfield, N.J., public schools also rely on the software as one piece in a full-year program geared to improve student learning.

“We do after-school programs where we hire teachers to work with students who need extra help in critical areas,” schools Superintendent Michael Kuchar said. “We have summer enrichment programs for students to strengthen their skills, and we use Study Island software.”

MCT

» AUDIO:

Continued from PG. 8

Students say insufficient equipment another major issue

option of tutoring available to them, yet KanTERS said the department has tutoring sessions weekly. Of the number of students who reported on problems with KanTERS, none said he made these tutoring options aware to students.

Not only have core classes caused much trouble for students, but many upperclassmen have taken classes where the equipment was broken or not available, and some have experienced unsanitary classroom conditions throughout the semester.

Joe Nino, a senior audio major, took Aesthetics in Sound and Installation in the spring 2007 semester as an elective class for the department and said flooding in the room made it impossible to work. He said students became sick as the class continued on, and the department did not intervene until the sixth week into the semester.

“The room got flooded and they did not relocate the class,” Nino said.

Another classmate of Nino’s in Aesthetics in Sound and Installation, Konstantin Kaganovich, a senior audio major, tried to complain to Doug Jones, the chair of the department, but received the run-around by Columbia officials. He said around the fourth or fifth week of the semester a puddle began to form and got bigger each week.

Kaganovich said students complained about bad headaches when the mold became worse. He said the department took all the equipment, boxed it up and moved it to storage in the Audio, Arts and Acoustics Department’s basement.

“Our class just met in Panera Bread for

weeks,” Kaganovich said.

Josh Casserly, a senior audio major who was also enrolled in the same class, said he contacted Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly and was told to take his complaints to the chair. When Casserly and other students tried to contact the chair of the department, Jones, he was not around the department, and people had not seen him in months. Serving as acting chair, KanTERS said Jones is currently on sabbatical and will return shortly as faculty.

“It was a situation where it was so frustrating that I was at a loss for words,” Casserly said.

According to the Center for Teaching Excellence’s webpage, there must be an interval of six full academic years between the academic years in which sabbatical leaves are taken, regardless of whether the sabbatical takes place during the fall semester, spring semester or both.

Documents from the 2006 School of Media Arts Faculty Retreat show Jones gave his sabbatical presentation on August 24, 2006, and faculty generally give their sabbatical presentations a semester after they have completed the sabbatical. According to the documents and the Columbia website, the standard for sabbatical leaves has been broken by Jones. Jones took his sabbatical in 2005.

On May 8, KanTERS said Jones is currently on sabbatical. Yet on May 9, KanTERS said Jones is chair and working off campus on a special project. KanTERS said Jones is no longer on sabbatical.

Several attempts were made to reach the administration to clarify whether Jones is on sabbatical or not. Doreen Bartoni, dean of the school of media arts, did not respond to multiple phone calls to explain and clarify this administrative mismanagement.

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JUNE 9-13

PORTFOLIO CENTER

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

‘For Grace’

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

by Stephanie Shonekan
Faculty, Liberal Education

HARDLY ANYBODY noticed the death of a young woman in November 2007. There were only five people at her funeral. As I walked out of the Metra train station on my way to work one chilly November day, I received a text message from my brother in Nigeria with four words: “Grace died this morning.” I cried quietly all the way to my office. I had never met Grace, but I was deeply affected by her death because I had been following her story for a few years.

I first heard of Grace because she married my college friend John. I heard that she had a pretty rough life up to that time. She came from a very poor family in a small town in the middle of Nigeria. Unable to keep the family afloat, her mother married a very young Grace—still a teenager—off to an older man. She immediately began bearing children. How hard that must have been for a teenager to endure.

When she could no longer bear the hopelessness of her life, she left this man and her two sons, and moved to another town in search of a better life. She struggled, made some choices that were probably as hard for her as they are difficult for us to understand. After a few years of harsh living, she met and fell in love with John. He married Grace, in spite of the frenzied whispers of caution from his family and friends. For the first time in her young life, Grace could hope for a reasonable future. I don’t think she wanted the moon; all she wanted was a solid, safe space on earth where she could be happy. Grace and John found their faith and had two beautiful children—a daughter and then a son.

But then, two things happened to the young couple. Although John was a college graduate, he could not find a good job. His bachelor’s in theater arts was useless as he searched for employment in an economically depressed country. My brother

finally found John a job and this kept their heads barely above water for a while. But when he lost his job, he became desperate and decided to leave the country in search of a better way for the family. As he left, I wonder if he suspected that a second blow was on the way.

Grace became ill and hoped that the church would heal her. My brother and sister-in-law, both people of faith, insisted on taking her to the hospital. The doctor ran some tests and called them back in for the news that Grace was HIV positive. Her early years had caught up with her. Grace refused to accept the diagnosis, insisting on seeking out preachers to heal her. My brother and sister-in-law begged her to use the medicines that were available through the public hospitals. Faith is good, they told her, but you must also do your part to take care of yourself. Think of the children, they pleaded.

Maybe Grace was tired of letting people tell her what to do; perhaps she felt alone without her husband who did not rush back to her; maybe she was just tired of life. She refused to go back to the hospital.

She swiftly deteriorated. And that November evening, she dragged herself to a prayer service at church. She collapsed during the service and died on the back of the person who was carrying her home.

This story means a lot to me, especially as I reflect on the final weeks of our intense Critical Encounters focus on poverty and privilege. Every turn in Grace’s life journey was dictated by poverty and its deep life and death implications. Grace makes me aware of how important it is to keep the foundational Critical Encounters theme of HIV/AIDS in our critical conversations. And Grace’s story should remind us all that, as we head into a year that focuses on “Human|Nature,” that even as we ponder ways of caring about our world, we must always care for the human beings who inhabit it.

The aim of Critical Encounters is to encourage you to engage with difficult questions about poverty and privilege. Each week, Critical Encounters has presented a personal narrative from a student, faculty, staff or administrator of Columbia. As the editor of this series, I welcome your reactions to each of these narratives.

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

critical encounters:
POVERTY
+ privilege

» GRADUATION

Continued from PG. 6

Ceremony to be held at UIC Pavilion

“We truly expect everyone to honor the ceremony by going back to their seat,” Kelly said. “The ceremony is not completed until everyone has crossed the stage.”

There are some differences between this year’s commencement and last year’s, Kelly said.

One major change is that the ceremony is being held at the UIC Pavilion.

Last year’s commencement was at Navy Pier and everyone agreed that it was a terrible place for a commencement because it’s “too big and cavernous,” Kelly said.

“We’re thrilled we’re back at the Pavilion,” Kelly said.

Also, the ceremonies will be somewhat shorter because there are three ceremonies instead of two.

Now, all of the departments are divided into three different events and officials

made sure every school is represented at each ceremony, Kelly said.

For instance, every ceremony has academic departments from the School of Media Arts, the School of Fine and Performing Arts and the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Administrators also looked for some commonality between majors to bring “consistency to that group of students,” Kelly said. For example, theater, music and dance students are in the same ceremony, he said. But he said there were some limits to that because the administration had to equally distribute the number of graduates among the three ceremonies.

Some seniors, like Patrick Burnell, senior art and design major, are attending commencement to please parents.

Burnell said he is excited to graduate but he is neutral toward the ceremony, but his parents want him to walk. He plans on “going through the motions,” Burnell said.

“I figure it will be a couple-hour ordeal of them handing out booklets with no diplomas in them,” Burnell said.

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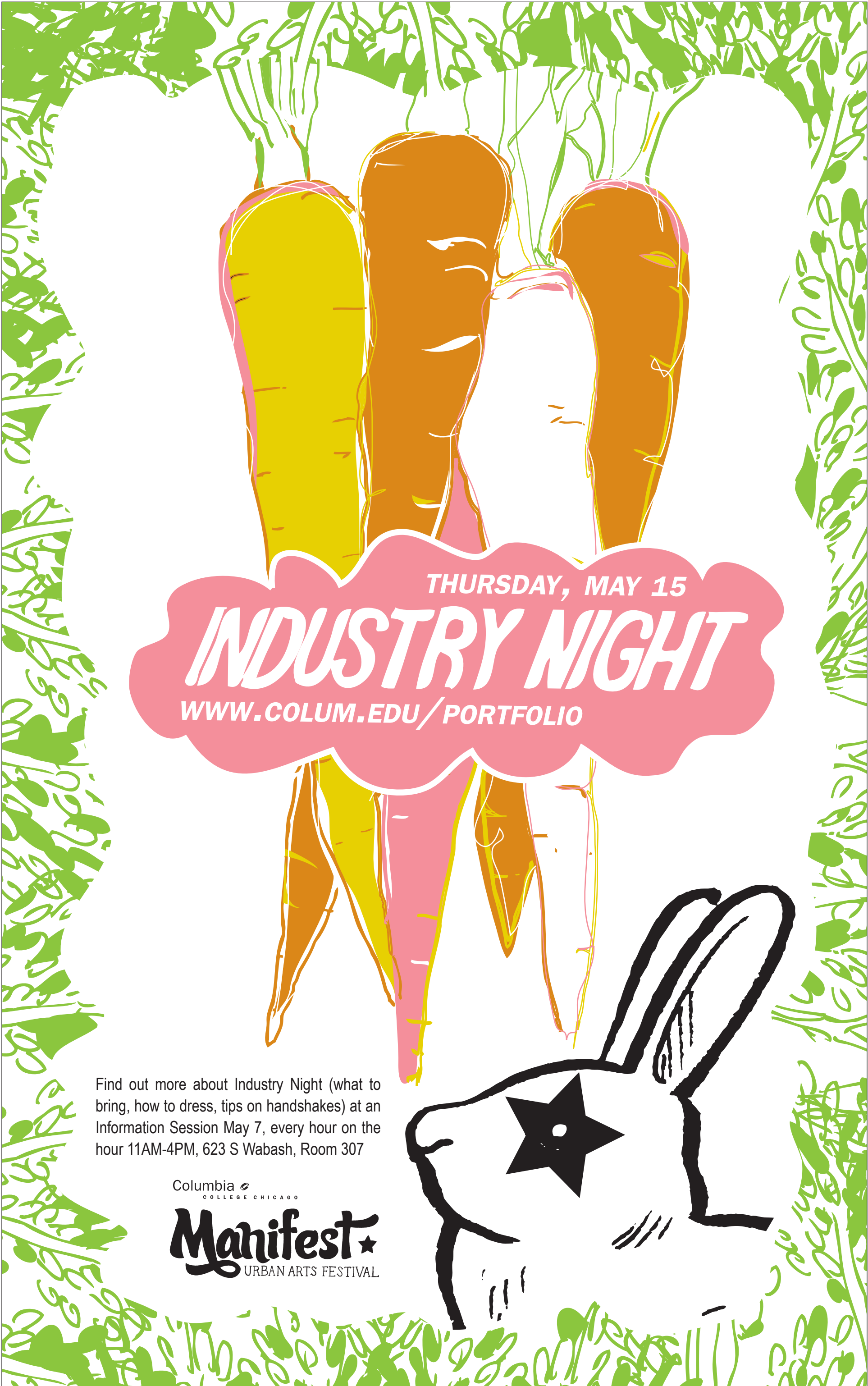
South Loop Review is a literary journal of Creative Nonfiction and Art. We publish essays and memoir in lyric and experimental forms. We give greater emphasis to non-linear narratives and blended genres. We welcome montaged and illustrated essays, as well as narrative photography and art. We publish established and emerging authors from across the nation, as well as those from Columbia College.

South Loop Review is for audiences who look for strong, compelling, resonant voices to give insight into contemporary experience, and cultural phenomena. Our goal is to present artists and writers who, through the energy of their voice and vision, engage audiences and motivate thought.

South Loop Review is published annually by the Creative Nonfiction Program of the English Department, Columbia College Chicago.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

see our webpage: <http://english.colum.edu/southloop/>
or contact: Renee Hansen, Editor, English Department, rhansen@colum.edu



THURSDAY, MAY 15

INDUSTRY NIGHT

WWW.COLUM.EDU/PORTFOLIO

Find out more about Industry Night (what to bring, how to dress, tips on handshakes) at an Information Session May 7, every hour on the hour 11AM-4PM, 623 S Wabash, Room 307

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO

Manifest URBAN ARTS FESTIVAL



Arts & Entertainment



(Left) Teresa Barrett and Erika Gaspar eye the dance floor at Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., on May 8. On Wednesday nights, Spin Nightclub hosts ‘What the F--- Wednesdays,’ when patrons can buy well drinks and domestic beer for \$1.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

Girls’ night out

Bars, production companies host weekly, monthly events catering to lesbians

by **Derek Kucynda**
Assistant A&E Editor

FIFTY YEARS ago, a lesbian nightlife scene in Chicago seemed like a fantasy. Now, as society has become more accepting of the GLBT community, more bars, clubs and events are springing up around the city to make up for lost time, said Ken Mallwitz, the general manager at Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave.

Marketing companies and bars host different themed nights at various nightlife spots around Chicago that cater to the lesbian crowd. Most of the bars and clubs are located in the Andersonville and Boystown neighborhoods, and some of the bars and clubs are more lesbian oriented.

Elaine Marro, a promoter for Chix Mix Productions, a production company that sponsors and throws monthly theme parties at nightclubs for lesbians, said some of the popular lesbian bars and clubs are mostly found in the Andersonville neighborhood, located on Clark and Foster streets on the North Side. While she frequents both Andersonville and Boystown, she said she has noticed that there is a gender divide within the two predominant GLBT neighborhoods.

Marro said more women are attracted to the Andersonville neighborhood because Andersonville’s bars and clubs are typically geared toward lesbians. But, she said the bars in the predominately male neighborhood of Boystown aren’t just for the guys anymore, pointing out that bars like Lakev-

iew Broadcasting Company, 3542 N. Halsted St., and Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., now have more girls in the crowd.

“In Boystown, the bars are mostly for the [gay] boys,” Marro said. “But there are a lot of lesbians that do come to bars and clubs down Halsted.”

According to Marro, Circuit Nightclub, 3641 N. Halsted St., is a popular club among lesbians, especially when production companies like Girl Bar and Chix Mix host events there.

“Though the bars in Boystown might be fun, Circuit definitely has a strong lesbian presence with Chix Mix and Girl Bar nights,” Marro said. “Hundreds of people attend the monthly events there.”

The popularity of Circuit as a nightlife destination for women is largely attributed to Girl Bar, a promotion company, and Chix Mix Productions, and the companies’ past events, Marro said. With Chix Mix theme nights like Black Bra and White Heat parties, where women dress in black bras or white clothes, Circuit has built a reputation for sexed-up theme nights, risque parties and visually-appealing light shows, Marro said.

“Circuit pushes the boundaries of the regular nightlife experience and expands on it to include drag king revues, erotic dancers and wet T-shirt contests, which have been staples of the club for a while,” Marro said.

Most recently, Chix Mix Productions brought a new weekly event to Wet Nightclub, 209 W. Lake St., called Wild on Wet Thursdays. The women-only event began at the end of April. In the past, both sexes were allowed in Wet Nightclub on Thursdays, but the event is now girls only—and



(Left) Rachel Blanton, Mindy Bosco and Ashley Clement party and chat at Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., on May 8.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

even the staff and bartenders are female, Marro said.

“Women see that Wild on Wet has more females attending, and I think they feel more comfortable in that type of area,” Marro said.

However, Deaw Inthamat, a sophomore arts, entertainment and media management major at Columbia, said Chix Mix nights, especially at Circuit, can sometimes be overcrowded and pricey. She said hundreds of women attend, especially if a celebrity guest is set to appear there.

“Chix Mix and Girl Bar nights are really fun and lots of people show up, especially to see a celebrity guest [like] Brandi Ryan and Dani Campbell [from ‘A Shot at Love with Tila Tequila’],” Inthamat said. “On those nights, Circuit can get overcrowded.”

NIGHTLIFE BITS

Spin Nightclub: Fish Tank

When: Second Saturday of every month
Where: 800 W. Belmont Ave.
Cover: \$5
Number: (773) 327-7711

Circuit Nightclub: Girl Bar

When: First Saturday of every month
Where: 3641 N. Halsted St.
Cover: \$10 and up
Number: (773) 325-2233

Wet Nightclub: Wild on Wet

When: Every Thursday night
Where: 209 W. Lake St.
Cover: \$10
Number: (312) 223-9232



Droppin’ it direct by Derek Kucynda
Assistant A&E Editor

Movin’ on up in the Windy City

Last weekend, while I was eating my dad’s homemade meatloaf, I had a revelation: I need to pack up my belongings, move out on my own and finally learn how to cook.

Yes, I was able to save up money and bond with my family while I lived with them, but now I crave independence. With my friend’s lease almost up, he and I decided we wanted to live together. So we went on Apartment-Finders.com and Craigslist.org and looked at prospective places around the city.

My friend pointed out every location that was cheap, but I told him that the choice of the neighborhood we move in was a crucial issue, as well. I have lived in Chicago my whole life, and throughout my travels, I have found that the Second City is brimming with different neighborhoods, each with its own character and history. Based from experience, I have compiled a list of pros and cons of certain Chicago neighborhoods, which can be helpful for those looking to move out.

Lakeview: I used to live here, and I still

have mad love for these streets. These streets, however, are sprinkled with sex stores, smoke shops and promiscuous bars that might make families think twice about moving here. The Belmont Harbor is nice, but only in the daytime. At night, transvestites take over the harbor. Girlfriends beware; these faux-females want your man, and they usually have help from the three Js: Jose Cuervo, Jim Beam and Jack Daniels.

Wrigleyville: I find it frustrating that intoxicated Cubs fans can eat, drink and burp up a storm but can’t properly walk to the Red Line after drinking beer after beer at the Cubs game. However, the wide variety of sports bars on Clark Street make Wrigleyville the go-to destination during baseball season.

South Loop: Honestly, I miss the smashed college students stumbling through the neighborhood and getting into altercations with the homeless. But watch out for falling debris and garbage when passing by a dorm; college kids find it hard to recycle. Summertime in the South Loop is pretty

awesome. With the Taste of Chicago and Lollapalooza down the street, it’s hard to be in the loop and not have a good time.

Bridgeport: Like Wrigleyville, legions of intoxicated White Sox Fans will take over this South Side neighborhood in the summer. However, most of the people who actually live in Bridgeport are Lithuanian, Irish, Italian, Mexican and Chinese, making this neighborhood a cultural melting pot brimming with opportunity, good restaurants and affordable housing.

Lincoln Park: I really want to live here, and it’s not because of the yuppies who throw lavish parties on their dilapidated porches. It’s because there are so many stores, restaurants and nightlife options available in this neighborhood. However, be mindful of the cars driving in Lincoln Park, because most drivers are chit-chatting on their cell phones and not obeying the law, opting to take a drive on the wild side.

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Chrissy knows best by Chrissy Mahlmeister
Managing Editor

That’s all, folks

There’s no literary quote I can steal to sum up how I feel about college now that it’s at the end. No famous poet has ever worked at The Chronicle—let’s just say that.

Our office was much more colorful than most. Perhaps the better word is “crude.” A little thing called “decency standards” were implemented a semester after I started, if that gives any inkling of how the managers tried to curb this manifestation of poor behavior. But it was, unapologetically, the most entertaining time of my life.

I’ll never forget my first week when someone said, “These are going to become some of the best friends you’ll ever have.” That couldn’t have been truer. When outside friends wrote me notes begging me to come home and hang out, all I wanted to do was stay at The Chronicle with the people I adored until the security guards literally kicked us out.

My other friends didn’t understand what it meant to get something published for the first time, to finally get an article on the front page or to win an award at the Illinois College Press Association. Those are life achievements that are best acknowledged by your co-workers because they, above anyone else, understand what it means.

And for that, I must properly thank all of those people who have helped me love journalism even more than I can even understand while working here (in no particular order).

Hunter: Not only were you my first friend on staff, the most inspiring and hilarious writer of all time, but I honestly admired everything you wrote and did for The Chronicle in my first year. I was a scared copy editor, and you pushed me to write articles and even take one of your own! You made me, without a doubt, who I am today as a journalist. I can’t thank you enough for always inspiring me to get the most quirky ideas and not failing me even when I fell through. Thanks, Hunt.

Chris: I would get you one of those “Best Boss in the World” mugs, but honestly that doesn’t even express how I feel about you as a person. You are my friend, my co-worker, my therapist and my boss, all wrapped into one. Thanks for bearing with me even through my flaky times. I never felt scared to tell you anything and just having your door open behind me was one of the best feelings in the world. P.S.: Thanks for helping me get that amazing internship!

Josh: You single-handedly inspired me to become a better writer just for the sheer possibility of impressing you. You are always honest with me and still laugh at my dumb jokes today. Thanks for every week dealing with me asking, “What should I write my column on?” and giving me hugs when my future didn’t pan out the way I thought. I absolutely cannot wait to go to New York with you, and I know you’ll flourish there. I’m so

incredibly thankful I met you.

Amanda: It’s funny to think a year ago we barely even spoke once, but now you’ve heard probably, um, way too much information about me. Thanks for putting up with my horrible Mariah Carey renditions and being there even when I’m all snot-faced and crying. You’re going to do great things at the Tribune, no doubt about it, and thanks for the insurmountable support you have given me. We truly were the definition of a team.

Jim and Billy: Never before have two people made me laugh so incredibly hard. Jim, I’m not even kidding when I say I was literally in tears laughing because of that one time you called me in your office. And Billy, who unfortunately always has to overhear my disgusting conversations but never fails to put his 2 cents in, I wish I could tell you how much you meant to me.

To everyone at The Chronicle: Regardless of what I may have said or done, I honestly, wholeheartedly believe in every one of you. I wish I could have told all of you that more often, but thanks so much for never failing to make me smile and restore my faith in journalists. I challenge all of you to keep in touch with me even though I don’t have a Facebook, and just know that I adore every single one of you.

cmahlmeister@chroniclemail.com



GOSSIP GIRL THE CW 5/12 at 7 p.m.



With Lisa Loeb and designer Sylvia Weinstock appearing as themselves, this episode of “Gossip Girl” will be chock full of juicy secrets. In his endeavor to become a big-time musician, Rufus’ band finally gets a gig that is worth mentioning, and Serena reverts back to her old habits as she tries to keep her own gossip from Dan.

THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN FX 5/13 at 4 p.m.

When literature meets explosive Hollywood, audiences are left with this movie that brings together seven classical literary characters with out-of-the-ordinary abilities. Led by Sean Connery as Allen Quartermain, they desperately try to save the world from a man who wishes to clone the league.

AMERICA’S NEXT TOP MODEL THE CW 5/14 at 7 p.m.

In the 10th season finale, tensions are high as the three remaining models are posed for a cosmetic photo shoot. Sit down, strike a pose and watch the dramatic Tyra Banks announce who the next top model is.

UGLY BETTY ABC 5/15 at 7 p.m.



Betty once again plays the nice girl as she agrees to chaperone Justin’s middle school dance. Unfortunately, Gio, the not-so-nice guy has already made an entrance at the dance. Bring some makeup; this episode could get ugly.

MAN VS. WILD DISCOVERY 5/16 at 8 p.m.

Bear Grylls is knee-deep in mother nature for another week as he struggles to survive in the tsunami-devastated Indonesia. From making shelters out of bark to eating insects, Grylls will show you that only the fittest do, in fact, survive.

‘INDIANA JONES’ MARATHON SCI-FI 5/17 at 8 p.m.

With the fourth installment of the *Indiana Jones* franchise premiering May 22, it is time to revisit the original movies. With Harrison Ford in all three and Sean Connery in the first third movie, the films remind us that heroes don’t necessarily have to have a super suit—just a whip and a really sweet hat.

SCHOOL OF ROCK TBS 5/18 at 7 p.m.

Bringing it back old-school style, Jack Black plays his tune as he impersonates an elementary school math teacher in order to convince the class to join his band. Enjoy some sweet music and classic Jack Black comedy in this great-sounding movie.

ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

The number of minutes David Blaine held his breath to break the Guinness world record on the set of “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” according to Time magazine. Thankfully after rising from his large fish bowl, Blaine did not jump on Oprah’s couch—he, at least, knows that it’s rude to put your feet on people’s furniture.

17

The millions of dollars that “Family Guy” writer and producer Seth MacFarlane will receive in a new deal with 20th Century Fox, keeping him until 2012, according to MSNBC.com. With that amount of money, think about how many ironic plots and parodies MacFarlane can conjure up. He already turned Stewie gay, so what’s next? Thanks to 20th Century Fox, we will find out.

100

The estimated millions of dollars the new superhero movie *Iron Man* gathered worldwide on its opening weekend, The Associated Press reported. Already surpassing all three *Spiderman* movie records, we wonder if Iron Man can blush in his shiny suit, because he is already making movie history.

201

» **BAKERY:**

Continued from Front

Second chances for homeless youth can be found at bakery

and become better people. We just need to give them the chance.”

Chris Schulte, a new board member at Blue Sky Inn, said Thompson’s bakery idea was one of the best ideas to help the young homeless community.

“We have art programs that run at some local shelters,” Schulte said. “But [Blue Sky Bakery & Cafe] is something that can help the community by giving them some good food and by giving this city’s troubled youth a place to get back on their feet.”

Employees of the bakery learn the process that is involved to bake all the pastries, which are made onsite every morning, Thompson said.

The list of pastries is a rotating menu, meaning that every day brings different pastries and sandwiches than the previous day, Thompson said. Some bakery items include a pear, ginger and almond scone, chocolate-chip muffins, cinnamon rolls and an assortment of fresh sandwiches that range from vegetarian to ham and swiss.

Apart from learning the baking skills, the employees of Blue Sky Bakery & Cafe also learn the skill of managing a business, Schulte said. They learn how to balance money, take stock and some of the employees, depending on past experiences and level of commitment, learn how to be managers and how to work along with coworkers.

“I really hope it will help get them to the next phase of being an independent adult,” Thompson said. “All of these youths receive public aid and some social security, but I hope they learn that after working full time, they can live on their own in a safe and stable environment. Some of my workers have even voiced interest in going to college when they have the opportunity to.”

The Blue Sky Bakery & Cafe offers free Wi-Fi to anyone with a laptop. While not open, the employees either work other jobs given to them by their caseworkers or help at local volunteer centers that cater to other homeless youths.

cshively@chroniclemail.com

CAFE BITS

Where: 4749 N. Albany St.
Hours: Tuesday—Thursday: 7 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Sunday: 9a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Mondays.
Menu: Rotating options on a day-to-day basis. Serves breakfast pastries, lunch sandwiches and drinks.
Price: Prices for a pastry is an average \$2. Lunch sandwiches cost between \$4 and \$6.
Specialties: Vegetarian friendly



Nancy Cazzola and Timothy Reliford prepare cookies in the kitchen of Blue Sky Bakery & Cafe, 4749 N. Albany St. Cazzola and Reliford found the listing for their jobs at the bakery posted in the Broadway Youth Center, 3179 N. Broadway Ave., an organization that offers a variety of services to youth.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

**ATTENTION COLUMBIA DORM RESIDENTS
DONATION DRIVE MAY 12–16th**

CLOTHING
All styles and sizes,
Accessories, Shoes,
Bedding,
Linens, and Blankets

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Unopened Canned and
Packaged Foods,
Peanut Butter, Cereal,
Rice, Tuna, Soups, Pasta,
Canned Fruits and Vegetables

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Paperbacks, Hardcover, Text, Magazines, etc

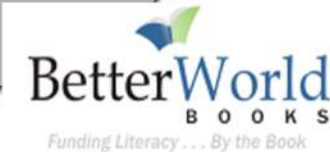
BICYCLES
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Helmets, Lights, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS
Toys, Stuffed Animals, Games,
Sports Equipment,
Household Items (Knick-Knacks,
Bookends, Picture Frame, Rugs)
Kitchenware (Pots and Pans)

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Computers (Monitors, Keyboard, etc.)

APPLIANCES
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Coffeemakers, Curling Irons, Clocks,
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OK Go to headline show

Chicago-born band performing at urban arts festival

by Colin Shively
Assistant A&E Editor

AFTER DAMIAN Kulash and Tim Nordwind met over a game of ping-pong at a summer camp in Michigan when they were 11 and 12, they quickly formed a friendship that would last for years to come. After attending the same summer camp for several summers and keeping in touch during their college years, Kulash and Nordwind began sending music recordings to each other, starting a habit that would lead to the formation of a band.

After graduation, the two friends decided it was time to form a band that suited their independent style of rock music. Calling on an old high school friend, Andy Duncan, to be the band’s lead guitarist, the trio moved to Chicago in pursuit of their fourth. Upon arriving in Chicago, Dan Konopka soon joined their ranks as drummer to complete the quartet OK Go. After seven years together, band member Andy Duncan left the band, and was replaced by Andy Ross.

OK Go became widely known after their short music video “Here It Goes Again” was leaked onto the Internet, creating a huge fan base for the band. With fans comparing OK Go to They Might Be Giants, the pop-rock fans quickly became fond of them.

After 10 years together, OK Go will return to Chicago to perform for Columbia students at the kick-off ceremony for the 2008 Manifest Urban Arts Festival on May 16.

The Chronicle recently spoke with Nordwind on how their ingenuity helped their rise to fame, the band’s thoughts on the Chicago music scene, what it is like to be back in Chicago and advice he has for music students.

The Chronicle: Where did the name OK Go originate?

Tim Nordwind: The name comes from this stoner bohemian art teacher we had at summer camp. He would come in the middle of class while we were doing something and would give confusing Dungeon

and Dragons-like advice: “Touch the tree, feel the paper, draw the difference.” It was funny because we would always make fun of him, and he would sit there all the time and just be like “OK ... OK ... OK, go.” So that saying pretty much stuck with us our entire lives. When it came time to name the band, we used it.

What genre do you consider your music to be?

That is a tough one. I can tell you what other people say. Other people put us in an indie-rock/pop genre, but it is always so hard to say with any certainty. It is funny because when we sit down to write a song it is purely about our mood; we never say “What type of genre is this song?” We are deep into the music scene. We listen to a lot of different types of music and I hope we

will be [eclectic in our musical tastes one day]. Sometimes we want to sound like ’60s soul, and sometimes we want to sound like Daft Punk. We are an ever-changing genre.

How does it feel to return to Chicago for a couple of weeks?

It feels good, really good. Obviously Chicago really feels like home. Some of us grew up here, and some of us went to college here. So it is always nice to come back to where it all began. Without Chicago and its music scene, I really don’t think we would have developed the creativity that we have right now. Our “Here It Goes Again” music video would have never been thought of if it was not for the alternative style of thinking that Chicago possesses. It really is a great city.

How did the Chicago music scene help you form your band?

In a lot of ways there was a very DIY ethic in Chicago and I think there still is. I think that work ethic helped us a lot in the beginning, and we still hold on to that today, whether it is in the form of making homemade videos or creating our shows ourselves. It is the style of our music.

How did you come up with the idea to incorporate treadmills into the video for “Here it Goes Again”?

The concept came from [Kulash’s] sister, Trish Sie, and we had worked on a few projects with her in the past. We did another dance video with her [on the music video] “A Million Ways” so we knew what she was capable of. Actually, that first version of the treadmill video was kind of a mistake. It was a practice tape, really.

It somehow got leaked out onto the Internet, but when we saw how well it did online we decided to make another one a little more professional. We are all insane in the right ways.



(Left) Keyboardist Andy Ross, drummer Dan Konopka, lead vocalist Damian Kulash and bassist Tim Nordwind make up the band OK Go, which will be performing at Columbia’s urban arts festival Manifest on May 16.

Courtesy OK GO

cshively@chroniclemail.com

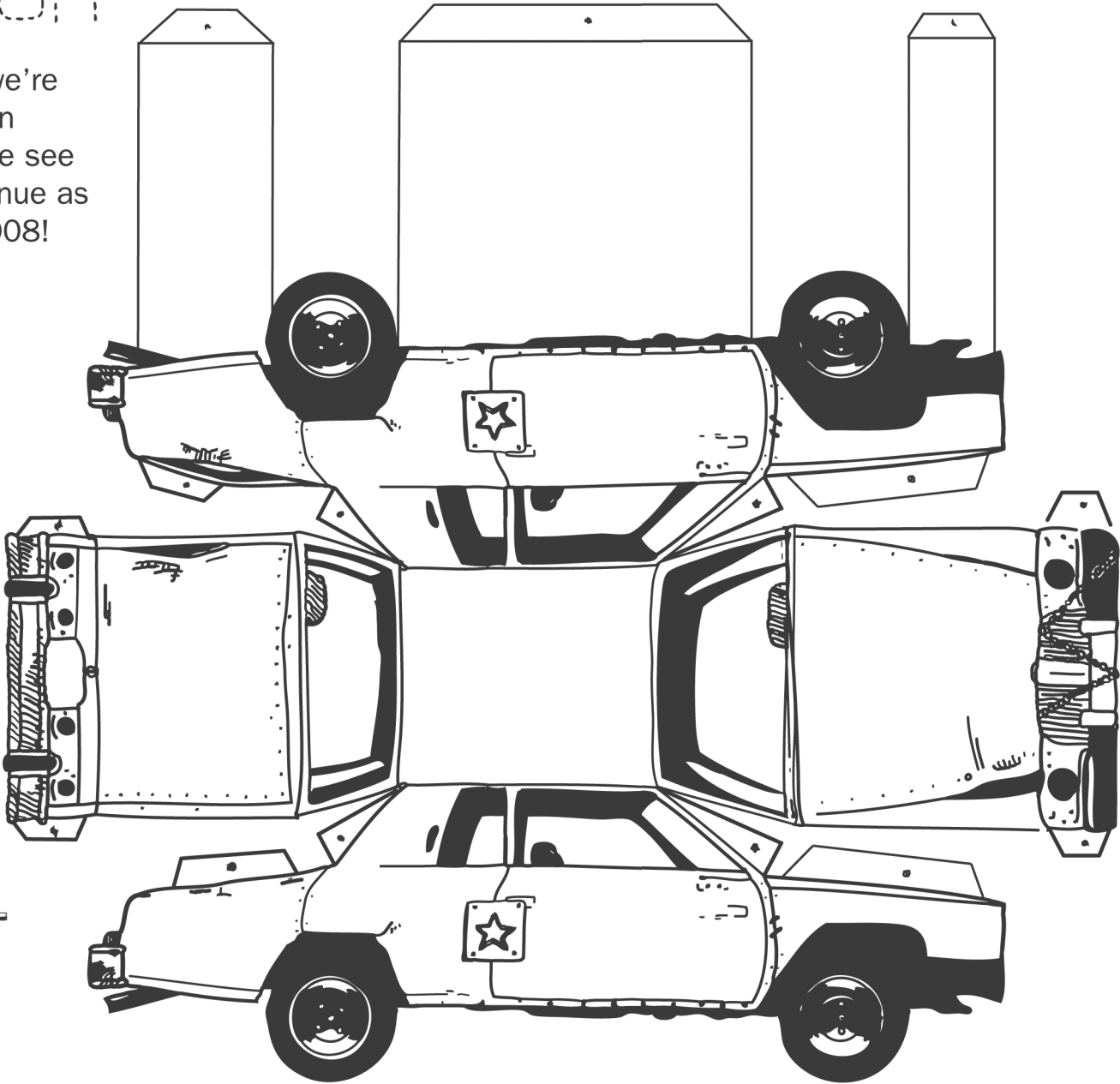
Thousand Paper Cars

Transmission

In anticipation of Transmission we’re folding a thousand paper cars (on recycled paper, of course). Come see Transmission along Wabash Avenue as a part of Manifest, May 16th, 2008!

- 1) Color and decorate the car at left
- 2) Cut along the car’s outline.
- 3) Fold along windshield, trunk and hood, then fold down tabs. Do not cut out tabs.
- 4) Glue or tape tabs underneath corresponding part of car
- 5) Recycle your scraps!
- 6) Return your completed car to the Database at 623 S. Wabash, first floor. We’ll display all the cars at Manifest!

COLUM.EDU/MANIFEST



TOP 5



Chris Richert, General Manager

Things that keep me coming back to work each day

The Chronicle students: I love working with the students. Seeing them working harder than anyone I know to publish a 40-page paper every week is amazing.

Always changing: Every single day there are fires to put out, decisions to be made and ideas to explore. This office is never the same each day, and there are always changes, all ending with solutions.

Entrepreneurial spirit: We run this office like a business: Ads need to be sold, invoices need to be paid, weekly goals and budget issues need to be managed by a team consisting of our editor-in-chief, managing editor, and ad/business manager who are all students.

Creative ideas: Some truly award-winning work has been published, from the designs to the photographs to the articles. It all comes together in a package filled with student work, not only to increase readers, but to build portfolios.

The end result: I am energized knowing in my last 10 years working at Columbia, almost every student at this paper leaves here and quickly receives offers of employment in their field.



Jim Sulski, Co-Faculty Adviser

Favorite things to do during the summer

Drink Italian ices: Stand on the sidewalk on Taylor Street and suck down at least two different flavors of Italian ice from the Mario's Italian Lemonade stand across the street from Al's Italian Beef. Don't worry about not being Italian.

Roditis rooftops: Enjoy a cold glass of Roditis while watching dusk light bathe the Chicago skyline from the rooftop deck at the Pegasus Restaurant in Greektown. This is one of the best views of the city ever.

Stand in the sand: Spend more time than you are supposed to at the Lake Michigan beach of your choice. Make sure to take along icy cold adult beverages and the woman of your dreams (not in that order, of course).

Take your dog swimming: If you don't have a dog, go watch people take their dogs swimming. Nothing says summer like a happy, wet dog frolicking in the water.

Go see a superhero movie: Take along someone a lot younger than you—preferably one of your children if you were wise enough to have children—to watch vicariously through their eyes.



Billy Montgomery, Co-Faculty Adviser

Reasons to hate summer

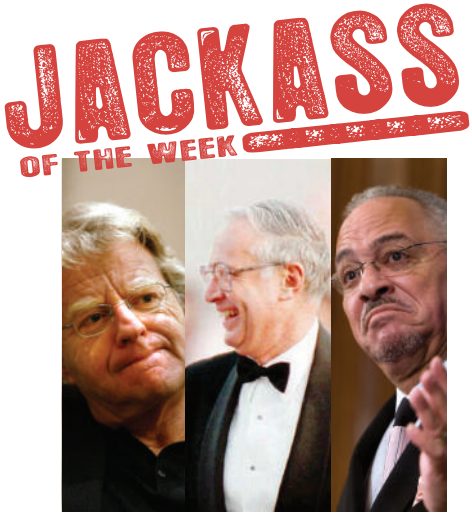
Too fickle: Many people say Chicago only has two seasons: winter and summer. Summer always sneaks up on me, and then it acts fickle when it arrives. Maybe it is global warming, or just Montgomery wishing, but I desire to stop wearing a coat/jacket everywhere.

Too hot: I love hot weather, but I don't like sweating profusely. Summers in Chicago usher in dry, raw heat that leaves me in a battle to replenish my body with water faster than I lose it.

Too cold: During the summer, every store I enter is freezing. I know the "cool" is designed to bring comfort to consumers, but when I walk into stores I feel like I am entering Alaska. Add sweat to that? Not cool, man.

Too expensive: With gas prices making me feel like I live in Europe, I am definitely rethinking my summer excursions. I like riding my bike but peddling from Chicago to Canada is not the way I want to spend my summer.

Too short: The biggest reason I hate summer, especially in Chicago, is that once it gets warm for two or three months, if we are lucky, then it is over just as quickly as it arrived.



MCT

RESISTING RELIGIOUS WRIGHT

Northwestern University President Henry Bienen's recent attempt to avoid controversy has garnered nothing but.

The original plan for next month's graduation ceremony at Northwestern was to award an honorary degree to the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. But thanks to the ever-slandering election contest, Rev. Wright's politically charged sermons have become the subject of nationwide attention and have been used by political pundits to tarnish the reputation of Sen. Barack Obama, a longtime member of Wright's church.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Northwestern has contributed to the shunning of Rev. Wright by taking back its invitation.

So how is the school planning on celebrating the hard labor and remarkable accomplishments of its graduating class? Answer: by having Northwestern alum Jerry Springer deliver the law school commencement address. The notorious talkshow host sold out to cheap exploitation and WWF-style televised brawls long before Wright's incendiary statements ever surfaced. Apparently Bienen considers Springer, a man of zero integrity, to be the better role model for his students.

Ah well, at least his graduation will be a first: Never before has "Pomp and Circumstance" been accompanied by random shouts of "Jerry! Jerry!"

—M. Fagerholm



by Elaine Tsang
Contributing Writer

IN TODAY'S fashion trends, there are style collaborations from the past, present and future. So in this oversaturated market of mass production, where can you find a piece of your own self expression that combines all of the above? The latest popular shopping is vintage and thrift stores, where you can find all the old and latest fashion trends expressed through pieces from the past.

At the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, sophomore fashion design major Kyle Spicer combined old and new with her vintage '70s red and orange striped short sleeve dress, complemented by her bronze gladiator-like chain belt. For accessories, she wore layers of gold necklaces and several bracelets on both wrists. To complete the look, she wore an oversized gold coin ring and vintage



Sophomore fashion design major Kyle Spicer complements her vintage short sleeve dress with a bronze gladiator-like chain belt and an oversized gold coin ring.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

'20s dark red open-toed heels.

"I like to play with texture—whether it be belts or other pieces," Spicer said. "I do what I like, and if it's in, it's in; if it's not, I still like it."

As a fashion design major, Spicer gets her fashion inspirations from designers like Sass and Bide, Anna Sui, Chloe and Betsey Johnson. She enjoys shopping for one-of-a-kind pieces, which is why she said she likes to "thrift it" by perusing through secondhand stores all over the nation.

To sport Spicer's true vintage hipster style, visit Eskell, 1509 N. Milwaukee Ave. To keep in touch with the latest fashion updates throughout the summer, visit NylonMag.com for your perfect mixture of past, present and future.

—Elaine Tsang is a senior fashion management major.

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

REVIEWS



SIIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD



WORTH A GIGGLE



HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



TWITTER

I must admit I am now obsessed with Twitter, a 140-character blog that you can post via computer, mobile or instant messenger. I am constantly posting and receiving posts from my “followers” and those I “follow.” This new blog already saved one kid in Africa—think what it can do for you! Try it out and you will love it. —C. Shively



ADVERTISEMENT BANNERS IN CTA TRAINS

Yes, more complaints about the CTA. But with the flick of a red editing pen, this one is an easy fix. Find the incredibly irritating error in this statement, found in an advertisement displayed on a CTA train: “Just Go! The First Day and Everyday!” Hire a copy editor for goodness sake! —J. Gallart



NYLON, MAY 2008

Oh dear, dear Nylon. I wanted to objectively look through your pages, but every time I flipped one, I couldn’t help but think of the disgusting red “lipstick” font you had on your cover (and on pages 118-125). I’m sure you know it’s awful too—and that’s the point—but it will haunt me until the end of my days. —A. Maurer



MOVIES / DVD / TV



‘THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW’

Dear Oprah: Stop inviting your lame celebrity friends to act as guests on your show. You always make weird noises and sing their names in an ugly voice when you promote their new material, which always sucks anyway. The Barbara Walters interview was great this week, but only because she didn’t let you be a jerk and interrupt her. Love, Jessica. —J. Gallart



‘I’M NOT THERE’ ON DVD

Todd Haynes is the great anthropologist of contemporary American filmmakers, and his dissection of music legend Bob Dylan’s multifaceted persona is mesmerizing, maddening and brilliantly audacious. Thankfully, this disc is loaded with extras, including audio commentary and auditions, which help put the mind-boggling film in a more digestible context. —M. Fagerholm



‘THREE AND OUT,’ DIRECTED BY JONATHAN GERSHFIELD

This dark British comedy is about a train conductor who accidentally hits two people within 24 hours. His co-workers inform him if he hits one more person within the same month, he gets a paid 10 year leave and he tries to do so for the rest of the film. While the writing is somewhat witty, the plot drags. Prepare to snore. —T. Bearden



MUSIC



NINE INCH NAILS: ‘THE SLIP’

Combining electronic and industrial genres with an arena-worthy rock sound, singer/producer Trent Reznor comes back with an album that is reminiscent of his last two albums. With familiar NIN overtones and lyrics about revolution, conformity and death, this is a must-have release. Plus, it’s free on NIN.com. —D. Kucynda



AIMEE MANN: ‘@##%&*! SMILERS’

This folky songstress is back on June 3 with a follow-up to her conceptual album, *The Forgotten Arm*. But, the album has made its way out already. Scored without an electric guitar, the album moves through its acoustic and keyboard-laden rhythm without a hitch and shows Mann’s signature style is still moving along. Favorites include “Freeway” and “31 Today.” —B. Marlow



CUT COPY: ‘IN GHOST COLOURS’

God, Cut Copy is so freakin’ amazing. It took them four freakin’ years to release another album. I was going freakin’ insane. I’m freakin’ mad I passed up their show last week for a good ‘ol sleep sesh. What was I freakin’ thinking? —C. Mahlmeister



RANDOM



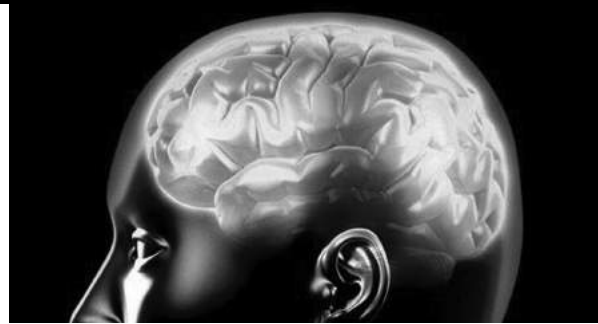
STARBUCKS TOP POT CHOCOLATE DOUGHNUT

Although it’s lumpy and imperfect looking, the taste is anything but. This chocolate glazed treat helps me and my co-worker through our long, busy days. One bite and I instantly feel better. Although there is a plain glazed version, I recommend sticking with the chocolate one. —B. Schlikerman



BENTO LUNCHES

The days of soggy, unappetizing lunch meat are over. This Japanese craze of making the cutest lunches ever is all about presentation. No Ziplocs allowed: They’ll literally spend hours cutting up a hot dog to look like an octopus, sushi to look like Hello Kitty and eggs to look like Pac Man. Aw, but who wants to eat Hello Kitty? She just wants to be hugged. —C. Mahlmeister



EPILEPSY FORUM HACKERS

Recent EpilepsyFoundation.org site visitors who have photosensitive epilepsy experienced “severe migraines and near-seizure reactions” after clicking on content placed by hackers linking to flashing images. This type of vandalism may seem funny to some, and I chuckled a little myself until I realized how many people were harmed by it. —S. Harvey



Game review

Corruption city

Rockstar North's violent masterpiece gets update for the PS3, Xbox 360

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant A&E Editor

AS MILLIONS of fans clamored to get a copy of *Grand Theft Auto 4* during the week of April 29, the biggest question facing the new game is how it will stand next to its predecessor, *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*.

Rockstar North, the developer of *Grand Theft Auto 4*, has implemented more multiplayer options to accommodate the online capabilities of next generation consoles, and the game's setting, Liberty City, also has been updated. With top-notch graphics, gameplay and sound, *Grand Theft Auto 4* is a fantastic video game with a few missing pieces to its criminally-engaging puzzle.

San Andreas has certain aspects of gameplay that *Grand Theft Auto 4* does not: more clothes, weapons and vehicles. In addition, the hand-to-hand combat is more awkward in *Grand Theft Auto 4* than in previous games.

The biggest disappointment of the game is the lack of a two-player, co-operative multiplayer option, where both players occupy the same single screen together. This feature, which was in *San Andreas*, could have been implemented in *Grand Theft Auto 4* due to the sheer power of the Playstation 3 and Xbox 360, even at the expense of long loading times.

Using the power and processing capabilities of the next generation consoles, *Grand Theft Auto 4* destroys the high expectations set by fans and critics alike with every other aspect of the game. In the game, Liberty City is a not-so-clever disguise of New York City with all the familiar landmarks in place, creating an amazingly realistic world for the player. Liberty City's version of Central Park is called Middle Park, and other notable locations include Hove Beach, based on Brighton Beach, and Star Junction, which is a representation of Times Square. Even four out of the five boroughs of New York City are represented: Bohan (Bronx), Dukes (Queens), Broker (Brooklyn) and Algonquin (Manhattan).

In *Grand Theft Auto 4*, the city itself is immense and incredibly detailed. Players can make the game's main character, Niko Bellic, go on dates with various women. With options like bowling, darts, cabaret theater performances or dining at Cluckin' Bell, a satirical fast food restaurant, Bellic has many options to please a potential girlfriend. Players even have the option of taking a girl to a bar and driving her home after knocking back a few drinks. His drunkenness is replicated in the game as the screen sways left and right and shifts in and out of focus while Bellic drives.

The plot of *Grand Theft Auto 4* is as complicated and genuinely engrossing as Liberty City itself.

Bellic is a former human trafficker who is a veteran of the Balkan Wars. He comes to the United States in search of the American Dream. There, he finds the dream to be a sordid reality, as his cousin Roman's life turns out to be a wreck. Roman lives in a run-down apartment with numerous debts to the various criminal organizations in the city, including the Russian Mafia, due to his gambling addiction. Bellic helps his cousin out by beating up and murdering Roman's adversaries. Later, Bellic sets out to find a person in Liberty City who betrayed him in the past.

The story pokes fun at society as well. At the beginning of *Grand Theft Auto 4*, a terrorist threat pre-

vents the player from traveling to Algonquin or Broker. Even the culture of politics, corruption and technology in the game is viewed through a compelling satirical lens. Corrupt cops still make Bellic do their dirty work for them, and even cell phones and the Internet play important roles in the game's overall structure and development.

Visually, *Grand Theft Auto 4* is stunning, especially whenever the player dies, during which the screen turns black-and-white in a cinematic fashion.

The biggest addition to the series is the online multiplayer option. Up to 16 players can choose to play 15 different multiplayer modes, with games such as Turf Wars, where two teams compete to take control of a designated area and Car Jack City, where up to eight teams can steal cars and earn money going against ranked players online.

Grand Theft Auto 4 is a criminal masterpiece ingrained in a sharp



In its first week on shelves, 'Grand Theft Auto 4' has sold an estimated \$500 million in retail sales globally, according to Reuters.

AP

VIDEO GAME BITS

'Grand Theft Auto 4'

Systems: PS3/Xbox 360

Cost: \$59.99

Now available in stores such as Best Buy, Target, GameStop and Circuit City.



dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

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RENOWNED JAZZ MUSICIAN & FORMER SAXOPHONIST FOR RAY CHARLES

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ATTENTION MUSICIANS

Columbia College Student Ensembles will hold open auditions beginning the first week of the fall term. Auditions are open to all majors. Check out our website for details and application.
http://www.colum.edu/Academics/Music/students-current/Ensemble_Request_Form.php

Columbia COLLEGE CHICAGO



College of DuPage students in meteorology professor Paul Sirvatka’s storm chasing class travel across North America for about 10 days, learning how to track severe storms and chase them safely.

Courtesy PAUL SIRVATKA

The storm brigade

Suburban college class shows students how to predict, track, chase severe weather storms

by Jessica Galliard
A&E Editor

WEATHER FANATICS armed with cameras capture massive tornadoes enveloping small Midwestern towns every day and plaster their footage all over the Internet. Even mainstream movies like *Twister* have

tapped into the phenomenon of high-speed chases to catch sight of severe thunderstorms and the damage they create.

Though many are fascinated by the idea of chasing severe weather systems and tornado videos as seen in the media, students at a suburban community college are actually doing it—for college credit.

At College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, Ill., meteorology professor Paul Sirvatka trains students in his classes on how to track large storms and weather patterns, then

takes them on the road for 10 days at a time all over North America to witness storms in progress, also known as storm chasing. Other groups provide similar storm chasing tours throughout the busy spring and summer storm seasons, and many participants say their experiences of chasing storms cross-country are similar to, or better than, vacations with good friends or bonding experiences with new friends.

College of DuPage meteorology professor Paul Sirvatka is a weather fanatic but said the chases portrayed in the movies aren’t realistic and don’t compare to the chases he goes on with his students.

“Most of the things in the movie ‘Twister,’ had that really been happening, they would

have been dead,” Sirvatka said. “We don’t do stupid things like that.”

Meteorologists like Sirvatka have been chasing storms for decades. For 18 years, Sirvatka has driven all over North America, including Canada and Mexico, to track weather systems with the storm chasing course he teaches at the college.

“In the last 18 years, it’s amazing how much different things are, both in terms of technology and just our understanding of how severe weather goes,” Sirvatka said. “So I would consider myself pretty much an expert on severe weather forecasting and understanding how to know when tornadoes are likely.”

Growing up in Glen Ellyn, Sirvatka said >>>>

Seventh annual Jammy awards go Phishin’

Jam band is reunited at Madison Square Garden ceremony

by Nekesa Mumbi Moody

THOUGH THE Jammy Awards were able to bring together the members of Phish for the first time since they broke up four years ago, the reunion may not have been everything Phish-heads had hoped for.

While all members of the beloved jam-band appeared—and two of them grooved onstage (Trey Anastasio and Page McConnell)—they didn’t perform together on May 7. And as they accepted their lifetime achievement award, there was no hint of another reunion, dashing rumbling hopes that Phish might become the latest act to get back together for a blockbuster tour.

But the coming together of Anastasio, McConnell, Jon Fishman and Mike Gordon was still the highlight of an emotional and electric evening, as they thanked fans for their journey as the most popular jam-band since the Grateful Dead and one of the most popular touring bands in rock.

Not only was it the highlight, it was also the peak for the seventh annual Jammys, which celebrates the best in improvisational music. In an interview with The Associated Press on May 8, the show’s executive producer and co-founder, Peter Shapiro, announced it would mark the last Jammy Awards as the event morphs into a larger celebration of live music.

“We’ve kind of accomplished what we set out to do. In a good jam, you kind of have to



(Left) Members of the band Phish: Trey Anastasio, Mike Gordon, Page McConnell and Jon Fishman, are honored at the seventh annual Jammy awards at the Theater at Madison Square Garden, N.Y., on May 7.

AP

take chances and go in new directions,” he told the AP. “That’s why we, on this high ... are going to take this momentum in a new direction.”

It’s hard to deny the Phish reunion as the awards show’s best moment, despite a history of unique performances that included acts ranging from String Cheese Incident and members of The Dead to John Mayer and Buddy Guy. As Anastasio came to the podium to speak, the crowd at the Theater

at Madison Square Garden, N.Y., went from roaring cheers to silence.

“I always wanted to somehow have a moment when I could convey to some degree what all of this meant to me and to the other guys, too,” Anastasio said.

“I feel like as a musician we’re servants, and musicians from the beginning of time have been there to express the mood and the musical feelings in the air for whatever’s going on in that particular culture,”

he said. “It’s the greatest joy as a musician to be able to translate that, be part of something and watch the scenery around you. That’s what it felt like to be in Phish all those years.”

The four men haven’t been onstage together since their last performance in Coventry, Vt., in 2004, which wrapped up a farewell tour and a 20-year run for Phish. Since then, each member has been working on individual projects.

The foursome embraced each other warmly as they received their trophy, one of two for the evening (they also won best download for an old recording released last year for charity). Gordon told the audience he’d been sick earlier in the day and had considered not coming, but said he rallied for “my deepest brothers ever.”

The idea of a Phish appearance, and possibly a reunion, added special excitement to the Jammys.

“They helped establish a model for a lot of jam bands that came after them,” said Allman Brother and Gov’t Mule’s Warren Haynes. “They are one of the forerunners of this movement, and it’s great for them to be here.”

But the appearance of Phish wasn’t the evening’s only stirring moment. Haynes performed with Squeeze’s Glenn Tilbrook and Tea Leaf Green on the classic “Tempted.” Also, Galactic jammed with Booker T. and Sharon Jones, then backed rap legend Doug E. Fresh as he beatboxed his way through “The Show” and “La Di Da Di.”

AP

“““ he never saw a tornado but always wanted to know what the experience of chasing storms was like. After realizing what kind of interest was out there from other people about chasing storms, Sirvatka said he proposed teaching a class for college students.

“A great number of people want to see a tornado, and they’re excited by severe weather like that,” Sirvatka said. “That’s certainly how I started.”

Unlike commercial storm chasing tours, where participants often pay anywhere from \$2,000 to \$3,000 without any training on how to track weather patterns, the storm chasing tours at DuPage earn participants college credit through the college. Though many students who enroll in the course are meteorology majors, many other participants take the class for a general education credit or don’t even attend College of DuPage.

“We have people coming in from Europe and Canada who’ve come down to chase with us,” Sirvatka said. “They’ve seen video and they go, ‘I want to experience this.’ We actually have people who have fears, and they want to come and face their fears.”

Before departing for a tour, the students are trained to know how to track storms before going on a chase and also must pass several quizzes administered by the teacher.

“We go through some of the trip preparations and talk a little bit about forecasting,” Sirvatka said. “On the trip we have televisions in our vehicles, so we do a lot of movies, video and some teaching in the vans.”

Because many of the destinations for tours are on opposite ends of the country, much of the 10-day trips are spent driving in the two vans, which are equipped with 23-inch TVs, computers and radios for communication between the two vans. Fourteen spots are usually available for each of

““ I guess there’s some potential danger, but that doesn’t usually scare me.”

—Paul Sirvatka, meteorology professor at College of DuPage

the five trips offered throughout the year, including during the summer.

While studying journalism at College of DuPage, Kristina Zaremba signed up for the summer course offered in 2006, when the group first traveled north to Canada and then drove south to Texas. Zaremba said she had heard about the class before and was interested in learning about tracking storms.

Although Zaremba’s group didn’t catch any tornadoes on their trip, they were able to chase down storm systems with intense lightning and learn how to forecast and use maps to find storms.

“When you’re chasing, usually you’re trying to get to some place and wait for something to happen,” Zaremba said. “The first time we went into chase mode, I was really excited. We hit some hail, saw some storms and cool lightning. But we never got close to a tornado at all.”

The objective of the class is not specifically to see tornadoes, Sirvatka said, but to chase severe thunderstorms. From past classes he has taught, he said the chance of seeing a tornado on the tour is about 40 percent, but some of his best experiences chasing have been while tracking a severe thunderstorm.

“The worst experience for us is just when we go out there and nothing is going on for long periods of time,” Sirvatka said. “But one day makes up for that. They don’t have to produce a tornado; that’s just sort of the icing on the cake.”

Some of the biggest dangers in storm

chasing, Sirvatka said, are lightning, debris and the traveling and driving that are part of the chase.

“I guess there’s some potential danger but that doesn’t usually scare me,” Sirvatka said. “I’ve never been afraid of being hit by a tornado. They’re not as unpredictable as people think.”

In the midst of one chase during her tour, Zaremba said she was concerned at first about how fast they were driving to catch a storm, but a part of her loves to be put in scary situations.

“Nobody wears their seatbelts, especially in chase mode,” Zaremba said. “I was bouncing all over the van from window to window while trying to take pictures. That was probably the best part of it all.”

Zaremba said she also learned a lot about misconceptions people get from movies and footage of storm chasing and storms in general. Her instructors discussed how many people seek shelter under overpasses during a storm, which is the worst thing to do in the midst of severe weather, she said.

“The two biggest rules were never chase at night and never chase alone,” Zaremba said. “Part of the reason we have two vans is you never know what’s going to happen. They talk about how people go out and do it on their own and end up in situations where they’re in a lightning storm.”

Sirvatka said the idea is not to chase after a storm, but anticipate what path the storm will take and always be ahead of it. Chasers should always stay about a half-mile away from the storm and plan an escape route in case the path of the storm turns toward them, he said.

“We’ll drive as close as we can to it as long as it’s in a place where we have an escape route and we have good visuals on it,” Sirvatka said. “It’s too dangerous when you know the path of the storm is going to cross you. You have to kind of just sit there and say, ‘I’m going to let it cross before I go after it.’”

Matt Wojtowicz, a sophomore meteorology student at College of DuPage, traveled to Canada with a class in summer 2007 and will go on another trip headed to Texas this summer. Wojtowicz said even though his experience while chasing produced a few thunderstorms but no tornadoes, he learned not to get his hopes up before leaving for a tour.

“It’s actually one of the best learning environments because you learn a bunch of stuff with the weather,” Wojtowicz said. “And when you get to see it happen in front of your face it’s incredible.”

Sirvatka’s best experience while storm chasing was when he saw 10 tornadoes in one day in Southern Kansas in 2002. Though he said catching a storm isn’t as easy as it’s portrayed in films, it’s worth it.

“It’s less exciting than you see in the movies, and it’s more exciting at the same time,” Sirvatka said. “You just don’t go around finding tornadoes all the time. But when you’re actually [following] a tornado, I think people are amazed at what it looks like and how exciting it really can be in some circumstances.”

For Zaremba, along with the excitement of chasing a storm came a great experience of meeting new people and enjoying the sights during her trip in Canada.

“It’s kind of like being at summer camp,” Zaremba said. “I met some very interesting people, and even though you’re only together for 10 or 12 days, you’re together the entire day. You get to really know those people.”

Classes cost about \$1,000, which includes tuition for college credit and some travel expenses. For more information about the class, visit Weather.COD.edu.

—Additional reporting by Meha Ahmad

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THE SOUNDS OF SUMMER

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant A&E Editor



Chicago Blues Festival

Grant Park, Chicago
June 5–8

There is no doubt that the Second City is a blues town. So it comes as no surprise that one of the largest free festivals in Chicago is the Chicago Blues Festival. This year is different for the festival because it is in its 25th year, and Barry Dolins, the deputy director for the Mayor's Office of Special Events, said there will be more than 70 performances on seven stages this year.

"We are trying to create more performance spaces in the park with the addition of an extra stage," Dolins said. "In addition, we are bringing back artists who have performed at the festival in the past."

Rock/blues legend Johnny Winter, who performed at the inaugural festival in 1984, will kick off the opening night celebration with Grammy award winner James Cotton. On June 6, a tribute to Chicago Blues past will be highlighted with performances by former Chicago blues artists like Ruby Andrews and Cicero Blake. The last night of the festival will feature the legendary blues artist B.B. King, marking his first appearance at the Chicago Blues Festival in more than 20 years.

For more information, visit ChicagoBluesFestival.us.



After a winter filled with freezing rain and snow, the arrival of summer can only mean one thing for the hardcore music fan: The music festival season has started in the Midwest. Every summer, a plethora of spacious outdoor parks and ranches play host to major bands and under-the-radar artists looking to explode onto the music scene.

With hundreds of thousands of people expected to take in the multitude of musical acts during this year's batch of festivals, some organizers are focusing more on keeping their festivals as green as possible. As corporate music labels continue to suffer from poor music sales due to the profitability of online music, there are many promising summer music festivals that will ensure the show will go on, said Megan McFann, a spokesperson for the Rothbury Music Festival. Despite the inevitable scorching temperatures, the sweaty masses will be there.

Summerfest

Henry Maier Festival Park, Milwaukee
June 26–July 8

Certified by the *Guinness World Records* as "The World's Largest Music Festival," almost 1 million people are expected to attend the 41st annual event, located at Milwaukee's Henry Maier Festival Park, said John Boler, the vice president of Sales and Marketing for Summerfest. He said fans will travel from all over the world to see the 700 music and comedy artists performing on 11 different stages at the festival this year. With artists performing each day, back-to-back from noon to midnight, there is a wide variety of artists to see, from rock to country and everything in between.

Some of the headlining acts performing at the festival's Marcus Ampitheater include artists like Tom Petty, John Mayer, Alicia Keys and Stevie Wonder. Country acts like Tim McGraw and Rascal Flatts will be joining the recently-reunited Stone Temple Pilots and The Jonas Brothers as headliners at Summerfest, as well.

Tickets can be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com or at Henry Maier Festival Park, 200 N. Harbor Drive, on weekdays from noon to 4 p.m. for \$8 per day. Evening and weekend admission is \$15 per day, and two-day passes will run for \$23.

For more information, visit Summerfest.com.



Taste of Chicago

Grant Park, Chicago
June 27–July 6

Though the Taste of Chicago isn't technically a music festival, musical entertainers perform on each day of the Taste at the Petrillo Music Shell, 235 S. Columbus Drive. Now in its 28th year, the Taste will entice Chicagoans to come together at Grant Park and Columbus Drive to eat from a variety of restaurants in Chicago, as well as catch musical acts like Plain White T's, Joss Stone, Ryan Shaw, Fantasia and other artists.

"Music is a big part of the tradition of Chicago with blues and soul acts appearing here," said Veronica Resa, spokesperson for the Mayor's Office of Special Events.

Those looking for an old-fashioned soul act will enjoy Chaka Khan and Angie Stone's concert on June 27. Music legend Stevie Wonder will be performing on June 28. Resa said every artist performing at the Taste is paid to perform through sponsorship dollars, thus making the concerts free to the public.

For more information, visit TasteOfChicago.us.

Rothbury Music Festival

Double JJ Ranch, Michigan
July 3–6

Festival grounds can look like a wasteland after concertgoers have had their fill of music, food and drinks. However, the Rothbury Music Festival, located at Double JJ Ranch, 5900 S. Water Road in Rothbury, Mich., aims to take the trashiness out of music festivals by promoting sustainability and improving the overall environment of a music fest.

According to Megan McFann, spokesperson for the festival, organizers are offering organic and sustainable souvenir merchandise. They also aim to purchase items that are compost-friendly or made from renewable plant sources. In addition, there will be manned compost stations and recycling bins around the festival grounds to promote Rothbury's green ambitions.

"Once the compost has been through the compost station, it will be available for local farmers in Rothbury," McFann said.

Some of the artists who will perform on the bio-diesel and solar-powered stages are Dave Matthews Band, Primus, 311, Snoop Dogg, Modest Mouse, Of Montreal, The Dresden Dolls and more than 60 other artists.

Tickets are available through RothburyFestival.com for \$244.75. Individuals can choose if they want to purchase a green ticket, which requires an extra \$3 or \$7 donation to offset the carbon emissions due to the concertgoers traveling to and from the festival.

For more information, visit RothburyFestival.com.

Lollapalooza

Grant Park, Chicago
August 1–3

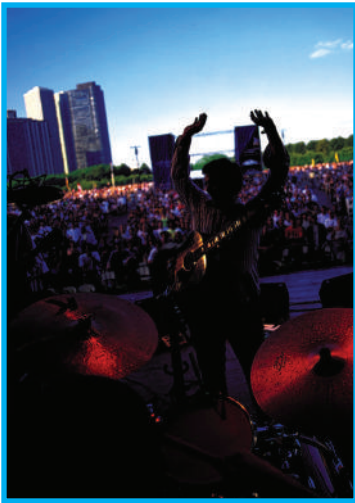
Returning to Chicago for its fourth year, Lollapalooza's main attraction, Radiohead, is expected to kick off the famed festival on Aug. 1, according to Radiohead.com. Nine Inch Nails are expected to close the festival, announcing that they will headline on Aug. 3 on their website, NIN.com.

Lollapalooza founder Perry Farrell said in an interview with Vh1.com that he could hardly wait to announce this year's lineup, which includes Rage Against the Machine, The Raconteurs, Gnarls Barkley and Chicago natives Wilco and Kanye West.

Lollapalooza has given back to Chicago, said Brenda Palm, the executive director of the Parkways Foundation, a nonprofit beneficiary to Lollapalooza and a philanthropic partner of the Chicago Park District. Since 2005, the festival has collected \$2.3 million from revenue generated by the festival to help the Parkways Foundation support various Chicago Park District projects like building new playgrounds and creating educational and green initiatives, as well as youth programs.

Tickets are available through the Lollapalooza website, Lollapalooza.com. When the \$190 3-day passes sell out, ticket prices will increase to \$205.

For more information, visit Lollapalooza.com.



Photos courtesy of Lollapalooza.com, Summerfest.com, MCT

Layout by Kimi Badger

Pitchfork Music Festival

Union Park, Chicago
July 18–20

Hosting approximately 40 musical acts on three stages in Union Park, 228 S. Racine Ave., and organized by Pitchfork Media, the Pitchfork Music Festival will feature a variety of different experiences for the festivalgoer such as art fairs, poster exhibitions and a record fair where people can buy and sell records. In addition, an abundance of cutting-edge artists will be performing at the festival, said Anders Lindall, a spokesman for the Pitchfork Music Festival.

This year, the lineup includes Public Enemy, Animal Collective, The Hold Steady and Ghostface Killah, as well as other indie, hip-hop, experimental, electronic and dance acts. Lindall said the Pitchfork Music Festival aims to be a human-scale event that emphasizes the quality of the experience, as opposed to high prices or corporate sponsorship.

"We want [to have] an affordable festival within reach for anyone who wants to attend," Lindall said. "We want [to create] an atmosphere that puts fans and artists first, not corporate sponsors."

The Pitchfork Music Festival tickets, which sold out several weeks in advance last year, are available through the festival's website, PitchforkMusicFestival.com. A limited number of three-day passes are still available for \$65, two-day passes for Saturday and Sunday will cost \$50 and single day passes are priced at \$30 each.

For more information, visit PitchforkMusicFestival.com.



Viva Chicago Latin Music Festival

Grant Park, Chicago
August 23–24

Celebrating its 20th year, the Viva Chicago Latin Music Festival will feature music, food and entertainment platforms geared toward educating others about the Latin culture. Though the initial lineup is yet to be announced at press time, Resa said local musicians will be a part of the fiesta, which is one of the largest Latin music festivals in the Midwest.

"We will have artists playing all types of music," Resa said. "There will be cumbia, merengue, tango, Spanish rock and other styles of Latin music acts performing all weekend."

In addition, there will be a Low Rider display with 40 different classic Chevrolet models parked at Buckingham Fountain Plaza. The festival will also have merchants selling clothes, artwork and jewelry, an art fair featuring local Latin artists and authentic Latin food booths.

Admission to the Viva Chicago Latin Music Festival is free.

More information can be found at CityOfChicago.org.

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» NIGHTLIFE:

Continued from PG. 13

\$1 drink nights at Hydrate, Spin appeal to female patrons

For those looking for an inexpensive night on the town, Marro said one of the most appealing features for the frugal lesbian on the GLBT nightlife scene is the \$1 drink nights at Hydrate and Spin. Every Monday, Hydrate opens its doors until 4 a.m., and patrons can buy drinks and domestic beer for \$1.

Inthamat said she frequently goes to GLBT bars like Circuit Nightclub and Hydrate but prefers the lesbian-friendly Spin Nightclub because women outnumber the men every Wednesday night.

“Lots of men go to Hydrate on Monday nights,” Inthamat said. “Women do go there with their friends, but my friends [and I] prefer Spin on Wednesdays because there is more of a female crowd there on that night. Plus, isn’t the bar scene about meeting new people?”

One of the more popular bars that women go to in Andersonville is Star Gaze Restaurant and Bar, 5419 N. Clark St., said Star Gaze bartender Sara Dobrovolny. She said Star Gaze has a laid back atmosphere with a variety of things to do, like darts and billiards, open mics and karaoke nights, which are free on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

“We have our fun moments, but [Star Gaze] is definitely not as crazy as Boystown bars, since [their bars] are so close to each other,” Dobrovolny said. “Younger people tend to go to Boystown. Here, our crowd is generally in their late 20s, because we’ve been around for some time.”



Erika Gaspar waits for her friends to arrive at Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., on May 8. Spin is widely known as a GLBT bar and is regularly packed with partying lesbians, gays, transgenders and straights alike.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

However, Dobrovolny said she notices the appeal of Boystown for the GLBT community and acknowledges that there are more choices of bars and clubs that lesbians can go to in Boystown.

“The bars and clubs in Boystown are a little bit bigger, more diverse and they have more shows and productions going on,” Dobrovolny said.

Bar owners like Mallwitz said the nightlife scene in Boystown and Andersonville has a mixed crowd and most bars, including Spin, have an almost equal number of men to women.

Though Spin is geared to the GLBT crowd, straight individuals are welcome to come, said Mallwitz. He said the nightclub’s appeal comes from the various daily specials and events. For example, on the second Saturday of every month, Spin hosts Fish Tank, which is a monthly event that targets and markets to an exclusively lesbian crowd, Mallwitz said. On other nights, Spin has other deals and events like CD release parties and free billiard nights.

“Every night, we have [different] events like shower contests, where participants can win money [and] hip-hop nights,”

Mallwitz said.

Mallwitz said Spin targets a specific age group, with most patrons generally between the ages of 21 and 25. He also said Spin does not discriminate based on a patron’s orientation or gender.

“Anybody is welcome here,” Mallwitz said. “It’s not a big stigma like it was years ago. For us, [the] most important [goal] is to create a safe space for gays and lesbians so they can hang out with friends. It’s not a big deal to be gay and lesbian anymore.”

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(Right) World Can't Wait members stand next to their megaphone system in front of the Army Career Center, 10 E. Harrison St. The use of the megaphone attracted the attention of the Chicago Police Department. (Below left) Butch Rath holds a sign at the protest in front of the Army Career Center on April 18. (Below right) Chicago Police officers inform the World Can't Wait protestors that they cannot lawfully protest outside the Army Career Center. Member Butch Rath pleads their case to the steadfast officers.



NO CHANGE TOO SMALL

Photos and essay by Dan Thompson

They call themselves World Can't Wait, meaning the world can't wait for change—it must be made immediately. They have a strong presence at Columbia's political campus events. Most students, faculty and staff recognize them by the bright orange color they wear. Many have received the fliers or seen posters, but it seems that most people are throwing the fliers away. "Drive out the Bush Regime," the signs read; "We won't live in a torture state," reads another.

They are a national group, active in almost every major city. But in Chicago, membership and participation is slim. Once you've seen the faces at one World Can't Wait event, you've probably seen them all. The anti-war movement in 2008 is tiny compared to the anti-war movements of the 1960s. In spite of that, groups like World Can't Wait are trying anyway. Lack of public support doesn't sway their resolve.

Protests are organized, and they stay small. On April 18, World Can't Wait organized a protest outside of the Army Career Center on Columbia's campus. Though they're charismatic, no one walking by the 10 or so orange-clad activists stopped or paid much attention. For World Can't Wait, this scene is becoming commonplace—no one seems to be listening.



(Top left) A World Can't Wait meeting is held on March 30 in a yoga studio. (Top right) Columbia student and protestor Marck Hilgendorf masks his mouth with orange duct tape at a protest outside the Army Career Center on April 18. (Bottom) A World Can't Wait member dresses in an orange jumpsuit and a hood at the same protest. The jumpsuit and pose mimic photos released to the media of questionable interrogation techniques at the Abu Ghraib detention facility in Iraq.

HIGH FIVES OF THE WEEK

Television

- 1. “American Idol” (Tuesday), FOX.
- 2. “American Idol” (Wednesday), FOX.
- 3. “Dancing With the Stars” (Monday), ABC.
- 4. “CSI: Crime Scene Investigation,” CBS.
- 5. “Dancing With the Stars” (Tuesday), ABC.

—Nielsen Media Research

Film

- 1. *Iron Man*, Paramount.
- 2. *Made of Honor*, Sony.
- 3. *Baby Mama*, Universal.
- 4. *Harold & Kumar Escape From Guantanamo Bay*, Warner Bros.
- 5. *Forgetting Sarah Marshall*, Universal.

—Media by Numbers LLC

Songs

- 1. “Bleeding Love,” Leona Lewis. SYCO/J/RMG. (Platinum)Young Jeezy. LaFace/Zomba.
- 2. “Lollipop,” Lil Wayne feat. Static Major. Cash Money/Universal Motown.
- 3. “No Air,” Jordin Sparks duet with Chris Brown. 19/Jive/Zomba. (Platinum)
- 4. “Love in This Club,” Usher feat. Young Jeezy. LaFace/Zomba. (Platinum)
- 5. “Sexy Can I,” Ray J & Yung Berg. Knockout/Deja 34/Koch/Epic. (Gold)

—Billboard Magazine

Albums

- 1. *Hard Candy*, Madonna. Warner Bros.
- 2. *E=MC2*, Mariah Carey. Island/IDJMG.
- 3. *Spirit*, Leona Lewis. SYCO/J/RMG.
- 4. *Lyfe Change*, Lyfe Jennings. Columbia/Sony Music.
- 5. *Songs From the Sparkle Lounge*, Def Leppard. Bludgeon Riffola/Island/UMe.

—Billboard Magazine

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



AP

Dina Lohan creates turmoil at event

The founder of an organization that honored Dina Lohan as a “Top Mom” says things “spun out of control” when the media focused all its attention on the tabloid magnet.

“They kept badgering me, ‘Why Dina Lohan? Why Dina Lohan?’” Mingling Moms

president Erica Logiudice said.

Lohan was swarmed by reporters on May 6 at the event. The celebrity website TMZ.com posted a video of Lohan with the headline “Dina Lohan Massacres Mother’s Day.”

AP

A very blonde engagement

Hours after confirming her engagement to Ryan Reynolds, Scarlett Johansson flashed a diamond ring at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute Gala in New York City.

The 23-year-old actress unveiled the sparkler while walking the red carpet—sans Reynolds—on May 5 at the night’s celeb-studded event.

Her publicist, Marcel Pariseau, said earlier in the day that Johansson and Reynolds were engaged and had not yet set a wedding date.

The couple reportedly had been dating for more than a year. Their relationship status was speculated about in gossip columns and tabloids, which published paparazzi shots of the pair.

AP

A little askew on ‘The View’

Nearly two years after Star Jones left “The View” on rocky terms, the 46-year-old TV personality has criticized former boss Barbara Walters for writing about her.

“It is a sad day when an icon like Barbara Walters, in the sunset of her life, is reduced to publicly branding herself as an adulterer, humiliating an innocent family with accounts of her illicit affair and speaking negatively against me all for the sake of selling a book. It speaks to her true character,” Jones told *Us Weekly* magazine.

Jones’ publicist, Brad Zeifman, said Jones wouldn’t comment further.

AP

The 2008 Literary Supplement

The stuff that comes out of the things we love

Timothy J. Hunt

Spring. The season of change. The season of love. Or if you’re a young kid that is lucky enough to posses both a dog and a backyard, the season of poop.

As the weather grows warmer the hope for a snow day begins to quickly recede with the melting snow and ice. It is at this time that my backyard would transform into a minefield of the excrement of my dog, Puddles.

While all the rich kids at my school would be armed with specially designed “pooper scoopers” or have professionals take care of the mess for them, I spent every spring navigating my soggy backyard in plastic bag covered shoes armed with nothing more than a small gardening shovel.

After several hours, I would, leaving my soiled shoes by the door, walk inside to discover my father had been watching me the entire time. Then, like any child, I would protest my given duties, which would be met every time by the same response.

“Well, you wanted a dog.” Yes, I had in fact asked for the dog. However, what I received instead was an animal that was capable of creating waste twice the size of its body mass more often than any creature should be capable of doing and living. My father’s second favorite response was one that exploited my childhood fascination with the prehistoric. “Just pretend you’re a paleontologist!”

As I would begin to walk away my father would propose the oddest of questions. “Did you find anything out of the ordinary?” Out of the ordinary? I just spent three hours wandering around the yard looking for months old feces and you’re asking me if I saw anything out of the ordinary?

I feel I need to explain something, you see, my dad LOVED our dog. My father, by no means a jovial person, was a bitter recluse not prone to exhibiting any emotion to any living thing, except of course the dog. Long ago giving up on his human offspring, my father began to fret needlessly over the health of our canine friend. Any behavior out of the ordinary and my father would rush to veterinarian.

As the dog aged, his concern grew and began to manifest in a persistent obsessive inspection of the animal’s droppings. Every time the creature would be let out to do it’s business my ever vigilant father would be right there behind it to ensure that texture, color, and consistency were constant with a healthy animal. If anything was off, the specimen was gathered, placed in

Tupperware, and stored in the refrigerator to be taken to the vet for later examination. There would be weeks on end where in between the “snack pak” pudding and last nights leftovers would be dated, color coordinated containers of dog scat.

Several years have past by and my dad’s eccentricities seem almost normal to me for some reason. He’s older now and losing him to the colon cancer that has plagued my family for generations is a real possibility these days. I find that more often than I would like, the occasional awkward conversation between my father and I often turns to his health, and unfortunately I am not spared his usual discussion of bowel movements and colonoscopies. I find that my concern for him grows with the years and I become less bothered with his strange infatuation with poop.

MEAT & GRAVY

Matthew Novak

My family usually eats a certain meal a certain day of the week. Last night, one of my old favorites popped up - Salisbury steak, gravy, noodles, and a side of carrots.

I like the carrots just fine, but my mom insists that the meat is good. The meat has ruined the once popular Tuesday night dish. She also surprised me by making it on a Sunday.

The meat, doused in thick gravy, used to be easy to cut but now it’s just disgusting. The meat particles are everywhere and I can’t get a straight cut. This ruins enjoyment. It makes the steak feel cheap and unreachable, even though it’s more expensive than the old meat.

I enjoy dipping the noodles in the super thick gravy. Sometimes the gravy is thin and this also upsets me. Carrots are always good. But by the time I push myself through almost finishing the meat, it’s cold, and I say to my mom and brother, “This meat is gross.” And my mom responds, “You’re crazy. Whatever.”

My taste buds for once-loved meats has diminished. I consider myself a picky eater, but the only things that I won’t eat are things that have eyes. I would grow immensely embarrassed if some animal or thing was watching me eat it, and this is why sex is so difficult for me.

Just a minor attraction



An all-ages crowd rocks out to the band Tera Melos during a show at Reggies Rock Club, 2109 S. State St., on April 22. Reggies is one of Chicago's newest homes to live concerts and musical events for music fans of all ages. See what we think of the all-ages music scene in Chicago on page 37.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

PREMIUM BLEND

Raise High the Roof Beam

WHILE HUNDREDS of people roamed the State Street sidewalks during the downtown Looptopia festival on May 2, local indie band Raise High the Roof Beam played inside Urban Outfitters, 20 S. State St. But after recognizing an opportunity to interact with passersby, band member Wes Tucker brought his acoustic guitar out to the sidewalk in front of the retail store to play a few songs. Not long after, more than 100 people had gathered on the sidewalk to hear the band play.

About five months into their tenure, Chicago quintet Raise High the Roof Beam have played at various Chicago venues and have written and composed about 12 songs together, which they will begin recording in June. Band members Thomas Fricilone, Tucker, Aly Barohn, Scott Westrick and Brian Jennings all play a variety of instruments, including keyboards, ukulele, guitar and banjo, producing their feel-good, indie-folk sound.

The Chronicle spoke with Tucker about how the band has evolved, their plans for the summer and an embarrassing moment during their performance at Looptopia.

Q The Chronicle: Raise High the Roof Beam was originally Fricilone's solo stage name. How did the rest of the band come together?

Wes Tucker: Thomas and I have a mutual friend that I went to high school with. Thomas asked if I wanted to play guitar in

the band, we went to an open mic together and we both played. Aly had known Thomas for a long time and always just sat with us while we played, so we were like, "Why are you just sitting with us?" So she started playing keyboards, and then Aly was in a class with our drummer. It kind of came together really slowly.

Q What made you want to get together?

Thomas and I were both really goofy and enjoyed being loopy while playing music. When Thomas first played me his songs they're really different from the way I play songs, but I think we all bring something different to the band, which is why we sound the way we do.

Q What are your plans for the summer?

We've been playing a ton of shows, but after the show on June 7 we're going to stop playing and head into the studio to start recording. The way we've been writing songs is we want the songs to represent all of us as a whole. Thomas has written a majority of the songs by himself, I've written three songs. But the ones we all really enjoy are the ones [where] someone comes with something written, then the rest of the band works together to finish it.

Q How was Looptopia?

It was really cool. The band who played

with us, Company of Thieves, were really cool. After they played there was a half-hour between us, and most of the people had cleared out. So we decided to go out into the street and play acoustically. By the time we finished there were probably about 100 people on the sidewalk.


There's a song where me and Thomas play at the front of the stage, and the stage was really small. After I started the song I turned around and tripped over the AV chord and unplugged it. It was really pretty funny.

Q What do crowds get out of your live shows?

We like to dance a lot. We really want the crowd to feel comfortable enough to get excited. I prefer to play smaller venues where we're more on the level with the crowd. It really helps the crowd connect with us and just brings it more to a personal level. It's more important that the crowd feels like they're part of it all.

Raise High the Roof Beam will play at Star Lounge, 2512 W. Chicago Ave., at 8 p.m. on May 17. Admission is free, but donations are accepted. For more information, visit MySpace.com/RaiseHightheRoofBeam.

—J. Gallart



(Left) Wes Tucker, Thomas Fricilone, Aly Barohn, Brian Jennings and Scott Westrick (not seen in photo) comprise local quintet Raise High the Roof Beam. All band members work together as a collaboration, with many of the band members playing several instruments during sets.

Courtesy RAISE HIGH THE ROOF BEAM

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Dirty air

5 Dress line

9 Periodical number

14 Adhesive strip

15 Drake or bull

16 Ermine in summer

17 Sumatran ape

19 Hotel posting

20 Lascivious looker

21 Lucci or Dey

23 Landlords

26 Visualize

27 Alt. spelling

30 Methods

32 Moby Dick, maybe?

34 Route from home to first

38 Brown shade

39 Stratford's river

40 Rad!

42 Sleeve cards

43 Pop in more film

45 Polyglot

47 Chalk remover

48 Lightly burn

49 Neighbor of Turk.

50 CD-_____

52 Swordsman, at times

57 Something to talk about

59 Asinine

60 Pay

63 Orkneys' neighbors

66 Houston pro

67 Scarlett's spread

68 Yeats or Keats

69 Go bad, as perishables

70 Part of a dance

71 Caesar and Vicious

DOWN

1 Seat at a bar

2 Bart Simpson's mom

3 October gems

4 Heredity units

5 Tex. campus

6 Chow down

7 Lamentor's cry

8 Program choices

9 Tel Aviv man

10 Comic Laurel

11 Drunkard

12 Abu Dhabi, Dubai et al.

13 UFO pilots

18 Dog's warning

22 Like summer rentals

24 Bit of precipitation

25 "Auld Lang ____"

27 Town near Florence

28 Bancroft and Baxter

29 Cook in an oven

31 Makes airtight

33 Actor Bridges

34 Uncovers

35 Cartoonist Tex

36 Battery type

37 Son of Seth

41 Draws

44 Type of spray

46 Object of a quest

51 Sprays

53 Ginger cookies

54 Capital on the Red River

55 Finished

56 Takes five

57 Hatcher or Garr

58 Chew the fat

60 Once existed

61 Small snake

62 Classic Pontiac letters

64 Afore

65 Barroom spigot

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5/12/08

HOROSCOPE

♈

Aries (March 21-April 19)

There are lots of great causes you could take on, which would be very noble. Don't attempt them all at once. Your family needs attention, too.

♉

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

At first, it may seem as if you're knocking your head against a brick wall. And then, just when you're almost exasperated, love finds a way. Satisfaction is achieved.

♊

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

You're doing very well, even if you haven't yet met your objective. You're making progress, so you actually can afford to rest and relax tonight. Set your worries aside for a while.

♋

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Luckily, you're pretty good at managing finances. And if you have to be patient, you can do it. The bad news is that you probably will have to prove that, now.

♌

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Don't be late for work, even if you've got a good reason. Reassure the people who depend on you. There's a tough job to be done, and your attention is required.

♍

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Self-discipline is a great habit to acquire, but it takes practice. Luckily, you have an opportunity to do that now. A job you've been avoiding won't get easier if you wait.

♎

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

From your vantage point, you can see clearly. Let the others argue while you watch and take notes. You'll find out who's more graceful under pressure, and that's important.

♏

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

You get to be the moderator between warring factions. Everybody feels passionately that their opinion is right. Listen and take notes and they'll settle down.

♐

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

You're probably still restless. It's hard to get away, but you can still watch what's going on. Meanwhile, there's a career opportunity coming up soon. Be prepared.

♑

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Figure out how much money you have so you can take a vacation. If you work weekends, perhaps you can take time off during the week. Tuesday and Wednesday are best.

♒

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

If you and your partner can decide what you need and what you don't, you can go shopping. Stick to your budget, but do allow each of you one special treat.

♓

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

The more you get into your project, the more you'll realize you could really use a helper. Luckily, you have one nearby. All you have to do is ask.

SUDOKU

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

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					5	1		9
4	3	1			9			8

COMIC RELIEF

More on TV!

THIS PRESIDENT HAD THE MOST SEX...

PRESIDENTIAL JEOPARDY!

THOMAS
Do Slaves Count?

BILL
DO INTERNS Count?

W
DO SHEEP Count?

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Commentary

Editorials

Game, set, match

New York Senator and presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton won the Indiana primary late on the night of May 6. But her margin was so slim (less than 2 percent, according to CNN) and Senator Barack Obama’s (D-Ill.) victory in North Carolina so dominating (14 percent) that the long-awaited death knell of the most resilient and damaging campaign in recent memory has finally been sounded.

That isn’t to say Clinton sees it that way. She gave her victory speech in Indiana before the results were conclusive and wrapped it up by telling the crowd it was “full-speed on to the White House,” according to CNN. While Clinton has been there before, May 6’s results show she may have finally lost her way. Now her problem will be admitting she’s lost.

After the disappointing showing in North Carolina and Indiana, several superdele-

gates are (and should be) trying to break the news to the campaign. George McGovern, a longtime Clinton supporter and one-time candidate himself, switched his allegiance to Obama on May 7 and told CNN he urged Clinton to drop out of the race. Undeterred, she campaigned in West Virginia the very same day.

In the coming weeks, many more super-delegates will begin announcing their candidate of choice, and the overwhelming majority of them will be going to Obama. His pledged delegate lead is already untouchable, but Clinton’s poor showings will soon erase the slim 30-delegate lead she holds among superdelegates.

The campaign will undoubtedly go on, but the primary election, as well as the fears of Obama supporters who worried that Clinton could somehow steal the nomination, has ended.

Letters to the Editor:

From the SGA:

It has been a distinct honor for me to serve as the Columbia College Student Government Association president for the past 23 months. I want to thank you all for your support.

Whether it was securing the expansion of the Health Center for next year, recommending changes to our current security apparatus, going to Springfield, Ill., to lobby lawmakers for student needs or providing rewards to students with academic achievements, the SGA did it for the good of our students. I hope that the work we put in to ensure suburban commuters can ride METRA for a discount pays off. I know the SGA will continue to work to lower students’ expenses, including fees and textbooks.

I leave office expecting to see a fair course fee policy unveiled next semester that is not used as an excuse or pretext for a precipitous increase in tuition.

I will also look to the college leadership to issue a mandate calling upon the appropriate staff to begin the long process of planning, evaluating and researching the impact of a student center on the entire college. The time is now to start planning. This requires the kind of vision the students of Columbia possess, and the vision we expect from those who lead us.

I am also proud of the things SGA did not

do. We never told people how they should feel about controversial issues or political matters. I’m pleased we did not pass an irresponsible version of a student bill of rights that represented the warped views of a handful of people, who are always looking for someone to fight and always see themselves as victims. Student rights should be advocated through thoughtful dialogue and meaningful conversation. Passing a poorly researched and accusatory document would’ve been counterproductive and a poor representation of our student body.

The next generation of students face many challenges including the economic slowdown, the overhaul of education loans and the overall increasing cost of education. The next SGA administration and Senate will have to stay vigilant on these issues and respond to student concerns while acting responsibly and diplomatically. We know the work of the students never ends and much more work is required.

All of you have meant a lot to me and I hope my work and the work of the entire SGA has made a positive difference in your life.

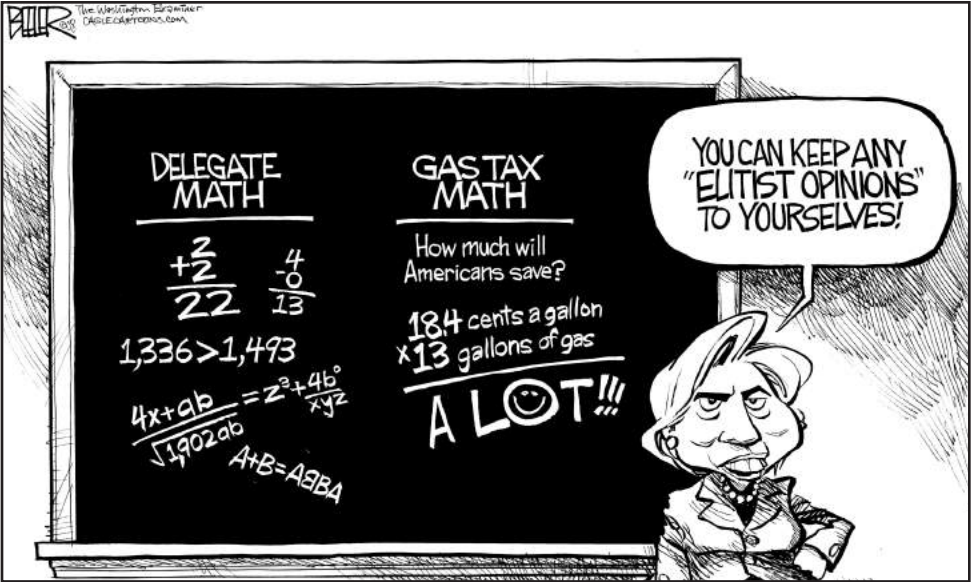
Brian Matos
SGA President
For the entire letter, visit Columbia-Chronicle.com.

Re: J.K. Rowling

I was thoroughly disappointed, not only as a Harry Potter fan, but as an artist, in your article about J.K. Rowling. I would have thought in a paper published by an art school the rights of the artist would be supported. Rowling has been incredibly generous with her work for the use of fans, which has contributed to the large and varied *Harry Potter* Fandom still in existence. Her opposition to The Lexicon is based on its use of her exact words for (literally, I’m not kidding) 90 percent of the proposed book, without even the

use of quotations or correct MLA citing. I would like to think that as college students you understand the definition of plagiarism, and that as artists you understand the value of retaining the rights to your work. I have much more to say on this topic, but to be honest, you could easily find any of this information if you only conducted more than a Google search to gather information before using such accusatory language.

Susan Aldous



MCT

Re: GOP commentary

I found a couple things intriguing in Cate White’s column about being a Republican at Columbia. The first being her attempt to disassociate George W. Bush from the Republican Party (“...he is not the bar against which all Republicans should be measured against.”) He most definitely is that bar. When the Republicans ran Bush in 2000 and 2004, he was their champion. He was the guy they wanted in the White House at all costs. They were even willing to disenfranchise voters to get him elected. There were no disclaimers at the convention that Bush was of a different political stripe than the rest of the party. When the fool invaded Iraq, the Republicans did not back off and say, “Bush is carrying out his own depraved agenda that we in no way endorse.”

The Republicans were behind Bush’s failed war plan, tax cuts, education plan, legacy of incompetence and cronyism and every other failed policy that has led to the nightmare of the last eight years. Republicans put Bush in the White House. They should take responsibility for that fact. If the Republicans had any sense of human decency, they wouldn’t even run a candidate in 2008. They would

regroup and examine what is the twisted flaw in their platform that has led to this miss.

Ms. White is even more disingenuous later in the column when she compares the Democratic Party with communism. (“Some Democratic beliefs seem almost communistic to me, in that left-wingers would have everyone share everything.”) When has communism ever been a tenet of the Democratic platform? What candidate is proposing to “share everything?” If you can not beat the policies they propose, invent new ones for them. This is a common Republican/News Corp. tactic. If you don’t like your opponent’s reality, replace it with a false accusation, and attack that. Reality: John Kerry was a war hero who saved the lives of the men in his company. Republican reality: John Kerry was a coward who shot teenage soldiers in the back.

Ms. White may feel out of place at Columbia, but she should feel right at home at Fox News.

Dale Chapman
Film/Video faculty

Re: GOP commentary

I applaud Cate White’s column (“Republicans of Columbia, unite!” May 5, 2008) in which she asked for greater civility in discourse between Columbia’s Republicans and Democrats. A pre-condition for respect and tolerance, however, is having a clear understanding of each party’s political philosophies rather than trying to paint them with broad strokes. It’s inaccurate to equate Democratic beliefs with communism or to reduce Bill Clinton, who pushed the Democratic party to the center and initiated eight years of unparalleled prosperity, to “a freak with cigars.”

Nor is it appropriate to depict George Bush as an aberration, when a Republican-led Congress and a Republican-dominated Supreme Court has allowed the party of Lin-

coln to implement virtually every nutball theory of social engineering it has harbored since the early days of Reagan. Deregulation of the airlines, the continued build-up of media monopolies, an unwillingness to enforce environmental product safety and food regulations and the unfunded mandates of No Child Left Behind are unlikely to disappear if McCain is elected.

As someone who is pro-choice, Cate herself is outside the Republican mainstream. I admire her courage in taking this stand and hope that she can be a persuasive force within her party on this issue.

Stephanie Goldberg
Adjunct Instructor
Journalism

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

Venues open doors to all ages crowd



by Jessica Galliard
A&E Editor

About two years ago, I went to a concert at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St., to see one of my favorite bands at the time. I was 18 years old, wore electric blue tights with a pair of Chuck Taylors and couldn't wait to dance and get sweaty with other underagers like myself.

I was so excited to actually see a band I loved at a great venue in the city without having to track down a fake ID just so I could be admitted into a show, since Chicago venues seemed to shun underage crowds at concerts.

The legendary Fireside Bowl gave up hosting all ages shows in 2004 since they brought in little revenue, and Bottom Lounge, well-known for its underage shows, closed in 2005 after losing its lease because of the CTA's Brown Line expansion. Minors like myself were left heartbroken with nowhere to go for live music at quality venues.

But in the past year or so, Chicago's music scene has taken notice of the lack of concert opportunities for underage crowds, and more venues are reaching out to 17- and 18-year-olds than ever before. And although procuring licenses and trying to make some sort of profit from underage shows without selling alcohol is a major task, the efforts by the city's best venues and recently-opened venues are paying off. Younger musicians have more opportunities to reach out to eager, younger fans, and Chicago's music

scene is flourishing as a result.

After the Fireside Bowl stopped hosting all ages shows and Bottom Lounge closed, other venues thankfully tried to pick up the slack. Brian Petersen, founder of MP Productions, which booked bands for shows at Fireside and Bottom Lounge before their demise, began finding other venues in the city to host all ages shows. Within a few years after Bottom Lounge's closing, other venues like Beat Kitchen, Subterranean, South Union Arts and Logan Square Auditorium were regularly hosting all ages and underage shows.

So when Reggies Rock Club, 2109 S. State St., opened in the South Loop earlier this year, and quickly became established for its balance of underage and 21 and older shows, it seemed like a comeback for younger music crowds was in full force. Bands have praised the venue, as they now have another place to tap into the market of younger fans armed with 20-dollar-bills their parents gave them to buy some band merch at a show, and fans love its welcoming, colorful atmosphere.

The club's owner, Robbie Glick, said he knew there was a huge demand for all ages venues in the city and was conscious of the major efforts he would have to put forth to ensure a safe environment for underage crowds mingling with 21-and-up fans. Glick has managed to still make revenue from underage shows, which are known to bring in little money since minors don't buy alcohol, from profits brought in by the record store and restaurant attached to the music venue.

The scene keeps growing, as Bottom



The Bottom Lounge, 1375 W. Lake St., hosts concerts and shows for patrons under the age of 21.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

Lounge plans to make its long-awaited return to a new venue at 1375 W. Lake St., this summer. Licensing issues have plagued the new building for quite some time—the venue had planned to open on April 25 but postponed it. Past Bottom Lounge enthusiasts couldn't be more excited about the venue's return, and I plan on spending quite a few nights at shows this summer before I turn 21 in August.

In a city like Chicago with a bustling music scene, it was disappointing to see hordes of young teenagers shut out of opportunities to discover new sounds that can shape our everyday lives. As teenagers

and 20-year-olds, we are constantly experiencing new things, and wild concerts from the bands we love the most are some of the best experiences we could have.

For many underage music fans, the experience of a concert is not about finagling a way to get their hands on some alcohol or get drunk at a show. We want the experience of enjoying the music we love and live our lives to, and now with the return of more all ages shows, we're finally going to get it.

Nice job, Chicago venues.

jgalliard@chroniclemail.com

Here's to everyone: a retrospective



by Matt Fagerholm
Assistant A&E Editor

Well, that's that. My ideal senior column would consist of those three simple words and nothing more. There's no way I could summarize the gut-wrenching, glorious, heart-breaking, triumphant, extraordinary two years I've had at The Chronicle in one column. My memories at the paper play like an irrevocably damaged DVD, skipping past large chunks while pausing on individual moments. Here are a few of them...

The newsroom initially was a scary place—blinding white lights, aisles lined with computer screens, the chatter of reporters mixed with the outdoor roar of the el. The room's chaos reflected my inner psyche, as I prepared to pitch the idea of my weekly film review column to a room of seasoned journalists. I was a film major with zero journalism experience. Yet once the editors saw that I was dedicated, passionate and ready to learn, they welcomed me with open arms. My career of film reviews at The Chronicle has begun and ended with Samuel L. Jackson, beginning with *Snakes on a Plane* in 2006, and ending this week with *Iron Man*.

I hadn't been hired for more than two seconds before I was flown to Los Angeles for a press junket concerning a new graphic novel adaptation named *300*. The bitter cold of windy city winter suddenly melted into palm trees, studio lots, megawatt movie stars and an immaculate hotel room at the

Beverly Hilton that would've even made Donald Trump blush. The studio apparently thought that such extravagant treatment would automatically generate good press out of starry-eyed college kids. Yet when the publicist asked me for my reaction to the film, I offered her nothing but the truth—it sucked. I left L.A. with my integrity intact.

Getting to watch the new releases at the Lake Street screening room with my hero Roger Ebert was one of the greatest joys of my life. His finger would tap me on the shoulder each time he entered the room, and we would casually chat about the latest films, with the help of Ebert's handy notepad. I'll never forget his reaction to *Juno*. I could almost hear the ghost of a laugh as

Ebert watched the film, his eyes beaming. Later, when I was defending the film to a fellow college critic, Ebert backed me up with a proudly upright thumb.

In the next scene I find myself falling hopelessly in love with two women sitting about a foot in front of me, giving me an interview. Diablo Cody and Ellen Page looked like they had known each other all their lives. I said they might as well be twins. "No way—I've got 50 pounds on this girl!" Cody declared. They played off each other with a comic timing that sent me nearly falling on the floor with laughter. I could see in their faces the excitement of artists who had finally found a project that was near and dear to their hearts.



Matt Fagerholm THE CHRONICLE

As I got up to leave, Cody suggested on the spur of the moment that we take pictures. All I had was a phone. I suddenly found myself sandwiched between Page and Cody, with a publicist framing us in my phone. Right before he took the picture, Cody seductively rested her head on my shoulder, causing Page to burst out laughing. I currently have the sexiest cell phone wallpaper in the world.

I treasure each and every artist I had the honor to speak with while I was at The Chronicle. Since there was no way I could possibly participate in every interview opportunity—sorry Paris Hilton—I decided to pick people who I personally found to be particularly fascinating and gifted individuals. Thank you Will Smith, Nick Cassavetes, Susanne Bier, Todd Haynes, Errol Morris, Kimberly Pierce, Chris Cooper, Marjane Satrapi, Jesse Eisenberg, Jim Sturgess, Jerry Seinfeld, Tony Gilroy, Alison Eastwood, Josh Brolin, Crispin Glover, Martin McDonagh, Michael Stahl-David, Stefan Ruzowitzky, Karl Markovicks, Mary Lynn Rajsakub, Ira Sachs, Jaromir Sofr, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Ryan Phillippe, John Cho, Kal Penn, Gerard Butler, Mark and Michael Polish, David Belton, Rodrigo Santoro, Zack Snyder, Herb Kent, Julian McMahon, Thomas McCarthy and Denzel Washington.

Thank you to the staff of this paper. You have truly become my family over the last several months. And thank you to all my readers, for stopping by to share in the exhilarating fun of the moviegoing experience. I'll see you around the screening room.

mfagerholm@chroniclemail.com

Like a piece of vomit from my soul, like a Rolling Stone



by Rachael Strecher
Photo Editor

I’ve always wanted a column. In my cocky naive-te, I felt that my own musings about things like street corner preachers and the idea of reclaiming the Hitler moustache as an acceptable style of facial hair as a way of removing it’s stigma deserved to be shared with the masses who read The Chronicle.

However, I’m not a word person, and my opinions oftentimes should not be shared with everyone. (Sometimes, not be shared with anyone.) To those who have listened to all my rants, tangents and moans: Thanks. This includes, but is not limited to, all of my teachers, those in my classes, people I work with, friends, roommates and occasionally random strangers I sit next to on the el.

Once I graduate I’m moving away from this town. For pretty much the entire year, all I could think about or talk about was how much I didn’t want to be at Columbia and in Chicago, and by proxy, how ready I was to leave. But as the day gets closer, I’m finally beginning to think about all the things and, mostly, people who I will miss.

Actually, I’m not just thinking. I’m freaking out about it. All the time. In the middle of my speech class on May 5 while delivering a speech I felt my pulse quicken and hands start to shake. Not because I hate speaking in public (which I do) but because I realized I may never come close to being blown over by a gust of winter lakefront wind again. Surely not a pleasant experience, but a Chicago one nonetheless. These realizations hit me at the most inopportune times and progressively

shorter time periods. Of course there are wonderful things about Chicago that I’ll miss, (Intelligentsia and my friends), but as pre-nostalgia and nostalgia goes, I’m already missing the crappy things.

This morning as I was squished in with hundreds of other harried people on the Blue Line, I thought about how I’d miss that—the humanity, as they say. Then a 300-pound man stepped on my foot and I scowled at him. Still, I thought about the future, when I would wistfully be remembering this moment when I remembered my “good old Chicago college days.”

I will miss the crazies. Because even though there are strange people everywhere, there is a wonderful microcosm in Chicago. Not just the crazies who love the Cubs (I feel all right with turning half the population of Chicago against me because, obviously, I am leaving this town) but the crazies like Frank, who I met on the Brown Line wearing a W.C. Fields nose because he was “in disguise,” or like my wonderful roommate Tucker who spends at least 20 minutes inspecting packages of bacon before deciding which one to buy. Midwestern crazies, I guess.

If we want to go into cliches (which truly is what this column is about), the Midwestern crazies differentiate themselves from the neurotic New York crazies or the vegan California crazies in their absolute obsession with things like cheese and “the weather.”

And as much as I’ve complained about the life of a non-artist in an art school, I think I’ve gained some fantastic perspective by taking that role. I love artists. All of you. I will absolutely complain about you and your self-importance, but I also love that.

Another column I’ve always wanted to write was about how everyone, whether overtly or not, is completely self-involved.



Singer/songwriter Bob Dylan.

MCT

The wonderful thing about artists is they feel no need to hide this fact. Whereas I feel the need to hide it, and to claim I am only interested in others, people who do art can be open about their narcissism.

I know this sounds like a veiled insult, but it’s not. I honestly believe that every single human being on this earth is absolutely obsessed with themselves—especially the ones who claim they aren’t. Artists have freed themselves of the burden of this lie.

While I realize it would be the right thing to do, I am not going to thank people individually, because I am positive I would leave

some incredibly important person out. Except for Nicole Garneau. I’m thanking you here because I’ll be turning in my paper for May 7 late because I agreed to write this column.

Anyway, there are certain people in this school and this town who have shaped who I am, or taught me something, or at least put up with my presence and for that I am unbelievably grateful. You should know who you are.

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Road to graduation has many detours



by Kimi Badger
Senior Graphic Designer

When I first started college I thought, “This won’t be so hard.” I signed up for classes at a typical state school and began to map out the next four years in my head.

I would follow the recommended class schedule and get my degree—cut

and dry, no problem.

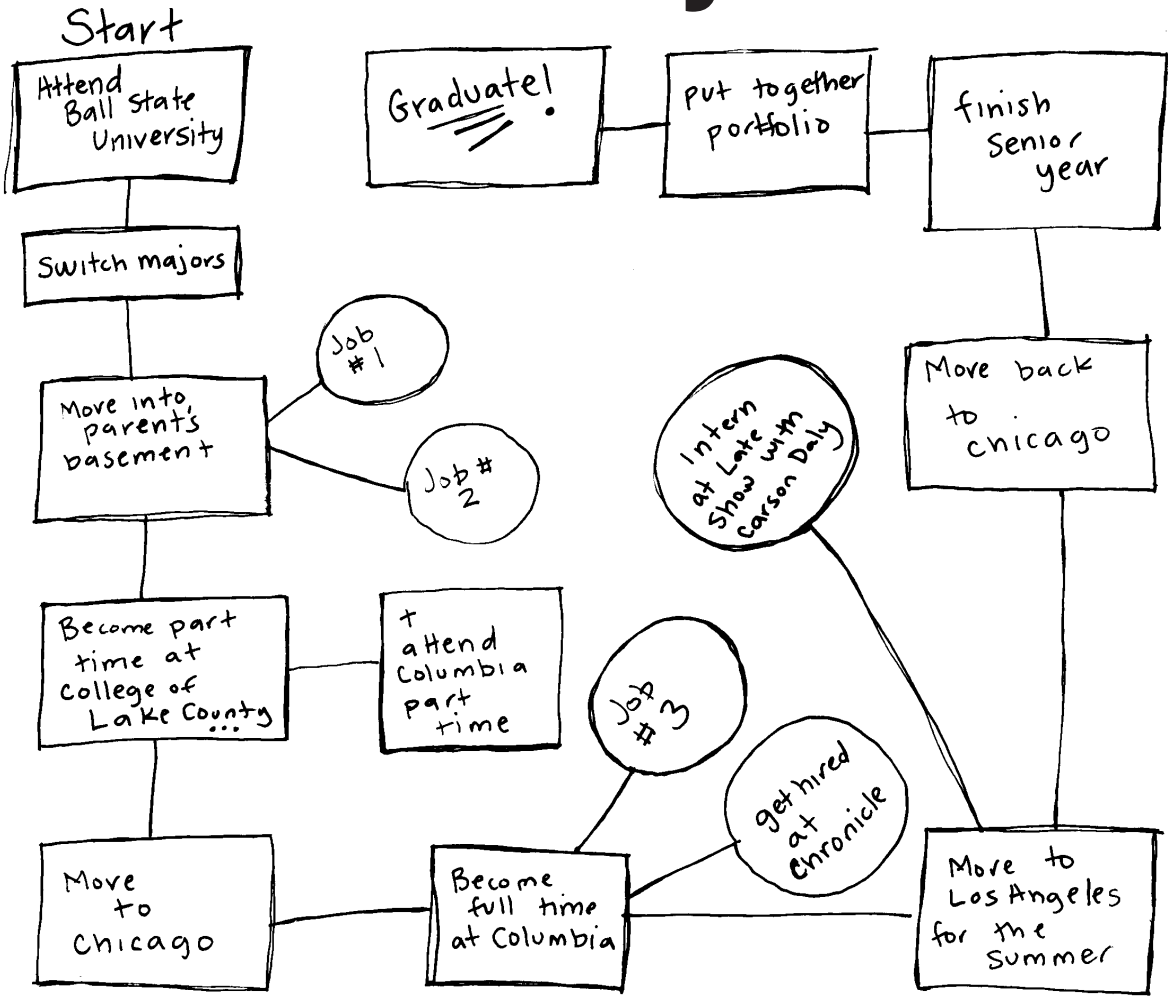
But when I realized how much I hated my school choice, I made a conscious decision that I needed to do something bigger with my life.

I wanted to make it through college and enjoy everything about it.

My path through academia is almost laughable now that I look back on it. I am proud of myself for sticking with it even after attending my third college. I somehow managed to make it through college in four years even after the third college transfer.

I came to Columbia as a bright-eyed, graphically ignorant junior and am leaving with a new pair of eyes and skills. Now what?

I have no idea, but I made it this far, so it’s only uphill from here.



Kimi Badger THE CHRONICLE

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One last time on the soapbox



by **Tim Hunt**
Photo Editor

If you would have asked me years ago if I'd ever be graduating from college, I would have said no. My entire previous experience with school was nothing short of miserable. Now I'm steadily approaching the day when I receive my diploma. But unlike all the films I've seen and stories I've heard, I feel a little peculiar. I feel no sense of pride, no overwhelming joy, not even a sense of accomplishment. Instead, I'm just merely relieved that it's finally over.

I'll be the first to admit that the constant drudgery and stresses of college have made me jaded. Almost spiteful, but what can I say, I'm petty (and as Rachael puts it: a "poop-hole".) But considering that half of Columbia (and probably the country as well) is calling for my blood due to my "Top 5" two weeks ago (April 28), I figure I might as well take up this space for something a little less inflammatory.

This is by no means an apology or a retraction of my previous statements in my "Top 5." However, I do wish to add people with no sense of humor to the list of things I won't miss.

I have to admit that it hasn't been all bad. I've learned a lot here and as one man would put it, I polished my wings so that I can "Keep in flight."

I've learned how to photograph, how to write and sometimes learned about life.



Tim Hunt with photojournalism professor John H. White on May 5.

Andrew A. Nelles THE CHRONICLE

I've learned from legends and masters, colleagues and classmates. Even a little bit from the smelly neo-hippie art kids.

Even being trapped at The Chronicle for 60 hours a week has made my experience a little more colorful. From arguing the logistics of bestiality, conversations about poop or discussing mutual admiration of Vladimir Putin, it has all made time pass just a little faster.

So, in a stereotypical graduation adieu, I say thanks. To Cynthium, Tom, Mort and Sam. To Pop-po (aka Juan Blanco) and Chuck (don't sit in his chair). To the two Jews. To the graphic designer that made me Pope. To Chris, Chrissy, Mick and Billy. To all the people I upset and those I have yet to upset (it'll happen, don't worry). To all the people I'm probably leaving out because this column was due two hours ago.

So with the smelly art kids surrounding my office like the villagers in *Frankenstein*, and myself staring down the uncertain future, I say farewell.

P.S. Film, dance, radio and theater majors: Just pretend I said something offensive to you and send me hate mail. Everyone else is, and I wouldn't want you to feel left out.

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Dedication, hard work pay dividends



by **Becky Schlikerman**
Associate Editor

After years of following the scholastic cycle—classes for a few months, spring break, summer vacation and back to school shopping—it's finally ending. At least for some time anyway.

Although I've been out of school before, this is a big step. I took a few years off from school in 2003 and moved to Chicago from Miami. I worked a menial customer service job for a couple of years and then decided to go back to school.

I chose Columbia and my erratic decision-making was congruent with Columbia's erratic admissions policy because I was accepted even though I missed the application deadline.

Soon enough, I was roaming Columbia's orange, aqua and periwinkle hallways with awe.

I knew it was important to be focused on school and work hard. I didn't want to get stuck working in customer service forever. I'd had enough of pandering to upset customers.

I'd been out of school for almost three years and it felt like I was finally getting my life back together. After all, it had been drilled into me that education made success and happiness easier to attain.

Now, after a couple of years at Columbia,

I'm finally done.

The novelty of being back in school has worn off and I'm exhausted. I'm also ready to start a professional life. I've outgrown this place and I'm ready to be an underling at a news organization.

Yet despite my yearning to leave, I'm also scared. Being out of school now is a huge deal. No longer will I be satisfied with any job that pays \$10 an hour. Instead I'll only be satisfied with a career that pays about that (journalism isn't the highest paying field). At least I know I will be fulfilled.

When I started at Columbia, I knew I

wanted to be a journalist because I wanted to tell stories about people whose voices are rarely heard. My passion for journalism was not only reinforced but it was fueled by my time at Columbia.

I've been fortunate to study under some of the most inspiring and talented journalists in Chicago, an experience I owe to Columbia. I doubt that my time at a huge state school would have put me in the same room with editors and reporters from major news outlets, including a Pulitzer Prize winner and an investigative reporter who took down City Hall.

Although this is a school that offers amazing possibilities, the only way to take full advantage of the experienced pool of instructors is to work hard—just like at any other school. Some of that hard work has included working here, at The Chronicle, an experience that is also invaluable.

Putting in a full workload, plus classes and somewhat of a social life has been draining, depressing and chaotic, but it's been worth it.

The friendships I've forged and the experience I've gained have no doubt prepared me for a job in a professional newsroom.

I'm thankful to my co-workers and advisers for all of the fun, stress and pride that have resulted from the hard work. It wasn't always easy, but that's really what Columbia has been about.

Here, I've learned that anything I want is possible as long as I work hard for it.

My friends, family and boyfriend have also been supportive of my endeavors and proud of what I've accomplished. Without their help, understanding and motivation, I wouldn't have worked as hard.

Soon, I won't walk through Columbia's brightly painted hallways and although I've been looking forward to that day, I'm still scared.

Nevertheless, I'm positive that hard work and support has prepared me to leave school and enter the "real world."

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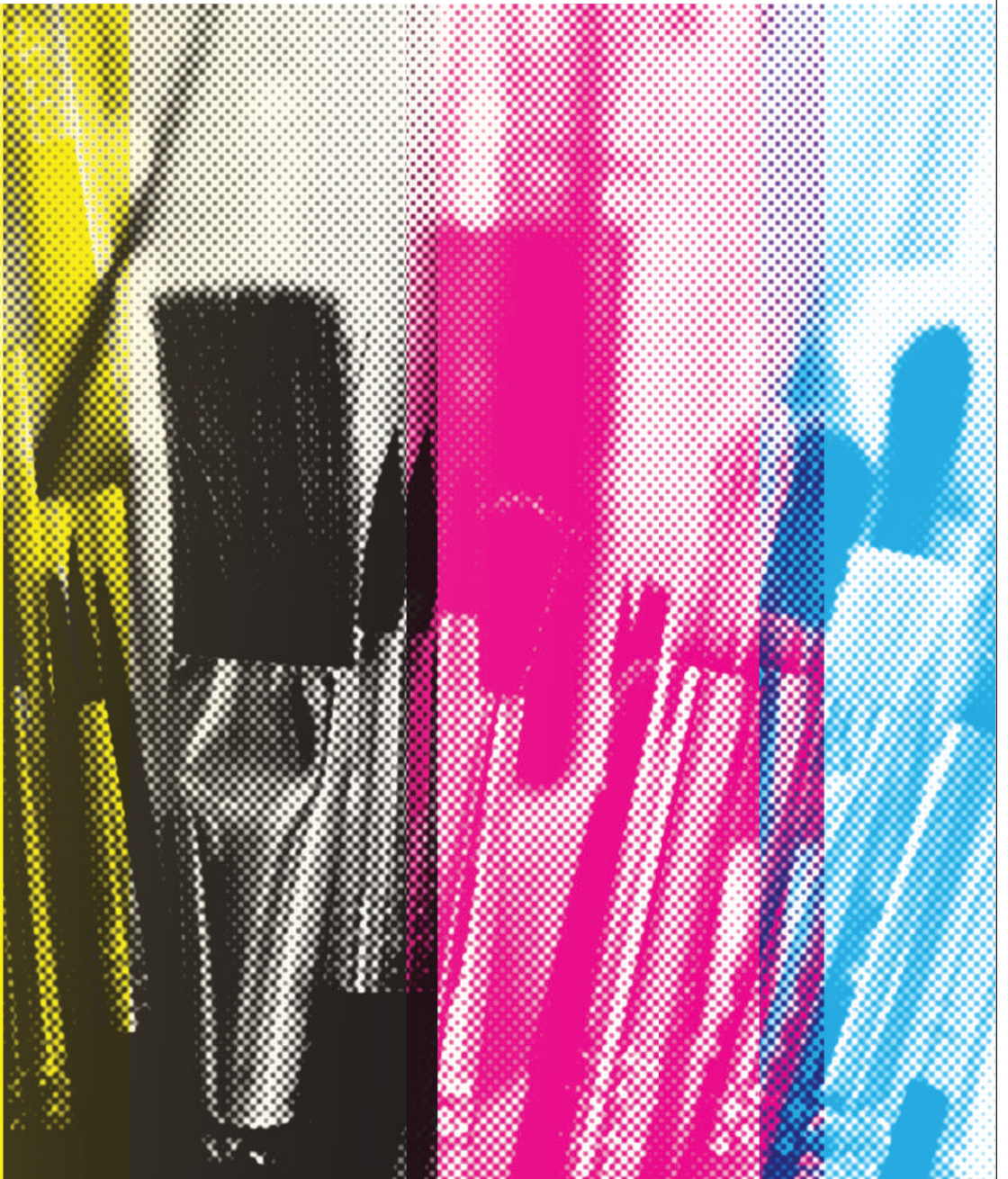


(Left) Steve Yaccino, Colin Shively, Tim Hunt, Becky Schlikerman and Rachael Strecher work in The Chronicle's office.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

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City Beat



Crosstown baseball scorecard

Cubbie inconsistency

by Derek Kucynda, Assistant A&E Editor

AFTER SECURING a spot in the playoffs last season, it seemed the Cubs were poised for major league greatness. However, the Cubs suffered a disappointing loss to the Arizona Diamondbacks during their last playoff game. This year is different for the Chicago Cubs for a variety of reasons. For starters, 2008 is exactly a century after the Cubs won their last World Series title. Ex-Cubs pitcher Mark Prior is gone and a variety of fresh faces are now on the roster. New outfielder Kosuke Fukudome started the season with a bang, bringing excellent defense, speed and a lofty batting average, which was .320 on May 9, to the plate. Fukudome is credited with bringing patience to the club. With a record of 19 wins and 15 losses in the Major Leagues this year, the Cubs trail 2 ½ games behind the first place St. Louis Cardinals, as of May 8. The problem the Cubs have is consistency, which has always been an issue for the team. Pitcher Rich Hill struggled during his brief stint with the ML club in 2005, losing the two Major League games he pitched for, but he won more games in the Triple-A minor league. But things turned around in 2007 and Hill went on to win 11 games. This season alone, Hill has walked 18 in the five starts that he had to date, showing that he needs to find the strike zone.

Cubs Manager Lou Piniella isn't worried about Hill, saying "He will go down to Iowa and get a few starts, and I think you will see him back here pitching well for us." Piniella is short with his pitchers. He knows how to switch up his roster and needs to identify problematic areas with what the Cubs are doing offensively and defensively. Hill's confidence might be waning, but infielder Ronny Cedeno's confidence must be at an all-time high. Cedeno's batting average is .345 as of May 9. Though Cedeno's motivation was pure, he got a bit ahead of himself at the end of April, proclaiming the Cubs were "thinking about the World Series." I am giving the Cubs an overall grade of B for this season thus far, because their defense is keeping its consistency with veteran players like Derrek Lee and Aramis Ramirez playing well at first and third base, while having Fukudome and Alfonso Soriano defending the outfield for a well-rounded defense. Even rookie catcher Geovany Soto has showcased a level of offense and defense rarely seen from any Major League catcher, let alone a rookie player. Overall, the Cubs have a good chance of making it to the playoffs, as long as their players stay patient and pitch well.

Cubs progress report: B

Sox to be 'em

by Miles Maftean, Assistant Campus News Editor

SINCE THE Major League Baseball's opening series in Toyko on March 25, viewers have seen some very exciting game play through both the National and American Leagues. In Chicago, baseball lovers are divided between rooting for the White Sox or the Cubs. Both teams show signs of smart baseball playing and continue to stand in the top two spots of their divisions. As of May 9, the White Sox ranked in second place in the American League Central with a record of 16-17, one game behind the first-place Minnesota Twins. In the American League Central, the Detroit Tigers are in last place, only 3 ½ games from first place. This shows the difficult league the White Sox are in. The race for the central division has been rough for the White Sox in the past couple of weeks. The White Sox were on a five-game losing streak on their last stretch of away games. The White Sox have seen some horrible numbers on the road, with a record of 7-10, the most away game losses in the American League Central. Not only have the White Sox seen bad numbers on the road, but most of their top hitters have been in slumps since the beginning of the season. Joe Crede, Paul Konerko and Jim Thome all have a batting average of under .250. The batter with the highest batting average is A.J. Pierzynski with .299.

The streak-hitting of Pierzynski has seemed to have rubbed off on some of the teammates, according to Ozzie Guillen, the manager of the White Sox in an article in the Chicago Sun-Times. The recent addition of Carlos Quentin to the White Sox roster has added some significant numbers to the ball club. Quentin leads the White Sox with eight home runs and 25 runs batted in. Although the White Sox have seen worse numbers in their offense, the talk of the White Sox has been based primarily on their pitching. Starting pitcher Gavin Floyd leads the White Sox in the lowest earned run average and most wins and least amount of losses. Floyd has also come close to getting two no-hitters. Most recently on May 6, Floyd went 8.1 innings without giving up a hit. However, the most surprising statistic is Mark Buehrle's record of 1-4. He also has the highest ERA in the starting rotation. The White Sox need to improve on their overall offense and start earning more runs. Their defense has been solid, but Buehrle and Jose Contreras need to start producing better results. I give the White Sox an overall grade of C for this season so far, but their season is not over. The White Sox have the rest of their season to prove they will be the 2008 World Series Champions.

Sox progress report: C

A new view for Wabash Avenue



Construction crews will work until November on beautifying Wabash Avenue from Wacker Drive on the north to Harrison Street on the south.

Construction to beautify downtown street by end of 2008

by Brett Marlow
City Beat Editor

THE CURRENT scene on Wabash Avenue in the Loop is a bit cluttered. Green mesh lines chain link fences and sandbags lay on hammered, uneven concrete surfaces and on fence ties. Concrete barriers line the sidewalks and close off southbound traffic lanes. Construction workers sit with their lunch pails and white hard hats. Wooden boards lie on top of holes and lead into temporary entrance ways to businesses and schools. The noise of jackhammers and equipment sound loudly. But that will all change by the end of this year.

The city has entered into its second phase of an improvement and beautification project to enhance the Wabash Avenue corridor from Wacker Drive on the north to Harrison Street on the south. Construction is expected to be completed in November, said Brian Steele, spokesperson for the Chicago Department of Transportation. Construction began on the project in July on the west side of the street and has recently moved to the east side of the street. The beautification project, which costs \$23 million from city funds, is focused on installing new lighting for pedestrians and motorists, sidewalk planters, lighting on the elevated tracks and making the avenue cohesive with the rest of downtown. The city is doing this by painting the el tracks to match the hue of the bridges that extend

Special Olympics comes long way

More than 2,700 athletes participate in Chicago's spring Special Olympics games

by Bethany Reinhart
Assistant City Beat Editor

THIS YEAR marks the 40th anniversary of an international event that began in Chicago: the Special Olympics.

Opening ceremonies for Chicago's Special Olympics track and field events were held at Soldier Field on May 6. Athletes had the opportunity to compete in events such as the 100-meter wheelchair relay or the running long jump at the three day event.

"Athletes participate in anything from wheelchair events to shot put," said Dan Conley, manager of Program Operations.

Spring track and field events are followed by bowling events and the kick-off of the summer Special Olympics.

The ceremonies featured many festivities, including the Parade of Athletes, which showcased athletes from 100 agencies around the city of Chicago, Conley said.

The theme of this year's Special Olympics is "Dream it. Dare it. Do it." The theme represents all the things that athletes have been able to achieve through Special Olympics and the skills they can use outside the games, Conley said.

Conley said more than 2,700 athletes participated in the track and field events this year. Alongside athletes, more than 900 coaches and chaperones and 500 volunteers joined together each day to make the games possible, he said.

The competitions included running



(Right) Gentry Bailey from Ray Graham Training Center, participates in a 100-meter mobilization race during the Special Olympics event on May 9.

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events, relay races, softball throw, high jump and others. This is a vast difference from the first Special Olympics, held on at Soldier Field on July 20, 1968, said Michele Hensen, director of Communication and Publication for Special Olympics Illinois.

"At the first games, there were only two sports, track and field and aquatics," said Hensen. "Now in Illinois we offer 19 sports and the Special Olympics Inc. offers 23 sanc-

tioned sports."

Due in part to the fact that Soldier Field was home to the world's first ever Special Olympics, Chicago is hugely invested in the games, she said.

Hensen said 40 years ago, the public didn't think individuals with developmental disabilities could participate in sports.

But two influential women told the world otherwise. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, member

of one the most prominent U.S. political families and Anne Burke, who went on to become an Illinois Supreme Court Justice, came together to form the Special Olympics, Hensen said.

"Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Anne Burke worked together with others to organize those games and to change

» SEE OLYMPICS, PG. 44

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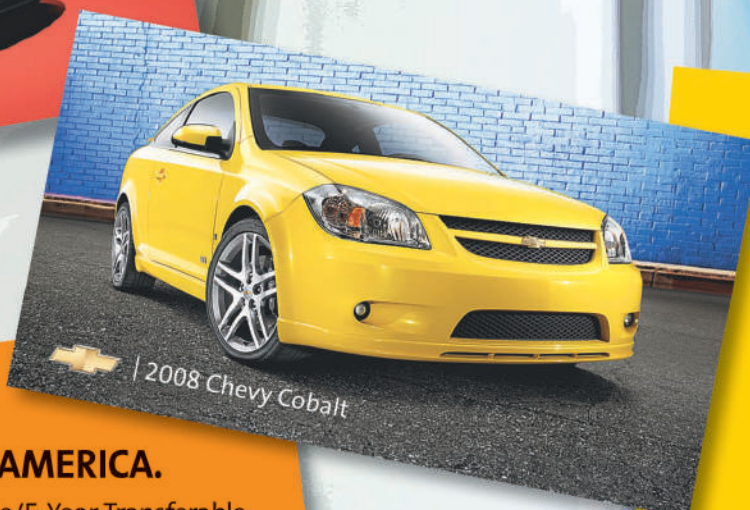
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Bottled water tax collects more than \$1 million

Money goes into city’s general funds; alderman hopes to specify it to water system

by Becky Schlikerman
Associate Editor

The city’s newly implemented bottled water tax has collected \$1.5 million in revenue from January until the end of April, said Department of Revenue spokesman Ed Walsh.

The money collected from the tax goes into the city’s general funds that provide city services, such as trash collection, Walsh said.

The goal is to earn \$10 million a year or \$500,000 a month from the tax, said Alderman George Cardenas (12th Ward), who proposed the tax.

He said the current revenue collected is “roughly where it should be.”

But Walsh said it isn’t known yet whether the city is going to meet its yearly goal because water consumption goes up when the temperature rises. So far the tax has only been collected during the colder months.

“We will have a better snapshot when the summer is over,” Walsh said.

Cardenas said the numbers may not be completely accurate because some stores may not be reporting their revenue accurately or computing the tax properly in the first few months of implementation.

In order to assure the tax is collected, the city conducts audits on businesses to make sure they are enforcing the tax, Cardenas said. Those businesses may get fined if they



From January to April, the 5-cent tax on bottled water has collected \$1.5 million, according to Ed Walsh, Department of Revenue spokesman.

Jody Warner THE CHRONICLE

are not in compliance, he said.

“It’s a matter of all these stores coming into line with what the law says,” Cardenas said.

Although the tax now isn’t allocated to a specific department or function, Cardenas said he hopes that it is one day used specifically for Chicago’s water systems.

“The tax itself has a purpose, and part of the purpose is that we need to invest more in our purifying systems. We have to find a way to pay for that and for recycling,” Cardenas said.

He said he would like to see how much money will be collected this summer before proposing the money be allocated specifi-

cally to the water systems.

“There is no doubt the revenue has to be linked to our water [systems],” Cardenas said. “We can’t take money from [bottled water] and not reinvest it [in the water systems].”

However, some groups that have been opposed are challenging the tax in court, claiming it’s unlawful.

The American Beverage Association, the International Bottled Water Association, the Illinois Retail Merchants Association and the Illinois Food Retailers Association have filed a lawsuit against the city of Chicago challenging the law because it allegedly violates some state laws including

the “Home Rule Retail Sales Tax Act.” The plaintiffs claim it states a food item that is consumed off the premises from where it was purchased cannot be taxed, according to court documents.

These groups are also alleging that this tax is illegal because it violates state uniformity tax laws because they are not taxing other bottled drinks that are made primarily of water, like juice, said Joe Doss, president of the International Bottled Water Association.

Chicago Department of Law Spokeswoman Jennifer Hoyle said, “We’re confident that the tax is legal in Illinois.”

Right now the case is in discovery, the pre-trial phase in which the parties collect documents from each other and are still pending, Hoyle said.

“Any actions that discourage consumers from drinking bottled water is not in the public interest,” Doss said.

Doss said it also places an unfair burden on those who can least afford it, such as the elderly and people with fixed incomes.

Doss said he also questions where the revenue is going.

“While they claim this was a tax for environmental protection issues, none of that money is earmarked for that purpose,” Doss said.

He said the \$1.5 million already collected seems low compared to their yearly goal of \$10 million, and this may mean consumers may be purchasing water outside the city or turning away from bottled water.

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(Top) A view of the east side of Wabash Avenue as construction continues. (Bottom) A construction crew member works on the vaulted sidewalk outside Columbia's 33 E. Congress Parkway Building on May 7. Construction has just begun on the west side of the street. The majority of the work is expected to be done by November.

Dan Thompson THE CHRONICLE

» WABASH:

Continued from PG. 39

Despite noise, clutter, college makes do with construction disruption

over the Chicago River, Steele said.

"The vision behind the project is to establish a strong identity for the corridor, to improve the lighting, to improve the experience for both pedestrians and motorists and to tie it all together with a series of infrastructural improvements," Steele said.

Wells Street to the west of Wabash Avenue saw similar improvements not long ago.

Steele said another aspect of the work that is highly involved is doing sidewalk and vaulted sidewalk repairs.

"In a lot of downtown and in a lot of the neighborhoods throughout the city, we have what we call 'vaulted sidewalks,'" Steele said. "Underneath the sidewalks is an open space, an open vault. They date back to the turn of the century when the city was raised up a level. Not all of it is empty space, but some of it is."

Crews are working on filling empty vaulted sidewalks with concrete to give them more structural support and reduce the number of future repairs, Steele said.

One of the areas where construction crews are currently working is on the corner of Congress Parkway and Wabash Avenue, where Columbia's 33 E. Congress Parkway Building is located. One of the vaulted sidewalks the crews are working on is located on top of the Audio Arts & Acoustics Department located in the lower level of the building.

Benj Kanters, the acting chair of the Audio Arts & Acoustic Department, said although there's been some water leakage and concerns about noise, the city and the college have coordinated, discussed and have tried to minimize any imposition from the construction. Kanters said these things are all just part of the construction process and are to be expected.

The department has to relocate its live sound reinforcement class to the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave.

"They will be there until the work is done, right before the summer semester, and we will have them moved back in before the beginning of classes the last week of this month," Kanters said.

The Audio Arts & Acoustics Department plans to go in and clean the dust and debris once the sidewalk is sealed.

Aside from the work further toward Harrison Street, minor problems have come from the construction.

Mark Lloyd, associate vice president of Marketing and Communications and chief marketing officer at Columbia, said there have been accessibility issues at the 218 S. Wabash Building, but those issues should be resolved once construction ends shortly. Lloyd said visitors and guests have had trouble finding the entrance.

The city's only run-in has been the weather, Steele said. The winter conditions carried over into late March.

Steele said although the construction is expected to wrap in November, supplementary items like planting and electrical work will spill over after the majority of the work is complete.

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» **OLYMPICS:**
Continued from PG. 40

Special Olympics offers skill development programs

[the mindset] that [disabled people couldn't play sports]," she said.

After Chicago founded the now-international event, more than 17 offices were founded throughout Illinois in order to broaden the range of athletes from the state, said Kathy McLaughlin, manager of Development for Special Olympics Illinois.

Once only hosting 1,000 athletes from 26 states and Canada, the Chicago Special Olympics event has grown to more than 21,000 children and adults who either participate or volunteer, she said.

Now that the program has gone beyond the borders of the United States, 25 other countries have developed their own form of the Special Olympics, raising the total number of athletes to more than 2.5 million, McLaughlin said.

The criteria to become an athlete are not complicated, McLaughlin said. Athletes must be at least 8 years old and have a diagnosed intellectual disability. The most common of the disabilities found in the Special Olympics are autism and Down syndrome. Even with those disabilities, however, the athletic skills of the children should not be underestimated.

"These athletes are leading the program," Henson said. "They are branching out in so many ways. It is great to see them grow and to be accepted by society."

The Chicago community, which once mocked the Special Olympics, is now greatly involved with the development



The Special Olympics torch at Soldier Field, 1410 S. Museum Campus Drive, stands above the 100-meter mobilization track at the Chicago Special Olympics on May 8.

Tim Hunt THE CHRONICLE

and deployment of the games, Hensen said. For the past 23 years, the Special Olympics Torch Run has been raising money for the program through the involvement of all forms of law enforcement agencies. Raising more than \$2 million in donations last year, the Torch Run has become an integral part of the ceremony, Hensen said.

The Special Olympic Torch Run for Illinois was started by a law enforcement officer from Kansas who thought it would be a great idea to raise money for the Special Olympics, Henson said. From then on, the Torch Run has become a form of a charity.

One bone-chilling fundraiser that benefits the Special Olympics is the Chicago Polar Plunge, a dive into Lake Michigan in the middle of winter.

Although most people have heard about the annual Polar Plunge, many people have

no idea that the dive into frigid waters actually benefits the Special Olympics, Conley said.

Chicago Polar Plunge participants must collect at least \$75 in donations in order to participate, Conley said. All proceeds from the Polar Plunge go to the Special Olympics of Illinois.

Forty years and passionate commitment has helped the Special Olympics evolve into what it is today, McLaughlin said. However, many people still don't know about the variety of things the Special Olympics offer, she said.

Apart from the track and field and aquatic competitions, the Special Olympics offer numerous other programs for a wide range of abilities, Henson said. The program recently began a motor-activity training program that is geared toward individu-

als with severe and profound disabilities, Henson said. Whereas the program is not a competition against another athlete, the program is more of a skill development that also offers the chance for those athletes to compete with non-Special Olympic athletes.

"A lot of the public is asking when exactly the Special Olympics are going on, but we go all year long," she said.

"The Special Olympics through these 40 years has given people with disabilities a venue to show the public what they can do," Henson said. "It is not about what they can't do, but rather, what they can do."

For more information about the Special Olympics of Illinois, visit SOIll.org.

Colin Shively contributed to this report.

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The Museum of Science and Industry, 5700 S. Lake Shore Drive, opened its new green home exhibit titled 'Smart Home: Green + Wired' on May 8.

The new exhibit features a three-story sustainable house (upper right) on the east yard of the museum's premises. Patrons of the museum will have the opportunity to tour the 2,500-square-foot Smart Home and learn about the innovative and environmentally-friendly technologies that were used in the home and are being used in eco-design today.

Those practices include utilizing natural lighting, energy-efficient heating and storm water collection barrels (lower right). The house also features a green roof and solar panels.

According to a press release from the museum, patrons will be able to view all of these characteristics of the home, and also learn how one can implement some of these practices in their home in an effort to preserve the environment and lower a household's carbon footprint. The exhibit runs until January 2009.

—Photos by Tim Hunt, story by Brett Marlow



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Scoop in the Loop

by Brett Marlow
City Beat Editor

Bye, bye blues—hello happy times

While sitting on the curb of Milwaukee Avenue last weekend waiting for a table at a popular brunch spot, I was reminded how summer has been my favorite time of year in the city. And, if the forecast is right, the season has just begun.

The winter is when I’m engrossed in books, fixated on a computer screen and in a fixed mindset: school, work, school, work, school, work and “Oh my God, it’s cold.” But, summer is the time to wind down and enjoy the city without more than three layers fastened on and tucked in.

And the place to do it is in the South Loop. The smells alone of hot concrete, the humidity and the whiff of the train blowing up through the sidewalk grates are enough to get me. But if that’s not enough, here are a few things to take part in this summer in the “SoLo”:

Outdoor seating: It’s fine to eat inside, but why do it when it’s so nice outside? Restaurants in the South Loop put out their cast-iron tables and chairs and raise their umbrellas. It’s the perfect opportunity to sit outside with some friends, enjoy a nice summer salad, maybe with a glass of lemonade, and catch up on gossip and summer reality shows. Don’t just resort to Panera. Venture out.

Movies in the park: Pack a blanket, gather some food and send a Facebook invite to the entire crew. Grant Park screens classic and old school films throughout the summer, and the best part about this is that they’re all free. We don’t have any drive-ins in the city, but this is a close second. It’s much better than staying inside sweating without air conditioning watching the latest blockbuster that’s On Demand. Get out there and enjoy a good laugh and some



The blues-inducing weather is over. Now, it’s time to get out there and have fun in the sun. The South Loop is the place to do it.

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wine and cheese.

The view at the Shedd Aquarium: The Shedd has one of the most stunning views of the Chicago skyline. The path that wraps around at the Museum Campus is one of the best places to buckle down and enjoy the breathtaking view of the city. It might be too touristy, but summer is the time to take a free pass and just enjoy—it’s OK to be cliché. This spot is also great for catching the Air & Water Show in late summer.

Independence Day: It might not be environmentally-friendly, but fireworks are still one of my favorite things. I’ve sat on the steps at Buckingham Fountain and jumped up onto the wall that separates Grant Park from Millennium Park to watch the crackle and pops in the sky. I have yet to find a bad view of the show. The enormous crowd might be a drag, but be patient and go with the flow. The spectacle is worth it, plus the

people watching is priceless.

Free music: Big headliners come through each year to the play at the Taste of Chicago and other music fests throughout the city during the summer. It’s the one chance to catch a great performance for free and check out some bands from the old days. Who would deny a free two-hour Stevie Wonder concert in a park? Just remember those bottles of water will cost an extra nickel.

Street performers: The subways are lined with them, and some of them are actually good. My favorite is the guy in the Lake Red Line stop. He takes requests and does a pretty decent job of the Steve Miller Band’s “The Joker” and The Temptations’ “My Girl.” Plus, they serve as good entertainment while waiting for the trains.

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In Other News

Move along

Midway International Airport started a new security line system on May 7. The new system, fashioned after the slope signs at ski resorts that rank the difficulty of each snow slope, was put in place at screening lines. Divided into three categories, the system consists of green circles that represent beginning travelers, a blue rectangular icon for casual travelers and a black diamond for experienced travelers. The new system is a way to expedite the process and curb frustrations from passengers waiting in line, according to the Chicago Tribune.

Wi-Fi to the max

By the end of the year, the city is expected to be the catalyst for a new wireless network that will provide subscribers access to the Internet from their homes, moving vehicles and streets, according to the Chicago Tribune. The system, which won’t launch completely for a few years, would allow for such things as a washing machine equipped with a wireless chip that can transmit back to its manufacturer that there is a problem before the owner knows, according to the Chicago Tribune. The program is a joint venture between Sprint Nextel Corporation, Google Inc., Comcast Corporation, Intel Corporation and Time Warner Cable Inc.

City clubs clubs

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the City Council Committee on License and Consumer Protection passed legislation that will rule out underground club promoters who perform without licensing. The law will require those who promote an event for more than 100 people to acquire a license. The committee passed the ordinance, and it goes before City Council on May 14.

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

Phoney pheromones

According to police reports, an 18-year-old female reported to police that her ex-boyfriend, an 18-year-old male, was continuously harassing her and her current boyfriend via telephone. The victim told police that she feared for her safety after the offender called and said if he saw her current boyfriend he was going to kill him in a heartbeat. The victim said for the past four months, the offender has called five times a day. The victim told police she feels harassed, and he also threatens to kill himself if they don’t get back together. The offender has also shown up at her place of employment. But the female said she is not overly worried, as the offender lives in Naperville, Ill., and she lives on the 1100 South block of State Street.

Rack attack

After parking her bicycle at a bike rack located at 410 S. Michigan Ave., a 32-year-old female victim reported to police that upon returning her Jamis bicycle was missing. The bike was estimated to be worth \$350.

Condo clash

A 40-year-old female reported to police that an unknown offender had damaged items at a condo at 740 S. Federal St. on May 4. According to police reports, the witness noticed the north lobby door had been damaged, there was shattered glass and the radiator had been broken. As of press time, there are no known suspects in this condominium bust.

Dent in the donut

According to police reports, a 58-year-old employee reported to police on May 5 that there was damage to three windows at Dunkin Donuts, 1231 S. Wabash Ave. The unknown offenders etched graffiti on two windows and cracked a third in front of the store.

‘Monster Camp’

May 10 and 11 @ 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m.

Some call them gamers. Some call them nerds. Some call them LARPer, or live action role-players. Around the workplace they may be meek and keep to themselves, but away from the prying eyes of society, among their own people, they are wizards, warriors, elves and eagle-men. This documentary gives the uninitiated a glance into the world of the role-playing game fanatic. Funny, masterfully made and (surprisingly) quite touching at times, this documentary would be foolish to miss during its brief Chicago run.

Facets Cinematheque
1517 W. Fullerton Ave.
(773) 281-9075
\$9



‘It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back’

July 18
Nowadays there are still one or two socially conscious hip-hopers out there, but Chuck D, his ridiculous hype man Flavor Flav and their deejay Terminator X started the trend in the ‘80s. With songs like “Night of the Living Baseheads” and “She Watch Channel Zero,” Public Enemy established a militant sound with a message that refused to be ignored. And now they’re back. On the opening night of the three-day Pitchfork festival, you have a chance to relive a time when Flavor Flav wasn’t just a self-parody reality TV star. Public Enemy will be performing their masterpiece, *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold Us Back*, in its glorious entirety. And it’s way cheaper than Lollapalooza.

1501 W. Randolph St.
Info@PitchforkMusicFestival.com
\$30-\$65



monday 5/12

Tom Farley Jr. signs his new book, ‘The Chris Farley Show: A Biography in Three Acts’

7 p.m., Borders
830 N. Michigan Ave.
(312) 573-0564

FREE



Global Just Grapes Series Part 3: Zinfandel

6 p.m., Just Grapes Wine Shop
560 W. Washington St., Suite 100
(312) 627-9463
\$35 tasting, \$175 full series



‘Suggestions for a Saner Society: A talk by Emanuel Kuntzelman’

6 p.m., Chicago Center for the Performing Arts
777 N. Green St.
(312) 327-2000

FREE



tuesday 5/13

Gallery Talk: The Romantic Cult of Genius

Noon–12:45 p.m., Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave., Gallery 100
(312) 443-3600
\$12, \$7 for students



Science and Math Colloquium Series

5 p.m., Ferguson Auditorium
600 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 344-8505

FREE



Taste of Chicago

June 27-July 6

If you could distill this annual Windy City festival, you’d have pure Chicago in a bottle. And you may be able to find just that being sold at one of the hundreds of booths that constitute the Taste. You’ll find everything from alligator meat to Chinese food, beer, deep dish pizza and oodles more. Admission’s free, but if you want to take a taste or two of the delicious delectables, bring your checkbook. Or just show up late for the musical guests, which will include everything from Chaka Khan to Blue Man Group and Stevie freakin’ Wonder. Not to mention Bonnie Raitt and the Plain White T’s.

300 S. Columbus Drive
(312) 744-3315

FREE



Book Club discusses ‘My Sister’s Keeper’ by Jodi Picoult

7 p.m., Sulzer Regional Library
4455 N. Lincoln Ave.
(312) 744-7616

FREE



Liars, Ssion

8 p.m., Reggie’s Rock Club (17+)
2109 S. State St.
(312) 949-0121
\$16



wednesday 5/14

Chicago Fair Trade Day Festival

10 a.m.–4 p.m., Daley Civic Center Plaza
50 W. Washington St.
(312) 443-5500

FREE



Gallery Talk: The Artist as Chef–Painted Feasts

Noon–12:30 p.m., Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave., Gallery 100
(312) 443-3600
\$12, \$7 for students

FREE



Global Warming Seminar

7 p.m., The Field Museum
1400 S. Lake Shore Drive
(312) 922-9410

FREE



Trappist Beer and Cheese Tasting

6:30 p.m., Mrs. Murphy & Sons Irish Bistro
3905 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 248-3905
\$15



thursday 5/15

Augusten Burroughs signing

12:30 p.m., Barnes and Noble
1 E. Jackson Blvd.
(312) 362-8792

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Watergun Assassination Tournament

July 16–August 6

Have you ever wanted to be a hired gun? To live a life of danger, stalking your targets with catlike grace until the moment to strike has arrived, bringing you one step closer to your goal to be the last man (or woman) standing in a citywide life-or-death game of tag? Well, it’s not quite life-or-death, but the annual Watergun Assassination Tournament is just around the corner. Receive a dossier on your opponents and watch your back, because it’s soak or be soaked. If you take your opponent down, you receive his or her targets, and so on, until there is only one left. Last one standing wins the \$200 prize.

Sign up at LiveInFear@StreetWars.net

‘La Perla’

7 p.m., Doc Films
1212 E. 59th St.
(773) 702-8575
\$5



Book Club discusses ‘China Boy’ by Gus Lee

7 p.m., Lincoln Belmont Branch
1659 W. Melrose St.
(312) 744-0166

FREE



friday 5/16

Gallery Talks:

Noon, Curator’s Overview of Ed Ruscha and Photography
2 p.m., Sculpture and the Civil War
Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave., Gallery 100
(312) 443-3600
\$12, \$7 for students

FREE



Senator Harry Reid (D-Nev.)

6 p.m., McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum
445 N. Michigan Ave.
RSVP (312) 222-7871

FREE



‘Planet of the Apes’

6:30 p.m., 9 p.m., 11:30 p.m., Doc Films
1212 E. 59th St.
(773) 702-8575
\$5



‘The Rocky Horror Picture Show’

‘Return to Oz’
Midnight, Music Box Theatre
3733 N. Southport Ave.
(773) 871-6604
\$9.50



Movies in the Park

All Summer @ sunset
Rain or shine, spend an evening in a classy and classic fashion with a blanket, a picnic and a sweetie to cuddle up with over a movie in the park. Many options are available in Grant Park alone, although there are dozens more throughout Chicago during the summer. They run the gamut from sci-fi standards like *The Day the Earth Stood Still* to Windy City favorites like *The Blues Brothers*.
8:57 p.m., July 15: *All About Eve*
8:51 p.m., July 22: *The Odd Couple*
8:44 p.m., July 29: *The Blues Brothers*
8:35 p.m., Aug. 5: *The Day the Earth Stood Still*
8:25 p.m., Aug. 12: *Touch of Evil*
8:15 p.m., Aug. 19: *An Affair to Remember*
8:03 p.m., Aug. 26: *Grease*

Butler Field, Grant Park
100 S. Lake Shore Drive
312-744-3315

FREE



saturday 5/17

‘The Diving Bell and the Butterfly’

6:30 p.m., 9 p.m., 11:30 p.m., Doc Films
1212 E. 59th St.
(773) 702-8575
\$5



‘Picked Up’ final night

8 p.m., The Neo-Futurarium
5153 N. Ashland Ave.
(773) 275-5255
\$15



ongoing

‘27 Dresses,’ 8:15 p.m.
‘Witless Protection,’ 10 p.m.
Brew and View at the Vic
3134 N. Sheffield Ave.
Monday–Thursday
(773) 929-6713
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