

9-8-2009

Columbia Chronicle (09/08/2009)

Columbia College Chicago

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SWEET
VICTORY

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returns to Chicago

» SEE PG. 14



ON THE
WEB

ColumbiaChronicle.com

The Official News Source of Columbia College Chicago

September 8, 2009

Volume 45 Number 1

Convocation celebration

Students and faculty
mix it up at annual
welcome back event

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

MORE THAN 3,000 students and faculty gathered in Grant Park in the spirit of the 1893 Columbian Exposition on Sept. 3 for Columbia's annual Convocation.

Columbia President Warrick L. Carter welcomed fresh faces by acknowledging Columbia as the largest community of young creatives in the world.

"This is the last part of your downtime because starting Tuesday, we're going to work your butts to death, but that's what you came here for," Carter said. "We want you to drain the faculty of everything they have so that you ... are the best prepared students in the media, communications and arts community."

The ceremony was opened by Student Government Association President Jessica Valerio, who encouraged newcomers to get involved with student organizations at Columbia, followed by Student Organizations Council Chair Alicia Wilson, who invited students to join or form clubs on campus. Louise Love, vice president of Academic Affairs, and Provost Stephen Kapelke formally welcomed faculty to the event by giving them pink and purple sashes to wear.

Vice president of Student Affairs Mark Kelly led the energy during his call-and-response "Hell Yeah" speech, requiring students to make a commitment to themselves and the college during their time at Columbia.

"[Convocation is] a really fun environment to find all the different clubs," freshman film major Adam Gasperoni Riddle said. "I had no idea how many clubs there were. It's hard to believe that other colleges



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

A Columbia theater student performs at Convocation on Sept. 3. Other entertainment included live music, mimes on stilts, fortune telling and Midway games.

don't have something like this."

While most college convocations are filled with formal, pomp-and-circumstance ceremonies, Columbia offers a more social environment for students and faculty to become better acquainted.

"It's one of the coolest convocations you're going to find in the country," Kelly said. "[It's] full of Columbia energy."

Columbia's name, intellectual curiosity and passion were inspired by the Columbian Exposition in 1893.

"The message to students is that there is this world to explore," Kelly said.

The festival was chock full of cigarette girls, fortune-telling, mimes on stilts, cotton candy, sideshows and Midway games.

The student-organized event featured live music from three bands that each delivered high energy, hour-long sets and got the crowd dancing in the park.

Columbia student-band World's Fair, a folk-rock group, took the stage shortly after Kelly's speech. Sidewalk Chalk, a group that includes Columbia alumni and current students followed with a mix of hip-hop, soul, rock and poetry. Columbia alumnus

DJ Scenery ended the afternoon mixing diverse genres of music such as Kings of Leon, Diddy, a-ha's "Take On Me" and Sir Mix-A-Lot.

Among the music and mimes on stilts were games of bags and knock-out-the-clown. Graham Casket S'mores allowed students to pick marshmallows from a casket built out of graham crackers and lined with chocolate. The Amazing Tomas & The Silent Theatre Company gave performances in a tent, and alumni Heather Hartley and Casey

» SEE CONVOCATION, PG 9

ShopColumbia flourishes in South Loop

by Benita Zepeda
Assistant Campus Editor

AS ITS one-year anniversary approaches, the quaint student gallery ShopColumbia is becoming a destination for students and South Loop residents alike.

Since its launch on Oct. 16, 2008, ShopColumbia has sold more than \$46,322 in student work and Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, believes the store

has begun to forge a reputation as a South Loop destination for affordable and original pieces of work.

"Talk about a home run," Kelly said. "ShopColumbia speaks to the authenticity and creativity of Columbia students."

Located on the first floor of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., ShopColumbia was established to provide students with a space to showcase and sell their work in a commercial environment. Currently, the store showcases about 150

different student artists, with new work brought in each month.

Former ShopColumbia manager Kevin Cassidy believes the original goal for the store was something that could not be quantified in dollar amounts.

"My immediate goal was to provide a location for a student community to grow," Cassidy said. "The shop would be, for many students, their piece of Columbia."

» SEE SHOP, PG 9



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

Shop Columbia contains an eclectic mix of various media and styles, including handmade goods such as jewelry and clothing made by more than 150 students. These animal figurines are just a sample of the art for purchase at ShopColumbia.



Prepare for
swine flu

» SEE PG. 13



New Afrocentric
arts venue

» SEE PG. 26



Surge in binge
drinking

» SEE PG. 35

INDEX

CAMPUS	2
H&F	13
A&C	19
COMMENTARY	32
METRO	35

EDITOR’S NOTE

Hard learned financial lessons



by Bethany Reinhart
Editor-in-Chief

IT’S THAT time again. Back-to-school season has hit and college students across the country are getting ready to embark upon another year of higher education. For decades, many students and their parents have struggled to secure funding for the ever-rising cost of college tuition. However, this year many Illinois college students are faced with an even heavier financial burden than before. This increased financial hardship was made clear when state legislators eliminated the Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant for spring semester.

Although the lack of funding came as a huge blow to thousands of students, there are some positive financial lessons that can be taken away.

One of the most difficult lessons you may learn during college is how to budget your money and not get in over your head in credit card debt. Even in the best of financial times, this has proven difficult, but as funds dry up, it is even more important that students avoid turning to plastic to pay their way through college.

Although it is not easy, learning to live on a budget and forego luxuries is a lesson that no professor can teach, but every student should master. When money is tight, it is the perfect time to put financial planning tips to use. Let’s face it—the majority of us are not going to end up millionaires. Why not learn to live on a budget before the student loan repayments hit and the entry-level job you landed is barely enough to cover rent, let alone student loans?

As a non-traditional college student, I have spent the past 10 years living paycheck to paycheck and have come to understand just how important financial planning is.

I don’t mean run out and invest money in a hedge fund. Just spend smart. Here are a few tips that I have learned along the way:

Pass up the Starbucks. If you are a struggling college student, you probably don’t need to spend \$5 on a cup of joe.

Write down every dollar you spend. Tracking where you spend your money will help you see unnecessary spending patterns that you might be able eliminate.

Pack a lunch. Eating out every day adds up. Go to the grocery store and stock up on food that will get you through a few weeks without having to rely on local restaurants.

Learn to say no. As tempting as it might be to buy those beautiful boots in the window at Macy’s, ask yourself if you really need them. If you don’t, just say no. You will thank yourself later when you need money for groceries.

Opt to stay in. College days are often filled with bar-hopping nights, but hitting the bar every weekend adds up. Every so often, opt to stay in and order pizza instead of going out and spending more money than you really have.

Avoid plastic. Using credit cards seems like an easy answer at the time, but you will kick yourself when you hit your spending limit and can barely afford to make the minimum payment.

Although these tips don’t sound like much fun, especially to students who are venturing out on their own for the first time, cutting back now will inevitably help relieve financial pressure and serve as a lesson in discipline that can be applied for the rest of your life.

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NEWS FLASH

9/8/09 - 9/10/09

U-Pass Distribution

Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Be sure to bring your campus card and a printed copy of your fall 2009 class schedule.

1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Change in FIT Requirement

Students are no longer required to take the Fluency in Technology test in order to graduate. Students’ aptitude for computers has improved and the FIT test is no longer a useful test to administer.

through 10/23/09

Shanghai Reflections

An exhibit inspired by past trips taken to Shanghai by students. Located in the Hokin Gallery at the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. Open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Oct. 23.

Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.

9/9/09

Don Share and Emily Warn poetry reading

Don Share, senior editor of Poetry magazine, and Emily Warn, poet, essayist, teacher and technologist, will be reading their works. Hosted by Columbia’s Creative Writing—Poetry Program. Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

The Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.

9/8/09

Kilowatt Ours (Recycling Program film screening)

Columbia’s Recycling Program is screening the documentary *Kilowatt Ours*. The documentary focuses on ordinary citizens taking an active role in energy conservation. Tuesday evening from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Ferguson Theater.

Alexandroff Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave.

9/8/09 - 10/28/09

Layer Cake: Tales from a Quinceañera

A multimedia exhibition that features artists who capture the essence of the 15th birthday ritual during National Latino Heritage month. The exhibition is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sept. 8 - Oct. 28.

C33 Gallery
33 E. Congress Parkway Building

9/9/09

FOCO: Latino Alliance — First weekly meeting of year

Meet and greet students interested in Latino culture and events. Wednesday, 5 p.m. at the Multicultural Affairs Conference Room on the 4th floor.

618 S. Michigan Ave.

Want to see your Columbia-related event mentioned in Newsflash?
Contact The Chronicle at (312) 369-8986.

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C

campus

Columbia replaces security firm

College switches guard services, new firm promises eco-friendly operations

Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor

WACKENHUT CORPORATION, Columbia's security partner for the past five years, was replaced by Allied Barton as the college's primary security firm on Aug. 28.

Allied Barton, the country's largest provider of contract security, replaced Wackenhut after its contract with Columbia ended on Aug. 16. The college met with various security conglomerates in hopes of finding the perfect fit.

"We developed an interview panel after we made some final selections, and basically only one group was eliminated because they dropped out themselves," said Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment at Columbia. "We had a cross-section of representation for the college who sat in and interviewed the respective bidders. Based on their credentials, interviews with the panel and proposals put together, we ultimately made the decision to select Allied Barton."

Robert Koverman, associate vice president of Safety and Security at Columbia, said he is excited about the new alliance with Allied Barton. "The biggest gain for us is the partnership with Allied Barton and their educational experience that they bring to the table," Koverman said.

Allied Barton is well known for its involvement with higher education institutions throughout the country, said Glenn Rosenberg, vice president of higher education for Allied Barton. She said the



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

James Belin, account manager for Allied Barton, tests out the new hybrid vehicles that the company is providing to the college.

security firm works with schools including Columbia University, Stanford University, Johns Hopkins University, The University of Southern California, Duke University and Vanderbilt University.

"One of the things that we have been really familiar with is working with creative arts institutions," Rosenberg said. "In fact, one of our largest clients is Savannah College of Art and Design and their campus is very similar to the way Columbia's is structured."

Although the security company is changing, 85 percent of the officers who worked on campus as Wackenhut employees will continue to be a part of Columbia's

community.

"The majority of our existing security officers will remain with us," Koverman said. "Allied Barton put the employees through the entire selection process as if they were a brand new employee."

The prospective employees had to go through the formalities of completing new applications with Allied Barton, along with applications to receive the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations card, submit to background checks and drug screenings.

"If they passed and the information was satisfactory, they remain a part of Columbia," Koverman said.

The Student Government Association has been critical of Wackenhut for quite some time because the corporation has de-unionized its workers. The SGA also felt the security was unsatisfactory.

One security lapse that occurred in the past involved robberies at two Columbia buildings by a man dressed in fraudulent maintenance attire. The man managed to steal copy machines without being asked for proper identification.

Along with making the campus a safer environment, Allied Barton will be taking a greener approach to its business. The guards will be equipped with new hybrid vehicles and will be prepared to ensure the campus is environmentally friendly.

"We're looking at sustainability as an objective," Rosenberg said. "Our officers will be reminded of turning lights off on patrols [and] looking for things that may be contributing to inefficient use of energy. We look at not just the security of people, but [also] the safety of the building and making sure that the building systems are operating effectively. A lot of that will ultimately contribute to a more sustainable environment."

Rosenberg was confident the guards will be ready for any security situation that may arise on campus and be able to act appropriately to keep Columbia safe.

"The guards will be tested on a periodic basis as far as what to do in certain situations, and [tested on] at least an annual basis to actually practice," Rosenberg said. "It's understanding how to respond to those situations and practicing it before those things happen."

lnalin@chroniclemail.com

CAMPUS POLL

What are you looking forward to this semester?



Ethan Hughes
Journalism major

"Learning and finding our what I'm really into. Getting into journalism and just seeing what I can learn from Columbia."



Rachel Ibrahim
Fashion design major

"The city life along with my classes and getting to meet new people."



Shaylynn Brown
Music major

"Diversity. I'm just waiting to meet new people."

Leventhal and Hunter relieved of duties

Former media relations employees dismissed from positions at college

Bethany Reinhart
Editor-in-Chief

MICKI LEVENTHAL, Columbia's director of media relations for seven years and a member of Columbia's staff for nine years, was relieved of her position on Aug. 13.

Leventhal and her colleague Priscilla Hunter, who held the position of senior media relations associate, were both let go due to what Leventhal described as a "restructuring effort within the Marketing and Communications Office of the Institutional Marketing Department." Leventhal said the elimination of her position came suddenly and as a surprise.

"[Diane Doyne] called me into her office [and when] I walked in Ellen Krutz, the vice president of human resources, was sitting there," Leventhal said. "That's never a good sign. I was told that the media relations area had been reorganized and that my position, director of media relations, had been eliminated. They said that they were reformulating [the position] into a director of public relations."

Leventhal said the new position, director of public relations, differed very little from

her former position, director of media relations, but that she would not be a candidate for the job.

"Essentially, it boiled down to the fact that I was not being invited to apply for the new position," Leventhal said.

Doyne, associate vice president of Marketing and Communications and Leventhal's supervisor, said she could not comment on individual personnel matters. When asked about the new director of public relations, Doyne said, "I can't talk more about this because it is being tied back to an individual personnel matter."

Krutz said there was a restructuring of job responsibilities, but she could not com-

“Essentially, it boiled down to the fact that I was not being invited to apply for the new position.”

-Micki Leventhal

ment about the reorganization of positions or changes within the Marketing and Communications Office in the college because it "would relate to individual personnel matters."



Courtesy MICKI LEVENTHAL

Former Director of Media Relations, Micki Leventhal was with the college for nine years and was relieved of her duties on Aug. 13.

in 2000 as department administrator and assistant to the chair in the Dance Department. In February 2001, she transferred to the media relations department and worked under Carol Bryant as a media relations associate.

After Bryant's retirement in 2002, Leventhal was promoted to the post of director of media relations. She served under Mark Lloyd until September 2008. Leventhal then served under Doyne, who joined Columbia in May.

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Learning Studio transitions to include more courses

New programs provide interactive community, professional services

Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor

ENTER COLUMBIA'S Learning Studio and look around. Students will see a state-of-the-art facility decorated with soundproof panels, computer pods and dry-erase boards to make their study session more relaxing and enjoyable.

Starting this semester, Columbia's Learning Studio, 618 S. Michigan Ave., will transition into a larger, more interactive community to provide students with a hub to feel comfortable studying while working together with the college's community. The studio will now offer tutoring sessions for foreign language courses in partnership with the Humanities, History and Social Sciences Department.

Prior to the transition, tutoring services were offered in math, science and accounting courses, which are in partnership with the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management Department.

The Learning Studio's newest joint venture, in partnership with the HHSS Department, offers tutoring in each of the seven languages that Columbia offers through its courses. The languages include Chinese, Spanish, French, Swahili, Arabic, Italian and Japanese. The department will provide eight tutors to assist students.

The only department that is part of the

language program not offered at the Learning Studio is American Sign Language. The ASL tutoring centers are located on the fourth floor of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

Regina Wellner, academic manager of the HHSS Department at Columbia, is looking forward to the partnership with the Learning Studio starting this fall.

"One of the things we wanted to be able to do was provide improved tutoring services and being able to have the sessions at the Learning Studio gives us that kind of visibility," Wellner said. "Having access to the Learning Studio and allowing students to work with each other will be a real plus for our language students."

Along with the addition of the language tutors, the Learning Studio will offer new sessions to cater to Columbia students.

"We are moving to add what we call Studio Sessions, which are basically group tutoring sessions," said Julie Redmond, assistant vice president for Academic Support at Columbia. "Students come in with very similar needs or come with friends or classmates and we want to accommodate them."

Another new element introduced to the studio will be the option of signing up for tutoring sessions online, which will benefit students if they can't find time in their schedule to stop by and book an appointment.

"We will have an Oasis 'appointments tab' so students can sign up for a one-time session or even a weekly recurring appointment," Redmond said. "They can even sign up for a group studio session that might interest them. We will still be able to serve people who want to drop in between tests, but we are trying to encourage people to be proactive in their planning."

The Learning Studio also offers Peer Supplemental Instruction. These tutoring sessions will focus on courses including Science of Electronics, History of Art I: Stone Age to Gothic, Design Theory I, The French Revolution, Introduction to Audio, Basic Audio Systems as well as Sightsinging, Musicianship, and Ear Training III.

The Conaway Achievement Project, which has offices located in the Learning Studio, will be launching a new workshop series this fall in conjunction with Multicultural Affairs.

"The series will cover financial literacy, assistance with finding jobs [and] identifying the true cost of education and how to pay for school, as well as a graduate school workshop," said Gena Flynn, director of CAP at Columbia. "We see it as our beginning attempt to reach the students with the issues that we want to address."

The coordinators of the Learning Studio and those involved with the programs encourage students to take advantage of these new offerings.

"A lot of the time what we say to students is that it's part of the tuition, it's beautiful [and] most importantly it's here and should be taken advantage of," Redmond said.

The Learning Studio is open to students Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.,

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tutoring center:

WHAT'S NEW

Now offering [language tutors](#) and [group tutoring](#)

Online appointment setting on [Oasis](#)

Expanded Writing Center tutoring for grad students

Conaway Program launching [workshop series](#)

PEER SUPPLEMENTAL

instruction programs

New Peer Supplemental Instruction programs offer help for the following difficult courses:

Science of Electronics
Mariana Rainariu, Athan Vouzianis, Emmanuil Tranin

History of Art 1
Onur Ozturk

Design Theory 1
Reginald Wilson

Introduction to Audio
Benj KanTERS

Basic Audio Systems
Andrew Sickle

Sightsinging, Musicianship, and Ear Training III
Philip Seward

The French Revolution
Kate Hamerton

Dana LaCoCo THE CHRONICLE

Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To find out more information about the Learning Studio, visit [Colum.edu](#)

Inalin@chroniclemail.com

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

Want to join the Columbia College Jazz Ensemble?

Guest Artists this year include:
Terence Blanchard, Vincent Gardner, Bob Mintzer, and Fred Wesley

Rehearsals are Monday & Wednesday 1:00-2:20 pm
Friday from 12:30-2:00 pm

Position Available: Trombone

Other instrumentalists may inquire
about participating in a Jazz Combo

Contact Scott Hall at shall@colum.edu

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

Concert Hall Events

Wednesday September 9
All Music Student Convocation
12:00 PM

Thursday September 10
All Music Student Convocation
12:00 PM

*All of the music students are required to attend one of the convocations.

create...
change

All events are free. For more info: 312-369-6360

Welcome to Columbia...

On behalf of the college's faculty and staff, I would like to welcome all new students to campus and say "welcome back" to those who are returning to continue their studies. Despite today's economic challenges, Columbia is still ready to support you in the pursuit of your artistic passions.

Columbia College Chicago is an exciting place to be – the center of arts and media education in the heart of one of America's great cities. Take advantage of all that the college – and the city – has to offer. Make this year an experience that you will never forget.

This spring will mark one of the most exhilarating moments in Columbia history, the opening of our sustainably designed Media Production Center (MPC). The MPC will be the first of its kind anywhere, a state-of-the-art facility designed to advance our already innovative media arts programs, as well as the interdisciplinary collaboration that makes Columbia special. We know it will be further proof of our unwavering commitment to excellence in the education of future practitioners of the fine, performing, media, and communication arts.

Below is a partial listing of the robust calendar of cultural programs happening this fall at Columbia. You can find a more complete list at www.colum.edu/calendar.

I look forward to seeing you at our theaters, in our galleries, at our concerts and performances, in our lecture halls – or just around town.

Welcome to Columbia.



Warrick L. Carter, Ph. D.
President



Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Calendar of Cultural Programs, Fall 2009

September 2009

Sept.-Dec. – Focus: China (campus-wide)

Sept. 8-Oct 28 – Layer Cake: Tales from a Quincenera (C33)

Sept. 11-Dec. 5 – Pearl of the Snowlands: Buddhist Printing at the Derge Parkhang (Book and Paper)

Sept. 24 – Cinema Slapdown: Y Tu Mamá También (Film Row)

October 2009

Oct. 1-3 – Merce Cunningham Dance Company (Dance Center)

Oct. 2 – The Chicago Jazz Ensemble® with Special Guest Steve Turre (DuSable Museum of African American History)

Oct. 12-Dec. 11 – Weisman Award Exhibition (The Arcade, 618 S. Michigan)

Oct. 19-23 – Creative Nonfiction Week (various)

Oct 21-31 – Of Mice and Men (New Studio)

Oct. 22 – Cinema Slapdown: Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (Film Row)

Oct. 22-24, 29-31 – Lucky Plush Productions (Dance Center)

November 2009

Nov. 4 – Cartoons: Why We Need Them (Cultural Center)

Nov. 12-Dec.12 – 88th Annual Art Directors Club Annual Awards Exhibition (A+D)

Nov. 16-Feb. 13 – Dis/Believer (Glass Curtain)



College Advising Center restructures

College advising to focus on freshmen; faculty to focus on sophomores, upperclassmen

Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA'S ADVISING Center has made adjustments in the past few months to help students plan their curriculum and college career more easily.

Until recently, all Columbia students, freshmen through seniors, would correspond with two advisers simultaneously. They would meet with their college adviser to discuss core classes and a faculty adviser to discuss their major.

Starting this fall, the College Advising Center will focus more on incoming students and meet with them more frequently than in the past to become better acquainted with the students and help them become more familiar with the college.

As students ease into Columbia and select a major, the center will refer them to a faculty adviser in their major, who will oversee the student's curriculum through graduation.

"Previously, we would advise students based upon their taking the initiative to come and see us," said Jim Gingras, office manager of the College Advising Center.

"We didn't say, 'Hey, meet with your adviser.' We were always open and dealt with students [who] came in on their own. That's [why] we're changing; to get the word out and try to make more room and more appointments."

The center will guide new students and incoming freshmen through their first year at Columbia and advisers will work to establish a closer relationship with students and help them select college courses that would best compliment their major.

"College advising will focus on new students and be much more available to them," said vice president of Student Affairs Mark Kelly. "Caseloads [will] move from 1,000 to 1 to something more manageable like 250 to 1. The faculty advisers have a smaller load because the sea of new students is no longer part of the responsibility."

Sophomores start to receive faculty advising in their major department at the beginning of the fall. When junior year comes around and students start to think about internships, faculty advisers will be able to aid them in bridging their college education with their career using their experience as working professionals.

The bigger idea behind this new advising model is for students to take full advantage of everything Columbia offers.

Ideally, after students finish their first 15 to 45 college credits and have a better sense



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Ahmad Saleem makes an appointment at the College Advising Center in suite 300 of the Wabash Campus Building, in 623 S. Wabash Ave.

of what they want to do at Columbia, they would be sent to a faculty adviser to focus more on their chosen major.

The faculty adviser will also work with the student to see what electives outside of the department might be conducive to their major, as well as answer general questions about Liberal Arts and Sciences core classes.

"We want students' experience at Columbia to be more effective and enriched by this model," said Doreen Bartoni, dean of the School of Media Arts. "These assistant deans that we now have will be helping to educate our faculty in terms of advising and to provide opportunities for the faculty to be fully aware of what our enriched curriculum is."

An assistant dean has been placed into each school at Columbia to help organize the faculty advisers. Keri Walters will be the assistant dean of faculty advising for

the School of Fine and Performing Arts, Keith Cleveland is the assistant dean of faculty advising for the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Patti Mackenzie has recently been hired as the assistant dean of faculty advising for the School of Media Arts.

While the change will take approximately three years to fully develop, continuing students are encouraged to visit their college adviser as well as their faculty adviser, like in past years, throughout their time at Columbia.

The College Advising Center will be geared toward freshmen, but sophomores, juniors and seniors will always be able to discuss their curriculum with the center.

"We're still going to be a resource for our upperclassmen," Gingras said. "We're not going to turn anybody away."

cshook@chroniclemail.com

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Updated technology reigns supreme as buildings go green

Environmental updates, improved science lab upgrades push Columbia into the 21st Century

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus Editor

IN AN effort to modernize Columbia and improve sustainability, electrical, heating and ventilation systems were updated over the summer. In addition, various construction projects were completed to improve the safety of individuals at Columbia.

However, due to budget cuts, certain building projects were put on hold as the college worked on renovating old systems and updating classrooms and labs with new equipment.

One such project accomplished during the summer involved the science lab, located in the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave. John Kavouris, associate vice president of the Office of Facilities and Operations, met with faculty in the Science and Mathematics Department and was told that the lab was outdated. During renovation, one of the labs and the prep areas were completely gutted and new science equipment was brought in, which allows faculty to teach science in a modern environment with up-to-date equipment.

“The science lab is the biggest thing that students will notice this year,” Kavouris said. “Before we renovated it, [faculty] had described it as a lab that would have fit into a high school situation in the ’70s or ’80s.”

The third floor of the Wabash Campus Building was updated with new carpet,

and offices were reconfigured due to the new presence of Career Initiatives. This renovation will bring the Office of Student Employment and the Portfolio Center together in one office.

Classrooms were repainted and updated with new carpets in the Wabash Campus Building, as well as the Music Center, 1014 S. Michigan Ave., and the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

During past summers, there were no floor renovations on campus because of budget restrictions at the college, Kavouris said. During the past fiscal year, Columbia was forced to cut the capital budget given to the Office of Facilities and Operations in half, allotting the department only \$6 million to use for renovations and upgrades.

“

The science lab is the biggest thing that students will notice this year...[Faculty] had described it as a lab that would have fit into a high school situation in the ’70s or ’80s.”

-John Kavouris

“This is a lean year because of budget constraints,” Kavouris said. “Last year, we [had to] cut our capital budget roughly in half.”

One of the most costly projects, slated to be completed at the end of 2009, is replacing the century-old boiler and the electrical systems in the Alexandroff



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Deborah Holdstein, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences (left) and Constantin Rasinariu, Science & Mathematics Department chairperson, cut a ribbon during the opening ceremony of a new science lab.

Campus Center, 600 S. Michigan Ave. The project will allow the building to be more environmentally sustainable and have a more energy-efficient electrical and heating system, substantially increasing the amount of power that can be used in the Alexandroff Campus Center.

“We have to do renovations and

repairs to [Columbia’s] older buildings in order to bring them up to building code,” Kavouris said. “The boilers in the [Alexandroff Campus Center] were the original boilers built with the building a hundred years ago.”

» SEE UPDATES, PG. 12

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Student group dedicated to mental health

Campus organization acts as a resource to help the Columbia community

by Benita Zepeda
Assistant Campus Editor

A NEW student organization, To Write Love on Her Arms Columbia, is eager to launch its first semester by creating awareness and opening a discussion about mental health topics that are not usually discussed freely.

This organization is part of the first 15 university chapters branching off of the national organization To Write Love On Her Arms.

Depression, addiction and self-injury are just a few issues that many young adults experience and the warning signs often go unnoticed. To Write Love on Her Arms Columbia is the college’s first student organization of its kind to provide support systems for students and faculty.

Aldo Guzman, director of Student Organizations and Leadership at Columbia, said one of the biggest benefits he sees from this organization is that it can provide either a first or additional support group for students.

“[The organization] could be the first contact available with someone who can help them with [their] struggle,” Guzman said.

The group’s president, Nikki Muir, said the primary goal of the organization is to create a larger sense of community and act as a means for individuals seeking support and help with any issues they may be having.

“We’re just serving as a bridge to help and also [as] a light trying to bring some of these issues out of the darkness,” Muir said. “When the issues stay in the darkness, they’re stigmatized and people don’t seek treatment because of the stigma and shame connected with it.”

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among people 15 to 24 years of age after accidents, according to the national organization. It is a mission of TWLOHA Columbia to talk openly about the subject. By educating students and faculty, individuals who show signs of mental distress can be better identified and helped.

“The vast majority of people who commit suicide do exhibit warning signs before their death,” Muir said. “Having faculty and students aware of those warning signs and aware of the prevention methods can save lives.”

According to WebMD.com, some warning signs include talking about death, depression, loss of interest in things one used to care about, putting affairs in order and tying up loose ends.

The group’s faculty adviser, Robert Cronberg, said he believes spreading awareness about these subjects is the key to better guiding individuals to treatment options and encourages faculty to get involved.

“I think it’s extremely important that we create awareness about what our students here are dealing with,” Cronberg said. “I do think if you create a larger awareness, you can better assist the students you have in your class who might be struggling but might not have all the outward appear-



Andrew McArdle THE CHRONICLE

Courtesy TWLOHA.COM

ances of having that struggle.”

However, TWLOHA Columbia does not want to be conveyed as something it is not.

“We need to be really clear about what we are,” Muir said. “We’re obviously not

trained professionals, but we had to go to a training program with To Write Love. We want to put a face to the counseling center

» SEE MENTAL HEALTH, PG. 9

seeing things differently



The U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics predicts faster-than-average job growth for psychology professionals, with the 10-year growth rate expected to be double-digit for psychologists and for counselors. This growth, among the highest of all professions, is driven by the need for services in non-traditional settings such as social service agencies, substance abuse treatment clinics, schools, hospitals.

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» **SHOP**

Continued from Front Page

However, the success ShopColumbia has achieved within one year was not something many pioneers of the project could have anticipated.

"I didn't think it would be this successful yet," Cassidy said. "I thought it would be this successful eventually and I think it will be more successful in the years ahead."

Ronda Dibbern, manager of the Department of Exhibition and Performance Spaces, was one of the key people in getting ShopColumbia started, and is now focused on helping to develop the store so that it continues to flourish.

"Before we started the store, we knew we would be growing in different phases," Dibbern said. "First was selling work at Manifest, then the second phase was opening the physical store. Now we're really working hard on getting an online store."

The online store will help propel ShopColumbia to the next level, Dibbern said.

"The good thing about the online store is [that] we are going to be able to accommodate a lot more work," Dibbern said. "With the online store, the goal is to be able to showcase more alumni work."

Going online will make ShopColumbia available to anyone with an Internet connection and a craving for genuine, quality work. It will increase exposure to people outside of the Columbia community and help publicize the creative talent the school possesses.

One Columbia alumnus, mixed-media

artist Mark Moleski, had impressive success with his work after someone had been recommended to the store by an employee at The School of the Art Institute.

"[ShopColumbia is] a good experience because it helps you understand the business side of how to price your work and get it out there for everyone to see," Moleski said. "This was my first experience where my work was sold and I have no idea where it is, but it's gone out there on its own travels, so it's interesting."

The store has also grabbed the attention of the concierges at the Hilton Chicago hotel, 720 S. Michigan Ave. They took a tour of the store and now recommend their guests to stop in.

"The shop [is] literally a window into Columbia," Cassidy said. "People, who would not otherwise have a reason to come into the building and find out who we are and what we [do], would be drawn in by the store."

This year, the store has several exciting events planned. On Oct. 21, ShopColumbia will be hosting a birthday celebration that will have some promotional specials and give customers a chance to meet some of the talent behind ShopColumbia's work.

Dibbern, along with the ShopColumbia staff, are hoping to get more students involved and are working on hosting a big holiday market in December, which will focus on alumni and other student artists.

"We're really excited," Dibbern said.

ShopColumbia is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit Colum.edu/ShopColumbia.

bzepeda@chroniclemail.com

» **CONVOCATION**

Continued from Front Page

tent, and alumni Heather Hartley and Casey Murtaugh demonstrated "Garden," which is an "outdoor exploration of inner forbidden fruit."

In the giant white tent housing dozens of student organizations from the Ad Club to the Columbia chapter of To Write Love On Her Arms, organization members reached out to fellow students, invit-

ing them to become involved in activities and initiatives on campus.

While cigarette girls carried caddies of small buttons and reusable convocation bags, students filled the bags with ink pens, pamphlets and condoms.

"It's a good place to meet new people and to see all the different committees there are on campus," said freshman music theory major Sharisse Manning.

cshook@chroniclemail.com

» **MENTAL HEALTH**

Continued from PG. 8

so we can give [individuals] a more personal [recommendation]."

The statistics for individuals suffering from mental health issues are alarming, and many people don't recognize that these issues are prevalent among college students, which validates the organization's mission for creating awareness.

The group also recognizes that seeking help is not the easiest task to accomplish. Muir's best advice for individuals dealing with mental illnesses or stresses would be to remember it isn't a sign of weakness to seek help.

"Take the steps you need to take," Muir said. "Know you're not the only one that has had to walk that road before."

The organization has yet to solidify


dates and locations for their upcoming events, but will be hosting their first all-member meeting on Sept. 16. The group is planning to get Columbia's community involved by hosting open mic nights, movie screenings and discussions, meetings and hopefully an official TWLOHA event hosted by one of the founders of the national organization.

Cronberg wants TWLOHA Columbia meetings to serve as a comfortable place for both faculty and students to step forward with their issues.

"When you exist in a climate of fear, then you run," Cronberg said. "When you exist in a climate of accessibility, then you want to stay, and that's what we want to do."

For additional information on To Write Love On Her Arms Columbia, please e-mail ToWriteLove@loop.colum.edu or visit Colum.edu/ToWriteLove.

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Departments merge to offer one-stop shop for career needs

Portfolio Center, Office of Student Employment, Columbia Works combined into Career Initiatives

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus Editor

IN ORDER to better serve college students affected by the economic downturn, Columbia has combined its career resources on campus with one goal in mind—to prepare college graduates for the workplace.

By bringing together different departments such as the Portfolio Center and the Office of Student Employment, students now have a unified career resource organization called Career Initiatives, said Tim Long, director of the Portfolio Center. The organization will also feature Columbia Works—a service geared toward helping students find work opportunities—and will utilize a Career Development specialist for students’ vocational needs.

“The reason we brought them together so that we present a more coherent set of career services to students,” Long said. “Students get a fuller picture of what they need to accomplish in order to be more prepared to go out and [find] work.”

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said collecting feedback from various focus groups and employers proved to be beneficial.

After collecting information from students and employers, the college decided to bring these separate resources together in order to improve communication between departments and integrate their services



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Larry Nelson, a sophomore fashion design major, directs students on how to properly fill out job applications at the Office of Student Employment. The Office of Student Employment, along with Columbia Works and the Portfolio Center, were recently merged into one unified resource center.

more smoothly.

“We’re in this brutal economic marketplace and every profession you look at, there’s just all these rapid changes,” Kelly said. “Students come to Columbia because they believe we give them a fighting chance to be able to compete in these industries when they graduate, so we got to get better working internally, so that it’s not just this, this and that, but it’s all under one umbrella, helping students in their career development and ultimately with a career outcome.”

Career Initiatives will still have events such as Show Off, in which a number of professionals from different media disciplines meet with students one-on-one and

review their portfolios, Long said. Besides having individual sessions, there will be group-oriented sessions and field trips for larger groups of like-minded students.

“We bring two or three professionals and put them together with a class, plus any other students interested to sit in and they talk about career issues of all sorts in their specific media,” Long said.

Field Trips, which take students out to agencies, recording studios and design studios, is only the tip of the iceberg. Four different Portfolio Production Weeks, which pair students with a graphic designer or photographer to assist the student in creating a professional portfolio, will continue to

be available to upperclassmen and graduate students during the fall semester. To participate, students must fill out an application and call Career Initiatives to schedule an appointment. Career Initiatives will begin scheduling appointments on Sept. 8.

Another program available to students is the Big Fish lecture series, which gives students the chance to speak with up-and-coming professionals from companies such as Pitchfork Media, as well as other creative industries in Chicago.

In addition, Christie Andersen, career development specialist at Career Initiatives, a position formerly affiliated with the Advising Center, will be available to assist students one-on-one with résumés and job searching techniques, as well as career planning and employer and industry research.

Andersen said her services can now be better utilized because it is much clearer how the departments are connected due to centralizing Columbia’s career resources on one floor. Her focus is on providing comprehensive career counseling to students.

“We are working together to provide workshops and individual assistance that [is] a lot more comprehensive and [more] coordinated,” Andersen said. “It’s more of a one-stop shop, so [students] are getting a lot more information when they come in [to Career Initiatives].”

Career Initiatives is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. A list of events can be found on Columbia’s Portfolio Center webpage, Colum.edu/Portfolio.

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CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS
FACT & FAITH

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

How I became a
documentarian

True/Believer: Putting Faith in Fact

by Eric Scholl
Faculty, Television Department

WELCOME TO True/Believer, a new column that will present stories of fact and faith from the Columbia community. We will explore personal relationships with science and spirituality, belief and proof, evidence and leaps of faith from all perspectives.

When I was chosen as the Faculty Fellow for this year’s Critical Encounters focus, Fact & Faith, my first thought was, “Me?” Science has never been my strong suit. My last science class was high school chemistry, and while I didn’t leave any blast marks, my performance was less than stellar. I do have more experience on the side of faith, but this, too, is confusing. I am a product of a mixed marriage—my father is a minister and my mother has always tended toward the agnostic.

I don’t remember much religious talk as a child. I was not a traditional “preacher’s kid” because my dad did not have a church, but rather concentrated on social work in a series of boys’ homes. This made me SPK—“Secret Preacher’s Kid.” Since my peers were not aware of my preacher’s kid status, it meant I was immune to the type of rebellion common to offspring of clergy, which left me free to chart my own course of rebellion. It was very freeing. My father has never been one to preach (although he does on occasion). He was much more interested in doing socially relevant work. Faith may have been his motivation, but he

didn’t flaunt it.

Although my mother has not really taken an overt position of agnosticism, she has never looked for supernatural explanations for things. We were never encouraged as children to look for divine intervention or fear the wrath of an angry god. We did things because they were right. Heaven? Sure, it would be nice, but it’s not a very practical scenario. The real, physical world provided explanations if you looked for the evidence.

So here I am, a mix of the two, with a drive for social justice, a healthy skepticism toward easy answers and a need to seek evidence to support my beliefs. Did I really have any choice but to go into documentary filmmaking? While science may have eluded me, I’ve had a long relationship with searching for evidence and proof through documentary work. I’ve always been drawn to documentaries’ ability, to paraphrase Bill Nichols, to make the strange familiar and the familiar strange, but also its ability to shine light in the dark places of injustice.

With that said, I recognize the limitations of documentary to portray objective reality. I teach a class, Fictional Documentary Workshop, which explores the gray areas—the ways that the very act of filming and editing changes the reality being captured; the ways it is impossible, and not necessarily desirable, to present objectivity.

I believe it is possible to recognize the manipulation of reality inherent in documentary, while recognizing its power to bring, not a copy of reality, but a portrait of truth. Part of this is accepting that as a filmmaker, it is not my job to provide answers, but pose questions. If you provide all of the answers, your documentary may be entertaining and informative, but your audience’s work is done when the lights go on. As a filmmaker, I have to have faith that the audience will look at my presentation of the “facts,” recognize my point of view and go on to ask their own questions. Which is, not so coincidentally, what Critical Encounters: Fact & Faith is about. I look forward to adding your voice to this conversation through this column.

escholl@colum.edu

Eric Scholl is the Faculty Fellow for Critical Encounters: Fact & Faith. He teaches in the Television Department at Columbia and is a documentary filmmaker.

» UPDATES

Continued from PG. 7

Another change in the Alexandroff Campus Building was moving the Underground Cafe entrance inside the building, which allows the building’s security guards to monitor the cafe more closely.

In terms of the college’s safety and security, more than 65 percent of Columbia’s buildings have been equipped with sprinklers.

Alicia Berg, vice president of Campus Environment, said the college is determined to install many of Columbia’s sprinklers by the end of the fiscal year in September 2010, contingent upon scheduling and budget concerns.

“It [will] enhance the safety and security of the campus,” Berg said. “There’s also a city ordinance that requires all high-rise buildings to [have] sprinklers.”

In addition to ramping up security and modernizing the college, many of Columbia’s buildings are expanding their sustainable efforts by installing automated heating and ventilation systems, said Joseph Leamanczyk, project manager for Campus Environment.

“When people are gone, [the systems] automatically ramp down,” Leamanczyk said. “So [the system] is not running when nobody is here. Light switches [have] occupancy sensors, so this means the lights go off after 15 minutes of no activity, so that saves a lot of energy.”

A major building project currently in the midst of construction at the college is the Media Production Center, which is scheduled to open by spring 2010, Kavouris said. During the summer, construction was done on the structure and the roof was installed. In addition, major electrical and mechanical equipment was installed, as well as the heating and cooling systems.

“We’re starting to work on the interior of the building now,” Kavouris said. “The building is on budget and scheduled to open in the spring.”

Though budget constraints will affect future construction projects, Kavouris said the school will continue making repairs to outdated classrooms and equipment, which will ultimately prepare Columbia for a cost-effective and sustainable future.

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Jazz'd Up

Gender Bender



by Jazzy Davenport
Managing Editor

For those of you who have been hiding under a rock for the past several weeks or who have been engulfed in the Michael Vick news, you may not know Caster Semenya. Semenya is the 18-year-old South African track star who was recently forced to take a gender test after doubts were raised by the International Association of Athletics Federation about her gender. Was this a reasonable request? Yes. She does physically resemble a male. I am not disputing this fact. But the handling of the gender situation has been completely irresponsible and should have been handled more professionally and with more sensitivity. Coincidentally, questions were raised after Semenya's performance and personal best time improved by seven seconds. Is the IAAF implying that women aren't as fast as men? Because of this presumed implication, some have accused officials of racism and sexism. Gender determination is a very complex issue. It is not just a matter of external genitalia or even estrogen and testosterone levels.

The IAAF plan to perform chromosomal testing and hormonal measurement to verify Semenya's gender. Preliminary testing for Semenya showed high testosterone levels, but some women are born with high testosterone.

“Is the IAAF implying that women aren't as fast as men?”

-Jazzy Davenport

The truth is, we don't know whether Semenya is 100 percent female and we may never know, but it is unfair for people to deliver judgment before facts are revealed. This situation should have been handled differently. After all, Semenya is only 18 years old. What a toll this must take on her pride and self-esteem. Semenya said she has been raised as a female all of her life. Though Semenya admits that she was teased by other children while growing up, there is nothing more humiliating and embarrassing than having your gender scrutinized by the entire world. Through it all, she has continued to hold her head up high, compete and most of all, win. Whether male or female, Semenya is certainly a hero.

jdavenport@chroniclemail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/09/09

Used Bike Sale and Tune-Up

Columbia's Recycling Program is sponsoring a used bike sale and tune-up in front of the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., from noon to 3 p.m. Representatives from Chicago bike cooperatives West Town Bikes, 2418 W. Division St., and Working Bikes, 1125 S. Western Ave., will be on hand to sell refurbished bikes, helmets and locks. They will also offer tune-ups, tips on bike safety and much more.

Wabash Campus Building
623 S Wabash Ave.

9/12/09 - 9/13/09

Renegades Baseball Tryouts

Columbia College Chicago Renegades' baseball team will hold tryouts at Sedgwick Park, 536 E. Ave. in La Grange. Renegades baseball fall and spring season tryouts start at noon on Saturday and Sunday. The team will take part in tournaments and play other colleges and universities throughout the year.

Sedgwick Field
536 East Ave., La Grange

9/13/09

Bears vs. Packers

The Chicago Bears' Jay Cutler era and NFL season begins when the Bears head to Lambeau Field in Wisconsin to take on their archrival, the Green Bay Packers. The 7:20 p.m. kickoff will put the game in the prime time spotlight. The game will air live on NBC.

Lambeau Field
Green Bay, Wis.

Plan A: Prevention

Columbia creates swine flu protocol with help of city and national health departments

Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

AS STUDENTS return and flu season approaches, prevention efforts against swine flu, caused by the H1N1 virus, are a top priority of schools nationwide, including Columbia. College students are one of the greatest groups at risk because of close living quarters. Young adults also comprised a large number of cases in spring 2009. The Incident Assessment Task Force at Columbia has formed a sub committee to address how the school will face the threat of the virus among students and staff. "In terms of protocol, we are practicing the recommendations that the CDC [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] has in terms of hand sanitizers," said Bob Koverman, associate vice president of Campus Safety and Security. "We've issued hand sanitizers to everyone moving into the residence halls," Koverman said. According to Koverman, the IATF committee brings together Residence Life, Student Affairs, Media Relations, Office of Facilities and Operations, Office of the General Counsel, Human Resources, Academics as well as Campus Safety and Security. Kathleen Sebelius, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, said in a press release on Aug. 25 that vaccinations must be the country's defense against a breakout

THREE EASY WAYS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GERMS

1.

(COUGH!)

Cough into your elbow, not into your hands.

2.

Wash hands frequently.

3.

Wait 24 hours after fever breaks without fever reducing medicines to return to work, school, etc.

Zack Anderson THE CHRONICLE

because "what we learned last spring is that shutting a school down preemptively doesn't stop the virus from spreading." According to Columbia's Web site on Sept. 2, the Chicago Department of Public Health confirmed the school will receive vaccine for vaccinations, but the quantity is still undecided. Currently, the primary preventative measure is sanitization. President Barack Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology released a report on Aug. 24 that said a "plausible scenario is that the epidemic could produce infection of 30 to 50 percent of the U.S. population this fall and winter." Dr. Stephanie Black, medical director in Acute Disease Surveillance at the CDPH, said it is unlikely these numbers will come to fruition, but the government is taking on the

difficult task of giving lowest and highest figures so people can make preventative plans. Koverman said although he is hoping the college doesn't have a large outbreak of the flu, administrators are "in tune with what the CDC puts out." Self-isolation is one suggestion made by the CDC that the committee strongly advocates. The CDC suggests that an option for colleges is to separate healthy students from their sick roommates in dorms. "We've designated a number of rooms to move the healthy students [into] if a roommate does become sick," Koverman said. Because flu symptoms cover a large spectrum of severity, Koverman suggested, "If you're sick, listen to what your body is telling you ... be a good student, be a good neighbor ... be a good community member and if

you're sick, stay in your room and practice self-isolation." Due to the importance of self-isolation, Louise Love, vice president of Academic Affairs, requested in an e-mail Sep. 4 that faculty members provide alternative work options that a student may complete from home, instead of coming to class should they fall ill. Love acknowledged each department still has the final word on attendance policies. Columbia continues to seek guidance from the CDPH. In the urban community, vaccinations remain the preventative tool of choice. The CDPH also still advises Chicagoans to get the seasonal flu vaccine in addition to H1N1 vaccine. Updates at Colum.edu/News. tgleason@chroniclemail.com

Wholesome soup in 30 minutes flat

by Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THIS QUICK recipe for Classic Tortilla Soup is a great combination of nutrition and hearty flavor. When you use whole vegetables and herbs with a robust taste, you get zest that adds more nutrients, not preservatives. It is easy to control the amount of sodium and additives when making soup from scratch, instead of from a can. When you buy canned foods, it is important to look for products that only contain fruits or vegetables and water, not sugar or syrups. This recipe uses canned beans for brevity, but you may also soak beans overnight, rinse them and add instead of the can. The soup takes about 30 minutes to prepare from start to finish. To make the soup thicker you can add ripped pieces of tortillas at the same time as cumin and cilantro. This is also a good way to use stale tortillas you may not eat. The best thing about soup is that you can make a large pot at the begining of the week and store the pot in the refrigerator for days. After refrigerating, stir the whole pot and continue to dish out servings to heat in the microwave at home. You can also pack in a reusable container to eat when you're out. Bringing food from also saves you money!

tgleason@chroniclemail.com



Stock Photo

INGREDIENTS

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 32 oz low-sodium broth, chicken or vegetable
- ½ cup of water
- 28 oz diced tomatoes, canned
- 14 oz corn, frozen
- 14 oz black beans, canned
- 2 tsp. cumin
- cilantro to taste
- Bag of tortilla chips
- 1 avocado

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Saute** onion pieces in oil until they become transparent.
2. **Pour** low-sodium broth, water, tomatoes, corn and black beans into pot. Cook on high heat until soup boils.
3. Immediately **turn heat down** to medium, add cumin and cilantro. Let simmer for about 10 minutes.
4. **Serve** hot and garnish with crushed tortilla chips and a slice of avocado.

City hosts world's largest triathlon

Lakefront overtaken by triathletes and fans, race brings out world's best

by Jeff Graveline
Asstistant Health & Fitness Editor

WORLD-CLASS ATHLETES descended upon the lakefront for the 27th annual Chicago Triathlon on Aug. 30. More than 9,300 amateur competitors and almost 70 professional triathletes from around the globe swam 1.5 kilometers, biked 40K and then ran 10K. The race was part of the Life Time Fitness Triathlon Series Race to the Toyota Cup. The race started on the Chicago lakefront at Monroe Harbor, Lake Shore Drive and Balbo Avenue. Starting the race in the cold waters of Lake Michigan, 57 waves of amateur competitors started every four minutes in groups of 80 to 150 people. "The swim was the hardest part. It was so cold; it was like 60 degrees out there," said 24-year-old Chicago resident Jessica Urgo. Urgo, a student at Miami Ad School - Minneapolis, completed the amateur international distance race in 2 hours and 39 minutes. The first wave of amateur triathletes started at 7:30 a.m. and the final wave hit the water at 10:30 a.m., 45 minutes before the professionals. Most were happy to complete the race and were waiting at the finish line for the pros. Matty Reed, a 2008 U.S. Olympic Triathlon team member, started the day tied for 1st place in the overall standings with Andy



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

One of the 9,300 competitors swims the 1.5k portion of the triathlon past a spectator along Monroe Harbor Sunday August 30th.

Potts, a 2004 U.S. Olympic Triathlon team member and 2007 USA Triathlon Triathlete of the year. Potts set a blistering pace in the water, churning through the choppy waves in just over 15 minutes. As the first professional male triathlete out of the water, Potts earned a \$1,000 bonus, but Reed wasn't far behind. Sprinting into the transition area several hundred yards north on the lakefront, Potts mounted his bike and rode north on the Lake Shore Drive bike course. Reed was trailing and quickly made up ground on the bike leg of the race. "My strength is the bike, so I knew I could

make up some ground on that," Reed said.

“ I didn't know what happened to him until I got to the turnaround and I couldn't see him”
-Matty Reed

As Reed pursued his foe and eventually surpassed him, he knew he had to keep his eye out for Potts mounting a comeback. However, that comeback would never happen. Reed, Potts and other professionals are known to go as fast as 30 mph on their bikes. With a 20 m.p.h. tailwind coming

from the north, the pros reached speeds of almost 40 m.p.h. on Lake Shore Drive as they headed south. Potts was speeding along when an amateur competitor came into his lane. Potts attempted to pass him, but instead went head-over-handlebars. The crash sent Potts to the hospital for tests and overnight observation. "I didn't know what happened to him until I got to the turnaround and I couldn't see him," Reed said. "I thought for sure that he'd be there and I didn't see him through the field. I knew for sure that something had gone wrong; I thought maybe it was a flat." Potts' absence didn't slow Reed down, though, as he finished the bike course in first place and earned the \$1,000 bonus for being the first professional male into the second transition area. Out of his bike shoes and into his running shoes, Reed began the running portion of the course. "It gave me a piece of mind [not seeing Potts]," Reed said. "I knew that getting off the bike, Andy will always be there. He's a really tough competitor." Running south down the path, Reed and other competitors ran past Buckingham Fountain, Museum Campus and McCormick Place before reaching the turnaround for the final stretch to the finish. Reed kept a steady pace during the final leg of the course and crossed the finish line a full minute ahead of 2nd place finisher » SEE TRIATHLON PG. 18

Cancer run raises research funds

Komen’s Race for the Cure expects more than 10,000 runners and volunteers on Chicago’s race day

by Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

FOR THE past 12 years, runners and volunteers from Chicago and surrounding suburbs have come together for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, a 5K run that raises money to fund breast cancer education, treatment and prevention. This year’s race is scheduled for Sept. 26.

According to the organization’s website, Komen.org, 75 percent of the net income from each race in the U.S. goes toward breast cancer screening, education and treatment in the local community, while 25 percent goes toward the Komen for the Cure Award and Research Grant Programs to fund breast cancer conferences and research.

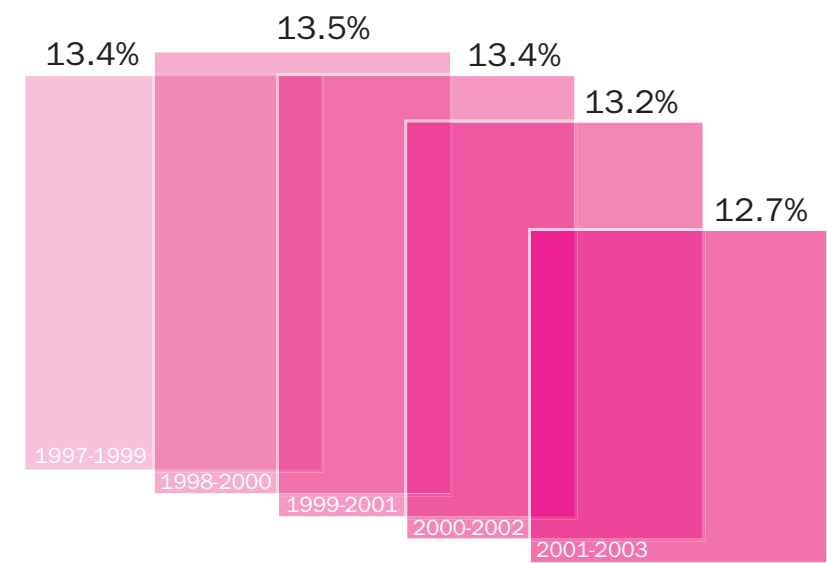
Lauren Brandt, a three-time Race for the Cure participant, knows just how important such research is.

“My mom had a lump a while back, so the year that we [participated in the walk] was memorable,” Brandt said. “It’s especially touching to see those who run in memory of someone.”

A pivotal element in the decrease of breast cancer prevalence is the pairing of education and prevention.

“The progress that has been made in breast cancer [prevention throughout] the years is that indeed the occurrence of breast cancer is lessening,” said Dr. Mary Maryland, Illinois division president of the American

Percentage of women diagnosed with breast cancer



Source: National Cancer Institute

Dana LaCoco THE CHRONICLE

Cancer Society.

Maryland said unavoidable factors include being a woman and aging, but she said women can maintain a healthy weight and take care of their bodies to help prevent the occurrence of breast cancer.

Maryland suggests women in their 20s perform a breast self-exam every month. The exam should “typically be done after your menstrual cycle, when breasts are less influenced by the hormones,” she said.

Women in their 20s and 30s may also opt for a clinical breast exam every three years. Women can learn from a health care

provider what signs to check for during a breast self-exam.

Money raised from events like Race for the Cure help fund drug trials like Study of Tamoxifen and Raloxifene, as well as genetic research and studies that follow women to see how lifestyles contribute to the risk of developing breast cancer.

Two highly studied drugs among breast cancer researchers are Tamoxifen and Raloxifene, which have been closely studied for their preventative capabilities. The use of drugs to reduce the risk of cancer in healthy people is called chemoprevention, a growing

area in the field of breast cancer research.

Tamoxifen and Raloxifene help protect breast cells from growth effects due to the female hormone estrogen. Results of the trial involving nearly 200,000 women, called STAR were released in April 2006. The study extensively compared the two drugs.

Raloxifene was previously used to prevent and treat osteoporosis in postmenopausal women and Tamoxifen was used for 30 years to treat breast cancer. Tamoxifen was approved in 1998 as a prevention drug.

Women who participated in the STAR trial were administered Raloxifene, Tamoxifen or a placebo. They took the pill once a day for five years. The use of both Raloxifene and Tamoxifen showed a 50 percent decrease in the development of invasive breast cancer.

The city of Chicago plans the Race for the Cure route, and for the past three years, runners have covered approximately 10 blocks in Grant Park. This year, a 10K run will be premiered at the Chicago race, creating an additional stretch to the route.

Race for the Cure’s Executive Director in Chicago, Michael Ziener, said last year’s race raised more than \$1 million and this year, the goal is \$1.4 million.

A Race for the Cure event takes place in every state and in 10 countries throughout the world.

The last day to register online is Sept. 20. Find more information at KomenChicago.org.

More information about prevention and how to perform a breast self-exam can be found on the American Cancer Society’s website, Cancer.org

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‘Bipartisan six’ committed to reform

Senate Democrats tell
GOP time is running
out for health care deal

by Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar
Associated Press

HOUSE LIBERALS pleaded with President Barack Obama on Friday to push for creation of a government-run health care program as the Senate’s chief negotiator said he won’t wait much longer for Republicans to compromise amid dwindling chances for a bipartisan bill.

Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., held a nearly two-hour teleconference with his small group of negotiators, who call themselves the “Bipartisan Six.” Afterward, Baucus was careful to leave the door open to a long-sought deal, but he clearly signaled the time has come for him to move ahead.

“I am committed to getting health care reform done—done soon and done right,” Baucus said in a statement. He is considering making a formal proposal to the group of negotiators.

Obama, meanwhile, tried to placate disgruntled House liberals who fear he is too eager to compromise with Republicans and conservative Democrats to get a bill. In a phone call from the Camp David, Md., presidential retreat, Obama spoke to leaders of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and other liberal-leaning House groups.

Caucus leader Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., said the lawmakers expressed their commitment to creation of a government-run plan to compete with private health insurers. On Thursday, they sent Obama a letter saying they could



Sen. Arlen Specter (D-Pa.) discusses his new democratic allegiance with the president. The Republican turned Democrat spoke about health care at a community college.

not support a health bill that lacked such a public option.

Woolsey said Obama listened, asked questions and said the dialogue should continue. She said a follow-up meeting will occur next week at the White House. Another participant said the president was noncommittal about the government-run plan.

Senate Finance is the only one of five congressional committees with jurisdiction over health care that has yet to produce a bill.

Baucus had held back from convening a bill-drafting session, hoping that his group of three Democrats and three Republicans would reach a compromise behind closed doors that could win broad support. But he faces a Sept. 15 deadline from the Democratic leadership—and the prospect of losing control of the legislation if he doesn’t act.

On Friday, Baucus said the members of his group agree on several big-picture items, including the need to control costs, provide

access to affordable coverage for all Americans and ensure that health care fixes don’t add to the deficit. The negotiators have been working on a pared-back bill that would cost under \$1 trillion over 10 years and drop contentious components, such as the government-sponsored insurance plan that liberals insist must be in the legislation.

“Health reform is certainly a significant challenge, and each time we talk, we are

“

I am committed to getting health care reform done—done soon and done right”

—Max Baucus

reminded just how many areas of agreement exist,” Baucus said.

The bipartisan group has scheduled a face-to-face meeting when the Senate returns on Tuesday, on the eve of a major speech by Obama to Congress. The president is trying to rescue his health care overhaul after a summer in which angry critics filled the Internet and airwaves with attacks, some clearly based on misinformation.

Senate aides say the six Finance Committee negotiators realize they have an historic opportunity to influence the direction of the health care debate—and its ultimate result.

But with Republican leaders solidly opposed to Obama’s approach, the GOP negotiators are under tremendous pressure not to cooperate.

» SEE HEALTH CARE PG. 18



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Bike Film Fest rolls through Chicago



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

A BMX rider works his front peg and handle bar, while others look on during the Bike Film Festival block party.

by Jeff Graveline

Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

WHEN THE 9th Annual Bicycle Film Festival hit Chicago Aug. 12-16, it was a showcase of movies featuring bikes and their riders, with parties and festivities lighting up the town throughout the week.

The tour is scheduled to hit 39 cities around the world and is expected to draw in 250,000 attendees, according to the festival's website, BicycleFilmFestival.com.

The film fest kicked off on Aug. 12 with a showing of *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*.

The Pee-Wee Herman flick was shown in a grassy lot at Evergreen Street, between Washtenaw Avenue and Rockwell Street in Humboldt Park. The film was picked by event staff and Andrew Haala, Chicago producer for the Bicycle Film Festival.

"We had the normal Bicycle Film Festival films, which are supplied by the New York office," Haala said. "To kick it all off, though, we went with that [*Pee Wee's Big Adventure*]. It was a really great turnout and people really seemed to enjoy that."

The second day of the festival was Bikes Rock day with musical acts Mike Simonetti, Busdriver and Glass Candy performing a show at Metro, 3730 N. Clark St.

Day two also featured A Shot of Lake Michigan Scavenger Hunt that started at Union Park in the evening. The scavenger hunt was a checkpoint-based event that had teams clad in helmets and racing jerseys with messenger bags riding to various city parks.

Checkpoint activities included cutting team members' hair, attacking other teams with water guns and taking an actual shot of water from Lake Michigan.

While the scavenger hunt took place, the Joy Ride Art Show occurred at the MCA Warehouse, 1747 W. Hubbard St., featuring artwork of bikes and their riders.

The actual film portion of the festival began on its third day, Aug. 14. All films were shown at Columbia's 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

On day three, two programs were presented. One included the film *Where are you go?*, a 60-minute showcase of the Tour d'Afrique, the world's longest bike race/expedition held annually in Africa since 2003. Program two was a series of bike-related short films, ranging from four to 22 minutes in length.

Day four, Aug. 15, featured bike films from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Running until 9 p.m. were the feature-length films *The Third Wheel*, *Keirin Queen/Onna Keirin Oh*, a Japanese film being screened in the U.S. for the first time and *I Love My Bicycle: The Story of FBM Bikes*.

A set of short films entitled *Urban Bike Shorts* finished the film portion of the festival.

A block party held behind the Skylark Lounge, 2149 S. Halsted St., wrapped up the festival on Aug. 16. With a blocked off street, a ramp and rooftop grill, the block party sent the film festival out on a high note.

"I've been out here all weekend; [the block party] is kind of like the [be-all], end-all thing now," said Eleanor Blick, a senior journalism major at Columbia, who has been biking since she was a child.

The block party opened with a flatland demonstration in which riders spun, climbed and jumped on their bikes while riding on the pegs or handlebars. As a crowd gathered to watch riders do their best to impress each other, it began to rain, forcing the riders under the Kennedy Expressway overpass. However, the riders kept on going, continuing on a loading dock and keeping their free-flowing session intact.

While the flatlanders showed off their skills under the overpass, the mechanic build-off began. Six brave mechanics toughed it out through the downpour, fixing bikes that had a multitude of problems. The mechanics had only one hour to make as many repairs as possible, including fixing break lines, gear shifters and flat tires.

"We had the BMX flatland jam and then the mechanic build-off in the rain," Haala said. "That rain just kind of added to the flavor of the whole thing."

As the rain slowed to a steady drizzle and time wound down, the mechanics hit high gear. When the timer hit zero and everyone finished, the bikes were judged on the skill of the repairs performed. When the results came back it, was 26-year-old Emily Willobee of Chicago, who had won 1st place.

"I was really excited to do [the build-off] this year. I just really wanted it," said Willobee, who was also part of the winning team during the A Shot of Lake Michigan Scavenger Hunt.

With the block party ending and his duties as Chicago producer of the Bike Film Festival wrapping up, Haala took a moment to reflect back on his hard work for the festival and look ahead to upcoming biking events, including the return of Alleycat Racing to Chicago.

Alleycats, informal races organized by bike messengers, were held in Chicago before, but due to the death of a rider during an Alleycat on Feb. 24, 2008, the races took a break.

"In the next couple weeks, we have a couple Alleycats coming back into Chicago after a bit of a break because of the death of a rider," Haala said. "They're originally[bike] messenger-organized races. Now it's more about a test of skills for everyone."

jgraveline@chroniclemail.com

UNDERSTANDING COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO'S BILLING, PAYER IDENTITY PLANS AND CCCPAY SYSTEM:

(We swear it's not as confusing as it sounds.)

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» **Triathlon**

Continued from PG. 14

Matt Charbot.

The women’s race was won by Sarah Haskins in a time of 1:59:48; both Haskins and Reed received \$10,000 for their victorys.

Reed’s win put him in sole possession of 1st place in the overall Toyota Cup standings with 28,000 points, a full 10,000 points ahead of Potts and Greg Bennett. Haskins’ win put her in 3rd place, within striking distance of first place Becky Lavelle, who was just 5,000 points ahead.

Since amateurs and pros generally run on the same course, event organizers tried to keep an hour separation between them.

Potts wasn’t the only professional to

take a spill because of an amateur. Julie Dibens had the same thing happen to her, but her crash was less severe and she wasn’t taken to the hospital.

Dibens crashed while reaching for her water bottle, as several amateurs crossed into the professional lane, she told the Chicago Tribune after the race.

As the rest of the professional field ran the course, Dibens was at the finish line waiting for her fellow competitors.

Having completed the triathlon, 23-year-old Joe Rudy of Chicago took time to reflect back on his race day as he watched the pros finish their race.

“It feels great to compete and finish. That’s why I do [triathlons],” Rudy said.

jgraveline@chroniclemail.com

» **Health care**

Continued from PG. 16

In the last few weeks, two GOP negotiators—Chuck Grassley of Iowa and Mike Enzi of Wyoming—have made harsh public statements about the Democrats’ approach. However, both insist they are serious about their negotiations with Baucus. The third Republican, Olympia Snowe of Maine, has been circumspect.

“When Congress returns to session next week, we will be working with the same intensity ... to achieve a consensus bill,” Snowe said in a statement. “I believe we must reduce the costs of health care and make coverage more affordable for all Americans.”

The other two members of the group are

Democrats Kent Conrad of North Dakota and Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico.

Separately, the Democratic National Committee on Friday released a new television ad that counters Republican claims that lawmakers plan to raid Medicare’s budget to finance coverage for the uninsured. Obama says wasteful Medicare spending will be reined in but won’t affect benefits.

The Democratic ad, called “No Friend to Seniors,” depicts Republicans as long-time opponents of Medicare. It will run on national and Washington, D.C., cable stations. A similar ad will also run in 10 Republican-held congressional districts.

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Artist behind multimedia spectacle revealed

Anna Kunz, one of four faculty to display work at Columbia's A+D Gallery

Mina Bloom
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

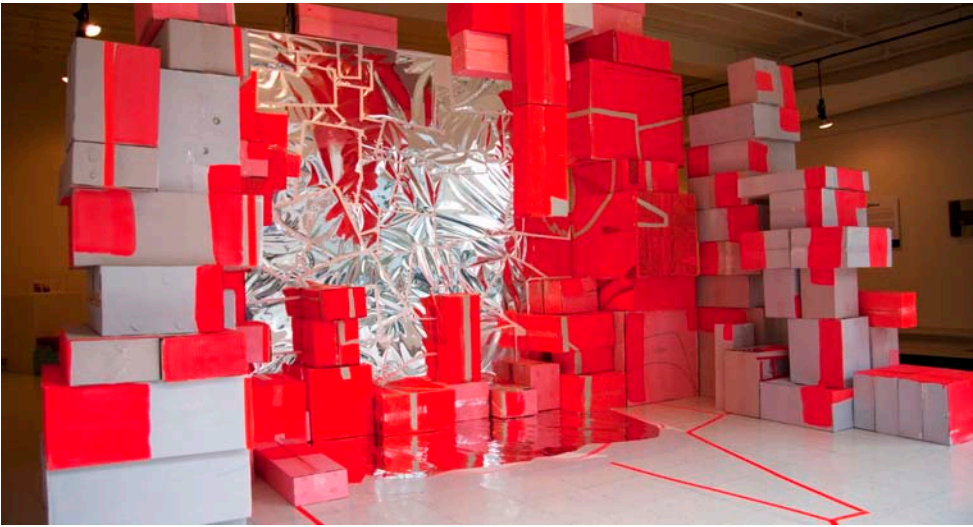
NESTLED BETWEEN Thai Spoon, 601 S. Wabash Ave., and the Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave., the Averill and Bernard Leviton A+D Gallery showcases what might appear to be a large stack of metallic pink Christmas presents from afar.

"Abnormal Formal," Anna Kunz's bold, poetic multimedia sculpture, invites the viewer to play as much of a role in the space as the piece itself. Kunz, an accomplished artist and full-time faculty member at Columbia, is one of four faculty members whose work is open to the public in the faculty exhibition titled "[BLANK] place" through Sept. 19.

Kunz's deep appreciation for spatial visual art has blossomed since her days spent wide-eyed at her father's workplace, The Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Ave. As a child, she reveled in the great work of Andy Warhol and Mark Rothko while being babysat by the museum's security guard.

"I was seduced and intrigued by art at a young age because of that," Kunz said.

The dramatic multimedia sculpture in the A+D Gallery is one of many mediums that Kunz has experimented with throughout her career. Though she primarily teaches painting and works on paper at Columbia, her original on-site specific installations are arguably her most indi-



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

Fine art faculty member Anna Kunz is currently exhibiting her 3-D, multimedia work called "Abnormal Formal" as a part of Columbia's A+D Gallery's "[BLANK] place" exhibit.

vidualized pieces.

The materials she uses include cardboard, gesso, acrylic and tape. The result is somewhat of a sensory overload of shapes, bright colors and a completely 3-D space.

"Every Saturday, I do live performance work from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the gallery where I'm moving the piece around transitioning [and] using different colors," Kunz said. "The piece is an ongoing investigation—not a static piece of art."

Kunz was also commissioned by the city of Chicago's Public Art Program's Department of Cultural Affairs to make a 680-foot painting for the Chicago Public Library titled "Neighborhood Garden," which she completed in 2006. She drew inspiration from gardens in Logan Square, her current

place of residence, and asked the community from the Association House, 1116 N. Kedzie Ave., to create small paintings on round panels that visually described their happiest place. While it lacks bright colors and abstract shapes, there's certainly "an underlying metaphor about growth and learning," Kunz said.

When it comes to pieces such as the one in the A+D Gallery, Kunz creates drama and a sense of belonging by including the viewer in the space. Physically walking around a 3-D piece of art allows the viewer to exist within the piece instead of merely observing.

"In our contemporary moment, it makes sense to include the viewer because the artist is actually a maker to their work at

all times," Kunz said.

She realizes that it might not make sense for every artist to include a theatrical element in their work. Likewise, she doesn't expect her students to be able to articulate exactly what they're trying to convey with their art.

"The visual is the most important, followed by the theoretical," Kunz said. "Dance first, think later" is a quote from John Cage that's my personal art-making philosophy."

Bryan Schuetze, Kunz's fellow artist and husband, recognizes the layered construction and thought behind installations like "Abnormal Formal."

"She's extremely loose, comfortable [and] approachable, yet formally very complex," Schuetze said. "She uses color that create a psychology that's not easy to put your finger on at first, but has a lasting impression."

Though Kunz has exhibited in Los Angeles, Houston, Brooklyn, San Antonio, the UK and Poland, she is happily rooted in Chicago, living in Logan Square with her husband and five-year-old daughter Nola. She's the only full-time faculty member showcasing her work at Columbia's Faculty Exhibition this year.

"It's more of a pleasure than a nuisance because I have one community and place to call my home," Kunz said. "In the past, I was working at Northwestern University, SAIC and Columbia and it was like being a human pinball with no real landing spot. Columbia is my landing place. It's a place

» SEE KUNZ, PG. 28

Bridging the gap between art and community

Community artists and residences work together to beautify bridge walls

by Colin Shively
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

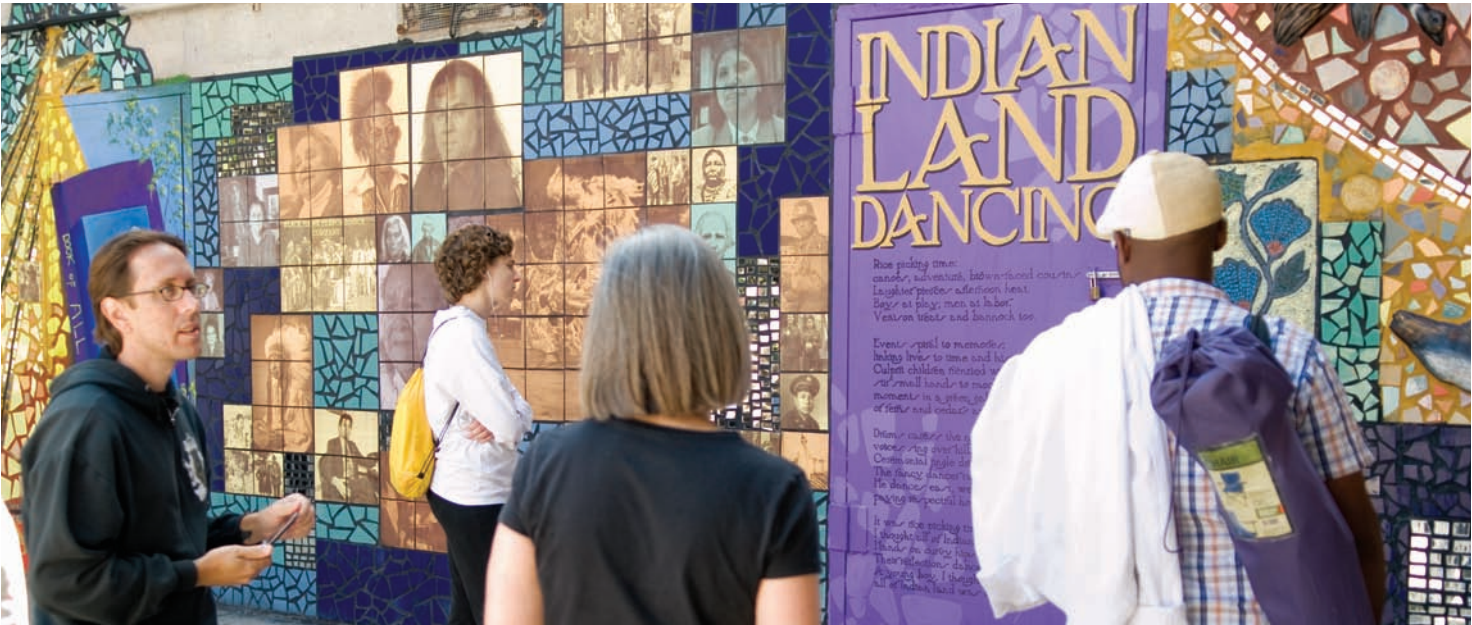
ONLY FOUR years ago, the Foster Avenue overpass was little more than a concrete bridge with graffiti-lined walls that showed the wear and tear of time.

Now the slabs of concrete have been adorned with mirrors, paintings and poetry thanks to the efforts of the Chicago Public Art Group (CPAG), 1259 S. Wabash Ave., who has designed bridge murals throughout Chicagoland. The new mural has been named Indian Land Dancing.

On Aug. 22, a dedication was held to commemorate the completion of the Foster Avenue mural. Mayor Daley, his wife and several other prominent Chicago figures attended the event to show their support for community art. Since then, passersby have stopped to take in the mural's imagery, texture and background and even pose in front of the mural for photos.

"[The Chicago Public Art Group] has done several other murals throughout the South Side of Chicago," said Maria Gray, the development director of CPAG. "We wanted to expand north, which resulted in the Bryn Mawr [Avenue] and Foster Avenue bridge murals."

The Chicago Public Art Group does not work alone when it comes to the art murals, also known as "bricolages," after the French idea of using found objects to create murals. They enlist the help of local artists, schools and the community to help produce an idea



courtesy AL CANDELARIO

Passersby pause at the grand opening of the bricolage under the Foster Avenue bridge on Aug. 22 named Indian Land Dancing. The walls of the bridge are lined with mirrors, tiles, paint and a poem of the same name written by Eddie Two-Rivers.

of the art and to finally put it together.

The bricolage on Foster Avenue is a unique mural that combined more than just the current community in northern Chicago. It went back into Chicago's history.

"This mural is special because it relates to the Native American communities that lived here before Chicago became what it is today," said Ernie Constantino, who oversees Public Art and Beautification issues for the 48th Ward.

Initially, there was some hesitation to the idea of using Native American influence, Constantino said. Yet the support of the community and of CPAG managed to set the idea in motion.

"The alderman [Mary Ann Smith] said we

were going to do Foster [Avenue] because of the overwhelming support for the Bryn Mawr [Avenue] bricolage," Constantino said. "The only difference was that it was going to be Native American-oriented because she saw how other cities were representing their history."

The Native American influence can be directly seen in Chicago Native American Eddie Two-Rivers' poem called "Indian Land Dancing," which is displayed on the mural by several plaques. The mural shares the same name.

Using the concept of bricolage, the mural was built with pre-made tiles, mirrors, handmade ceramic tiles and paint. This style of mural construction relies heavily

on community support, which turned out to be a great help to the project, Gray said.

"People look forward to these [bricolages] happening because it is very interactive," Gary said. "The artist will just ask people walking by if they want to put a tile up and then all of a sudden, you have a crowd of people helping build the art."

Overall, CPAG has overseen and contributed to eight bridge murals, six on the South Side and two on the North Side. In the future, CPAG has plans to construct more bricolages on North Avenue and on Lawrence Avenue, once the bridge has been rebuilt.

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‘Extracting’ the truth from Mike Judge

The Chronicle Sits down to chat with Mike Judge on life and his new move ‘Extract’

by David Orlikoff
Staff Writer

WRITER/DIRECTOR MIKE Judge has built a career on animation. He started out in the early '90s making shorts leading to his creation of the iconic “Beavis and Butt-head” for MTV in '93. His next major project, “King of the Hill,” began in '97 and prolific though his work in animation had been, Judge didn’t become a household name until after the release of his first live-action feature, *Office Space* in '99. Opening to a lukewarm theatrical release, the film eventually garnered a cult following and hit pay dirt for the studio through at-home viewing.

His latest film *Extract* tells the story of food flavoring developer and manufacturer Joel (Jason Bateman), as he deals with insane employees, a marriage losing its spark, a lawsuit and a crazed temp Cindy (Mila Kunis).

The Chronicle sat down with Mike Judge to talk about his philosophies on work, on life and how he came to write the screenplay for his latest film.

The Chronicle: Live action or animated, can you elaborate on what you think it means to have a Mike Judge film?

Mike Judge: I’ve been hearing that a lot lately with *Extract* and I really like it. Most of the time I’m asking, “what would make my friends laugh, and my brother and people that I know?” And it’s usually the kind of stuff where you’re sitting around telling stories like, “oh there’s this guy in my office and he does this and that,” or “you know my neighbor.” And you’re telling this story—you’re doing an imitation—and people laugh. I guess that’s where it starts with me. It just comes out seeming like my stuff, it’s not a deliberate thing.

Chronicle: In “King of the Hill” and Extract, there’s one really dominant character at the center of this moral framework. How do characters like Joel and Hank Hill represent your world view?

MJ: Those two are probably pretty close to my view. Hank’s probably a little different from me. I mean, I don’t follow football and stuff like that. [Joel] is probably pretty close to me. I worked so many jobs before I became successful in animation and filmmaking. I never had anybody working for me, I was always an employee, and suddenly I had 30 to 90 people working for me on “Beavis and Butt-head.” I felt like I was babysitting this huge group. Then I

thought, “Wait a minute, now I’m the boss.” I kind of learned to be a better boss.

Chronicle: Is there joy in being the boss?
MJ: I actually don’t enjoy being a boss by itself; I enjoy making something. That feeling of steering a ship or making something, bringing it to the finish line is a really great satisfying feeling. That’s why I could never see myself purely as being a manager for the sake of being a manager. And I think there are people who just like being a boss because they like being above and in control of people purely for that. I don’t enjoy that; I enjoy the overall thing. I think what happened on “Beavis and Butt-head” was that no one knew what they were doing and I ended up having to be the manager.

The Chronicle: How long have you been carrying around the story for Extract?

MJ: I started writing this right after *Office Space* came out. Fox had an option on me for one more screenplay. But the theatrical release didn’t do that great, so when my managers and agents all got together, when I mentioned this idea everyone was like, “Okay, no-no, no more workplace comedies.” And oddly enough the one idea I had that everyone thought was big and commercial was what became *Idiocracy*. I actually started writing this without telling anybody, just for fun. I’m horrible at pitching things and I thought, maybe if I write this and it turns out well I can just say, “Here it is,” and I won’t have to describe it to anyone which I can’t do anyway. But then I didn’t show anyone for years.

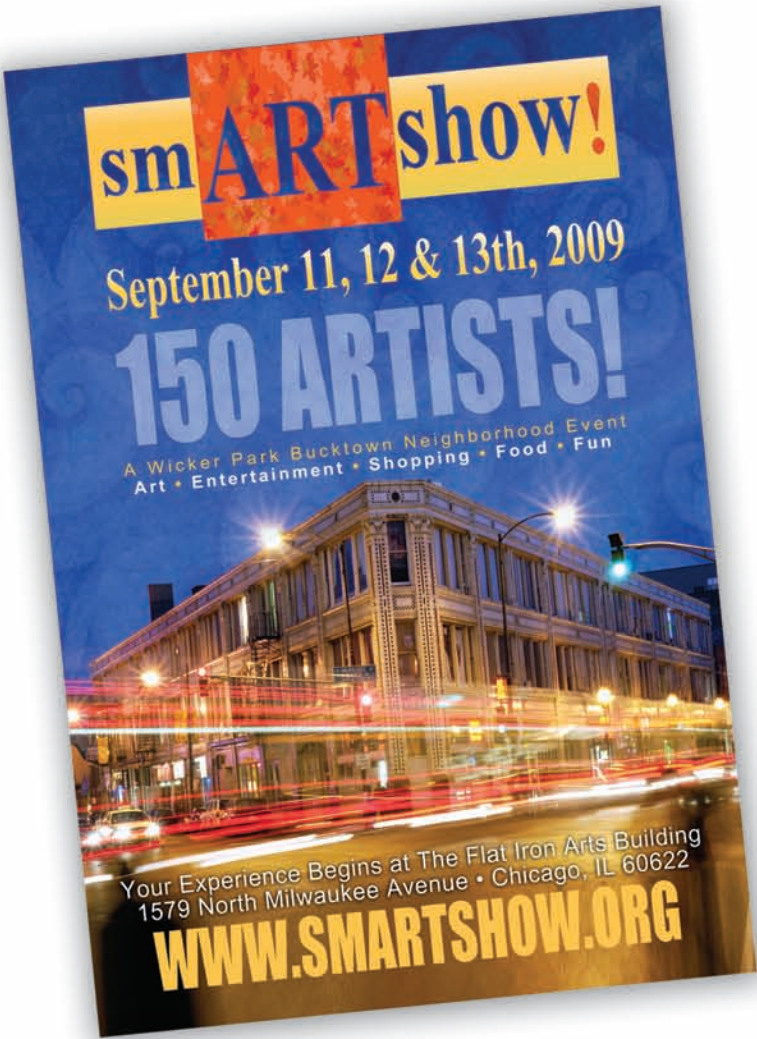
The Chronicle: When did you finish it?

MJ: I wrote a draft all the way through back in, I want to say 2001, and then ended up doing what became *Idiocracy*. When we did the first test screening of *Idiocracy*, the basic feeling the focus group had was that it was pretty funny, but they wanted to see something like *Office Space*. In the meantime, *Office Space* had come out on DVD and had become very commercial. So I looked at *Extract* again and showed it to John Altschuler and David Krinsky, the guys who ran “King of the Hill.” We already decided we were going to take the stuff that we liked, not sell it to anybody, just own it and try to make these things independently. So that’s what we did with this—we went to independent investors. And I did a rewrite of it and I had seen Jason Bateman in “Arrested Development,” so I was kind of imagining him in the role [of Joel]. We got these private investors and just decided to make it.

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Mike Judge, writer of *Office Space* and voice of Hank Hill on “King of the Hill” at the Premiere of *Extract*



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MCT



growing green in the urban so

STORY BY: COLIN SHIVELY // PHOTOS BY: LENNY GILMORE // LAYOUT BY: ANDREW MCARDLE

The aroma of Indian cuisine wafts through the alleyways and storefronts on Devon Avenue while passers-by walk to accomplish their daily chores. Only a few trees and bushes line the sidewalks intermittently, most are small and turning shades of brown as the season changes. In an urban setting, it can be difficult to find forests in the midst of a cement jungle.

However, there are people who believe urban and rural can coincide and produce a new kind of living environment. Uncommon Ground, located at 1401 W. Devon Ave., is making such a union while becoming greener, and not just in color.

Stationed on top of the building is a unique and blossoming creation that has captured the attention of a nation. Two stories up is the first and only certified organic rooftop garden in the United States.

"What [they] wanted to do was show that any urban area can be green and can flourish with urban farming," said Jeanne Nolan, owner of The Organic Gardener



Kevin Marunowski, a saute cook at Uncommon Ground on 1401 W. Devon Ave., finely chops a tomato that was organically grown only two floors above. The restaurant uses both their own vegetables and food provided by other local Chicago farms and gardens.

who helped design Uncommon Ground. "We did it; we became the first and only one certified organic in the United States. Anything is possible," Nolan said.

Uncommon Ground's venture into a new style of farming has not gone unnoticed. In March 2009, the U.S. Green Building Council awarded Uncommon Ground the USGBC Environmental Award. The award has a prestigious reputation among designers of green buildings. Yet the building Uncommon Ground now resides in has not always been given a green thumbs-up.

Built in 1908, the 1401 W. Devon Ave. building has had many names and housed numerous businesses including clothing boutiques, restaurants and office suites.

"The building has been through a lot," Nolan said. "There was a fire that destroyed about one side of it and in the '60s most of it was demolished to make way for a parking lot, so when we purchased it, we wanted to make it something it has never been before, something that didn't exist until now."

Until Uncommon Ground's purchase of the building in 2007, a supper club was housed there until it closed its doors in late 2006, leaving the building vacant between owners.

Now, however, Uncommon Ground's garden is growing bigger by the year. As each season passes, Helen Cameron, Uncommon Ground's owner, saves the seeds of the plants that did well in order to plant a new and stronger garden.

"Keeping the seeds of the strong plants provides us with a new generation that is capable of getting stronger and adapting," Cameron said. "Nature helps nature here."

With more than five varieties of tomatoes, beans, squash and other vegetables, Uncommon Ground has been able to adapt to the unpredictable weather of an urban setting.

Uncommon Ground received their organic garden certification in October 2008, which surprised those familiar with the lengthy process to become certified organic because that is one third of the time it usually takes to become certified.

"Well, in a typical farm setting, it is going to be a three-year process, not necessarily a three-year certification process, but at least three years of no prohibited substances being applied to the ground in order to become certified," said Steve Walker, a certification judge with the Midwest Organic Services Association that inspected Uncommon Ground.

Walker said to become certified organic the ground must be free of any prohibited substances for three years. Following the certification, the farm must be inspected annually and file reports concerning any changes that would affect their organic operation.

"The general rule of thumb in organics is that all synthetics are prohibited and all natural substances are allowed," Walker said. "However, there are

exemptions on both sides. There are some natural substances, like arsenic, that are prohibited for organic use."

However this is no typical farm setting. The garden that grows atop Uncommon Ground is a different environment. There are benches that circle the garden where bees from Cameron's four beehives fly to and from, providing Uncommon Ground's honey. Cameron said It is an ecosystem completely different from the surrounding urban life.

"In a situation like a greenhouse, or in this case a rooftop farm, they are essentially bringing in potting mix that is already organic," Walker said. "They don't need to go through a three-year certification [process] because what they bring in has already been certified. What they do is they turn in a description of how they will manage things organically."

When Walker refers to managing organically, he is not just talking about making sure the cabbage is free of arsenic, pesticides and artificial growth hormones. Uncommon Ground sees to it that their entire rooftop is organic and eco-friendly.

After the building was purchased, the urban farmers realized that the building, in its rundown condition, would not be able to sustain a rooftop garden, let alone an organic one. Utilizing local designers, such as architect Peter Moser from the Swiss Design Group, Uncommon Ground went to work to construct a roof that could not only hold a garden, but be equally as green.

Cameron said the roof is made of recycled plastics and organic wood. Not only does this strengthen the support for the garden, it also aids in keeping the plants organic.

"A rooftop garden is different than a regular farm," Walker said. "Whereas they don't have to worry about surrounding farms or land, they do have to worry about the materials in the building and how they are going to keep prohibited substances from entering their garden."

The roof is a tribute to eco-friendly projects in itself. It houses solar thermal panels to help keep the garden warm and energy consumption low, as well as utilizing any excess materials such as murals and even benches.

"We are not just about being organic in what we can eat," said Angie Mead, marketing coordinator for Uncommon Ground. "We want to make Uncommon Ground's carbon footprint as small as possible. That means buying from local businesses, supporting local groups and even hosting local Farmers Markets to help spread the word."

Every Friday from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m., Uncommon Ground hosts a Farmers Market that includes live music, local fashion designers and local farmers, who want to get the food to their community.

"This provides the community with a chance to get to see Uncommon Ground and to connect with their local food providers," Cameron said. "Our

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garden is open to the public during the market so anyone can go and see what we offer here. It is a very community-oriented business."

Uncommon Ground does not just sell its produce during hosted Farmers Markets. Every day, patrons consume their greens in the restaurant located below the garden while their sister restaurant at 3800 N. Clark St. receives its food from local farms.

There might not be a garden on the roof at the second Uncommon Ground, but live musical performances, art fairs and private parties provide the entertainment, while food lovers can still enjoy the fresh taste of locally grown and delivered food.

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A ripe radish has thrived in its unusual growing conditions. According to Helen Cameron, the owner of Uncommon Ground, each plant is an experiment—if the plant survives, the seeds are planted for next season; if the plant dies, Cameron won't plant the seed again.



TOP // Helen Cameron picks tomatoes for the other Uncommon Ground restaurant on 3800 N. Clark St.

LEFT // Cameron carries an assortment of tomatoes, peppers, beans and radishes down from the roof.

RIGHT // Michael Cameron gives a tour of the roof. Tours are given by Michael, Helen or their interns.

BOTTOM RIGHT // A variety of tomatoes picked by Helen. Tomatoes have been one of the most successful plants to grow in the organic-urban farm.



Fiction’s finest read at The Book Cellar

Chicago writers explore third-person narratives dedicated to city streets

Mina Bloom
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

BY MERELY glancing at the array of colorful restaurant signs, shadowy alleyways and crowds of similarly dressed city dwellers, it’s well understood that every Chicago street tells its own distinct, cultural story. In this case, however, 95th Street and Belmont Avenue have stories waiting to be told about them.

Since May, The Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln Ave., has warmly invited Chicagoans to stop by on the second Saturday of each month and listen to a few of Chicago’s most talented fiction writers. The event requires them to read from stories that incorporate the same Chicago street in a third-person narrative. Past readers include Jonathan Messinger, Eric May, Bobby Biedrzycki, Jill Summers and Rob Duffer.

Brian Costello, freelance writer for The Chicago Reader, band member and fiction writer, came up with the idea and hosts the event named Second City/Third Person with co-host Nicole Chakalis. Costello drew his inspiration from the short story “Farwell” written by Stuart Dybek, which is primarily set on Farwell Street in Rogers Park.

Costello’s vision came to fruition after he developed a creative way to include a theme dedicated to one street per reading, third-person narratives and assembling Chicago-based fiction writers who regularly

participate in readings. “I was interested in doing third-person stories in the oral setting,” Costello said. “The idea is to show that you can have a voice that can be just as powerful and just as engaging as the favored first person. At most readings, people are going to read things in first person because that’s, of course, how people tell stories. With third person, you have access to all points of view. You can switch points of view and use different characters. You have the freedom to play around with perception.”

The event begins when Chakalis reads the particular street name’s Wikipedia entry aloud to the audience before the guests read their pieces.

“Nicole’s from Chicago and she has the Chicago accent,” Costello said. “I’m from Florida, so she needs to read it in the Chicago accent.”

Zach Dodson, Alexis Thomas and Kyle Beachy will all be reading on Sept. 12 at The Book Cellar in this weekend’s installment of Second City/Third Person. Belmont Avenue happens to be the focus of this particular event.

“The street could be the actual setting of the story or something that comes up. It really varies,” Costello said. “Sometimes it’s a building or a place on the street. It could be a restaurant, a bar or a character just walking down the street. Other times it’s mentioned kind of off-hand. It’s really interesting how people approach it. It’s a great creative exercise.”

Dodson runs Featherproof Books, a small, independent book publishing company,



(Clockwise from left) Alexis Thomas, Zach Dodson and Kyle Beachy will be reading at The Book Cellar.



and will teach the Echo Magazine course at Columbia this fall. His company published Costello’s first novel, *The Enchanters vs. Sprawlburg Springs*, released in 2006. He’s no stranger to reading his work at public book store events or Belmont Avenue.

“It’s probably one of the first places that I checked out when I first came to Chicago,” Dodson said. “Maybe I’ll write something about Berlin [nightclub].”

The youngest writer chosen to read at the event on Sept. 12 studies fiction writing at Columbia, interns for Dodson at Featherproof Books and has been a student in Costello’s class. Having grown up on Belmont Avenue, Alexis Thomas has plenty of material to work with when she goes to craft a story to read at the event.

“I was raised at Belmont and Clark and Belmont and California,” Thomas said. “All of Belmont Avenue is my home. I just can’t

get away from it.” While most people think of the bustling corner of Belmont and Clark, complete with thrifty shops and mid-range chain restaurants, Thomas is familiar with the lesser known side of Belmont Avenue. “Once you get past Western Avenue, the street becomes more ethnic. Farther west

» SEE FICTION, PG. 28

DEPS

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RE:figure: A Contemporary Look at Figurative Representation in Art

Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 S Wabash Ave, 1st fl, Chicago, IL 60605
September 8, 2009 - October 30, 2009
Reception: September 10, 2009, 5-8pm

Layer Cake: Tales from a Quinceañera

C33 Gallery, 33 E Congress Pkwy, 1st fl, Chicago, IL 60605
September 8, 2009 - October 28, 2009
Reception: September 10, 5-8pm

Shanghai Reflections

Hokin Gallery, 623 S Wabash Ave, 1st fl, Chicago, IL 60605
August 31, 2009 - October 23, 2009
Reception: September 8, 5-8pm

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Comic shop battles economic downturn

Brainstorm Comics, Movies, and Gaming falters when distributor withholds comics

by **Cody Prentiss**

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

BRAINSTORM COMICS, Movies, and Gaming customers had no reason to doubt that their weekly superhero fix would continue uninterrupted. That was until August arrived.

Brainstorm has become a Bucktown staple since it opened in October 2003 at 1648 W. North Ave., and it's easy to see why. The store separates itself from the competition by catering to every avenue of geek it can find, whether it be a comic, movie or board game. One can still find popular movies like *Wall-E*, as well as weird ones like the late '80s horror film *Dr. Calagari*, which features a lunatic female doctor conducting heinous experiments on her patients, always ready and waiting for brave customers.

Brainstorm's comic selection features the regular Marvel and DC staples, along with many lesser known titles like *Jack of Fables* from Vertigo Comics. Under the shelves, customers can find boxes of back issues if they're looking for something less recent. Of course, when the shop doesn't receive its weekly shipment of comics, it's all old issues.

On Aug. 19, a long entry was posted on the store's MySpace page telling faith-

ful customers the shop would not receive another shipment from distributor Diamond Comics. According to the post, the store's last day of business would be Oct. 4.

When customers heard the shop could be closing, they responded by contacting Diamond Comics. The distributor eventually agreed to continue shipping Brainstorm their books after reaching a confidential agreement with owners Robert Kimmons and Matt Sagan.

The store is having a clearance sale on their current stock to raise capital in order to get back on good terms with Diamond Comics.

Kimmons said while the news is a relief, things are still very much in the air.

"So much has been taken out of our hands," Kimmons said. "You play by the rules, you do what you're supposed to, you pay your bills on time and someone bigger than you still takes your credit line away."

Kimmons said he thought his customers were loyal, but was still surprised by how much they have stepped up.

"People have mobilized and they have made it a point of saying, 'We won't let this store die.'"

A benefit concert was held on Sept. 6 at Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., and all ticket sales revenue went to the store. Brainstorm employee Sean Akins set up the event through a customer who knew a booking agent at Subterranean. Akins was the master of ceremonies at the con-



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Sean Akins restocks the new releases shelf at Brainstorm Comics, 1648 W. North Ave. Brainstorm has been struggling to get new shipments from Diamond Comics.

cert with performances from musicians the InnerVisionists, Ezekiel Thirtyate and Aloha Satan.

Akins started his job at Brainstorm in 2004 as a part-time employee, but began working there full-time after quitting his previous job managing Michael Anthony's Salon and Spa.

"I know I'm making considerably less money, but I'm doing something I love," Akins said. "Me and my family, we moved to this neighborhood just so I can be closer."

Akins said the store has a special place in the neighborhood that would be missed.

"We are definitely the nerd lifeline of this area," Akins said. "Only place a person can feel comfortable coming and talking about *The Green Lantern*, *Superman*, 'Doctor Who' or whatever they are reading or watching. This is just that place where no one is going to look down on you for liking these things."

Andy Cole, assistant manager of competi-

tor Graham Crackers Comics, 77 E. Madison St., said Brainstorm's troubles came as a surprise to him.

"It's a shame," Cole said. "We didn't throw business their way, but we never fail to mention them when someone is looking for an obscure video. Brainstorm, they know what they're doing with that stuff."

Cole said business has been better for some stores in the Graham Crackers chain, but overall the company is happy with their performance. He said comics tend to be recession proof, but smaller stores are more affected by the economic downturn.

Cole said Graham Crackers Comics has made changes to maintain their profit margins.

"We're not taking as many chances on stuff we used to," Cole said.

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WEST TOWN BIKES

New arts venue welcomes Columbia students

New Afro-centric space hosts Chicago artists to keep performing arts flourishing.

Katherine Gamby
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

COLUMBIA STUDENTS will soon have a new venue to express themselves in, following the opening of The Roots Room.

Roots Rock Society, an award-winning Chicago-based reggae group, is opening the new arts venue in September at 5302 N. Kimball Ave. where local Chicagoans can perform music, spoken word and poetry.

“We want to keep the live music going,” said Stann Champion, owner of Starstruck Productions and founding member of Roots Rock Society. “People are trying to push the live musicians to the side. How can you do that?”

The group, three of whose five members attend Columbia, will not only feature live music at The Roots Room, but also have nights when a band’s CD is highlighted.

“It’s good that we had the opportunity to find a place of our own where we can control the vibration that’s going on,” Champion said.

The décor of the new venue will be lively but true to the culture of the African Diaspora, which is intertwined into Roots Rock Society’s music. The Roots Room will also showcase the group’s accomplishments over the years.

“We wanted to make it a museum for what we’ve done,” Champion said.

Among those accomplishments are international airplay, various music



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

A view of The Roots Room, 5203 N. Kimball Ave. An opening date is still pending review by the city of Chicago.

awards and humanitarian efforts, some of which will be included in The Roots Room.

“We’ll have Sundays where we’ll have food drives where the admission will be canned goods and we’ll distribute [the cans] to needy people,” Champion said.

The Roots Room will hold a maximum of 75 people and feature a juice bar in compliance with being a non-alcoholic venue, so it will be age-inclusive. The venue will also serve as a bicycle roadhouse for cyclers to take a break and refresh themselves before arriving at their destinations.

“It’s going to be for the community and for the creative community especially,” Champion said.

Sharod Smith, program and Manifest musical coordinator for Columbia, said he sees The Roots Room as a good opportunity for Columbia students to get involved in, especially for those who approach him for venues to perform at other than Big Mouth.

“It should be a pretty intimate space for folks who want to [have] a tight little intimate gathering,” he said.

Smith said he doesn’t think distance will play a role in whether students attend shows or for students who want to perform.

“We have people who travel up to Sheridan and Evanston to perform ... people travel far and wide to perform as long as the venue is decent,” Smith said.

He said he is always available to help artists like Roots Rock Society get ahead, regardless of whether they are under the Columbia umbrella.

“I’m always open to assist another musician, another artist, another creative being prosper, so to speak ... I’m all about unity,” Smith said.

Johnetta “Awthentik” Anderson, a sophomore television major at Columbia, practices spoken word to reach out and expose people to the way she sees the world that surrounds her.

“I talk for and to the poor people ... I talk to the people in the wrong—wrong is wrong, even if you have the right clothes on,” Anderson said.

Anderson said she doesn’t have any reservations about performing at a venue like The Roots Room, even though her message is different from the African-inspired one of Roots Rock Society and The Roots Room.

“I’ve performed in plenty of venues like [The Roots Room] ... [it’ll] be nothing,” Anderson said.

Being nervous is not an option for Anderson because she said she feels as though she can identify with any crowd she performs in front of, and The Roots Room is no exception.

“I don’t get nervous because I have a message that is so real that it’ll reach everybody,” Anderson said.

For more information on The Roots Room, contact Stann Champion via e-mail, stan-champ@prodigy.net or visit RootsRockSociety.com.

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BOB MARLEY // SUN IS SHINING
ERYKAH BADU // DRAMA
SARA TAVARES // BALANCE
LAMB // HEAVEN

LAUREN KELLY, COMMENTARY EDITOR



AESOP ROCK // THE GREATEST PAC-MAN VICTORY IN HISTORY
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THE PHILADELPHIA EXPERIMENT // CALL FOR ALL DEMONS

ANDREW MCARDLE, GRAPHIC DESIGNER



THRICE // ALL THE WORLD IS MAD
LESS THAN JAKE // WALKING ON A WIRE
HOPESFALL // RX CONTENDER THE PRETENDER
SHE + HIM // I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER

ZACK ANDERSON, GRAPHIC DESIGNER

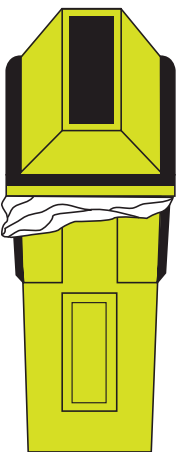
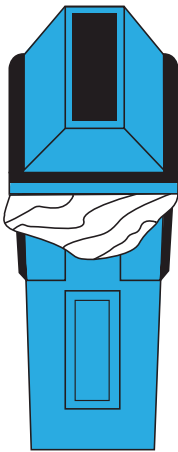
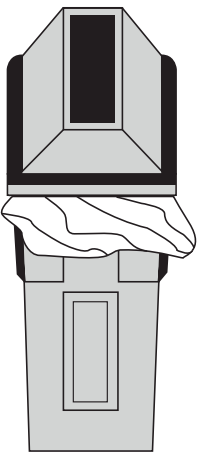


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CHICAGO AUDIOFILE



Clayton Hauk EVERYONEISFAMOUS.COM

Producer Million \$ Mano (left) and Drea Smith (right) make up He Say, She Say.

Six degrees brings
together electric duo

by Cody Prentiss
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

HE SAY, She Say Producer Million \$ Mano (Emmanuel Nickerson) and singer Drea Smith share a special bond that can be heard in their music. The way Smith's voice rides Nickerson's heavy bass in their song "Crash Dummie" suggests the entire product came from one dirty mind.

The two musicians met at Columbia as undergrads and formed their band in 2007. They've been hard at work ever since, making music and performing at some of the largest concerts in the U.S., including this year's Lollapalooza.

The Chronicle recently caught up with Nickerson and Smith to get the story behind their musical union.

The Chronicle: How did you two meet?

Drea Smith: We met at Columbia. I thought he looked cool. We started being friends. He didn't know I did music.

Emmanuel Nickerson: It's a little more extensive than that; we had a lot of mutual friends through Chicago and Milwaukee. She was friends with a lot of homies that I was cool with in Milwaukee, so she already kind of knew about me, but we never knew each other. It was so weird; it was like six degrees of separation.

DS: And when we met it was like, "Let's make music together."

EN: Plus the fact that we both have influences from the same people.

DS: We realized we had three of the same CDs in our collections that many people didn't have. I was like, "Man, you're my best friend now." You have three CDs that nobody in my high school had, and he's two years older than me. You know, he's a cooler, older guy.

EN: I am.

The Chronicle: How does gender come in to play in your song "Crash Dummies"?

DS: Most people think, "Oh, she writes X-rated, provocative, blah-blah." Yeah, no. It's totally about a woman knowing she's being used and being alright with it because it's like, "Whatever, people use people. I'm okay with it. I'll do it." I'm not saying it is okay to be used, but some people are fine with it if they're getting something out of it.

The Chronicle: Does it ever make you laugh when you see people singing the chorus, but not really understanding what the song means?

DS: I mean it's a dance song, but it's funny because I'm totally talking about being emotionally abused.

EN: That's the beauty of music. You have tons of people at any super-uber-hipster function, where as soon as the DJ wants to be hard and plays Dead Prez's "It's Bigger Than Hip-Hop," all these 20-something suburban Caucasian kids are just going nuts and—

DS: —not listening to the words.

EN: Dead Prez isn't really for white people, so to say. I mean, at the end of the day, to even make that statement is dope because sometimes music can get a bigger feel than the initial message you wanted to put through. The way she [Drea] sings over it, the certain instruments that I use, it's bigger than a word sometimes.

The Chronicle: Have you felt like when you're writing your lyrics that people will want you to tone them down because they're too sexual?

DS: People assume I'm this overtly sexual person, and I'm really not. I hope that people don't think I'm all sexual, but I don't want people thinking I'm a feminist either. It's not a feminist thing. I do want to be a voice for women my age. I'm 23-years-old, and sometimes I do do things that are not that responsible. I just want to make smart music that's reflective of what women my age think like.

The Chronicle: Has there ever been moments when you thought you wanted to quit?

EN: Yes, but this is isn't a hobby at all; this is our lives. I care about my well-being, Drea's well-being, and then actually being one [with] the fans. I feel like I owe so many people to put out things that will inspire the generation to come because that's how I was made, by being inspired by the artists before me.

For concert information and a taste of their music, check out He Say, She Say at MySpace.com/DreaHeartsMusic.

wprentiss@chroniclemail.com

» FICTION

Continued from PG. 24

there are a lot of Polish and Mexican neighborhoods. You'll see a lot of signs in Polish and Spanish," Thomas said.

Thomas is also of the opinion that third-person stories are useful in exploring different points of view and connecting to an audience. After reading John Steinbeck's *East of Eden*, Thomas feels confident in implementing what she calls the "universal voice."

The Book Cellar is one of many venues where Chicago writers can read their stories aloud for family, friends, colleagues, fellow writers and people who happen to be taking a stroll past the bookstore. Thomas will also be reading at The Hungry Brain, 2319 W. Belmont Ave. on Oct. 5 with Costello.

The Second City/Third Person reading at The Book Cellar promises to celebrate good, old-fashioned creative expression that will invite a "wide range of emotional responses," Costello said.

"There are quite a few readings that just get laughs because it's at a bar or some of them can be very ponderous and serious," Costello said. "We really have a wide range of stories. It's great to see what each writer brings to the table."

Second City/Third Person will take place at The Book Cellar, 4736 N. Lincoln Ave. at 7 p.m. on Sept. 12. Alexis Thomas, Brian Costello, Natalie Edwards and Jill Summers will be reading at The Hungry Brain, 2319 W. Belmont Ave. at 8 p.m. on Oct. 5. 21+, no cover.

hbloom@chroniclemail.com

Featured Photo



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

Double bass virtuoso Esperanza Spalding astonishes the crowd with her playful jazz scatting during the 30th annual Chicago Jazz Festival on Sept. 4.

» KUNZ

Continued from PG. 20

where I can know the students and understand the culture of the school."

Kunz believes the Art & Design Department at Columbia is growing quickly. She describes Columbia as "a very honest place to be an artist and to teach because the student body is so colorful, energetic, diverse and curious. All of the best art is made with those themes in mind."

Debra Parr, co-chair of the Art & Design Department at Columbia, sees Kunz's artistic process as a tool to connect with her students.

"The way she teaches is very similar to how she works as an artist," Parr said. "She's really interested in [the] process and her art is always evolving. I think she really encourages students to look at their work that way, too."

Kunz is continuing to explore the relationship between dance and painting. She has proposed a piece for the historical Merce Cunningham Dance Company and has recently collaborated with Paige Cunningham, a faculty member in the Dance Department at Columbia.

The Faculty Exhibition at A+D Gallery, 619 S. Wabash Ave. is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Thursdays 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. through Sept. 19. Kunz will be in the gallery doing performance work with "Abnormal Formal" Saturdays 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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FILM REVIEW

‘Extract’ succeeds as a minor comedy

Director Mike Judge delivers a problematic sequel to the hit comedy *Office Space*

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

WRITER, DIRECTOR and animator Mike Judge broke into the scene in 1993 with the iconic MTV series “Beavis and Butt-Head.” His second major project, “King of the Hill,” began in 1997 and saw its 13th and final season this year. But no matter how prolific his animated work, he didn’t become a household name until after his live-action feature debut, *Office Space* in 1999.

His latest film, *Extract*, tells the tale of Joel (played by Jason Bateman of “Arrested Development” and “Teen Wolf Too,” a nerd for food flavorings who owns his own small business producing various extracts. Despite marriage problems, Joel seems to be in a good position when General Mills wants to buy his company—a move that would net millions and allow him to leave the insanity of the factory behind. But when forces converge to threaten his company with a bankruptcy lawsuit, Joel faces losing more than his retirement package.

Categorically, this film is a workplace comedy akin to Judge’s highly successful *Office Space*. The actual plot, however, is almost the exact inverse.

In *Office Space*, the main character is transformed through hypnosis and in his new state highlights the absurdity of the

Extract
Starring: Jason Bateman
Director: Mike Judge
Run Time: 91 minutes

Rating: R
Now playing at local theaters.

☹️ 😐 😊 😄 😁

status quo within corporate America. This is not so with Joel in *Extract*, who remains stagnant throughout the film as his incompetent employees run amok. Everything is external in Joel’s world, pushing and creeping its way into his peace of mind. If it weren’t for a workplace accident or “some criminal drifter,” there wouldn’t be a film.

Part of the appeal of *Office Space* was the message of empowerment that went along with change on an individual level. It taught us that even a lowly worker bee can shake things up in a big way. That message might be ill-fated for a repeat in *Extract*, especially since Joel is the boss, but this film is not without meaning.

Joel, in his managerial role, serves as an allegory for the modern man, both physically and metaphorically. Some of the problems he faces are as ludicrous as they are meaningless, but others, such as those he faces with his wife Suzie (played by Kristen Wiig of “Saturday Night Live”) bear relevance. The less concrete lesson here is that we are all our own bosses struggling against lazy employees and profiteers within the Reynolds’s Extract Factory of our minds.

As with Judge’s previous work, the fun-



Director and writer Mike Judge (left) appears on set of his new film *Extract* which premiered on Sept. 4

niest bits come from the expert supporting cast. Gene Simmons plays a slimy lawyer named Joe “El Tigre” Adler, who is out to get Joel by the balls. David Koechner plays Nathan, the annoying and overbearing neighbor who can’t take a hint. Either of them would be at home in a Mike Judge animation, which is as much a curse as a blessing.

Joel is the only real character in the film, a straight-laced man with little personality himself, a product of the one-dimensional goons around him. And funny though they

may be, no one can hold a candle to Milton and his stapler.

Overall, the film is only somewhat funny. It is, at its heart, a moral tale, falling somewhere between fantasy and allegory for the modern man—and for Judge himself who identifies with characters like Joel and Hank Hill.

Those with high expectations will be disappointed, but the film is not without merit. It is, above all else, pleasant.

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TOP 5

JACKASS
OF THE WEEK



Bethany Reinhart, Editor-in-Chief

Things I can't live without

My family: If I had to pay my mom a counseling fee for all the times she has talked me off my ledge and through my tears at 2 a.m., I would be repaying her until I am 90. There's no way I can ever repay my father for all of the things he has sacrificed to help me and my sister in our times of need. Without my family, I wouldn't be the woman I am today.

My BlackBerry: It really is true—once you go BlackBerry, you never go back. Although the iPhone has super cool applications, the apps certainly don't outweigh the benefits of a BlackBerry. Being able to send 10 e-mails while I am on my way to work has become my saving grace.

CNN: Even when my stereo is blasting, CNN is playing silently in the background. I wake up and fall asleep to CNN. I even watch it while I'm running on the treadmill. CNN is the homepage on all my computers. My life would not be complete without it.

My computers: This goes without saying, I go into panic mode when something is wrong with my computer, which is ridiculous because I have a laptop, a desktop and an office computer. I also have a MacBook Pro on loan.

My best friend: Even though she lives several hundred miles away, the distance doesn't stand in the way of our friendship. Together, we have been to hell and back and have forged a friendship that will never be broken. She is the most wonderful friend that any woman could ask for. She gets me. Enough said.



Jazzy Davenport, Managing Editor

Sports stories you probably missed because of Michael Vick's return

The Williams sisters: Venus and her kid sister Serena recently became minority owners of the Miami Dolphins and became the first African-American women to own a stake in an NFL team.

Usain "Lightning" Bolt: The Jamaica-born track star broke two records during the World Championship this summer. The triple-Olympian and world champion broke records in both the 100m dash and 200m dash. It is rumored that the world's fastest man may attempt four Gold medals in the 2012 Olympics. Unstoppable!

Jimmie Johnson: NASCAR's three-time Sprint Cup winner was recently honored by President Barack Obama at the White House. Johnson even parked his championship #48 out on the South Lawn. After being honored, Johnson, who has met with two previous presidents, described his experience with President Obama as "much more conversational and comfortable and social and relaxed." Surprising? I didn't think so.

Tiger Woods: Woods recently lost the PGA Championship to South Korea's Ye Yang after leading on the final day. Wait! Tiger lost a major? Whoa! I guess even the world's greatest golfer can't win everything.

Erin Andrews: The ESPN sportscaster's privacy was invaded by a Peeping Tom who thought it was a good idea to videotape Andrews undressing through the peephole of her hotel room. She just completed an interview with Oprah describing her humiliation. You knew that was coming!



Kevin Obomanu, Operations Manager

Things to do at a house party

Be a rumpshaker: If you can pop, lock and drop it, then you'll be the one to summon people to the dance floor with your booty. It doesn't matter if you're a guy or a girl, what matters is how well you can bounce that—you know. Make sure to put it on everyone and everything, especially the refrigerator.

Flirt with everyone: Being a flirt is cute when done moderately. Being a crazy flirt is better when everyone is intoxicated. Who cares if the angry drunk doesn't want you to nibble his shoulder? He may give you a hard punch in the mouth, but deep down inside, that nibble turned him on.

Spread a rumor: Your friends are drunk—why not have some fun? Say something outrageous about Susie and John. Don't fret, they will all forget it in the morning if you keep the drinks rolling.

Don't bring the significant other: Like Destiny's Child said in their 2000 single "Jumpin' Jumpin'," leave your man at home and your girl with a friend. Bringing them is just going to add drama while you're making a cocktail as a (good-looking) fool is trying to feel you up.

Avoid weirdos: The guy standing in the corner who looks like he's from "To Catch a Predator" — stay away from him. If he comes up to you and asks to dance or offers you a drink, tell him that you have something nasty and infectious, and if he steps closer, he'll have a lot to clean up. If he looks like he was aroused by that, grab the last bottle of liquor and get out of there.



USmagazine.com

Gone daddy gone

Kate Gosselin's atrocious peacock-inspired punk haircut aside, viewers used to swoon over the innocent nature of "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which consisted of wholesome family picnics (complete with a very large blanket, of course) and quirky awkwardness between mom and dad that most people chose to ignore because the kids are so absurdly adorable.

Recently, though, Jon Gosselin's frequent appearances in the tabloids have completely stolen the show, so to speak. His marriage with Kate publicly fell apart this past June, which didn't come as a huge surprise if you've witnessed their bizarre, less-than-affectionate interactions on the show.

Nowadays, Jon has a new 22-year-old girlfriend who's a self-proclaimed party girl. He himself goes out drinking often and he's been accused of selling pictures of himself and the kids to the press for cash. It's pretty simple. Jon's putting himself in situations that reflect poorly on his kids. It's one thing to split up with your wife based on various personal reasons, but it's another to exploit your family.

Oh, and leave it to reality stars to milk their fleeting stardom for all it's worth. TMZ reported that Jon may appear in a show called "Divorced Dad's Club" for famous divorced dads. The ratings have declined for "Jon & Kate Plus 8," after all. It must be time for him to jump at the next possible opportunity to make a profit off his family's hardships.

—M. Bloom



Sophomore fashion design major Braylen Barr designs some her own clothing along with sifting through vintage shops and her grandmother's basement for her perfect fit.

Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE



Katherine Gamby
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

BRAYLEN BARR, a sophomore fashion design major at Columbia, is a modern-day hippie with an Afrocentric splash, which she showcases with the African-inspired earrings she bought from an African festival in her hometown of St. Louis.

Barr normally sports eccentric, colorful, mismatched pieces, such as the one she was dressed in when The Chronicle talked to her. She also designs some of her own clothes, which are inspired by Tim Burton films.

"Tim Burton is my main inspiration," Barr said. "I basically base my collection

off of his movies. For example, *Sweeney Todd*, I would do a jacket, but actually make it my own."

Aside from designing her own historically-inspired clothing, one piece being her featured Marie Antoinette skirt, Barr prefers to shop at vintage stores, rather than popular department stores such as Forever 21, Inc.

"I don't like looking like everyone else ... their clothing is made poorly to me," Barr said.

She joked that a pair of pants she bought from the store can easily rip by simply bending over. One of her favorite places to shop is at a local vintage store in St. Louis.

"In St. Louis, there's this place called The City Museum. It's a fun, artsy kind of place ... they have \$1 shirts, 50 cent shirts, \$2 pants," Barr said.

She said she also shops at vintage stores in Wicker Park, but loves to shop out of her grandmother's basement, which is where she got the scarf that she sometimes sports as a belt, along with her basket woven shoulder bag. She also uses spare material from her grandmother's basement to incorporate in her designs.

"I really like the shabby chic look ... I don't really like my things ironed," Barr said.

kgamby@chroniclemail.com

REVIEWS



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PRINT



'DEXTER' BOOK SERIES

"Dexter By Design," the fourth installement in the series, comes out this month. Dexter, a police detective by day and serial killer by night, must rid Miami of bad guys one slice at a time. It's a creepy, crime thriller that is worth a look. —J. Graveline



ROLLING STONE MAGAZINE, COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Before Rolling Stone recognized Kid Rock as "hot" in 2007, the publication had already been rolling downhill. However, hope in this doomed music icon dons leather jackets and marginal talent. Yes, the Jonas Brothers have been honored with a collector's edition of Rolling Stone with steamy posters for bedroom walls. Nice that you're saving face, RS. —C. Shook



BOOK- DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY

Devil in the White City contains intimate, factual details about the planning of perhaps the most extravagant Chicago event, the 1893 World's Fair, which is also intertwined with a thrilling story about a serial killer. —S. Roush



MOVIES / TV / DVD



"MAD MEN" THIRD SEASON

Don Draper and co. are back for a compelling third season of "Mad Men." A very pregnant Betty Draper comes out of the wake of discovering Don's affair bolder than ever, while the former good-girl copywriter Peggy Olson proves she can be just as fun as the boys of Madison Avenue Advertising. Always finding interesting—and sometimes illegal—ways to do so. —E. Peters



"REAL HOUSEWIVES OF ATLANTA"

I am obsessed with "The Real Housewives of Atlanta." Kim, NeNe, Lisa, Sheree, and the show's newest addition, Kandi, never cease to amaze me with their antics. What could be better than an hour-long getaway, watching five self-centered women live lavish lives that consist of getting drunk and shopping every day? —L. Nalin



TOOL ACADEMY 2

Somehow VH1 has managed to find tools that out-douche last year's contestants. "Tool Academy 2's" premiere had more 'roid rage', spray tans, popped collars, meltdowns and guyliner than I could stomach. Last season had a bizarrely heartwarming conclusion, but I doubt that any of this season's tools will become decent guys. —D. LaCoco



MUSIC



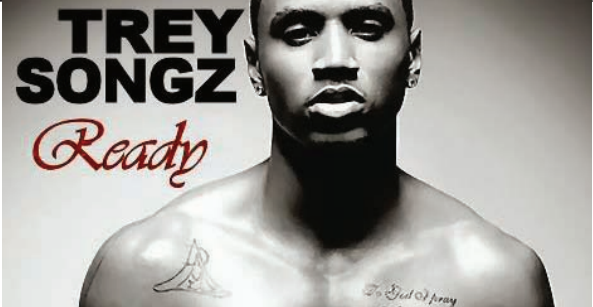
IMOGEN HEAP: "ELLIPSE"

After four long years of waiting, Imogen Heap has released her next album *Ellipse*. As before, her musical genius combined with synthesized sounds and amazing melodies has created yet another astounding musical collection. Countless nights I have slept listening to her and I am looking forward to even more. —C. Shively



SELAH SUE: "BLACK PART LOVE"

Selah Sue's *Black Part Love* EP is a jazzy sampler showcasing the Belgian singer-songwriter's guitar skills and her powerful, rich voice. From her rasta-style scatting to her lyrical word play, Selah is an artist to watch and the EP warrants repeat listens. Curious? You can listen to it for free on Last.fm! —O. Riley



TREY SONGZ: "READY"

If you listened to Trey Songz when he had cornrows, why not listen to him now when he is *Ready* for something new? Trey Songz shows his sexier side more than in his previous album. This CD is perfect to enjoy spending alone time with your special someone. —B. Rodgers



RANDOM



MCDONALD'S ANGUS BURGERS

What a wannabe Whopper! This new and extremely overpriced burger fails to ooze the flame-broiled tenderness that I desperately seek when craving the cow. If I wanted to order something dry and disgusting, I would order a McGriddle, thank you very much. —D. Kucynda



AT&T'S LACK OF PICTURE MESSAGING

iPhone users got it all with the 3.0 update, except for picture messaging, which AT&T still has not supplied and won't until Sept. 25. I pay a lot of money to have the iPhone and AT&T has been slow. Now that they promise picture messaging, all I need now is tethering. Let the wait begin. —C. Shively



LIBRARY LATE FEES

They're tiny, they sneak up on you and they make you feel poor. Yes, I'm talking about library late fees. Seriously, thanks for reminding me I don't have 20 cents. Now, I'll think about that while I watch Jerry Springer instead of reading something thick and wordy like *Moby Dick*. —C. Prentiss



Editorials

MAP cuts hurt students' futures

ILLINOIS LAWMAKERS approved state budget cuts amounting to \$2.1 billion to erase a large deficit in funding on July 15, including substantial reductions for college grants, specifically the Monetary Award Program grant. The budget cut was passed to avoid an additional increase on income taxes—an increase that could have prevented MAP grant funding cuts.

Including MAP grant funds in the recent budget decrease was shortsighted and irresponsible. The effects of this downsize will likely be more far-reaching than they appear. By not investing in aid for higher education, more people will be entering the job market with only a high school diploma, therefore affecting future tax revenue for the state based on income. There is no question that Illinois is suffering from a budget crisis, but cutting funds from such an important cause was tactless.

According to Student Financial Services, Columbia is one of the top three private institutions affected by the budget trim, along with DePaul and Loyola Universities. Now, about 3,334 Columbia students will not receive aid for the spring 2010 semester, and some may not be able to return to school to continue their education and earn a college degree.

According to the Illinois Student Assis-

tance Commission, MAP grants were awarded to 145,500 students who are Illinois residents for the 2007-2008 school year, totaling more than \$380 million worth of aid.

This school year, students who applied by the deadline were told that they would be awarded grants for the 2009-2010 academic year, but due to the budget cut, the awards for the spring semester have been eliminated.

Now, many students are left to locate other ways to pay for the second semester on short notice when they thought financial aid had already been secured. Some options available to students include taking out private loans, applying for scholarships or working out a monthly payment plan with Student Financial Services.

Columbia notified students via e-mail almost immediately after the state budget was finalized, and the SFS office has been in communication with students, keeping them up to date with e-mails and newsletters. Student Financial Services has also been providing resources for students, as well, such as an online budget calculator to address their individual situations.

It is possible that more money will be returned from the state for use during the spring semester; this is expected to be

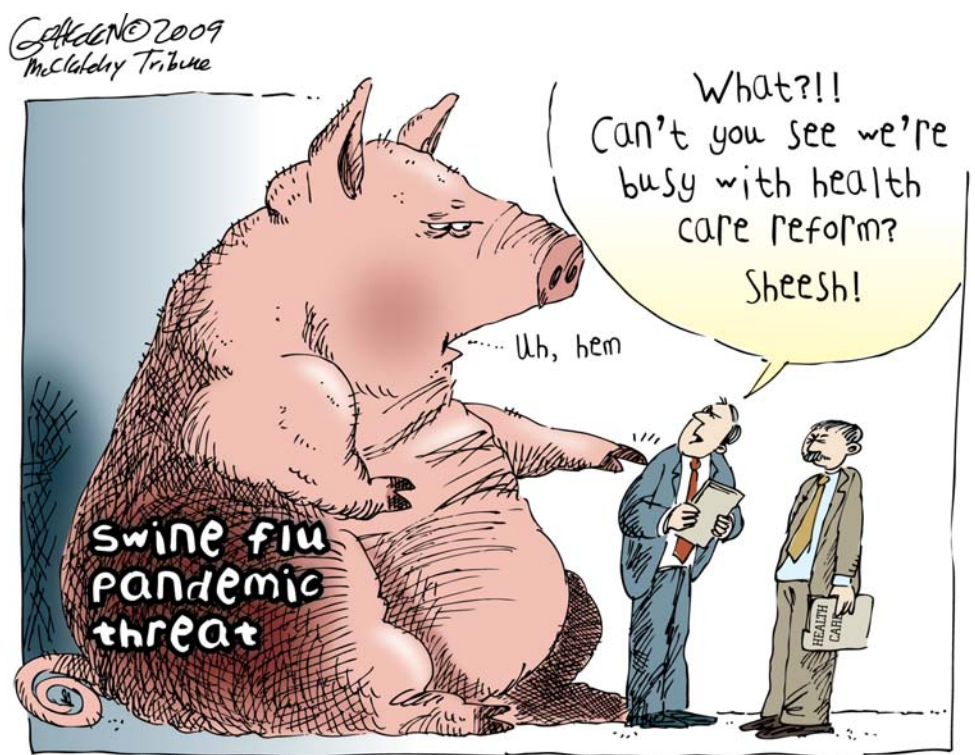
announced by Nov. 1. Student Financial Services is hopeful that the state will respond to students' needs in the spring and that next year's grants will be fully funded.

The Student Government Association plans to address the issue of MAP grant reduction in their upcoming meetings this semester, which will begin Sept. 15. The SGA will be in communication with local colleges to look for ways students can

take action, possibly through rallies, letter-writing campaigns and lobbying.

All Columbia students, whether they were affected by the cut or not, need to be in communication with SFS, administrators and the SGA to organize and take action to reinstate funding for MAP grants to keep college campuses alive and thriving.

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Courtesy MCT

Big potential for new arts district

IN A city-supported initiative to develop a Creative Industries District in East Pilsen, four landmarked industrial buildings were recently rezoned for creative uses in an effort to provide work and gallery space for local artists. Currently, Chicago does not have a centralized arts district, and the proposed location at Cermak Road and the Chicago River near Jefferson Street would provide a place for people in many different types of creative industries to connect and collaborate.

A central hub would also encourage collaboration between the bordering neighborhoods of Bronzeville, Chinatown, Bridgeport and the South Loop, all historically known for having active arts communities which in recent years have been gentrified out of existence as the price of rent and the number of high rises have increased.

The four buildings, previously warehouses and factories that are no longer used for modern industrial purposes, are located in an underused part of the city that, if revitalized, could become a hot spot for Chicago artists. East Pilsen is the perfect

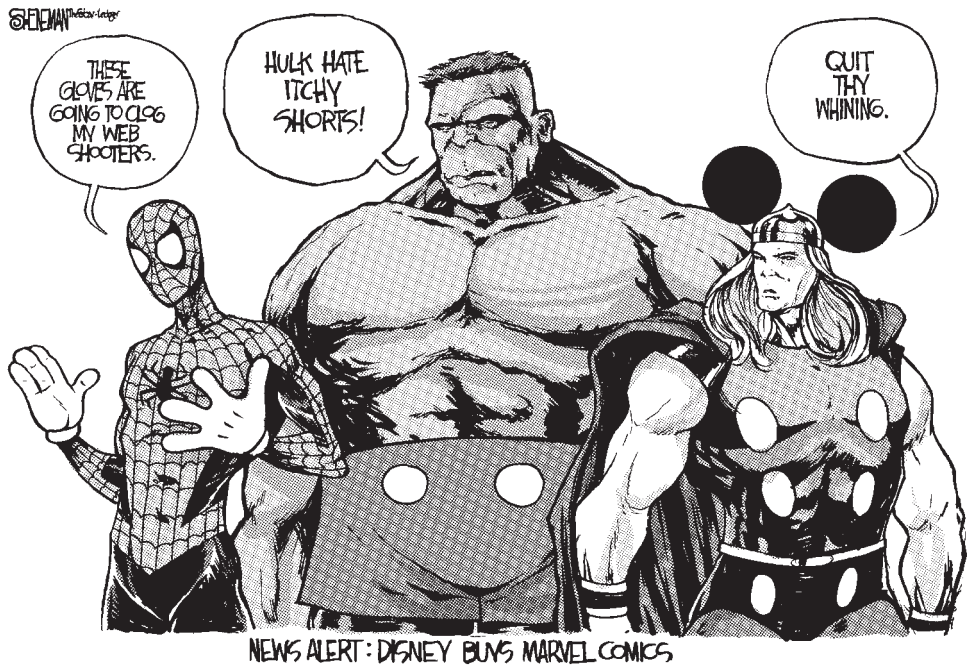
backdrop for such an arts district, as it has been widely recognized as having a vibrant culture that is rich in cultural diversity.

According to a 2007 study by the Urban Land Institute that details the logistical plan of creating an urban arts district in the proposed area, the total monetary cost to renovate the four existing buildings would be \$103 million, \$66 million of which would be covered by developers and rental payments.

The remaining cost could be covered by TIF funding, a historic tax credit and state grants, leaving an unfunded gap of \$1.5 million. Projects like these are exactly what Tax Increment Financing (TIF) was created for and should be funding.

Though \$103 million may seem like a large cost, the city has managed its money in far more irresponsible ways, such as the 2016 Olympic bid and the recent parking meter debacle. The money involved in making a creative arts district would go toward creating art partnerships and fostering creative expression, causing the long-term benefits to far outweigh the immediate cost.

The Creative Industries District is a



Courtesy MCT

worthwhile investment for the city if the money is spent intelligently and responsibly. Although the benefits of the project may not be seen immediately, a centralized arts region would prove its worth over the course of several years, creating innumerable opportunities for emerging artists.

The open arts community that results would also be an outlet for Columbia students of all disciplines, providing opportu-

nities for internships, apprenticeships and collaboration, as well as a possible springboard for recent graduates to get their footing in the Chicago arts community. The district's proximity to Columbia's campus could prove to be a valuable link for the college, possibly resulting in a partnership in the future.

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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

‘Generation Me’ should know ignorance isn’t bliss



Katherine Gamby
Assistant A&C Editor

“Although we see these events unfolding right before our eyes, they still don’t hit home hard enough to leave a lasting impression.”

MOST OF us can remember a time when we were sitting in our history classes thinking, “This can never happen to us.” The Great Depression, the influenza epidemic of 1918, an all-out world war—none of these could ever befall us.

However, although there are currently no immediate threats of a world war, two other important and potentially tragic events seem to be looming over us again—the current economic downturn that was declared in 2007 and the anticipated swine flu pandemic possibly expected this coming fall. Both may be tragic for the United States.

Today’s young adults feel that they are invincible when it comes to death or misfortune. But these events prove that catastrophes thought of as historic can again become reality. If our generation doesn’t become conscious and start to care about what is happening, soon the consequences may become overwhelming.

Young adults ages 18-25 are the most at risk for contracting the H1N1 Virus this fall. Both Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization and Kathleen Sebelius, Health and Human Services secretary, have recently stressed the growing concern of swine flu and the importance of vaccination against the H1N1 virus.

With recent health reports from the federal government stating that an estimated 30 to 50 percent of the United States population will be affected by the virus and at least 300,000 people are expected to need intensive medical care, it is no wonder the nation is on high alert. There has already been a confirmed case at Columbia and there is still no relevant concern within the young adult population.

Though the H1N1 virus has yet to dramatically affect us, the economic downturn

is starting to take its toll. Since 2008, 6.9 million jobs have been lost, according to a CNN article published Sept. 4. Young adults entering the workplace now have to compete for jobs with older adults who have lost their jobs.

I have a friend who has been searching for a job since November and has submitted more than 100 job applications with no luck. I have other friends that, because they can’t find a job, can only eat one meal a day which is often a candy bar or another friend’s leftovers. These people could be sitting next to you in class or maybe in the library, a place they go to keep their minds off being hungry. We need to understand that this issue is not something that only happens in Third World countries or to marginal citizens, but right here in our backyards to the very people we say hello to everyday.

Although we see these events unfolding right before our eyes, they still don’t hit home hard enough to leave a lasting impression. It seems that unless they have a direct impact on our lives, we couldn’t care less.

I admit that I have this problem, too. When the 9/11 attacks happened, I wasn’t affected by it because I didn’t know anyone

who died. I had no real connection to what happened that day. I did fear that another attack could happen in my hometown of Detroit because of the Big Three automakers headquarters, but otherwise my life went back to normal. In fact, I remember thinking, “I hope I get another day off from school.”

It’s amazing that getting another day off from school was more important to me than a threat on American life, but at that time, school was impacting my life, not the attacks.

We are incredibly absorbed in our everyday lives, who is dating who and what celebrities are doing what, as well as this whole new hipster lifestyle that “Generation Me” has adopted. Due to these distractions, we don’t really look at the big picture and pick out the important details, the things that truly affect our lives.

I think these recent events should be a wake-up call to young adults and make us realize that we are not immune to tragedies, especially those that afflicted our parents and grandparents. It’s time to get serious about the world around us and stop with this nonchalant attitude.

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ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

36 Percentage of Americans who said they now believe it is very or somewhat likely that they or a family member will contract the swine flu virus this year, according to an Aug. 31 Gallup poll. In early May, only 20 percent of people surveyed answered the same way.

Number of hours American workers report spending at work per week, according to an Aug. 6 - 9 Gallup poll. This is down slightly from 43.3 hours per week during the same period in a 2008 poll.

42.4

79 Percentage of Americans who said they have made cuts in their personal spending during the past year due to the economic recession, according to an Aug. 19 Harris Interactive poll, almost four in five people.

Percentage of Americans who said they would advise members of Congress to vote for a healthcare reform bill in September, according to an Aug. 11 Gallup poll. Thirty-six percent would advise voting against a bill and 29 percent have no opinion, an even split.

35

Time to see the light, reconnect to the sky



Lauren Kelly
Commentary Editor

“We have developed a cultural indifference to the universe and rarely connect on a personal level with the cosmos.”

IN THE very early morning of Aug. 12, after drinking two cups of coffee to keep from falling asleep, I opened my third-story apartment window as far as I could and sat on the sill to stargaze. Other college students stay up until 2 a.m. because that’s when bars close. I, on the other hand, am an astrophile and stayed up to see a prolific event that takes place each August, the annual Perseid meteor shower, a three-week long occurrence visible in the Northern Hemisphere that peaked with 50-80 meteors per hour on Aug. 12.

However, after a mere 30 minutes of star-

gazing, I called it quits, sorely disappointed that the light pollution in Chicago made it impossible to see any shooting stars. Instead of meteors, an orange glow permeated the sky, blocking out any possibility of seeing the show.

The next morning I mentioned my frustrating experience to some friends, but their responses, or lack thereof, were mostly the same. They said they didn’t even know it was happening, and that was the end of the conversation.

Besides a small grumble and a few obligatory blurbs from mainstream media outlets, the Perseid meteor shower went mostly unnoticed, except among small circles of astronomers and amateur stargazers. As seen in the frenzy Halley’s Comet creates every 75 years, the media as a whole are clueless when it comes to important cosmological events, as they are more concerned with political rhetoric and celebrity news. If celestial events are the main topic of conversation, it is usually surrounding some kind of “doomsday” scenario, most likely a deadly asteroid impact along the lines of *Armageddon*.

It seems that many of us are losing touch

with the natural world surrounding us, both on Earth and in the sky. For the majority of human history, we have depended on knowledge of the world’s natural rhythms for survival.

“The sky is a giant clock,” said physicist and author Michio Kaku in an episode of History Channel’s “The Universe.”

“It allowed the ancients to calculate when to plant and when to harvest. In other words, their very livelihood depended upon their understanding the motion of the sun and the heavens,” Kaku said.

We no longer need to tell time by the movements of the sun and moon for agricultural purposes, but our disconnect from nature still has consequences. Our apathy toward the cosmos may directly mirror our disregard for the environment.

We allow for the environment’s destruction by treating it as our power source instead of our home. It has become a nuisance that needs to be conquered rather than an awesome force to live with in harmony. We are responsible for our attitudes toward the natural world and how we interact with it.

The lack of interest from the general

public in matters of planetary importance is very telling of what we value as a society. We have developed a cultural indifference to the universe and rarely connect on a personal level with the cosmos.

“It is normal today to consider people who are more concerned with cosmic reality than with making money to be out of touch and unrealistic,” said Joel Primack and Nancy Ellen Abrams in their book *The View from the Center of the Universe*.

It is ironic that most people think those who question the nature of the universe are “out of touch and unrealistic” just because they are concerned with a higher reality than the stock market. Really, it’s the other way around—they are in touch with something much bigger than the speck of our existence here on the tiny planet Earth.

An inquiry of cosmological theory should not just be left to an elite group of astrophysicists because it is one of the deepest subjects a human being can ponder. This may be a bit more difficult for city-dwellers, but is nonetheless important. It all starts by looking at the sky—and being able to see it.

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STOCK PHOTO

Alcohol consumption among college-age students continues to rise and customs such as drinking games and hazing have led to an dangerous new trend among underage students

Binge drinking on the rise

Continued increase in college-aged alcohol abuse during the past decade creates concern

Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

“LAST CALL!” This phrase, yelled out as the lights come on at local hot spots, leaves many avid college-aged drinkers hopping to the next venue to resume the party. It has become a prominent and unhealthy habit across the nation, according to a new study in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs.

The beer bong and drinking games, popular among college students, contribute to the large amounts of alcohol students consume every year.

Ralph Hingson, director of the Division of Epidemiology and Prevention Research at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, said college binge drinking has been increasing at an alarming rate during the past decade and is considered a serious ongoing problem.

According to a survey released this summer by the NIAAA, alcohol-related deaths have risen from 1,440 in 1998 to 1,825

in 2005. The survey also concluded that there has been an increase in drunk driving and binge drinking episodes since 1998.

For males, binge drinking is defined as five or more alcoholic drinks consumed within a period of two hours. For females, it is defined as four or more drinks, Hingson said. In the past year, heavy drinking has increased from approximately 42 to 45 percent and the number of people who admitted to drinking and driving increased from 26.5 to 29 percent.

Hingson said that the younger college students are when they first drink alcohol, the more likely they are to experience alcohol dependence, drive drunk, ride with drunk drivers, be injured while under the influence and have unplanned and unprotected sex.

There are many different factors that are encouraging college students to drink, including the low cost, drinking games and hazing, which encourages students to consume as much alcohol as they can, Hingson said.

“There are certain fads that seem to be taking place that are increasing [binge drinking],” Hingson said. “One of the things that I’ve heard about is the custom of trying

to consume 21 drinks on a person’s 21st birthday.”

Richard Yoast, director of the Department of Prevention and Healthy Lifestyles for the American Medical Association, said the accessibility of alcohol and alcoholic promotions directed toward teens through TV and magazines are two of the biggest contributors to the high binge drinking rates.

Chelsea Cohen, a 20-year-old Arts, Entertainment and Media Management major at Columbia, is a part of Chicago’s party scene and goes out for drinks two or three times per week at places like Alive One, Tin Lizzie and Ceaser’s. Cohen uses a valid state ID that has a picture of someone who resembles her, but it’s not her own.

Cohen said she got the ID that shows she is 26 from a friend who works at a club downtown, where they confiscate IDs and sell them back to minors.

“I’ve never really been questioned [about my ID],” Cohen said. “Actually, it’s surprising. They’ve only ever asked me to take off my glasses because they said my eyes didn’t look like the right color.”

Cohen said her friends also have fake IDs to get into local bars and clubs.

Yoast said underage drinking is a large

Calls from below

T-Mobile, AT&T customers to get reception underground before the end of the year

Mario Lekovic
Assistant Metro Editor

T-MOBILE CUSTOMERS will soon have reception underground on the Red and Blue Lines in Chicago for at least the next 10 years.

T-Mobile will become the fifth wireless service provider to sign a contract with the Chicago Transit Board, the latest since AT&T, which signed the contract in June.

The contract will give T-Mobile customers cellular service in underground subways. The payments from the 10-year contracts are expected to generate at least \$15 million in new revenue for the Chicago Transit Authority.

During the next several months, testing of T-Mobile’s base equipment—which includes amplifiers, transmitters and receivers will take place in the subways to ensure a strong signal for their customers. Currently, the only wireless providers that have service underground are Cricket Communications, Verizon Wireless and U.S. Cellular.

Wanda Taylor, manager of Media Relations for the CTA, said all underground wireless service providers will be using the improved \$11.2 million fiber-optic infrastructure system, which the CTA installed in 2005. The fiber-optic infrastructure allows the use of wireless devices, such as cell phones and wireless Internet modems throughout the 11.4-mile subway system.

“The improved telecommunications system also laid the groundwork for the agency to generate additional revenue by leasing its wireless infrastructure for commercial service,” Taylor said.

T-Mobile and AT&T customers will still have to wait until the end of the year to receive underground service. The companies are still installing and testing equipment to ensure customer satisfaction.

Taylor said there won’t be any train delays or detours because of the wireless testing being done by T-Mobile and AT&T.

Some customers who still don’t have underground cell phone service have thought about switching companies in order to receive service.

Charlene Williames, a banker, says she is excited that AT&T, which is her service provider, will have underground service.

“If they’re getting ready to [have service] I would really appreciate it,” Williames said.

As the CTA continues to face budget challenges, it is important to pursue initiatives like this to provide benefits for customers while producing revenue for the CTA, said CTA president Richard Rodriguez in a press release.

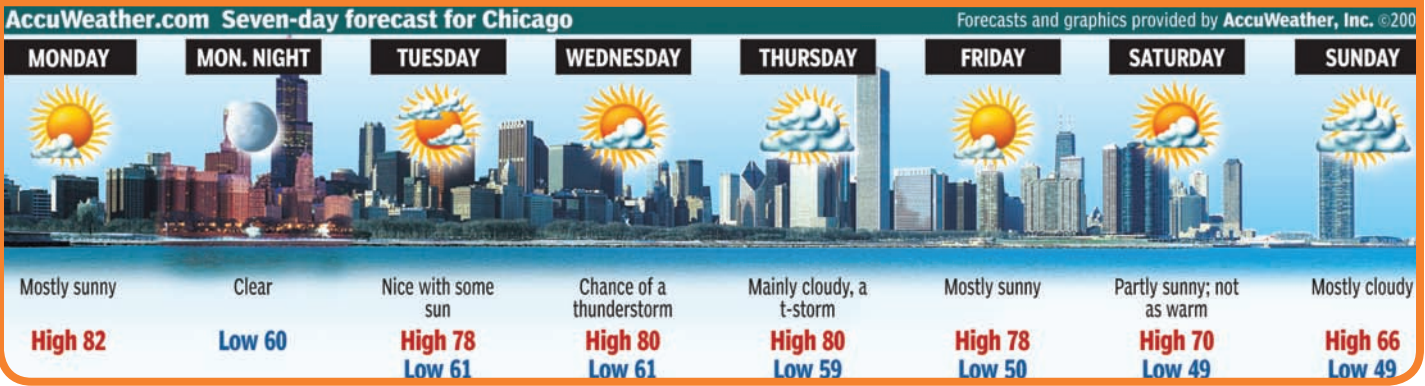
The CTA isn’t funding testing and setup of the new wireless services, so no fare increases are expected.

The two companies hope to repeat U.S. Cellular’s success and attract more customers in Chicago once underground service is instituted later this year.

“A lot of our sales [rely] on our service, how good it works, where it works and where it doesn’t,” said Stephanie Giraldo,

» SEE BINGE, PG. 39

FORECAST



» SEE CELL PHONE, PG 39

City eliminates free parking by lakefront

Meters sold to private company to avoid budget cuts, prevent job loss

by **Brittany Rodgers**
Assistant Metro Editor

ON A beautiful day in Chicago, many people park their vehicles along the lakefront to enjoy their day at no cost. In the next four to six weeks, Chicago residents and tourists will no longer be allowed to park for free. Instead, they will have to pay \$1 an hour.

“The parks have always been a place where people can enjoy themselves at minimum cost,” said 5th Ward Alderman Leslie Hairston in a press release. “At 63rd Street Beach, you have beautiful landscaping, a renovated historic beach house, pavilion and sprinkler fountains for children. There aren’t many places left where individuals, families and friends can afford such amenities in a lakefront setting.”

Kimberly Webb, 5th Ward chief of staff, said the parking meters will affect the flow of traffic at the lakefront parks.

“They’re trying to help out the community of 63rd Street Beach by using funds from the menu money the alderman receives every year,” Webb said.

Menu money is money that each Chi-

cago alderman receives annually to spend on their ward, such as on streets, alleys, sidewalks, street lights and maintenance.

“We’re going to use some of the money to feed the meters for people who go to 63rd Street Beach and give [some of] the money to the Chicago Park District,” Webb said. Zvez Kubat, a spokeswoman for the Chicago Park District, said the economic climate is forcing public places to fill in the gap of our city’s budget.

“Instead of increasing property tax, meters will be put out,” Kubat said. “It’s all to save jobs and not have [many] budget cuts.”

Currently, most of the parking meters in Chicago are owned by LAZ Parking, but Standard Parking will take over the 4,400 spots along the lakefront.

“We put out a bid and Standard Parking came in at the lowest [price],” Kubat said. “We worked with them in the past parking garages so that was another great reason to work with them [again].”

Kubat said Standard Parking has no pay boxes within the Chicago Park District yet and doesn’t know exactly where they will start putting them.

“We’re trying to figure out a schedule on where they’re going to put them and when they’re going to go up,” Kubat said.

Most parking meters in the Chicago area require patrons to pay seven days a week, including holidays. However, many of the pay boxes offer free parking from 9 p.m. - 8 a.m. Pay box rates for a majority of these areas are \$1 per hour. In the South Loop, pay boxes run 24 hours at \$3.50 per hour, and outside the Loop, rates are \$2 per hour. Although vendors have changed pay boxes, how to pay will not change. The pay boxes



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

The majority of meters in Chicago are owned by independent contractor LAZ Parking. Soon Standard Parking will take over the meters along the lakefront.

accept quarters, as well as major credit or debit cards. Once drivers pay for a parking spot, they must display the receipt on the dashboard of their vehicle.

Changing the parking vendor is now the subject of a lawsuit filed by The Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization.

“We decided this plan in November 2008, and the lawsuit just started a couple of weeks ago,” Kubat said.

Jeremy Rothschild, director of marketing for Bike Chicago, said installation of the meters could change the way people come into the city.

“It could change the plans of what people would do rather than park their vehicles; they might drive into the Loop [and park

in] one of the Millennium [Park] garages,” Rothschild said. “Parking isn’t just about parking a car, it affects traffic patterns and could really change things.” Bike Chicago is located at various beaches, where certain locations have parking garages alongside them and others have to park along the lakefront.

Rothschild said the decision should’ve been more carefully approached.

“When [the city] decided to do this, they just looked at it from a financial perspective,” Rothschild said. “There are a lot of parking effects outside of the Standard Parking issue and it might change people’s behavior.”

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Alleged Rezko tie, but Quinn renames board

John O’Connor
AP Political Writer

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — A \$10,000 campaign contribution to indicted former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, mentioned at a political corruption trial, isn’t stopping his reform-minded successor, Gov. Pat Quinn, from reappointing an elevator union official as chairman of a safety board.

Frank Christensen’s term as head of the Elevator Safety Review Board wouldn’t have expired until 2011, but Quinn gave him a new stint that extends to 2013.

Christensen is business manager of the International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 2 in Chicago.

The Associated Press reported last year that the union donated \$10,000 to Blagojevich in July 2003, around the time Christensen and another Local 2 member were appointed to the panel that is revamping elevator construction and maintenance rules — which could mean more jobs for installers.

The contribution was later mentioned at the trial of political fixer Antoin “Tony” Rezko, who was convicted of trying to milk campaign money for Blagojevich out of businesses seeking state work.

Christensen denies any connection between the donation and the board post and says neither he nor other key Local 2 officials have ever met Rezko.

He has not been accused of wrongdoing. A federal judge ruled in 2007, however, that the union improperly retaliated against three of its members for disagreeing with Christensen in his role as chairman of the elevator board. He denies that was the case.

And federal officials have subpoenaed dozens of categories of financial documents



courtesy of AP

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn prepares to veto a campaign finance bill during a news conference in Chicago.

from Local 2 in an investigation of possible violations of labor law requirements for reporting and record-keeping, although they won’t give details.

Quinn, who took over when fellow Democrat Blagojevich was impeached and ousted in January, promised to “fumigate” state government of his predecessor’s appointees.

Blagojevich has since been indicted on federal corruption charges. He has pleaded not guilty.

Quinn spokesman Bob Reed said the governor’s senior staff reviewed the Christensen reappointment, which, like others, includes a criminal and financial background check.

“Each state board member or employee is judged on their own merits and not by who appointed them,” Reed said when asked if Quinn was following through on his fumigation pledge.

Reed said Local 2’s \$400 contribution

to Quinn’s campaign in February did not influence the reappointment.

Christensen was moved into a post on the board set aside for a Cook County labor representative. His previous board post was to be filled by someone from a city with a population of 25,000 to 50,000. The number of residents in his hometown, Tinley Park, exceeds that number.

Christensen has maintained there was no link between the \$10,000 contribution and the two board appointments. The other member has since left the panel.

“There was nothing meant by it,” Christensen said this week. “Any guy running for governor that is labor friendly, if it’s a Republican or a Democrat, we would have donated to them.”

But no other contribution from Local 2 comes close to that amount, according to state campaign finance records. Christensen explained that by saying the union’s political action committee had suffic-

ie funds at the time and “when you’ve got the money, you give what you can.”

In a lawsuit brought by Local 2 members, a federal judge declared in May 2007 that the union wrongly disciplined the members and declared one ineligible to run for election as a union officer. District Court Judge George Lindberg found that the union took “retaliatory disciplinary actions” against the members for disagreeing about proposed elevator-safety rules with Christensen, who was acting in his role as elevator board chairman.

Christensen said the ruling was by an anti-labor judge and that an earlier National Labor Relations Board ruling upheld Local 2’s decision on the election eligibility.

In May 2007, the U.S. Department of Labor subpoenaed myriad financial records from Local 2 for 2003 to 2006, saying it was seeking possible violations of federal law in economic reporting and record-keeping. The documents were turned over earlier this year. Labor spokesman Michael Volpe said he could not confirm or deny that there is an investigation.

Christensen said he has won a court order that the Labor Department comply with his Freedom of Information Act request for documents about the agency’s activities.

The elevator board’s 17 positions include eight vacancies and three terms that expired in June. Christensen says the board has missed its last three meetings for lack of members.

But a spokeswoman for Quinn, who has yet to fill dozens of board and commission slots left vacant by Blagojevich, said the board can still meet and that new appointments will follow soon.

Young Republicans gain membership in Chicago

Young Conservatives support Republican groups due to administration's proposals

Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

YOUNG REPUBLICANS are breaking their silence and making their move in President Barack Obama's own blue backyard, causing the Conservative group's membership and volunteers to increase from last year.

Conservative groups, such as Chicago Young Republicans and Cook County Republicans, have seen a large amount of interest in volunteering and becoming active since the new administration's proposals.

"We have seen a lot of new faces coming out to the events," said Lee Roupas, chairman of CCR. "A lot of people [who are] frustrated with the Obama administration are becoming more active."

Roupas said volunteers and website activity has picked up more than he thought it would and he expects even more interest among college students once schools are back in session. He said newly-converted Republicans have also been attending events and are preparing to campaign at the end of September.

"We are seeing a pretty diverse mix of people," Roupas said. "We've definitely seen a large influx of younger people in college and young professionals in the city of Chicago who are getting involved. Frankly, given the economy, we have some people who have been laid off work and looking



Courtesy CHICAGO YOUNG REPUBLICANS

New Chicago Young Republicans members sign up at the Cubby Bear, 1059 W Addison St. this summer after a large campaign advertisement was placed on public transit. This event attracted approximately 1,000 people.

for new work, but also wanting to use their time getting involved here at the office."

Chicago Young Republicans has also seen a drastic increase from 100 members to nearly 800 because of a large marketing campaign that began in June, said Corrine Williams, communications director for CYR. The campaign notified young Conservatives that there is a group dedicated to becoming active Republicans in the city.

"People really didn't know we existed and now that they know we do, they are thinking about us when it comes to what's going on in the country," Williams said. "Living in

Chicago, you really think you are the only one around."

Chicago Young Republicans has made a large effort in its "Dare to be Right in Chicago" campaign, when signs of the slogan were displayed on public transit to raise eyebrows and encourage Republicans to become active political members.

The response to the signs was overwhelming, Williams said. Chicago Young Republicans received numerous e-mails praising them for their campaign efforts.

"We even got e-mails from people who call themselves Democrats and they say,

"I'm a Democrat, I will always be a Democrat, but I really wanted to let you know that I think your marketing campaign is really neat. I think it's something that the city needs; some diversity," Williams said.

Since the advertisements were placed around Chicago, the membership has grown and Williams said she expects their numbers will keep increasing, even after all the signs are taken down.

"I think [people] are joining out of frustration," said new CYR member Ken Wooddell, 27. "I think people are tired of seeing the Democrats in the White House and Congress trying to push legislation that the majority of Americans don't want. [People] feel frustrated and powerless and they are starting to speak up."

Williams said Chicago Republicans just needed to know there are groups out there for them to join and that there are other people in the city with similar conservative ideals.

Wooddell said he has been interested in politics since he was in college and has always had conservative ideals, but since he moved to Chicago, he has bypassed political conversations because of Chicago's liberal reputation.

"I was thinking about joining a Republican organization for a while," Wooddell said. "I saw the ad campaigns [CYR was] running on the el and taxis, so I took a look into it and joined. When you think you are the only one, it is hard to find people to talk to about the issues."

sroush@chroniclemail.com

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Job scams growing in sour economy

By Joel Hood
MCT Newswire

A MIDDLE Eastern man was looking to hire an English tutor for his teenage daughter who'd, be attending school in Chicago this year. The pay? \$40 an hour, one day a week for two months.

Under better circumstances, Denise Misrac, 34, would not have given the ad a second thought. But she needed money and was desperate to find a teaching job, even if it was temporary. She responded to the post on Craigslist.com by e-mailing her credentials to the man. Soon after, she received notice she'd landed the job.

Weeks later, after depositing a bogus check, Misrac was thousands of dollars in debt as she untangled herself from one of countless online scams preying on the unemployed at a time when joblessness has reached its highest level in decades.

"The whole experience has been a disaster," Misrac said.

Anyone who regularly shops or banks online knows to be wary of scams, but a feeble economy is forcing job-seekers to take risks they wouldn't normally take. Experts say this makes them vulnerable to online scams offering to help find a job, start one at home, pay off bills, avoid foreclosure or repair their credit.

In this toxic environment, with an increasing reliance on Internet job boards and social-networking sites to find work, thousands of Americans have been bilked out of millions of dollars by con artists exploiting the country's economic woes, according to the Federal Trade Commission. "When people are in a desperate situa-



Photo Courtesy MCT

Americans are scrolling through online advertisements looking for jobs, only to find online scams.

tion, there's a greater propensity for them to fall victim to these kinds of crimes," said Ross Rice, spokesman for the Chicago chapter of the FBI. "All it takes is one mistake to become a victim."

As the number of victims grows, the Federal Trade Commission and local authorities have begun cracking down on alleged scam artists and phony businesses targeting the unemployed and people with money troubles. As of July, officials in 13 states had filed civil charges against 72 companies or individuals accused of ripping off consumers.

Organizations, such as the Better Business Bureau of Chicago and Northern Illi-

nois, have stepped up efforts to highlight job placement companies that make false or exaggerated claims or have long lists of complaints.

One company, Benchmark Professional Careers of Villa Park, received five complaints from customers who'd paid thousands of dollars up front to the firm but did not find work, said Better Business Bureau spokesman Tom Joyce.

"Be careful of the guy who promises the world and delivers nothing," said West Chicago resident Edward Bockman, an unemployed information technology manager who paid Benchmark Professional Careers \$5,000 to find him a job. Benchmark Pro-

fessional Careers is no longer operating at its Villa Park address, Joyce said, and a woman who answered its phone said the company had moved. She did not provide a new number and the company's website is not in operation.

Bockman, whose money woes forced him to file for bankruptcy, has adopted a new philosophy when job hunting: "If it costs you money, it's probably not worth it."

Misrac knew she was taking a risk inquiring about the part-time teaching job on Craigslist.com. If the post had asked her to send banking information, a Social Security

» SEE JOBS, PG 39

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from 9am-12pm

» City Jobs

Continued from PG. 38

number or personal information, she would have walked away, she said. But he wanted none of that, so she sent him her teaching biography.

Two days later, Misrac was told she had the job. She eagerly began designing lesson plans for the students, who had yet to arrive. She was to be paid \$300 for two months' work and the man insisted on paying her in full up front. Days later, a cashier's check for \$2,800 arrived in her mail box with instructions to deposit the full amount, deduct the \$300 she was owed, and wire the remaining portion back to an account in London.

"I remember going to the ATM and withdrawing the [\$2,500] and thinking I'd never held so much cash in my life," Misrac said, who wired the remaining money. "It just

didn't seem real." Although Misrac thought the transaction was strange, she did not become suspicious until another e-mail arrived with an even more bizarre request.

"He said he was having problems arranging his daughter's travel and wanted to send a second check for me to cash and wire back to a travel agency," Misrac said."

The damage was done, though. Misrac's bank informed her she had deposited a fraudulent check, froze her lone account and demanded repayment of the \$2,500. When she told bank officials she didn't have the money, they referred her case to a collection agency, which had already left a stain on her credit.

Joyce said check-depositing scams are among the most popular, and that often victims are duped into complicated schemes to launder money to international accounts.

chronicle@colum.edu

» DRINKING

Continued from PG. 35

ongoing problem that is beginning to receive recognition, but there isn't a way to completely stop it from happening.

Hingson said there are ways to successfully intervene with college students who have heavy drinking tendencies, but their alcoholic tendencies must first be recognized as a problem and not just a typical college student act.

"Unfortunately, most college students who use alcohol meet disorder criteria," Hingson said. "We estimate from our

national surveys that nearly 1 in 5 students meet those criteria, so they could benefit from some kind of counseling. Only about 5 percent of those have ever sought medical treatment."

Hingson said colleges need to begin focusing their attention on intervention with students and provide treatment options, so binge drinking will stop increasing at such a rapid pace.

sroush@chroniclemail.com

» Cell Phones

Continued from PG. 35

sales representative for U.S. Cellular.

Giraldo said she uses U.S. Cellular's underground service as a sales strategy when trying to sign a customer to with U.S. Cellular.

Underground isn't the only place where downtown commuters should worry about getting service, Giraldo said.

Getting service in buildings and establishments in the downtown area can be a hassle because of the massive number of

infrastructures.

"If you're downtown, a lot of places—because of the [size] of the buildings—service gets shut off ... having underground towers helps people get service," Giraldo said.

During the next few months, T-Mobile and AT&T crews will be working to ensure quality service and a strong signal.

mlekovic@chroniclemail.com



Andrew McArdle THE CHRONICLE

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- ☐ meet new people
- ☐ help change the world
- ☐ go to a church that welcomes me as I am
- ☒ all of the above

the near west
vineyard church

meets on Sundays at 4:30pm
@ 1417 W Taylor, Chicago

nearwestvineyard.org

adland

taylor

roosevelt

bonus

Chicago youth rally for better future

Teens gather, call for safer neighborhoods, after-school opportunities for students

Brittany Rodgers
Assistant Metro Editor

STUDENTS FROM around the city rallied on Sept. 1 at the Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., for increased funding for youth centers, jobs and drop-out prevention.

The rally was organized by several organizations from across the city, including the Albany Park Neighborhood Council, Kenwood Oakland Community Organization and Logan Square Neighborhood Association.

“Young people have been working on this event since the beginning of the summer,” said Shannon Bennett, lead organizer for KoCo. “This year, we decided to not just go after summer jobs, but [also] look at things like, ‘Are there enough teen centers and enough recreational activities?’”

Student speakers complained, in front of a packed crowd about having too many liquor stores in their neighborhoods, vacant lots, no affordable resources and not enough support from city, state and federal government.

“Our goal is to get support from the people who aren’t supporting and get the word out to everyone,” said Niley Mendoza, a young leader for APNC.

KoCo and other city organizations have started a coalition, Leaders Investing for Equality, organizing to increase community and government investment in young people. The coalition gives members of the organization a chance to work and cam-



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

Frankiem Mitchell recites a spoken word piece to a crowd of supporters during a Chicago youth rally at the Thompson Center, 100 W. Randolph St., on Sept. Led by the Chicago LIFE Campaign, talented Chicago youth showcased their talents in an effort to bring attention to Illinois budget cuts.

paigned about what they want done. Their mission is to increase employment, development and mentorship opportunities for young people, as well as to make communities safer and more productive now and in the future.

According to the LIFE campaign, only 11,000 jobs were available for teens in 2005 and 31,000 teens applied for them.

“It was really hard finding a job,” Mendoza said. “Places were constantly saying

they weren’t hiring.”

The Illinois 2010 budget cut affected young people by cutting useful programs and services, such as mentoring and after-school programs, by 51 percent.

According to the LIFE campaign, Teen REACH, which helps to improve life and educational skills, was cut by 16.1 percent and Delinquency Intervention Services was cut by 21.9 percent.

Throughout the rally, teenagers from

different organizations gave testimonies about communities that needed changes.

Lakena Tillman, 17, said that her life is hard without support and guidance.

“People are always saying [to] us [that] teens are the problem for everything,” Tillman said. “I was one of those teens always fighting in gangs and I had to do something about it. When I got introduced to Kenwood Oakland Community Organization, they changed my whole life around.”

According to LIFE, 3.4 million youth in America were unemployed and the youth unemployment rate was 14 percent, the highest rate since July 1992.

Sen. Iris Y. Martinez (D-Ill.) was present at the rally and is proud the youth are getting their message across.

“I think this shows a strong commitment that they are interested in their future,” Martinez said. “If you look in these kids’ faces, these are kids that really want to make it, be a part of society and have a positive message to send out.”

APNC and LSNA are two organizations that are in her district areas and she said these two groups keep her grounded with issues going on.

“These groups are very active,” Martinez said. “They really know what they have to do to get the message across and I am thankful to have these groups in my area.”

Youth members have done their research and indicate that they need support to help keep youth off the streets.

“A society that doesn’t invest in young people, betrays its young people,” said Ira Hatcher, a youth leader of KoCo.

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IN OTHER NEWS

Sending the wrong waves

ACCORDING TO NbcChicago.com, a former disc jockey for the popular WKSX KISS-FM radio station is facing charges on child pornography. The DJ was arrested after police searched his South Loop home. He was previously arrested in January 2008 for soliciting sex from a 13-year-old boy. KISS-FM fired Michael Wawrzyniak, 24, after learning about his arrest. He faces up to five years in prison for the sex solicitation charge.

Grave concern

ACCORDING TO Wgntv.com, an attorney for one of the former Burr Oak Cemetery employees accused of grave desecration asked for a new judge to hear the case. The suspect didn’t explain why she needed a new judge, which by law, she has the right. The pleas of the other suspects will be delayed until a new judge is appointed.

Bittersweet tax

TAX ON candy has been raised in Illinois. According to NbcChicago.com, a new state tax law explains the difference between actual candy and food. While both are edible sweets, some may be cheaper than others due to ingredients. Candy that’s prepared with flour is considered food and will be taxed at 1 percent, while candy that doesn’t have ingredients such as flour will be taxed at 6.25 percent.

Oprah stuns the city

ACCORDING TO ChicagoTribune.com, popular talk show host and Chicago megastar Oprah Winfrey will shut down part of the Magnificent Mile for the debut of her 24th season of The “Oprah Winfrey Show.” Residents have mixed feelings about the 50-plus hour event that will close down Michigan Avenue to traffic from Wacker Drive to Ohio Street at 12:01 a.m. Monday to 5 a.m. Wednesday. Some businesses and residences are upset because of lost business and reroutes, but others are excited to be apart of the event.

OFF THE BLOTTER



1. Hazy Dorm

On Aug. 30, police officers responded to a call from a resident adviser at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court. According to police reports, the RA smelled what she thought was marijuana and investigated the situation. When the RA questioned the alleged offender, a 19-year-old male, he said they were, “smoking some weed,” which he turned over to the RA in a zip-lock bag. Police officers took the man into custody.

2. Two Strikes

At Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St., a 42-year-old male was taken into custody at 11:02 p.m. by responding police officers. According to police reports, the man was warned by security to stay off the property at 10:57 p.m. and at 11:02 p.m. The man disobeyed the warning and returned.

3. Free Ride

According to police reports, a 51-year-old male tried to enter the Red Line CTA garage, located at 22 E. Roosevelt Rd., without paying. The suspect entered through a handicap gate behind a paying customer. The responding police officer took the suspect to jail for processing.

4. Riding Dirty

A 17-year-old male was taken into custody after a routine traffic stop at 518 S. Wabash Ave. According to police reports, when the man was questioned and asked if he had any illegal possessions, he said, “Some weed in my front pants pocket.” The traffic stop led to the arrest of the man.

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Logic Studio \$199
w/Mac **\$175**



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games

G

SODUKU

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21-April 20) Group events and social invitations are unpredictable this week. Pay special attention to the shy or emotionally withdrawn types. Sudden outbursts, unexpected criticism or unrealistic romantic proposals may arrive without warning. Rely on silence and diplomacy. Key relationships will soon return to normal. After Friday some Aries natives will make contact with a past lover or distant friend. Emotions may be high: make sure others respect your boundaries and social choices.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Relations with authority figures require will this week patience. Wrongful instructions, costly mistakes or misinformation may be quickly denied. Pride, social doubt or low confidence may be an underlying influence. Stay focused on reliable business procedures and wait for officials to acknowledge workplace efficiency. Later this week a new friendship may become briefly complicated. Misinformation concerning family plans or romantic expectations may be at issue.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Financial planning and new business outlets will soon work in your favor. Before mid-week study long-term opportunities, property investments or unique work partnerships for valuable options. Some Geminis will begin research on a controversial career path. Forgotten dreams or yesterday's aspirations may also be highlighted. After Thursday pay special attention to the comments of a trusted friend. Someone close may need sensitive advice. Be receptive.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Co-workers, managers or governmental officials may now be stubborn and unresponsive. Don't be derailed. Creative projects and new business methods will eventually prove worthwhile. After Wednesday accept all late invitations and watch for unexpected flirtations. A potential lover may soon reveal their emotional goals. Early this weekend romantic triangles may be difficult to avoid. Remain neutral: this is not the right time to confront others or ask for reliable social promises.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This week romantic proposals are complicated and socially unpredictable. Friends and lovers may unknowingly provide misinformation or offer quickly changing promises. Times, dates or important numbers may all be affected. Remain cautious and wait for clearly defined terms before accepting new commitments. In the coming weeks some Leos may need to evaluate present relationships and make serious choices. Listen to your own instincts: quiet reflection will bring reliable answers.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Career aspirations can now be fully explored. This week many Virgos will let unproductive work partnerships or employment contracts fade. Use this time to also renew old business opportunities. Over the next 8 to 9 days a surprising job proposal may trigger an important decision. Ask older relatives for detailed advice. After Friday both romantic and family commitments may intensify. Loved ones will expect extra dedication: remain dedicated.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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54					55					56		
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9/6/09

ACROSS

1 "Two and a Half ____"

4 Vardalos and Long

8 "Star ____"; Mark Hamill film

12 Historical period

13 "Coffee, Tea ____?"

14 Televangelist Roberts

15 Holiday or Hampton

16 Actor on "Everybody Loves Raymond"

18 Kingdom

20 Eddie's "Green Acres" co-star

21 Every

24 Stopped

28 Morning show co-host

32 Ms. Arden

33 Cruising

34 Monogram for boxer Mr. Leonard

35 Intellectually alert

36 Mowry or Carrere

37 Actor on "Cold Case"

39 ____ Michelle Gellar

41 Mr. Wyle

42 "Presidio ____"

44 "Caroline ____ City"

48 CNBC financial show host

53 "I'm With ____"

54 Sitcom for Sherman Hemsley

55 Relaxation

56 ____ MacGraw

57 "Promised ____"

58 Stir-fry pans

59 "Jon & Kate Plus 8" network

DOWN

1 Israel's Golda

2 Sea eagle

3 Dog in "Peter Pan"

4 "____, Ohio"; John Goodman show

5 One of Cybill's exes

6 "Judging ____"

7 Dry

8 "The Bionic ____"

9 Coach Parseghian

10 Hightailed it

11 ____-pitch softball

17 "Crossing ____ With John Edward"

19 "____ Smile Be Your Umbrella"

22 Singer Johnny

23 One of HOMES

25 "The ____ Hunter"; De Niro movie

26 "Unhappily ____ After"

27 Declare untrue

28 Pads by the front door

29 Huge continent

30 Rip

31 "Sesame Street" fellow

35 Actress Madeline

37 "The Cosby Show" role

38 Lyndon ____ Johnson

40 Change for the better

43 "The Price Is Right" host

45 "____ '70s Show"

46 Satan's realm

47 Actor Close

48 ____ Mineo

49 Ms. Thurman

50 Buddhist sect

51 Chairman ____ Zedong

52 "____ This Old House"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

B	O	B		R	O	D		S	H	O		
A	P	E		E	R	E		L	I	M	A	
N	I	A		I	D	E	A	A	V	A	S	
G	E	R	A	L	D	O	R	I	V	E	R	A
			S	L	Y		E	D	S			
U	S	E	S		E	S	L		B	E	A	
M	A	R	T	H	A	S	T	E	W	A	R	T
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LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Loved ones this week need to feel reassured by extra attention or shared home plans. Private career doubts, difficult training programs or financial strain may be an underlying concern. Social distractions and a renewed interest in family intimacy will provide a valuable alternative to emotional isolation. After mid-week some Librans may encounter a complex workplace triangle. Power struggles, new policies and revised duties may be at issue. Stay well informed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Unexpected flirtations offer surprising moments of humor. Potential friends or lovers may be highly captivated with controversial proposals and unusual lifestyle choices. Competing values, creative sensuality and giddy arguments may all prove delightful. Enjoy private encounters and reversed social roles. Later this week a long-standing workplace promise may be suddenly revised. Key concerns may involve ongoing financial mistakes or inaccurate records.


SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Business or financial strategies will this week require detailed planning. Remain patient and expect ongoing mistakes to be corrected by key officials. Reassigned duties, fast revisions or special permissions may also be announced. Wednesday through Saturday accents powerful romantic changes and last minute proposals. Expect friends and lovers to openly reveal their deepest feelings. Stay alert.


CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) A close friend or work mate may soon ask for a lengthy explanation of recent events. Social loyalties, group invitations or planned celebrations may be at issue. At present confidence may be low. Pay special attention to isolated colleagues or withdrawn friends. Reassurance will bring the desired results. After Thursday older family members or key business officials may demand completed records, detailed paperwork or solid financial promises. Trust your first instincts.


AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Physical vitality and social sensitivity are now changing. Respond honestly to all questions or observations from loved ones. For many Aquarians this is a powerful time for increased intimacy and meaningful emotional changes in long-term relationships. Stay open to subtle comments or creative invitations. After Wednesday a workplace official or older business partner may press for new rules or revised job descriptions. Wait for added information: key information may be hidden.


PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Joint financial ventures or untested workplace partnerships may be disappointing over the next few weeks. Don't be dissuaded. If a creative approach toward difficult contracts can be established, surprising rewards will arrive by late September. Special legal documents may provide controversial but timely permissions. Later this week watch for a new friendship to become briefly complicated. Private romantic expectations need to be clarified. Stay balanced.


tuesday, 9//8

 **Focus China: Hugo Tillman: Film Stills of the Mind**
Tuesday–Sunday, All day
Columbia College Library, Floors 1–3
624 S. Michigan Ave.
FREE


 **Shanghai Reflections**
Weekdays
9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Hokin Gallery
623 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE

 **Focus China: Solidification of a Chinese Nation: Tribal Costumes of 56 Fraternal Nationalities in China**
Tuesday–Sunday, All Day
Columbia College Library, 3rd Floor
Hallway
618 S. Michigan Ave.
FREE


 **Kilowatt Ours (Recycling Program Film Screening)**
4 p.m.–6 p.m.
Ferguson Theater
600 S. Michigan Ave. 1st Floor
(312) 369-7055
FREE


 **Layer Cake: Tales from a Quinceañera**
Through October 28, 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
C33 Gallery, 33 E. Congress Parkway Building
(312) 369-7663
FREE





 **Re:figure, A Contemporary Look at Figurative Representation in Art (Exhibition)**
Tuesday–Thursday, 9 a.m.–7 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Glass Curtain Gallery
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE

wednesday, 9//9


 **Music Student Convocation**
Wednesday–Thursday, 12 p.m.–12:35 p.m.
Concert Hall
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6300
FREE


 **Don Share & Emily Warn Poetry Reading**
5 p.m.
Music Center Concert Hall,
1014 S. Michigan Ave. 1st Floor
(312) 663-5554
FREE


 **Bike Sale and Tune Up**
12–3 p.m.
Sidewalk
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-7055
FREE

 **FOCO: Latino Alliance First Weekly Meeting of Year**
5p.m.
Multicultural Affairs Conference Room, 4th Floor
618 S. Michigan Ave.
FREE

thursday, 9//10

 **Closing Reception and Book Signing: MP3II**
5 p.m.–7 p.m.
Museum of Contemporary Photography
600 S. Michigan Ave.
FREE

 **Shanghai Reflections OPENING RECEPTION** 5 p.m.–8 p.m.
Hokin Gallery
623 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE

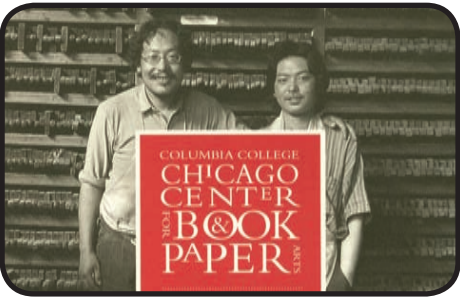
 **{BLANK} place: Third Annual Faculty Exhibition OPENING RECEPTION**
5 p.m.–8 p.m.
A+D Gallery
619 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE




 **Re:figure, A Contemporary Look at Figurative Representation in Art. OPENING RECEPTION**
5 p.m.–8 p.m.
Glass Curtain Gallery
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE


friday, 9//11

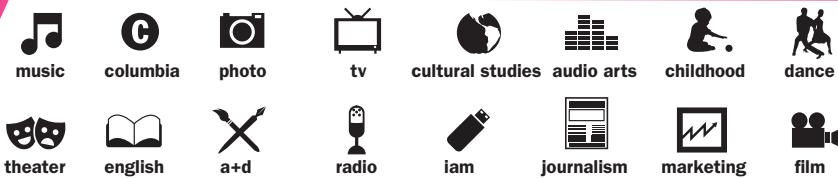
 **Pearl of the Snowlands: Buddhist Printing at the Derge Parkhang OPENING RECEPTION & EXHIBITION**
5 p.m.–8 p.m.
Center for Book and Paper Arts
1104 S. Wabash Ave. 2nd Floor
(312) 369-6630
FREE



saturday, 9//12

 **Black Student Union Game Night**
7:30 p.m.
Residence Center
731 S. Plymouth Court
FREE

 **On stage with...Tom Wopat (Tom Wopat Cabaret)**
8 p.m.
The Auditorium Theater of Roosevelt University
50 E. Congress Parkway
(312) 922-2110
\$50, \$75



tuesday, 9//8



America: All Better!
Tuesdays - Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays 7 p.m. // Second City, 1616 N. Wells St.

Second City gives its take on the recent economic crisis, global warming, and President Barack Obama.

(312) 337-3992
\$20-25

Jokes at Jake's
Tuesdays 9:30 p.m.
Jake Melnick's Corner Tap
41 E. Superior St.
(312) 266-0400
FREE

'Melrose Place' Viewing Party
Tuesdays starting at 8.p.m.
Luxbar
18 E. Bellevue Place
(312) 642-3400
FREE

Abstraction of Spirit
Tuesday through Thursday Oct. 1
1 p.m-7p.m.
Black Walnut
220 N. Aberdeen St.
(312) 286-2307
FREE

Museum of Contemporary Art Farmers Market
Tuesdays 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Through Wednesday, Oct. 23rd
Museum of Contemporary Art
220 E. Chicago Ave
(312) 280-2660
FREE

Go-Go Class
Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m., Mondays 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Flamenco Arts Center
3755 N. Western Ave.
(773) 868-4130
\$12/class, \$60/for 6-class package

wednesday, 9//9



Nami Mun Reading
7:30 p.m // Women and Children First
5233 N. Clark St.
Columbia Fiction Writing faculty member Nami Mun reads from her debut novel, "Miles from Nowhere".
(773) 769-9299
FREE

The Twelves
10 p.m.
Smart Bar
3730 N. Clark St.
(773) 549-0203
\$10-\$12

Paws-ilates
6 p.m., through Wednesday, Sept. 30
The Anti-Cruelty Society
510 N. LaSalle St.
(312) 644-8338 ext. 319
\$10, \$45 for 5 classes

Chick Flicks
10 p.m.
Red Kiva
1108 W. Randolph St.
(312) 226-5577
FREE

Veggie Bingo
6 p.m - 8 p.m., through Sept. 9
Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
(773) 227-4433
\$1/card, \$5/6 cards

'In One Ear' Poetry Night
Wednesdays 10 p.m
Heartland Café
7000 N. Glenwood Ave.
(773) 465-8005
\$3

thursday, 9//10

What Does It Say to You?
5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Spertus Museum
610 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 322-1773
FREE

Mani-Pedi Karaoke Night
Thursdays 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Nail Fetish
525 N. Ashland Ave.
(312) 738-3101
FREE

CenterED: A Polymer Clay Workshop with Dan Crowley
Through Thursday, Sept. 24
Center on Halsted
3656 N. Halsted St.
(773) 472-6469
\$50/3 sessions



Hardcore Dad
Thursdays 8 p.m. // The Annoyance Theater
4830 N. Broadway

See this comedy about a man who's kicked out of a band on his way to becoming big. Twenty-five years later, he has an adult son he barely knows, so he tries to bond with him.

(773) 561-4665
\$10

friday, 9//11

Flesh Hungry Dog Show presents "This Ain't Your Daddy's Gay Bar" (21+)
9 p.m.
Jackhammer
6406 N. Clark St.
(773) 743-5772
\$10 at the door; \$8 in advance

JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound
10 p.m.
Hideout
1354 W. Wabansia Ave.
(773) 227-4433
\$8

Chicago-Style Steppin' Lesson
Fridays 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Gentle Persuasion Lounge
8959 S. Ashland Ave.
(773) 233-4800
\$15

Stars of the Lyric Opera
6:30 p.m.
Jay Pritzker Pavilion
Millenium Park
201 E. Randolph St.
(312) 742-1168
FREE

saturday, 9//12
sunday, 9//13

FREE

ALS Walk 4 Life Chicago
Saturday 8:30 a.m.
Montrose Harbor
4400 N. Lake Shore Drive
(847) 679-3311
FREE

FREE

Alzheimer's Associaton Memory Walk
Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Montrose Harbor
4400 N. Lake Shore Dr.
(847) 933-2413
FREE

FREE

Celtic Fest Chicago
Saturday 12 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Grant Park
300 S. Columbus Drive
FREE

Movies at The Terrace
Sunday 7:30 p.m.
The Terrace at the Conrad Chicago
521 N. Rush St.
(312) 377-0979
FREE

FREE

Millennium Park Workouts
Sat & Sun 7 a.m. - 11 a.m. through Sept. 19
Millenium Park
201 E. Randolph St.
(312) 742-1168
FREE

Ani DiFranco
Sunday 7 p.m.
Paramount Arts Centre
23 E. Galena Blvd. Aurora, Ill 60605
(630) 896-6666
\$39

Mexican Independence Day Parade
Saturday 11 a.m.
300 E. Balbo Drive
(312) 744-3315
FREE

Maxwell Street Market
Sundays 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
640 W. Roosevelt Road
(312) 745-4676
FREE