

9-28-2009

Columbia Chronicle (09/28/2009)

Columbia College Chicago

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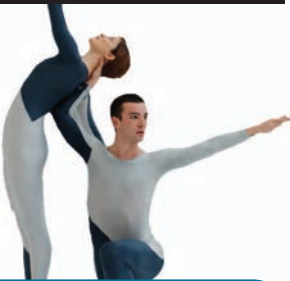
Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "Columbia Chronicle (9/28/2009)" (September 28, 2009). *Columbia Chronicle*, College Publications, College Archives & Special Collections, Columbia College Chicago. http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/cadc_chronicle/764

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» SEE PG. 10



The great Olympic debate



AP

In this artist's rendering provided by Chicago 2016 on Friday, Feb. 13, 2009, the proposed Olympic Island along the Lake Michigan waterfront is shown. The International Olympic Committee will choose the 2016 host city on Oct. 2. Chicago is competing against Tokyo, Madrid, and Rio de Janeiro (AP Photo/Chicago 2016).

Insufficient transportation, financial guarantee among many shortfalls of Olympic bid

by Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

PUSHING AND shoving our way through the el train doors to stand in small, open crevices, only to be smashed by two strangers, is something Chicagoans are used to, however, we may need to squeeze in a little more to fit the rest of the world.

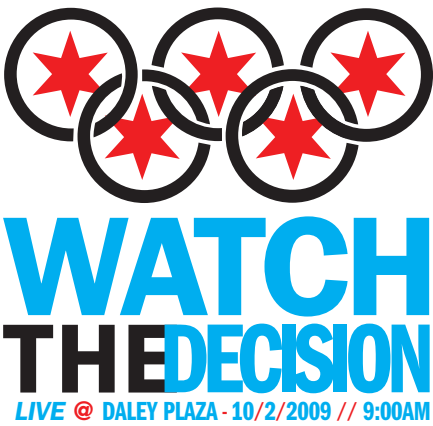
Depending on the outcome of the Oct. 2 decision day, Chicago may become a popular international city, bringing in millions of people if the Olympic Games come to town. Many Chicagoans are making lists of pros and cons to determine which side of the Olympic debate they fall on. Some organizations are speaking out against hosting the games, saying the negative outcomes for the Games should scare any taxpayer away.

Tom Tresser, communications direc-

tor for No Games Chicago, a non-profit organization opposing the Olympics said, "We think the Games will go over budget and it would potentially lead to the city's bankruptcy. The entire financial system in America and the planet is fragile and Chicago and Illinois are broke right now, running billions of dollars of deficit. So, this is not a risk we can afford to take."

On Sept. 29, organizations from around Chicago, including No Games Chicago, are coming together to protest the Olympic bid in one last effort to let political officials know where they publicly stand.

Holly Krig, lead organizer for the Northside Action for Justice, a non-profit organization that protests the Olympics, said, "We really want to let as many people who are going to make this decision, in particular politicians, [know] that the people of Chicago do not want the Olympics, that Mayor [Richard] Daley does not represent the people of Chicago, particularly low income people and struggling families. We have much better uses for public money,



and it seems very clear that public money will be used for this project."

Tresser said there are four major reasons why Chicago shouldn't host the games, including financial ruin, disruption in transportation, displacement of people and the construction in local parks that could endanger the environment.

» SEE OLYMPICS, PG.45

Used books and online resources ease financial burden

by Benita Zepeda
Assistant Campus Editor

AT THE start of each semester, students are bombarded with the challenges of getting back into the swing of college life. One of these challenges is the financial burden of buying textbooks for classes.

The high cost of textbooks is something that students are all too familiar with. However, this semester Columbia's bookstore has seen a 5.6 percent increase in the number of used books available to students. Online resources could be a cost-saving alternative for students buying texts.

Ann Marie Pausa, retail manager of the Columbia bookstore, said that there have been shifts in textbook costs.

"It varies per title," Pausa said. "If the title goes into a new edition, it will affect the cost and what we can offer for the used text options."

Currently, 4.5 percent of the books available in the bookstore are used texts, Pausa said.

Many students have decided to use online Web sites such as Amazon.com or the book rental site Chegg.com to purchase their texts. Pausa said the bookstore is aware of this fact and the increase in used textbooks is an attempt to draw students back into the campus store.

"We really push the used-book savings that can happen for our students," Pausa said. "We're here on campus. You know you're getting the right book at the right time and the right place versus having to pay for the shipping and not being sure if you are even going to get the book."

She also said the bookstore will see a



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Markus Williams, a textbook associate at Columbia's Bookstore and senior AEMM major, organizes some used textbooks at the bookstore on Sept. 24. Williams said that while certain students will always go for the new textbooks, most always look for the used versions. He also commented that it seems as if there has been a spike in textbook sales compared to last year.

» SEE TEXTBOOKS, PG. 14



Art under pressure

» SEE PG. 32



MMA explosion

» SEE PG. 18



Illinois inmates released

» SEE PG. 38

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Science is serious, knowledge is power



by Bethany Reinhart
Editor-in-Chief

RECENTLY, I was gushing about one of Columbia’s fascinating science classes and much to my chagrin, a Columbia alumna glanced up with a look of shock painted across her face and exclaimed, “Science? At Columbia? That’s a joke, right?”

Among our student body there is a common misconception that because Columbia is an arts and communication school, its science and mathematics classes cannot be taken seriously. The alumna’s reaction didn’t come as a surprise, but rather perpetuated the misconception and proved that our alumni too don’t have confidence, or pride, in our science program. But they should.

As the college has grown, it has done an excellent job of offering classes that are intended to engage students in scientific topics that offer useful, real-world information and coincide with their majors. Quantitative Literacy is a class that can help journalism majors interpret tricky statistics and clarify these numbers for readers. Chemistry of Photography can teach a photo major how to create a dark-room in their home. Physics for Filmmakers teaches audio arts and acoustics majors the fundamentals of sound waves, vibration and electricity.

Not only does Columbia have great science classes that are overlooked, it also has great professors who often go unrecognized. To be a successful professor of science or mathematics at Columbia, teachers must have a passion for their subject matter that far exceeds an ordinary science professor. They must be skilled in presenting their material in a way that

captures the attention of right-brained students who otherwise would not be interested.

A perfect example is Pan Papacosta’s class, Einstein: His Science and His Humanity. The class fuses scientific theory, physics and Einstein’s human side, making it a class that fulfills a science requirement while teaching students much more than the fundamentals of $E=mc^2$.

While teaching students about physics, Papacosta incorporates details of Einstein’s beliefs, morality, failures and idiosyncrasies. He dispels the myth that Einstein had an affair with Marilyn Monroe, but confirms that Einstein refused to wear socks. Papacosta teaches students that Einstein was a terrible husband and father, and even fathered an illegitimate daughter whose history is still unknown.

As Papacosta explains how Einstein’s theories led to the creation of atomic weapons, he teaches that Einstein was a devout pacifist who was deeply troubled by his role in the Manhattan Project — that contradiction would ultimately haunt him for the rest of his life.

Papacosta’s class is not an anomaly. It is one of many brilliant science classes offered at Columbia.

The college’s Science and Mathematics Department doesn’t have the best reputation around campus, but before students—or alumni—criticize, they should take a look at the professors who comprise the department. Many of them have taught at the college for more than 20 years and are highly renowned in their fields. So before writing off our science department as a joke, take a closer look and you will find a program that far exceeds your expectations.

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NEWS FLASH

9/28/09

FOCO: “Viva La Masa” II - Tamale Sale Fundraiser

Fundraiser selling tamales, a traditional Latino food ubiquitous in Latin American countries, for the purpose of helping students raise money for a service trip during J-Term. Vegetarian options are available. The event takes place Sept. 28 on the 1st floor of the 1104 Center from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.

10/1/09

Creative Advertising Portfolio: Recruiter’s Perspective

A one-hour session where professionals will discuss what they are looking for when presented with a portfolio. Perfect for aspiring art directors, copywriters or interactive art directors in advertising. It will be held in room 307 of the Wabash Campus Building on Oct. 1 at 5:30 p.m.

Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.

10/1/09

Big Fish: Chris Kaskie

Discussion with Chris Kaskie, publisher and chief operating officer of Pitchfork.com, Pitchfork Music Festival, Pitchfork TV and *Pitchfork 500*. This event is free and open to the public. Discussion will take place in Suite 307 of the Wabash Campus Building on Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.

through 10/23/09

Shanghai Reflections

An exhibit inspired by past trips to Shanghai by students. Located in the Hokin Gallery, it is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Oct. 23.

Hokin Gallery, 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 Hispanic Heritage month. The exhibition is located in the C33 Gallery and is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Oct. 28.

C33 Gallery
33 E. Congress Parkway Building

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. The gallery is open Monday - Wednesday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Thursday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. through Oct. 30.

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.

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C

campus

Negotiations pending for college, union

After years of contract debate, staff and administration still unsettled on terms

by Laura Nalin
Assistant Campus Editor

THE UNITED Staff of Columbia College is hoping to settle the ongoing negotiations with the college's administration over contract issues. Since Nov. 1, 2006 the union has been attempting to finalize its first contract dealing with wages, hours and working conditions with the administration.

As previously reported by The Chronicle, the US of CC announced on Sept. 15 that they would be holding a leafleting campaign on Sept. 16 to distribute information to the college regarding the situation. Columbia's president, Warrick L. Carter, responded to the union via e-mail, suggesting the association was misinforming the college in regards to the bargaining process.

Until recently, the union and the college had been meeting regularly to clarify the details of the contract. However, according to the union, members of the administration amended the contract during the negotiation process, resulting in an upset.

The union claims that during the negotiations, the administration cut the hours that the part-time staff were permitted to work, which resulted in the union leaving the negotiation table.

The union also feels that the e-mail was misinforming because it failed to mention the alleged changes implemented by the administration regarding the limitations placed on the part-time faculty's hours, which has become the sticking point for



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Michael Bright, president of The US of CC, sits at his desk with copies of correspondence sent to the college.

CAMPUS POLL

Would you like to see the college integrate interactive learning tools such as online books?



Emily Kuligowski
Photography major

"I think it would be a really good idea but at the same time, I personally like having the books in front of me."



Jordan Richardson
Marketing major

"It'd be easier to carry, I wouldn't have to do the shopping and wait in line, and I could just have the books e-mailed to my account and deal with it there."



Mat Malabanan
Marketing major

"It'd have to be discounted for me to get it. It'd be a lot easier and cheaper on the wallet in the long run."

the contract.

"Why we left the table is the reduction from 30 to 20 hours," said Michael Bright, president of the union. "We had a conversation with the provost about rescinding the order because it went out across the college. He said he was going to do it, however when he came back to the table, he had forgotten to do it which, to me, showed a lack of respect for the association."

Linda Naslund, union member and administrative assistant of the Fiction Writing Department, also said that the mid-negotiation change was peculiar. She said she believes that because they were negotiating the staff hours and working conditions, it should have gone through the negotiating committee before the changes were made.

"Ideally, if you are negotiating something, you should include the whole package rather than doing separate stuff on the side," Naslund said. "I don't know if it was a big misunderstanding, but it was a little bit strange."

Annicc Kelly, vice president and general

counsel of the college, said that although the union keeps making the allegations, they have yet to present any names of part-time employees that may have been affected.

"If the union has any evidence that the administration or college has done this, we more than welcome them to present it to us," Kelly said.

However, the union challenges this, reiterating its charge that an edict went out across the college. This being the case, Bright said, no list should be necessary.

If the administration did, in fact, make amendments to the contract during the negotiations, the union is protected under the National Labor Relations Act, 8(a)n. The act states that it is a violation of bargaining in good faith to make changes without bargain or giving the union notice, said Joseph Barker, regional director of the National Labor Relations Board for Chicago.

Barker said that unless there is a case filed to the board, there is no proof that the negotiations are proceeding in bad faith.

"At this point in time there's no allegation that the negotiations have been in bad faith," Barker said. "If there is, they'd

need to file a charge. We don't have any at this time, so basically as far as we know, they are bargaining in good faith and we don't have anything to the contrary."

Barker also said the fact that negotiations have been ongoing for the past three years makes the case somewhat unique.

"We don't see situations go on like this very often, but like I said, I don't know how the bargaining has been going because no charges have been filed with us," Barker said.

Kelly said that the college is using interest-based bargaining.

"It elongates the process because it involves talking about things thoroughly in trying to reach consensus, so it is what it is," Kelly said.

According to the US of CC, the administration had allegedly pitched an idea of 50 days association leave, which would be 50 days per year that staff members would spend on additional job training.

Bright added that the 50 days would be spread out between the 1,500 members, not just the "leadership" of the union.

"[The e-mail] was framed as if it was just for the officers of the association, [but] it was for the entire 1,500-member bargaining unit," Bright said. "We are trying to get people more on an even playing field, so saying that we are going to take 50 days just for me and the secretary and whomever else is just kind of goofy."

The administration, however, denies having sought after the idea of the 50-day leave contract, citing the unions' allegations as "not credible."

"They said [the leave days] were for union leadership at the negotiations, so that's what we interpreted it, but no, it was not our idea," Kelly said.

Despite what was stated in Carter's e-mail, members of the union said that the 50-day issue is not a sticking point for them.

Along with rescinding the hourly working conditions, the union would also like to establish processes for creating a full-time or part-time staff members handbook to accompany the college's faculty and student handbooks.

"The purpose of the contract is to cover all the terms and conditions of all unit members' employment with Columbia," Kelly said. "All of their terms and conditions will be covered by the collective bargaining unit so I don't know what the purpose of a handbook would be when there is a contract."

Approaching nearly three years of negotiating, the union would like to finalize the process.

"We have a big school year coming up and it's going to be a busy year as usual, so I want to have the contract ratified, and I want to do it soon because it has gone on for way too long," Naslund said.

The administration was unable to provide an end date for the negotiations, stating that it would be "arbitrary" despite the union's requests for a set date.

For more information on the US of CC, visit www.UsOfCc.org.

lnalin@chroniclemail.com

Senate gives faculty academic, curricular voice

Educators work for governing body to streamline college issues, policies

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

MEMBERS OF the faculty are currently working to form the first-ever faculty senate at Columbia to improve the curricula at the college.

According to a statement released last December by the Faculty Senate Inquiry Group, if formed, the faculty senate would primarily supervise all academic policy and curricular matters. The senate would also enforce what they believe are best practices of teaching and learning.

“About a year ago at our annual meeting, people came to me asking to investigate the possibility of establishing a faculty senate at Columbia,” said Tom Nawrocki, president of the Columbia College Faculty Organization. “This is an idea that’s been talked about for probably 10 years, but nobody ever really made a move to shepherd it through or do the work on it.”

In spring 2009, faculty members distributed a document to Columbia’s full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty to vote on whether or not they wanted a faculty senate. Sixty-nine percent of the faculty voted, and 81 percent of that group voted in favor of a faculty senate.

“A faculty senate is pretty common in many institutions,” said Jeff Schiff,

associate English professor and the FSIG liaison to Columbia’s Board of Trustees. “Naturally, it seemed to be the next step for us at Columbia.”

Schiff said FSIG, a volunteer group which includes faculty members from across the college, encourages faculty members to get

involved and make the senate more effective.

The FSIG has met every two weeks since the poll was conducted and has been studying faculty governance at other institutions, looking for ways Columbia could form the best model for the college.

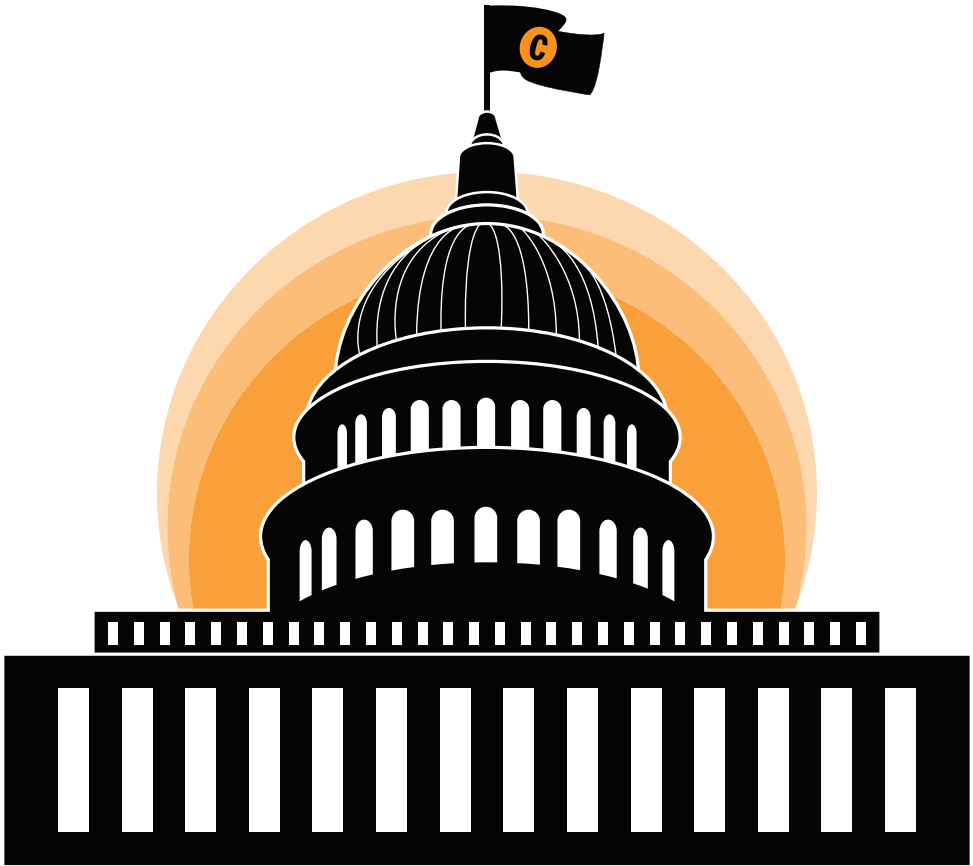
The faculty senate will report to Provost Stephen Kapelke and exchange information with the College Council and the school curriculum committees on a regular basis to promote effective communication and collaboration.

“Many of the things that the faculty senate will be interested in, which are essentially curricular issues, are under the purview of the College Council,” Nawrocki said. “I’m sure that anybody who is for a faculty senate wants to take control of curricular issues that are being handled by College Council. I know there are people who believe College Council is just too large and ineffective and it should be abolished. I don’t think that’s going to happen, but there are some faculty who are strident about that. Faculty senate doesn’t want to tell [College Council] what to do, we’re looking for ideas and cooperation.”

Kevin Fuller, president of the College Council, said the most important thing is that College Council has an effective system of governance.

“One thing we definitely will not do is have parallel bodies doing the same work,” Fuller said. “College Council looks forward to a voice like the faculty senate that will be representative of the faculty interests. The College Council will do what it takes to work effectively with the senate.”

According to Nawrocki, a bylaws committee will comprise two representatives



Zack Anderson THE CHRONICLE

» SEE SENATE, PG. 14

The Music Center of Columbia College Chicago

1014 S. Michigan at 11th St.

Concert Hall Events

Monday September 28

Koko Taylor Tribute Concert

12:00 PM

Tuesday September 29

Jon Faddis in Residence through 10-01-09

Wednesday September 30

Columbia College Jazz Ensemble in Concert with Jon Faddis

12:00 PM

Student Piano Recital at the Sherwood

7:30 PM

Friday February 17

Jazz Gallery in the Lobby

12:00 PM

Jazz Forum

2:00 PM

Dal Niente in Concert

7:30 PM

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KOKO TAYLOR

KoKo Taylor Day • Monday, September 28, 2009 • All-Star Tribute

COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO
Concert Hall @ The Music Center
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
Free • Noon - 1:00 PM
CHICAGO, IL 60605
312-369-6300

Join us as we celebrate the life & legacy of KoKo Taylor, Queen of the Blues. Scheduled to appear: Warrick Carter, President, Columbia College Chicago J. Richard Dunscomb, Music Department Chair Marie Dixon Leanne Faine Rose Reed Jackie Scott Nellie "Tiger" Travis Queen Wicks Ms. Taylor's daughter, Cookie, & the Columbia College Blues Ensemble All Stars and the daughters of Howlin' Wolf Barbara and Betty

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by Friday, October 2nd

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7:00 p.m.

Stage Two

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Columbia
COLLEGE CHICAGO

multi**pass**

Up close, personal with musicians

Neville, Faddis, Blanchard, Dahmen, Gardner, Sondheim Verdehr Trio, Thomas welcomed for Artists In Residence

by Ciara Shook
Assistant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA'S MUSIC Department hosts this fall's Artists in Residence, a program that brings musicians to the college. This year's musicians include Ivan Neville, Jon Faddis, Terence Blanchard, Udo Dahmen and Vincent Gardner.

In the past, Artists in Residence brought the artists to the college for a few days. This year, the Music Department has given most of them a week-long stay at Columbia.

"I think it's going to make such a huge impact on our students," said Scott Hall, senior lecturer of music.

Ivan Neville

Ivan Neville, a multi-instrumentalist specializing in rock and funk, visited Columbia Sept. 21 through Sept. 25 as the first guest in the year-long series, bringing with him experience in working with renowned artists including The Rolling Stones and Bonnie Raitt.

Neville worked primarily with students in the contemporary, urban and popular music program in ensembles throughout the week.

Jon Faddis

Protégé of Dizzy Gillespie and artistic director of the Chicago Jazz Ensemble,

Faddis started as a studio trumpeter. "He's a brilliant composer and a brilliant jazz arranger," said Joe Cerqua, production supervisor of the Concert Hall at Columbia. Faddis will be working with jazz students from Sept. 29 until Oct. 1.

Terence Blanchard

Blanchard has composed and performed many film scores including *Malcom X*, *Jungle Fever* and *Four Little Girls*.

Cerqua said Blanchard sent his film scores to the college in advance and the student jazz ensemble is currently rehearsing his work. The music students concentrating in film score are also studying Blanchard's work, writing a theme fitting for a movie.

Blanchard will be working with the film score students and jazz ensemble from Oct. 12 until Oct. 16, performing a concert with the students Oct. 16 at 7 p.m.

Udo Dahmen

A professional drummer and vice president of the German Music Council, Dahmen brings new ways of teaching rhythm and percussion to Columbia.

Dahmen will be working with students and instructors on his new concepts Nov. 2 through Nov. 6, with a concert performance Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.

Vincent Gardner

Gardner, a Chicago native, is a renowned trombone player and composer, who previously worked with the Count Basie Orchestra, Chaka Khan and Lauryn Hill.



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Ivan Neville plays the chorus to a song he wrote that he called, "probably my favorite song I ever wrote" and "the most autobiographical" in the Music Center Concert Hall in 1014 S. Michigan Ave. Neville is a multi-instrumentalist who conducted workshops for students as part of Columbia's Artists In Residence program.

Gardner will work with jazz combos, students in the graduate music program and teach composition classes during his stay. Gardner will be at Columbia Nov. 17 through Nov. 20, with a concert performance Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

Shele Sondheim

A songwriter and music producer, Sondheim has been commissioned by artists, labels and television to write and produce hit singles. He has previously worked with

Phil Collins, Little Richard and Natalie Cole.

Sondheim will visit Columbia Nov. 2 through Nov. 6, with a concert performance Nov. 6 at 7 p.m.

Verdehr Trio with Augusta Read Thomas

The Michigan-based Verdehr Trio is considered one of the more important small, classical ensembles in the U.S.

"They're constantly commissioning new

» SEE RESIDENCE, PG. 14

MAKE ART BIGGER THAN YOURSELF

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOEL WANERK

BECOME A TEACHING ARTIST

LEARN ABOUT THIS GROWING FIELD AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO'S TEACHING ARTIST CAREER DAY.

This event is open to Columbia students, staff, faculty and alumni, as well as Chicago area teaching artists. Join us for panel discussions, a resource fair and networking opportunities. Columbia classes are welcome. Students are invited to bring their resumes.

Don't miss keynote speaker Eric Booth, a nationally renowned teaching artist and founder of the Teaching Artist Journal. For more information, please visit colum.edu/teachingartist.

October 7, 2009
10:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Conaway Student Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave.,
Ground Floor

Eric Booth
Keynote Speaker
10:30 a.m.

Resource Fair &
Panel Discussions
12:00 p.m.

The Teaching Artist Career Day is sponsored by Columbia College Chicago's Center for Community Arts Partnerships and Office of Academic Research, in collaboration with the Teaching Artist Journal, Columbia College's Office of Alumni Relations and Center for Teaching Excellence, the College Portfolio Center, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, and the Chicago Teaching Artists Coalition. Special thanks to the Lloyd A. Fry Foundation for its generous support.

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COLLEGE CHICAGO

colum.edu/teachingartist

FEATURED PHOTO



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Artist In Residence Ivan Neville performs the song "Ugly Truth" with members of Columbia's Pop Rock Showcase Friday, Sept. 25 to a full-capacity audience. The evening's performances included other music groups from Columbia such as two recording and performance ensembles, a blues, pop orchestra, pop-rock styles ensemble, R&B ensemble, pop-rock ensemble and pop-jazz fusion ensemble.

CALL TO ACTION:

YOUR COLLEGE EDUCATION IS AT RISK!

You or someone you know may not be able to continue their education because the Illinois Monetary Award program has been **cut by \$200 million.**

*Join the Student Government Association at the Town Hall Meeting with Governor Quinn on Tuesday, September 29. Together, we will voice our concerns and show our support for the restoration of MAP funding. Meet us at the Loft at 916 S Wabash Avenue, 4th floor, at 1:00pm. From there we will take the pink like to the University of Illinois Chicago's Student Center West. **Speak out and take action!***

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COLLEGE CHICAGO



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FEATURED PHOTO



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

President Warrick L. Carter talks to Dean of Fine and Performing Arts Eliza Nichols and an unidentified alumnus at the Opening Presidential Reception, the first event in a series hosted by the Alumni Association for the 2009 Alumni Reunion Weekend—Evolving Through the Decades.



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SPOTLIGHT ON
ALUMNI:

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.

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ASHLEY KENNEDY, Television – Film

CHRIS KERR, Art & Design - DIY Crafts

AMY MITCHELL, Undergraduate Admissions Office – Writing

GINA ORDAZ, Book & Paper Center - Painting

DEVON POLDERMAN, Fiction Writing - Writing

KEVIN RIORDAN, Creative & Printing Services – Painting

MARK SRAMEK, Building Services – Music

JULIE VOLKMANN, President's Office – Photography

We thank all the talented Columbia staff who participated in the fourth annual ASAMA.

This year's Award would not be possible without the volunteer work of the panel of judges:
Steven Gross (B.A.'82) – Photography, Michael Underwood (B.A.'91) - Fine Art, Chris Mines (B.A. '95) - Film,
Stephen DeSantis (M.F.A.'08) – DIY (arts & crafts), Aaron Williams (B.A.'04) – Music

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Photo courtesy MERCE CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY

Merce Cunningham's choreography is not rehearsed with music, nor do they know what the background will be. All elements are combined together the night of the performance right before the audience's eyes.

Merce Cunningham showcased at Columbia

Prestigious dance company to perform four shows in intimate Dance Center Theater

by Benita Zepeda
Assitant Campus Editor

COLUMBIA WILL be welcoming the Merce Cunningham Dance Company to debut two different events at the Dance Center, located at 1306 S. Michigan Ave., from Thursday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Oct. 3. The performances will also showcase the work of two Columbia faculty members.

The events are called Chicago Event 1 and Chicago Event 2, and run 75 minutes each. Chicago Event 1 will be performed at the Thursday night show and the Saturday matinee, and Chicago Event 2 will be held on Friday and Saturday nights.

The four performances, which are already sold out, will debut the two different events highlighting various pieces of Cunningham's choreography, arranged by Robert Swinston, assistant to the choreographer, who worked closely with Cunningham throughout the years.

This is the first time the Dance Center has hosted the company. Columbia has previously hosted the company at the Harris Theater, which has approximately 1,500 seats. The Dance Center has just 272 seats.

Phil Reynolds, executive director of the Dance Center, said the center is very excited about these programs.

"The fact that the company is going to be performing at the Dance Center is pretty extraordinary," Reynolds said. "We will be hosting some of the finest dancers in the world doing choreography from Merce Cunningham in a theater where the back row is literally 60 to 80 feet from the stage."

What sets a Merce Cunningham production apart from other shows is the way the show is assembled. The music, art décor and musical scores are not rehearsed together. All elements come together on the night of the performance.

"[The elements are] almost like a choreographic collage of excerpts of various pieces of choreography from a body of repertoire," Reynolds said.

Anna Kunz, assistant professor in the Art and Design Department, will provide décor for the Thursday and Friday night performances, and both Saturday shows will display a backdrop created by artist Robert Rauschenberg.

"What Merce's philosophy is in the events he created was to have an artist, a soundperson and the dancers come together the night of the performance," Kunz said. "They didn't do much discussion between themselves before they made the piece."

Kunz constructed three enormous cur-

“The fact that the company is going to be performing at the Dance Center is pretty extraordinary.”

—Phil Reynolds



Courtesy Robert Kusel

The Dance Center theater holds 272 patrons. Columbia has previously hosted the company at the Harrison Theater, which holds about 1,500 seats. Proximity to the dancers will give the shows a more intimate feel.

tains that are 18 feet high by 45 feet wide, which will hang one foot apart. The curtains are made from hundreds of thousands of pieces of ribbon. Kunz said she wanted to make it seem like a color field painting that is influenced by 60s Pop art.

Richard Woodbury, associate professor and music director in the Dance Department will create music for all four performances in conjunction with the company's music directory.

"This is a performance that will be invented in real time," Woodbury said. "The music will be created, the dance will be created and they will happen at the same time. Any connections that exist will be made in the minds of the audience."

Woodbury said they have prepared material and strategies, but will be making up the music as the show goes along. It is not a recorded or scored performance.

Both Woodbury and Kunz said they are honored to be part of these performances.

"The practice of providing music in this type of an environment where I'm essentially free to do what I like is a great gift," Woodbury said.

Kunz said that Cunningham traditionally worked with several well-known artists, such as Robert Rauschenberg, John Cage and Jasper Johns.

"From a historical standpoint, it's a thrill for me to be a predecessor of such great artists and to have the opportunity to make the décor," Kunz said.

Merce Cunningham is recognized as one of the greatest, most innovative choreographers and dancers of modern dance. At age 90, Cunningham died from natural causes on July 26. These events will serve as a tribute to him.

bzepeda@chroniclemail.com

U of I president resigns after scandal

by David Mercer
AP

UNIVERSITY OF Illinois President B. Joseph White resigned on Sept. 23 following reports that the school admitted politically connected applicants over more qualified ones at its Urbana-Champaign campus.

White said he sent a resignation letter to Christopher Kennedy, the chairman of the university's Board of Trustees.

"I take this action to enable you as a newly constituted board to select university leadership going forward," White wrote in the letter. "It has been a privilege for my wife, Mary, and me to serve the university community. We remain highly committed to the University of Illinois."

According to a university news release, White will remain with the central Illinois school to teach and raise funds. His resignation is effective Dec. 31.

News reports first surfaced in May that politically connected applicants for spots at the university's flagship campus in Urbana-Champaign were given special attention and tracked through a list known as Category I. Those reports and documents later released by the university showed that some of those connected applicants were admitted over more qualified ones.

Among the e-mails was one from former Gov. Rod Blagojevich backing an applicant. White forwarded the e-mail to Urbana-Champaign Chancellor Richard Herman. That applicant, initially denied admission but later accepted, turned out to be a rela-

tive of Tony Rezko, the convicted political influence peddler who is a key figure in the federal government's investigation of Blagojevich.

White has said he didn't know at the time who Rezko was when he sent along the e-mail in 2005. Six members of the university's Board of Trustees were also replaced this summer over the scandal.



B. Joseph White

Gov. Pat Quinn, who on Sept. 23 said he expected White to resign, said he didn't ask for White's resignation.

"This is totally voluntary," Quinn said. "It's time for our university to continue to move on."

Kennedy, who was only appointed to the board after the summer resignations, said White's decision makes the job of finding a quality replacement easier.

"If we had a fight on our hands which involved lots of different constituents with sort of diametrically opposed views, it wouldn't have made it a very attractive place to work," Kennedy said.

Two weeks ago, the university's faculty senate said White and Herman should be replaced because of their roles in the admissions troubles, while White had previously indicated he hoped to keep his job.

Herman did not return calls or e-mails from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Neither did the Faculty Senate chair, assistant Spanish professor Joyce Tolliver.

White had told a special commission appointed by Quinn to examine university admissions that, when he came to Illinois from the University of Michigan in 2005, he found a culture of political influence where who you know matters far more than what you know.

"I don't know how to describe it," White said. "It's an influence environment; it's a quid pro quo environment."

Former President Stanley Ikenberry, who was president from 1979 through 1995, said on Sept. 23 that he's been asked by two trustees if he was willing to serve as interim university president.

"I think anybody who loves the University of Illinois and was asked to help, they would want to help," Ikenberry said. He said he has no interest in being considered for the permanent job.

Kennedy said the school hopes to have a permanent successor by next fall.

One of the two trustees who refused Quinn's calls for resignation for trustees to resign said on Sept. 23 that White's decision to resign was "very generous."

"I think that the fact of the resignation is a resolution of a problem that we have as a Board of Trustees in terms of responsibility to the admissions situation," said James Montgomery, a Chicago lawyer who said White called him Tuesday to tell him he would step down. He described White as "an excellent administrator and president."

A former trustee who heeded Quinn's

call for resignation said White should have resigned long ago, though not for the admissions situation.

"If his only weakness or indiscretion was the admissions problem, which I think was tremendously overblown; it alone was not an adequate reason to change the leadership of the university," said David Dorris, a lawyer from LeRoy in central Illinois.

Dorris has criticized White for, among other things, the failure of Global Campus to draw students. White pushed the online university as a revenue generator when it opened in 2007, to draw students.

"I think he made a strong attempt to try to weather this," Dorris said, guessing that one thing changed White's mind. "Probably the Faculty Senate's unwillingness to yield and just sweep it under the rug."

Dorris hopes Herman stays on, but doubts he'll be able to, given his role in the admissions problems.

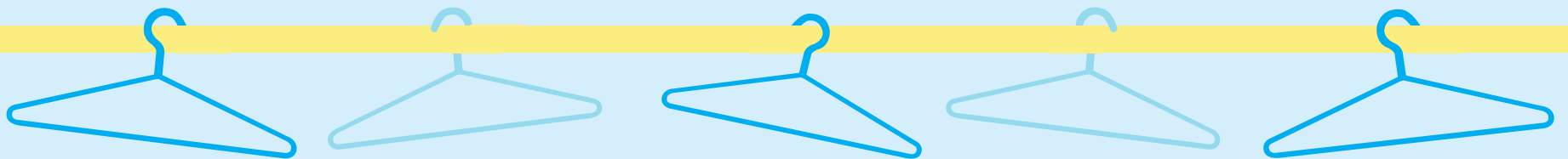
University e-mails showed Herman bargained with the law school dean over well-connected students, offering scholarships in return for admissions.

White will forgo a \$475,000 retention bonus he was due under his contract because of the financial situation facing the university, according to the university's news release.

White replaced James Stukel as university president in January 2005 after serving as dean of the business school at the University of Michigan and, previously, as an associate professor.

chronicle@colum.edu

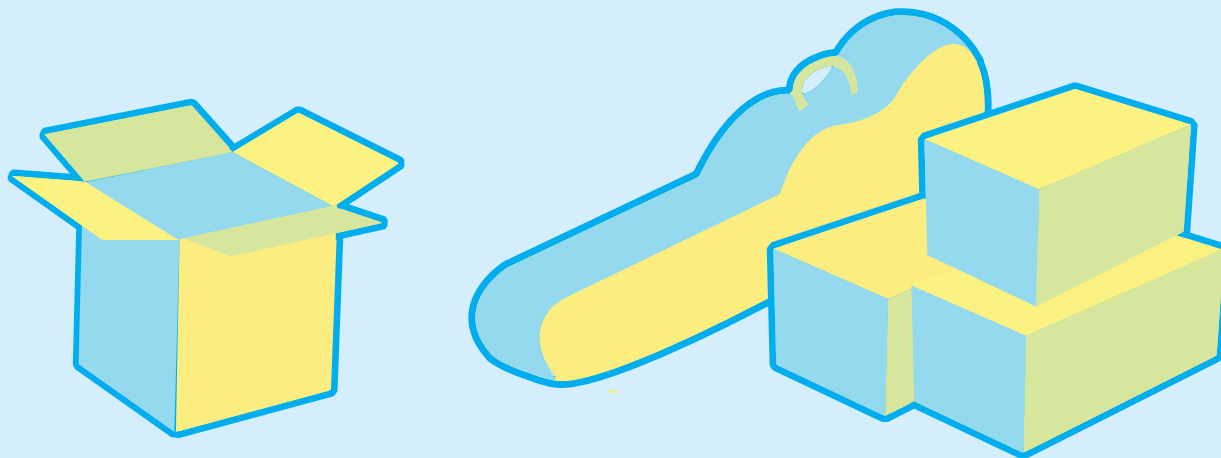
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September 23, 2009

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Columbia College Chicago Students, Administration, Faculty, and Staff:

As you all know, funding for the student aid need-based Monetary Award Program (MAP) was cut by nearly \$200 million dollars this year. At a time when financial need is at an all-time high, the State of Illinois has informed approximately 130,000 eligible students that they will not be receiving any financial aid from the program beginning this Spring semester.

This letter is the beginning of a college-wide campaign from the Student Government Association (SGA) in collaboration with Columbia administration, and the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities (FIICU). Together, we are to be a leading resource in the education of the Columbia College community about the facts of the cut in funding, and in the creation of actionable programs for you to show your support and voice your opinions at the campus, city, and state levels.

Over 3,000 students at Columbia depend on the Monetary Award Program. These are your classmates, your students, your colleagues, and your friends; and many of them may not return to Columbia in January unless we, as a united body, speak up and take action.

Beginning in October, the SGA will have multiple campaign tables set up around campus. Student representatives will be available to speak to you more in depth about MAP grants and any concerns you may have. We will provide you with a letter to sign showing your advocacy for the restoration of MAP funding, and mail it to your Representatives and Senators on your behalf. There will be laptops accessible for you to join the thousands of students across Illinois who have signed the online petition asking the state to fully fund MAP. This petition can be found at www.thepetitionsite.com/1/saveillinoismapgrants.

On Tuesday, September 29, at 2pm, Governor Quinn will be hosting a town hall meeting regarding MAP at the University of Illinois Chicago. We will take the pink line to the UIC campus together, as a community, to show our unwavering support for our fellow students. Please come to the Loft in 916 South Wabash Avenue, 4th floor, at 1:00pm to join us for this significant event.

On Thursday, October 15, the SGA will be taking a bus to the Illinois State Capital Building in Springfield to lobby State Senators and Representatives to reinstate MAP funding. This is a major event and an outstanding opportunity to make a difference in so many lives, and we need you in attendance to do it. To receive more information or to confirm your attendance at this event, please email sga@colum.edu.

A MAP grant is an advancement towards economic independence, personal achievement, and an ability to contribute to our communities and our economy. Slashing funding that offers these kinds of long-term benefits to students and to society was truly short-sighted. Please join us in supporting our fellow students. Speak out and take action against this destructive incident in higher education.

For more information about the Monetary Award Program, ways to get involved, example letters, and talking points, please visit www.colum.edu/sga.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Jessica Valerio, President
Student Government Association
Columbia College Chicago
sgapresident@colum.edu



CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS FACT & FAITH

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Branding trust

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

by **Sandra Allen**

Director, PR Studies & Assistant
Professor, Marketing Communication
Department

QUICK. WHAT do Nike's Air Jordans have in common with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals' painkiller Bextra? Here's how I connect the dots.

Early this month, Michael Jordan was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. I'm a Michael Jordan fan, so when I missed the televised event, I checked out his remarks on YouTube. While some would carp that Jordan could have been more gracious (and I'd agree with them)—he should have recognized the fans, and he would have been more effective at the podium had he not dissed some of his former colleagues—but my general impression remains undimmed. Michael Jordan is an admirable man, a role model and a real stand-up guy. But still, the reasoning goes, a shoe is just a commodity, right? Wrong. To us marketers, the name Jordan in Air Jordan is a promise, an emotional connection beyond mere rubber, plastic and cloth. A brand, is what it is.

And Pfizer's Bextra? As I learned last week, the U.S. Attorney General's office levied a record \$2.3 billion fine against Pfizer for its fraudulent marketing practices regarding Bextra. This following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's demands in 2005 that Pfizer remove Bextra from the market because of safety concerns.

But in marketing terms, both Air Jordan and Bextra are well-known brands. And the brand image is a valuable element in mar-

keting the product. It creates the impression that the brand is unique. It's what the corporation offers to the marketplace. For both Air Jordans and the painkiller Bextra, the brands' images convince the customer to pay prices higher than the cost of producing the shoes or the drug. It's a promise to us, the consumer, that rests on an act of mutual trust and faith in the company's convictions, and perhaps even naively, the belief that they care about us and our well-being.

Air Jordans are the best-selling brand in all the history of athletic shoe-dom. Bextra, once the hot new drug touted by doctors whom it appears were offered kickbacks to endorse the drug, is now a symbol of Pfizer's decision to put its company's reputation at risk. Looking at both news stories through my marketing communication lens, I see a brand that has broken the faith with the public. I see another brand that continues to connect emotionally with its target market. It's not hard to determine which is which.

Building a brand is not rocket science. It's what we marketers do. We know a recognizable brand delivers a clear message about the product or service. It is the sum of a customer's experience and perceptions. At its most basic, it is a promise. And customers accept that promise as an act of faith. Faith in Nike's word, belief that Air Jordans are well-made, durable and maybe even that tiny fragment of hope that with those shoes on our feet, we too can "be like Mike."

At another level, the purpose of branding is to build and sustain trust. So what of Pfizer's decision to put profits ahead of concerns for the patient's health? What does that say about the other products in Pfizer's arsenal of medical miracles? What happens to a company's reputation, its brand image, when the facts reveal that we have misplaced our faith? We feel cheated, tricked, perhaps a little frightened, wondering what else the pharmaceutical corporations have hidden or haven't told the public. We decide we can no longer have faith in Pfizer's claims, even if the FDA endorses their products in the future. Like Humpty Dumpty, we marketing professionals are quick to point out that once broken, a brand image cannot be put back together again. When the facts reveal we have misplaced our faith, therein lies Pfizer's shame, and Nike's glory.

sallen@colum.edu

Sandra Allen is an Assistant Professor and Director of PR Studies in the Marketing Communication Department.

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

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

BILLING

The Office of Student Financial Services sends all student account bills electronically during the first week of each month: SFS does not mail paper bills. Students have the ability to assign up to ten third-party users (such as a parent) as Authorized Payers to receive a monthly eBill as well as view eBills and make payments on their account through CCCPay. An email notice with a link to CCCPay is sent to the student and the student assigned Authorized Payers when the monthly eBill is ready to view.

PAYER IDENTITY PLAN

There are three Payer Identity Plans available to CCC students. These plans allow students to communicate to SFS the way in which they have chosen to finance their college expenses for a specific academic year. Each Payer Identity has a corresponding Payer Identity Plan that contains detailed steps the student will follow to fulfill their Payer Identity. SFS will send students targeted communications based on their chosen Payer Identity to their LOOPMail account for individual guidance. To find out more about the three Payer Identities and the Payer Identity Plans, visit www.colum.edu/sfs and click "Ways to Make a Payment."

CCCPAY—ONLINE BILLING, PAYMENT, AND DIRECT DEPOSIT REFUND SYSTEM

To access and manage your student account, log onto CCCPay through the OASIS portal. Click on the Student Financial Services tab at the top of the page, then click on CCCPay/Online Billing and Payment.

Students are responsible for viewing their eBill each month and to keep all parties informed of necessary account issues and information. Be sure to authorize your payers through CCCPay to give them access to your student account.

REMEMBER, THE LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2009 CLASS AND NOT BE CHARGED IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21.

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Jazz'd Up

Giant legal problems



By Jazzy Davenport
Managing Editor

AS MANY may know, last week Plaxico Burress was sent to Rikers Island to begin serving his two-year prison sentence. Burress, famous for leading the New York Giants to a Super Bowl win in 2008, was convicted of carrying an unregistered gun in the state of New York and causing bodily harm to himself—yes, himself.

Does this seem odd to you? A man serving two years in prison for injuring himself. Does it seem fair? I doubt it. Granted, New York is known for its strict gun laws. However, something is clearly wrong with our judicial and legal systems. They are trying to make an example out of athletes in an effort to scare the athletes out of being troublemakers or bad boys.

I understand the theory. Most sports stars often get a pass when they get into trouble and, quite simply, many people are tired of it. There should not be a double standard for athletes or anyone with prominence or wealth, and this I agree with.

However, NFL wide receiver Donte Stallworth was convicted for DUI manslaughter and only sentenced to 24 days in jail, yet Burress got two years for carrying a gun and injuring himself.

The same argument can be made for the controversial Michael Vick issue. Vick served about two years in prison for bank-rolling dogfights.

So does this mean that the life of an animal is worth more than human life? Or does this mean that since Burress and Vick were bigger stars they should face tougher punishment?

In the case of Burress, no life was taken and the only person injured was himself.

Burress is no criminal. According to him, he was simply trying to protect himself. Yes, he could have hired a bodyguard or even registered his weapon. Carrying an unregistered gun into a nightclub was irresponsible. But who allowed him to enter that nightclub? Why aren't those people being punished? Where are the owner and security that endangered patrons of the club?

According to the ESPN interview with Burress, the security searched him, knew he was carrying a weapon, but allowed him to enter the nightclub anyway. If Burress has to serve time, shouldn't the management and security at the nightclub be held accountable as well?

It is clear that the legal system and others, such as Mayor Michael Bloomberg, wanted to make an example out of Burress, but it is time that justice is served and that it is fair.

Yes, there are athletes that commit crimes, but let's make sure that everyone in the situation is held responsible for their actions instead of picking and choosing.

jdavenport@chroniclemail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/28/09 & 9/30/09

Street Defense Classes

Street defense, an urban self-defense class is held every Monday and Wednesday at 916 S. Wabash Ave., in Room 226. The class teaches students how to better protect themselves while in the city. Classes run from noon until 1:20 p.m. on both days.

916 S. Wabash Ave. Building
Room 226

9/29/09 & 10/3/09

Capoeira Classes

Capoeira classes are offered at Columbia every Tuesday night and Saturday morning. The Brazilian martial art combines dance, gymnastics and fighting techniques to develop cardiovascular health, balance, agility and body awareness. The Tuesday class is held from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. On Saturdays, the class is held from 11 a.m. until 1:20 p.m.

916 S. Wabash Ave. Building
Room 221

10/2/09 & 10/3/09

Chicago Blackhawks
vs. Florida Panthers

Pull on that sweater and lace up the skates, NHL season is here. The season opens up with the Chicago Blackhawks traveling around the globe to take on the Florida Panthers in Helsinki, Finland. The puck drops at 11 a.m. central time Friday and Saturday. The game can be seen on Comcast SportsNet, TSN or VERSUS.

Hartwall Areena
Helsinki, Finland.

Golf, rugby sevens up for spot in 2016 Olympics

Sports cite international appeal, possible surprise medal winners as reason for inclusion in games

by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

OCT. 9, 2009 is a day that could change the Olympic Games landscape. The International Olympic Committee is expected to hold its final vote to decide if the sports of golf, rugby sevens or both will be added to the 2016 Summer Olympic games.

The vote comes after 16 months of meetings and deliberations by the IOC and the sports' respective governing bodies.

The possible addition of one or both of the sports comes on the heels of baseball and softball being ousted from the Olympics during a 2005 vote by the IOC. Rugby sevens and golf would fill this void.

"We're thrilled," said David Higdon, chief communications officer of the Ladies Professional Golf Association. "The LPGA in particular will benefit greatly if we get the chance to be elected to the Olympics and we feel ... the Olympics will benefit as well from seeing our players in the Olympics."

Golf was last played in the 1904 Summer Olympics in St. Louis, where the gold medal was won by Canadian George Lyon.

For golf, the proposal for the addition of the event outlines a format for a field of 60 golfers, playing in a 72-hole tournament. The top 15 players in the world would receive automatic bids, while the remaining 45 spots would be filled by national



Courtesy USA RUGBY

The USA women's rugby sevens national team works on their scrum technique during a practice.

qualifiers. All major golf tours, including the PGA, LPGA and both the men's and women's European tours, would suspend play during the 2016 Olympics, according to Higdon.

Rugby was last played in the Olympics in Paris in 1924, when the U.S. beat France 17-3 to win the gold medal.

"I think, first of all, [getting into the Olympics] legitimizes the sport," said USA Men's Rugby Sevens coach Al Carivelli.

Rugby sevens was presented to the IOC because "the sevens format is ideal for

television as it is fast and furious and also has the habit of producing upsets," International Rugby Board Chief Executive Mark Miller said on the Queensland, Australia Courier Mail Web site.

"I think ... that sevens ... appeals more to people who don't understand rugby," said Kriste Rienberg, a member of both the USA Women's 15s and sevens teams. "It's a little bit easier to decipher what's going on."

Rugby sevens would feature a field of 12 teams, both men's and women's, that would use an international tournament format.

The possible additions of golf and rugby sevens has left five other sports out of the Olympics: baseball, softball, squash, roller sports and karate. Of the seven sports, golf and rugby sevens were the two to receive two-thirds of the IOC's votes for inclusion in the games in preliminary voting.

With golf and rugby sevens at the final stage of the inclusion process, leaders from each of the sports' governing board are making a final push to gain admittance into the games.

"[In] places where the Olympics are extremely important, but golf may not be as much it will directly impact those that want to play," Higdon said. "I think what happens is that governments get behind sports that are in the Olympics that may not have done that before."

The sentiments of Higdon's feelings about golf's chances to expand the Olympic values were echoed by Carivelli about rugby sevens.

"One of the things that I think is attractive to the IOC is that you have the traditional countries that always have the opportunity to medal," Carivelli said. "[Rugby sevens] opens it up for medal opportunities for the smaller nations or underdeveloped nations."

The final vote on each sport will be held individually on Oct. 9 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Each sport will need a simple majority vote to be admitted into the 2016 Olympic Games.

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People flocking to MMA gyms for rounded workout

Martial arts training draws more people to gyms, shapes body fitness and goals

by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

WALKING INTO a gym for the first time can be intimidating. The people, new machines and a completely new environment can be nerve-racking. For those stepping into a mixed martial arts gym for the first time, there are even bigger concerns.

There are many styles of martial arts and all of them can be counted as one part of the whole that is MMA. From boxing to tae-kwondo, hits and kicks are part of the sport that fall under the MMA name.

MMA has transitioned from grown men beating each other senseless, or “human cock fighting,” as Sen. John McCain once called it, into an international sport with some of the best athletes in the world taking part. Take away the cage or ring, however, and what’s left is a workout that can leave participants gasping for breath and dripping with sweat.

“It’s definitely a little harder than I expected it to be,” said Ryan Carli, a 22-year-old MMA fighter who trains at Carlson Gracie MMA Academy, 1235 N. La Salle Blvd. “When I started working out at MMA it was just so draining, it was like no workout I’d ever had before.”

While fans of the Ulitimate Fighting Championship, Pride and Strikeforce watch the world’s best clash inside a ring or cage, people from all over Chicago are finding



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

Heavy bags and a fighting cage featured at POW Gym, 950 W. Washington Blvd., where students and trainers work out.

their way to MMA gyms. With more than 30 gyms in the Chicago area, those looking to get fit and kick a little butt are finding an outlet to train their bodies.

“I enjoyed [Jiu-Jitsu],” said 35-year-old police officer Tony Carroccio. “I think I appreciated the all-around workout. It hit cardio, it hit flexibility and strength didn’t play a key. It didn’t matter how strong or weak your opponent was. It really works on your core.”

That core workout comes from several areas of MMA training. Along with punch-

ing, kicking and kneeing a heavy bag, people train by jumping rope, doing sit-ups and other core building exercises.

“We have a very strong emphasis on fitness and conditioning,” said Katalin Rodriguez-Ogren, owner and operator of POW Gym, 950 W. Washington Blvd. “We tend to believe that without the athletic component, you’re really doing your student a disservice.”

While weight and cardio training are the traditional forms of working out for most people, those who attend an MMA gym are

getting a completely different work out from those lifting free weights or running on a treadmill.

“The difference is definitely in the muscles that are being used,” Carli said. “You’re utilizing a lot of different muscles in your shoulders and your legs as well. You’re using [leg muscles] to tighten up on people instead of just using them for lift [as in basketball].”

People joining an MMA gym are often drawn to the sport because of the things they see on television, read in magazines and hear through friends, according to Carli and Rodriguez-Ogren.

“Some people are influenced by what they read and they read that [MMA] is cool, so they think it’d be cool [to try it],” Rodriguez-Ogren said.

Carli joined his gym when a friend suggest it while watching UFC.

For those who plan on going into a gym and stepping right into a cage or ring, Rodriguez-Ogren said reality sets in quickly.

“The people who walk in and think they’re just going to start fighting, I would say they’re checked pretty quickly,” Rodriguez-Ogren said. “Once they’re huffing and puffing after two rounds of jump rope and one flight of stairs, you kind of realize you can’t just come in and be a fighter.”

For MMA gym members, working out is a way to punch and kick their way to a more fit physique. It’s the total body grind that leaves a Greek statue in its wake, and that’s exactly what they’re hoping for.

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Exotic disease becomes possibility in Midwest

Local mosquitoes capable of carrying dangerous virus

by Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

ASIAN TIGER mosquitoes are abundant in the U.S. and can spread chikungunya, a viral disease that causes high fever, arthritis and eye inflammation, and up to now is unknown here.

Dr. James Diaz, program director of Environmental/Occupational Health Sciences at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, said he fears that because we have mosquitoes that can transfer this virus, it’s only a matter of time until the U.S. faces chikungunya, an illness formerly confined to the Eastern hemisphere. Currently, there is no vaccine for the virus.

Diaz said the Asian tiger mosquito is “in your backyard along Michigan Avenue,” so the exotic chikungunya virus, which is normally seen near the Indian Ocean could easily cause a local epidemic in the U.S.

A July 2009 article in Emerging Infectious Diseases reported that many people with chikungunya around the Indian Ocean are also infected with dengue, a fever that causes severe headaches and muscle and joint pain.

The article reported that Asian tiger mosquitoes also carry dengue. Dengue virus is already present in the U.S., and again, there is no vaccine.

“We have a setup that we could potentially



Stock Photo THE CHRONICLE

The Asian tiger mosquito is named for the stripes on its body and legs.

have both chikungunya and dengue circulating in mosquitoes,” Diaz said. “Co-infections of viruses we don’t have vaccines for make us very concerned.”

In the past, mosquitoes were in the spotlight because of the role they play in spreading West Nile virus. Diaz said 9 out of 10 people infected with chikungunya experience symptoms, whereas 9 out of 10 people infected with West Nile are asymptomatic.

Roger Nasci, chief of the Arboviral Diseases Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said that while more people get sick from it, “the fatality rate for serious chikungunya is very, very low compared to West Nile virus, where the fatality rates are as high as 10 percent.”

Nasci said he believes “the public health

infrastructure in the United States is aware of the potential for chikungunya and has taken appropriate steps for preparation.” He said the CDC has trained doctors in states around the country to respond, diagnose and treat infected people quickly.

Mark Dworkin, an associate professor of epidemiology at University of Illinois at Chicago said, “I can see why a development of a vaccine would be useful for places in the population where [chikungunya] is endemic, or for travelers who are heading to an endemic region,” but noted it should not be a priority for the U.S. because we have not had an outbreak.

Diaz said that the U.S. has not heeded warnings from Italy and France in the last two years to prepare for the virus. Both

countries faced local outbreaks of chikungunya, which was brought back by travelers who visited the Indian Ocean region.

“The scenario [in the U.S.] would be similar to what happened in Italy in 2007,” Nasci said. “An infected traveler comes back carrying the virus [and] gets bitten by local mosquitoes that are competent to transmit the virus. They then incubate the virus and transmit it to somebody else.”

Still, Dworkin said time is on our side because mosquitoes can only obtain the virus from someone’s blood in the first three to four days of illness. That is “a relatively short period of time that somebody would have the virus that a mosquito can get a hold of,” he said.

Also, Nasci said the presence of window screens and air conditioning lessens America’s exposure to diseases spread by mosquitoes, unlike the high exposure in developing countries where these diseases are rampant.

Dworkin said the name chikungunya comes from a native Tanzanian language and means “that which contorts or bends up,” which probably refers to the arthritic effects of the virus.

Although chikungunya may not strike as severely in the U.S. as it does in the Eastern hemisphere, Diaz said he is afraid this virus and its ability to co-infect with dengue will not be publicized because the West Nile threat on the U.S. did not leave a lasting impression and the country is currently focused on swine flu.

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Cut the crust

Jury out on possible carcinogen, verdict to come from FDA

by Taylor Gleason
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THE KIDS are right; eating bread crust might be bad for you. Consumption of dark baked goods and other edibles cooked at high temperatures increases your chance of exposure to acrylamide, a chemical that the National Center for Toxicological Research is studying for its carcinogenic effects.

Acrylamide is formed naturally in certain foods after they've been subjected to high levels of heat, said Stephanie Kwisnek, spokeswoman for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"Really, it is found in small doses," Kwisnek said. "It does not come from food packaging or the environment." She added that foods such as french fries, dark breads, cereals, coffee and possibly even burnt steak contain high levels of acrylamide.

"Our studies are confirming what the two previous lifetime cancer studies in rats had shown; that [acrylamide] is a carcinogen in rodents," said NCTR chemist Dan Doerge. He said the NCTR began studies of acrylamide in 2004 and when a "compound causes tumors in both sexes and in multiple sites in the animals" there is a higher chance it will cause cancer in humans.

Amino acids and sugars are naturally present in all foods and when they are cooked at a high temperature, their shape changes. These amino acids join together to build proteins and "if you heat up a protein, it has the tendency to denature," said Nathan Lucas, a graduate student of biochemistry at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Lucas explained that the shape of a protein is very important in determining its function which is why the malformed proteins may be carcinogenic.

"Most carcinogens have the ability to reach a cell and they cause the cell to start proliferating ... telling the cell to divide instead of telling the cell to either stay put or die," Lucas said.

“

Really, [acrylamide] is found in small doses. It does not come from food packaging or the environment."

-Stephanie Kwisnek

Kwisnek hastened to note, though, that acrylamide has not officially been determined as a carcinogen for humans, and if it had been, more information and warnings would be released to consumers. She said food does not appear to contain enough acrylamide to harm people.

Doerge said acrylamide causes a great deal of worry because "the best estimates are that about a third of all preventable cancer deaths are related to diet." Nonetheless he said, "sorting out the things that are actually contributing to human cancers from diet has turned out to be quite difficult. There are not a lot of answers in general, let alone specifically for acrylamide."

The FDA asked the world's scientific community to continue research and submit its reviews by Nov. 24.

Still, Doerge said, "You can't stop eating cooked food," because the benefits of cooking, including the killing of bacteria and the release of aromas and flavors people love, are all too great to switch to eating completely raw food.

"This isn't an oddball diet" comprised of uncommon foods which are high in acrylamide levels, Doerge said. The carcinogen is found in a variety of foods that the majority of people eat on a daily basis. Doerge said Americans have a lot of reasons to change their diet though, pointing to the prevalence of salt and fat in what we eat. But even if everyone avoided all foods high in acrylamide, there wouldn't be a noticeable change.

Novozymes and DSM Nutritional Products, two chemical companies, each developed an enzyme in 2008 that can work against the formation of acrylamide. Some countries approved Novozymes' enzyme, Acrylaway, but Doerge said his understanding is that while this approach is somewhat effective, it won't be much more helpful than avoiding foods with acrylamide.

Acrylamide isn't the only carcinogen in food that the NCTR is keeping its eye on. Doerge said other common foods contain possible carcinogens. He mentioned benzo[a]pyrene in jarred foods and heterocyclic amine in grilled meat, to name a few among others.

Both Doerge and Kwisnek said the best option is for everyone to continue eating a balanced diet, rich in fruits and vegetables. Doerge said just keep doing what your mother told you all along.

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To reduce exposure to acrylamide, choose light colored foods; darker products indicate a higher level of acrylamide.

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It's pizza, it's lasagna, it's pizza-lasagna

Knocking out two dishes with one stone, impressing taste buds everywhere

by Jeff Graveline
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

ITALIAN FOOD always pleases and this recipe puts two of the best dishes together for one great meal. Pizza-lasagna is a an easy recipe that can feed three to four people with just a few simple ingredients and an hour and a half of prep and cook time.

First, fill a pot halfway with water and bring to a rolling boil; adding a pinch of salt to the water will speed up the boiling process. Once the water is boiling, add the noodles and let them soften to taste.

If using a homemade sauce recipe, let the sauce simmer while you work with the noodles and cheese.

When using a store-bought sauce, it can either be warmed up in a pan or come directly from the jar for use.(I warm up the sauce if using store bought — it's a personal preference.)

As the noodles cook and the sauce warms, begin mixing the cheeses and egg. In a bowl large enough to fit and mix the ingredients, add 15 ounces of ricotta and two cups of mozzarella.

Crack the egg into the bowl with the cheese mixture and mix. The mixing can be done by hand, with a spoon or spatula. Mix until well blended.

By this time, the noodles, sauce and cheese mixture should all be ready for the



Jeff Graveline THE CHRONICLE

The Italian combination dish, pizza-lasanga, hot and fresh out of the oven; ready to be served.

pan. Coat the pan with non-stick cooking spray.Begin the layering process by putting one quarter of the sauce on the bottom of the pan, followed by three or four noodles to cover the bottom of the pan.

Top the noodles with half of the cheese and egg mixture, followed by a quarter of the sauce again. Make sure to evenly distribute the sauce and cheese mixture.

After the second sauce layer, cover with the sliced pepperoni to finish the first part of the lasagna.

Atop the first layer in the pan,repeat the above process again (noodles,cheese,sauce,

pepperoni). Cover the pepperoni with the remaining noodles.

Spread remaining sauce on the top layer of noodles and then cover with mozzarella to your satisfaction.

Cover the lasagna in the pan with aluminum foil and place on the middle rack in a pre-heated oven at 375 degrees for 50 minutes.

When finished, remove the aluminum foil and let it cool for 5 to 10 minutes, then eat and enjoy!

jgraveline@chroniclemail.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 egg
- 15 ounces ricotta cheese
- 4 cups mozzarella cheese
- 9-12 lasagna noodles (one store-bought box)
- 1 6-10 ounce package of sliced pepperoni

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Boil** the noodles in a pot of water until they reach desired texture.
2. **Combine** ricotta cheese, 2 cups of mozzarella cheese and egg in large mixing bowl.
3. **Spray** lasagna pan with non-stick cooking spray.
4. **Layer:** 1 cup of sauce (cover the bottom of the pan), noodles, half of cheese mixture, 1 cup sauce and pepperoni.
5. **Cover** layer with more noodles.
6. **Repeat** steps 4 and 5.
7. **Spread** any remaining sauce and sprinkle remaining 2 cups mozzarella over top.
8. **Place** in 375-degree oven for 50 minutes on middle rack.
9. **Remove** from oven, let sit for 5 to 10 minutes.
10. **Enjoy.**

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Researchers eyeing HIV, AIDS help

New breakthroughs in AIDS, HIV vaccines spark hope in world-wide medical community

By Fred Tasker
MCT

AS AN HIV vaccine breakthrough in Thailand stirs interest and hope, a pioneering AIDS researcher at the University of Miami Medical School said she is preparing to start human trials for a new vaccine that would fight the deadly virus.

While the Thai experiment is the first to prevent infection by the HIV virus that causes AIDS, Dr. Margaret Fischl of University of Miami is working on a vaccine that would be given to patients already infected with HIV to help boost their immune systems to fight off the disease. Both vaccines are years away.

If successful, the Fischl vaccine could replace the two- and three-drug cocktails of antiretroviral drugs now used to improve and prolong the lives of people with HIV. That approach is expensive and also produces numerous side effects.

Fischl is one of the world’s most respected AIDS researchers. In 1987, she was instrumental in developing AZT, a breakthrough that provided the first effective antiviral medicine that stopped AIDS from killing nearly all of its victims.

It is still in use today along with many newer drugs and AIDS deaths have plummeted. Her new vaccine, being developed in conjunction with a major out-of-state biotech firm, has been successful in treating HIV in small mammals up to the size of rhesus monkeys. It should be ready for human trials by about January, Fischl said.

“The goal is to use the vaccine as the mainstay of treatment, so infected people would no longer need HAART (highly active antiretroviral therapy) with its expense and side effects,” Fischl said. “With this they would take a shot every year to boost their systems and keep them in shape.”

Alan Bernstein, executive director of the New York-based Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, which is not involved in Fischl’s study, called news of Fischl’s vaccine trial “great news for people who already have HIV.”

“Obviously, the vaccine in the Thai trial would not help people who already have HIV” because it’s given to uninfected people to prevent HIV, Bernstein said. “So this vaccine would be very complementary.”

Also, he said, people who control HIV with antiretroviral drugs are never cured and must stay on the drugs for life. And he said new research suggests that such people are developing signs of premature aging, such as arthritis and early dementia. Since a therapeutic vaccine would be aimed more directly at the HIV virus, it might have fewer toxic side effects, Bernstein said. It, too, would not be a cure.

Fischl and the biotech firm, which she cannot yet name, have been working on the new vaccine for years. She said more details will be released soon. It has been successful “in vitro” in the lab and worked well in trials with six rhesus monkeys who had been infected with the HIV virus, Fischl said.

“We know the vaccine works all the way up to the monkey model,” Fischl said. “We know its safety profile already.”

By about January, Fischl said, it should be ready for its first trials in humans. About 30 volunteers would be recruited at several universities. Human trials are very sensitive, she said.

“I feel very strongly that when you do a study in humans, even if you have volunteers lined up around the block, you move slowly. You give a dose to the first patient, and you wait to make sure there are no side effects. Then you give it to the second patient.”

Eventually the vaccine would be given to humans with HIV who would then go off their antiretroviral medicines. They would be watched carefully to see if any had “breakthroughs” of the HIV virus.

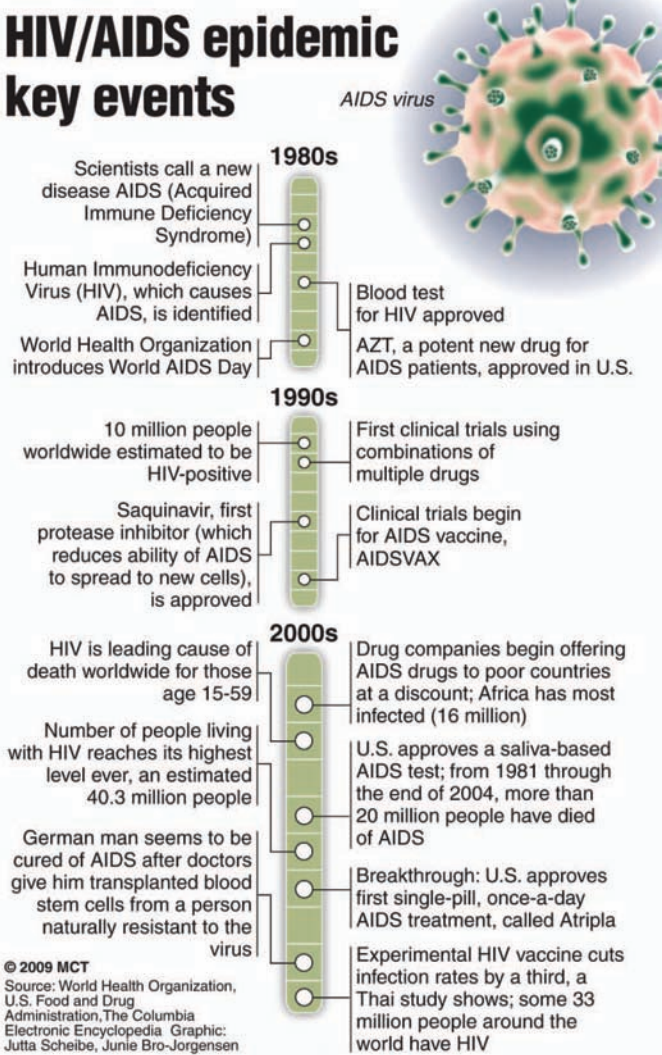
If all goes well, the new vaccine could seek fast-track approval by the FDA and be on the market in about three years, Fischl said.

Fischl praised the AIDS vaccine breakthrough in Thailand. She said she favors bringing it to U.S. markets, even though it protected only 31 percent of the Thai subjects who took it.

“It this were a flu vaccine, it would be stopped cold because the success rate is so low,” Fischl said.

New vaccines against the H1N1 and regular seasonal flu both report success rates of more than 85 percent.

In the Thai trials, new HIV infections occurred in 51 of the 8,197 given the vaccine and in 74 of the 8,198 who received dummy shots, a 31 percent reduction in the number of new infections. It’s not a very big difference, Fischl said,



“but you could argue that since this epidemic is moving so quickly, you might want to bring it to market. I guess anything at this point that can stop the spread of HIV is important.”

The Thai vaccine was tested against local strains of HIV, leading some scientists to wonder if it would work against U.S. strains of HIV. But Fischl said U.S. strains are similar enough that should not be an issue.

Around the world, at least 15 AIDS vaccine trials are under way at various stages with more than 8,500 volunteer subjects in the U.S., Brazil, South Africa, Thailand and Peru, according to the HIV Vaccine Trials Network, which tracks HIV vaccine research. Drug companies involved include Merck, Wyeth, Chiron/NOVAD, Therion, GeoVax and others. Two previous trials in Thailand were failures.

In the U.S., HIV/AIDS has gone from a lethal epidemic to a chronic disease. New HIV infections peaked in the mid-1980s at about 130,000 cases per year,

declined quickly in 1995 when antiretroviral drugs came on the market, but have plateaued since at about 55,000 new cases per year according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

South Florida is especially hard-hit. In Miami-Dade in 2008, one in every 82 Hispanic men, one in every 60 non-Hispanic white men and one in every 29 African-American men are living with HIV, according to the Florida Department of Health.

In Broward, those living with HIV include one in 98 Hispanic men, one in 76 non-Hispanic white men and one in every 42 African-American men.

At the end of 2007 more than 500,000 persons in the 34 states that report such statistics were living with HIV/AIDS.

Worldwide, about 33 million people were living with HIV/AIDS, with 2.7 million new infections that year, according to the World Health Organization.

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arts & culture

AC

Discovering the human identity

Visionary artist explores past through contemporary dance

by Katherine Gamby
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THE WATERFALL caresses the moss-covered cliff as it gently tumbles down into the eroded canyon, welcomed by fresh white waters. The mist dances on the chaste air and kisses the surrounding pastures of endless trees. Warm sunbeams and a gleaming rainbow highlight the sky overlooking paradise, stamping it with a seal fit for heaven on Earth. Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe is just one marvel that the lush country has to offer. Few would expect exile, genocide and a Diaspora to pour out of this country and spill over into America, demonstrated through contemporary dance.

Nora Chipaumire, a contemporary dance artist, and Thomas Mapfumo, a poet and musician, are both exiles from Zimbabwe. They will be performing in a world premiere, musical dance piece entitled “Lions Will Roar, Swans Will Fly, Angels Will Wrestle Heaven, Rains Will Break: Gukurahundi.” The piece will shed light on the struggles with human identity from the perspective of Chipaumire and will be presented by the Museum of Contemporary Art.

“What’s really interesting is it is cross-generational,” said Yolanda Cespa Cursach, the associate director of Performance Programs at the MCA. “That was very compelling because it’s an artistic fusion, but it’s also a fusion of ages.”

Mapfumo played a key role in the resistance movement of the ’60s through his politically charged lyrics. He was later exiled and moved to Oregon in the ’90s. Chipaumire, who listened to Mapfumo’s music as a child, is also in exile but for different reasons. Gukurahundi was a military operation in the 1980s designed by Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe to cull and terrorize the civilian population of Zimbabwe. This forced Chipaumire to relocate to New York City where she is currently based.

“Gukurahundi is her statement about her own post-colonialism experience,” Cursach said. “It explores the migrant experience that the world has in common but more pointedly, for her, it points to how the Western world looks at Africa [and] what it means on her own personal level, to be an African in the Diaspora, especially to be a woman.”

The performance also features live music from Mapfumo and his band, The Blacks Unlimited, as well as animation and footage of African terrain near Zimbabwe. Cursach said she thinks students will enjoy the piece because it will encourage them to challenge and change their views, specifically those on identity.

“I think it will illustrate a new way of approaching film and live music in collaboration,” Cursach said. “It will add to the questions that we have about the immigrant experience and living in an urban setting in a community of people who come from different politics and different ideas about Africa and the Western world. It’s really a coming-together.”



Courtesy MCA

Visionary contemporary dance artist Nora Chipaumire is performing a new piece that sheds light on the struggles with human identity. She explores her past, which includes the Gukurahundi, a military operation in Zimbabwe designed to terrorize, subjectify and cull the population.

Though this piece focuses on the positives of Chipaumire’s self-exile, during the time of the Gukurahundi, her transition to America could not have been an easy one.

“Someone who is able to escape a situation of violence and hardship has resiliency and a will to better their lives and improve their conditions,” said Emily Osborn, an assistant professor of African History at the University of Chicago. “This country is full of immigrants who have that same fervor.”

During many political battles in Africa as well as Europe, specifically during World War II, women often suffered the most within a conflict because more often than not, rape is used as a warfare tactic.

“It’s a means to terrorize a population, [raping] women, but it is certainly not something that is exclusive to the African context, it’s a tactic that’s been used widely all over the world through history,” Osborn said.

Rape is used systematically as a method

of warfare because it affects households and communities, psychologically and emotionally.

“It’s a way in which you can really sort of effectively assault a household and assert the power of this incursion ... really in a sense there is a certain brutal efficiency to it,” Osborn said.

The theme of identity at Columbia also runs strong between African dance and students. De’Mar Singleton, a senior dance major at Columbia, took the African dance class for beginners as a freshman. In the class, he studied not only the dance, but the culture behind it, which was mostly based in western African tradition. He said they were encouraged to explore their own identity in the class.

“We were more so called to look into our own culture and history,” Singleton said. “There was a paper that you had to do in the class, like a 10-page genealogy, where you have to go as far back in your family as possible. It really teaches you to go in-depth in your own culture and figure out

who you are.”

Singleton said he started off not caring for the class, but grew to like it because of the spiritual connection, as well as a development of intimacy with his cultural roots.

“African dance is now one of my favorite types; it’s so grounding,” Singleton said. “A spiritual aspect of the dance is it really connects you with the Earth. In African culture, they really have a deep connection with the Earth ... the movement really reflects that [connection], everything is so grounded and using your center.”

“Lions Will Roar ...” will premiere at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E Chicago Ave. on Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and will also feature shows from Oct. 3-4. Tickets are priced at \$25 for general admission, \$20 for MCA members and \$10 for students. For more times and information on the performance and artist, please visit MCAChicago.org.

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Courtesy MCA

Chipaumire lies in the African desert surrounded by flowers (left), a location that will be featured through animation on a backdrop in the performance. Striking a dance pose to showcase some of her contemporary dance skills and grace (right).

Public performers struggle through hard times

CTA, Chicago street performers face downturn during recession

by Colin Shively
Arts & Culture Editor

THE ECONOMIC recession affects everyone and every business in different ways. Whether it is reconstructing business models or going out of business, something always changes. In the performing arts world, street and CTA performers must come up with more creative methods to draw in customers and patrons in order to survive the financial crisis.

In Chicago, the street and CTA artists are facing the same case as they struggle to make ends meet by performing for passers-by who donate money if they feel the artist deserves it. As people tighten their budgets, less money is available for onlookers to donate to the musicians.

CTA singer Oasis performs songs such as "Believe" by Cher and "ABC" by the Jackson 5 to help entertain Blue Line riders at the Jackson and Dearborn Street subway station.

"The economy definitely affects all of us," Oasis said. "We have to perform longer hours just to make the same amount of money."

Performing in the Chicago subway stations for more than 20 years, Oasis has seen the times at their best and their worst, he said.

Oasis has had to become more engaging to the CTA riders to compensate for the loss of donations. He now includes random dance sequences, that he makes up on the spot and some comic relief to help attract more business.

"I have to create new routines and be more creative just to get people to look at me," Oasis said. "I look at the hourly pay but more of the whole day. The pay fluctuates day to day, but I have noticed a definite decrease in the amount of money people give me. They have other priorities first."

The economy has not only made moneymaking more difficult for the performers, but also for discovering new material to perform.

"I used to go to a record store and buy my songs from there, but now record stores are going out of business and everything is online," Oasis said. "I can't find the songs I want anywhere now."

“

I have to create new routines and be more creative just to get people to look at me. The pay fluctuates day to day, but I have noticed a definite decrease in the amount of money people give me. They have other priorities first."

-Oasis

Street performing licenses are given through the city of Chicago's Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection and cost a bi-yearly fee of \$100.

According to Ephrat Stein, spokeswoman for the BACP, the number of licenses for street performers has

actually increased between 2008 and June of 2009 from 493 to 541. This perhaps shows a trend in the growing number of Chicagoans performing to earn some extra money, Stein said.

Likewise, CTA subway performers must file a separate form with CTA and pay a yearly \$10 fee in order to perform, despite the slowed income. According to the CTA, they are still only allowed to play at certain train stops including Washington and State, Jackson and State, Washington and Dearborn and Jackson and Dearborn.

Keithen Barks, a guitar-strumming per-

former in the Jackson and State Red Line subway station has started performing to get more cash flow, but has seen it fluctuate similarly to Oasis.

"The middle of last month and all this month, there has been way less money," Barks said. "I had to drastically change my style of music to attract more of a crowd."

Barks started performing musical styles like the Blues, R&B and Southern Rock in the beginning of his CTA performing job, but now he has noticed that the current trend to tune into is more of an alternative rock sound, he said.

"Before, I felt that I was really struggling, but I notice now that more people are paying attention when I play the alternative music," Barks said. "I play The Beatles a lot now because they have been big lately and they draw a lot of people."

As the financial crisis fluctuates, there is no doubt that public performers will still feel the constrictions of a weakened economy. Yet as the recession begins to end, they have hope that those who enjoy their performances will donate more money.

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inventing

The Impossible Project's mission: self-developing film by 2011

story by Mina Bloom // Assistant Arts + Culture Editor
graphics by Andrew McArdle // Graphic Designer

A girl wearing a sheepish grin and Chuck Taylors stands near urban train tracks littered with empty bottle cans and tall weeds. With one simple shutter click, she's made to look vintage, inspired and emotional—perhaps in a special way that might not exist in real life. The nature of the warm-colored, self-developed photo says it all. It's as if she lives in the past and the image is timeless all at once.

The instant Polaroid camera, first conceived in 1937 by Edwin H. Land, may seem antiquated and irrelevant to most, but the team of passionate chemists and engineers who make up The Impossible Project certainly beg to differ. And who better to show support for the revival of instant film than Urban Outfitters—a store profiting from an entire cultural movement devoted to bringing back kitsch, '80s fashion and an otherwise nerdy fascination with nostalgic art.

In the age of Photoshop and digital manipulation, the remarkable tonal range, matte finish and iconic white border don't exactly stand a chance against the sterile digital image in terms of daily use. In fact, chemical photo sales have dropped nearly 25 percent in the past decade, according to the Associated Press.

In February 2008, Polaroid shut down its factories and laid off 450 workers in Enschede, Netherlands and Mexico, which once produced integral instant film cameras.

Florian Kaps, Austrian businessman and the founder of The Impossible Project, said he and project co-founder Andre Bosman heard the news and instantly contacted the Polaroid Corporation for the sake of an art form that they weren't willing to see perish.

"Within the palm of your hand you see how the chemistry of the photographic process works and you see how the shutters change your final picture," Kaps said. "You have a very unique and very close relationship with every picture you take. It's very pure."

Kaps is no stranger to this medium. He created Polanoid.net in 2004, a Web site gallery where people can post their Polaroid photographs, as well as the first art gallery in Vienna to showcase only Polaroid photographs called Polanoir.

Bosman met Kaps at the Enschede Polaroid factory's closing party after working for the former Polaroid Corporation for 28 years as an engineer.

"I was asked by Polaroid's management in the U.S. to please talk to Florian and explain that it was not possible to continue production," Bosman said.

Bosman and Florian were warned that their idea of reinventing instant film simply wouldn't work, which was what inspired the name of their acclaimed organization called The Impossible Project.

"It was so crazy because all the materials that

make up an instant film pack are basically gone," Bosman said. "Some of the molecules that go into a negative take 18 months to mature—it's like wine—it has to ripen and filter. And that's only a couple of molecules in the negatives."

Though the structure of the building was still in place, Polaroid demolished the negative plants and the machines that make film batteries. Each film pack needs a battery, Bosman explained.

"For us, it was very clear from the start we needed to find new partners that could co-develop a new film with us," Bosman said. "We started from scratch."

With an almost shockingly positive attitude, Bosman and Kaps approached investors to help fund what would be an estimated 100 million euro project if the foundation wasn't there to begin with. They signed a 10-year lease agreement and assembled a team of some of the most well-educated chemists and engineers from around the world to work in the Enschede factory.



"Within the palm of your hand you see how the chemistry of the photographic process works and you see how the shutters change your final picture."

—Florian Kaps

"Some even put a mortgage on their own house to be able to invest in us so this is not the big money world," Bosman said. "And they all have love and good feelings [associated] with the project. A whole bunch of them actually visited the plant before they put money on the table."

Bosman is the production manager of the operation, whereas Kaps handles the public relations and sales for The Impossible Project.

The production manager described his average workday as brainstorming with technical workers to resolve a detailed problem at the factory, or out at city council meetings to get permission to run the factory and business-related errands of that nature.

Currently, Bosman has hired 15 chemists to upgrade the Polaroid camera model, which was invented by Polaroid almost 40 years ago and hasn't changed since.

"We talked about what they could personally bring to the project—their skills and abilities—and they were just so happy to be on board," Bosman said. "They totally forgot about what the working hours are and what the salary would be. They already signed the contract and that was it. That

says something about the passion behind it."

New technology has proven to be exciting, as well as serving as a detriment for those who work in the factory.

"I'm not kidding, they're really reinventing instant film chemically and mechanically," Bosman said. "The machines these days, materials and the chemicals that you are allowed to use these days are much different than they were 30 or 40 years ago. They're forced to choose different paths and different solutions for the same problems."

In August, other businesses began to take notice, one of which prides itself on tapping into the trendy, young people's market, Urban Outfitters. The company contacted The Impossible Project because they were fascinated by the idea. They offered to support The Impossible Project's cause and Kaps was quick to wholeheartedly accept.

The Impossible Project agreed to give Urban Outfitters a limited edition of 700 hand-numbered deadstock Polaroid camera kits, which includes a Polaroid ONE600 Classic along with Type 779 instant film to be sold in their stores in the U.S. and the U.K.

"The good thing about the project is that it still has a lot of magic. So many interesting people all around the world contact us and say, 'How can we help you?'" Kaps said. "That's the most fascinating thing of all of it."

Bosman was thrilled that Urban Outfitters believed in The Impossible Project's mission. He is fully aware that the idea of using classic instant film seems entirely appropriate for the majority of their customer base, which is undoubtedly young, trendy people. An interest in instant film can easily be equated with young people's fascination with vinyl records, he said.

Ultimately, progress is being made at the once abandoned instant film factory in Enschede.

"We promised to our shareholders that we would have a prototype ready for scale up by the end of this year up to early next year," Bosman said. "That was our promise in October of last year and we already have a prototype."

Marlene Kelnreiter, the press relations and communications person for The Impossible Project, said that the main goal of the project was to develop a new product with new characteristics consisting of optimized components with a streamlined modern setup. An innovative and fresh analog material will be sold under a new brand name by the middle of 2010, she added.

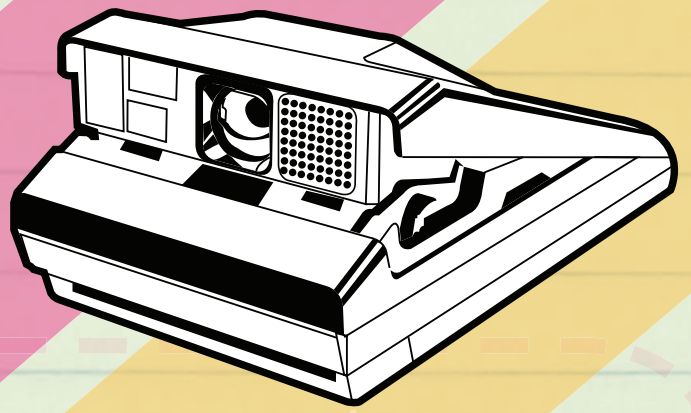
Bosman acknowledges that the best outcome of this project would be to create different types of integral instant films for photographers and non-enthusiasts alike.

"We hope to have a yearly volume—somewhere between 5 to 10 million," Bosman said. "[We hope to] keep doing this for many, many years. That is what I am striving for."

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FILM REVIEW

‘Whip It’ real good

Drew Barrymore’s directorial debut makes a feminist statement through roller skating

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

IT’S NOT the ensemble cast, indie soundtrack or rowdy action that take center stage in Drew Barrymore’s directorial debut *Whip It*, but her own ideas of feminism told through metaphors of beauty pageants and roller derby. Ellen Page stars as Bliss Cavendar, a budding young woman who isn’t sure what she wants to do with her life, but knows it doesn’t involve her mom’s dream for her to compete in beauty pageants. After mustering up the courage, Bliss forms the roller derby team “Hurl Scouts” and plays under the name “Babe Ruthless.”

The film gets off to a rocky start as the uninspired Bliss struggles against generic small town pressures of normalcy. Things get better when convention kicks in and the film coasts on its underdog sports theme. Shauna Cross, a real-life roller derby player, adapted her novel of the same name to create the screen play. It’s safe to say she knows more about young girls and roller derby than she does about crafting an intricate narrative, but the material is interesting enough to overcome a few shortfalls.

The ensemble cast relies on its strong female characters while allowing a few men some interesting roles. Page plays the same

‘Whip It’

Starring: Ellen Page
Director: Drew Barrymore
Run Time: 111 minutes

Rating: PG-13
Now playing at local theaters.



willful yet vulnerable indie girl she did in *Juno*, but abandons that fantastical Nuevo-cockney dialect in favor of bolstered humanism and realism. Her memorable moment is a sexy underwater scene that’s sure to excite boys in the audience. Alia Shawkat of “Arrested Development” plays Bliss’ best friend Pash, representing the quirky, nerdy side of the indie-girl psyche. When questioned about her ability to drive to Austin, Texas, Pash tells Bliss, “I give my parents straight A’s, I get freedom.” Barrymore, though now directing, still sneaks her way into the frame as fellow Hurl Scout “Smashley Simpson.” Her character is an exaggeration of her role in *Charlie’s Angels*; a plucky tomboy with more guts than beauty and wisdom combined. Her self awareness brings her to a wonderfully hammy performance at one time, literally standing up and yelling, “Food fight!”

The film’s soundtrack is its own character, setting the mood and carrying some emotional weight. It sets up the indie framework under which this film operates. From old favorites such as The Ramones and The



Courtesy IMDB
(From left) Drew Barrymore, Ellen Page and Kristen Wiig star in Barrymore’s directorial debut film *Whip It*.

Breeders, to newer bands like The Go! Team and The Raveonettes, the music strikes the right balance between hardcore girl-power pop and indie folk.

The feminism ideology presented is more practical than intellectual. Girls are still the object of boys’ desires, but they take pleasure in denying them. The men are reduced to one-dimensional, lustful beings while the women are fully

formed, multi-faceted humans who engage in art, sports and some traditional femininity.

Too much to take seriously at times, *Whip It* can always be enjoyed ironically. But the likable characters and indie aesthetic just as often pull the audience into the realm of genuine enjoyment. It’s a flawed film, but a lot of fun.

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Local farms keep trucking through harsh winters

Chicagoans don't have to sacrifice taste buds as cold weather descends

by Colin Shively
Arts & Culture Editor

WHEN THE trees are green, the air is warm and the flowers are blooming, farmers throughout Illinois gather in Chicago at farmers markets to sell their produce. Yet, as October draws near and days grow colder, the local markets disappear, making it more difficult for consumers to keep buying produce from Illinois farmers.

Fortunately for local food lovers, some farmers markets survive the cold winter days by taking refuge in buildings throughout Chicago such as the Green City Market, 1750 N. Clark St., which moves into the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, 2430 N. Cannon Drive, once the warm weather leaves Chicago.

However, as difficult as it is to locate locally grown food in the dead of winter, the farms that produce the food have their own set of problems—Mother Nature—and she is not one to be lenient.

“Many of the farmers do Hoop Houses, which are similar to greenhouses,” said Nina Winston, executive director of the Illinois Tourism Alliance and employee of the Chicago Office of Cultural Affairs. “It is how they manage to farm during the winter season.”

Heritage Prairie Market in Elburn, Ill. is a four-season farm that does most of its growing right before and after the coldest part of winter—ensuring a fresh crop to sell to local consumers and at the Green City Market in Chicago.

“Our greenhouses are built on steel frames that we can put wheels on,” said Ted Richter, worker at Heritage Prairie Market. “We can move [the greenhouses] into three different positions, which allows us to protect different crops depending on the season. It is how we ensure that the crops survive the winter.”

The Heritage Prairie Market is just one of numerous farmers markets that travel to Chicago to sell its produce at the Green City Market.

“Obviously it gets really, really cold here,” Richter said. “We do have a basic green house and we do some greenhouse growing in the winter-time. It is a very limited production in the small heated greenhouse. We are going to face problems. The crops will freeze, although the ground won’t.”

Another problem during the winter that makes it difficult for local farms to keep producing is the lack of light that comes with winter, Richter said.

“We managed to get our timing down, but it is really a tricky time to get down for farming,” Richter said.

The Green City Market is not a daily event. During their summer hours (May through October), they are open for business Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m., and they have more than 1,000 visitors each day the market is open. But during the winter, the number of visitors can dwindle, Winston said.

“During our time at the Green City Market, we have seen some fluctua-

tion in the number of people who attend during the winter season,” she said. “It has a lot of factors. The cold is our main problem with the year-round farmers market.”

As the air grows colder, some consumers might worry about the freshness and taste of the food they are buying locally.

However, with the use of greenhouses and technology that warms the food, the freshness and taste is always protected, Richter said.

“Actually, some food tastes better in the winter,” he said. “Carrots for example actually have a nicer, sweeter taste because the cold allows more sugar to be produced by the vegetable.”

As the winter season gets closer, year-round local farmers will keep producing, selling and remain eco-friendly in Illinois.

“Anytime we can buy locally, it definitely helps the local economy,” Richter said. “The farmers don’t have to trek across the country to sell their food. It helps us and it helps the environment, and that is why we like to sell year-round.”

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Courtesy GREEN CITY MARKET

Patrons attend the outdoor Green City Market during the summer before it moves inside for the winter season.

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Barrymore transitions from actress to director

by David Orlikoff
Film Critic

DREW BARRYMORE needs no introduction. Born into a family of actors, she has been a staple of the American psyche since she played Gertie in the blockbuster film *E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial*. She has also played romantic leads in films such as *The Wedding Singer* and *Never Been Kissed*.

In 1995, she co-founded the production company Flower Films, which has produced some of her most prolific work including *Donnie Darko*, both *Charlie's Angels* and her latest film and directorial debut, *Whip It*.

Based on a book of the same title by Shauna Cross, *Whip It* stars Ellen Page as Bliss, a young girl who takes on the banner of "Babe Ruthless" as she enters the world of roller derby and moves away from her mother's world of beauty pageants.

The Chronicle sat down with Barrymore at Metro to talk about the other side of making movies, feminism and living a double life.

The Chronicle: Where did the great roller derby names come from?

Drew Barrymore: These really fun, awesome names were one of Shauna's greatest gifts to the script. That's such a big part of the derby subculture, picking their name. We had to change a few here and there for legal reasons.

I was always Smashley Simpson and there was no way I was going to change that. There is a real Babe Ruthless and she did a cameo in the movie. I would not give that name up for Ellen Page's character, but my name for her was Small Newman.

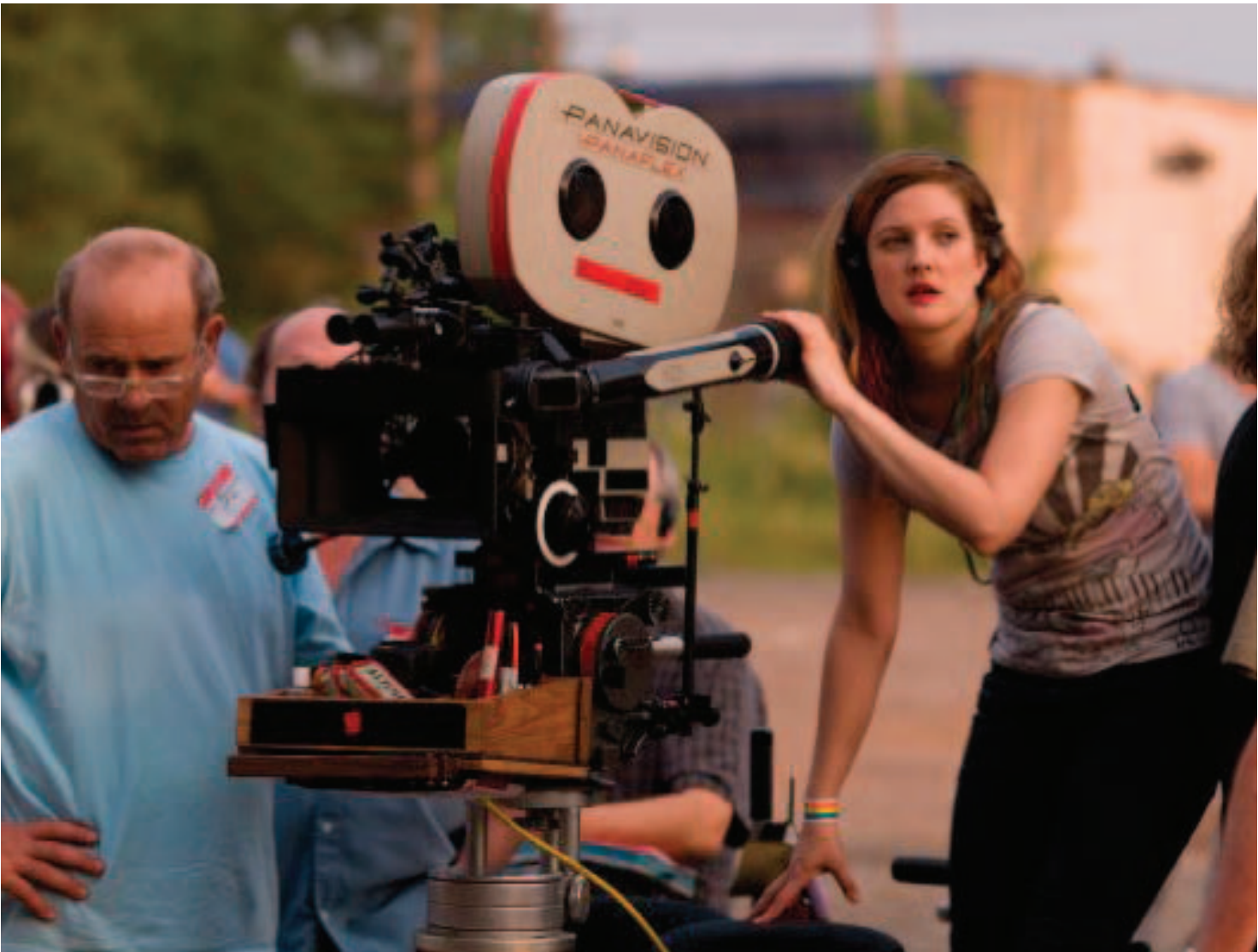
Now that you are directing, how important is the role of feminism in your films and what's the difference between *Whip It* and *Charlie's Angels*?

DB: I think they are actually similar in that I love when girls get to do what boys do. I love empowering women and I love women that are capable.

The one thing I'm not crazy about is women who feel like they have to be a man to live in a man's world, or [who feel] men have the upper hand, or that have this bitter chip on their shoulder. I like girls who've got each other's backs. I don't like that cat-tiness either and I hate seeing women be rude to each other.

I just don't like man-haters and I don't like backstabbers. I like chicks who can f--king rip it up, pull s--t off and want to go for a beer at the end of the day with each other—or go on a date.

I believe girls can do what boys do with-



Courtesy IMDB

Drew Barrymore, an actress-turned-film director, stands on the set of her new movie *Whip It*, which is set to premier in theaters on Oct. 2.

out having to be men haters.

What's it like getting a film made?

DB: It's always a challenge to get a film made, but if you have a dream, you are the only person who is going to make it happen. You have to do the homework; you have to have a vision and be able to back it up on every single level. You have to give up your social life and work nonstop with crazy passion and hopefully you will be lucky enough that someone will take a chance on you.

I actually worked on the script with Shauna for over a year because I loved the world and I loved the idea, but I wanted to make the characters more personal.

Is this a movie you would have acted in at Ellen's age?

DB: I would have loved to have been in this movie at Ellen Page's age. I related to her journey. The pageant world was a metaphor for me for Hollywood. I f--king hate cookie cutter boxes. I hate that you're supposed to

be this certain thing a certain way, but I also didn't want to s--t on the world of pageants. It is an absolute way of life for some people, it does open doors.

I see every film parodying pageants like they are the worst thing on the planet and I don't want to do that.

I don't think it's right for Bliss. There are so many great things about Hollywood; I love filmmaking,

I love the creative process, but there's a lot of crap in there too. I don't think I'd be a pageant girl, I'm not that certain Hollywood-perfection type, I think I'm more of a derby girl.

I love living a double life where I have to go be a businesswoman by day, but I want to do something raucous and fun and entertaining at night.

How early on did you have Ellen Page in mind to play Bliss?

DB: Right away actually—in fact I asked her to do this before she started filming

Juno. So when I watched the whole *Juno* phenomenon I was there rooting her on. But I had watched her body of work before that and I thought this is the real deal, this is an actor.

I wanted a no-bull person for this part who is an authentic person and who was timeless and [Page], to me, has this beautiful vulnerability but an incredible strength at the same time.

She's not this sensationalistic party girl, she's someone whose really got her priorities straight and has a great head on her shoulders and is incredibly talented.

I wanted someone like that to be the hero of my movie, and she said yes and I was thrilled.

In *Juno*, she had her vulnerability but she hid it behind wit.

In this, I wanted something more neutral so we could show her range. I wanted to show her joy and buoyancy and enthusiasm.

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Courtesy WEST TOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A mural by Joshua Binder, one of the featured artists for the upcoming Sketch Thursday, painted on the viaduct wall on Lessing Street between Halsted and Third Street for West Town's Mural Project.

First Sketch Thursday showcases local talent

New West Town event series will give inside peek at working artists

by **Cody Prentiss**
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

NORMALLY, ARTIST Joshua Binder paints his large murals on city walls without prying eyes watching, but on Oct. 8 he will be drawing on a smaller canvas without that luxury for West Town's first Sketch Thursday.

The West Town Chamber of Commerce will kick off a new series of free events featuring local artists drawing works of art, which will be sold off in a silent auction. Artists will be given three hours to create while attendees observe them and mingle with their fellow art enthusiasts. All guests are encouraged to bring a pencil and paper if they want to do their own drawing. Cocktails and martinis will be served, of course. Event organizers plan on featuring eight artists for their first Thursday, including Binder. He said he thought the event sounded odd to him at first, but the silent auction won him over.

"It's a little strange and awkward just because I like to do art away from people," Binder said. "Then I was like, hell, there is going to be a silent auction of these things at the end of the night. That's another chance to make money doing what I love doing, so why not?"

Binder's plans to make his three hours under the spotlight more fun by taking turns with two other artists drawing different parts of a sketch. He said it will make the night feel more like an art party game than a high-pressure situation. As far as what he will actually sketch, he's hoping an eclectic crowd comes out to give him some inspiration.

"Well, why not [sketch] the people that are there?" Binder said. "As long as it's a more collective group of people, the more the merrier. It'll be like riding the el train, hopefully."

So far, Binder, Anne Farley Gaines, Stephen Giannini, Layne Jackson and Sarah Lawshe are confirmed, while Michelle Scott, Plamen Yordanov and Augustina Droze are expected but unconfirmed.

Program Director Matthew Westfallen said the idea for Sketch Thursday came from an artist the Chamber's Art Committee hired to paint murals on the viaduct between Halsted Street and Third Street on Chicago Avenue in late 2008. The artist told Westfallen about an event in San Francisco called Sketch Tuesdays and Westfallen thought it sounded like a good idea. The Chamber had been looking for ways to tap into the local art community for the past year and worked with local artists to promote the West Town community, he said.

The Architrave Curators Bob and Darci O'Connell will host the event. Darci is a member of the public art committee in the West Town Chamber of Commerce that was responsible for commissioning the murals done in the West Town area. Westfallen said it was "a marriage made in heaven."

Participation on the main artist panel is invite-only, but that could change, along with the frequency of events, depending on how the first couple of Sketch Thursdays go.

"It's invite-only because we don't know the response, we don't know the turnout, so we can get some folks who will come on board and bring some good art," Westfallen said. "Then beyond that, we might say, 'Well listen, there's 20 seats left. Come on and bring your stuff.'"

Westfallen hopes the event gets people from all over Chicago to come out and stop



Courtesy WEST TOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A mural painted by Michelle Scott, one of the first Sketch Thursday's featured artists, for the Mural Project. Mural proposals that were not used will be displayed by The Architrave, 1433 W. Chicago Ave., during the event.

for drinks or go to a restaurant before or after the event. He wants them to come out and experience a couple different flavors of the neighborhood instead of just coming to West Town to buy a pair of jeans and leaving, he said.

Gallery Manager Victoria Nicodemus said The Architrave is excited to introduce artists to the community who have contributed to the beautification of West Town. It's more of an educational event than an exhibition, she said.

"One of the main reasons why we agreed to do the Sketch Thursday event is because we want interaction between the artist and community," Nicodemus said.

Westfallen said he thinks student artists would be a nice fit for the event and if

they could find someone who knew a lot of students and a venue willing to work with them, they would do it. The event is also a good opportunity for people to mingle, observe the artistic process and for other artists to network with their fellow professionals, he said.

"You've got these established artists, some folks that are just on the uptick and then some that are just getting starting," Westfallen said. "If we can hit all those crowds, all the better. Make it a little bit deeper of an artist community."

All Sketch Thursdays will be on the last Thursday of every month at different West Town venues.

‘Capitalism’ stays true to Moore’s form

Moore’s ‘Capitalism: A love Story’ attacks free enterprise with diminishing returns

by John Anderson
MCT Newswire

WHAT’S THE difference between Michael Moore and Fox News? Both are fair and balanced. Or craven demagogues. It just depends on whom you ask. And you’re likely to get an argument either way.

As polarizing as the right’s Ann Coulter or Glenn Beck, the filmmaking Moore has been the left’s loudest voice and largest silhouette for about 20 years since *Roger & Me*, his satiric assault on General Motors for the closing of auto plants in Flint, Mich. And those were lean times for liberals.

“He was rain in a dry desert,” said documentarian Rick Caine, who, with his wife, Debbie Melnyk, made the Moore critique “Manufacturing Dissent.” For that movie, Melnyk said, it was difficult getting anyone to talk about Moore, good or bad.

“You had both houses of Congress controlled by the Republicans, no Democrats were really saying anything,” Caine said. “He was the left’s hero, but with Obama, those days are kind of over.”

Not if Moore has anything to say about it, and he’s never at a loss for something to say. *Capitalism: A Love Story* is a full-frontal assault on the right’s golden calf of free enterprise.

Moore hasn’t changed his style, and that is apparent immediately in the bloated anal-

ogies, the faux-avuncular voice-over and the attempt to declare Wall Street a crime scene. But what also seems clear is that, at 55, Moore has lost his timing.

It happens to comedians and home-run hitters and Moore has been a little of both: The financially well-upholstered anti-capitalist documentarian has made three of the five all-time, top-grossing nonfiction films and done so by making big, complicated political issues palatable through humor or, one might also say, making nonfiction comedies that exploit the resentments and fears of the left.

It took him a long time to find the formula: *Roger & Me*, because it concerned Moore’s hometown and its abandonment by General Motors, had a level of genuine pathos, something the filmmaker has tried to recreate in his other films, without much success. Where Moore found his stride, though, was via the programs “TV Nation,” a “60 Minutes knockoff,” and “The Awful Truth,” which satirized corporations and politicians. This segued into *Bowling for Columbine*, which is probably Moore’s best film and a trenchant examination of firearms and gun violence in the U. S. Inspired by the 1999 Colorado Columbine High School massacre, it ranged far and wide in surveying Americans’ fascination with firearms and violence. It also showed that Moore could be as ruthless as the National Rifle Association: His predatory interview with enfeebled NRA spokesman Charlton Heston put even Moore’s supporters off, but the film became the highest-grossing docu-



Courtesy IMDB.COM

Michael Moore posing in front of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

mentary of its time.

It was with his next movie, *Fahrenheit 9/11*, still the top-grossing documentary ever, that Moore’s propagandist credentials not only came into serious disrepute, but he began to be seen as a potential liability. An attack on the Bush reaction to 9/11 and the state of America, post-bin Laden, *Fahrenheit* was timed to tip the 2004 presidential election to John Kerry, but as usual, Moore was preaching to the converted.

Fahrenheit’s problem wasn’t just timing. Moore never makes any Obama-like gestures across the aisle, but it certainly didn’t help. Likewise, *Sicko*. If one wanted to effect change, wouldn’t a film about the state of American health care be released right now? And wouldn’t a film

about the economic collapse of 2008 have been more timely in 2008?

“For 20 years, I’ve been warning GM that this day would come” Moore said during *Capitalism*. For America’s self-appointed Cassandra, he’s less than prescient.

Moore won’t be moving to any socialist nations anytime soon. “What did *Sicko* make?” asked Bingham Ray, who bought *Bowling for Columbine* for United Artists. “Thirty-six million dollars.” His audience is out there.”

And they’ll likely have a love affair with *Capitalism*, which tells them what they want to know. Although not necessarily when they needed to know it.


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CHICAGO AUDIOFILE



Courtesy THE PRIMERIDIAN

Chicago hip-hop duo, The Primeridian, draw their musical influences from jazz, blues and house music. The group consists of Darshon "Race" Gibbs (left) and Simeon "V" Viltz (right).

The Primeridian bridges gap between East and West

by Katherine Gamby
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

THROUGH THEIR music, two emcees from Chicago are unifying both the East and West Coasts. The prime meridian is, traditionally, a line of longitude that measures zero degrees and divides the Eastern and Western hemispheres. The Primeridian is rivaling that definition.

The Primeridian is a hip-hop based group, composed of Simeon "V" Viltz and Darshon "Race" Gibbs, who draw their musical influences from jazz, blues and house music. The group has meshed with some of hip-hop's esteemed, such as Common, Talib Kweli, Erykah Badu, Rakim and Run-DMC.

The Primeridian released an album in 2008 entitled *Da Mornin' Afta* and they are releasing another early next year, this one being a remix album of *Da Mornin' Afta*, featuring several new appearances and song additions.

The Chronicle sat down with The Primeridian to talk about their musical styles, history and their success as they measure it so far.

The Chronicle: What is the origin of your name?

Simeon "V" Viltz: The three-tier aspect of The Primeridian is originally Tree (a former member) who is from the West Side and I am from Hyde Park, which is kind of the East part of Chicago, if you will, and we were like, "What could bring our worlds together?" and after some thought I was like, "Oh wow, the prime meridian." Chicago has seen hip-hop start out on the East Coast and blow up on the West Coast and we in the middle have seen both sides, so we like to look at the Midwest as the prime meridian within music. And then the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, but the peak of the sun is in the middle at 12 o'clock, P.M., being prime meridian—Bam!"

The Chronicle: How would you describe your style of flow?

SV: I feel like I'm a very melodic, hypnotic, sensual, if you will ... I gravitate toward that type of music.

Darshon "Race" Gibbs: I'm kind of

funkier, edgier. So with this [new] album, once we brought those two sounds together, it kind of become[s] a little funky, jazzy, groovy, soulful, hypnotic, melodic smorgasbord eargasm, so to say.

SV: Beautifully melodic, soulfully hypnotic, funky out for your listening pleasure.

The Chronicle: How long have you guys been together?

SV: The group has actually been in existence since '95, so 14 years now. A lot of transitions have gone down—you know management, record labels. I remember Jive [Records] was like, "We like you guys, but we also have A Tribe Called Quest," which is crazy right? It's a crazy history, look out for the book!

The Chronicle: How have you guys measured the success of your career so far?

SV: You're successful when it's all said and done. It's more so that we're enjoying each step of the way, like the accomplishments as they come about and that's really been the measurement.

The Chronicle: After it is all said and done, what mark would you like to have left on the music industry?

DG: I would just like to say that our mark would be that we could show people that you can evolve, there's really no place that you can't go. You make your own limitations really, so if you say, "I can't do that because people won't get it," then you won't do it.

SV: It's also music that gave you piece of mind, but also gave you some food for thought and it allowed you to have a good time while enjoying it and feel good about yourself.

The Primeridian is set to release a mixtape called Da Crack of Dawn later this year. They have upcoming shows in Atlanta, New York and Spain. For more information on the group, visit PrimeridianOnline.com.

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A 'Wii' bit of bar games

Bars grabbing pick up and play video games for customers

by Cody Prentiss

Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

BARFLIES ARE finding a new way to play at their favorite dives, but it involves more movement than a game of darts. (Of course, people can rent *PDC World Dart Championship 2009* if they're feeling lethargic.)

Bars like The Ashland, 2824 N. Ashland Blvd., have adopted the tiny white box, the Nintendo Wii, as their next big thing. The video game console has cropped up in a variety of bars around Chicago because its motion controls provide an easy pick up and play game for serious gamers and newcomers alike.

Yanier Gonzalez, editor of the popular gaming blog Destructoid.com, said it makes sense from a bar owner's perspective since Wii games provide something quick for people to get involved in and attracts a crowd at the same time. He doubts many bar owners would try to have a well-round-



Chris Burkett, co-owner of The Ashland, 2824 N. Ashland Blvd., plays the Wii fighting game *Star Wars Jedi Battles*.



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

ed catalogue for serious gamers, but would appreciate having the option to play games.

He works in Miami and said he hasn't heard of any bars with video games in the area, but if there were he would pay them a visit.

"I would go running," Gonzalez said. "One time by accident, we walked into a bar that was having a retro night. They had outfitted the bar with projection screens and classic NES games ... It was the neatest thing ever, [but] not that many people were into it and it went away. I was heart broken."

The Ashland owners bought a Wii and Xbox 360 when the bar came under new management in April 2008, along with music games *Rock Band* and *Guitar Hero*. Co-owner Chris Burkett considers himself a serious gamer and is a fan of the *Final Fantasy* series, sprawling role playing games

which can take up to 40 hours to finish.

Burkett said they aren't necessarily looking to get more people to play games, but it's simply something else for patrons to do while they drink. They avoid more solitary games like *Gears of War*, he said.

"We're social gamers," Burkett said. "We enjoy gaming, but we enjoy going out and hanging out as well. You know, not all gamers are nerds who can't socialize."

The owners house the video games in the backroom of the bar where a large flat-screen TV rests under a modest skylight. Two *Rock Band* guitars and a drum set sit in front of the TV ready for use, while a second, smaller flat-screen TV for the Wii rests against the bordering wall.

There's plenty of room for people to flail about if they fancy a game of *Wii Tennis* or *Bowling*. Burkett said the back room can

get loud on a Saturday night when the late night crowd arrives.

“We get people that don’t really play video games,” Burkett said. “They see a bunch of people on a Saturday night drunk and having fun back there socializing and playing *Rock Band*, and they jump in for the first time.”

They've gone through about four different sets of *Rock Band* instruments since they got the game and customers break drum sticks on a weekly basis, Burkett said.

Harrigan's, 2816 N. Halsted St., has a large TV set-up next to their front door with a Wii plugged into it. Bartender Shannon Eres said they've had the system for a while, and people generally treat the controllers nicely and rarely take or break them.

People passing by will often stop in to play with the bar's regulars after they see customers playing through the window, Eres said. Bar staff and patrons have created Miis, Wii avatars, that resemble various celebrities like President Barack Obama, Snoop Dogg and The Joker that anybody can play as.

Eres said that part of the reason the system is attractive to bar owners is because it doesn't take up as much space as games like pool. George Aldaba works next door and frequents Harrigan's after work. Competition can be fierce among some of the regulars. Aldaba said one of those regulars, Dave, claims to be the king of Wii and will challenge anybody to a game that walks through the door. The Wii is perfect for bars, he said.

“Everyone’s having a good time, everyone’s moving around,” Aldaba said. “You’re not sitting down and actually focused on it ... You can play with people around you.”

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TOP 5



Laura Nalin, Assistant Campus Editor

Awesome but embarrassing places to go

A Celine Dion concert: For the past two Christmases, I have asked my father for tickets to a Celine Dion concert in Vegas. Although I secretly have an obsession with Queen Celine, I can't ever decide if I'm serious or not about my requests. However, if I did go, I think the most embarrassing part about being there would be me being sober, decked out in a tour T-shirt and caught red handed buying a commemorative cup.

Anywhere with David Hasselhoff: First of all, I would be overjoyed if I were given this opportunity. I can only hope that he would be wearing cut-off jean shorts with a muscle tee singing his hit song from the '90s, "Crazy For You", as he told me stories about his "Baywatch" days. I'd be embarrassed for both of us once his daughter whipped out the video camera, though.

A Jonas Brothers meet and greet: I would completely ignore the ugly one and the one with thick eyebrows and focus all of my attention on Nick. This is not only embarrassing because at age 21, I dig the "Jo Bros," but also because the only one I'm attracted to is 16. Is that illegal?

Drunk tank: The only way this would be awesome is if you have a remarkable story to tell your friends regarding the poor life decisions you made that night. Otherwise, you're just a drunken fool in a holding cell.

Strip club: Although I've never been, fellow male staff members seem to think this was a great example. Quite frankly, I think it'd be really embarrassing if I went and they were the ones on stage.



Ciara Shook, Assistant Campus Editor

'90s sitcom stars who weren't funny

John Lithgow: I don't care that you starred in the 2002 Broadway adaptation of "Sweet Smell Of Success" and are now co-writing children's books. Oh, and "3rd Rock From the Sun" was not that great.

David Schwimmer: He's Ross from "Friends," better recognized as the whiney guy always "schwimming" in hair gel, constantly pining for ditsy Rachel. Need I explain more?

Drew Carey: People don't recall "The Drew Carey Show," based on your real-life personality in which you work in a cubicle and drink beer with Ryan Stiles and the neighbor from *Office Space*. It's only known for its theme song, "Cleveland Rocks," which somehow did not bastardize the city. Mad props on snagging old man Barker's gig on "The Price Is Right," though.

Tim Allen: I've heard enough "ho-ho-hos" and "arr-arr-ars" and witnessed enough family interventions shared with Jill, Jonathan Taylor Thomas and your other two kids to last me the rest of my life. Bob Vila could one-up you any day of the week and Richard Karn was definitely the better actor. I mean, he's not just good, he's "Family Feud" good.

Kelsey Grammer: What's with that theme song? I don't see how being a psychiatrist has anything to do with tossed salads and scrambled eggs. What's with your hair? James Polk called, he wants his coiffure back. What's with your elitist conversations you share with your brother, played by David Hyde Pierce? You two will never be Seattle's finest.



Benita Zepeda, Assistant Campus Editor

Fictional characters I wish were real

Dwight Schrute: Anyone that works in an office setting would have a much more exciting and colorful life with Dwight. Not only is he assistant (to) the regional manager, his socially awkward persona would win the hearts of all men and women in the workplace. I would love to have my desk next to the "Battlestar Galactica"-loving black belt, but who knows if I could be that lucky.

Elaine Benes: I see a lot of myself in this woman. Having Benes as my bar-hopping buddy would pretty much make my life complete. Not that there is anything wrong with my current friends, they just don't know how to break it down quite like her thumbs-up, leg-out dance phenomenon. Her and her curly hair would be better than Carrie Bradshaw to talk—ahem—questionable subjects with.

Brian Griffin: Who wouldn't want a talking, intellectual dog?

Charlie Kelly from "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia": I would love him to be my best friend. He is illiterate and I am pretty sure he doesn't shower, but his knack for getting involved in ridiculous situations is astounding. I would make fun of his sad romance with the local barista, but would love to read his screenplays and discuss the possibilities of his best friend's dad being his dad.

Yoshi: I want this little green dino of greatness to forever be my pet. He would be my trusty companion and I would return the favor by not leaving him hanging when in a sticky situation, like Mario. Plus, he can birth out and throw eggs at anyone putting me in harms way.



Hasselhoff's night at the E.R.

David Hasselhoff has made a career out of being a pop punch line, but his troubles with alcoholism are more sad than funny.

According to a Sept. 21 DailyMail.com article, the former "Baywatch" star and current "America's Got Talent" judge went to the hospital on Sept. 20 after his daughter, Hayley Hasselhoff, found him passed out in his Encino, Calif. home.

Poor Hayley found him before on the floor in May and reportedly had to fight to keep him awake until he made it to the hospital, where he was treated for alcohol poisoning. He's had several similar emergency room visits, but denies being an alcoholic. Apparently none of those could convince him he has a real, lethal problem.

His daughter also couldn't convince him two years ago when she tried by way of public humiliation. She released a video on the Internet of a drunk and shirtless Hasselhoff eating a hamburger from the floor. It didn't quite work though, and Hasselhoff kept on drinking himself into a stupor. It takes a certain character to hear your loved ones ask you to stop killing yourself with alcohol and yet go on drinking in excess, despite the pain you're causing. Words that come to mind would be selfish, inconsiderate and others not fit for print.

OK, alcoholism is a disease, but someone's decision to lift a glass to their lips is still their own. If they want to destroy themselves they can, but letting their daughter watch the horror unfold is different. That's the act of a selfish, jackass alcoholic.

— C. Prentiss



Junior photography major, Sarah Quintos, is truly living the hippie life. She embodies the phrase "go with the flow," through her breezy skirts and by letting her mood guide her fashion.

Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE



by Katherine Gamby
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

GOING WITH the flow is not only a lifestyle for Sarah Quintos, a junior photography major at Columbia, but a style guide. Her dress code is also inspired by art movements and her ethnic background, which consists of American Indian, Hawaiian, Filipino and Spanish.

"I would say nature and the '60s and '70s art and music movement," Quintos said about her personal style influences.

She said the music of the '60s and '70s is what really inspired her lifestyle and fashion sense.

"The music—rock 'n' roll, folk, blues,

psychedelic, soul, funk ... just me vibing to it," Quintos said.

She shops mostly at thrift stores, but she also acquires a lot of her clothes from people who design and give them to her as gifts.

"I don't like going to malls; I like more resale stuff and the actual authenticity of someone making something," Quintos said.

Quintos travels frequently and finds many of her clothes in various destinations, like her featured poncho.

"This summer, I went to Bonnaroo, I went to New Mexico, Hawaii; I was all over," Quintos said. "This girl just gave [the poncho] to me ... at the Rainbow Gathering [in New Mexico]; we were hanging out and people were exchanging."

Mood is also another key factor that dictates Quintos' style from day to day.

"I don't really think about it too much and I'm constantly wearing all of this jewelry, so it's always on," Quintos said.

She described her fashion sense as being much like her lifestyle, that it's free flowing.

"[My style is] very free and groovy ... I play a lot of music, [do] a lot of photography," Quintos said. "I like dancing and going to shows, meeting people, all that."

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REVIEWS



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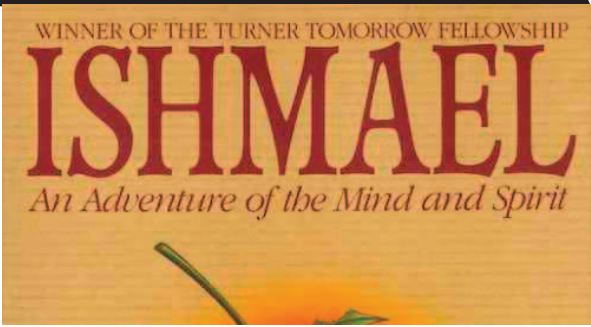
SHUTTER ISLAND BY DENNIS LEHANE

The movie has been pushed back to a February release, so there's time for everyone to read Lehane's suspenseful "Shutter Island." Set in a mental institution for the criminally insane, "Shutter Island" follows U.S. Marshals Teddy and Chuck as they uncover the island's dark secrets. Lehane is a master of surprise endings and "Shutter Island" delivers.—*D. LaCoco*



FOREVER, ERMA BY ERMA BOMBECK

Erma Bombeck must have had the answer to all of life's questions. She is probably the most influential and witty columnist of her time. Her writings can be really enjoyable and sweet, but the best part is that you can order her best columns on Amazon.com for one penny!—*S. Roush*



ISHMAEL BY DANIEL QUINN

This book delves into the mind of a gorilla, Ishmael, urging humankind to pay attention to how we treat Mother Earth, as well as the immense damage that we're creating. It goes beyond a "going green" approach; it opens up the readers' mind to a realm where even the most conservative can learn to recognize the value of our planet.—*L. Nalin*

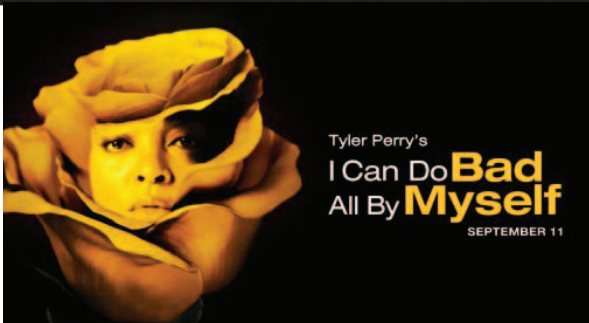


MOVIES / TV / DVD



"THE OFFICE" FIFTH SEASON

The quirks and antics at the Scranton branch of Dunder Mifflin became available on DVD Sept. 9 to watch at your leisure rather than waiting for every other Thursday to bring a new installment of the prolonged "documentary," packaged with sarcasm, awkward moments and witty retorts. Now the mystery of Hilary Swank's hotness may be at rest.—*C. Shook*



"I CAN DO BAD ALL BY MYSELF"

Now this has to be one of the best movies Tyler Perry has done in a while. It deals with more real-life situations such as depression and family issues. Oscar nominee Taraji P. Henson did an excellent job and so did R&B singer Mary J. Blige. I laughed, I cried and enjoyed every minute of it.—*B. Rodgers*



"GLEE"

I might not have cable, but I never miss a chance to watch the latest episode of "Glee" on Hulu. The show's highly-relatable high school life combined with amazing singing performances make "Glee" one of the most enjoyable shows I have become addicted to. Who doesn't want to see a football team dancing to "Single Ladies?" Yeah, we all do. Plus the two boys in the glee club are really cute. —*C. Shively*



MUSIC



THE DIRTY PROJECTORS: BITTE ORCA

Bitte Orca is sonically jarring in the most likable way possible. When you listen to "Stillness Is the Move" you'll find yourself humming along with Amber Coffman's velvety sweet voice, while simultaneously realizing that it might be one of the weirdest musical arrangements you've ever heard.—*M. Bloom*



LES NUBIANS: LES NUBIANS

Though this album is three years old, Les Nubians' self-entitled debut album is a classic. It mixes jazz, neo-soul and a touch of hip-hop. The album is in French, with the exception of "Sugar Cane," but still remains true to the African cultural elements of the two sisters. This album is perfect for hot summer nights and long drives of contemplation.—*K. Gamby*



BRAND NEW: DAISY

On *Daisy*, Brand New continues down the path that *The Devil and God Are Raging Inside Me* paved, which is tasteful, experimental emo. Each song feels surprisingly volatile and cuts like "Vices" and "In A Jar" are set off by lead singer Jesse Lacey's 'brand new' hardcore vocals.—*A. Keil*



RANDOM



COLUMBIA'S SECURITY ALERT E-MAIL

OK, let's be serious. I'm all for safety. This, however, is stupidity in its rarest form. Somebody says they'll split a check for \$800 with you if you pay them \$60 first and you agree? Come on, really? I'm embarrassed for you.—*J. Graveline*



PROCRASTINATION

Procrastination is a 0 sum game, but half the time I really like it. I feel free during those cherished moments I should be unburdening myself of future work. I know the heavy objects above my head will kiss terra firma through me, but I live in the moment. Just not that moment.—*C. Prentiss*



CHICAGOIST.COM'S WEATHER REPORTS

After reading the weather updates on Chicagoist.com, standard forecasts seem shallow and dull. The site describes the day's mood, making me smile even if the weather is horrible. Some of my favorites include descriptions like diplomatic, blithesome, discordant, cranky and Pitchfork-tastic. Why would I ever visit Weather.com again?—*L. Kelly*



Editorials

Benefit of inmate release not immediate

IN AN attempt to address the ongoing budget crisis in Illinois, Gov. Pat Quinn has approved the early release of 1,000 inmates from the state prison system to save an estimated \$5 million. Only low-level, non-violent offenders serving the last year of their sentence qualify for this release, and those chosen will be required to wear electronic ankle bracelets that monitor their whereabouts for the duration of their sentence.

Although state officials put the saving at \$5 million, Quinn is allocating \$2 million to monitor the released inmates, to provide parole officers and rehabilitation services. Also, an additional \$2 million will be spent to help prevent low-level offenders from entering the state prison system in the first place by providing expanded services to communities, such as drug prevention programs.

Releasing 1,000 inmates early won't save the state a large amount of money immediately. But hopefully by funding programs designed to divert people from entering prison, a substantial amount of money will be saved in the long term.

However, the state needs to look at this measure more comprehensively and realize the complete ramifications of this action to make sure it is carried out effectively.

There needs to be accountability for mon-

itoring the released inmates and the state needs to make sure the reform measures stick. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, Illinois has 400 parole officers responsible for 30,000 parolees, a 1-to-75 ratio. Cautions need to be taken to make sure there is an adequate number of parole officers needed to carry out the reform plan.

If releasing inmates early proves to be effective, it could be the start of a larger trend to reform the prison system in Illinois, something that is greatly needed not only to cut costs, but also to prevent the legal system from being clogged with low-level offenders.

Money that is saved from releasing these offenders could be used to reform Tamms Correctional Center, the notorious super-maximum security facility located in southern Illinois. Using the funds saved to concentrate on more violent offenders would be much more beneficial than wasting thousands of dollars on small cases where the inmate serves less than one year in prison.

Quinn's move to release inmates early could be greatly beneficial to the state of Illinois, perhaps sparking a complete overhaul of the current prison system. But if it's going to work, the state needs to understand the implications and make sure it's done with accountability in mind.

Oasis use should be mandatory

DESPITE MANY students' qualms about the structure and capability of Oasis, the foundation of the online system is strong. It is commonly used for things like class registration, academic support and viewing Student Financial Services records, but the system is also often used for classroom communication.

Oasis would benefit students much more if it were used by every teacher, but not all faculty utilize the system. Improvements could be made to the site's logistics, but Oasis does not need to be completely changed or revamped.

It should be mandatory for professors to use Oasis, which would create consistency for students. At minimum, teachers should upload their course syllabus, course handouts and a list of the required textbooks. It is also helpful for students if teachers update grades, attendance and class notes.

Mandatory use of Oasis will provide students with electronic copies of syllabi and handouts if they are absent, lose their originals, or if teachers make changes to their syllabus, preventing the professor from

having to redistribute the information to the student.

Teachers can also post messages on their class page to let students know if class is going to be cancelled or if the classroom moved. Keeping students updated about what's going on in the class should be the central idea of Oasis.

Some teachers use other sites, such as Moodle or Near Time, to communicate with students. These sites may be more aesthetically pleasing, but they become two more on a long list that students must keep track of monitoring. It would be more beneficial for students to centralize classroom communication through the already-existing Oasis site.

Columbia already provides workshop sessions for new teachers to learn how to use Oasis. These efforts could be extended to any current professor who is unsure of how to utilize the system to make communication with students more efficient. The college could also provide instructions for students on how to navigate the site through e-mail instructions or a new student orientation program.



Letter to the Editor

Re: Columbia students, administration rally for MAP

The Chronicle is doing its part to provide coverage of cuts to money available for Illinois need-based MAP grants which could impact 20 percent of Columbia students in the spring. The paper is to be commended and I hope the staff continues to follow and investigate developments related to this issue of student affordability.

The Student Government Association under the leadership of a fine Executive Board are out in front on this issue too. They will be making sure students know of opportunities to demand state senators and representatives restore MAP grant funding.

As an At-Large Senator, I would like to do my part and provide some information and my take on the issue. The more conversation, the more organized students will be.

In April 2008, the Illinois Students Assistance Commission released data showing Illinois pumped a record \$456 million into various college assistance programs in 2007. The total payout of MAP was at an all-time high—\$383 million—and the number of applicants—576,557 students—was unprecedented.

Illinois plans to reduce MAP grants by 75 percent, a reduction that will affect 145,000 students.

In addition to Columbia students, cuts will impact students at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago, Northern Illinois University, Harold Washington College, South Suburban College, College of DuPage, DePaul University and Loyola University.

A rally/lobby day is scheduled for Oct. 15. All students from all colleges in Illinois should attend and stand in solidarity with one another.

This issue is not just about whether students have money for MAP grants or not. This issue is about how Illinois is playing politics with money that students were

depending on to get through and graduate from college.

State politicians believe they need to cut state expenditures in order to fight a deficit that could be near \$9 billion in the year 2010, according to the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability.

Forget that the CTBA argues cutting spending could lead to a loss of hundreds of thousands of more jobs, an even more significant decrease in consumer spending, and more cuts to grants that help students. The reality is that students are being asked to bear the brunt of Illinois' inability to balance its budget and reform its regressive tax system.

I don't expect students to ask the state to follow data from economists and call on Illinois state representatives and senators to modernize the tax system so Illinois is less reliant on the poor and middle class, but they should go out and make the case that Illinois will not solve the problems that are leading to cuts in MAP grants by cutting spending. (After all, who wants to be scrambling to stop cuts again a year or two from now?)

When students go to Springfield in October, we must be united. Each of us will want a piece of the pie.

Instead of being concerned about which schools will get what and who will really benefit from organizing, let's demand the pie be bigger, and let's demand they turn to those with higher incomes who actually have money to help fix the problems we are experiencing.

Senators and representatives must know students are engaged and will not allow them to sink students deeper into debt by shifting the burden of fixing a broken Illinois economy to an Illinois student population already overloaded with debt.

Kevin Gosztola, senior film & video major

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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

Managing time, balancing work creates stress-free life



by Emi Peters
Copy Chief

“Time management is probably the most important factor in combating daily pressures that bring on stress.”

THERE ARE 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in a week. For college students, time is of the essence and there is never enough of it. Between school, work, internships, homework and time for friends and family, 168 hours a week just doesn’t seem like enough.

Usually, the week starts out fairly easy. Fresh as you are from a relaxing or eventful weekend, the workload can seem light and effortless, so you essentially push it aside until later. But somehow, that light and effortless workload starts piling up, and before you know it, you become overwhelmed and stressed out. This has hap-

pened to me on more than a few occasions. Part of me believes that I actually work better under pressure, that I get things done quicker and can focus better when I’m racing against the clock. But the truth is, waiting until the last minute to start an assignment just makes life harder. Homework done in a speedy haste turns out sloppy, and pulling an all-nighter to write a paper can lead to oversleeping and being late to class the next day. Procrastination can turn into a vicious cycle that brings on even more stress.

According to the University Stress Planning Group at the University of Georgia, “Stress is defined as a response to a demand that is placed upon you.”

College students are placed under stressful demands on a daily basis. The pressure to earn good grades and graduate weighs on students every day. Also, the pressure to find a job upon graduating has proven to be more difficult in the current economic climate. Learning how to prioritize and manage everyday demands is the key to controlling stress, which can potentially lead to health complications if not handled correctly.

Simple strategies to de-stressing your life can include things like eating healthy, getting enough rest and exercising regularly. Time management is probably the most important factor in combating daily pressures that bring on stress. The following are ways to manage your time—and stress—more wisely.

Plan Ahead: Keeping a daily planner is the easiest way to keep track of your time and anticipate upcoming projects and appointments. Make sure the planner is small enough to carry around at all times and list all of your upcoming activities like meetings, social engagements, tests and homework assignments.

Make a “To-Do” List: Making a list puts things into a more manageable perspective. Crossing things out as you accomplish each goal is not only helpful, but mentally satisfying as well.

Don’t Procrastinate: This is probably the easiest rule to break. With so many distractions surrounding us, it can be really hard to get work done. The Internet is probably

the No. 1 work distraction. Web sites like Facebook and Twitter are the most commonly visited sites among college-age students. But the Internet will still be there when the papers get done, so just learn to log off—and stay off.

Keep it Down: It helps to keep noise to a minimum. Playing soft music is a great alternative to louder music genres or having the television on. Make a “study rock” playlist. I recommend listening to artists like Grizzly Bear, Beach House or John Coltrane.

Breathe: Taking time to relax and meditate is necessary when it comes to controlling stress. Doing things like yoga and meditative breathing exercises can help to lessen tension and clear the mind, making it easier to focus.

Learning to manage your time wisely will not only alleviate stress, but also give you a good balance in your life and more free time to socialize, relax and enjoy life.

epeters@chroniclemail.com

ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

71 Percentage of United Kingdom residents that are satisfied with the National Health Service, the country’s publicly-funded health care system, according to a Sept. 21 Zogby International poll. Also, 60 percent of U.K. citizens positively rated the amount of time they usually wait before they get an appointment to see a doctor.

Number of games the Chicago White Sox have lost out of the 153 they have played as of Sept. 24, a .477 winning percentage, according to ESPN. **80** The Chicago Cubs have lost 73 of their 151 games as of the same date according to ESPN, which is a .517 winning percentage. The regular Major League Baseball season ends the second week of October.

48 Percentage of Americans who said they think the United States is moving in the wrong direction, according to a Sept. 17-20 PollingReport.com survey. This is opposed to 39 percent who believe the nation is on the right track, while 10 percent had a mixed answer.

Percentage of Americans that don’t believe the war in Afghanistan is worth fighting, according to an ABC poll published Sept. 15. The poll said that only about one in every four Americans favors a troop increase in that country. **51**

Understanding sensory perception vital to science



by Lauren Kelly
Commentary Editor

“Studying synesthesia is more than an interesting fantasy—it could tell us a lot about the human brain.”

IMAGINE BEING able to see sounds, taste shapes or feel scents. It seems like you’d have to be on drugs to experience things like this, but for some people, it is a natural part of how they perceive the world.

They have what’s called synesthesia, a neurological condition that blends sensory perceptions, creating a kaleidoscopic experience of reality. For people with this condition, different areas of the brain that manage the five senses communicate with each other, producing multi-sensory perceptions. This means, for instance, when a synesthetic person hears music, he or she might also taste it or see it as a colored

ribbon floating in front of them. They may even feel it as a temperature, contour or texture in their hands. It is an immediate, involuntary and constant response that is with a person for life.

I first heard of synesthesia while watching a documentary special on the Discovery Channel about a year and a half ago, and since then, I’ve endlessly daydreamed about experiencing it. How cool would it be to have an iTunes visualizer happening in front of you every time you hear music? Have colors appear when tasting food? Be able to smell colors?

A common response from “normal” people upon learning about the condition is: “Wouldn’t it drive them crazy to have that going on all the time?” But in fact, it is a natural part of how synesthetes see the world. Many synesthetes say they wouldn’t want to live without it.

The perceptual phenomenon may be a really cool thing to experience, but studying why and how it occurs in the brain could lead to revolutions in science. Studying synesthesia is more than an interesting fantasy—it could actually tell us a lot about the human brain. With more research

being done on synesthesia, more questions are being raised about how humans perceive the world through the senses and what determines a person’s reality.

Scientists are now using information they have learned from studying synesthesia and ideas of sensory substitution pioneered by renowned neuroscientist Paul Bach-y-Rita to help blind people.

“We see with our brains, not our eyes,” Bach-y-Rita said in the 1960s.

According to an Aug. 13 article in Scientific American, a new device made by Wicab Inc., a company co-founded by the late Bach-y-Rita, allows blind people to “see” with their tongues. The device the company has pioneered allows the blind to have optical sensations recreated through a different sensory pathway that bypasses optical nerves.

The device is a lot less ominous than it sounds. The user of the device simply puts on a pair of glasses fitted with small cameras on the lenses, which sense values of dark and light. This information is then collected and transmitted to a plastic stick that is pressed against the tongue, relaying information to the brain via nerves on the

tongue, allowing people to “taste the light,” according to Scientific American.

Besides providing blind people with simulated sight, the information and data collected from studying the condition of synesthesia could eventually help people with other sensory deficiencies like deafness, or even let people experience the blending of senses that comes with synesthesia. This is, in itself, worthy of further research and funding.

This research opens up countless new possibilities in studying the subjective experience of consciousness. What is real? When someone sees a floating ribbon of sound in front of them, are they imagining it?

“Synesthetes simply have a different texture of reality,” said Doctors Richard Cytowic and David Eagleman in their book, *Wednesday is Indigo Blue*. “Reality is much more subjective than most people suppose. In this light, synesthesia catalyzes a paradigm shift by highlighting the dramatic differences in how individuals objectively see the world.”

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Robin Carlson CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

The Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Conservation Science Center opened Sept. 23. Scientists will conduct research at the center to determine which plants will live in Chicago's climate conditions in years to come.

Botanic Garden opens research facility

New Glencoe facility provides plant conservation, research opportunities, education

Mario Lekovic
Assistant Metro Editor

WITH AN array of lush trees and plants, the Daniel F. and Ada L. Rice Plant Conservation Science Center finally opened to the public at the Chicago Botanic Garden last week in Glencoe Ill.

The 38,000-square-foot building, which cost \$8 million and took 10 years to develop, will serve as a laboratory and research facility for the garden's staff of 31 full-time scientists and research assistants.

Accompanying these workers are interns, graduate students, research associates, collaborators and 200 botanists.

The Green Roof Garden, located on the top of the center, will house more than 300 varieties of plants. The center also has nine laboratories where scientists and interns can conduct research.

Stuart Wagenius, conservation scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden, explained the benefit of having growth chambers in the new center. Growth chambers allow

scientists to control the amount of light, air, temperature and carbon dioxide plants receive.

"It's a place where we can grow plants in a very controlled environment," Wagenius said. "There are many, many different experiments we can do."

One experiment is already underway by Northwestern University graduate student Courtney Gill. Gill has placed three different kinds of plants in the growth chambers to see which plants will survive longer in different climates. One chamber will have present-day climate conditions and the other will feature projected climate conditions of 30 years from now.

The temperature is expected to rise three degrees in the next 30 years, Gill said.

"It's a competition project based on climate change," Gill said. "I'm seeing how the different climates are going to affect competition of the plants."

The average global building will also feature interactive exhibits explaining the essential roles plants play in everyday life, and what botanists are doing to develop real-world solutions to the conservation problems caused by climate change, habitat loss, invasive species and pollution.

Members of the Chicago Botanic Garden, along with supporters and many different donors, are trying to resolve these issues.

The invasive trees in the garden are a big problem for other plants, so members cut them down and take precautions to ensure that they would not grow back. Also, in an effort to minimize pollution at the garden, Larry Spatz, CEO of the Solar-Electric Vehicle Company, donated a solar-powered shuttle to transfer people from one part of the garden to another. The rides will end Oct. 25, according to Julie McCaffrey, senior media relations specialist at the Botanic Garden.

"Were going to see what happens next year, if we get a donor or not," McCaffrey said. "It's a great connection between the solar Trans and the solar panels at the Green Roof Garden that power about five percent of the building."

The semi-intensive Green Roof Gardens are split into two sides. On the left garden, all of the plants are North American native, which is more experimental because many Green Roof Gardens don't use these plants. On the other side, there are plants that are commonly used in green roof gardens, such

» SEE GARDEN, PG. 47

Chicago to become more green

More buildings in the city become eco-friendly, Chicago strives for sustainability

Spencer Roush
Assistant Metro Editor

IT ISN'T hard to guess that Mayor Richard M. Daley's color of choice out of a crayon carton would be green, the color of energy-efficiency and a trend that could lead to Chicago becoming the greenest of all American cities.

About 6,000 trees have planted since Daley has been in office; 90 miles of median planters have been constructed; eco-friendly rooftop projects have been started, and now Daley's newest accomplishment, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for all new public buildings.

"We don't necessarily get the exposure of Portland, Ore. or Vancouver, but there is a very active [green] community here, and some of the best minds who are working on these issues in architecture, design and construction, are in Chicago," said Ben Ranney, a principal of Terra Firma, an architecture firm that focuses on green buildings. "We also have very strong municipal leadership in this regard. Mayor Daley has made a big point of promoting environmental construction and I think he cares about it very deeply."

The United States Green Building Council announced that Chicago has earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Development certification for 88 public buildings, which puts Chicago at the top of the list, beating out Portland, which was 2nd with 73 buildings and Seattle, with 63 certifications. Examples of these green buildings include the West McCormick Place Building, 2301 S. Lake Shore Drive, and the new F.B.I. Headquarters, 2111 W. Roosevelt Road.

There has been some criticism of the LEED certification program since it started 11 years ago.

Erin Duncan, a real estate agent for Safiron Realty Group who specializes in eco-friendly real estate said, "Some people say it's too expensive, but it is a non-profit third-party organization. The other criticism would be that it doesn't follow up once a building is certified, which definitely was the case a few years ago. However, with the new version of LEED, they do require additional follow up."

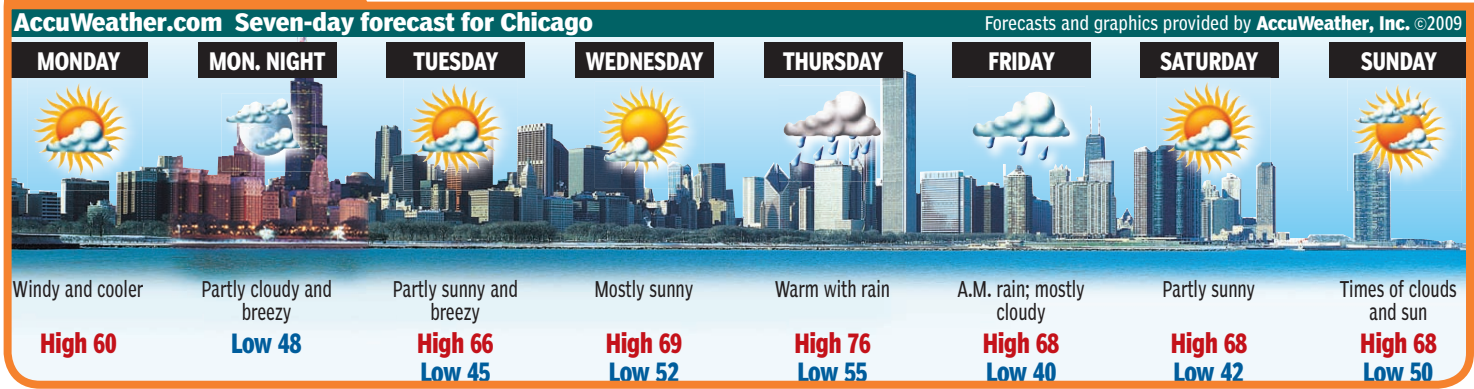
According to the USGBC's Web site, LEED certification is determined by the total points a building earns through a scoring system devised by the council. Points are given if the building is near public transportation, if it was built with sustainable resources, if the indoor air quality is good and if the building is energy and water efficient, among other things.

Larry Merritt, spokesman for the Chicago Department of Environment, said going green is a large priority for the city because it lowers costs, and it improves the quality of the environment in the city.

"What we found is that 70 percent of our gas emissions come from buildings, about 21 percent comes from transportation, so buildings are the largest area dealing with greenhouse gas emissions," Merritt

» SEE BUILDINGS, PG. 47

FORECAST



Community rallies against gang activity

Daley, Suarez voice opinions on neighborhood crime activity in 31st ward; residents march

by Mario Lekovic
Assistant Metro Editor

A CROWD of students, teachers and concerned Chicago residents gathered Sept. 23 as 31st Ward Ald. Ray Suarez, Mayor Richard Daley and other community officials voiced their anger over drug abuse and gang violence that students of Chicago Public Schools have to deal with on a daily basis. More than 200 people attended the annual rally. Protesters marched from Falconer School, 3020 N. Lamon Ave., to a parking lot at 4621 W. Belmont Ave., waving picket signs and chanting against violence and drug use.

Nine CPS students have been killed during gang-related violence in the first month of the 2009-2010 school year. Administrators from several schools said they don't want to see any more empty seats in their classrooms due to this violence. Daley said parents should step up and take charge of their children and stay active in their neighborhoods. "It's about time that adults start acting like the Congressional Medal of Honor winners and stand up and protect your family and your home and your community," Daley said. "The police cannot do it." Carol Garai, assistant principal at Calvin Park High School, said it's important to send a message to the community. "We are supporting anti-violence," Garai



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

A crowd of protesters makes its way from Falconer School, 3020 N. Lamon Ave., to a parking lot at 4621 W. Belmont Ave. after Mayor Daley and Ald. Suarez (31st ward) gave speeches denouncing gang violence.

said. "We absolutely have to stop what's happening in the neighborhoods. In our communities, we have too many young people that are dying. It's all due to gang activity. And it starts at a young age." City streets were blocked off and traffic was stopped while police escorted protesters through the streets of the 31st Ward. Suarez greeted the patrons at both the beginning and end of the march by insisting on breaking the silence and speaking out against drugs and violence. "We have to stay motivated and make sure that we send a strong message, and that message is no to drugs, no to violence

and yes to education," Suarez said. Chicago Public Schools teachers spoke out, saying they were tired of losing their students to gang activity. Isaly Acevedo, a fifth-grade teacher at William P. Nixon Elementary School, proudly waved a sign for one of her fallen students over her head as she marched. "It's important [to rally] because if we don't, I am going to keep losing my students," Acevedo said. "These are gems in the rough that need to be polished and need to be prepared to be better citizens and productive individuals in our society." During the summer, Acevedo lost one of

her students who was fatally shot by gang members. Acevedo said that her student was also a member of a gang. "He was a product of his environment," Acevedo said. Acevedo has been a teacher for four years and every year she attends these rallies in support. She said she does so because if she doesn't, "who will?" "I think it's important to understand that stopping the silence means stopping the violence," Acevedo said. Dozens of students from different schools marched in unison because even though they weren't schoolmates, their message was the same. Mario Fernandez, a 14-year-old freshman at North Grand High School, supported his school as they marched with a message of anti-violence. Fernandez said he and his friends chase away the kids who write graffiti around his neighborhood. "I skate at a skate park, and I see people tagging and I ask them, 'What are you doing?' and tell them, 'Get out of here because we skate here,'" Fernandez said. Fernandez said gang activity hits close to home because he lost a cousin to violence. "One of my friends is still in a gang and I tell him he shouldn't do it because I lost a cousin and some old friends to gangs," Fernandez said. Once the protesters reached their destination, Suarez thanked and urged them to speak out about gangs and violence. mlekovic@chroniclemail.com

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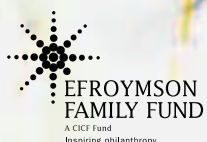
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Family of 10, surviving on faith

Unexpected job loss leaves man struggling to support large household on one income

Manya A. Brachear
MCT

BEHIND THE doors of a modest Rogers Park frame house Pete and Patty Mueller are acting out their own reality show of “Pete and Patty Plus 8.”

Homeschooling all eight of their children and surviving on one income, the Muellers have not sought the reality show spotlight that helped pop culture icons Jon and Kate Gosselin raise their brood and eventually broadcast the end of their marriage.

Still, there has been a fair share of drama surrounding the Muellers’ adoption of two children from Ethiopia—a process that started four years ago before anyone could have guessed Pete would lose his job.

The Muellers could have backed out of the adoption, but they didn’t. They believed they were answering God’s call in the New Testament to look after orphans in distress.

Now, with a new school year underway, and eight pupils at the dining room table instead of six, the Muellers are reminded of what they believed all along: God does provide. The journey has not brought fame or fortune, but it has fortified their faith.

“We didn’t go into this thinking we’d save the world,” Patty said. “We did it selfishly. The byproduct is we’re forced to live by



Courtesy MCT

The Mueller family from Rogers Park work together to homeschool 10 children and survive off of a single income after an unexpected job loss.

faith, forced to need God.”

Pete said he has had three epiphanies, or “lightning bolts,” in his 48 years. The first struck when he decided to propose to Patty.

The second was the name of their oldest daughter, Pippin—a catchy name that Patty heard on the radio and Pete liked immediately. They chose P names for all of their biological children who range in ages from

five to 17. After Pippin came Paxton, Perri, Pia, Paavo and Peyton.

The third epiphany was the decision to adopt Mulugeta and Birtukan, an Ethiopian brother and sister who kept their given names. Patty, 47, suggested adopting after learning about the plight of children in Liberia. With 146 million orphans and 2.1 billion Christians in the world, she

believed it was a moral imperative she could not ignore.

Her husband scoffed and wished his wife luck, but six months later, he realized she had a point. This was a call from God.

Though Pete felt drawn to Ethiopia, the couple followed Patty’s heart and applied

» SEE FAMILY, PG 48

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» **OLYMPICS**
Continued from FRONT PAGE

“All of the venues are slated to be placed in public parks, and public parks are very precious assets owned by all of the people,” Tresser said. “They can’t be used for a private company for their profit, and that’s what would happen. So, we are opposed to the ripping up of our parks.”

Tresser said construction around the city, especially near the proposed Olympic Village, could cause a lot of displacement among people.

“When the Games come to town, poor people and working class people tend to lose their homes because of last speculation near the venue sites,” Tresser said. “Historically, hundreds of thousands of people have lost their homes when the Olympics came to their city and we fear the same would happen here.”

Tresser also said traffic in the city and the number of outsiders using public transportation could really cause disruption to daily travel routines during the Games.

Tresser said all of these reasons Chicago shouldn’t host the bid are important, but the most important reason is financial ruin that the city could be forced into during Olympic construction.

Daley’s approval rating is at an all-time low of 37 percent. Tresser said it’s because the majority of Chicagoans don’t agree with how public money will have to be used if the committee goes over the \$5 billion budget, which is likely.

“The estimates for construction in the bid book are just that, they’re estimates, we don’t have any working plans,” Tresser said. “Chicago, typically, has a terrible record in managing its construction projects.”

Krig said many other cities that have hosted the Olympics in the past, including Vancouver and London, have surpassed their proposed budgets by doubling and even tripling the initial numbers.

“Within Chicago itself, we know from experience that where Mayor Daley falls short of private funding, he reaches into public coffers and we saw that happen with Millennium Park,” Krig said. “So there is no reason to think that that’s going to be any different in Chicago,

given that we have a history of that here.” A City Council vote on Sept. 9 proved that is exactly what would happen, after aldermen voted unanimously for public funding to be used if there are any cost overruns.

Jay Stone, a community activist and Civil Rights Award winner said, “It was 85 percent against the public funding the Olympics, and yet the vote in city council was 49 to 0. What does that tell you? That the politicians can ignore the will and the opinion of the people.” Tresser said taxpayers in Chicago have been abandoned.

“The aldermen are simply rubber stamps, we don’t even need them really if the mayor is going to rule like that,” Tresser said. “No Games Chicago is really the only game in town if you are opposed to the [Olympics]. There is really no one else speaking for you or asking these tough questions.”

Because the public opinion of the hosting the Games is so low, the Chicago Olympic Committee has been campaigning heavily for the Olympics in the city to sway public opinion using signs on public and private buildings as well as CTA trains.

“I think the [Olympic ads] are another intrusion into the public space,” Tresser said. “No one in the history of the CTA has ever had the privilege of audio ads. You can’t turn them off; you can’t not listen to them. The city has already plastered the 2016 logos everywhere, including the airport.”

Stone said the public’s negative opinion is hurting the Chicago Olympic bid.

He said the media has mostly been involved in a one-sided media blitz for the Olympics, which has allowed a lot of the political corruption between Chicago Olympic Committee members and the City Council to slip between the cracks.

Krig said the positive media attention for the Games could account for the reasons why Chicagoans aren’t well informed. She said there are many people who aren’t looking at the economic outcome of the games or how taxpayers could foot the bill.

“People are being sold on the idea that the Olympics is going to be this wonderful spectacle that magically we will all participate in, despite the fact that most of us won’t actually go to the Olympics,” Krig said.

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Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Two voting booths located at Navy Pier have red buttons to press if someone supports the bid. So far, only 34,971 people have pressed it out of the 9.6 million people who live in the metropolitan area.

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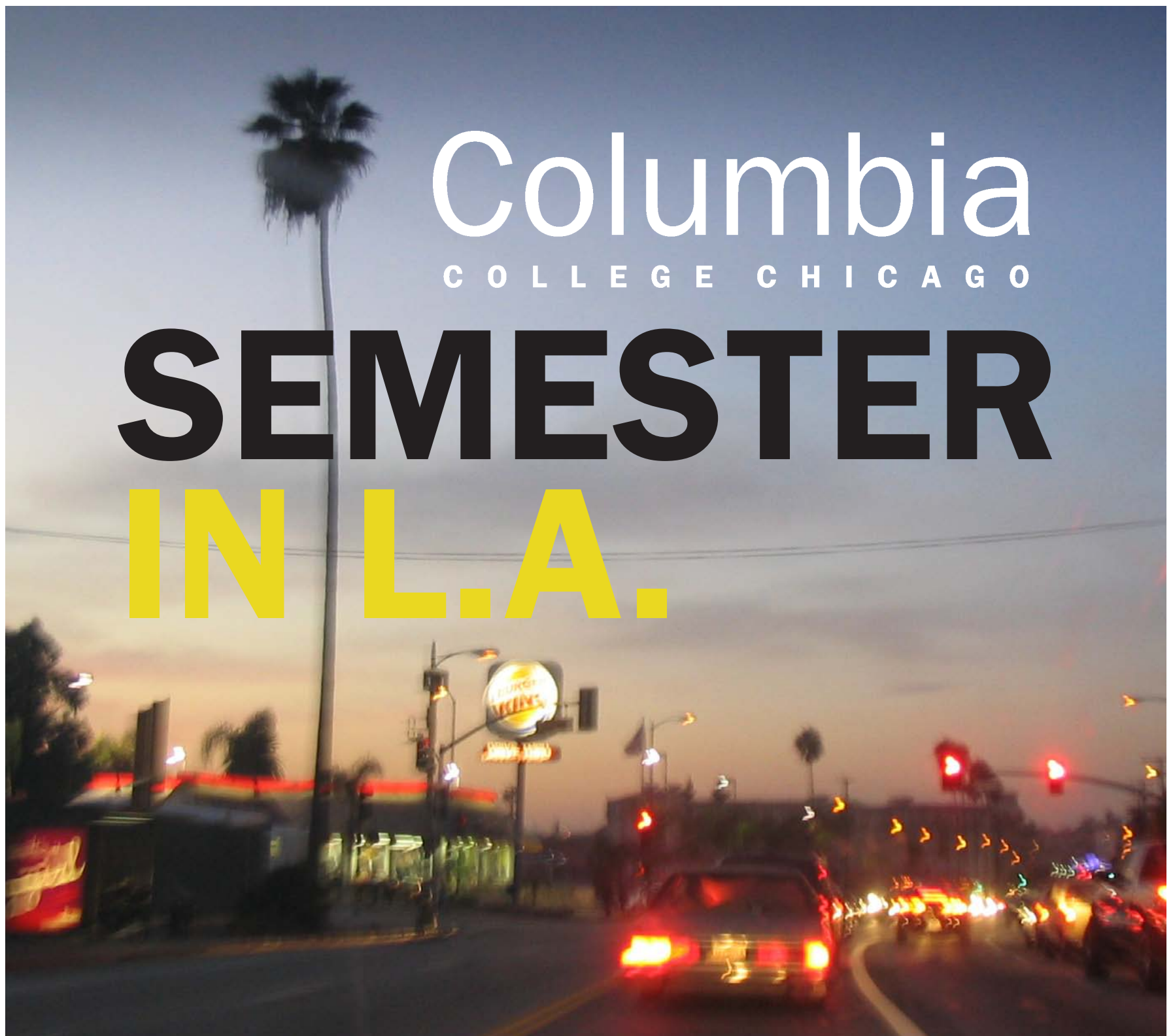
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» BUILDINGS

Continued from PG. 41

said. “It’s important that we address that through more energy-efficient buildings.” Merritt said making public buildings cost-effective can potentially save taxpayers money within the next several years.

“There may be an initial increase in cost to implement some of these features, but the payback—whether it’s five or seven years—it’s definitely worth it,” Merritt said. “When you look at the economics of it, and also the environmental impact, it’s a wise decision.”

Ranney said eco-friendly construction is becoming more popular for both public and private buildings, including Walmart Stores Inc., because it can save money through the reduction of utility costs, such as water and electricity, and the improvements can keep employees healthy.

“There is research that has been published about worker productivity,” Ranney said. “[The research] proved that workers who have been in green buildings are less likely to fall ill and they’re more likely to show up for work. There are also some intangibles that suggest people are happier and work harder when they work in a nicer environment.”

Ranney said private companies are also going green to boost their images for potential clients.

Duncan said green improvements are not just happening in public commercial buildings. Construction is also taking place on a smaller scale in private commercial businesses and people’s homes. However, the green advancements in residential

buildings are less publicized and often overlooked because they haven’t reached complete LEED certification.

Jaemi Jackson, a Chicago LEED accredited professional, said Illinois and the federal government offer tax rebates on a lot of the sustainable products to promote green buildings. She said environmental improvements can also add value to buildings.

Duncan said potential home buyers cannot always afford to buy a fully remodeled, eco-friendly home because of the value the improvements add.

“Another option a lot of people are thinking about right now is buying a place that currently doesn’t have as many green features and retrofitting it into much more of a green home,” Duncan said. “That seems to be something that people are really comfortable with doing right now. Doing [green improvements] as a long term project rather than buying something that is finished out and ready to go, you can split those upfront costs.”

These improvements are normally small and revolve mainly around buildings with sustainable materials, improving air quality, installing more sufficient insulation and buying energy-efficient appliances.

“No matter how small the [green improvements] people are making right now, everyone wants to do what they can,” Duncan said. “You do have to make a bigger investment, but of course over time, everything, as far as the energy-efficient features, catches up and you end up saving money. It usually takes several years to do that, which is kind of the tough part right now.”

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» GARDEN

Continued from PG. 41

as Sedums.

The gardens have a variety of plants and researchers are trying to see which are going to grow the best and which plants will die out, and to help determine why a plant lives or dies, there are different soil depths. These gardens can be identified as semi-intensive, intensive or extensive, depending on the depth of the soil.

The plants are placed in soil 4, 6 and 8 inches deep. Anything deeper than 8 inches is considered intensive.

The upkeep of the gardens is left to the horticulturists, who are in charge of watering the plants, digging them up and making

sure they get enough sunlight.

Emily Shelton, the horticulturist in charge of the research, evaluation and Children’s Garden, has to water the plants and make sure they are surviving in their environments.

“I’ll be somewhat involved with the evaluation program, but mostly weeding, watering, taking out plants and adding in plants,” Shelton said.

She has spent a lot of time watering trees inside the center. They were recently relocated to Chicago from Florida, and she has to make sure they adapt to the new location.

“We have to take a little extra care in the beginning to make sure they get acclimated,” Shelton said.

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Robin Carlson CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

The Green Roof Garden sitting atop the new facility at the Chicago Botanic Garden, houses many lush plants from around the world. These plants are commonly used in semi-intensive green roof gardens.

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» FAMILY

Continued from PG. 44

with an agency in Liberia. Worried that the agency’s reportedly sloppy paperwork and inaccurate case histories might jeopardize their efforts, they sought another agency. Liberia closed its doors to adoption before they could find one.

Wondering if this was a sign from God to abandon the idea, the couple met with a counselor who specialized in adoption issues. After forcing them to confront every worst-case scenario she could imagine, the counselor asked how they would feel in 20 years if they didn’t do it. When only regret came to mind, they followed Pete’s heart to Ethiopia.

The day before New Year’s Eve, the Muellers received word that a man had brought his grandchildren—now 2 and 6—to the Bete Hit Sanet orphanage in the Ethiopian city of Kombolcha. Their mother and father died of a sudden illness.

The Muellers’ joy was tempered by an unexpected development that had occurred just days before Christmas. Pete lost his job as a project manager for a general contractor. The family was surviving on his two-month severance.

The family could not afford two more mouths to feed, let alone travel to Ethiopia. Illinois’ Department of Children and Family Services would not grant them a license necessary to adopt a seventh and eighth child the simple way, with one trip there and back. In order for the children to qualify for immediate citizenship, the Muellers had to meet them first in Ethiopia and then return a second time, costing them thousands of dollars more. After a



Courtesy MCT

The Mueller family said they had a sign from God to adopt two children from Ethiopia and they hope more churches broaden their pursuit of justice to include adoption ministries.

Tribune inquiry, DCFS is now investigating why a license would have been denied.

“Adoption is not cheap or free,” Pete said. “Our whole lives have been undercapitalized. If we were smart economically, we wouldn’t do anything we do. I couldn’t imagine not having done this.”

Five weeks after the severance expired, Pete found a sales job for a landscape supply company.

Money has never been a priority for the Muellers. Neither has decorating, dusting or yardwork. “Someday” projects occupy almost every nook of their cozy four-bedroom home and lawn. They will get to them “someday.”

When Pete discovered that the doors were coated with lead paint, he removed them. The house had no bedrooms with doors for 12 years. Because he has not yet installed another shower, the house has only one full bathroom.

“They don’t seem to get bothered by some of those things,” said Patty’s mother, Lynn Berthel, who always kept a tidy house, but admires her daughter’s values. “There are some things you just have to let go.”

What they can’t let go they discuss on Wednesdays, otherwise known as “date night.” Often the couple walks up the block to Baker’s Square for a cup of coffee and a free slice of pie.

“He vents for a while, I vent for a while,” Patty said. “We don’t go with the intention of having heartfelt conversations or

romantic trysts. It’s just to be in the same space.”

It’s the one time of the week when Patty is more than mom, teacher, coach, cook and chauffeur. She is Pete’s wife.

“We need to be reminded that we love each other or need to,” Pete said.

“Our whole lives have been undercapitalized. If we we’re smart economically, we wouldn’t do anything we do. I couldn’t imagine not having done this.”

-Pete Mueller

Those intimate moments, they said, sustain their marriage. A shared passion for justice also helps. That passion has fueled many of their unconventional life choices.

Members of Grace Evangelical Covenant Church in Albany Park, Ill. They hope more churches broaden their pursuit of justice to include adoption ministries. They also want more churches to shake people from their comfort zones to address the issues—war, poverty, AIDS—that threaten young lives in the Third World.

“Without getting too philosophical, what kind of purpose in life do you want to create?” Pete said. “We knew we weren’t the kind of couple that would vacation in the Riviera or climb the Himalayas, but we humbly think we have a great family. We’re good at this parenting thing. Once I got used to the fact that I’m going to be poor for the rest of my life, I was at absolute peace. That’s when I knew we couldn’t not do it.”

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Reception: September 10, 2009, 5-8pm

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

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

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Toll workers under suspicion due to constant absence

Illinois State Toll Highway employees abuse privileges, force authority to hire investigators

by Paul Merrian
Crains Chicago Business

ON ANY given day, more than one in five Illinois State Toll Highway Authority workers calls in sick or takes some type of leave. Such unusually high absenteeism is raising suspicions of fraud and tollway officials are now looking to hire private investigators to sniff out goldbricking employees. “This is a blatant management problem that should have been wrestled under control by senior staff long ago,” said assistant Illinois Senate Majority Leader Jeff Schoenberg, (D-Evanston), a longtime tollway critic who recently launched hearings on procurement and management problems at the agency. The tollway published a request for bids from private investigation firms two weeks ago. It’s seeking bids by Oct. 14 and aims to hire up to three firms for two years, starting in December.

The get-tough approach has been in the works for some time, predating Gov. Pat Quinn’s move last month to appoint civic leader Paula Wolff as the tollway’s new chairman in an effort to clean house at the agency. Wolff declined to discuss the move to hire investigators. “We want to make sure folks on leave really, truly are on leave for reasons they say they are if there’s reason to believe they’re not,” said a tollway spokeswoman, who noted that the tollway is aiming its investigation primarily at suspected abuses



Steven J. Serio CRAINS CHICAGO BUSINESS
Illinois tollway workers’ absence causes longer wait periods for drivers trying to pass through the Illinois Tollways.

of the Family and Medical Leave Act. The hiring of private investigators comes at a sensitive time for the tollway. Nearly 700 toll collectors represented by the Service Employees International Union, already worried about job security with the emergence of I-Pass transponders, are in the midst of contract negotiations with the agency. “We don’t approve of any inappropriate use of FMLA and all use of FMLA by tollway workers under the law has been certified

by the tollway itself,” said Christine Boardman, SEIU Local 73 president. The absenteeism rate, which hasn’t been noted in recent reports by the Illinois auditor general, came to light two weeks ago when the tollway posted the request for bids from private investigators to conduct video surveillance of employees suspected of fraud or abuse in taking leave. “At any given time, approximately 22 percent of the tollway’s workforce exercises their rights under the law or in accordance

with a tollway leave opportunity,” the request for proposals says. Typical absenteeism rates in private industry range from 4.5 percent to 5 percent, according to Kim Stattner, absence management solutions and strategy leader at Hewitt Associates Inc., an employee benefits consultancy in Lincolnshire. “It certainly would be cause for concern and it does appear to be some potential misuse of that time in the workplace,” Stattner said. An Indiana Toll Road Concession Co. spokesman said the privately-run system has an absenteeism rate of about 6 percent on any given day. “It takes following up on each and every employee and requiring the proper paperwork,” the spokesman said. The Illinois tollway has 1,642 employees on a payroll including benefits of \$177.6 million annually. Employees are eligible for leave under the federal FMLA, the Illinois Victims Economic Security and Safety Act—which provides 12 weeks of leave a year for victims of domestic violence, as well as workers compensation, sick days, personal days, authorized leave without pay and leave for military service, jury duty, bereavement and school visitation. But the cost has been high. “Employees taking unscheduled leave have a significant impact on tollway operations by disrupting normal workflow processes, causing an undue burden on those left covering for their absent co-workers, which results in low employee morale.” the request for bids says. chronicle@colum.edu

IN OTHER NEWS

Doggone wrong

According to ChicagoTribune.com, a children’s daycare facility was doubling as an illegal dog fighting operation. In Maywood three people were arrested for alleged involvement in the dog fighting circle, one of whom is the husband of the daycare operator. The daycare operator said she wasn’t part of the illegal activity and the children at the daycare were never around the dogs or dog fighting equipment. On Sept. 22, the police recovered nine dogs during a raid of three homes and found one dog with various injuries that required medical treatment.

Working on the railroad

ChicagoSuntimes.com reported that the Englewood neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side received \$140,000 from the Exelon Foundation to turn a two-mile stretch of an old abandoned railroad into a nature trail. The Openlands Organization just commissioned a plan to show how the project can get started. The nature trail would stretch from Wallace Street, which is close to the Dan Ryan Expressway, and run west to Hoyne Avenue. The trail would be used for bikers or hikers and would hopefully encourage street traffic and commerce through various access points.

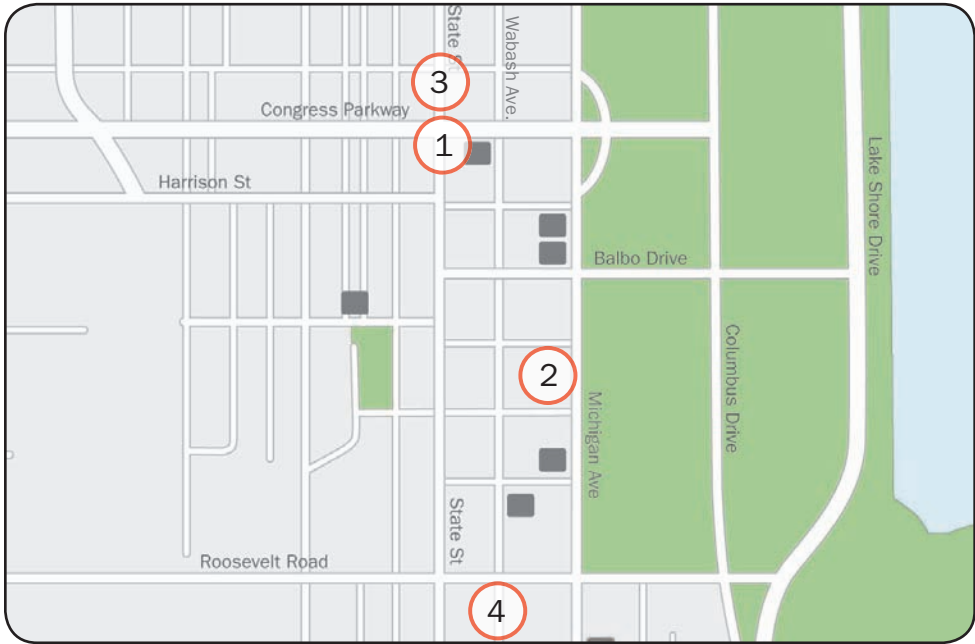
Unsafe flying conditions

The Federal Aviation Administration uncovered safety breaches at Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport during last month’s routine inspection, according to ChicagoTribune.com. The inspection noted that their safety concerns involve take offs and landings because of the amount of debris on the runway and also the massive number of tall grass and weeds that could attract birds and other wildlife around the airport. The FAA sent a notice chastising the Chicago Department of Aviation for writing a series of false statements in their self-inspection program.

Running the city

According to NBCChicago.com, Mayor Richard M. Daley is getting advice from third graders about how to run the city. Chicago public school children sent out 2,000 letters to give a little word of advice to the mayor. Some of their ideas were really “just cute,” but other letters had good advice to give. North Side student, Yehya Albasery wrote, “To make Chicago a better place, we need potholes to be fixed. And what happened to all the taxes that my parents paid? You at least can fill the potholes and it [will] make our lives easier. Make the right decision and fill potholes. That’s the least you can do.”

OFF THE BLOTTER



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

Wallet Snatcher

1. A wallet from inside a 27-year-old woman’s purse was stolen while she was sitting at Panera Bread, 501 S. State St., with her mother on Sept. 19, according to police reports. The mother told responding officers that she saw two teens, one male and the other female, behind her daughter’s chair doing something she couldn’t see. The teens fled from the scene and took things such as her Best Buy MasterCard, American Express Card and Macy’s Card.

Caught in the act

2. According to police reports, a 30-year-old female prostitute was arrested in a hotel room at Essex Inn, 800 S. Michigan Ave. The suspect asked the arresting officer for \$200 and told him what he could get for the price. The officer agreed to the deal and signaled another officer to arrest the suspect.

Silence in the library

3. A 57-year-old man was observed yelling obscenities at patrons and security guards in Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St., according to police reports. The man had been warned several times in the past that he is not allowed on library property. Building security contacted officers and the suspect was placed into custody.

Liquor theft

4. According to police reports, a 51-year-old male was placed under arrest at Jewel-Osco, 1224 S. Wabash Ave., for attempting to steal a bottle of vodka. The suspect proceeded to leave the store by walking past the clerk without paying. After the suspect saw two security guards following him in the parking lot, he tried to attack them. The suspect suffered a minor cut on his nose and was taken to Mercy Hospital.

games

G

SUDOKU

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	7							9
	4	6		8	7		1	

Puzzle by websudoku.com

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
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42				43	44	45	46			47		
48				49						50		
51				52						53		

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ACROSS

- 1 Conway or Allen
4 Actor Williams
9 "Mancuso, _"
12 "Not _ Stranger"; Frank Sinatra film
13 "_, Dolly!"
14 "Joan of _"; Ingrid Bergman movie
15 Underhanded
16 Actress Pompeo
17 Connect
18 Skewer roasting on a barbecue grill
20 " _ to Be You"
22 Actress on "Desperate Housewives"
26 " _ Pieces"; Peter & Gordon song
27 Calendar periods: abbr.
28 "The _ & Stimpny Show"
29 Felix or Garfield
32 Right of final decision
35 "Deal or No Deal" host
39 Third-party presidential candidate of 1992

- 40 Venomous viper
42 " _ Me Call You Sweetheart"
43 Taken _; surprised
47 Daniel _ Kim
48 Historical period
49 Singer Frankie
50 " _ Got a Secret"
51 Schmuck
52 Knitter's skeins
53 Snakelike fish

DOWN

- 1 Chore
2 Small piece of land
3 Perhaps
4 " _ Bang Theory"
5 Cath. or Episc.
6 Building wing
7 Pub order
8 Pick-me-up
9 " _ Knows Best"
10 Thorny plants
11 _ tea
19 Mr. Onassis
21 Your, biblically
23 Mister Ed, for one
24 "The _"; series for George Peppard
25 Skater Harding
29 Best Comedy Series Emmy winner of 1984
30 Primary blood vessels
31 "My _ Dads"
33 " _ on a Plane"; Samuel L. Jackson movie
34 "The _ Couple"
36 Sophia Loren's nation of birth
37 Dog on "Frasier"
38 " _ It to Beaver"
39 "Guilty" or "Not guilty"
41 Film holder
44 " _ Baa Black Sheep"
45 "The Fresh Prince of Bel- _"
46 Lou Dobbs' network

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

C	S	I		A	B	C		T	R	A	P
L	A	S		B	E	A		H	I	L	O
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HOROSCOPES



ARIES (March 21-April 20) Key officials may this week reverse established policies or announce sudden improvements. Areas affected are time schedules, payment methods and daily procedures. Revised job titles or new deadlines may also be involved. Expect added changes in the coming weeks. After Friday many Aries natives will encounter a complex attraction or passionate flirtation. Trust your first impression. New relationships will be quickly established and highly emotional. Stay balanced.



TAURUS (April 21-May 20) Older relatives ask for special consideration or social approval. Lifestyle choices and family habits may require discussion. Listen to all new proposals before offering an opinion. Someone close will this week need understanding and support. Later this week a trusted colleague or work partner may reveal a controversial project or rare team assignment. Wait for clear instructions before taking action: this not the right time to risk relations with bosses or officials. Take your time.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Financial management is vital. Loved ones may now plan large purchases or extended investments. Carefully consider all possibilities and ask for written proposals. Complex business or money ideas will eventually prove rewarding. After Wednesday many Geminis will begin seven weeks of fast romantic changes and new social opportunities. Friends, relatives and romantic partners will boldly clarify their long-term goals or aspirations. Remain open: there's much to learn.



CANCER (June 22-July 22) Practical discussion will work to your advantage this week. Job expansion, money promises or home renovations may all be accented. Use this time to secure agreements with potential employers or financial partners. Thursday through Saturday social invitations are scattered and misleading. Stay focused on small details: at present someone close may reveal their private intentions. All is well, so not to worry. Do, however, ask for concrete times, facts or dates.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Yesterday's decisions will this week be proven accurate. Home ownership, daily budgets or revised family roles now offer tangible rewards. For many Leos extended educational programs or special purchases will soon be within reach. Carefully discuss all long-term plans with loved ones. After Wednesday friends and lovers may be unusually moody or sentimental. No serious or lasting affects are likely, so not to worry. Watch, however, for minor criticisms or new family information.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Love relationships will this week require clearly defined roles and new emotional guidelines. Some Virgos may soon change their family or romantic lives. Co-habitation, shared expenses or detailed social planning are highlighted. An honest expression of goals is needed. Thursday through Sunday highlights complicated financial decisions. Areas affected are property, ownership, leases, government documents and legal requests. Check all facts: minor errors may prove annoying.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Early this week family members may press for private social or romantic information. Over the next few days loved ones will be sensitive to small mood changes. Don't be unnerved. Relatives or close friends may need extra time to adjust to emotional events in their own lives. Late Thursday pay close attention to the financial comments or business observations of a trusted colleague. Past mistakes and fast revisions may soon be revealed. Ask for clear explanations.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Over the next few days friends or close colleagues may require emotional support. Ongoing family disruptions and vital home decisions may be a prime theme. Encourage long-term change and creative solutions. Others will respond positively to genuine concern and fresh insights. After Wednesday a new romantic attraction may become actively passionate or controversial. Fast invitations and complex social decisions are accented. Remain cautious: tensions may be high.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Long-term housing contracts now provide viable new options. Some Sagittarians will soon begin an intensive phase of home improvement. Property or financial investments will create reliable benefits in the coming months. Respond quickly to all proposals. Later this week family discussions will lead to promising agreements. Social habits, daily routines and home duties may all be accented. Remain open to complex emotions: recent disappointments will be revealed.



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Charisma and physical attraction are now a strong influence. Over the next few days potential friends or lovers may ask for greater involvement in your personal life. Passions and expectations may be high. Others will ask probing questions: remain sensitive to sudden outbursts or special requests. After Thursday minor business facts require added clarification. Colleagues or officials may unknowingly provide misinformation. Be diplomatic: pride and social confusion are involved.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) First impressions may this week reveal the underlying social motives of new friends or work mates. A romantic introduction or business contact may be a key concern. Remain diplomatic but avoid group involvement: emotional reactions are temporarily unpredictable. Tuesday through Saturday accents complex workplace discussions. Colleagues will reveal unexpected facts, figures or proposals. Job security, seniority and workplace expansion are highlighted: stay alert.





PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Team assignments may be delayed this week by misinformation or low attendance. Find creative ways to postpone important duties or request added time from authority figures. Over the next few days your dedication to group success will be appreciated. After Wednesday many Pisceans will encounter an exotic new friendship or potential love affair. Listen to your own inner voice: at present, controversial relationships will quickly become permanently committed. Stay focused.

monday, 9//28

**FOCO: “Viva la Masa” II - Tamale Sale Fundraiser**
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 1st Floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE


**Common Ground Discussion: Multicultural Queer Nation**
1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave., 4th floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE


**Black Student Union Book Club Meeting**
4 p.m.
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave., 4th floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE


**Columbia Community Music Collective**
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
1312 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-7383
FREE

tuesday, 9//29




**FOCO: Latino Culture & Conversation - Visual Interpretation of the Virgin of Guadalupe**
12:30 p.m.
Multicultural Affairs Conference Room
618 S. Michigan Ave., 4th floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE

**Ad Autopsy**
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Film Row Cinema
1104 Center
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor
(312) 369-6843
FREE


**Jon Faddis in Residence**
Noon - 1 p.m. // Music Center Concert Hall, 1014 S. Michigan Ave., Concert Hall


A conversation with the musician, as well as Dick Dunscomb.


(312) 369-6300
FREE

**Paint it Black Auditions**
7 p.m.
Multipurpose Studio
618 S. Michigan Ave., 4th floor
(312) 369-7569
FREE


wednesday, 9//30

**Columbia College Chicago Jazz Ensemble**
Noon - 12:50 p.m.
Music Center Concert Hall
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6300
FREE


**Columbia Community Chorus**
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Sherwood Conservatory of Music
1312 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-7383
FREE


**Dancemasters Class with Merce Cunningham Dance Company**
3 p.m.
Dance Center
1306 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-8353
FREE

Fashion Talks
6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Hokin Hall, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-7652
FREE

**Roundtable Working with Service for Students with Disabilities**
Noon - 1:30 p.m.
Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave., Room 311
(312) 369-8296
FREE

thursday, 10//1


**Staff and Faculty Relaxation Session**
Noon - 12:50 p.m.
South Campus Building
624 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-7697
FREE

**Big Fish: Chris Kaskie**
6:20 p.m.
Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
Suite 307
(312) 369-7280
FREE




**Film Screening: The Rising Tide**
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Ferguson Theatre
Alexandroff Campus Center
600 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-7383
FREE

**Found: Contemporary China Design Opening Reception**
5 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Leviton A+D Gallery
619 S. Wabash Ave., 1st floor
(312) 369-8687
FREE

**Annual Damon Williams Comedy Show**
7:30 p.m. //1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., 1st floor

This Chicago comedian has appeared on BET and HBO, opened for The Kings of Comedy and will be performing at Columbia.


(312) 369-7569
FREE


**Lecture by Paul Booth: “Participatory Culture: Beyond the Economic Binary”**
4 p.m.
South Campus Building
Columbia College Library
624 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor
(312) 369-7527
FREE

friday, 10//2

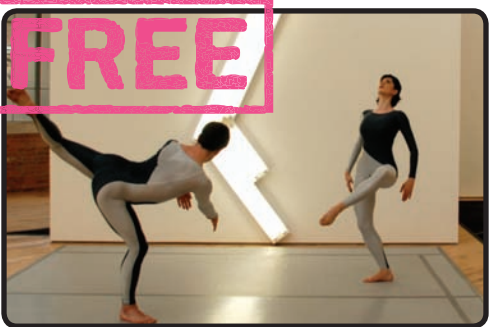
**Artist Talks: Hugo Tillman**
10:30 a.m. - Noon
South Campus Building
Columbia College Library
624 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor
(312) 369-7355
FREE

**Alumni Guest Speaker: Jay Boersma, Creative Director at Playboy.com**
5 p.m.
The Portfolio Center, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave., Room 307
(312) 369-6987
FREE

**Fiction Writers at Lunch**
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Hokin Annex, Wabash Campus Building
623 S. Wabash Ave.
(312) 369-7611
FREE

**Dal Niente in Concert**
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Music Center Concert Hall
1014 S. Michigan Ave.
(312) 369-6300
FREE

saturday, 10//3



Merce Cunningham Dance Company
3 p.m. and 8 p.m. //Dance Center, 1306 S. Michigan Ave.

Help commemorate the dance company's 90th birthday celebration with their historically significant choreography.

(312) 369-8353
FREE

monday, 9//28

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Mixtape Mondays Open Mic
Mondays 9 p.m. – 2 a.m.
Exodus II
3477 N. Clark St.
(312) 399-2695
\$10 to perform; \$5 to watch
- 

Chicago Cycle of Laughter
Every last Monday of the month through
Nov. 30 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Haidan Indian Totem Pole
3550 N. Lake Shore Drive
FREE
- 

The Ville
Mondays, 8 p.m.
Mary's Attic
5400 N. Clark St.
(773) 856-0470
\$10
- 

The Armando Diaz Experience
Mondays, 8:30 p.m.
iO
3541 N. Clark St.
(773) 880-0199
\$12

tuesday, 9//29

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James Ellroy
6 p.m.
Harold Washington Library Center
Cindy Pritzker Auditorium
400 S. State St.
(312) 747-4300
FREE
- 

Van Morrison
8 p.m.
Chicago Theatre
175 N. State St.
(312) 462-6300
\$65 – \$350
- 

21st Century Men and Black Ted Williams
Tuesdays, 10 p.m.
iO
3541 N. Clark St.
(773) 880-0199
\$5
- 

Bill's Blues Jam
Tuesday through Sept. 30
8:30 p.m.
Bill's Blues
1029 Davis St., Evanston, Ill.
(847) 424-9800
FREE

wednesday, 9//30



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The Tweet Life
Wednesdays, 8 p.m. through Oct. 28
The Playground Theater
3209 N. Halsted St.
(773) 871-3793
\$10
- 

Jim Rauth's Comedy College
Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m.
Hog Head McDunna's
1505 W. Fullerton Ave.
(773) 929-0944
21+
FREE
- 

Doggy Happy Hour
5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Joe's Bar
940 W. Weed St.
(312) 337-3486
FREE
- 

The History Boys
Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:30 p.m.,
Fridays and Saturdays 8 p.m., Sundays
2 p.m. through Oct. 18 // *TimeLine*
Theater 615 W. Wellington Ave.

Alan Bennett's English play follows a
group of history students preparing for
the Oxbridge entrance exams under the
guidance of three teachers with very
different styles.

(773) 281-8463
\$22 – \$42


thursday, 10//1


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Wine, Women and Shoes
6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
River East Art Center
435 E. Illinois St.
(312) 222-8900
\$85 – \$125
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“Project Runway” Viewing Party
Thursdays, 9 p.m.
Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club
3700 N. Halsted St.
(773) 525-1111
FREE

thursday, 10//1

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Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
Thursdays – Saturdays 8 p.m.,
Sundays 3 p.m. through Oct. 4
Circle Theatre
7300 Madison St., Forest Park, Ill.
(708) 771-0700
\$18 – \$24
- 

Sound Options at the Movies Screens
Talking Heads' Stop Making Sense
Doors open at 7 p.m., screening at 7:30 p.m.
Navy Pier Imax Theater
600 E. Grand Ave.
(312) 932-9950
\$11 in advance; \$12 at the door
\$10 for WBEZ members and students at
SoundOptions.org

friday, 10//2

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Improvised Shakespeare
Fridays, 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.
iO
3541 N. Clark St.
(773) 880-0199
\$14
- 


“Statesville Haunted Prison” and “City of Dead”
Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m. – 11 p.m.
Siegel's Cottonwood Farm
17250 S. Weber Road
Crest Hill, Ill.
\$30; VIP and group ticket pricing available
- 


Bye Bye Liver: The Chicago Drinking Play
Fridays 9:30 p.m. and Saturdays
8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
Fizz Bar & Grill
Pub Theater, 2nd floor
3220 N. Lincoln Ave.
(773) 904-8777
\$15
- 

Plans 1 through 8 from Outer Space
Fridays and Saturdays, 11 p.m.
National Pastime Theater
4139 N. Broadway St.
(312) 458-9083
\$10 – \$15

saturday, 10//3




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Kama Sutra the Musical: Vegas Bound ... and Gagged
Saturdays, 10:30 p.m. through Oct. 24
Davenport's Piano Bar and Cabaret
1383 N. Milwaukee Ave.
(773) 456-5262
\$20 plus a two-drink minimum
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AIDS Run and Walk
Saturday, 9:50 a.m. run, 10 a.m.
walk // 300 E. Balbo Drive

The annual 5 lakefront run and walk
features live entertainment and
a health expo. The top fundraiser
wins two round-trip tickets to
Europe and the top 300 fundraisers
receive a VIP breakfast.

(312) 334-0946
\$25 – \$30; Registration at
aidsrunwalk.org
- 

Chicago Country Music Festival
Saturday and Sunday,
11 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
Grant Park
300 S. Columbus Drive
(312) 744-3315
FREE
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Chuck Love
10 p.m.
Smart Bar
3730 N. Clark St.
(773) 549-0203
\$10; Free before 11 p.m.

sunday, 10//4

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Bears, Bus, Beer
10:30 a.m.
O'Donovan's
2100 W. Irving Park Road
(773) 478-2100
\$10
- 

Scrabble Sundays
Sundays, 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.
Swim Café
1357 W. Chicago Ave.
(312) 492-8600
FREE
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C'est La Vie
3 p.m. preview
Light Opera Works 2nd Stage
1420 Maple Ave., Evanston, Ill.
(847) 869-6300
\$29 – \$85
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Girlie-Q Presents: Salon deVine
Sundays, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Joie de Vine
1744 W. Balmoral Ave.
(773) 989-6846
FREE