

9-21-2009

Columbia Chronicle (09/21/2009)

Columbia College Chicago

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FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN

MAP Grant: Provides funding to Illinois residents who attend approved Illinois colleges and demonstrate financial need.

Pell Grant: A federal grant that is issued to students in need.

Scholarships: Money for college that you will not be expected to repay.

Federal Stafford Loans: Student loans that must be repaid and are available to both undergraduate and graduate students.

Private student loans: Supplementary loans from private financial institutions.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
REVISED 2009-2010 AWARD LETTER

September 8, 2009 Columbia

Dear Jane,

We are writing you to notify you of a change in your anticipated financial aid awards for the 2009-2010 Academic Year. Your financial aid has been revised due to a change in your eligibility information. These changes may have occurred due to one or more of the following reasons:

- Completion of the Verification Process, Special Circumstance or Dependency Override
- Petition
- Receipt of a Revised Student Aid Report (FAFSA)
- Receipt of an Award Change Request Submitted by the Student
- Overaward (additional funds received which exceed the student's cost of attendance budget)
- Deferred or Change in Enrollment Status

Your financial aid award has been updated to the following:

Type of Aid	FA2009	SP2010	Total
Federal Pell Grant	2,400.00	2,400.00	4,800.00
ISAC MAP Grant	2,484.00	0.00	2,484.00
Fischetti Scholarship	2,500.00	2,500.00	5,000.00
Fed Sub Stafford Loan	2,750.00	2,750.00	5,500.00
Fed Unsub Stafford Loan	3,500.00	3,500.00	7,000.00
Sallie Mae Loan	6,897.00	6,897.00	13,794.00
Total Awarded Funds	20,531.00	18,047.00	38,578.00

Cost of Attendance Budget of : \$38,578.00

Expected Family Contribution of : \$ 520.00

For more information on these changes, you may refer to our website and visit Changes at our Columbia College Award webpage or visit our Customer Service Options webpage to get information on how to speak with someone regarding these changes.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter and we look forward to working with you in successfully funding your education.

Sincerely,
Student Financial Services

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Definitions courtesy of www.fafsa.ed.gov, www.collegezone.com

Photo Illustration by Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Columbia students, administration rally for MAP

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

A TOTAL of 3,334 Columbia students will not be receiving their spring MAP grants, depriving them of a combined \$5 million that they are now working to replace. Students, campus organizations and the administration are banding with The Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities and other colleges to fund the MAP grant for next semester. Columbia students are encouraged to write their legislators.

» FOR FULL STORY SEE PG. 12

Enrollment numbers down in economic crisis

by Benita Zepeda
Assistant Campus Editor

IN THE midst of the current financial crisis gripping the nation, the enrollment numbers for the fall 2009 semester are down for the first time in 25 years, according to Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly.

“We had a net drop of 384 new undergraduate students compared to last year,” Kelly said. “I will point out that this is still, without question, the largest concentration of young creative talent entering any college in the country, but it is a sobering moment for Columbia.”

The numbers, which were released on Sept. 16, show that there has been a significant drop in enrollment of new freshman and transfer students, but a rise in continuing students.

New student enrollment, which includes freshmen, transfers, Post-Baccalaureate Certificate of Major candidates and new students-at-large, decreased 11 percent compared with the previous year.

Graduate student enrollment has decreased by 11.7 percent, or by a total of 71 students. The decrease in graduate students was expected because almost all of the graduate programs are capped on the number of students accepted, and the Arts, Entertainment and Media Management graduate program shrunk its incoming class by 20 students.

However, continuing students was the only group to increase, by 1.5 percent, which equates to 118 more students than fall 2008.

Gigi Posejpal, director of International Student Affairs, said that even though she has yet to receive the official numbers for the international program, she is hopeful that the numbers have increased.

“I have got more international students total than I did last year,” Posejpal said. “Even though it is not a lot, our numbers have slightly improved with the international population.”

Kelly said, even with the downturn, this semester’s freshman class is still the third largest in Columbia history.

“It’s modestly under our fall 2007 class,” Kelly said. “Perspective is pretty important in this.”

He urges that this isn’t a story unique to Columbia. The problem is not with wanting to attend Columbia, but is simply a

» SEE ENROLLMENT, PG. 7

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A&C

Hometown Letdown

» SEE PG. 14

H&F

2016 Countdown

» SEE PG. 33

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Remembering Patrick Swayze



by Bethany Reinhart
Editor-in-Chief

“NOBODY PUTS Baby in a corner.” Five words spoken by the astonishingly handsome character Johnny Castle, played by heartthrob Patrick Swayze, captured the hearts of women around the world when *Dirty Dancing* debuted in 1987.

It wasn’t just the charismatic character Johnny Castle who women fell in love with—it was Swayze himself. But after an almost two-year battle with pancreatic cancer, Swayze died on Sept. 14 at just 57 years old. Swayze is survived by his wife of 34 years, Lisa Niemi.

Although the tragic headlines did not come as a tremendous surprise, they are, nonetheless, heartbreaking. The bright lights of Hollywood seem a bit dimmer as it has lost yet another legend to illness.

Throughout his illness, Swayze handled himself with incredible grace and integrity. His blue eyes, though slightly glazed and strained from illness, still shone in the interviews he conducted after learning of his disease.

Although Swayze acknowledged that medical statistics were not in his favor, he continued to work until he became too ill. After his diagnosis, he starred in A&E Network’s drama “The Beast.” The show was canceled in June after Swayze’s illness grew worse; the cancer had spread from his pancreas to his liver.

In an interview with ABC’s Barbara Walters, Swayze said, “If I leave this Earth, I want to leave this Earth knowing I’ve tried to give something back and tried to do something worthwhile with myself.”

Swayze undoubtedly did give something back. He was arguably one of the most tal-

ented actors of our generation.

Going from Broadway dancer to a Hollywood megastar, Swayze was best known for his performances in *Dirty Dancing* and the 1990 Oscar-winning movie *Ghost*. But Swayze will also be remembered for other performances, such as his bad-boy role in *Roadhouse* or his “Saturday Night Live” Chippendales sketch with Chris Farley. In 1991, Swayze achieved the iconic status of *People* magazine’s “Sexiest Man Alive.”

Despite the stardom he achieved, Swayze’s personal life was rarely featured in the headlines of gossip magazines or Web sites. To the public, he appeared to be a man of integrity, who was filled with the ambitious desire to succeed in his career and leave his mark on Hollywood.

However, the legendary heartthrob was not without flaw. Swayze battled alcoholism for many years. In 1994, after his sister’s suicide, Swayze entered a rehab facility and committed himself to a life of sobriety. He later left the temptations of Hollywood and purchased two ranches—one in California and one in New Mexico—where he and his wife lived simply while raising cattle and tending to a wildlife preserve.

Swayze was known for his deep spirituality. Although he was raised Roman Catholic, he studied Buddhism, Baha’i and Scientology.

Swayze’s *Dirty Dancing* co-star Jennifer Grey said in a statement, “Patrick was a rare and beautiful combination of raw masculinity and amazing grace. He was a real cowboy with a tender heart. He was fearless and insisted on doing his own stunts, so it is not surprising to me that the war he waged on his cancer was so courageous and dignified.”

Swayze and his wife have written a book, *The Time of My Life*, set to be released on Sept. 29.

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NEWS FLASH

9/23/09

Opera in Cinema Screening of *La Boheme*

FILM ROW Cinema presents Giacomo Puccini’s immortal opera. The screening will be at Film Row Cinema, Wednesday 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

9/24/09

Cinema Slapdown: *Y Tú Mamá También*

THE FILM and Video Department explores sex in the first installment of their semester theme, “Sex, Drugs, and Rock-n-Roll.” Screening to be held at Film Row Cinema Sept. 24 at 7 p.m.

Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

9/25/09

Ivan Neville Residency Concert

ARTIST IN residence performs. Located in the Music Center Concert Hall, 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. Free admission.

The Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.

through 10/23/09

Shanghai Reflections

AN EXHIBIT inspired by past trips taken to Shanghai by students. This exhibit is located in the Hokin Gallery at the Wabash Campus Building, open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Oct. 23.

Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.

through 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 located in the C33 Gallery, open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

C33 Gallery, 33 E. Congress Parkway Building
33 E. Congress

through 10/30/09

Re:figure, A Contemporary Look at Figurative Representation in Art

AN EXHIBIT exploring the common ground between contemporary and traditional technology with a diverse range in media. Gallery open Monday - Wednesday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Glass Curtain Gallery, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Want to see your Columbia-related event mentioned in Newsflash?
Contact The Chronicle at (312) 369-8999.



Columbia to continue with renewed accreditation

Ten-year certification updated, college succeeds amid growth

by Brandon Smith
Assistant Beat Editor

COLUMBIA'S STATUS as an accredited institution of higher learning was unconditionally continued for the next 10 years as of Sept. 14 by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

The decision was widely expected by the Columbia administration. The HLC review group's report frequently praised the college and didn't publicly cite areas in which the college needed to improve, like it did in 1999.

"The real success story is what the college has accomplished over the last 10 years," said Anne Foley, associate provost of Administration, who oversaw the two-year self-study the college provided to the HLC, a multi-state review group of collegiate professors and administrators.

"There's an awful lot of people all over the campus who get credit for the fact that we're a much better place now than we were 10 years ago," Foley said.

The HLC's report was riddled with quotes like, "The number and quality of [Columbia's] outreach efforts, its partnerships with educational, arts, and community groups, its ubiquitous physical presence among old but revitalized buildings in the area, the service attitude of its faculty and students, and many other manifestations of engagement indicate that Columbia College Chicago has achieved an unusually high level of integration and involvement with the community, the city, the United States and even the world."

According to Foley, the once-a-decade process of evaluating a college's accreditation is meant for two things: to ensure

REACCREDITATION: THEN & NOW

	1998	2008
Tuition	\$10,830	\$18,490
Total Student Enrollment	8,848	12,127
Total Full-Time Faculty	236	353
Total Part-Time Faculty	959	1,352
Students who Identify Themselves as Ethnic Minorities	40%	28%
Average Undergraduate Age	24	21

Dana LaCoco THE CHRONICLE

the HLC.

The HLC is special in the fact that the federal government recognizes it as an authority that can, in essence, certify that colleges are doing their jobs. It can withhold accreditation if some key component of education or administration is egregiously in error. But mostly, it extends the stamp of approval, Foley said, with either public stipulations or private suggestions about how to better the college. Columbia only had private suggestions this time around.

At Foley's direction, Columbia's Office of Research, Evaluation and Planning enlisted the help of faculty, staff and a few students to study the school prior to the accreditation process. This self-study has taken place at least three times prior to the 2008 study, Foley said.

This time, the office and the broader study team worked about 18 months, producing a 210-page report for the HLC. But Foley said the work benefited Columbia internally, and will continue to help with many years of planning.

If the self-study could be said to have a single theme, it is this: maintaining educational standards amid the rapid growth of the student body. The

HLC report also focused on how Columbia has weathered its growth. In 10 years' time, the student body ballooned from around 8,800 to around 12,000, according to the self-study.

According to several faculty and administrators, as Columbia has grown, so has its brand recognition around the country. Or possibly, student body growth and brand recognition go hand in hand, since arbitrary caps on admission (forcing things like selectivity based on merit) have not been a part of Columbia's recent history. The report from the HLC framed Columbia's admissions policy as one that encourages diversity.

"The determination to maintain generous admissions to attract a diverse student body in a multicultural society is evident in the various types of diversity ... in the demographics and interests of the students," the report states. "[Columbia] recognizes in its policies and its programming that generous admissions place special responsibility on the college to provide developmental and remedial assistance to students who might not otherwise persist in their quest for a degree."

Columbia is different than it was 10 years ago in other ways. For students in the late 1990s, each department had its own personality, said Michelle Passarelli, assistant director of Alumni Relations. Passarelli graduated from Columbia in 1999 with a degree in marketing communications, advertising and copywriting.

"The experience now is a more Columbia experience," Passarelli said. "Back then, it was more departmental."

The departments almost had their own brands in the 1990s, according to Mary Forde, assistant vice president of Creative and Print Services. The thought was that the departments shouldn't compete with

» SEE ACCREDITATION, PG. 12

CAMPUS POLL

How has the MAP grant cut affected your finances?



Max Yas
Senior, arts, entertainment and media management major

"I have to make more money at work. I work a part-time job, so I can't go out as much. [I have to] work more and not spend money on frivolous s---."



Shelly Benson
Junior, photography major

"Me and my mom are struggling like crazy through the bills and everything and the monthly payments for all our loans and stuff because the grants were so small."



Daniel Pizzoferrato
Junior, music major

"My father pays for most of the things, but he knows there's a slight increase in tuition, so that was kind of frustrating."

Staff union still at odds with college

President Carter responds to leafleting event, attempts to set record straight

by Lauren Kelly
Commentary Editor

AFTER ALMOST three years of negotiations between Columbia administrators and the United Staff of Columbia College to establish a contract dealing with wages, hours, terms of employment and working conditions for non-faculty staff members, an agreement has yet to be reached.

Following an announcement from US of CC on Sept. 15 saying it would be holding a leafleting campaign on Sept. 16 to distribute information to the college about the situation, President Warrick L. Carter issued an incensed statement in response to the group's actions via e-mail with the intention of setting the record straight regarding the negotiations.

"Columbia College Chicago has had enough of the misinformation about the bargaining process and wants to correct

it," stated Carter's message.

The US of CC, which represents more than 1,000 non-faculty employees at the college, was officially certified as a union by the National Labor Relations Board in April 2006. Since then, the college and the union have been involved in ongoing contract negotiations.

This past July, the union declared an impasse, or stalemate, claiming the college was no longer bargaining in good faith, according to the Sept. 15 e-mail from the group announcing the leafleting event.

"I'm assuming negotiations probably will restart in the near future."

-Annice Kelly

However, Annice Kelly, college vice president and general counsel said, "To this day, I don't know if the administration has a clear understanding of why they [US of CC] felt the need to say 'we're at impasse in the negotiations.'"

Much of the specific information regarding negotiations between US of CC and the college is confidential.

Michael Bright, an administrative assistant and president of US of CC, said there's nothing really holding up the contract, and the main reason the union is not at the bargaining table right now is because there was an unannounced change in hours for part-time staff employees.

"This demonstrated to us that the administration has very little respect for this organization," Bright said.

However, according to Kelly, "The union has yet to provide [the administration] with any information that established hours were cut."

Negotiations are not over between the college and US of CC.

"I'm assuming negotiations probably will restart in the near future," Kelly said.

For more information regarding negotiations between the college and US of CC, be sure to pick up next week's issue of *The Chronicle*.

lkelly@chroniclemail.com

Nine students film first-year experience

Start Book documentary presents Columbia through the eyes of new students

by Benita Zepeda
Assistant Campus Editor

WHEN STARTING at a new school, there are many moments that are universal to every college student, regardless of where they attend. For many, that moment is move-in day at the dorms, attending the first school event for new students, or even setting foot into that first college class.

This year, nine Columbia freshmen and transfer students will be documenting their first-year experiences through a program called Start Book.

Start Book is still in the very early stages of development. Matthew Green, director of Online Student Communications, said this is a project that is completely left up to the students.

“We think that prospective students and the world at large will understand what Columbia is about better through their eyes,” Green said.

The videos are not viewed by coordinators of the project before the students place them on their YouTube accounts. They are responsible for shooting their own footage and uploading it to the Internet. At a later date, there will be a Web site available for other students to view the videos, Green said.

The selection process for finding the nine students took place during orientation. Unknowingly, students were asked



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE
Kingston Warren, (left) Kate Kirk and Dustin Supencheck are three of nine students involved in the Start Book program. They hope to tell the story of their first-year college experience through their eyes.

a series of questions casually in front of a camera. Green and the others behind the project selected the students based on their personalities and representation of the Columbia community.

Daniel Zarick, junior interdisciplinary arts major, is the social coordinator for the project. He said the students were surprised when they were contacted by the college and asked to participate in this new documentary.

However, Zarick stresses that this isn’t a commercial plug for Columbia.

“A student telling their story directly to other students definitely helps tell the story better than any commercial,” he said. “Columbia makes commercials. We don’t want these students to make commercials. We want them to tell their own stories.”

The pride of this project is instilled in the raw footage filmed directly with hand-held cameras with almost no video editing, just

pressing record and stop. “Our hope is that we will have the site up at some point during the year,” Zarick said. “We want to show individual students going through their first year.”

Zarick said the ultimate goal for the project is to tell a larger story and that each student walks away with a coherent story.

“The only vision I have is that each of these students finish with some sort of story,” he said.

“

I think there is something that is incredibly informative about something that is so raw and genuine.”

– Kate Kirk

Kate Kirk, an arts, entertainment and media management major, Dustin Supencheck, a film and video major and Kingston Warren, a critical studies major are three of the nine students filming for the Start Book program.

All three students are excited about different aspects of the project, and are finding ways the project directly impacts their freshman experience with each video.

“I like how it’s been pushing me to get out into the city,” said Supencheck. “This is pushing me to expand myself.”

One of the goals for the project is show-

» SEE DOCUMENTARY, PG. 12

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

C o n c e r t H a l l E v e n t s

Monday September 21
Ivan Neville in Residence through 9/25/09

Tuesday September 22
The Student Concert Series
7:00 PM

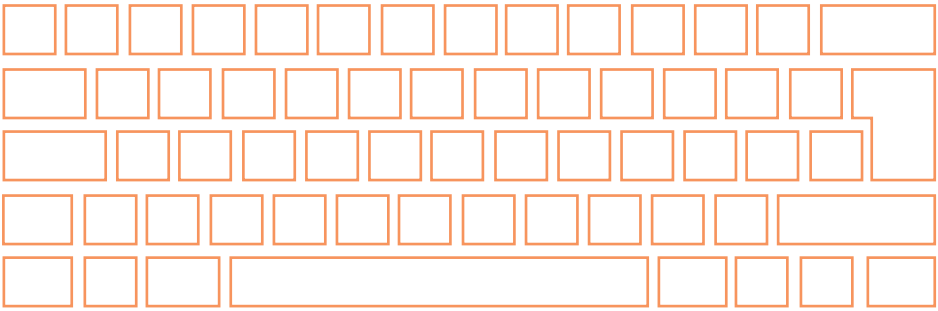
Friday September 25
Jazz Gallery in The Lobby
12:00

Jazz Forum
2:00

Ivan Neville Residency Concert
6:00
Reservations: 312-369-6300

All events are free. For more info: 312-369-6300

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- Version Cue CS4



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- Fireworks CS4
- Contribute CS4
- After Effects CS4
- Adobe Premiere Pro CS4
- Soundbooth CS4
- Adobe OnLocation CS4
- Encore CS4
- Adobe Bridge CS4
- Adobe Device Central CS4
- Dynamic Link
- Version Cue CS4



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Columbia student waits for new heart, kidney

Radio and marketing major puts school on hold as he waits for transplants

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA STUDENT William “Bill” Coon, 20, has put a hold on his plans to return to school while he awaits a new heart and kidney.

Coon is double-majoring in radio and marketing communications and is known in both departments for being tenacious.

Coon is enthusiastic about getting involved in campus organizations such as the Public Relations Student Society of America and worked for an exclusive internship in the promotions department at 101.9 The Mix radio station.

“I didn’t have him in class, but I remember I was desperate to find someone to attend a SOC [Student Organizations Council] training session for PRSSA,” said Anne Marie Mitchell, assistant professor in the Marketing Communications Department. “Bill was the only one to volunteer, and he stopped by my office afterward to tell me what he had learned. I remember being so impressed by him, his energy and concern for doing the right thing.”

At three weeks of age, Coon was the fourth infant in the Midwest to receive a heart transplant, and now he is in need of another one, as well as a new kidney.

Coon began to feel sick around the end of 2008 and the chest pains gradually wors-

ened until May, when doctors discovered he was ill.

Coon had planned to return to Columbia for the fall semester, but he grew sicker and was admitted to Northwestern Memorial Hospital on Aug. 25 in need of a new heart and kidney.

“Returning to Columbia has been a goal for me since I was diagnosed in early June,” Coon said. “I was hoping to return to Columbia for the first day of class this fall semester, but I needed to push that goal back a bit as I progressively grew sicker.”

Currently, he’s been diagnosed with vasculitis, which is a form of coronary artery disease from a transplanted heart in which the arteries start to narrow to a point that doctors cannot stent the patient if the entire artery starts to narrow.

The back of Coon’s heart has shut down, with three or four arteries in the front of his heart starting to narrow.

Bill Coon’s sister, Carissa Coon, a 21-year-old student at Eastern Illinois University, said her brother was recently moved to level 1A in the cardiac intensive care unit of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, putting him at the top of the list for a transplant.

“They’ll have him in by next week, we’re hoping,” Carissa Coon said.

His family has always been close, but became especially close during the summer, Carissa Coon said.

“We’re a big family and we’re very close,” Carissa Coon said. “I made dinner every night [this summer] so we could all have family dinners instead of doing our own thing.”



Courtesy BILL COON

Coon said with her brother in the hospital, there were days when as many as 20 visitors would be in the waiting room to visit him.

“There’s always a constant flow of people and he knows that everyone’s here supporting him and we’re all waiting for him to get better,” Coon said.

Bill Coon is encouraging family, friends and fellow students to become more involved in organ donation. His sister is working with Donate Life Illinois to begin a campaign at EIU beginning in October and lasting through mid-November.

The Radio and Marketing Communica-

tions Departments at Columbia have been especially understanding of Coon’s illness and eagerly await his return next semester.

“The department is really proud of him,” said Barbara Calabrese, chairwoman for the Radio Department. “We’re hoping that he’ll come back; he’s an excellent student and he’s got a bright future.”

Bill Coon said he is looking forward to returning for the spring semester.

“To me, being in a classroom on the first day of second semester will be my way of knowing that I beat this illness,” Bill Coon said.

cshook@chroniclemail.com

Student club questions faith, looks for facts

Campus organization utilizes science, reason in search for answers

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus Editor

WITH A handful of groups on campus geared toward students who believe in God and religion, one organization called Inquire reaches out to non-religious students who are otherwise atheists and freethinkers.

The Columbia chapter of Inquire, a campus skeptic and freethought group that is part of the Center for Inquiry, started conducting meetings in September 2008. The group officially became a part of the Student Organizations Council this past summer. The group holds meetings every other Wednesday, where they engage in discussions and watch films based on the myths and truths behind topics such as religion, the paranormal and free speech, as well as other subjects. According to Inquire’s Web site, the group’s vision is to promote peace and progress through research and science.

An atheist since age 12, Hana Hawker, a freshman music major, said she attended Inquire’s first informational meeting hoping to find other like-minded students.

“I’ve been really interested in skeptic culture,” Hawker said. “Then I read Sam Harris’ book, *The End of Faith*, and I started thinking about [atheism] a lot more.”

Hawker said that being skeptical has taught her not to take knowledge for granted. She hopes that by being a part of Inquire, she can engage in intellectually stimulating topics that will challenge her beliefs about science and religion.

“I’m interested in all sorts of things,” Hawker said. “Obviously, religion and how



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

Columbia students attend an Inquire meeting in the South Campus Building, 624 S. Michigan Ave., on Sept. 16. This was the first meeting for the group which describes itself as a skeptic and freethought group that reaches out to non-religious students and freethinkers on campus.

it affects our country and our world culture, but also things like vaccine denialism and evolution.”

Inquire welcomes discussion about not only religion, but government, college, pseudoscience and superstition, among other things, said Abigail Stokes, junior poetry major and president of Inquire.

“We try to think about various issues that are going on in our lives through the lens of science and reason,” Stokes said. “A lot of people find science and reason to be really intimidating and we hope to take away some of that fear and make it fun because it can be really fascinating and it can be applicable to anyone.”

Unable to schedule any events with Criti-

cal Encounters, a college-wide initiative that aims to promote discussion around a socially or culturally pertinent theme, under this year’s theme of “Fact and Faith.” Stokes will make sure Inquire’s members are aware of the events that are scheduled. However, the group has various discussions and movies planned, as well as creating a billboard for Blasphemy Day, a day of protest against a U.N. resolution banning criticism of religion, which will take place on Sept. 30.

“Unfortunately, we weren’t able to get on the boat for Critical Encounters this year simply because we don’t have a budget [or] any fundraising revenue, so it wasn’t in the books,” Stokes said.

Charlie Williams, an adjunct faculty member in the Music Department and faculty advisor for Inquire, said he understands both sides of a very contentious topic—religion. He said many individuals do not see eye to eye in terms of religion, and can get defensive. On one hand, religion can be a family tradition, passed down from generation to generation, but there are those who dismiss religion and stick with the facts.

“It could be just the idea that maybe this thing they were taught is subjective and has changed over time and is culturally contingent, that that can be really threatening,” Williams said. “Even modern religion still often tells people to stop asking questions. It would be inconceivable for religion to allow something to be disproved by science.”

Williams heard about the organization through Facebook in spring 2009, which has been the primary destination for those interested in joining Inquire. Lately, the organization has recruited members through word-of-mouth and by holding informational meetings at the start of the school year. For those interested in joining, Williams said he thinks Inquire will spark intellectual conversations about faith, science and reason.

“I think it could really open up a lot of dialogue, especially with Critical Encounters theme being “Fact and Faith” this year,” Williams said. “That’s a great opportunity for us to say, ‘What does that mean?’”

Inquire meets every other Wednesday at 6 p.m. at the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, tentatively in Room 422. For exact dates and locations, please visit Colum.edu/Inquire or e-mail inquire@loop.colum.edu.

dkucynda@chroniclemail.com

Travel catalog raises awareness, benefits Peruvian locals

Two photography students use their talents, raise money for indigent community

by Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor

TWO COLUMBIA juniors are using their passion for photography to better a community. Stephanie Tanner and Kelsey Lindsey teamed up this past summer to create awareness within the Peruvian community. Both photography majors, they decided to collaboratively sell their images on their individual Web sites to raise money for a trip to Peru, where they plan to put together a travel catalog and raise awareness of the shocking situations in Peruvian societies. The duo previously worked in orphanages located in indigent areas and wanted to take a similar humanitarian approach to their summer vacation. Through extensive online research, they located a Web site called Idealist.org, an international database for non-profit organizations. The Web site stated they were in need of photographers, so the two decided to get on

board and follow through with their plan. “Travel books are extremely expensive, like \$40 a book, so we spent many a day and night inside Borders just searching the books getting any sort of information that we could come up with that would be beneficial to the trip,” Lindsey said. Tanner added, “Yeah, we did a lot of iPhone picture taking of the pages.” Through their Web sites, WideAngleTravels.WordPress.com and IdealExposures.WordPress.com, the two raised a little more than \$1,000 to fund their trip. When they didn’t raise enough money through the Web site, the pair decided to create fliers to distribute asking family members and local businesses to assist them with funding for the trip. They also were active in art fairs and created postcards that they placed around campus. They had their parents hand out the postcards at their workplaces and they hung them up in the Student Alumni Association offices, an organization in which they are both are involved. Prior to the trip, the two had proposed the idea to friend and fellow Student Alumni Association member Niles Howard, a film

» SEE PERU, PG. 12



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

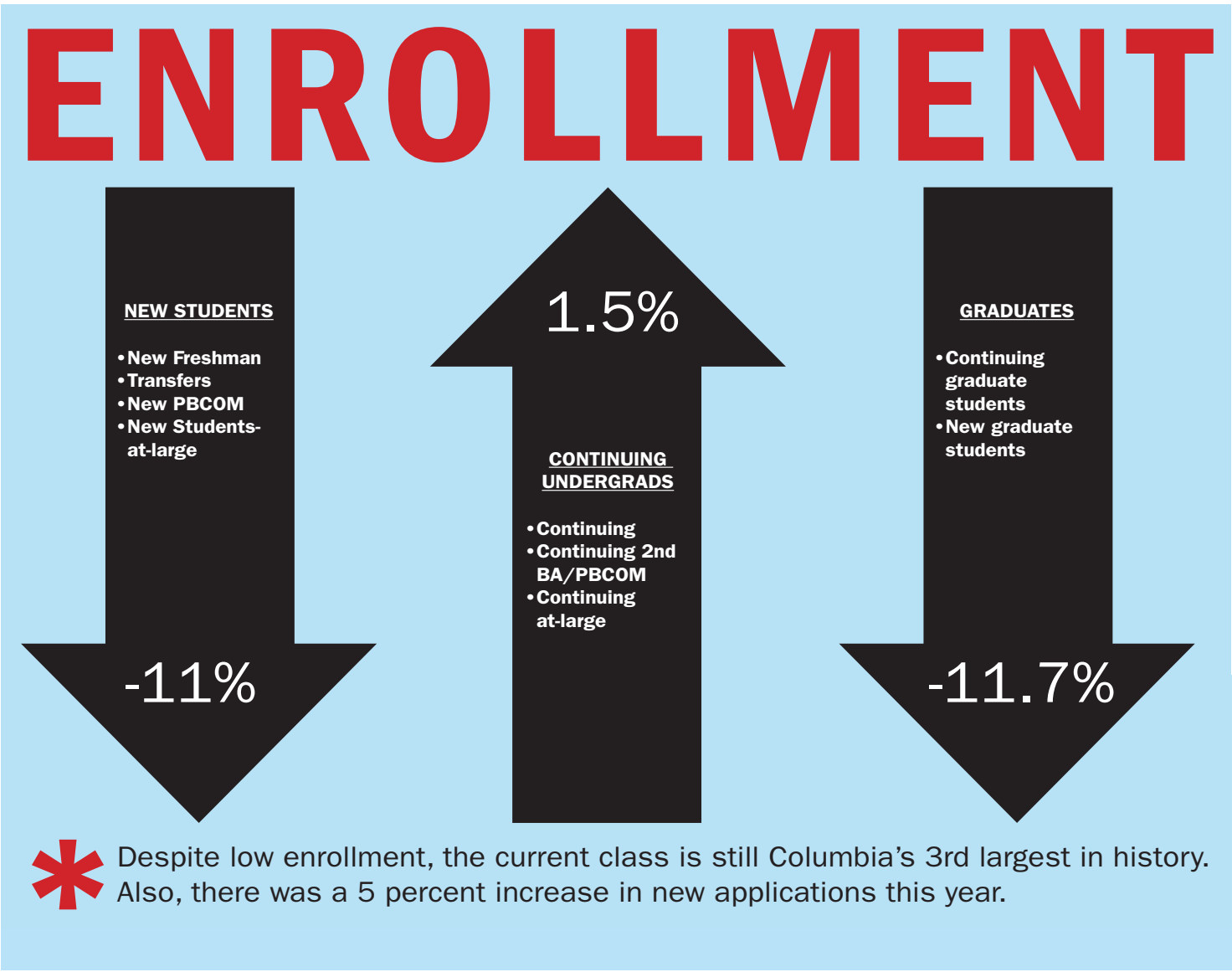
Stephanie Tanner, left and Kelsey Lindsey, right, raised money for summer trip to Peru where they worked with locals developing alternative tourism activities in the Ollantaytambo region.

» ENROLLMENT

Continued from Front Page

parents are struggling to find ways to balance the cost of living and the cost of higher education. Unfortunately, with education costs on the rise and household incomes not matching that increase, more students are choosing community and public institutions over private. “All of the community colleges in this area, we’re hearing quotes of 30 - 40 percent increases in enrollments, and all of the state colleges are full and having to reject students because they don’t have room for them,” Kelly said. “We think our story is not going to be unique at all for private colleges.” Columbia has seen a five percent increase in applications this semester, which suggests that the financial crisis is the reason behind the decline. Kelly is predicting a surge of transfer students once the economic climate improves. Students may be staying at their community colleges longer to try and offset the high costs of private institutions. Eric Winston, vice president of Institutional Advancement, said the college is taking action to ease the financial strain on our students.

“Scholarship Columbia is our effort to raise current dollars to give out to students for scholarships,” Winston said. “We are working feverishly to contact alumni to ask them if they would donate scholarship funds that the college will match so we can give students funds to attend school.” Despite the fact that Columbia’s tuition may be lower than the tuition of other private universities, there are very few scholarships and even fewer grants avail-



Dana LaCoco THE CHRONICLE

able to students. “We’re desperately trying to change that,” Winston said. This fall, Columbia has awarded approximately 600 students with scholarships, which is double the amount of scholarships awarded in fall 2007. “Families are making the decisions ‘We can’t afford this’ or ‘We can’t assume this debt,’” Kelly said. “It’s very unclear of

where that job market is and some data suggests that one of the more dynamic areas will continue to be communications, media and art-related, but that doesn’t mean people won’t still be cautious and that could be driving some of this, too.” Although he didn’t have direct solutions to how the college will be responding to the impact on individual budgets,

Columbia President Warrick L. Carter will be issuing a statement soon on how the college will be responding to the challenges at hand. “The students aren’t going to see a difference in their lives on the campus because of those budget cuts, but the college does have some tough decisions in front of it,” Kelly said.

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Columbia grad tells widow’s tale

Alumna documents corruption, murder in Nicaraguan community

by Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor

A COLUMBIA graduate has created a voice for a Nicaraguan community.

Mallory Sohmer, a 2006 flimmaking graduate, is the creator of a contemporary documentary film focusing on an indigenous community in Nicaragua. The film, titled *The Living Documents*, was conceptualized while taking a course at the college.

The course that inspired Sohmer, Indigenous Films and Filmmaking, focuses on bringing attention to dire situations within native communities. The course, taught by Jeff Spitz, allows students to present a proposal on a topic of their interest. Spitz said Sohmer’s topic was very compelling not only because it is historically commonplace in indigenous communities, but also because she put so much dedication into the film.

Sohmer was assigned to introduce a proposal on a topic that concerned a native community. She began some preliminary research by sorting through various topics on the Internet and came across a story that grabbed her attention—a murder that had occurred in a Nicaraguan community.

Maria Acosta, a lawyer for the community’s land rights, came home in 2002 to find that her husband, Frank Garcia, had been brutally murdered. Based on overwhelming evidence,



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Mallory Sohmer discusses her film with a journalism class before a screening held at the college Sept. 15

it is believed that the murder was committed out of spite to silence Acosta.

Peter Tsokos, a U.S.-based businessman from Greece, had been selling Nicaraguan land through his Web site, while Acosta had been fighting him for some time. The weapon used to kill her husband was registered to one of Tsokos’ associates and his former body guard was later identified as the murderer.

Despite the vast evidence that the murder was what some considered a set up that Tsokos orchestrated, the charges were dropped and the Nicaraguan courts closed the case. Although Acosta has attempted to appeal the case, no progress has been made since the closure. Sohmer hopes that through

this socially-conscious film, awareness will be raised and Acosta can find justice for her husband’s murder.

“This was the direction that I wanted to go when I was getting involved in video,” Sohmer said. “This was the stuff I wanted to do, but when I graduated I was working on commercials and television and a lot of things that I knew were OK in the day to day, but not part of my bigger vision. That’s basically why I decided, I am going to fund this myself because this is what I want to do.”

Although Sohmer had never imagined she would have the ability to go further with her research, she hit a turning point when she received an e-mail from Acosta, with whom

she had been communicating via e-mail for a little more than a year. Acosta informed Sohmer that her son was currently working on a film in Nicaragua focusing on the native music in the area and said that he would be able to help her out if she wanted to pursue the documentary.

Acosta’s son helped Sohmer set up interviews, hire a film crew and get in contact with key sources.

Sohmer’s film debuted on The Documentary Channel on Aug. 3. However, she has been showing the film throughout Nicaragua for the past year to raise awareness.

“We hope that the film works as an instrumental tool to tell their story and hopefully create some enthusiasm on the subject because there is a lot of fear in the communities,” Kate Benzschawel, Sohmer’s associate producer said. “But the fight is still continuing. It needs to be fought because it is important so the people are aware of the situation so they can move forward to combat it.”

Spitz said that he is pleased that Sohmer followed her hunch and went through with the documentary.

“I have had other students do remarkable films, but not like this,” Spitz said. “Mallory crossed the boundaries and managed to give voice to people who were so far away and so removed, and that is a testament to her courage and her determination to give justice. Her fight was on behalf of these people living in these remote areas.”

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SPOTLIGHT ON
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Jay Boersma
BA '74 - Photography

Jay is a creative director at Playboy.com, and will be featured as the Student Alumni Association's (SAA) "Spotlight on Alumni" presenter on Friday, October 2nd at 5pm in the Portfolio Center. To RSVP, please contact Michelle Passarelli at 312-369-6987 or mpassarelli@colum.edu.

How did your education at Columbia help prepare you for your future?

I graduated from Columbia in 1974. This was still very much the time of hippies, protests, anti-establishment thinking and doing art solely for the sake of doing art. "The Future" was the last thing on my mind and I primarily just wanted to explore my creative potential in whatever directions my interests and inclinations took me. Columbia allowed me to concentrate on photography, which was my primary interest, while also taking a large number of courses outside of the photo major - including four or five writing courses and quite a few ceramics and printmaking courses. As I look back on it, the courses outside of my discipline helped me a great deal in providing a richer, more expansive range of experiences and I wish I had taken more of them.

What was your first job after graduating from Columbia?

In my senior year at Columbia I decided to go to grad school so I didn't jump right into the workplace after graduation. During the time between finishing Columbia and starting on my MFA, however, I worked as a photo assistant at a studio in Chicago that specialized in food photography. This position falls into the "Jobs I Have Hated" category. I found food photography to be very unpleasant, a kind of visual lying that did not jibe with my idealistic notions of what the fine art of photography was about. Remember that this was a time when art was supposed to change the world, not sell canned pasta.

What is your best memory from Columbia?

I have many very positive memories of Columbia, mostly involving particularly good classes or instructors. A few that come to mind are David Avison's Advanced Photographic Techniques class, Phyllis Bramson's screenprinting class and a number of ceramics classes taught at a storefront workshop on north Halsted called The Clay People. Bruce Jacobson, Sam Burns and other Clay People staff became like a second family to me.

Do you have any advice for students heading out into the job market today?

Advice is easy to give and pretty much useless because everyone's path is different. With that in mind, here's mine:

- Learn to play a musical instrument. This may never help you get a job but it will help you keep your sanity while looking for one.
- Take as many courses outside of your major as you can. Photographers, for example, have to be able to talk about something other than silver versus digital.
- Read some books and learn to spell. Can't emphasize enough how important it is to learn to write well.
- This is difficult for artists who tend to be isolationists but try to enjoy meeting people and taking an interest in them.
- Build the best portfolio of work ever created by anyone. When it is perfect, make it more perfect.
- Persist.
- Never take a job that truly compromises your integrity. This doesn't mean passing over a low-level job when you have to pay the rent; it means not taking a job that makes you hate yourself.
- On the other hand, it's perfectly ok to hate your job. It is a great motivator for finding a job that you don't hate.
- Knock on doors. After a while, go back and knock on them again.
- Collect rejection letters, collect "No's," collect "Sorry, not at this time's." Try to amass the biggest collection of these things that you can.
- According to Woody Allen, "Eighty percent of success is showing up."
- Show up.

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

Post-baccalaureate certificates appeal to grads

Program aims to help students enhance skills in different majors

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus Editor

UPON GRADUATION, a student is expected to be skilled in a particular profession, such as advertising or graphic design. However, if the major they chose in college was the wrong choice, the graduate is now stuck with a degree they cannot, or do not want to use.

Many colleges have a solution for such dilemmas. Columbia offers a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate of Major, also known as completion of major or PBCOM. This year alone, enrollment in the PBCOM program rose 28.9 percent from last year, with 49 incoming students, as opposed to the 38 students that enrolled last year.

Brian Marth, director of the Advising Center, said a PBCOM, formerly known as a second bachelor's degree, is for the student who has already completed their bachelor's degree and is looking to come back to school to focus on a new area of expertise or enhance skills learned in college. A Post-Baccalaureate does not require students to take liberal arts classes or general electives.

"At Columbia, the Post Baccalaureate essentially means you've finished your bachelor's degree and you're starting a new career or a new field," Marth said. "What you're doing is coming back to only complete the requirements of that designated major."

Sometimes, pursuing graduate school is a better idea, Marth said. For the most part, it depends on what the student's career and individual goals are, and if a department offers a PBCOM within their major.

"Some students will just get into post-baccalaureate classes, the undergraduate classes, [and see] if it's a career changer before they might fully commit to a two-year masters program," Marth said.

One of the students in Columbia's PBCOM program is Rachel Morris, a senior advertising art direction major. After getting her degree in mass communications with an emphasis on graphic design at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, Morris wanted to pursue graphic design more wholeheartedly, but she said she wasn't ready to go to graduate school.

"The reason why I didn't really want to apply to grad school was because I needed a portfolio and I didn't have anything to show," Morris said. "[Columbia's] admissions counselor was telling me how PBCOM would fill that loophole. It's basically given me all those tools, so if I wanted to apply for grad school or actually apply for a job in art direction or visual communication, I feel more prepared for it."

By having a set goal in mind and keeping in contact with her college adviser, Morris said she was able to figure out that a PBCOM was right for her because it would expand her skills as a graphic designer. The PBCOM program, which takes two to three years to complete, was the right choice for Morris. She said graduate school simply focuses on the conceptual aspects of higher education, rather than the technical skills achieved while pursuing an undergraduate degree.

"Depending on the case, there may be a grad school program out there that you want to apply for, but the need for it was for people who are interested in a broader variety of things," Morris said. "That's where

the PBCOM fills the void for me because I'm interested in photography, graphic design [and] writing. This way, I [have] extensive experience in doing all those things, so that if I want to pursue grad school, I feel a lot more confident because I have work that I've done."

When asked why she chose to focus on advertising art direction, Morris said that she wanted to be more well-rounded and work in fields she had an interest in.

"I knew that I wanted to do more than just design, so the reason I chose ad art over graphic design was because it gave me a lot more freedom in what I could focus on," Morris said. "Right now, I'm learning

PBCOM stats

NEW STUDENTS IN 2008	38
NEW STUDENTS IN 2009	49
YEAR TO YEAR CHANGE	28.9%
TOTAL STUDENTS IN FALL 2008	167
TOTAL STUDENTS IN SPRING 2009	158

Zack Anderson THE CHRONICLE

more about photo communications, writing copy and looking at advertising in a very broad picture."

However, Bill Friedman, assistant dean of Student Development and adjunct faculty in the Photography Department, said when deciding between PBCOM or pursuing a graduate program for a career in photography, the skills learned are drastically different.

"My first question [to students] is what

do you want with the skills you're going to learn in the program because if you want to be a commercial photographer, doing the Post [Baccalaureate] is fine," Friedman said. "If you want to do your own work and study photography and eventually possibly teach college level, you would do a Masters Degree."

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Fashion-forward summer in NYC with Harper’s Bazaar

Once a month, The Chronicle profiles people on campus who are doing interesting or important things.

We’re always watching for faculty, staff and students with a story to tell. Here’s someone you should know.

by Derek Kucynda
Assistant Campus Editor

THE FASHION magazine industry might strive for perfection, but it’s not as bad as *The Devil Wears Prada* makes it seem.

With tons of applicants hoping to land a summer internship at Harper’s Bazaar, only two interns were chosen to work in the magazine’s art department, located in Midtown Manhattan. One of the interns was senior graphic design major David Held. His responsibilities included laying out pages and maintaining “the book.” With a flair for fashion and an eye for detail, Held dabbled in many different magazine classes at Columbia before tackling the Big Apple

for 11 weeks.

The Chronicle recently sat down with Held to talk about the skills he learned at Columbia and how they helped him obtain an internship in the aggressive world of fashion journalism.

The Chronicle: How did you find this amazing internship?

David Held: It started with a search on a Web site called Ed2010. It’s a mostly journalism Web site based for jobs and internships. It started by e-mailing the HR department for Harper’s Bazaar, which is owned by Hearst Corporation. From there, I got e-mails back from the art department and they requested design samples from me. So I sent in probably about 12 different works that I’ve done mostly here at Columbia [and] also from previous internships. Then I had a series of interviews after that and the whole process lasted about two weeks. The middle of March is when they called me and offered me the spot.



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Senior graphic design major David Held spent the summer at Harper’s Bazaar maintaining “the book” and laying out pages for the September, October and November issues.

What sort of responsibilities did you have while working at Harper’s Bazaar?

DH: I was one of their art interns. My main priority every day was making sure “the book” was up to date. “The book” is just like *The Devil Wears Prada*, a mock-up of the issue that we’re working on currently and usually they work about one to two, sometimes three months in advance before an issue comes out. When I first started, I was

» SEE SYSK, PG. 11

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CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS FACT & FAITH

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Encountering Life's Endings

True/Believer:
Critical Encounters' personal
narratives on Fact & Faith

by Louis Silverstein

*Distinguished Professor of Humanities,
History & Social Sciences*

THERE ARE those who, upon confronting mortality, instruct us to protest our demise, to not go like sheep to our deaths, but to scream bloody murder upon sight of the Grim Reaper in order to drown out the sound of the bell tolling for us. Such raised voices are certainly a most understandable way of viewing the ending of a life. To be alive is indeed a gift from the universe. Do souls not need to experience the reality of existence on earth, that they might enjoy the fruits of earthly love and be forged by human struggle into being strong enough to experience the cycle of life and death?

However, as is the case in all human affairs, there exists other doors into the house of dying and death, a primary one being that of acceptance and surrender to life's rhythms and flows. In fact, I was in the presence of such a passageway a few weeks ago as I sat on a bench in my backyard observing hostas merging into the earth for their winter rest before re-emerging in the spring. No fear, no socio-religious cultural construct to be intimidated by, no resistance. Just doing what plants do naturally—surrendering to the birth/death/birth/death/birth/death cycle, for they travel not in a straight line with a beginning and end, but rather in

circles, a truth known to all who exist close to the land or in sight of the vast oceans.

The venerable Buddhist monk and teacher Thich Nhat Hanh speaks of such a reality, informing us that to view our lives in a linear fashion is, in fact, an illusion, a turning away from who we are in truth. Yes there is birth and death, being and non-being. However, he goes on to describe such a worldview as one of waves. A wave seemingly has a beginning and an end. Yet the sea from which it arises is the source of its life and it has neither beginning nor end.

Whether it be the words of sages and spiritual teachers, or the expressed realizations of the dying and their loved ones, all speak of the incredible value that the nearness of death bestows upon the present moment. Rising from sleep each morning a new day is before us, to live it as if it were the last day of our lives, or to believe with certainty that tomorrow is not just a promise. Yet, albeit it is our desire and intention to have many more days in our lives, so do all those who die each day, including today. Believing we can die this very day is not a morbid thought. To the contrary, it is a life-affirming principle, reminding us that all we truly have is the present that now is the time to live life as if it were indeed our last day. All who have loved and lost know that just to be alive is our most prized possession, a gift to be cherished and shared with others.

To include in our daily life-affirming practice a meditation on dying and death offers us a clear mirror in which to see the choices open to us each day, to realize what has meaning and value for us. It compels us to remember not to allow whatever time we have left to be dribbled away, spent on foolish and meaningless pursuits. It heightens the preciousness of those we love because of their mortality. It requires of us a willingness to risk pain in committing ourselves to a meaningful attachment to another, to view each other with eyes of compassion, to speak the language of love and to touch each other lovingly as if this were the last day of our lives.

-Excerpted from Encountering Life's Endings

Louis Silverstein, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Humanities, is a transcendental philosopher and practitioner, interdisciplinary and multi-consciousness educator, author and social activist.

lsilverstein@colum.edu

» SYSK

Continued from PG. 10

looking at the August book, back when I started in May. Anytime any glare was changed, any of the articles were edited, any headlines changed—taglines, captions, anything like that changed—I was responsible for updating that for the editor-in-chief. I made “the book” for her and delivered that to her. I was also in charge of updating the walls for the art department to see how the issue is coming [along]. I also got to do layouts, so I did about 10 layouts during my time there in the September, October and November issues.

Is the fashion magazine industry really as cut throat as the media portrays it to be?

DH: Yeah, I think it is. I've been asked every time people talk to me about the internship about whether these magazines are like the movies. Everybody asks me if it's like *The Devil Wears Prada* and my answer is always yes. I don't think I would label the industry as mean; cut throat is probably a good

word, but makes it sound a little bit mean. I think everybody in the fashion magazine industry is a perfectionist and strives for perfection in what they do. There was a lot of hype around the editor-in-chief, just like in *The Devil Wears Prada*. When she walked in, everybody kind of froze up and pulled their act together. But in the same light, that it is very similar to these movies, it is also very different. The editor-in-chief isn't flying around with 12 assistants to couture shows and she's not giving away free merchandise at all. So it's maybe not as glamorous as they make it seem.

Being a graphic design major, what magazines or publications do you like?

DH: My favorite magazines, I guess, in [terms of] what I have been doing in fashion are GQ, Details and Esquire, for men's fashion. I would love to work someday for Vanity Fair. I love their political view and way of reporting. The way that they write their magazine is really actually stunning and the overall design ... is something that I would love to contribute to.

Please visit ColumbiaChronicle.com to read the rest of David Held's interview with The Chronicle.

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

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Students, administration rally for MAP Grants

Columbia to legislature: allocate MAP grant funding for spring 2010 semester

by **Ciara Shook**
Assistant Campus Editor

ORGANIZATIONS AND students throughout Illinois have been working to save the Monetary Award Program grant for the spring 2010 semester.

After the \$2.1 billion cut in MAP grants was carried out in early August, more than 130,000 Illinois students are scrambling to fill the gap in tuition costs.

According to Student Financial Services, as many as 20 percent of Columbia students will not receive their MAP grant funding for the spring semester. Columbia places third behind DePaul University and Loyola University as private institutions in Illinois with the most money being cut, totaling more than \$5 million in MAP grant funding.

Shelly Benson, a junior photography major, said her mother usually helps pay for her tuition, but has recently been diagnosed with cancer and cannot help.

“We lost a lot of money,” Benson said. “We’re in debt right now and I didn’t even think I was going to be able to go to school anymore.”

This fall, Columbia has joined with other public and private colleges in Illinois before the General Assembly’s veto session in October, asking legislators to secure the second

half of the MAP grant.

Jessica Valerio, president of the Student Government Association, said the SGA is encouraging students to become educated on the issue and to contact legislators.

“We want students to feel comfortable writing letters, calling [legislative] offices,” Valerio said. “We want to help in the development of students feeling comfortable, feeling educated about the facts and knowing what they’re going into—what they’re actually after.”

Gov. Pat Quinn is hosting a forum at the University of Illinois at Chicago on Sept. 29, inviting all Illinois students to voice their concerns and for Quinn to hear students’ side of the MAP grant funding.

“[SGA is] absolutely going to be in attendance with as many students as we rally,” Valerio said. “It’s something that we’re willing to do.”

Student Financial Services asks Columbia students to regularly check their Loop e-mail accounts because that is how SFS will notify them with updates pertaining to MAP grant allocation.

“We are sending information as we get updates about the progress of the grant,” said Jennifer Waters, executive director of Student Financial Services. “We’re very hopeful that at least some funding will be restored in the next few months.”

Columbia President Warrick L. Carter is the secretary-treasurer of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universi-

BY THE NUMBERS

3,334
Students who won't get a MAP grant

\$380 M
Originally awarded to students in Illinois

\$200 M
Being cut this year

3
Position that Columbia ranks among the colleges affected by the money cut

Source Student Financial Services

ties, which is currently taking action along with students and institutions across the nation to have MAP funding fully reinstated.

“[Columbia is] in a great position and he’s a really great contact to have,” Valerio said.

Student Government Association, like other student organizations across Illinois, is working with FIICU for a rally on Oct. 15 in Springfield, Ill. to save the MAP grant. Valerio said the biggest problem FIICU faces on lobby day is the number of people and organizations that will be in Springfield.

“There’s going to be many other lobbies

and organizations fighting for that same money that we’re fighting for, for different issues,” Valerio said.

Quinn is holding a round-table discussion in the governor’s mansion on the morning of lobby day.

“I’m sure that we will have a handful of SGA members sitting at that round table,” Valerio said.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission has built an online portal inviting students, parents and administrators to take action at SaveIllinoisMapGrants.org. The Web site features media, a resource section containing a press kit, press releases, relevant statistics about who receives MAP grants and plans of action students can take to have their voices heard.

SaveIllinoisMapGrants.org helps those concerned about the funding cuts to sign a petition, print fliers, organize rallies, write letters to legislatures, make the issue the topic of conversation and write a letter to the editor.

We encourage people at all schools to get involved,” said Paul Palian, director of communications at ISAC. “[Schools should] let their students know the importance of these grants.”

Illinois legislators will meet for a veto session in Springfield in October to decide whether to replenish the MAP grants for the spring semester.

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» **PERU**

Continued from PG. 7

and video major at Columbia. Howard, 21, had shot some footage while in Peru, but said he wishes that he could have participated more.

“I definitely would like to do similar work in the future through film, but the trip was kind of last minute and I didn’t get a chance to do it this time in the 15 days I was there,” Howard said.

The two also created Columbia Student Photographers Club, which is mainly geared toward photography majors, but is open to anyone interested in photography. The club meets once a week to discuss photography-related topics, critique work and share photo blogs that they are currently reading.

The club was formed last January at the beginning of the spring 2009 semester, and since the fall 2009 Convocation, the membership has grown from 25 members to about 300. The first meeting was held Sept. 18.

As far as future plans, Tanner said she wants to focus on traveling around the United States before she ventures outside of the country for similar work.

“There is so much I haven’t seen in this country, and I feel like you need to understand where you come from in order to understand where other cultures are coming from, which is what I hope to accomplish,” Tanner said.

The two are concurrently working on their blogs, and will continue selling their work on the sites to raise the bar on the awareness in Peruvian communities.

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» **DOCUMENTARY**

Continued from PG. 4

-ing how these students will be connecting with professionals in their field. Kirk said she looks forward to gaining experience with her major.

“I’m most excited about when they send us out to do things relative to our major,” Kirk said. “I just can’t wait for that.”

Even though the project is still in its early stages, these students hope that their first-year experiences can help future students that are coming to Columbia.

“I hope it ends up in someone’s hands that is not so outgoing,” Warren said. “They can see if they step out of their comfort zones, they can have a real good time.”

“

We think that prospective students and the world at large will understand what Columbia is about better through their eyes.”

-Matthew Green

There are even talks of compiling clips from footage of all nine students that are filming into a first-year documentary at the end of the year, Zarick said. “I think there is something that is incredibly informative about something that is so raw and genuine,” Kirk said. “We’re all so excited. We’re like little kids and I feel like if they show that to people, they would understand a lot better than something that was super produced and meant to be a certain way.”

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» **ACCREDITATION**

Continued from PG. 3

with each other in the job marketplace, she said.

Passarelli said that at Columbia today, “there’s definitely more right-hand talking to the left hand on campus.” For students, this means better opportunities to get involved outside one’s major, and even just “to learn what’s going on outside their own department,” Passarelli said.

Also, the South Loop neighborhood has changed dramatically.

There didn’t used to be the “campus feeling” there is now, Passarelli said, referring to the beautification of the sidewalks and the flower boxes along Wabash and Michigan avenues. When she was a student, there was “a lot of ... looking over your shoulder when you go from point A to point B.”

George Bailey, professor of English at Columbia, used the word “gentrification,” which describes a neighborhood transformed by the arrival of more affluent residents, sometimes forcing poorer residents away as cost of living and taxes rise.

The price of real estate certainly has gone up. According to the real estate Web site Trulia.com, the price to purchase a square foot of living space in the Near South Side neighborhood has risen from the mid-to-high \$100s to the mid-to-high \$200s in the past 10 years.

Passarelli said the campus today feels more collegiate than when she was an undergraduate student. At that time, “it was just a bunch of buildings in the South Loop,” she said. “Even Grant Park was not what it is right now.”

Bailey has seen the school grow by leaps and bounds. When he received his bachelor’s degree from Columbia in 1974, less than

2,000 students attended classes in “rented warehouse space,” according to Columbia’s Web site.

Bailey said the college is slowly becoming more traditional as it grows, but even then, “I think that we’ve gotten a lot of new faculty in with fresh ideas. That’s good.” Bailey said these people have brought “new ways of thinking about accountability. We’ve always been interested in. Do student outcomes match up with what our syllabi proclaim? Are we doing what we say we’re doing?”

“

The price to purchase a square foot of living space in the Near South Side neighborhood has risen from the mid-to-high \$100s to the mid-to-high \$200s.”

-Trulia.com

“The piece of paper, the diploma, the degree ... has a lot more value, I think,” Bailey said. “I think in 1999, Columbia’s degree had a lot more value than when I graduated and I think it has a lot more value now than it had in 1999. We just keep evolving.”

But among other things, one prominent attribute of the school has seemed to remain constant.

“One of the selling points of the college is that faculty teach what they do,” Bailey said. “So in 1999, that was still happening. That was still one of the active ingredients in this institution. That’s why students came here. This place is pretty miraculous. It’s grown quickly because it’s a good product.”

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Jazz'd Up

Foot Foul-Mouthed



by Jazzy Davenport
Managing Editor

the past week for her verbal attack on the lineswoman. She virtually had a meltdown in front of viewers worldwide and exposed us all to her potty mouth.

I admit Serena was wrong and crossed the line. She should have never threatened to shove the tennis ball down the woman's throat, and we don't even know what else was said. However, athletes of all sports have meltdowns all of the time and rarely does it cost them the match, or in some sports, the game. The loss of temper is rarely the deciding factor in who wins or loses. So was Serena's meltdown enough to cause her to be penalized to the extent that she would lose the match?

Not taking anything away from Kim Clijsters, she's a talented player and I think it's incredible that she was able to win just 18 months after giving birth. However, was Serena's meltdown such a big deal because of her actions or because of who she is? I'll go with the latter. There have been several

LAST WEEK the world watched as Serena Williams, the best female tennis player in the world, lost her cool after being called for a foot-fault during the U.S. Open. The younger Williams sister has been criticized so much during

tennis players who have done things of that nature. Competitive, passionate athletes do it all of the time. It's a part of the game. Those who are the best are often the ones who are seen arguing a call. They're supposed to—especially when a seemingly bad call is made at a crucial point in the game. In Serena's case, it was match point.

So should Serena really be fined \$10,500 for "aggravated behavior?" I understand that \$10,500 is not much to her, especially because she received \$350,000 in prize money for even reaching the semi-finals, but what exactly determines "aggravated behavior?" Beside the fact that Serena apologized for her behavior several times, Roger Federer had a run-in with a referee just two days later and was only fined \$1,500.

Unfair? I believe so. There is no way that Serena should have been fined nearly ten times as much as Federer was. Although Federer is the No. 1 male tennis player in the world, Serena is more popular and has a greater marketability than Federer. So, because of her talent, appeal and influence, she must be held to greater standards, thus facing a greater penalty.

At first this sounded a bit contradictory to me. However, I then realized that this is how things are supposed to operate. We sports fans are just used to seeing the superstar athletes get off easily. I guess it doesn't work like that in tennis.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

9/25/09

Critical Mass: September

Get out on your bike and ride in the September Critical Mass, a massive bike ride through Chicago streets. Riders start at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., at the big "Untitled" Picasso art piece. The ride starts at 5:30 p.m. and usually takes about three hours to complete.

Daley Plaza
50 W. Washington St.

9/26/09

Chicago Fire vs. Toronto FC

The Chicago Fire host Toronto FC in a late season Eastern Conference MLS matchup. The game starts at 7:30 p.m. at Toyota Park, 7300 W. 71st St. Bridgeview, Ill. Tickets are still available for the game at the box office and through Ticket master.

Toyota Park
Bridgeview, Ill.

9/27/09

Chicago Bears vs. Seattle Seahawks

The Chicago Bears travel to the West Coast to take on a resurgent Seattle Seahawks team at Qwest Field in Seattle. The game kicks off at 3:05 p.m. and can be viewed on Fox.

Qwest Field
Seattle, Wash.

Health insurance difficult issue for students

Consequences of no insurance worse than paying monthly bill

by Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THE MONTHS following graduation are an ambiguous time for students. Most are unemployed, on their own and without health insurance for the first time. No longer covered by policies from their parents or their schools, grads face the challenge of finding health insurance.

In a Sept. 9 address to Congress, President Barack Obama said that his health care reform plan will require everyone to have insurance, which puts a lot of pressure on recent graduates. According to a report titled "*Health, United States, 2008*" issued by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, people ages 18 to 29 years old are least likely to have health insurance.

"In the student-population age, all the way up to age 30, there is a level of [belief in] immortality and 'Getting sick is for the older people and it's not going to happen to me.' Well it does happen to them," said Perry Steinhandler, owner of insurance company Steinhandler and Associates. Steinhandler said he has witnessed this during 30 years of work in the insurance industry and through raising two children of his own.

Steinhandler explained that currently, many students choose temporary health insurance because they can pay as little as

\$40 a month. However, should the student get injured or become ill while covered by a temporary policy "when you go apply for a new temporary policy, it either does not become available, or if it does become available it does not cover you for a preexisting condition which kind of does away with the idea of buying it in the first place," Steinhandler said.



In the student-population age, all the way up to age 30, there is a level of [belief in] immortality and 'Getting sick is for the older people and it's not going to happen to me.'"

-Perry Steinhandler

Columbia students have the option of buying insurance offered through the school with the company Gallagher Koster.

Laureen Fairgrieve, customer service supervisor at Gallagher Koster, said that for anyone under the age of 24, enrolled part-time or full-time, insurance coverage starts at \$147 a month.

The plan available to Columbia students is called ACSA [American College Student Association] Injury and Sickness Insurance Plan. Some schools have a custom plan through Gallagher Koster because they require students to have health insurance.

"With Columbia College, they don't have their own plan so we offer



STOCK PHOTO

them the ACSA," Fairgrieve said. Should students opt for school insurance, the Office of the Dean of Students facilitates those services, said Ashley Demko, receptionist for the Office of the Dean of Students. Demko said the number of students who use school insurance varies every semester and year.

Gallagher Koster offers temporary plans in which there is no contract and students can elect to buy insurance for a number of months at a time. At the end of those months the student has paid for, they can either buy more insurance or choose not to. However, each time a student buys more months of insurance, they will receive a new policy. Fairgrieve said that a preexisting condition would not be covered under a new policy if the student got sick or hurt while on a temporary plan.

Columbia students can receive health services for free from the student Health Center in the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court. The Health Center offers treatment of minor illnesses or injuries and refers students to local health centers for further care. Students must then pay or use health insurance for medical attention outside of the Health Center.

Fairgrieve said the yearly deductible for an ACSA plan is \$100, but if students go to their health center at school first, the deductible drops to \$50.

Students without insurance weigh their options, as the cost of health care without insurance is not only a strain on individual students, but the nation as a whole.

A 2009 article in The American Journal of Medicine reported the results of a national study on bankruptcy caused by medical costs. According to the AJM article, "Using a conservative definition, 62.1 percent of all bankruptcies in 2007 were medical; 92 percent of these medical debtors had medical debts over \$5,000."

Researchers of the AJM concluded, "The U.S. health care financing system is broken, and not only for the poor and uninsured. Middle-class families frequently collapse under the strain of a health care system that treats physical wounds, but often inflicts fiscal ones."

Students should shop for insurance now, before the drop-off in health care after graduation.

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Baseball fans left wanting on both sides of city

Injuries, poor front office decisions, lack of production hurt teams


by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

ANOTHER SEASON has gone by without a winner on the baseball diamond for Chicago fans as the Cubs and White Sox continue their respective seasons of mediocrity. Both franchises continue to hover near .500 for the season as of press time. Expectations were high in spring training, but both teams have let down their fans yet again. Sports reporters from across the nation picked the Cubs to make the playoffs and some picked the team to win the World Series. Magazines, television and radio stations that picked the Cubs to make or win the World Series included Sports Illustrated, members of ESPN Radio 1000, including Mike Golic of “Mike & Mike in the Morning,” and several other national radio shows. “I thought for sure they would get back [to the playoffs],” said Scot Gregor, a staff writer of the Daily Herald. “I really thought [the Cubs] were good enough to get there again.” For the White Sox, the expecta-


tions weren’t as high, but the team was picked to finish first in their division by Mike Greenburg, co-host of “Mike & Mike”, Cliff Corcoran and Joe Lemire of S.I., and the majority of ESPN 1000. With strong pitching, hard-nosed managers and lineups that feature some of the best hitters in baseball, both teams looked great on paper. However, many feel that both teams’ lack of production on the field comes from several areas on the roster. “[The Cubs’ and Sox’s] shortcomings are very obvious; they stick out like sore thumbs,” said George Castle, host/producer of the radio show “Diamond Gems.” Both teams saw injuries this season. The Cubs lost Aramis Ramirez to injury for an extended part of the early season due to a separated shoulder, while the Sox’s Carlos Quentin developed plantar fasciitis early in the season. Plantar faciitis is heel and foot pain from stress on the plantar fascia tendon. Injuries aside, both teams have failed to make good on their potential, with each ranking in the lower half of the league in team batting average—the Cubs at 25th and the Sox at 20th. Both teams also rank lower than 18th in team hits, on base percentage

and total team hits, according to MLB.com. Both teams excelled on the mound, with each posting a team ERA in the top ten of the MLB. The Cubs also rank 4th in the majors in strikeouts thrown, while the Sox rank 13th. Strong performances on the bump haven’t translated to wins though, as both failed to produce at the plate. The Sox, were finally able to pull the trigger on a trade that netted them Jake Peavy. The former San Diego Padres ace was acquired in a five-player deal and as of press time hasn’t pitched for the team since being acquired. The Sox also picked up Alex Rios off waivers from the Toronto Blue Jays. Rios is another player who has yet to make an impact with the team. The Sox were openly questioned by national media for making the move, citing Rios’ enormous contract as a major detractor. “You have to look at it in the context of when these things were,” said Bruce Miles, sports beat writer for the Daily Herald. “Obviously it’s not turned out the way they’d liked [it] to.” The questionable moves by the Sox matched the Cubs’ off-season signing of Milton Bradley to a \$30 million contract. Bradley has hit just .257 this season,

2009 BASEBALL SEASON REPORT CARD



TEAM NAME: Chicago White Sox



TEAM NAME: Chicago Cubs

SUBJECT:		
C-	HITTING	D+
B+	PITCHING	B-
D	FIELDING	C
D+	MANAGEMENT	D-
C-	OVERALL	D-

COMMENTS: _____

Dana LaCoco THE CHRONICLE

with 12 home runs and 40 RBI. “Just because you give somebody some money, doesn’t mean a .250 hitter is going to become a .270 hitter,” Miles said. For the fans of both teams, the only solace is in the fact that there’s always next year. jgraveline@chroniclemail.com

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Informational Meeting
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11:30AM – 12:30PM
Marketing Communication Dept.
624 S. Michigan suite 800

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Bob Levin, Susan Wrenn, & John Heinsen.
Contact:
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312.369.6843

colum.edu/semesterinla

Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

LFL kicks off nationwide

With women between the hashmarks, LFL tags league ‘true fantasy football’

by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

CHICAGO IS full of sports teams: Bears, Cubs, White Sox, Blackhawks, Bulls, and Fire fill the professional sports landscape and represent the city in every major sport. Chicagoans can add another team to the list as the Chicago Bliss of the Lingerie Football League kicked off its inaugural season Sept. 4 at the Sears Center, 5333 Prairie Stone Parkway in Hoffman Estates.

The new league features 10 teams from around the country playing four games over a 20-week season.

Teams in the LFL are made up of 20 women who were chosen from “casting sessions” (LFL-speak for tryout). Of the 20-woman roster, 14 are active on game day, with the other six inactive.

“This was created from the Lingerie Bowl conception from a few years back,” said Justin Schoenrock, a supervising producer for the league. “It took place during the Super Bowl halftime on pay-per-view. It was a little half-hour broadcast and featured a lot of models playing football. Since then, now that we’ve gone league-wide, we’ve taken that concept back to the drawing board. Now instead of just focusing on the lingerie part of it, now it’s focused on the athleticism part.”

LFL teams are made up of women from all walks of life. The Bliss team comprises mothers, a Chicago police officer and even college students, including Columbia senior sports journalism major Amy Grogan.

“I was in a journalism class with Howard [Schlossberg], and one of my chick friends was like, ‘Hey, there’s this football league and we should try out for it,’” Grogan said. “I was like, ‘You’re crazy,’ and we were talking about it and talking about it, and the more I learned about it, the more interested I became.”

After trying out, Grogan and others who made the team started training camp and practices. The Bliss practice three days per week for about three hours a day, going full contact at most practices.

“It’s pretty intense. I mean, we have turf burns, bruises—my whole right hand is jammed,” said Breanna Juena, 20, a senior journalism major at Roosevelt University.

While the Bliss may be part of a professional league, it has taken some time for supporters to get past the look of the teams.

Clad in underwear, a garter and sparse padding, the women of the LFL are trying to turn heads with their talent on the field as well as their bodies.

“It is a skin show and that’s fine, but if you can see past our bodies you’re going to see real football,” Grogan said. “You’re going to see real tackling and you’re going to see real plays against other real talented teams. You’re going to end up watching a highly entertaining, high-scoring football game.”

The LFL may only be in its infancy but already the league has drawn fans at a surprising rate.

Using word-of-mouth advertising and videos on the Internet, the Chicago Bliss and Miami Caliente drew more than 7,000 fans to the Sears Center for the inaugural game of the 2009 LFL season and ranked second in the primetime ratings on television as the game was broadcast on MyNet in Miami.

With their marketing strategy proven, the LFL is already looking to expand. According to Schoenrock, the league is scouting four or five potential new cities

for next year and wants to build a diverse fan base around the globe.

The LFL has signed with Free Mantle Media, the company behind “American Idol” and other well known reality shows.

“They’re going to begin promoting the league internationally. We are already airing every week live throughout Mexico,” Schoenrock said. “We also air in Australia. They’re going to be working on taking us into the United Kingdom within the next couple weeks and even further into other countries. We’re already planning on providing our broadcasts with dubbed language versions.”

More information about the league, its teams, statistics and standings can be found at lflus.com.

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Courtesy CHRIS WALLIN

Chicago Bliss running back Tasha Pryor (center in orange) runs through the Miami Caliente defense at Sears Center on Sept. 4. The Bliss won the inaugural game of the 2009 LFL season 29-19.

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OK, SO MY SUBS REALLY AREN'T GOURMET AND WE'RE NOT FRENCH EITHER. MY SUBS JUST TASTE A LITTLE BETTER, THAT'S ALL! I WANTED TO CALL IT JIMMY JOHN'S TASTY SANDWICHES, BUT MY MOM TOLD ME TO STICK WITH GOURMET. SHE THINKS WHATEVER I DO IS GOURMET, BUT I DON'T THINK EITHER OF US KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS. SO LET'S STICK WITH TASTY!

Jimmy John

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Keep fit and fatten GPA

Healthy habits keep students in shape and performing well in class

by Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

EVERY DAY, Natalie Roman is booked from nine in the morning to ten at night; she works 20 hours per week for the Department of Exhibition and Performance at Columbia while enrolled full-time as a music business major. She hardly has time to cook for herself, but thankfully she has a roommate with whom she can share the burden.

This kind of schedule is familiar to most students who have plenty of tests, quizzes and projects to consider along with just surviving each day. But before any of that can be done well, Mark Brticevich, coordinator of Fitness and Recreation at Columbia, asks students, “What is priority one?”

Brticevich tell students in extracurricular classes or at the Residence Center, 731 S. Plymouth Court, that “taking care of yourself is the single most important thing you have to try to accomplish every day, because if you don’t take care of you first, everything suffers.”

Brticevich encourages students to “sleep, move your body and eat well,” in order to truly care for themselves.

While working out seems like a daunting task to add on top of other responsibilities, Sergio Perez, a personal trainer at Xsport Fitness, said it will probably take less time

than you think. “Some people come here to the gym and they think they have to do an hour, two hours, but 30 minutes [of] high intensity is all you really need,” Perez said. “You can break it down—15 minutes here, 15 minutes there. Time is a commodity.” Perez usually suggests weight training or cardio training in intervals. Rather than a one-level workout at a strenuous level, he helps his clients to work their heart rate all the way up, then bring it down and go on to repeat this for the entirety of the 30-minute session.

Perez said 30 minutes, seven days a week is not necessary because “your body needs to unwind, relax, reset and it’s just natural for the body to want to take some down-time. It’s actually great for the mind, too.”

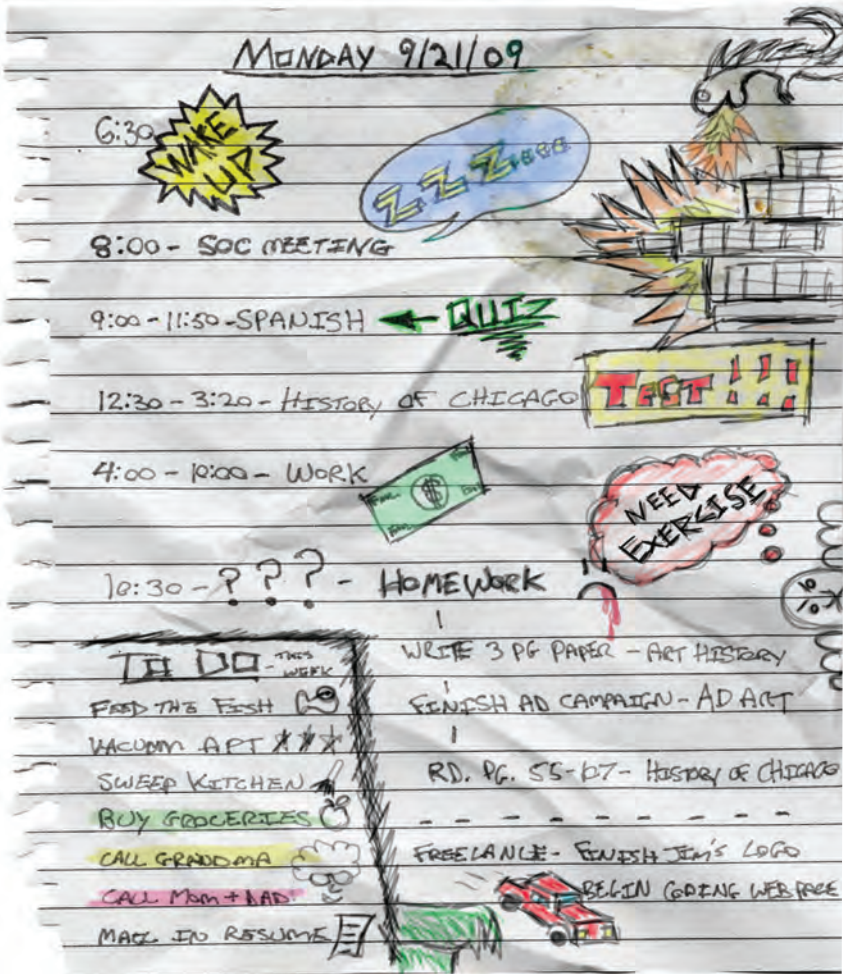
One of the best times to work out is in the morning, before a busy day even starts. This will also kick start your metabolism, Perez said.

He suggests people start working out two or three days per week, and build up to four or five. Perez acknowledges life and work are tiring—working out more than five days a week is not necessary.

Outside of the exhaustion from work or school, Chicagoans have ample opportunities to be physically active while going about their daily lives.

“If students are walking from one end of the campus to the other end of the campus and they are doing that a couple of times a day, they are doing pretty well,” Brticevich said.

“I walk everywhere,” Roman said, and



Andrew McArdle THE CHRONICLE

she considers it enough to be a daily workout. Brticevich added, however, “There still are a fair amount of students that try to eliminate as much walking as possible. To be an active adult, you’re going to want to walk between four and five miles per day.” As autumn approaches and the pile of homework continues to grow, remember what Brticevich says. When you “sleep well, eat well and move your body, you’d be surprised at how much you can get done in a day!” Mark Brticevich is scheduled to teach a class on basic nutrition at The Loft in the 916 S. Wabash Building on Sep. 29 and Oct. 2 from noon to 1 p.m.

tgleason@chroniclemail.com

Sauce, Italian style

Fresh tomato sauce takes watchful eye, classic Italian herbs

by Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor



FOR ANYONE who admires Italian food, they know recipes are often a guarded family treasure you’ll never set eyes on. But this homemade sauce is a good way to forge yourself into the family and get your hands dirty.

The first step is to heat the olive oil and sauté the onion. You can chop the onion in any way you’d like or peel each layer apart and cook them that way. It will take about five minutes until the onion becomes transparent.

Be careful not to heat the oil at more than a medium flame setting because olive oil can be toxic if it becomes too hot. After the onions are done, add the garlic and stir well.

Add the diced tomatoes next, the foun-

datation of the sauce. You can use canned or fresh tomatoes. If you’d like to use fresh tomatoes, be sure to dice them and measure the ounces with a kitchen scale, or visually compare the volume of tomatoes to any 28-ounce can.

On top of the diced tomatoes, add the tomato paste and turn up the heat. After stirring in the tomatoes and letting them heat a little, add the brown sugar.

Brown sugar not only counters some of the sour taste of canned tomatoes, but it has also been used in a few genres of ethnic foods to lower the painful side-effects of acid—specifically from tomatoes. After you’ve added the sauce, let it all boil and stir occasionally.

Once the sauce has come to a boil, add the oregano and black pepper. Additional spices that really enhance the sauce flavor are rosemary, sage and thyme. The ability to customize your own sauce recipe is a benefit of making it from scratch. Get creative and try out different spices and amounts.

After adding your spices, turn the heat down a little and let the sauce continue to simmer for at least another 15 minutes.

You’ll probably want to keep a lid propped on the pot to protect you from splattering tomato sauce, but only rest the lid gently on top, don’t cover the whole pot completely.

If you want to add parmesan cheese, add it last and let the sauce cook another five minutes to really thicken. Otherwise, you can sprinkle it over your noodles and sauce when the meal is ready to be served. The sauce will naturally thicken with time, so serve immediately, or make it far in advance.

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Stock photos

The addition of a few bay leaves complements tomatoes well, let them simmer with the other spices.

INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1/4 cup olive oil• 1 medium white onion• 5 cloves minced garlic• 1/4 cup minced oregano• 28 oz. diced tomatoes• 6 oz. tomato paste• 1-2 tablespoons brown sugar• 1 tablespoon black pepper• 1/4 cup grated parmesan• 1/4 - 1/2 teaspoon rosemary, sage or thyme	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sauté the onion in the olive oil.2. Add the minced garlic and stir well.3. Add diced tomatoes and tomato paste4. Turn up the heat.5. Add the brown sugar.6. Bring all contents to a boil.7. Lower heat and add your choice of spices.8. Simmer at least 15 minutes.



Speak up

Storied institution expands its stage to Midwest

SEE PG. 22

Photo courtesy of The Moth

arts & culture

AC

From 140 characters to the stage

Theater combines social networking, improv to attract more patrons

by Colin Shively

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THE ART of improvisation relies greatly on the audience giving small suggestions to the improv performers so they can create scenes for the onlookers' enjoyment. But what if the suggestions were already in place—and were 140 characters or less?

Social networking has come out of the digital world and into the theater world at The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St. Every Wednesday night, The Playground Theater creates improv scenes by using the tweets of a user from the micro-blogging site Twitter. The results are short scenes which bring that Twitter user's 140-character quips to life on stage, called "The Tweet Life."

"It hit me that the way we could use [Twitter] is by doing a show that allowed people to connect with us and for us to connect with them," said Matt Barbera, producer of "The Tweet Life" and president of The Playground Theater. "The tweeters have had a great time."

“

When I heard about the show, I was all over it. I was constantly retweeting them and I said, 'You guys have to get me on this show.'

—Joe Avella

Twelve years ago, The Playground Theater started as a 10-to-12 member team of actors. It has now grown into a well-known improv and sketch comedy theater, where all the performances are produced and marketed among the actors. But with social media and networking becoming mainstream, The Playground Theater changed its routine.

Barbera said that the combination of the performing arts and social media is a new way for people to connect and share their experiences in a drastically different way.

"When we realized the potential of Twitter and social media, we had to act now or else someone else would take up our idea," he said.

In order to be featured on "The Tweet Life," Twitter users go to The Playground Theater's Twitter account, @the_playground, and post "I want in on The Tweet Life." From that point on, The Playground Theater looks through the individual tweets and decides on a user whose posts portray an interesting and unique individual.

"As far as Twitter goes, we will look for tweets that are more personal and less technical—something that will tell us about who the [Twitter user] is; someone that is fun and silly," Barbera said.

In their third week, The Playground Theater has showcased three Twitter users: Landon Jones, Steve Heisler and Joe Avella.

"When I heard about the show, I was all over it," said Avella, whose tweets were performed on Sept. 16. "I was constantly retweeting them and I said, 'You guys have



Andrew McArdle THE CHRONICLE

to get me on this show."

For Avella and Heisler, their tweeting styles never altered once they heard that The Playground Theater would be creating improv scenes suggested by their personal posts.

As the actors take the stage, they begin their improv routines as they normally would. Yet, at any moment they can pull out one of the chosen tweets, read it aloud from a piece of paper and then alter the show based on the feeling or observation they get from the 140-character post.

"It is a little strange to [hear the tweets] out of context, because at the time it makes

so much sense," Heisler said. "But it actually gave me a lot of perspective as to how people read your tweets. I thought it was really cool."

The audience, Barbera said, loved it because most of them are on Twitter or other social networking sites and it adds a bit of excitement at the end of the show when the performers are able to announce who the author of the tweets was.

"In the [three] weeks we have done it so far, we have had people in the audience with over 5,000 followers on Twitter," Barbera said. "The people who are in this market are interested and are coming out

to see what this is and what is happening. We always ask how many Twitter friends they have, and they are proud of it."

As each week passes, Barbera believes that "The Tweet Life" will open up a new method of communication between artist and audience, giving the theater something new and exciting to work with.

"The Tweet Life" begins at 8 p.m. every Wednesday at The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St. For ticket information or how to be featured check out their website at The-Playground.com. Student discounts are available.

cshively@chroniclemail.com



Courtesy THE PLAYGROUND THEATER

Matt Barbera (@MattatthePG) and Mike Dwyer (@Cruiter) perform "The Tweet Life" as members of The Playground house improv ensemble Mustang Repair.

Sitar creeps into Western culture

George Harrison discovers foreign instrument, culture shock turns renaissance

by Katherine Gamby
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THE BEATLES, Stevie Wonder and The Rolling Stones are all known for their innovative and award-winning music. What most people don't know is that at some point in all of these artists' careers, they included the delicate sounds of the sitar, a foreign instrument that, over the years, has slowly merged into American culture.

The sitar has also played a major role in the music of artists today, including Lenny Kravitz, Janet Jackson and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Not only are mainstream artists getting acquainted with the instrument, but more musicians are starting to learn how to play the sitar.

"Now I think what's happening is since the instrument has been around for a little while, we're finding musicians who just pick up the sitar and play it like it's a guitar," said Stephen "Sitar Steve" Lieto, a Columbia alumnus.

The sitar is about 800 years old and it comes from the Indo-Pakistani region. It is a hybrid of two instruments that resemble the sitar, one from India and the other from Pakistan region.

The first time the sitar was introduced to American culture was when The Beatles went out in search of a new sound and landed in India. George Harrison introduced them



Stock Photo

The widely-recognized sitar is an Indo-Pakistani classical instrument that dates back about 800 years.

to Ravi Shankar, a sitar guru and father of singer Norah Jones.

Lieto has had a long-term relationship with the sitar since he was a kid when his mother played The Beatles' and Ravi Shankar's albums and then he went on to actually play it. He does struggle with playing the sitar publicly, however.

"One of the issues I've struggled with is whether or not I should even play in public or play professionally because in some ways I can see it as insulting to an 800-year-old tradition," Lieto said. "It is a classical instrument that comes along with intense musical theory." He said that each instrument in Hinduism has a deity (the sitar's is Saraswati),

which is why the instrument is so respected in Eastern culture.

"Each instrument is a sacred thing that represents some type of spiritual communion with the divine," Lieto said.

Lieto said that he and the sounds of his sitar have been in high demand lately. Among his accomplishments with the sitar are a lot of fundraisers, comedy shows and spoken word events, his proudest being with Kinetic Energy, a spoken word duo.

"The sitar was something of interest—it felt right," said Kirk Latimer, the executive director and founding member of Kinetic Energy. "[It's] a kind of interesting spiritual connection in and of its own."

Kinetic Energy does mostly introspective spoken word and wanted to work with an artist and an instrument that was along the same lines as their art form.

"The sitar played a key role in most of our songs, but in particular, added a lot of depth to one of our poems called 'I Am That Wall,'" Latimer said.

During the show, Latimer said they let the sitar's delicate sounds guide them and set the pace of the show.

"It's not like here we were doing our poetry and the sitar was just coming in and it would work or it didn't," Latimer said. "It's like we wanted to hear what the sitar would provide and once we heard it, it also inspired us."

Because of Harrison's exploration into Indian culture, many artists like Kinetic Energy have been able to take their art to another level.

"When he did come back and re-expose what he learned in India, it was such a culture shock ... it was like Kabbalah," said Brian Malnassy, assistant to the Music Department at Columbia.

He said he feels that there was a great movement and a renewed interest in the Eastern culture by Western culture.

"One of the really good things about these musicians going over there and coming back was these musicians were incredibly well-known ... there was kind of like a renaissance, a rebirth of interest in foreign cultures," Malnassy said.

kgamby@chroniclemail.com

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

Coming soon! New Gallery and Performance Spaces:
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Renegade Craft Fair delivers DIY delight

Three Chicago artists use different mediums, profit from annual sale of the handmade

by Mina Bloom
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

FOR CHICAGOANS who find joy in curling up with their handmade patchwork quilt, knitting a scarf while donning a pair of cute handmade button earrings and a handmade silk-screen T-shirt, the Renegade Craft Fair is their mecca.

For mostly everyone else, the 7th annual Renegade Craft Fair is a spirited celebration of all things Do It Yourself. It's an opportunity to hear people say "that's so cute" over and over again and collect business cards, while chatting with the designers or shelling out cash for kitschy goods. For the vendors, however, the fair is a lucrative endeavor and a way to physically interact with customers, potential buyers and other vendors.

The Renegade Craft Fair travels to Brooklyn, San Francisco and Los Angeles annually, in addition to Chicago. The fair started in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood in 2003. This year, Chicago artists prepared everything from yarn animal paperweights to hand-cut wooden rings to show at the

largest and most reputable traveling DIY fair in the country, where they witnessed a tremendous amount of traffic leading to a large number of sales.

Division Street hosts the Renegade Craft Fair between Damen Avenue and Paulina Street on Sept. 12 and 13 every year from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Traditionally, a juried staff accepts 250 artists to fill 250 booths. However, 300 artists were chosen out of over 500 applicants this year.

Lesley Timpe, 37, conceptualizes and designs her own line of original garments and accessories called Squasht by Les in her studio that's also used as an office and a storefront in the Pilsen neighborhood at 1932 S. Halsted St. This was Timpe's third year at the Renegade Craft Fair, but she's had her own booth at the Renegade Craft Holiday Sale at Pulaski Park Fieldhouse, 1419 W. Blackhawk St., for the past five years.

After attending Maestro Mateo Design School in Santiago de Compostela, Spain from 2002-2004, Timpe began working on her own European-inspired designs.

"The concept of the collection is modern vintage," Timpe said. "People often say it looks old and new at the same time. A '50s silhouette with an '80s fabric ... I'm mixing different eras of style."

Creating everything from retro-silhouetted garments to reversible hats to



Courtesy MICHELE BOSAK

Chicago artist Michele Bosak painted an original encaustic piece on a recycled wood block, which is called "No. 52" in the series. Bosak sold her work at the Renegade Craft Fair in Chicago last year, as well as this year.

1940s-style petal headbands, Timpe's line is meant for women of all ages, she said.

Timpe likes to use organic soy cotton, which she says is the base material for most of her fall collection. Renegade, specifically, allows her to make great business connections because everyone in the growing DIY business attends.

Esther Ramirez, 29, contacted Sue Daly, the proprietor of the Renegade Craft Fair, to learn how to go about putting together one of these events. In turn, she was able to sit at Daly's booth and sell her company, Essimar, which consists of paper products cut and designed by hand. Ramirez has sold at Renegade for the past four years and Essimar appears in 59 boutiques around the world.

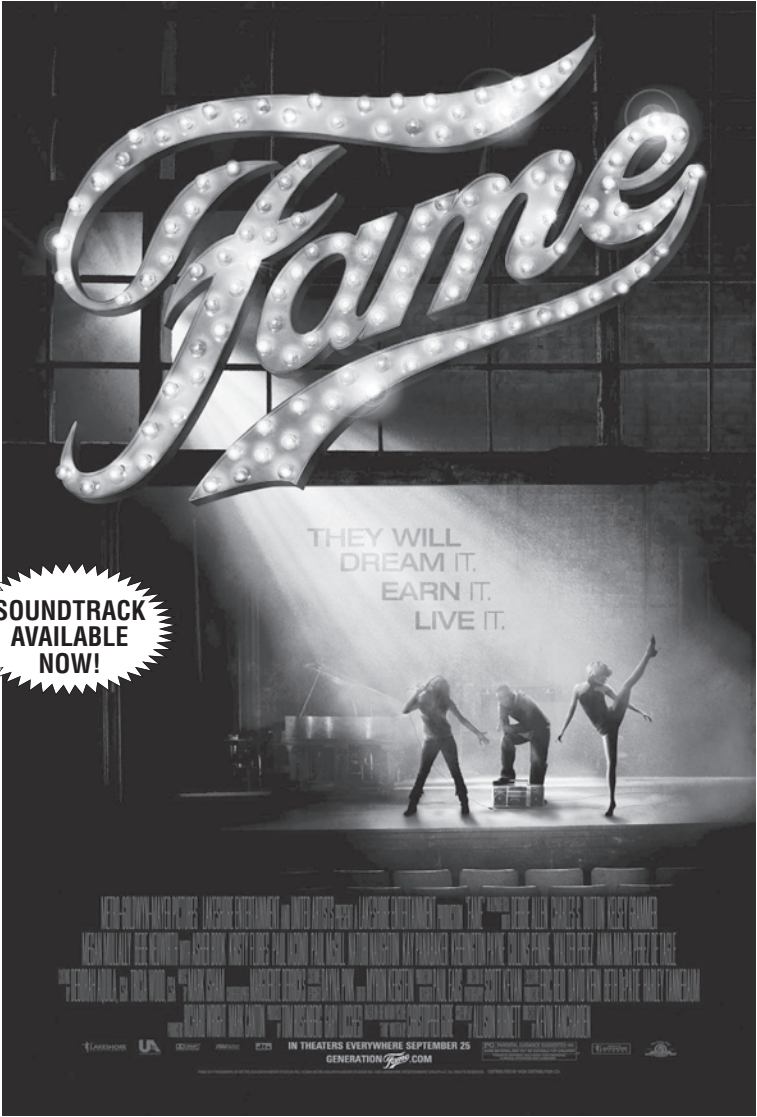
Born and raised on the South Side of

Chicago, Ramirez went to school for interior architecture, graduated in 2005 and became an assistant for a creative director in Chicago. After she was laid-off, she began to actually pursue paper material-based crafts and continues to take art and design courses at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Hyde Park Art Center and Harold Washington College. Now, she is a full-time supervisor for the Art Institute of Chicago's Modern Wing shop.

"I'm only making cards now," Ramirez said. "From cards I'll go to sculptures, from sculptures I'll go to wall installations, from wall installations I'll develop household goods. Then I'll develop brooches. There's

» SEE RENEGADE, PG. 27

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Chicago theater forges through recession

Performing arts industry seeks new, innovative ways to avoid financial hardship

by Colin Shively

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

IN THE current economic climate, it is simple enough to bear witness to businesses altering their methods in order to save money. Yet, there is one particular industry that goes back and forth straddling the line of the recession—the theater industry.

On Sept. 11, Apple Tree Theatre made an announcement that after 26 years, it will be closing the curtain for good, cancelling its entire 2009-2010 season.

According to the now-closed theater, the reasons ranged from lack of financial support to ticket sales, evidence of a weakened economy.

Despite Chicago's vibrant theater culture, the stress of the financial crisis is threatening the industry.

"People are struggling in the area of corporate donations," said Deb Clapp, executive director of the League of Chicago Theatres, 228 S. Wabash St. "Our studies show that people are still buying theater tickets, but no doubt about it, [theaters] are suffering."

Most theaters, especially those that are the same size as Apple Tree, rely heavily on corporate donations and support, Clapp said. If the financial support is not there then there is no way to make up that financial gain.

There are, however, some theaters that have not been affected by the troubled economy.

theaters are having problems because they can't grow in the way that they want to."

Yet theater people are by nature creative, Clapp said. Theaters have become more innovative when it comes to drawing in more patrons than before. Much like other businesses, they have turned to the Internet, specifically social networking.

Earlier this year, Shakespeare Chicago hosted an event where users of the social networking site Twitter tweeted the works of Shakespeare in 140 characters or less, which is the largest size a post to Twitter can be.

"That was really, really clever," Clapp said.

"People are really trying to engage the current and future audiences through social networking like that."

During the summer, Goodman Theatre attracted patrons and Chicagoans to Grant Park for a viewing of *Duck Soup*, where the Goodman Theatre wanted to break the world record for the most Groucho Marx glasses worn in the same area.

The goal was to promote the upcoming production of "Animal Crackers" that premiered on Sept. 18. at the Goodman Theatre.

"There are all kinds of things out there

that theaters are trying to do to engage the audience in different ways," Clapp said. "It is not necessarily about going out and selling the ticket immediately, it is more about going out and engaging the community in what you are doing."

As time goes on, Clapp and the rest of the artistic community expects to see theaters coming up with new methods of drawing in a new generation of theater lovers reach the generation that has grown up in the digital world.

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“

People are struggling in the area of corporate donations. Our studies show that people are still buying theater tickets, but no doubt about it, [theaters] are suffering.”

-Deb Clapp

Steppenwolf Theater, 1650 N. Halsted St., is one of Chicago's most well-known theaters and currently they have not felt any significant crunch from the economy.

"We have basically responded [to the economy] by sticking with our core values and strength of our organization," said Linda Garrison, the director of Marketing and Communications at Steppenwolf. "We didn't do deep price cuts, did not change programming and continued to [operate] the way we always have."

A common trend that Steppenwolf recognized amongst their patrons is the gradual decrease in ticket sales, specifically the single-ticket sales.

"In reading the news and various industry journals a lot of theaters did what I would consider a preemptive strick by lowering prices," Garrison said "We did not do that."

Steppenwolf is seeing more day-of-performance ticket sales rather than ticket sales for future productions, Garrison said.

"Let's face it, in this economy there is no one that is not suffering," Clapp said. "But I think that small



THE MOTH

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I used to drive an ice cream truck years ago when I was 21, 22 years old, and I got into a territorial dispute with another ice cream truck driver,” Peter Agüero said. “He, uh, he beat me with a hammer and I choked him out ... It was the last day I worked there.”

By his own estimate, Agüero has told this story 200 times to friends and judges, including once at The Moth’s GrandSLAM in New York City. He beat out nine others in that competition which required, without notes, participants to tell the best true story in five minutes to win. Director of Production Sarah Jenness said that this show, and every other one The Moth has produced, sold out. She hopes the trend will continue on Sept. 28, when everyday Chicagoans get their chance to speak at the newest StorySLAM at Martyrs, 3855 N. Lincoln Ave.

The Moth is a non-profit organization, founded in New York City in 1997 by poet and novelist George Dawes Green. According to the organization’s Web site, The Moth was formed in Green’s home in Georgia. Back home, he enjoyed sitting on his porch with friends during hot summer days telling stories, and when he moved to New York he brought the tradition with him. He began hosting informal parties where he and his friends would tell each other, along with any eager listeners, their tales. When the crowds got too large to fit in his apartment he decided to

booed Green on occasion.

Jenness said the reason The Moth has become so popular is because the medium of oral storytelling connects the audience to the storyteller more than other mediums like movies or books.

“You have the feeling you can really be yourself and talk about yourself truthfully,” Jenness said. “Audiences really respond to that; they enjoy that. You don’t have to [have your] guard up, you don’t have to seem like you’re someone else. There is a real validity to the human spirit.”

Jenness said they decided to expand the Slam to Chicago because of the fan base they’ve built here through their podcast, The Moth Podcast and the response their touring show received when it stopped at the Metro, 3730 N. Clark St. The people of the Midwest and Chicago have some great stories to tell and they want to get them on stage, she said.



She had a good line where she goes, ‘So, I took it off and put my vagina in a closet, which I suppose is what you do when you go to church anyway.’”

—JIM O’GRADY



Courtesy of The Moth

form The Moth and started a weekly show where people can tell their stories to a real audience.

Currently, the weekly installment is in Downtown Manhattan on The Moth’s main stage at the Players Club, 16 Gramercy Park South. The Moth encompasses multiple programs including the different StorySLAMs, GrandSLAMs and the radio show, “The Moth Radio Hour.”

WBEZ is sponsoring the StorySLAM and aired a series of special episodes from the radio show in September and promos for Chicago’s first StorySLAM.

The theme for the first storySLAM will be “school” and there will be a different theme for each show, which runs the last Thursday of every month. If the show goes well, organizers said they’ll make it twice a month. It will follow the same format as New York City’s storySLAM where anybody from the audience can step up and tell a story. All they have to do is drop their name in a hat and hope it gets drawn by the host. Three teams of judges pulled from the audience will score each story, and at the end of the night a winner will be chosen. The winner will then go on to the GrandSLAM to compete with nine other finalists. Jenness said audience members are encouraged to hiss or boo if they disagree with the judges’ decisions. She said she’s even



You have the feeling you can really be yourself and talk about yourself truthfully.”

—SARAH JENNESS



Her favorite story since she started working at The Moth in February 2005 was one by New York Times reporter and former drug addict David Carr. He told his story about how he hit rock bottom while addicted to crack-cocaine. One day he was driving with his infant twin daughters in the back seat and stopped at a crack house to buy drugs, leaving his daughters waiting in his car in the dead of winter. When he came out he saw them and decided it was time to quit the drugs. The scene was the focal point for Carr’s Book, “The Night of the Gun.”

Comedian Mike Birbiglia has also added his talent for storytelling to The Moth by relating two tales on The Moth’s main stage, one of which was later broadcast on

Chicago’s very own “This American Life.”

Jim O’Grady became a GrandSLAM winner in 2008 and also worked at the New York Times. He now works as a freelance writer and said he really had to relearn some things to become a storyteller.

“In journalism, you put your most important thing in the lead,” O’Grady said. “Storytelling is in many ways the opposite ... what’s most important is to finish strong, to give them a real payoff so when they reach the end of the story, they’ve felt a catharsis or they’ve been rung out with laughter or surprise. That’s when you walk off.”

Agüero competed with O’Grady at a few of the GrandSLAMs and became one of the 19 GrandSLAM winners chosen along with O’Grady. He said he was terrible at first, but kept trying until it clicked.

“I got picked out of the hat and told a horrible story, but I kept going,” Agüero said. “About eight months later I started winning, and I kept winning. From that I met friends and started telling stories at other shows. I found The Moth by accident, and it was exactly what I should have been doing.”

O’Grady said he’s heard plenty of stories that have flopped, but he usually hears at least one really good one before the night is over.

“Anyone can put their name in the hat, any name can get pulled,” O’Grady said. “I have heard some stinker stories, everyone has. I’ve seen narcissists, incompetence, and

boors. It’s not all triumph and delight, but I’ve never been to [a] show that hasn’t had at least one great story.”

O’Grady has many favorites, but he said one of the funniest ones he’s heard came from a Mormon woman named Elma Baker. Baker really wanted to find the right Mormon guy. She asked God to help her find him and in what looked like an act of serendipity, she got her prayer answered via an invitation to a Mormon Halloween dance. She built an elaborate fortune cookie costume with a lever her desired Mormon man would pull to get his fortune.

“It’s a very hot night and on the way to the dance, people start regarding her with horror. She doesn’t understand why,” O’Grady said. “She gets to the building where the dance is being held, she’s waiting for the elevator, and there’s a mirror there. She looks in the mirror and sees the fortune cookie costume has melted so it folds in on itself. She’s become a giant walking vagina.”

O’Grady remembered one sentence in particular.

“She had a good line where she goes, ‘So, I took it off and put my vagina in a closet, which I suppose is what you do when you go to church anyway,’” O’Grady said.

U2 plans to offset carbon footprint

Band responds to criticism, world tour creates excess carbon

by Greg Kot
MCT

U2'S "360 Tour," which made its North American debut Sept. 12 at Chicago's Soldier Field, is a good, old-fashioned stadium-rock extravaganza.

The numbers are staggering: Three 90-foot-tall custom-built stages containing a 54-ton cylindrical video screen and 500 personnel are being hauled around the country by a fleet of 189 trucks and buses. In addition, the band is expected to pile up 70,000 miles jetting around the world by the time the tour concludes in 2010.

In part because U2 and its singer Bono have been outspoken on numerous social and political causes, the band drew criticism during its European tour for the environmental impact of such a massive undertaking.

CarbonFootPrint.com, a company which assesses environmental damage, estimates the tour will generate 65,000 tons in carbon emissions.

David Byrne blogged, "Those stadium shows may possibly be the most extrava-



Chris Sweda MCT

Bono of U2 performs at Soldier Field in Chicago on Saturday, Sept. 12 for their world "360 Tour."

gant and expensive [production-wise] ever: \$40 million to build the stage and, having done the math, we estimate 200 semitrucks crisscrossing Europe for the duration. It could be professional envy speaking here, but it sure looks like, well, overkill, and just a wee bit out of balance given all the starving people in Africa and all."

The band says it's not ignoring those concerns. In an interview with the BBC, guitarist The Edge said, "It's probably unfair to single out rock 'n' roll. There's many other things that are in the same category, but, as it happens, we have a program to offset whatever carbon footprint we have."

The Edge was vague on details, perhaps because the program is in its early stages.

But U2 does have an environmental plan in place for the tour, which includes having tour promoter Live Nation pay for programs to offset the carbon impact, according to an environmentalist working with the tour.

Earlier this year, U2 and Live Nation hired greening company MusicMatters and EFFECT Partners to accompany the tour and work on cutting emissions and other damaging side effects of staging big rock concerts.

The tour has already cut the number of vehicles by 10 percent, said MusicMatters Chief Executive Michael Martin.

Other changes include having tour staff use canteens instead of disposable water bottles. Venues such as Soldier Field are

being encouraged to use everything from environmentally friendly soap and toilet paper to offering discount parking for hybrid vehicles.

At the end of the tour, Martin and his team will offer a handful of proposals to the band and promoter about how they can offset the environmental damage.

"There are myriad options at myriad price points, from \$8 a ton to \$25 a ton, in projects they can fund around the world to offset the carbon footprint," Martin said.

"Proceeds from the tour will be used to pay for these projects, which shows commendable responsibility on their part."

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FILM REVIEW

Thriller ‘Whiteout’ fails to grip viewers

Exotic location proves disappointing for rest of film, no focus on beauty of Antarctic

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

WHITEOUT IS a thriller set in Antarctica about U.S. Marshal Carrie Stetko, directed by *Gone in 60 Seconds*’ Dominic Sena. After hearing the plot one must wonder why on Earth Kate Beckinsale was chosen to play the lead. It’s true she is the face of the *Underworld* action series, but those films are more akin to comic book movies where special effects and costumes are often more important than acting. Beckinsale’s other works include playing the title character in *Alice Through the Looking Glass*, as well as romantic leads in *Serendipity* with John Cusack and *Tiptoes* with Matthew McConaughey. While not as strange as Jennifer Lopez in *Enough*, a film about a woman training to beat up her abusive husband, why Beckinsale would play a U.S. marshal does beg some questions.

To the film’s credit, it answers all of them even before Stetko speaks. After an over-the-shoulder tracking shot through the Antarctic base, we find Stetko in her room inside the U.S. colony. Still bundled up from the cold, she takes off her winter coat and, before the audience even gets a look at her face, continues to strip down to her undies. Stetko then prances to the other room and unclasps her bra—just out of frame—and bends over—in

EXCLUSIVE ONLINE CONTENT

‘Whiteout’
Starring: Kate Beckinsale
Director: Dominic Sena
Run Time: 105 minutes

Rating: R
Now playing at local theaters.



frame—to turn on the shower. The computer-generated steam makes the foggy shower scene more comical than sexy, but the audience gets the point. Beckinsale was not hired based on her acting prowess.

The story requires no explanation. *Whiteout* is a by-the-book thriller which just so happens to be set in Antarctica. Nothing here is original, yet the same clichés are paraded with competence, if not skill. While nothing about the film is exceptional, it does at least function properly. In this way, anyone with some special interest in seeing it may find their money’s worth.

Whiteout doesn’t drag, but on the contrary, could have benefited at times from taking a step back and applying a more thoughtful approach. Periodically, the audience is subjected to superimposed lines of digital text a la Bond reading, Antarctica or Russian Science Base Vostok, etc. Characters zip around from location to location, while flashbacks and interrogations eat up any remaining down time. *Whiteout* is not unlike certain Bond movies, though it is



Courtesy MCT

Kate Beckinsale stars in *Whiteout*, a thriller about a U.S. Marshal in Antarctica. Released on Sept. 11, the film explores the unknown with very little suspense.

sorely lacking in gadgets and cool cars. The fast pace, even when nothing is happening, serves to distract the audience from the film’s shortcomings.

Why not just add something to the plot instead of rushing through everything? The marketing campaign already implies the existence of some metaphysical force and the location would be perfect for some found-in-the-ice creature. The actual twists and villains are about as interesting as the back of my hand. The only added details are the campy flashbacks relating to a cumbersome back story which hammers home the point that Stetko is a wimp.

A good 15 minutes are completely wasted after a tepid action sequence, in which Stetko suffers an injury, serves no function beyond giving a handsome U.N. agent the opportunity to help her button a sweater.

Still, the production’s largest flaw is its failure to capitalize on the natural beauty of the Antarctic, forgetting for a moment the film was shot in Canada. As the pilot in *Whiteout* points out, “I could fly here my whole life and never get over how beautiful it is.” The same cannot be said for Sena or his cinematographer.

The inevitable twist is welcome, though undeserved after a mediocre climax. By the end, more answers are given than questions asked, and none of them meaningful. *Whiteout* would have been an amazing student film even on a smaller budget. It shows a concrete grasp of building narrative and in most respects functions as a real film, but by commercial standards, it gives the audience no reason to watch.

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MINA BLOOM, ASSISTANT ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR



PIXIES // HEY
EMPIRE OF THE SUN // WE ARE THE PEOPLE
KLEERUP FEAT. LYKKE LI // UNTIL WE BLEED
LIL WAYNE // THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

CODY PRENTISS, ASSISTANT ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR



FRANZ FERDINAND // CAN'T STOP FEELING
DROPKICK MURPHYS // JOHNNY, I HARDLY KNEW YA
BECK // EARTHQUAKE WEATHER
DAFT PUNK // FACE TO FACE

CHICAGO AUDIOFILE



Courtesy POOL OF FROGS

(Clockwise from top) Chad Fess, Blake Sloane, Brenton Engel and William Duncan make up Pool of Frogs.

Pool of Frogs invents ‘Bandisode’ to promote shows

by Mina Bloom
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

IT'S BLATANTLY obvious that when Chicago-based band Pool of Frogs engage in constant playful banter, they're actually revealing the fundamental reason behind what makes a successful group dynamic. In other words, these guys are genuinely fond of one another, which ultimately translates into an honest commitment to their music.

Will Duncan (drummer), Chad Fess (guitarist and lead singer), Brenton Engel (bassist) and Blake Sloane (guitarist, keyboardist and singer) comprise Pool of Frogs. Their sound is not easily defined in a modern-day music culture where "one known band meets another" is typically used when describing any new group. Begin with a blended mixture of classic rock, '80s punk and grunge. Throw in a pinch of Ween's humor and a splash of Nirvana's overall sensibility and the band comes to life.

When they're not playing live shows in Chicago and surrounding suburbs, they're spending days on end shooting and starring in wacky promotional videos, or "Bandisodes."

The Chronicle sat down with Pool of Frogs to talk about how they met, what they really sound like and landing a gig based on a Bandisode alone.

The Chronicle: How do you guys know each other?

Brenton Engel: We met in 2004. Will and I were both audio students at Columbia. Will was actually the only friend I ever made at Columbia College.

Will Duncan: Brent was the only friend I ever made.

Blake Sloane: Me and Will were in a band and Brent and Chad were in two different bands, and we did a show together downstate in Illinois—an outdoor festival. We liked each other's bands, so we started playing together and the two separate bands melded into one super group, if you will.

WD: Blake and I have been friends since we were little kids and we moved to Chicago together. We had a band called The Great Perhaps. Same deal with Brent and Chad—they knew each other for several years before.

The Chronicle: If you were to sum up your band's sound as a cross between one band and another, what bands would they be and why?

BE: Probably like Dolly Parton and White Zombie.

WD: With MC Hammer.

Chad Fess: I was thinking more of Sun Ra and Thelonious Monk.

WD: There's an undeniable grunge element to our music. It's simple rock songs that are just high energy.

BE: We all grew up listening to Nirvana and a lot of classic rock. We all love Led Zeppelin, The Who, The Rolling Stones and all that old stuff that everybody else on the planet loves, too.

WD: There's a slight element of the three-chord punk—like the early '80s.

BE: There's a lot of influence from more abstract bands like Sonic Youth.

BS: I think she's still waiting for us to name two bands.

BE: Let's name 18 bands.

WD: Jesus Jones and The A Team.



BE: Faith No More and Ween, or John Lennon's head on Danzig's torso.

The Chronicle: I watched a Bandisode on your web site. What are they all about?

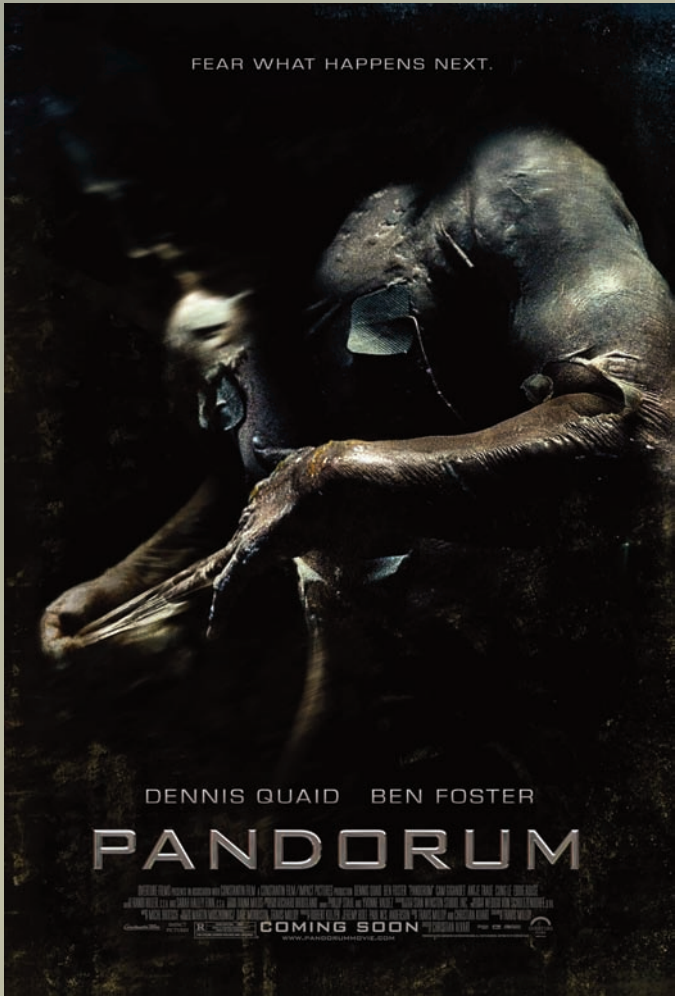
WD: A lot of the Bandisodes have kind of a sitcom-meets-music video sort of thing. It's been a great way to be creative and have fun promoting our shows. It's something that seems to be a unique idea in Chicago because we've got[ten] some pretty cool feedback. Seriously, the only reason we got booked to play at the Metro was because the booking agent from Metro saw one of our Bandisodes and thought it was such a clever and original idea.

Pool of Frogs is playing Sept. 25 at Logan Square Auditorium with Secret Machines and ... And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead. They expect to release their second album in Spring 2010. To find out more information, visit PoolofFrogs.com.

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Vogue, The September Issue

by Steven Rea
MCT

BEFORE R.J. Cutler started on *The September Issue*, his brilliant behind-the-scenes look at Vogue and its mighty monarch of an editor, Anna Wintour, the documentary filmmaker would have been hard-pressed to tell you much of anything about the world of couture.

“I could not have named three of the world’s most important designers,” Witler said. “I certainly couldn’t have told you that Karl Lagerfeld designed for Chanel. I could list for hours the things I didn’t know then that I do know now.”

But one thing Cutler did know, of course, was who Wintour was. “Who hasn’t heard of her?” said the Emmy- and Peabody-winning producer of *The War Room*, *A Perfect Candidate* and the doc series *American High*.

“She’s caricatured everywhere you look,” said Cutler. “There are two of her in ‘Ugly Betty.’ There was the animated Anna Wintour in *The Incredibles* I’m told that the costume designer character was based on her. And, of course, at that point you couldn’t help but hear about the book, *The Devil Wears Prada*, the movie of which was more than a year away. And I had even heard that Johnny Depp’s character in [*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*] was inspired by Anna. At least, his hairdo and his glasses.”

In *The September Issue*, which chronicles the seven-month-long process of creating the phonebook-size fall 2007 issue of Vogue, Cutler and his crew track Wintour as she scans the runways of Paris and New York, attends meetings with designers and retailers, sips her Starbucks and issues orders with a withering glare.

But what’s fascinating about Cutler’s film is that for all of Wintour’s chilly and imperious airs, she does not come off as a villain, a witch and certainly not as a fool.

And there’s another figure vital to the film and to Vogue, the most important publication in all of the fashion biz. That would be Grace Coddington, the magazine’s creative director. Like Wintour, Coddington is a Brit, but unlike her boss, this woman with the long, red hair and the lazy gait is a former model who orchestrates Vogue’s elaborate photo shoots and appears quiet and modest, deliberately removed from the power circle that is Wintour’s milieu. Wintour, close to 60, and Coddington, close to 70, have worked together for decades; it’s a relationship of give and take, of demands met and demands ignored, and it’s a relationship that is at the very core of the magazine’s aesthetic.

“Grace was not eager to see me, ever,” said Cutler. “She would have closed her door on me even if my fingers had been in the way.”

But finally, Coddington relented and granted Cutler an hour to talk off camera. Wintour may have said something, too, because in the end Coddington let Cutler and crew follow her around, resulting in some of the movie’s most prized, and surprising, moments.

“If I wanted to tell a story about who Anna Wintour was, what Vogue was, I needed to tell the story of who Grace Coddington was,” Cutler said. “I believe it is the defining relationship...And she is so wonderful to watch work.”

In a culture and an industry that is all about youth, *The September Issue* offers a portrait of two exceptional women who could easily be grandmothers to the twiggy models in Vogue’s pages.

“I love that this is a movie about these two women of a certain age who are so mighty and powerful and going strong and ruling the world and brawling with each other and caring so much,” Cutler said. “I love their faces. I love their spirit. They put us all to shame with what they do day in and day out, and they do it 12 times a year. They’ve been doing it for 20 years and they’re going to do it for many more years to come.

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» RENEGADE

Continued from PG. 20

no end. I just hope to improve.” With no assistants and a full-time job, Ramirez returns home to craft paper products as her second full-time job simply for the love of creating her art.

Not unlike Ramirez, Michele Bosak, 33, has her own individual craft business and runs her own Etsy online store, a Website devoted to selling people’s vintage and handmade art. She is still relatively new to Renegade, having only set up shop once before this year.

Splitting her time between Chicago and Grand Rapids, Mich., Bosak graduated from Northern Illinois University last year and likes to call herself a “jane of all trades.” She started off doing sculptures, moved to drawing and now she incorporates both into her encaustic paintings inspired by ’60s architecture and graphic design. Encaustic paintings require beeswax, oil paint and painting while the medium is hot.

“It’s something that’s really tactile that I can carve, size and work into, but I also get to utilize drawing which I just love doing,” Bosak said.

A torrential downpour plagued the week-end’s festivities at last year’s Renegade Craft Fair. This year was enjoyable, sunny and full of people eager to shop and talk, Bosak said.

In the midst of trying to situate herself after graduating, Bosak said that in the next couple months she will start securing some good retail places to sell her encaustic paintings and drawings.

The Squasht by Les studio, 1932 S. Halsted St., is open to the public from 6 p.m. - 10 p.m. on the second Friday of each month. To make an appointment call: (773) 719-1444. For Essimar or works by Michele Bosak visit, Etsy.com/shop.

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Courtesy INDIEFASHION.COM

TOP 5



Mario Lekovic, Assistant Metro Editor

People who disappoint me

Serena Williams: She had a great run at the U.S. Open and is one of the best women tennis players in the world, but she should have apologized to the lineswomen. She allegedly threatened the woman and then repeatedly made aggressive movements towards her. Everyone yells at the referee, that’s normal, but not to apologize immediately after the match and then proceed to make fun of it on national television isn’t cool.

Chicago Bears: Thank you for disappointing me once again. Not only did you lose to the Green Bay Packers, Cutler threw four interceptions and three players got injured. I waited all year for the NFL season to begin and now I won’t be able to enjoy it.

Kanye West: His music used to be good, until he started using autotune. Now he’s gone beyond his normal level of craziness after he interrupted Taylor Swift during her MTV VMAs acceptance speech to advocate Beyonce’s music video. What a jerk!

Joe Wilson: The South Carolina representative yelled “you lie” during President Barack Obama’s health care speech. Has this country lost all respect? We are not cavemen; we are civilized people, so there is no need to yell like a child if you don’t agree with something. And to think that some people actually look up to you.

Megan Fox: *Jennifer’s Body*—what in the world was that? Stop trying to copy Angelina Jolie’s craziness. You used to be an attractive girl, now you just remind me of everything that I dislike in a girl—psychotic behavior!



Brittany Rodgers, Assistant Metro Editor

Favorite web sites

Facebook: Whenever I am in front of a computer, this is the first site I visit. I visit it when I have downtime at work, writer’s block or when I’m just bored. If I’m not being a celebrity stalker, I’m on Facebook stalking my friends.

MediaTakeOut: I’m a blog fanatic and this is the first blog I look at whenever I want to get a quick laugh and a heads-up with the hip-hop world. I absolutely love this site because as nosey as I am about celebrities, so is the person who writes for this site. This is where I get my daily scoop.

TheYBF: The acronym of this is The Young, Black and Fabulous and this is what I live by. If I’m skeptical about MediaTakeOut’s foolishness about celebrities, I turn to TheYBF. More pictures of celebrities are shown and more gossip is told.

Google: Seriously, where would I be without Google? If I have a question and no one else around me can answer it, I turn to Google. What else is better than a site that can provide you with whatever you want in a matter of seconds!

Twitter: Once I’m done stalking my friends on Facebook, I stalk my favorite celebrities on Twitter. I just learned how to operate Twitter and now I love it. Also, I’m excited to have more than 100 followers now. I found myself tweeting away during the VMAs. Lots of thoughts are relieved through Twitter. Besides being a stalker, I’m promoting myself as a writer, and meeting people in the industry.



Spencer Roush, Assistant Metro Editor

Most embarrassing moments

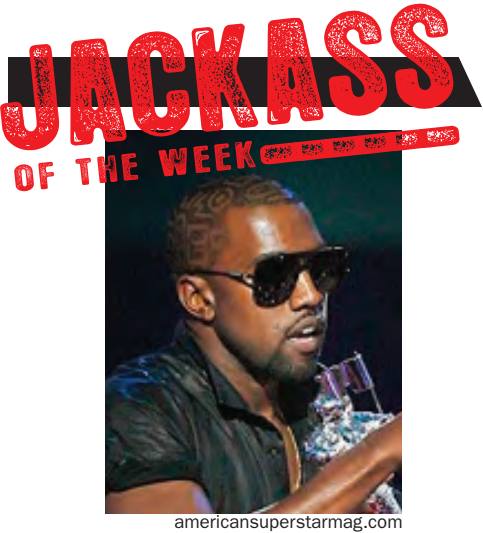
Roller skates: Once I went out on a blind date to the Roller Rama. I don’t skate. When I put my skates on and rolled into the bathroom, I lost my balance and knocked myself out on the toilet paper dispenser. I woke up alone with my feet hanging out the bottom of the stall. That was our last date, it was mutual.

Parade: When I was four I was in a parade driving a company’s red go-cart. I had to use the bathroom towards the middle of the parade, but ended up peeing my pants. My dad thought it was strange when people started shouting, “Hey! You’re leaking oil!” The most embarrassing part was that I had to ride home on a towel.

Elevator etiquette: Once I couldn’t find a building’s staircase at Columbia, so I took the elevator to the second floor, thinking I’d be alone. Someone came in as the doors closed. To not appear lazy, I did my best limping impression when I walked out—it wasn’t believable. I guess that’s what I get for trying to look handicapped.

Right car, wrong owner: While I was waiting for a friend, I got in the backseat of his car. I realized it wasn’t his when an elderly woman got in the front seat. We both looked at each other and she screamed. I said nothing and got out as fast as I could.

Spencer is a boy’s name: At an awards ceremony, a woman awarded me a scholarship after referring to me as “him” and “he” on stage. When she called me to the stage the laughter started and my face turned red, but she was more embarrassed than me.



Keep your mouth locked down

It was an inspiring moment for Taylor Swift as she accepted the award for Best Female Music Video during the Sept. 13 MTV VMAs for her video “You Belong With Me.” Stepping up on stage with apparent emotions of joy and surprise, Swift took the microphone and began her acceptance speech.

But wait—who is that bounding on stage and taking the microphone? It couldn’t be Chicago’s very own Kanye West, who is loved and admired all over the world? Oh yes, it is.

In a very rude and non-professional manner, Kanye excused his own interruption and said, “I’m sorry, but Beyoncé had one of the best videos of all time.”

A stunned audience watched as a near-tears Swift just stood there, amazed at what just happened. The moment was not only unexpected—it was just plain ridiculous.

After Kanye’s little episode, back stage cameras showed Swift in tears as she left the stage and a few moments later, Kanye being escorted from Radio City Music Hall.

Honestly, he might have said that he had a “little sippy sippy,” but that does not excuse stealing Swift’s moment in the spotlight. Kanye—the boos and the barrage of Tweets calling you a few colorful and well-chosen words are spot on. I hope Lady Gaga removes you from her tour for that disgusting show of unprofessional behavior.

Keep your mouth locked down, you jack-ass.

— C. Shively



Freshman journalism major Jazmen Parker loves pairing simple pieces with vivid colors and matching sneakers. Her style is laid back and fashionable with a finishing touch of swag.

Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE



by Katherine Gamby
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

SELF-PROCLAIMED “SNEAKERHEAD” Jazmen Parker, a freshman journalism major at Columbia, said that bright colors are what make her style unique to her.

“I like colorful clothes so I may wear purples, greens, yellows—just all colors—it doesn’t matter,” Parker said. “I don’t care how it looks; I can just make things look good.”

She said she wears sneakers no matter what the occasion, even in a formal setting.

“I don’t really wear heels ... no matter what, like I could go to a homecoming dance with gym shoes on,” Parker said.

She shops at stores she thinks have nice clothing, but she mostly shops for sneakers.

“I don’t really have a place [where I shop] but I know I get my shoes from Footlocker, Champs, things like that,” Parker said.

In terms of her mania for color, Parker said that she has been dressing in bright colors since she was a freshman in high school.

“I started dressing in bright colors in freshman year of high school—that’s when I really came out and started going ballistic with the colors,” Parker said.

Her black leather jacket, which she also owns in blue, is a switch from her colorful style, and inspired by a recently deceased legend.

“I kind of picked it out because it reminds me of Michael Jackson; I have a blue one too,” Parker said. “I wear jackets all the time.”

Her necklace and a matching bracelet, which she wears most of the time, were gifts from her grandmother, which she “bought for [Parker] from Jamaica.”

Swag, meaning the way that she carries herself, also plays a role in her style as well as the way she looks.

“[Swag] is the way you walk and talk ... it’s someone approaching you because you look nice,” Parker said.

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REVIEWS



SIIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD

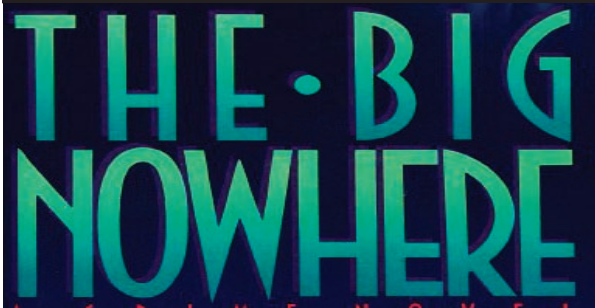


WORTH A GIGGLE



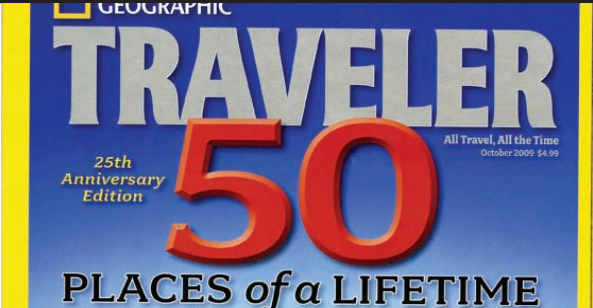
HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



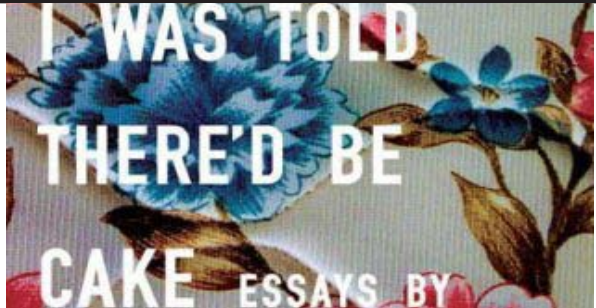
THE BIG NOWHERE BY JAMES ELLROY

It's 1950 and Communism plagues Los Angeles. Three cops are along for the gritty ride. Buzz Meeks pimps on the side for Howard Hughes. Mal Considine mostly works fighting Communism with infamous Dudley Smith and his Irish brogue. But Danny Upshaw stands out, four murders reminding him of his own demons. —A. Meade



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

This special edition brings you the world's 50 greatest destinations that I know I will never have a chance to visit. If it's the Bwindi tropical forest in southwest Uganda or Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, one can take themselves there by reading this month's magazine. —C. Aguirre



I WAS TOLD THERE'D BE CAKE BY SLOANE CROSBY

This book is filled with charming essays about Sloane Crosley, a young journalist who has dumb relationships and blushing moments that make her seem relatable. I bought it only because the Author's Note said she wrote a feature article for the worst-selling issue in Maxim magazine's history. How much more humbling can it get? —S. Roush



MOVIES / TV / DVD



“JOHN AND KATE PLUS 8”

As much as I love this disgustingly adorable family, I must say enough is enough. TLC hired this family to portray family values and morals in a family atmosphere. If mommy and daddy can't even be interviewed together, let alone live in the same state, how much longer will TLC let this façade continue? —M. Gordon



GOAL 2: LIVING THE DREAM

Goal 2 was as impressive as Goal. It shows the transition from a semi-professional player on a noticeable team to a mega star on one of the best teams in soccer. The main character deals with the burdens of becoming a celebrity and trying to remain faithful to his girlfriend, his fans and the game. —M. Lekovik



2009 MTV VMAS

Lady Gaga and her outlandish costume changes and her blood-curdling performance made people question her sanity. Kanye West's unforgivable stunt left Taylor Swift near tears and Lil' Mama's foolish attempt to demonstrate her “New York-ness” at the end of Jay-Z's performance all made for the most absurd award show of the year. —E. Peters



MUSIC



RYAN ADAMS OUT OF RETIREMENT

Ryan Adams is already sick of retirement and has come back to the alt-country scene launching a digital label, Pax-Am, which will exclusively release his singles. I'm happy to report that pop princess and wife Mandy Moore hasn't tainted Adams' talents as featured on the new, amped tracks “Lost And Found” and “Go Ahead and Rain.” —C. Shook



ELBOW: “THE SELDOM SEEN KID”

Too many CDs sound like uniform mystery meat, but that's not so with Elbow's Seldom Seen Kid. Elbow varies the music up with an extensive dynamic that starts slow and steady but goes to eleven when they make it loud. Just listen to the first song, “Starlight”, and their song craft will win you over. —C. Prentiss



TWO WHITE HORSES: “TWO WHITE HORSES”

Jakob and Lovisa Nystrom take the pilot's seat on a trip through the clouds with their debut “Two White Horses,” guiding listeners with simple guitars and delicate synth work. They have a tendency to get a little melodramatic leaving it to their poppy vocals to save the day. Two White Horses is another band to add to the river of great music coming out of Sweden. —A. Keil



RANDOM



CTA BLUE LINE

Why the Blue Line sucks: It runs slower than a fat kid after lunch if the weather isn't absolutely, stunningly perfect. It's overcrowded, hot and lacks air flow. And it doesn't run on the weekends because of construction, leaving me with a stupid bus. The Blue Line manages to infuriate me everyday, without fail. —J. Graveline



SIX FLAGS GREAT AMERICA

Six Flags used to equal fun. Now it equals going broke, which is not fun. You must store all of your things before going on each ride, including the \$12 souvenir cup and your \$5 bottle of water, in the lockers that charge a dollar per two hours, or risk having it tossed. Good thing the season passes are cheap. —K. Obomanu



END OF THE SUMMER

What a brief, yet satisfying end to the shortest summer ever! It started with me getting in a car accident on my bike and now ends with the dreaded return of classes. The end of summer ritual of me watching the fantastic and shocking conclusions of my favorite premium cable shows, “True Blood” and “Weeds”, left me wondering where life will go next. —D. Kucynda



Editorials

Let students design Columbia ads

THIS PAST summer, Columbia created a billboard campaign aimed at reaching prospective students and donors to the college, as well as increasing awareness about Columbia in the Chicago community. The ads rotate in nine different locations that are prominently displayed on various city highways and outside the Ogilvie Transportation Center, 500 W. Madison St.

The billboards, which show students jumping in the air with the word “innovation” in capital letters over them, do not represent the student culture that exists at Columbia. If the college is going to advertise, it needs to do so in a more authentic way that communicates what Columbia is actually about, instead of relying on a flashy image to please the eye.

Students come to Columbia to learn their craft by practicing it. Students at this college create amazing work and what they produce should be shown in these ads in order to let the community know what Columbia represents and what innovations the school is actually producing.

The next ad campaign that the college decides to invest in should be designed by students. This could be implemented through a class students can take for credit. The goal of the class should be to produce

an advertisement that will enlighten thousands of people will see. The project could incorporate many different majors such as advertising art direction, marketing communications, graphic design, photography, fine arts and illustration.

Because classes already exist that allow students to work on a product that is then distributed on campus or allow them to practice their chosen profession through a semester-long practicum, a student-designed, city-wide ad campaign would be a smart, cost-effective project to carry out in one of the aforementioned classes.

Columbia does make a large effort to showcase student work, but getting students involved in creating the advertisements is a great opportunity for the students involved, as well as for the school as a whole, to communicate to the city what the college is about.

This could save the college money because it wouldn't have to pay designers and a separate marketing team. In fact, the college may even make money because students would be paying to take the class. This idea could provide a new outlet for students to practice their craft and see the results, and may inspire prospective students to do the same.

Obama aims to sway Congress

PRESIDENT BARACK Obama re-established himself in the forefront of the health care reform debate by addressing Congress and proposing a reform bill during his televised speech on Sept. 9, after being noticeably absent on the issue for a few weeks.

Though much has been said about health care reform and what should be done, it is apparent that Obama's speech had a strong impact on the debate.

The fact that the president made a speech at all is commendable. His aim was to break the stalemate that Congress has been locked in on the topic of health care reform. He accomplished this by dispelling some myths that have been promulgated by both parties and carving out a space in the center, clearing the air on Capitol Hill.

There are varying opinion poll results detailing the impact of Obama's speech on the public. According to one CNN / Opinion Research Corporation poll, approval of Obama's plan rose 14 percent after his speech aired, while Gallup found the public's views have not changed. But regardless of the nation's general opinion, it is Congress that will ultimately vote to approve or reject a health care reform bill. The question

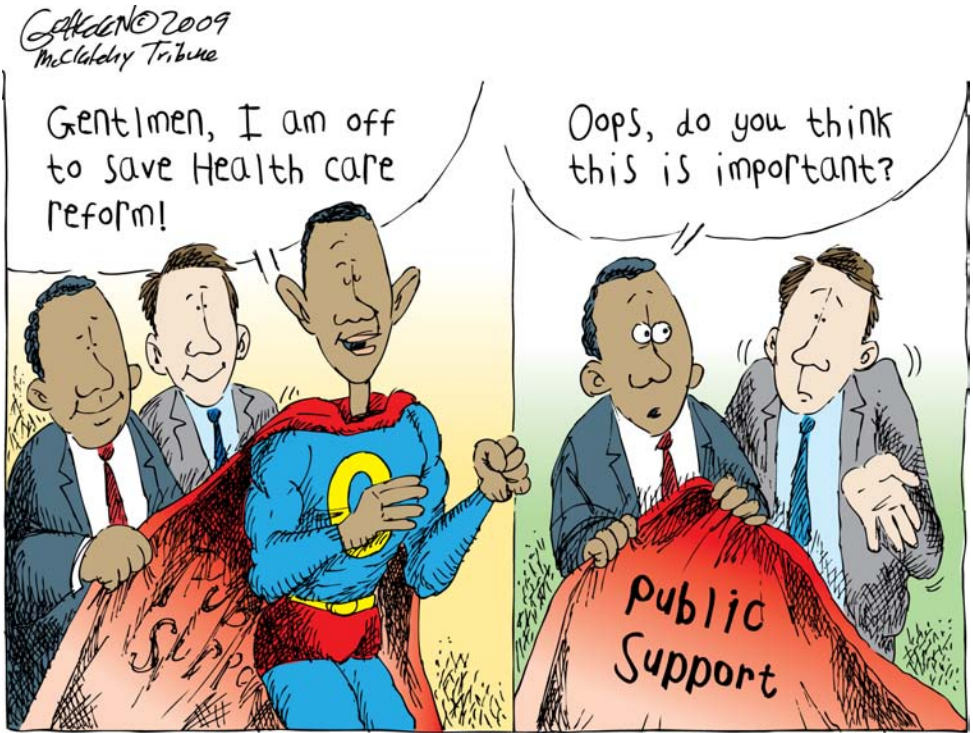
is—did he sway Congress?

The president's speech was not aimed at liberals on the far left who already agreed with him, nor was it meant for the conservatives on the far right who have a “Just Say No” policy to all of his proposed plans. He was instead talking to the independents and moderate Republicans of Congress, whom he knew he could sway.

The public will learn how successful Obama's speech was after Congress votes on the issue.

Many details in this debate can seem abstract and far away for most college students, such as the changes to Medicare, health coverage for illegal immigrants and reforming medical malpractice lawsuits. But health care should not be a topic that young adults ignore simply because it is confusing.

In most insurance plans, parental coverage expires after a student graduates college. According to Obama's bill, in four years every citizen will be required to have health insurance. This means current students have an obligation to get educated on the topic because it will be a major issue for them in the very near future.



MCT CAMPUS



MCT CAMPUS



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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

Subtle racism affects students, whole nation



by Oriana Riley
Photo Editor

“Our collective psyche has not forgotten the history of this country, even though we all try very hard to forget.”

My name is Oriana Riley and I am a Negro—at least in the perspective of South Florida’s Broward County School District. A little less than two weeks ago, Broward County Schools issued a student code of conduct form that required students to identify their ethnicities. This allowed someone at the Department of Education to come up with the bright idea of giving students who identify as black or African-American the option to choose “Negro.”

Before you make any judgments, I have to admit I, too, sometimes forget we live in the year 2009. It’s an easy mistake to

make. Perhaps by some strange hand of fate, student Jake Edri, a Deerfield Beach High School sophomore, brought the offensive wording to the attention of the superintendent. It just so happens that I graduated from Deerfield Beach High in 2006.

I spent nine years in the Broward County School District and had my fair share of Negro-related run-ins with that system. I was denied access to the gifted program only a few years after my parents were told by my preschool teacher that I was “sweet, but not magnet school material.” It was her conjecture that I was not smart enough to play with colored blocks, drink apple juice and take naps, which was basically what most of my time in the magnet program in elementary school consisted of. Oh, yes, then there was that incident of having the wrong GPA sent to colleges I applied for during my senior year of high school. It’s an easy mistake to make, apparently. Once a Negro, always a Negro?

I wasn’t your typical student. Here I was, the kid who in first grade read 100 books (I’m talking about chapter books and novels), consistently tested at reading levels of 11th grade and higher in the third,

fourth and fifth grade and even read the dictionary for fun.

For someone like me who loved learning, doing homework and going to school, the older I got, the more disenchanted I became with school. It became very obvious that I was a Negro before I was a student. I often felt limited and overlooked just because I had more melanin in my skin than my classmates of fairer complexions. The expectations for me seemed to be lowered and dictated by stereotypes I thought didn’t apply to anyone anymore.

Ironically, Broward County School District was a runner-up for the Broad Prize for Urban Education, a national achievement that awarded the district \$250,000 for its “accomplishment.”

According to a Sept. 17 Miami Herald article, the award “is given to the large urban school district that shows the best student achievement and improvement while closing the gap between different ethnicities and income levels.”

Herein lies the real problem. It’s not that the word Negro was an option for black students to choose on a school form, but it is the fact that a climate in which

such a mistake can be made and almost overlooked still exists. And it’s not just in South Florida that this subtle racism exists, but throughout the nation. Our collective psyche has not forgotten the history of this country, even though we all try very hard to forget. Injustices still occur in the education system every day.

Integration was supposed to mean more than being allowed to share a classroom with a diverse community of learners. Integration is supposed to mean that everyone gets a fair shot. It also means that students should be judged only by their performance—no more, no less.

I’m not going to go on a tirade about how we’re all inherently racist or how Broward County owes its students a serious formal apology, but I can say this and this alone: This is not an isolated incident and it won’t be the last incident of its kind until we collectively decide to let go of the past and look towards the future—a future where students are seen as having possibility and potential regardless of their skin color—even a Negro like me.

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ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

60

Percent of Americans who said news organizations are biased, compared with 26 percent who said they are careful in not being politically biased, according to a Sept. 13 poll conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. Just 29 percent of Americans said news organizations get the facts straight, a two-decade low, according to the poll.

Trillions of dollars the United States has accumulated

11.83

in national debt as of Sept. 17, according to TreasuryDirect.gov. This amounts to approximately \$38,800 in debt per resident in the U.S.

Percent of college graduates who believe higher education is not worth the price of attendance,

25

according to a Sept. 3 Zogby International poll. Reasons graduates cited as influencing their opinion are related to today’s significant college costs, including tuition, books and room and board.

Billions of dollars the 2016 Olympic bid committee

4.8

estimates it will cost the city to host the Summer Games, according to a Sept. 16 Chicago Tribune article. Mayor Richard M. Daley said no tax money would be used to finance the games, but the Chicago Tribune reported that hundreds of millions of dollars in tax money has already been committed.

Charitable celebrities need to be authentic



by Lauren Kelly
Commentary Editor

“Do non-profits and humanitarian causes now need a famous face associated with them in order to succeed and make a difference?”

When you Google the term “charitable celebrities,” the top web result that appears is a page called Look to the Stars, a site dedicated to covering celebrity charity news and events. The site lists famous people who are involved in some type of charity work.

Ironically, it turns out that almost every celebrity is involved in some kind of charity work. There are thousands of people on this list. From Alicia Keys to Zach Braff, the alphabetical list makes it seem like all of them are involved in some philanthropic cause or another. It has become fashion-

able for stars to have the image of being altruistic. But do they do as much as they say, or is it just an image?

It seems that the vast majority of stars are involved in causes just to say they’re involved in causes. It makes them look good, plain and simple. When someone makes millions of dollars per year, it could be perceived as selfish if they don’t help others with their saturated bank accounts, especially if their peers are involved in charitable causes.

Don’t be mistaken—many famous people have done great things and have helped a lot of people through the work that they’ve done. For instance, George Clooney supports 14 charities, serves on the board of trustees for the United Way and he is a UN Messenger of Peace. He also co-founded Not on Our Watch, an organization dedicated to providing humanitarian assistance and ending international human rights abuses and genocide, along with Brad Pitt, Don Cheadle and Matt Damon.

This is just one example. Some famous people have truly made a difference in the lives of others, but I doubt the majority who claim they are authentically contrib-

uting to a good cause. But it has become trendy to participate in charitable causes. And who knows? They might just make a little extra money by branding a charity with their image.

Some stars will actively participate and give aid to a foreign country, then spend \$15 million on a giant touring stage and ignore the problems plaguing their hometowns. Why don’t they donate that money and play a show on a stage that already exists instead of spending millions to promote themselves?

Many celebrities are following the trend of adopting children from developing countries. Why don’t they support an orphanage there instead of adopting a child then spending a few hundred thousand dollars on their birthday party and designer clothing?

Aside from being a representative for an organization or appearing at charity events, many celebrities donate money to causes. This is great and it gives funds to people who are really committed to making a difference, but there’s also a big incentive to do this—tax credits for charitable contributions.

One thing I do acknowledge is that every time a celebrity supports a charity, regardless of an actual commitment to the cause, they bring awareness about important issues to the public sphere. Because of stars, ordinary people are now cognizant of many problems in the world that they might not have known about before. Also, because of celebrities, the everyday citizens might be inspired to get involved themselves.

But do non-profits and humanitarian causes now need a famous face associated with them in order to succeed and make a difference? That seems like what’s becoming the reality more and more. If a non-profit organization or charity does not have a star representative, they may be at a disadvantage and feel compelled to seek out support from a famous face.

“Charitable” celebrities need to get serious and stop acting like they care about causes they really don’t. Starting a foundation just to say you have one is inauthentic and cheapens others that are truly committed to making a difference.

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SUNDAY, NAUGHTY SUNDAY

A promotional image for the TV show Dexter. It features the main character, Dexter Morgan, a man with short brown hair and a light blue button-down shirt, sitting and holding a baby. Dexter has red blood smeared on his face and shirt. The baby, who is bald and wearing a white t-shirt and blue shorts, is holding a yellow sippy cup filled with red liquid. The background is a clear blue sky.

World's Most Killer Dad

DEXTER

SEASON PREMIERE SEPT 27, 9 PM ET/PT

A promotional image for the TV show Californication. It features the main character, Hank Moody, a man with long brown hair and a dark grey button-down shirt, sitting on concrete steps. He is holding a cigarette in his mouth and a brown paper cup in his right hand. He is also holding a book in his left hand. In the background, several women's legs in high heels are visible, suggesting a party or social gathering. The background is a green lawn and a brick building.

Californication

SEASON PREMIERE SEPT 27, 10 PM ET/PT

Meet Professor Hank Moody. He's easy.

Order SHOWTIME now for \$7.99 or less per month for a limited time.*
1-800-SHOWTIME or go to SHO.com

MA *Limited time offer ends 10/12/09. Offer good for new subscribers in participating systems only. Discounted service offer will be \$7.99 per month or less, for a period of at least 2 months. Call your service provider for details. After the promotional period, standard rates apply. Other restrictions may apply. May not be combined with any other Showtime rebate or promotion. ©2009 Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. SHOWTIME and related marks are trademarks of Showtime Networks Inc.

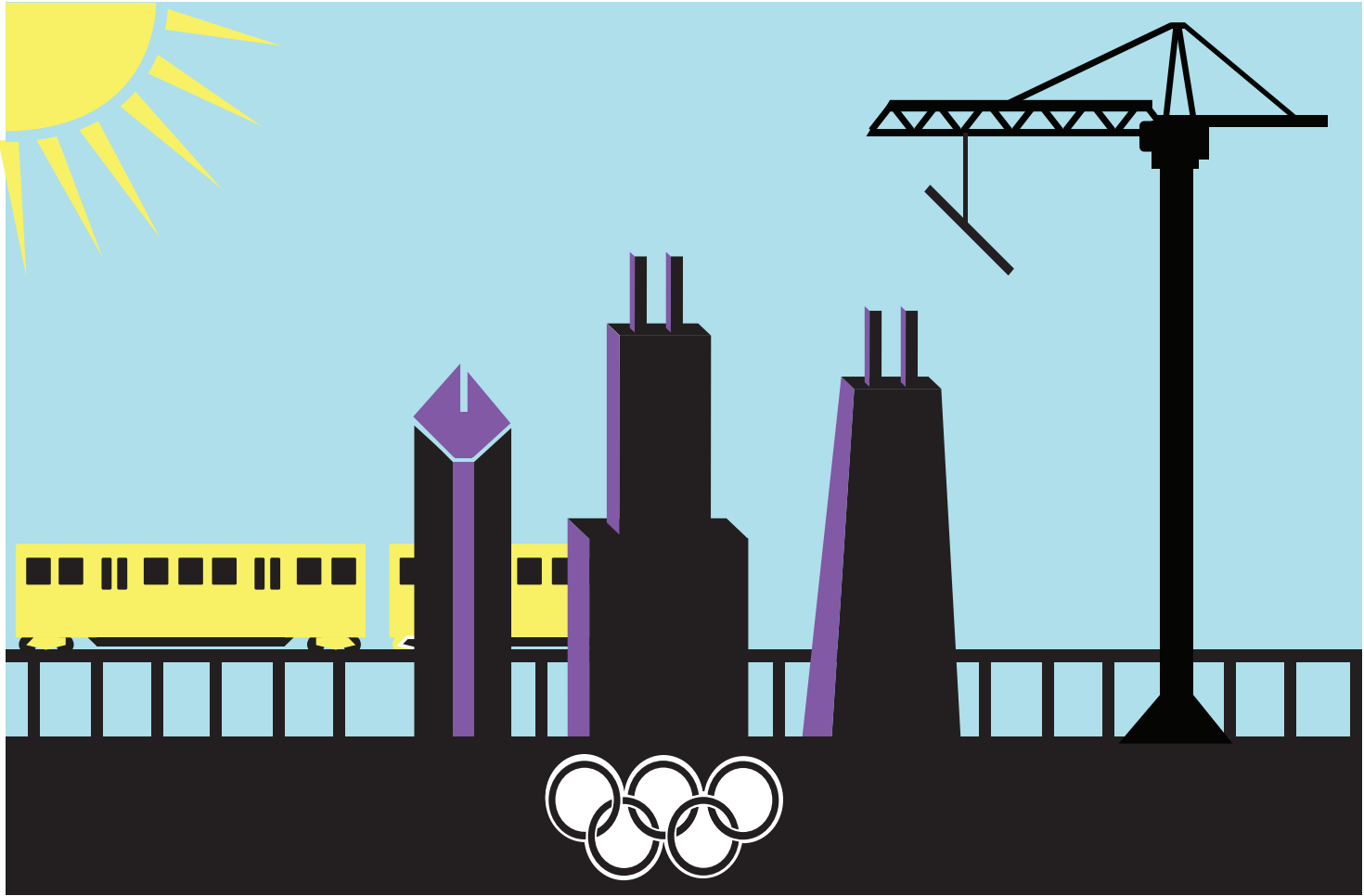
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M

metro



Andrew McArdle THE CHRONICLE

CSU celebrates Hispanic heritage

Latino culture put on display through artwork at Columbia, Chicago State University

by Mario Lekovic
Assistant Metro Editor

UPON ENTERING the *Quinceañera* exhibition at the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, boisterous artwork along with loud colors and immense female figures immediately present themselves to audiences. The mixture of colors makes the portraits stand out and grab patrons’ attention as they walk through the exhibition, noticing the celebration of womanhood and womens’ revival in the Latino culture.

Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 and recognizes the independence of eight different countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Chile, Belize, Honduras and Mexico. The celebration started as Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968, but it was later expanded to a month-long festival in 1988 to celebrate the liberation of these countries.

Hispanic Heritage Month will also be celebrated at Chicago State University with a showcase of artwork from Chicago-based artists Judithe Hernández and Sergio Gómez. The exhibition will be open from Sept. 16 through Nov. 6 on the CSU campus in the President’s Gallery, 9501 S. King Drive.

The Curator of the galleries program at CSU, Joyce Owens Anderson, said CSU wants to honor all cultures.

“It’s important for us to understand each other and to be able to speak other languages in our country,” Anderson said. “Chicago has a large Latino population.”

Chicago is blessed with a variety of cultures, and the Latino communities vary in heritage. Many Latino communities in Chicago have a blend of cultures within themselves.

The artwork that Gómez and Hernández will show at the exhibition has many references to their Latino heritage.

“Like so many Chicano artists, I have drawn from the wealth of my cultural inheritance to describe visually who we are, what we value, how we define beauty and to assert the belief that the artist as [a] citizen has the responsibility to give voice to the issues affecting the disenfranchised of society,” Hernández said in a press release.

Hernández said that she leavesd interpretation of her drawings to the viewer because she believes that the work has to stand on its own and it’s the viewer who brings their various experiences to the images they see.

“I’m drawing from my heritage as a Mexican-American and my experiences ... I draw on that for inspiration, but I am more interested in hearing what people get from what they see rather than for me to tell them,” Hernández said.

Some of her artwork is related to events that she experienced growing up. The Civil Rights Movement, the Chicano Movement, which was involved in the protest against the Vietnam War, and the school lock-outs in Los Angeles are all reflected in her artwork.

“It was a time when Mexican-Americans were finally taking over their political des-

» SEE HERITAGE, PG. 38

Paving the way for 2016

City officials plan to build venues, add transportation to accommodate crowds

by Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

ON OCT. 2 the International Olympic Committee will decide the fate of Chicago’s quest to become the next host city for the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2016. City officials have been working to get the support of the IOC through extensive construction and landscape planning and by informing Chicagoans of how the Olympics would change the city.

Many Chicagoans are still debating if the changes the Olympics would bring would be ideal for the city’s urban landscape, transportation, real estate and overall economy.

Jayne Alofs, a broker’s associate for Jameson, a real estate organization, is an expert in West and South Loop real estate. She said the Olympics could stimulate the real estate market in some neighborhoods that are near the financial district, but the real estate on the South Side probably won’t see as much activity.

“I think that the Olympics could certain-

ly stimulate [the South Loop],” Alofs said. “Before we started to have the economic downturn, that was one of the hottest neighborhoods in the city. It’s one of the neighborhoods that’s been most developed and it got hit pretty hard.”

Alofs said there are many apartments to rent in the South and West Loop neighborhoods right now because the demand for them is low due to the economy.

“If we get the Olympics, I think we will be able to get rid of a lot of the inventory that is hanging around that market,” Alofs said. “I think it’s going to really stimulate that neighborhood both residentially and commercially. There is going to be a greater population and a greater demand.”

Alofs said location is always the key when it comes to real estate, and if the Olympics are hosted in Chicago it will probably raise prices in the Loop neighborhoods where many college dorms and apartments are located. She said potential renters for the games will probably begin looking at spaces to rent after the host city is announced because rent prices will rise as it gets closer to the Olympics.

Brian Maddox, executive director of the Association of Subcontractors and Affiliates

of Chicago said, “The impact will be felt not only in the city of Chicago, but in all the other outlying suburbs within the state of Illinois and the surrounding states as candidates and potential athletes come here to begin to train during the season and off-season to begin to acclimate [themselves] for summer in Chicago.”

He said the athletes will be impacting the economy of Chicago and surrounding suburbs by utilizing their athletic facilities, staying in hotels or other accommodations and using food and beverage venues throughout their training process.

Maddox said the Olympics will also help the construction market because of all of the new building plans that are taking place in parks and also the buildings that will need to be renovated to suit Olympic needs.

“Winning the Olympic bid—and I am confident that we will do that—will boost the Chicago market almost immediately and for many years to come in the area of construction,” Maddox said.

Maddox said bidding on the construction projects will take place within the month

» SEE OLYMPICS, PG. 37

FORECAST

MONDAY	MON. NIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Times of sun and clouds High 81	A stray evening t-storm Low 62	A shower possible High 79 Low 63	A thunderstorm possible High 78 Low 60	Times of clouds and sun High 74 Low 55	A passing morning shower High 73 Low 49	Mostly cloudy, t-storms High 67 Low 49	Sun and clouds warmer High 75 Low 54

Lending people a helping hand

The Great American Bailout was offered to one Hyde Park resident by two ‘Average Joes’

by Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

TWO MEN traveling from one side of the United States to the other in 40 days, with a truck, building supplies, a couple of tents and a dog, are working together to help the average American by making their lives a little easier.

Sean Filzen, a 26-year-old student at Marylhurst University in Oregon, and his uncle Doug Francisco, a contractor in Washington, are traveling around the U.S. for a project they call The Great American Bailout, which helps people with home improvements and a variety of other projects for the small price of a smile and a thank you.

Filzen, who leads the team, is turning their cross-country outreach project into a documentary for his senior project. He said that he hopes The Great American Bailout can turn into a larger non-profit organization.

“It’s a bailout from the bottom up, not from the bank down,” Filzen said. “In essence, I feel that we need each other to bring America back to Americans. If we want to rebuild and move past this economic downturn, I think we all need to take a step back and reevaluate the way we live our lives and interact with our neighbors.”



Courtesy SEAN FILZEN

Doug Francisco, a contractor from Washington, uses his skill to help Cynthia Schroeder, a Hyde Park resident, with her newly purchased house that has been abandoned for 10 years.

Filzen said they don’t have a driving route or a plan of who they are going to help. They have been calling each state’s Chamber of Commerce for suggestions of potential people to help.

“This is a new, fresh idea,” Filzen said. “We are kind of inventing it as we go along. We are volunteers doing what we can.”

The volunteer duo made a three-day stop in Chicago and left on Sept. 10, after working in the Humboldt Park neighborhood at a house that had been abandoned for 10 years.

Cynthia Schroeder, an unemployed teacher and owner of the newly-purchased

house, welcomed the two workers into her home with a day’s notice after a mutual friend told the team about a woman in Chicago who had just purchased a house, and could use their help with construction projects.

“I didn’t really understand what they are doing,” Schroeder said. “I thought, ‘Oh great, these people are coming to work on my house, I’ll pay them \$10 an hour or whatever they want.’ I didn’t know Sean was doing this as a school project. I didn’t know this was all volunteer [work] until later.”

Filzen and Francisco, along with two

other volunteers, semi-remodeled the bathroom, put a new ceiling in the kitchen and notified Schroeder of a natural gas leak.

The previous owner of the old house put drywall in the shower, which rendered it unusable. She said Filzen and Francisco helped her out a lot because they installed a concrete board, which can be tiled. The new board is waterproof, so she can now use the shower.

Filzen said that Schroeder’s house has probably been their biggest accomplishment so far.

Schroeder said that she has the inspiration to keep making improvements on her house because the team came in and helped finish the larger projects.

“I took a lot of stuff out of the house like a lot of old rotted board, and carpeting and the old ceiling,” Schroeder said. “But, everything I took out I didn’t have the skills, because I’m really not very handy, to put things back in.”

Schroeder said the formerly abandoned house is 101 years old and in need of a lot of future work.

“Doug Francisco said that there was so much work to be done that if I wanted to call him, he would come and work for free,” Schroeder said. “All I would have to pay for is the materials, which is amazing.”

Filzen and Francisco said they refused to take any money for the work they have done, even though they only have a \$5,000

» SEE BAILOUT, PG. 40

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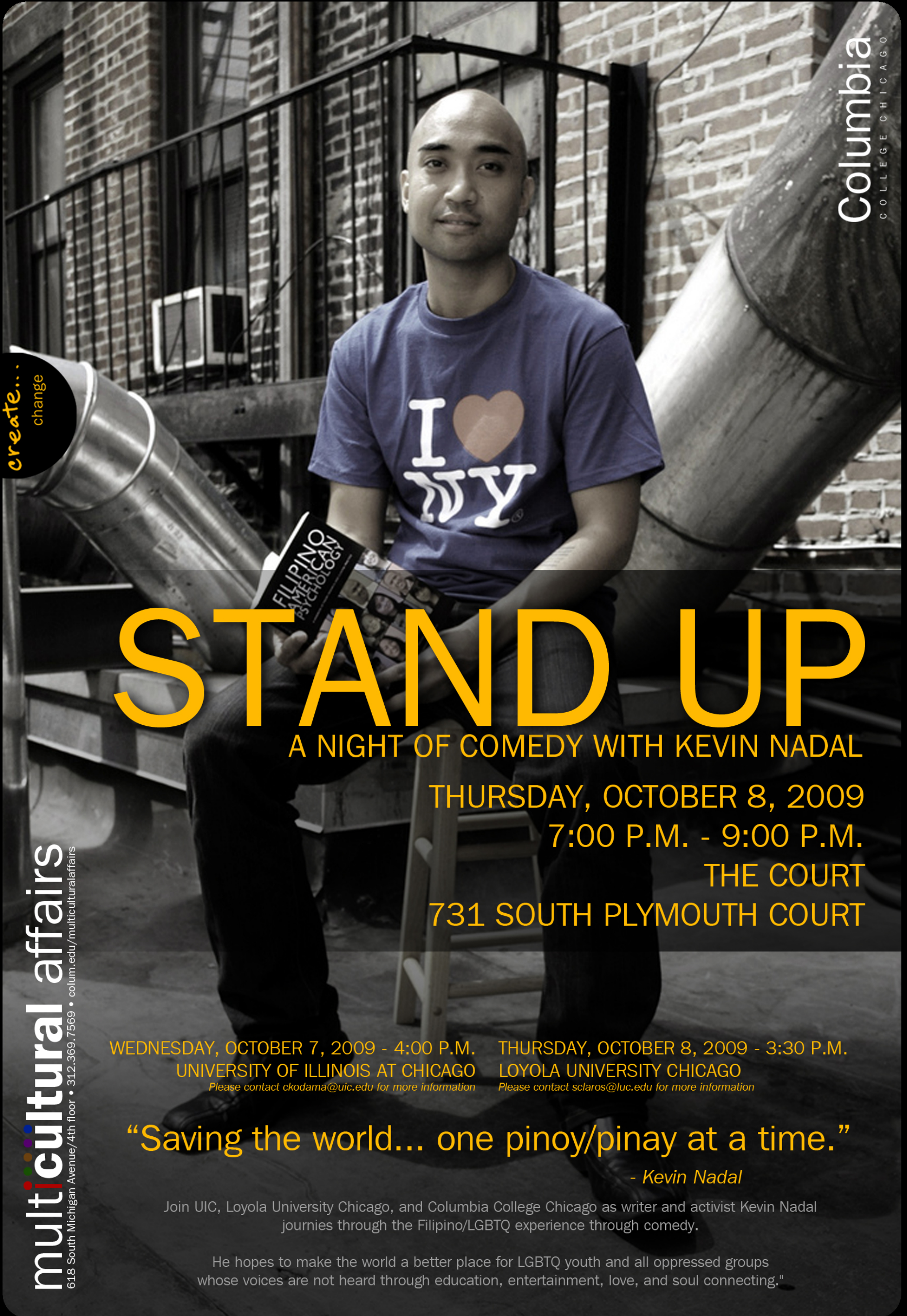
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Tea Party Patriots hold rally against health reform

Activist group protests ‘controlling partisan government’

by Mario Lekovic
Assistant Metro Editor

TIMING THEIR rally to coincide with a far larger Tea Party Express demonstration in Washington, D.C., some 200 members of the Tea Party Patriots group gathered in Chicago’s Millennium Park on Sept. 12 to protest President Barack Obama’s health care reform initiative and what they see as the threat of big government.

Waving picket signs, the Millennium Park activists sounded the same themes that have characterized a season of anti-government protests around the country that began with anti-tax Tea Parties on April 15, the income tax filing deadline, and continued at various “town hall” meetings in August that members of Congress held as forums on health care reform.

“This health care plan will cripple our economy,” argued Katharina Wojtowicz, 41, of the Mount Greenwood neighborhood on Chicago’s Southwest Side, one of the organizers of the Millennium Park rally. “It has nothing to do with health care; it has everything to do with government control.”

Wojtowicz denied the frequent



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Protesters lined Michigan Avenue between Washington and Randolph streets armed with picket signs and American flags during a Tea Party rally on Sept. 12. Chants of “kill the bill” and other anti-socialist views filled Millennium Park.

criticism that the Tea Parties are masterminded by the Republican Party, contending that the activists are neither Republicans nor Democrats, but citizens of the United States who are tired of what they consider controlling, partisan government.

“We’re in this freaking mess because of the Republicans and Democrats,” said Wojtowicz. “This

isn’t a partisan group. These are people from all sectors of society, all just coming together. This is the people’s army.”

Another demonstrator from the Chicago area, Susan Brooks, also decried government-sponsored health care reform.

“As the government expands and takes over more sectors of the economy, it results in less lib-

erty and freedom for Americans,” said Brooks, who rejected the idea that less-affluent Americans need subsidies to obtain health insurance and medical care. In her view, lower-income families have access to excellent medicine at Cook County Hospital and through a network of free clinics.

“We can make health care more affordable to them to drive down

costs, but it’s not a state of emergency,” said Brooks. “People aren’t dying as government is depicting. These people are being taken care of and through real solutions.”

But Robert Watkins, a Columbia College Chicago political science professor contacted for this article, said he thinks the Tea Party Patriots and their allies have a misunderstanding of government’s influence.

“These folks seem to think that government is the only significant power that’s affecting their lives, when in fact corporate power and insurance company power are affecting their lives equally strongly, if not more strongly,” said Watkins.

Watkins said he believes Obama is not trying for a wholesale increase in federal power, but has limited his goal to regulating the insurance industry.

“If the [health care] bill is passed, I think it will be largely restricted to insurance reform,” Watkins said. “The health care system is broken and it needs to be fixed.”

A more sinister view of Obama’s goals, however, was expressed by a number of the Tea Party protesters, including one who identified herself as Lynn Marie.

» SEE TEA PARTY, PG. 40

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» **OLYMPICS**

Continued from PG. 31

of October, after the host city is announced. Construction projects will start rapidly after the jobs have been distributed among companies.

"The IOC and the city of Chicago will institute requirements so that we most dramatically utilize local talent, local subcontractors and local skills and employ people locally to complete these projects," Maddox said. "So it would be a great win for the city of Chicago and local subcontractors."

The Association of Subcontractors and Affiliates of Chicago is a non-profit trade association that represents the subcontracting industry and its affiliates. The association has 427 member companies. Maddox said ASA Chicago wants all of their member companies to meet the requirements set in place for Olympic contractors which include safety, training and other pre-qualifications, so they can receive many of the construction jobs.

"Our group worked very closely with 2016 to do a number of building projects for the evaluation committee visit, including building out the 20th floor of the Fairmont hotel where the IOC was hosted for a week," Maddox said. "We gave our subcontractors and contractors very high visibility there and we got most of the materials donated or at a very reduced rate, so that we put ourselves in good standing with the 2016 committee."

Maddox said being "green" is a priority for the IOC and also Chicago's city officials during the building and deconstruction of the games. He said they want to make sure venues are scaled down to a size that would

be conducive to public use after the games are over. For example, after the Olympics are finished the pools used for the games will be deconstructed and moved to other parks and neighborhoods for public use, he said.

Making the Olympic Village compact and having only a 15-20 minute drive to all of the other venues was also a priority, Maddox said. More bus lanes and train cars will be added to cut down on transportation time and to accommodate athletes and spectators.

Laurel Kroack, the chief of the Bureau of Air at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, said because there will be many travelers coming into the city, the cars and trucks will give off gas emissions which could lead to poor air quality. She said the addition of more buses and train cars would most likely alleviate the problem and stabilize the needed standard of air quality.

"My understanding of the 2016 plan is that they hope to serve most of the venues and visitors with expanded mass transit, which will keep the density of vehicles down," Kroack said. "Hopefully the rest of the citizens of Chicago commuting in and out of the city will take advantage of those additional services as well."

Maddox said the logistics of transportation and how to accommodate all of the Olympic travelers is still currently being worked out. The Chicago Olympic Committee has also consulted with other cities such as Las Vegas, Salt Lake City and Atlanta on how to handle large crowds.

"An improved transportation system is a legacy that the Olympics can leave behind," Maddox said.

To read more on the other side of the Chicago Olympic debate, check out next week's issue.

srush@chroniclemail.com

» **BAILOUT**

Continued from PG. 34

budget, which isn't much money for a 40-day trip across the nation. Only \$1,200 was donated to their cause after a month of raising money, the rest of the funding has come out of Filzen's pocket.

"We are always prepared to pay our own way, because we don't want to expect anything from the people we are there to help," Filzen said. "It's not so much a barter system."

Francisco said he left his contracting business in the hands of two other employees while he is traveling around and working with his nephew.

"I just gave up my pay to do this," Francisco said. "I figured this was my donation to The Great American Bailout."

Schroeder said she also offered to give them a donation, but the team refused and told her to "pay it forward." She said their

project has made her more aware of the people in need and how she can help.

Schroeder also said it's her responsibility now to help out someone else and has already contacted the Neighborhood Housing Services to volunteer.

"It's changing my [mindset]," Schroeder said. "Now that I don't feel so downtrodden about the house I think it makes me more alert and aware about what I might be able to do for other people. For example, I have friends or people who are down on their luck come and stay in this house because this is a big house for one person."

Filzen and Francisco's main goal was to help as many people as they can and perhaps inspire other Americans to start helping out their neighbors.

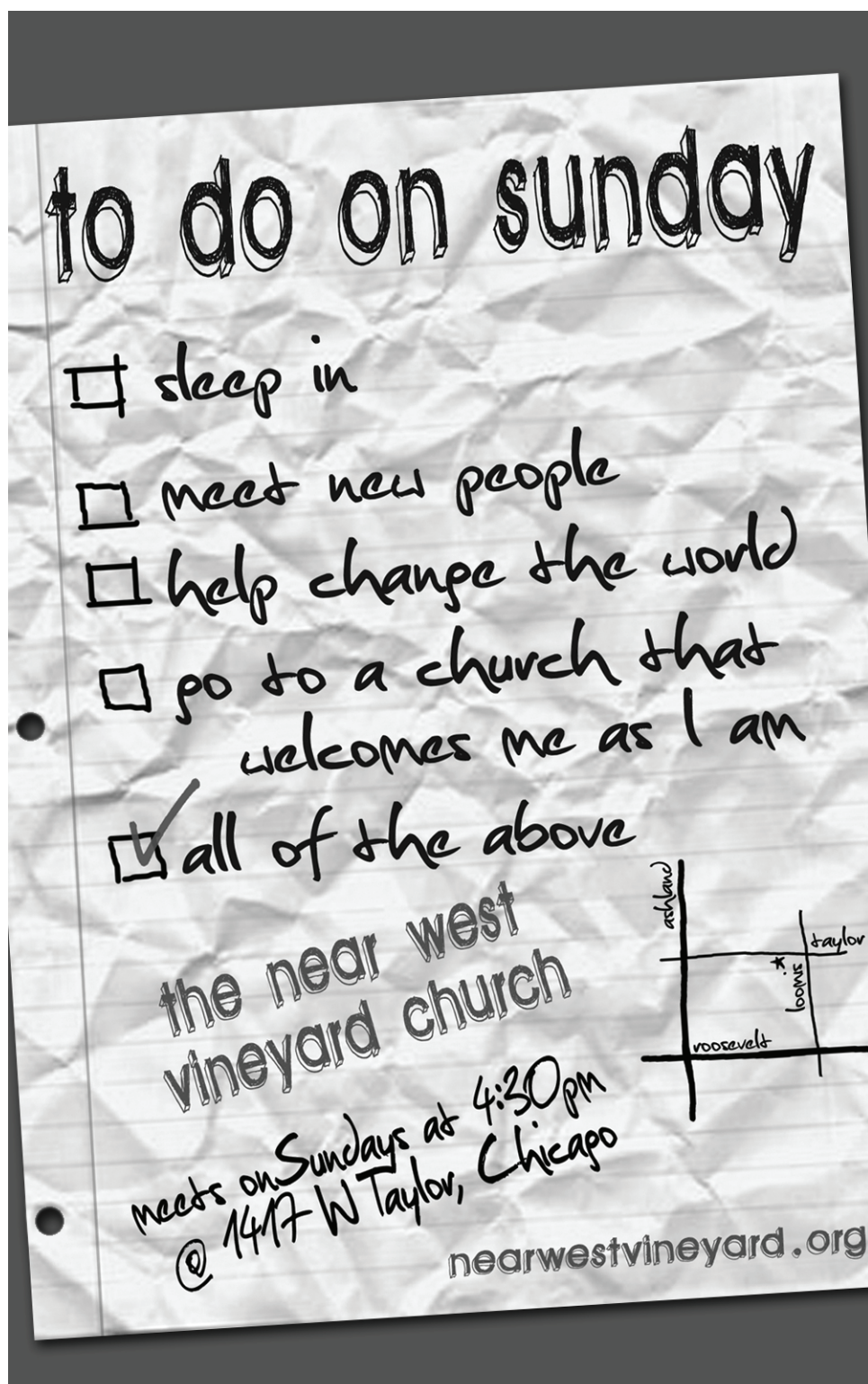
"We aren't a part of any religious organization or government organization," Francisco said. "We are just two guys who are trying to make a small difference, and the smallest [differences] are sometimes the biggest."

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Courtesy CYNTHIA SCHROEDER

The Great American Bailout team helped with various home improvement projects around the 101-year-old house over a three-day period.



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» HERITAGE

Continued from PG. 33

tiny,” Hernández said.

Hernández said there is still an element of discrimination, which is a reason that Latinos are underrepresented in both the political arena and the economic arena.

There may be something in one of the activities during the month that may reach a person, Hernández said in an interview.

“These kinds of events serve to remind certain generations that they still have a responsibility and an incredible cultural heritage,” Hernández said.

This two-person collaboration will portray the commonality of ethnic heritage between the two artists.

Sergio Gómez, a visual artist, said a lot of his heritage ends up being part of his overall work.

“It’s another show,” Gómez said. “It’s a good opportunity to exhibit along with Hernández. “It brings the viewer two different approaches of art. Both of us have Latino heritage, so our work compliments each other nicely.”

The two artists weren’t chosen for the exhibition because they are Latino, they were selected because they are excellent, Anderson said.

Hernández and Gómez are both Mexican but in years past, exhibitions during Hispanic Heritage Month at CSU have portrayed artwork from painters descending from Guatemala, Panama and a range of the Latino Diaspora—a movement of any population sharing common ethnic identity who are residents in areas far from their original origins.

“These two artists can address issues that



Courtesy JUDITHE HERNÁNDEZ

Judithe Hernández’ La Bruja y Su Gato (The witch and her cat) is on exhibit at Chicago State University.

are pertinent to Latino issues— political, social and cultural,” Anderson said.

“If you see a painting or drawing about women being abused, like in Hernández’s piece on the women of Juarez, you can also think of other cultures where women have been abused and see it as a statement about abuse in general,” said Anderson.

Columbia also has an art exhibition, “Quinceañera,” a coming-of-age Latino ceremony held on a girl’s 15th birthday. The

show opened on the first day of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Teresa Puente, assistant professor in the Journalism Department and instructor of the Latina Voices course at Columbia, said Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to have cultural events, parties and celebrations.

“The Latino community is of such a size that I don’t think we should celebrate it one month of the year,” said Puente. “It’s

important for our culture to be recognized, but most people don’t celebrate it just in this month, people live it year-round.”

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Columbia will have an assortment of events throughout the month that include: World Music Festival, Cinema Slapdown and a Latino AIDS Awareness Day. Also, events will be celebrated throughout the city.

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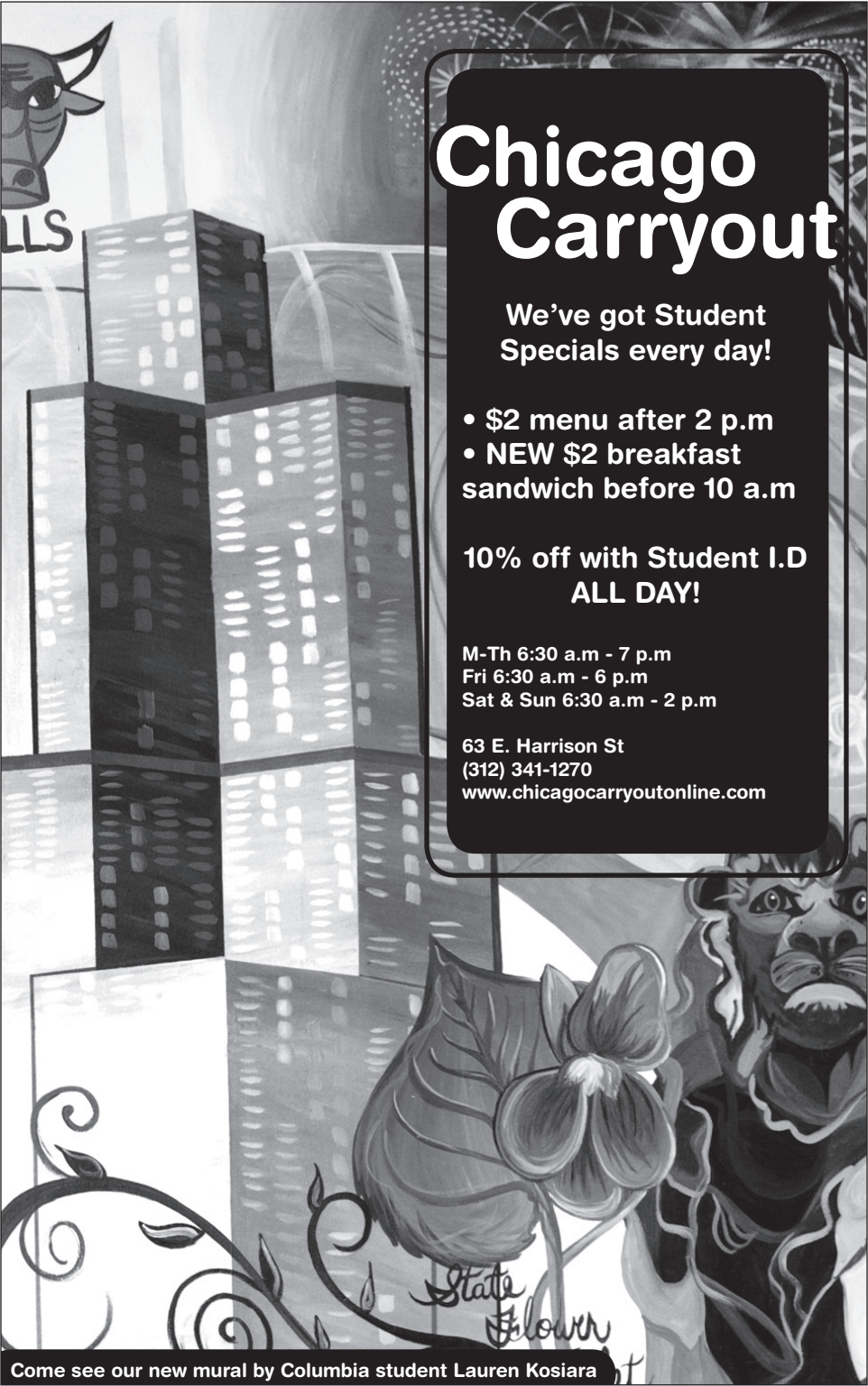
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Nigerian scams evolve but motive is still money

Variation of the classic advance fee scam, leaves woman \$10,000 in debt

by Kayce T. Ataiyero
MCT

WHEN BETSY Shyrock met “Mark Donovan” online, it was love at first type. She was a single mom who hadn’t been in the dating game for 17 years. He was an international soccer scout from Ireland who lived in Virginia.

For two months, Shyrock chatted with Donovan from her Georgia home, trading love notes and discussing his plans to come see her. Trouble came instead.

“He said he had spent all his money on the players and that he needed money for plane tickets to get back,” Shyrock said. Donovan had been traveling in Nigeria.

“I sent \$500 here, \$200 there,” Shyrock said. “He sent me a copy of a \$400,000 check that he was going to bring home to me and reimburse me with. He was going to marry me and take care of me.”

Shyrock, 52, was in the hole \$10,000 before she realized that she had fallen victim to a variation of the classic Nigerian advance fee scam.

Gone are the days when Nigerians duped victims solely with the tale of an orphaned prince’s quest to reclaim his inheritance. The scheme has morphed into a family of scams that now include romance cons like the one Shyrock fell for, along with rental scams and even puppy sale scams.

In the rental scam, they swipe pictures



Photo Erik S. Lesser MCT

Nigerian scam victim Betsy Shyrock was taken for \$10,000 by a man she met on an online dating web site, where he romanced her and then dumped her when her money ran out.

from online home sale ads and create fake ads offering the property for rent. When a potential renter makes contact with the scammer, he or she is told that the landlord had to leave abruptly to do missionary work in Africa and that the renter should fill out an application and wire the landlord first and last months’ rent.

The would-be renter is then told that keys will be sent if he or she qualifies as a renter, but of course, the keys never come.

Though Nigerian scams are prolific in the U.S., their reach is global. The “puppy scam,” —in which pet lovers are duped into paying for animals that don’t exist by being told that they would be killed if they are not

purchased—popped up recently.

The Nigerian advance fee scam—also known as 419 fraud after the fraud section of the Nigerian Criminal Code—began as a snail-mail scam in the early 1980s, law enforcement officials said. With the advent of the Internet, the scheme exploded in the 1990s, with e-mail blitzes reaching the far corners of the globe.

As more people get hip to their techniques, the scammers adapt, law enforcement officials said, to target untapped audiences and potential profit. Tom Brady, inspector in charge of the Chicago Division of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, said the scams are the same. They’re just “pack-

aged differently.”

“Nigerian scammers are very skilled at changing their methods in order to avoid detection,” Brady said in an email. “They are ‘chameleon-like’ in their approach. They want the American public to gain a false sense of comfort.”

Nigeria long has been the epicenter of these advance fee scams, and many have been traced to IP addresses originating in the country, law enforcement officials said. Whether they’re sent by organized networks or freelance crooks operating out of Internet cafes, they cast wide nets and rake in millions.

But Nigerians have not cornered this lucrative market. Advance fee crimes are perpetrated by scammers around the world, including in Canada and the Netherlands.

Worldwide losses attributed to advance fees scams of all types from all countries topped \$4.3 billion in 2007—the last good estimate available from the U.S. Many cases go unreported and it’s tough to know how much of that total can be attributed to Nigerian scammers because, though the scam may originate in Nigeria, it may include accomplices from other countries, law enforcement officials said.

But what’s perhaps more remarkable than the take from 419 scams is that people still fall for them. Even the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, D.C. has issued warnings about such schemes. “You have been warned several times before! You have been warned again!” read an all-caps disclaimer

» SEE SCAM, PG. 40

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» TEA PARTY

Continued from PG. 36

“I think that they are socialists and a lot of things they are doing are unconstitutional and illegal,” Marie said. “[Obama’s] hiring czars and giving them positions of power on the tax dime with no oversight by Congress. That’s unconstitutional.”

Don Rose, a longtime Democratic political consultant, said he thinks the opposition to health reform represented by groups like the Tea Party Patriots has inspired Republicans in Congress to stick together in refusing to back the health care legislation being drafted in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. He said that Obama’s attempt to get both parties behind such reform legislation, while laudable, appears doomed to failure.

“Bi-partisanship is dead, gone and never going to happen,” Rose said.

Rose pronounced himself an advocate of a single-payer health care system, such as those in much of Western Europe, where the government runs health care.

“Single payer is the only way to totally reform the health system and give health care the same as it is given all over the civilized world,” Rose said.

Rose admitted, however, that such a huge shift in policy is unlikely in the U.S. He said he suspects that what will emerge from Congress will be something far short, “but the closest we can get.” He predicted that bill, when finally enacted will contain a public option—the creation of a government-run health insurance program similar to Medicare to compete with major insurance companies—but it will be in the



Keith Gatchel (left) is mocking Tea Party activist by feigning injury and stealing the spotlight from them. Cindy Monteton and Lakambini Espiritu (right) are activists expressing their feelings to oncoming traffic via hand-made picket signs.

Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

form of a “trigger,” some years down the road.

That many of the Millennium Park protestors would find that deplorable was expressed by Earl O’Connell, a U.S. Air Force veteran, who noted, “I have a grandson and a daughter and I don’t want them growing up in a totalitarian state and I think that’s where we’re going.”

“These are the people that hate the country,” O’Connell said, in apparent reference to the Obama administration and the mem-

bers of Congress. “They were protesting the Vietnam War and now they are in power. They hate it because they believe in a one-world government where they’re the elite and the rest of us are just serfs,” O’Connell said.

For more information on the Health Reform Bill H.R. 3200, visit <http://tinyurl.com/mns8rt>. For more information about Tea Party Patriots, visit www.teapartypatriots.org/

mlekovic@chroniclemail.com

» SCAMS

Continued from PG. 39

claimer on the embassy’s Web site. Officials from the Nigerian Embassy did not return calls seeking comment.

Why do people continue to take the bait? The explanation is more complex than simple greed and stupidity, said Andrew Smith, a professor at the University of Glasgow in the U.K.

Smith wrote an article this year for the academic journal Cultural Studies titled “Nigerian Scam E-Mails and The Charms of Capital.”

In it, he argues that scammers skillfully exploit Western notions of Africa as being chaotic and Africans as being unsophisticated and “needing white guidance or support” in capitalizing on their resources.

“They make offers, which however extraordinary, also fit in with what we have long been told is the natural, expected relationship (between whites and Africans),” Smith wrote in an e-mail. “This is also why, of course, on the streets of Nigeria, there is some celebration of the ‘scammer’ as someone who is taking a kind of historical revenge against the greed and arrogance of white people in their dealings with Africa.”

Shyrock had heard of e-mail cons, but didn’t know such scams had found their way to online dating sites. She acknowledged that she should have listened to her son when he questioned her relationship with Donovan.

“This guy ruined me. I loved the guy. I really thought he was it,” Shyrock said.

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Elevated pathway intended to keep cyclists safe

Plans for new pathway ensure safety of cyclists, pedestrians, not to mention budget problems

by Paul Merrion
Crains Chicago Business

THE DALEY administration is reviving plans to build an elevated pathway to keep bicyclists and pedestrians off the streets near Navy Pier, roughly doubling the original cost to \$40 million by extending and revamping the route across the Chicago River to fix the biggest choke point in the 18-mile lakefront trail. The only question is how to pay for the expansion of the 10-year-old plan. Funding will probably come from a big chunk of federal money and a mix of state, local and private dollars.

Construction is planned to start next year. To pay for it, the city is now seeking an additional \$13.7 million in federal highway money set aside for projects that reduce pollution by taking cars off the road, on top of \$8.6 million received years ago for design and engineering work. The federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program could eventually pay up to 80 percent of the cost.

The lakefront bike path is already heavily used by downtown commuters. The Navy Pier flyover project is expected to encourage even more travel by bicycle instead of car. A decade ago, before nearby Millennium Park and bike rental stations were built, the Navy Pier area saw 442 cyclists, 21 skaters and 98 runners or pedestrians during a

typical morning rush hour, according to a city survey.

“It has always been identified as one of, if not the worst, pinch points along the lakefront path system,” said Erma Tranter, president of lakefront advocacy group Friends of the Park. “Some of these high-cost items tend to be a critical piece of the city’s infrastructure, like Millennium Park. People complained about the cost, but when it’s done, there’s no question about the value.”

A site selection committee for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, which determines how congestion mitigation funds are distributed across the region, unanimously approved the Navy Pier flyover project last week, despite a last-minute protest by a suburban mayors group that Chicago’s plan was sucking up a third of the available money for bike projects.

“Ultimately, it is a good project,” said Mark Fowler, executive director of the Northwest Municipal Conference. Fowler added that his group plans no further protests. “We just wanted to state our concern that maybe, because of the size of the project, we should all work together to find another funding source,” he said.

While the plan cleared its first hurdle, it still faces further review by CMAP, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration before funds are disbursed. In the past, congestion mitigation funds have been used for projects such as the \$10 million underpass at Solidarity Drive and have paid for much of the city’s bike promotional efforts.

Eventually, the Navy Pier flyover would clear a safe and convenient route for bikes and pedestrians between Ohio Street Beach and the north end of Grant Park, fixing the biggest single roadblock facing Mayor Daley’s goal of making Chicago “the most bike-friendly city in the United States.”

“It has been our highest priority,” says Rob Sadowsky, executive director of the Active Transportation Alliance, a Chicago-based biking advocacy group. “The mayor himself was really interested in not just a fix for the lakefront path, but [also] a design fix for the lakefront itself.”

The problem that shelved the original plan in 2002 was that the elevated pathway at Navy Pier and across the Ogden Slip would have dumped bikers and pedestrians at a choke point farther south when they got to the Chicago River, where the sidewalk across the bridge is only 6 to 8 feet wide.

In addition to an elevated pathway over Grand Avenue and Illinois Street, the city now plans to widen the sidewalk across the Chicago River bridge to the south, cutting a hole in the Lake Shore Drive bridge towers to accommodate another lane of foot and pedal traffic.

Left unclear is a source of funds, as well as a design for the middle portion of the project between Navy Pier and the river. The pathway’s central segment cuts across the site of the Chicago Spire, whose developers suspended construction when real estate financing dried up last year.

Originally, the city, state and the Spire’s



Courtesy CRAINS CHICAGO BUSINESS
Proposed bike path that is to keep cyclists and pedestrians safe.

developers planned to pay for building that part of the pathway and renovating the park, but that’s now on hold too.

“If the Chicago Department of Transportation is looking at a bike path, funding would include a bike path,” said a spokeswoman for the Spire’s Sherbourne Development Group, referring to the firm’s \$9.3 million commitment to refurbish the park.

chronicle@colum.edu

IN OTHER NEWS

Cheaper rides for taxi users

According to CBS2Chicago.com, the 50 cent surcharge on all taxi meters has been dropped, making a cab ride a little cheaper for Chicagoans. The surcharge is disregarded if there have been seven consecutive business days that gas is below \$2.70. The charge was dropped at midnight on Sept. 17. Cab drivers asked for the surcharge to be reinstated in mid-August when gas prices started rising. All other taxi surcharges will remain the same.

Investigating lies about jobs

ACORN is planning to do an internal investigation of their organization after a controversial videotape was released, according to CBS2Chicago.com. The tape shows an employee counseling two people posing as a pimp and a prostitute how to lie about the woman’s profession in order to get housing help. The investigation will be centered around all of the processes that were called into question on the video.

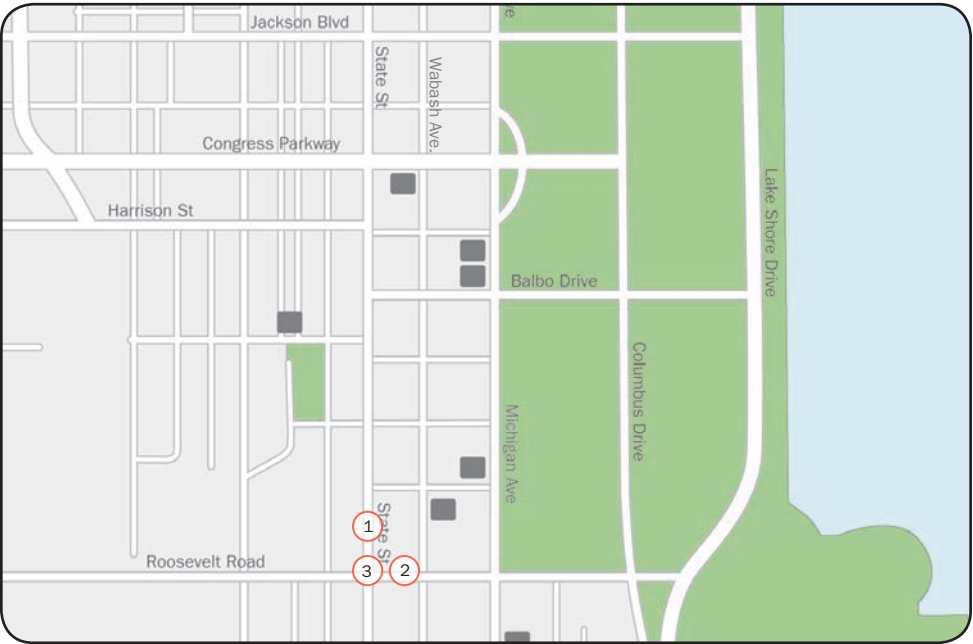
New flights for American Airlines

ChicagoTribune.com reported on Sept. 17 that American Airlines is expanding four different cities’ hubs, including Chicago’s hub at O’Hare International Airport. The airline is financing the expansion with \$2.9 billion. In Chicago, this expansion will add 57 new flights at O’Hare. The new flights will increase American’s flight schedule to a total of 487 daily departures, which will be the largest increase of any of the airline’s other airports.

Chicagoans need to pay the city

According to ChicagoSunTimes.com, a total of \$61.3 million is owed to the city through various fines that Chicagoans owe for violating city laws, like loitering and public urination. People are continuing to ignore the administrative hearing judgments they are given. Some people give incorrect names or addresses, and others don’t show to their hearings at all, hoping the city won’t come after them.

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

Flight of stairs

According to police reports, an 18-year-old woman told responding officers that after an argument with one of the alleged suspects, also an 18-year-old woman, the suspect pushed her, causing her to fall down a flight of stairs. The suspect and an alleged accomplice fled to an unknown location. The woman who pushed the victim was arrested a day later, but the alleged accomplice has not been found.

Smoking prohibited

According to police reports, a 53-year-old male was arrested on the CTA Green Line State/Lake station, 1159 S. State St., because he was smoking a cigarette on the platform. After the man was placed into custody, police officers found a prescription pill bottle that contained baggies with a white powder, suspected to be heroin.

Fraudulent charges

An Edens Bank debit card account number was stolen from a 44-year-old male and a charge of approximately \$436 was made, according to police reports. The alleged victim said he did not authorize the transaction. The man said he has been in possession of the card. The charge came from Alabama, but the alleged victim said he has only been in Chicagoland recently.

Lifting and running

A 47-year-old male was arrested at the CTA Red Line Roosevelt station, 22 E. Roosevelt Road after stealing a pair of shoelaces and a Bears cap from the Walgreens store, 2 E. Roosevelt Rd. Responding officers were pointed in the suspect’s direction. Once the suspect saw police officers, he ran down the stairs and police received the stolen items.

games

G

SUDOKU

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

CROSSWORD

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11					12				13			
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17			18					19				
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29				30	31				32			
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46					47					48		
49					50					51		
52					53					54		

9/20/09

- ACROSS
- 1 Crime drama series

4 Anchor Charles Gibson's network

7 "The Parent ___"; Lindsay Lohan/Dennis Quaid movie

11 "___ Vegas"

12 Actress Arthur

13 Largest town on Hawaii island

14 Jackie O's second hubby

15 Lion's cry

16 Ajar

17 Anthony LaPaglia's series

20 Picnic pest

21 "Two and a Half ___"

22 In the distance

25 Actress Thompson

26 Crow's call

29 Series for Shemar Moore

33 "___ Death"; Brad Garrett series

34 "I'm a Big Girl ___"

35 ___ White; Disney character

36 Long, long ___

37 Cuba or Catalina: abbr.

39 "The ___"; Johnny Galecki series

46 Woody Guthrie's son

47 Like morning grass

48 Actress West

49 First hit comedy in TV history to be based on religion

50 Coach Parseghian

51 "___ Tin Tin"

52 Safe and ___

53 "___, Dear"

54 Driver's lic. and Soc. Sec. card

- DOWN
- 1 Talon

2 Indian woman's wraparound

3 "Whose Line ___ Anyway?"

4 "Mad ___ You"

5 "___ the Clock"

6 Candy bar filling, perhaps

7 Rosebush prickle

8 Regis Philbin's co-host

9 ___ Guinness

10 Type of corn bread

15 Reagan or Howard

18 Lead role on "JAG"

19 "The A-___"; series for Mr. T

22 "Sister ___"; film for Whoopi

23 "Ghost Whisperer" night: abbr.

24 Feel achy and feverish

25 "___ & Order"

26 Wolf Blitzer's network

27 Hullabaloo

28 ENE plus 180°

30 Actress Swenson of "Benson"

31 "Mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the ___ sun"

32 ___ of Wight

36 Have ___ to pick; feel like arguing

37 "___ a Very Good Year"

38 Reserved

39 Sheep cries

40 "___ la Douce"

41 Singer Campbell

42 Actor Richard

43 Actor Katz

44 Surprise attack

45 Cravings

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

D	O	I	T		P	A	T
O	P	R	Y		A	T	A
Y	O	R	K	S	A	C	T
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A	S	H		J	O	E	S
			W	E	A	R	
			I	O	N	E	
D	O	N	N	A		O	N
O	A	F	S		T	O	R
E	R			V	E	R	Y
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D	Y	L	A	N		A	G
		S	L	Y		D	E

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HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21-April 20) Work mates and officials may this week offer previously denied permissions. New employment applications or contracts will provide results: search out as many new outlets and income sources as possible. After Wednesday watch also for a series of personal questions from a friend or lover. Areas most strongly affected are past family history, forgotten promises and loyalty to trusted friends. Yesterday's social or romantic alliances may need discussion: stay balanced.



TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Early this week a friend or lover may relive intense romantic memories. Do your best to encourage personal reflection and inward thought: at present, loved ones may need to clarify yesterday's social patterns and lifestyle choices. After Tuesday watch also for a minor financial disagreement. Check facts thoroughly: leases or long-term contracts may be complicated by mistaken numbers or lost documents. All is well. Find common ground and expect new agreements to be permanent.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Carefully study social promises this week. Although love and friendship are positive, confusion concerning times, dates or planned events may be draining. Remain patient and expect minor jealousies between loved ones for the next three days. After Wednesday an unusual business proposal may arrive. Respond quickly to valuable options and new partnerships in research, marketing or sales. Key officials are serious about fast changes: don't hesitate to take action.



CANCER (June 22-July 22) Monday through Wednesday expect friends and lovers to offer gentle expressions of affection and trust. Emotional intimacy will now increase; watch for loved ones to easily communicate their deepest fears, doubts and passions. After midweek a business partner or work colleague may propose a controversial solution to an ongoing problem: go slow and wait for further developments.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) This week workplace relations will have a cheerful, almost humorous tone: expect co-workers or business partners to leave past disappointments and stress behind. Team cooperation will soon be an ongoing theme: watch for meaningful improvements. Tuesday through Thursday accents revised home agreements: expect loved ones to ask for extra privacy. This weekend a friend may express doubt or criticize a romantic partner. Take all as moodiness: social tensions may be high.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Over the next few days friends and lovers may be more expressive than usual: expect fast progress interlaced with slow moments of nostalgia. Loved ones will search out emotional intimacy and work hard to move relationships forward. Don't hold back: planetary alignments suggest that eight months of social and romantic miscommunications can now be steadily resolved. Late this weekend financial restrictions are lifted: plan for short-term growth.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Late Monday business officials may comment on past performance: watch for subtle compliments and rare permissions. Over the next few days, however, remain silently cheerful: at present fellow workers may be highly sensitive to seniority, lost promotions or slow progress. After midweek new social interests are highlighted: expect a close friend or relative to offer unique proposals. Group activities will provide delightful distractions: accept all invitations.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Group messages will be fast and furious this week: by midweek expect a sharp rise in gossip, romantic speculation and social information. For many Scorpios a long period of emotional withdrawal is ending. Join in and enjoy: revitalized relationships will now bring added confidence. After Thursday avoid financial promises or decisions. In the coming weeks business relations may be unstable or easily postponed. Pace yourself and wait for concrete proposals.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 20) Silence or social withdrawal will this week be revealed to have been the right option. Romantic triangles, social disagreements or family conflicts will soon fade: expect positive gains and a new understanding between loved ones. Tuesday through Thursday loved ones may need to discuss revised home routines. Remain open. Late this weekend a brief but intense period of business ideas and workplace expansion arrives. Don't hold back; it's time to explore new career ambitions.



CAPRICORN (Dec.21-Jan. 20) Over the next four days friends and colleagues will acknowledge your unique contributions. Team work, fast office changes and unpopular duties may be key issues: let others know their support has been highly valued. After Thursday a lover or close friend may reveal a long history of admiration and private affection: nostalgic, social respect and romantic sharing are all featured. Later this week older relatives may ask for detailed home or financial advice. Don't disappoint.



AQUARIUS (Jan.21-Feb. 19) Before midweek a colleague may openly discuss workplace history or refer to a previous costly mistake. Stand your ground: even though co-workers are generally disposed in your favor, mild confrontations may be draining. Don't give it more energy than it deserves: rivals may now be searching for weakness. After Tuesday minor flirtations can easily turn passionate. If so, wait for concrete promises. Late this weekend enjoy cozy moments with friends and family: all is well.



PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Social complications and quick romantic changes may be the topic of conversation over the next few days: expect friends and co-workers to be distracted by gossip or emotional speculation. All of this is harmless, so not to worry. Do, however, avoid neglecting work routines or important projects: before Friday deadlines and the needs of authority figures will be draining. Romantic attractions may soon be revealed.

monday, 9//21



Shanghai Reflections
Exhibition running through Oct. 23, Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. // Hokin Gallery, Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Inspired, in part, by past trips to Shanghai by Columbia students, “Shanghai Reflections” is an exhibition of work and the city of Shanghai as its source of inspiration. The images in this show present Shanghai as a city in flux, oscillating between old traditions and the privileges and excesses brought on by unprecedented growth and change. “Shanghai Reflections” is part of the campus-wide Focus China event.

(312) 369-8177
FREE

Focus China: “Hugo Tillman: Film Stills of the Mind”
Exhibition running until Oct. 30
Columbia College Library, Floors 1-3
South Campus Building
624 S. Michigan Ave.
FREE

FOCO: Caminos - Mimi Valdés Ryan
3 p.m. - 4 p.m.
C210 Newsroom
33 E. Congress Parkway Building
(312) 369-7569
FREE

Dis/Believer: Reconciling Science and Religion in Contemporary Art
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Glass Curtain Gallery
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE

tuesday, 9//22



FOCO: World Music Festival Performance - Marta Gómez
7 p.m. – 8 p.m. // 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

Marta Gómez performs original compositions based on rhythms from Latin America. She mixes the joy of the Caribbean with the nostalgia of the Andes and adds jazz and pop elements, while taking the authenticity of South American indigenous folk music into a new realm.

FREE

Peer Support Program Tips on Tuesdays: Are You Broke and Need a Job? Make Columbia Works, Work for You!
12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-5769
FREE

Dis/Believer: Reconciling Science and Religion in Contemporary Art
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Glass Curtain Gallery
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
FREE

Student Concert Series
7 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.
Music Center Concert Hall
1014 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-6300
FREE

wednesday, 9//23

Opera in Cinema Screening of La Bohème
7 p.m.
Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
(312) 369-6709
\$12

Science and Math Colloquium Series, On the Currents: Revelations in Contemporary Holography
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Ferguson Auditorium, Alexandroff Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-8075
FREE

Fruits of the Loop: The LGBTQ Welcome Reception
5 p.m. - 6 p.m.
618 S. Michigan Ave., 2nd floor
(312) 369-8954
FREE



Annual Multicultural Family Reunion
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. // Hokin Annex, Wabash Campus Building, 623 S. Wabash Ave.

Experience a mini-Taste of Chicago with a multicultural twist! The African-American, Latino, Asian, International and LGBTQA offices from Multicultural Affairs invite you to taste cuisine from different cultures and countries. Enjoy great food, student performances, music and fellowship. Early arrival recommended.

(312) 369-7569
FREE

thursday, 9//24

Jam of the Year
Doors at 6:30 p.m., Show at 7 p.m.
Conaway Center, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-7838
FREE with valid school ID

Cinema Slapdown, Round 18: Alfonso Cuarón's Y Tu Mamá También
7 p.m.
Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th Floor
FREE

Opening Reception, “Reversed Images: Representations of Shanghai and its Contemporary Material Culture”
5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Museum of Contemporary Photography
Alexandroff Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 663-5554
FREE

Black Student Union Panel Discussion: The Colloquium Series
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave., 4th floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE

friday, 9//25

Profile Diversity: International Student Affairs Welcome Reception
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Hokin Annex, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-7458
FREE

Jazz Forum
2 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Music Center Concert Hall
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6300
FREE

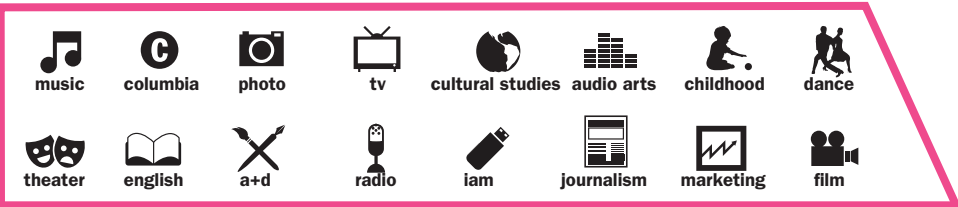
Jazz Gallery in the Lobby
12 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.
Music Center Concert Hall
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6300
FREE

SYMPOSIUM Gender, Identity and the Crossing of Cultures in Contemporary Chinese Art and Media
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Film Row Cinema, 1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
FREE

saturday, 9//26

Focus China: Solidification of the Chinese Nation: Tribal Costumes of 56 Fraternal Nationalities in China
All day
Columbia College Library, 3rd floor hallway
South Campus Building
624 S. Michigan Ave.
FREE

FOCO: United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Midwest Conference
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Hyatt Regency McCormick Place
2233 S. Martin Luther King Drive
(312) 427-8683
\$35 (lunch included)




monday, 9//21




Queer Cinema 102 - Offbeat Camp
7 p.m. // Hoover - Leppen Theatre, 656 N. Halsted St.

Openly gay film critics from local publications such as Chicago Free Press, Gay Chicago, Windy City Times and TimeOut Chicago introduce screenings of camp classics followed by an audience Q&A. Sept. 21 is a showing of *Barbarella* hosted by Chicago Free Press critic Gregg Shapiro.

(773) 661-0763
\$5


 **Social Justice Dinner Dialogue Series with Javier Cervantes**
“The U.S. is Browning: Contemporary Issues of Latino Immigration”
5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Crown Center Lobby, Loyola University
1001 W. Loyola Ave.
(773) 508-3909
FREE


 **Mental Graffiti**
Every 3rd Monday of the month, 8 p.m.
Butterfly Social Club
722 W. Grand Ave.
(312) 666-1695
\$5

 **Burnham Memorial Design Competition Exhibition**
Through Nov. 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
The Field Museum
1400 S. Lakeshore Drive
(312) 922-9410
FREE with general admission

tuesday, 9//22

Poker School 101
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Citizen Bar
364 W. Erie St.
(312) 640-1156
FREE with recommended RSVP to ieva@citizenbar.com


 **“Miami Social” Viewing Party**
9 p.m.
Chaise Lounge
1840 W. North Ave.
(773) 342-1840
FREE

 **Wine Tasting**
Every 4th Tuesday of the month
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Swirl Wine Bar
111 W. Hubbard St.
(312) 828-9000
\$25 - 35


 **Lincoln Square Farmers Market**
Every Tuesday through Oct. 27
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Parking lot on Leland Avenue between Lincoln and Western avenues
(312) 744-3315
FREE


wednesday, 9//23

UniverSoul Circus
11 a.m., 7:30 p.m.
Washington Park
51st Street and Payne Drive
(800) 316-7439
\$11 - \$27.50

 **Ani DiFranco**
7:30 p.m.
Vic Theatre
3145 N. Sheffield Ave.
(773) 472-0449
\$40

Dirty Bingo
Every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month
8 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Cans Bar and Canteen
1640 N. Damen Ave.
(773) 227-2277
\$10 for 10 bingo boards and one drink

 **“Animal Crackers”**
7:30 p.m.
The Goodman Theatre
170 N. Dearborn St.
(312) 443-3800
\$16 - \$47

 **David Alan Grier**
8:30 p.m.
Zanies Comedy Club
1548 N. Wells St.
(312) 337-4027
\$25 plus a two-item food or beverage purchase

thursday, 9//24



Photobooth Make-out Party
6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. // Bar Deville, 701 N. Damen Ave.

312Photobooth.com and ItWasLoveWhen.com are co-hosting a photobooth “make-out party” in the back room of Bar Deville. Bring your significant other and make out in the retro-style digital photobooth. Everyone gets a free copy of their digital photos. 21+.


(312) 929-2349
FREE




Latin Poetry Jam with Oveous Maximus
7 p.m. - 9 p.m. // Zips Lounge, Lower Level CFSU, Loyola University, 6525 N. Sheridan Rd.


Oveous Maximus, an award-winning spoken word poet, will host a poetry jam at Loyola University. He will be joined by some of Chicago’s premier poets. The performance stage will also be open to students, faculty and staff.


(773) 508-3929
FREE


 **Cocktail Party with Robert Rodriguez**
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Neiman Marcus
737 N. Michigan Ave.
(312) 642-5900
\$25 - \$30

 **“High Fidelity” The Musical**
8 p.m.
Piper’s Alley Theater
1608 N. Wells St.
(312) 664-8844
\$24.50 - \$29.50

friday, 9//25

 **Oktoberfest Chicago**
5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Lincoln and Southport avenues
(773) 665-4682
\$5 suggested donation


 **Poseidon! An Upside Down Musical**
8 p.m.
Chopin Theatre
1543 W. Division St.
(800) 838-3006
\$15 - \$29


 **Mikhail Baryshnikov: Thee Solos and a Duet**
7:30 p.m.
Harris Theater for Music and Dance
205 E. Randolph Drive
(312) 334-7777
\$65 - \$75

saturday, 9//26
sunday, 9//27



 **Built to Spill**
Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Vic Theatre
3145 N. Sheffield
(773) 479-0449
\$24

 **Lakeview East Festival of Arts**
Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
3200 N. Broadway St., between Belmont Avenue and Roscoe Street
(773) 348-8608
FREE

 **Rollin’ Outta Here Naked: A Big Lebowski Burlesque**
Saturday, 10 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.
Gorilla Tango Theatre
1919 N. Milwaukee Ave.
(773) 598-4549
\$15

The Best Church of God
Every Sunday through Nov. 8, 1 p.m.
Lakeshore Theatre
3175 N. Broadway St.
(773) 472-3492
\$10 suggested donation