

12-7-2009

## Columbia Chronicle (12/07/2009)

Columbia College Chicago

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# Manifest's destiny



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE

Students show off hacked Manifest T-shirt ensembles, which were built under direction of the Spectacle Build Shop at a Manifest informational meeting on Dec. 1 in the Film Row Cinema of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

## Weeklong events geared toward celebrating student work

by Laura Nalin  
Assistant Campus Editor

EACH YEAR, Columbia hosts an annual urban arts festival, Manifest, to showcase the graduating students' and alumni's body of work. The six-day-long celebration will include Industry Night and will culminate with Manifest and senior graduation parties to bring the creative community of the college together.

An informational meeting was held on Dec. 1 to discuss the plans for the 2010 commencement week. The meeting was held in the Film Row Cinema of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave., and featured design contest winner, Landry Miller, faculty and staff members along with Student Government Association's President Jessica Valerio.

Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, said he believes the college has a sacred responsibility to showcase graduating student work and Manifest is the perfect way to do so.

"We need to be connecting graduat-

ing students to professionals, show their wonderful talents and give them a forum where they come together," Kelly said. "We want to send our graduating students out with a bang and we want to make sure as they leave the Columbia community, they have this unique experience."

However, the weeklong events don't just cater to graduating seniors. Alumni events will also be held. Some of the events include an a bazaar where former students can exhibit or sell their work, an alumni lounge and an alumni reception to make sure that they still feel at home within the community. Kelly said these events are held to ensure the alums feel reconnected to the community and that creative spirit remains part of the creative nation of alumni.

Industry Night, hosted by the Portfolio Center, will begin May 13, 2010. The event will give the graduating students a chance to present their portfolios, hand out their resumes and business cards and network with working professionals in their field. Tim Long, the executive director of Career Initiatives and director of the Portfolio Center, said this year's Industry Night will work a bit differently than last year's.

Long said that unlike previous years, this year the event will take place over the course of three days starting on May 11. Industry Night's premiere events will showcase performances by students in dance, musical theater and theater and a reception will follow their performances. The second night will be hosted in the new Media Production Center and will showcase work by the Film and Video Department along with the Television and Broadcast Journalism departments. The final night will feature a reception for all industry guests and will hold panel discussions and portfolio reviews by professionals.

Bruce Sheridan, chair of the Film and Video Department, said that he is eager to use the new Media Production Center for the upcoming events to show the students' work.

"Two things we need to introduce to industry are clear," Sheridan said. "We need to display the grounding that the students get at this school, which is deeper than any trade school education, and emphasize that our students are by definition, 'creative.' Whether they are

» SEE MANIFEST, PG. 8

# Politicians question poll accuracy

Controversial candidate may file lawsuit against respected polling agency

by Spencer Roush  
Assistant Metro Editor

ONE REPUBLICAN candidate running for President Barack Obama's former Senate seat in the 2010 election is raising questions about the accuracy of polls and how the results are being disseminated to the public. In fact, many Web sites on both sides of the partisan aisle, such as DemocraticUnderground.com and FreeRepublic.com, claim to be leery of some polling results because of favoring one political party over another or producing faulty results through poor questioning.

As a result, poll numbers call for a degree of scrutiny from every reader and journalist who use the data for an article. It brings up a question of just how accurate the polls are or if they are trying to skew public opinion. Andy Martin, a perennial candidate running for Senate, called a few Illinois polls "bogus," including Rasmussen Reports, Patrick Hughes' personal poll and Mark Kirk's poll.

Kirk and Hughes are both running against Martin for a place in the U.S. Senate.

On Oct. 12, 2008, the New York Times published an article on its Web site that states Martin was involved in many political controversies, including having been a primary source of rumors surrounding Obama's citizenship. Some say he poses a valid question however: What's the threshold a political candidate needs to pass in order to be included in polls?

According to Martin, he has been left out of Rasmussen Reports' polls, which makes him look like a non-contender. Martin said he is the only other candidate besides Kirk who has ever run for office and should be considered an option in polling questions.

Martin said he has sent two letters, one

» SEE POLL, PG. 36

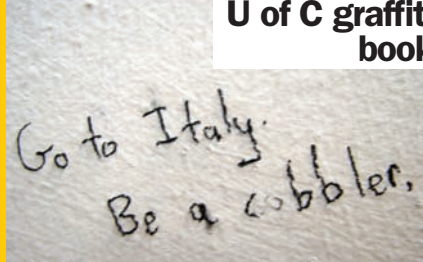
H&F



Post-Vegetarians  
Speak Up

» SEE PG. 11

A&C



U of C graffiti  
book

» SEE PG. 17

METRO



Who's your  
Senator?

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Lacking the true meaning



by Bethany Reinhart  
Editor-in-Chief

Inspired by a question posed by one of my co-workers, I set out last week to write a column filled with reasons why I love the holiday season. After a discussion about why she’s a scrooge, my co-worker asked what the holidays mean to me. For a person with rather candid opinions who usually doesn’t shy away from a debate, I found myself momentarily speechless. What do the holi-days mean to me?

Images embedded in my brain for years suddenly flooded my mind. Christmas Eve Mass, traditional breakfast with my family, peppermint hot chocolate, wrapping the family cat in tissue paper, counting the presents that Santa brought me and so on. Surely with all of the thoughts running through my head I should easily be able to fill a column with the reasons why I love the holidays and exactly what they mean to me.

However, as I sat down and started to type, the thoughts didn’t flow nearly as freely as they should have. In fact, I struggled to string together a single convincing paragraph about how wonderful the holidays are. Sure, I could regurgitate what the holiday should be. But the problem is that what they should be and what they are in America are two very different scenarios. In the end, I concluded that I actually don’t like the holiday season in America at all. Although I don’t consider myself to be a scrooge, I do think that Christmas in America has become a false representation of the true meaning of the holidays.

The realization hit me rather hard. For years I have faked my love for Christmas.

I have pretended to be too busy to put up a tree or too tired to go out shopping—but surely I love Christmas, I would tell myself, I’m just not in the spirit yet.

But here is the cold, hard truth. I hate what the holiday season has become in America. Instead of bickering about who’s going to host the holidays, what kind of cookies we are going to bake, how early we have to leave to make it to Christmas Eve Mass on time or where we should go to look at the best holiday lights, I would rather put my energy toward a more worthy cause. Not to say that my family isn’t worthy—they are, more so than any family I know. But I think a more worthy cause would be an orphan in Uganda who doesn’t know what Christmas is, but would probably love some clean water or to have someone splurge on a gift like a toothbrush.

I would love to see what would happen if for just one week we took all of the money it costs to light Christmas lights across the country and instead used that money to heat classrooms in Ukraine, provide educational materials to impoverished children in the Philippines or purchase medical supplies for people dying of AIDS in South Africa.

If we stepped back and thought a bit more about what the holidays should mean instead of what they have come to mean, maybe we could eventually get ourselves back on the right track.

Until then, the best Christmas gift I could ask for is a plane ticket to Uganda, where I could teach a child to read, to comb their hair and to brush their teeth. On a holiday that is supposed to be all about giving, maybe I could find a way to give something that is a bit less Hallmark and a lot more everlasting.

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NEWS FLASH

12/8/09

Dodgeball 2009

Dodgeball Tournament benefiting the Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center. Guests are asked to make a donation of \$2 or a new toy donation. The event will be held from 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Free food will be provided from Chipotle and Lou Malnati’s. Free giveaways, raffles and live music by Ghosthouse DJs (Jimmy Con, A.D.D) and will feature an after show by the Mathletes.

1212 S. Plymouth Court

12/9/09

Art/Activists Yoga Workshop

A yoga workshop by yogi master Michael McColly will be held in the dance center through the student organization Art/Activism. The workshop will highlight the importance of inner peace and will aim toward energy renewal. It will be held from 4 p.m. - 6p.m.

The Dance Center, room 202  
1306 S. Michigan Ave.

through 12/11/09

Weisman Award Exhibition

Winners of the Albert P. Weisman Award display their completed projects in all fields of communication and multiple disciplines. The exhibition runs through Dec. 11. The gallery is open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Arcade  
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building

through 2/13/10

“Dis/Believer: Intersections of Science and Religion in Contemporary Art”

“Dis/Believer” is an exhibition of art expressing the commonly conflicting elements of science and religion. The Glass Curtain Gallery is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and F

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

through 2/13/10

“At Close Distance: Labyrinth of Self”

“At Close Distance” explores how the concept of home reinforces the sense of self. It is the path of separation, the coming and going that creates and shapes identity and memory. Located in the C33 Gallery from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

C33 Gallery  
33 E. Congress Parkway Building

through 2/13/10

“Framed: The World of Comics”

“Framed” is an exhibition of comic book art and comic-inspired murals and installations created by Columbia students. As part of the exhibition, students from Keith Pitts and Jacqueline Penrod’s set design classes will be designing and constructing stage sets. The exhibition will be located in the Hokin Gallery from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Hokin Gallery, Wabash Campus Building  
623 S. Wabash Ave.

Want to see your Columbia-related event mentioned in News Flash?  
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C

campus

# Holly Jolly Trolley Food Drive spreads holiday cheer

Columbia's WCRX, Radio Department host 7th annual fundraising initiative

by Ciara Shook  
Assistant Campus Editor

IF THE entire student body, which comprises more than 11,000 people, were to donate just \$1 or a single canned food item, it would be “incredible” in the present economic climate, according to Cheryl Morton-Langston, director of Columbia's WCRX radio station.

WCRX 88.1 FM and the Radio Department will host their 7th annual Holly Jolly Trolley Food Drive on Dec. 10 and will be accepting donations for the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The event will feature a trolley parked on Wabash Avenue filled with nonperishable items, and will host a slew of events throughout the day in the lobby of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

“You’ll know that it’s here when you see the big, red Holly Jolly Trolley parked outside on Wabash,” said Tony Kwiecinski, station supervisor for WCRX.

Langston said the Holly Jolly Trolley Food Drive came to fruition when she found a student at WCRX who was a driver for a trolley company in Chicago.

“We were brainstorming one day, trying to come up with something that would be a tradition at the college—our fixture,” Langston said. “Tony and I both felt that it was really important for students to find a way to give back and what better way than to have a food deposit.”

Throughout the years, the Holly Jolly Trolley Food Drive has evolved from a donations initiative into a holiday event, and this year will feature guest musi-

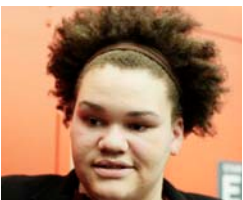
## CAMPUS POLL

What are you doing to prepare for finals?



**Jermane Hall**  
Sophomore, film and video major

“I’ve just been hitting the library a lot. Nowhere else can get me focused.”



**Sandra Hamer**  
Junior, advertising major

“I’ve just been making sure I get all my work done ahead of time and trying not to procrastinate. I’m also making sure I get enough sleep.”



**Chris Ross**  
Senior, advertising major

“Just a lot of paper work, basically. I have a lot of reports and projects to do, so I’m pretty much taking each week as it comes.”



Courtesy CHERYL MORTON-LANGSTON

WCRX crew members stand in front of last year's Holly Jolly Trolley. The trolley will be parked on Wabash Avenue, outside the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building.

cians and local icons, a silent auction, an ice cream eating contest compliments of Dairy Queen and a bake sale.

“We kind of think of it as a festival,” Langston said. “We hope it is.”

The station will be on air from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with student DJs emceeing the event. WCRX will broadcast live sets from a broad range of bands.

Local faces and politicians are slated to drop by, including Secretary of State Jesse White, Ald. Robert Fioretti of the 2nd Ward, the Loop Alliance, WCIU morning host Jeanne Sparrow and Columbia's President Warrick L. Carter.

“[Carter] is a huge supporter,” Langston said. “He’s helped make Holly Jolly bigger. He always brings over about 15 to 20 bags of groceries.”

A silent auction will be held, during which participants can bid on items such as certificates to the Melting Pot, Ann Sathers and Lettuce Entertain You restaurants, as well as tickets to the House of Blues Chicago World Famous Gospel Brunch and a one-night stay at Hotel Sax.

“

If every person gave just \$1, think of how much money we’d be able to raise. One dollar, one can of food would be incredible.”

—Cheryl Morton-Langston

The day will also feature a prize wheel, the WCRX Wheel of Fun, in which people can participate with a small monetary donation. The Wheel of Fun will have DVDs, CDs, T-shirts, key chains, WCRX apparel and gift certificates to attractions throughout Chicago, such as Brookfield Zoo and the Museum of Science and Industry.

Langston said the best thing about the food drive is that everybody comes togeth-



Courtesy CHERYL MORTON-LANGSTON

The WCRX Wheel of Fun (above) offers prizes such as DVDs, CDs and passes to various Chicago attractions.

er to help provide food for those who may not be able to afford a holiday meal.

“It’s fun to see how everybody starts really getting together,” Langston said. “For instance, Matt [Palumbo]’s mom is baking something like 150 cookies so we can sell them, and all the proceeds go to the Greater Chicago [Food Depository].”

Students of the Radio Department and the radio station worked to obtain the donations from the local businesses for the silent auction and WCRX Wheel of Fun.

“It’s a lot of fun and it’s low effort for people to come by,” said Antionette Woolard, a junior radio major. “We put a lot of effort into it so nobody else has to. All you have to do is give a little.”

Alpha Baking Company, which has participated in the food drive for the past seven years, is also donating a large sum of bagels to sell that day. Proceeds will be donated to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Langston said that since the inception of the Holly Jolly Trolley Food

Drive, WCRX and the Radio Department have raised more than \$25,000 and collected more than 3,000 pounds of food for donation.

“If every person gave just \$1, think of how much money we’d be able to raise,” Langston said. “One dollar, one can of food would be incredible. It’s that time of year, and I think people feel they should give back a little.”

Kwiecinski said that if someone gives a little, they can get a lot in return.

“How many people have those cans of soup they bought that are just sitting in their cabinet they probably might not ever get to?” Kwiecinski said. “Just bring it in.”

All events will be held in the lobby of the 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, and the trolley will be parked outside the building alongside the curb of Wabash Avenue, with radio and WCRX students accepting food and monetary donations.

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# College Council wraps up fall semester

Group dubs new chair, discusses retention, graduate studies

by Ciara Shook  
Assistant Campus Editor

IN A speedy College Council meeting on Dec. 4, general announcements were made with a review of Columbia’s graduate programs and retention reports at the forefront of the discussion.

The council was led by Hope Daniels, associate professor of Radio and vice president of College Council on the eighth floor of the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.

The council elected sole candidate Arvis Averette, instructor of Humanities, History and Social Sciences, as the new chair of College Council. Averette is replacing former chair Kevin Fuller, associate professor of the Science and Math Department. Fuller was arrested last month on charges of child pornography.

As stated in a retention report by Mark Kelly, vice president of Student Affairs, the graduation rate at Columbia improved by a 40 percent from 1999 to 2005.

“The improvement is based on two things: one, according to the student satisfaction survey, we do a far better job of supporting our students,” Kelly said. “Second, the student characteristics have changed dramatically. We now have the characteristics of a college with moderate selectivity.”



Lenny Gilmore THE CHRONICLE  
Vice President of Student Affairs Mark Kelly speaks before College Council on Dec. 4. Kelly is working to improve the retention and graduation rate of students who enroll at Columbia.

On the negative side, Columbia’s graduation rate is one of the lowest of private colleges in Illinois and in the country, Kelly said.

Kelly proposed the Retention Discussion group, in which he joins Louise Love and the deans of the three schools to form a committee to review Columbia’s retention and graduation rate.

“It’s an incredibly complex issue,” Kelly said. “We’re not sure where it’s going to go, but we think, organically, we’re going to learn from each other and we’ll be in a better place.”

Jeff Abell, associate professor of Interdisciplinary Arts and spokesman for the Graduate Policy Council, announced to the board the GPC’s concern about Columbia’s acknowledgement of its

graduate programs.

“The GPC wants to take a leadership role in that process and begin to articulate what we feel the priorities for the college of our graduate education should be,” Abell said.

In response to the graduate programs at the college, Rose Economou, associate professor of journalism, inquired about graduate tuition.

“Students are asking me how much is a credit hour for our graduate program,” Economou said. “What is it now and what is it going to go up to?”

Love, vice president for Academic Affairs, said there is no flat cost for all graduate students, but it is determined on a program-by-program basis.

After a study looking at peer institutions, Love found that Columbia’s graduate education is “underpriced.”

“We talked about bringing the tuition up and doing differential tuition program by program,” Love said. “But the thought is just a start since we haven’t had time to consult enough with the programs.”

Love said it was first proposed to have a 10 percent increase in graduate tuition in 2011, but that produced insurmountable concern among the chairs of departments about current students’ situations, and the chairs later preferred a 5 percent proposed increase.

*College Council’s next meeting will be Feb. 6, 2010 at 10 a.m. in the 1104 Center, 1104 S. Wabash Ave.*

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**Tuesday December 8**  
Groove Band in Concert  
12:00 PM

**Wednesday December 9**  
Jazz Guitar Ensemble I in Concert  
12:00 PM  
Pop Rock Ensemble: Showcase in Concert  
7:00 PM  
CCC Woman’s Chorus and The New Music Ensemble in Concert at The Sherwood  
7:00 PM

**Thursday December 10**  
Latin Jazz Ensemble in Concert  
12:00 PM  
Pop Jazz Fusion Ensemble in Concert  
7:00 PM  
Counterpoint Recital at The Sherwood  
7:00 PM

**Friday December 11**  
Columbia College Jazz Ensemble in Concert  
12:00 PM  
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All events are free. For more info: 312-369-6300

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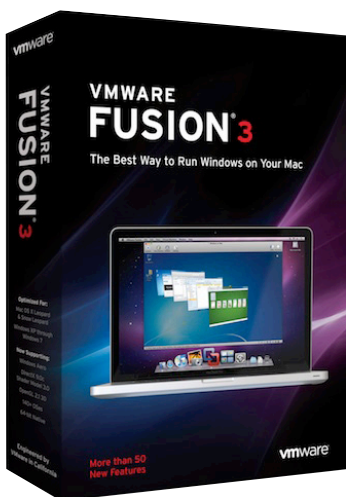
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someone you should

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TERESA  
PUENTE

# Columbia faculty promotes diversity through class, blog

Once a month, The Chronicle profiles people on campus who are doing interesting or important things. We're always watching for faculty, staff and students with a story to tell. Here's someone you should know.

by Benita Zepeda  
*Campus Editor*

TERESA PUENTE, 42, is an assistant professor and director of News Reporting and Writing in Columbia's Journalism Department. Recently, Puente was given a grant from J-LAB, an organization run by McCormick Foundation, for her year-old Web site, Latina Voices. While maintaining her blogs, teaching aspiring writers and working on her own creative works, Puente dedicates her life to promoting ethnic diversity and awareness.

**The Chronicle:** How did you get started in journalism?

**Teresa Puente:** Nobody in my family had ever been a journalist. In fact, my big sister was the first one to go to college. So it wasn't a career I really knew anything about at all, but as a kid I always loved reading. If you read a lot, it helps you develop strong writing skills. So in high school, an English teacher pointed out to me that, "Hey you know, you're a good writer, you should try out for the newspaper or the yearbook." So I applied for the yearbook and became a yearbook writer and then the editor, so I really caught the journalism bug in high school.

**The Chronicle:** What do you hope to bring to your students?

**TP:** I think one of the key words that I try to promote is diversity. That is an important value to me a journalist—writing about ethnic communities and promote diversity. And I think now that I have become an educator that translates into some of the classes I have created.

Another class that we're trying to get off the ground for the spring is called the World of Ethnic Media, which is to expose students to the diversity of ethnic press. For me, just promoting the diversity of coverage and covering diverse communities is what I think is a real key part of who I am as a journalist and who I am as an educator.

**The Chronicle:** What grant did you get for Latina Voices?

**TP:** J-LAB is the Institute for Interactive Journalism, and they fund a lot of new media type projects. They have this grant every year called New Media Women Entrepreneurs, and I was one of the three people to get it the first year. They give a grant for a woman to do a new media start-up, and they are funded by the McCormick Foundation in Chicago, so that was the grant that I got to start the Web site, and then I got the idea to start the class out of it. So I'm still trying to grow it and most of the writers have been students at Columbia or women



Courtesy OMAR CASTILLO

Teresa Puente creates awareness of ethnic issues through her work, her blog and in the classroom.

» SEE SYSK, PG. 8

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# Electronic textbooks launch efficiency

Schools nationwide participate in e-book project, publishers seek company to lower costs

Patricia Alex  
MCT Newswire

IT MAY be one of the last frontiers of the digital download: A generation that gets its music, news and other information off the Internet is still lugging around heavy, expensive hardcover textbooks.

Other options—such as electronic textbooks, book rentals and Internet shopping for used books—are increasingly available and growing wildly, but the lion's share of textbooks are still bought new and at retail, according to industry analysts.

The average new textbook costs \$57, but most undergraduates can summon an anecdote about having paid \$200, \$300 and even \$400 for a required book. Students spend an average of about \$700 a year on course materials, according to the National Association of College Stores.

Rutgers University senior Katie Gattuso said she has vaguely heard about less-expensive options like e-texts.

"I've actually never seen anybody using them," Gattuso said. Professors haven't promoted the new options, and she said she's seen no advertising for e-books on campus. "You kind of just take your professor's word and go to the bookstore and buy it," Gattuso said.

Indeed, for many students it's just



Stock Photo

New e-books can be downloaded on computers and iPhones. Amazon Kindle is also an option for students.

easier—and often quicker—to go to the campus bookstore, especially if Mom and Dad are paying. Then there is no worry that the edition will be outdated or the format difficult, a complaint with some e-textbooks. However, cheaper alternatives are poised for growth.

The country's five largest textbook publishers worked together in 2007 to

launch CourseSmart—a company that provides electronic versions of popular titles. The firm now offers subscriptions to nearly 7,500 textbook titles on 6,000 campuses nationwide. The subscriptions last anywhere from a semester to a year and cost less than half of what it does to buy a new book, according to the company. The texts can be downloaded on computers and iPhones.

Sales are up 600 percent this year over last, said Frank Lyman, vice president at CourseSmart.

"That tells me it's finding traction with students," Lyman said. "There is so much research and reading online that it's fairly seamless to go to textbooks. It will build as the word gets out ... This is a year where awareness is expanding very rapidly."

Some e-textbooks are just digital versions of hard copies. But increasingly, the e-books are being designed with the latest bells and whistles, allowing students to mark up and highlight pages or view videos. Some even feature a type of social network to share notes and comments with classmates.

A half-dozen schools nationwide, including Princeton, are participating in a pilot project this year that offers textbooks delivered on Amazon's new, larger screen Kindle DX, and Sony has released an e-book reader that can download textbooks wirelessly.

Still, it's an idea whose time has not

yet come. Students and faculty may tap online resources for supplemental reading, but usually not for textbooks. It can be cumbersome to read a textbook online given that many are slightly enhanced PDFs of hard copies, said Charlie Schmidt, spokesman for the National Association of College Stores.

The Kindle pilot has received a lukewarm reception from many students who still prefer to highlight hard copies and make their own notes (not to mention doodles) in the margins. Even those taking online courses often still rely on hardcover texts.

BookRenter.com, which launched in 2007, reported a 300 percent leap in customers this fall and now claims to serve more than 40,000 students.

Rental books can cost about a third of a new textbook, but the idea is limited by the realities of the market. For the rental scheme to be profitable, faculty members have to agree to adopt the same version of a book for four to six semesters, Schmidt said. That doesn't always happen, although schools are encouraging faculty to do so when possible.

"Students are still frustrated by the pricing, but technology is evolving," Ryan said. "I see a day when a kid will buy a Kindle and rent whatever they need."

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» PUENTE

Continued from PG. 6

in Chicago. So my goal is to see how I can grow it.

**The Chronicle:** And you have other blogs?

**TP:** Latina Voices is basically a Web site with online commentary and features. The blog that I have is with ChicagoNow, and they really launched at the end of May. My blog is called Chicanisima. So where Latina Voices is about promoting the next generation of Latina writers, ChicagoNow and my Chicanisima blog is really my take on the news and opinions. It's my voice and my blog, so I am the only one that writes for it, where as Latina Voices is to publish other writers. I write about Latino issues, but that is a huge, broad issue. It's something like as a blogger, I am an online columnist/opinion writer. I do a lot of reporting in my blog, but it is clearly opinion. I write about immigration, but I also write about national and international issues. Some of it is harder edged, but I try to have a balance with things that are more pop culture or culture. So really, it's a blog about Latino Affairs from politics to culture.

**The Chronicle:** Where do you see yourself going? Do you have an overall goal as far as personal career and an educator?

**TP:** As an educator, I am proud for helping our curriculum become more diverse. Also, I

think that I have played the role of helping bring more multimedia into our curriculum. It was my idea to put Flip videos in Reporting and Writing II and Feature Writing class. Next semester is a Multimedia Feature Writing class, so I kind of see myself as a lot about diversity and new media. I feel like I am achieving those goals.

I guess in terms of professional or creative goals, it would be to turn the blog, either Latina Voices or Chicanisima, into a book—a collection of columns. I am writing a travel memoir, about my experience living in Mexico because in 2002, I quit The Tribune and moved to Mexico for four years, and then I came back to Chicago to start working at Columbia, so I was a reverse migrant. I went back to Mexico over 100 years after my grandfather had left and so where you hear stories of people heading north, I went south. So I am writing a book about that.

**The Chronicle:** Do you think that going to online mediums and blogs is the way we need to go?

**TP:** I think so, it's obviously trying times in the world of media. However, I also am very optimistic about the future of journalism because I think kind of what blogs like Latina Voices are a lot about entrepreneurial journalism because of the Internet. There is so much opportunity for voices that might not otherwise ever be heard.

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» MANIFEST

Continued from Front Page

a director, producer or sound recorder, whatever it is they're doing is a creative enterprise."

Each year, students are asked to vote for an artist to design the Manifest T-shirts. Landry Miller, a graphic design major, had a new vision for this year's design. Unlike before, the students will get a chance to collaborate with him and give suggestions as to what they want to see in order to make the event what it is really is about: the students.

“We need to display the grounding that the students get at this school, which is deeper than any trade school education and emphasize that our students are by definition, ‘creative.’ Whether they are a director, producer or sound recorder, whatever it is they're doing is a creative enterprise.”

-Bruce Sheridan

“This idea is to get as many people involved as we can so that it's more difficult to point the finger at one person,

and to keep it as interactive as we can,” Miller said. “If you still don't like it, then maybe it's your fault,” he joked.

Miller conceptualized developing shapes and a color palette so the design can be customizable for anyone who wants to involve themselves in the designing.

Landry said how the design is going to be executed will change. He said that although small things like color scheme will change, the approach will remain the same. He asked attendees if they have any ideas to make the process more interactive or any other input they have to contact him.

Valerio reflected on when she was considering her decision as to whether or not to apply to Columbia. She said that as soon as she saw the two-minute Manifest video, she knew she wanted to be a part of the community.

“Manifest is one guaranteed event students can tangibly see their role and influence on the art world and visually place themselves in a working environment,” Valerio said. “The support of faculty, staff, the administration and the people that have walked us through our college experience is truly critical in helping us celebrate that role, leading us off into our own state.”

For more information on Manifest or any of the week's events, visit [Colum.edu/Manifest](http://Colum.edu/Manifest).

lnalin@chroniclemail.com

# CALL FOR STUDENT WORK!



We are looking for STUDENT WORK of all forms to be showcased at Columbia's Mary Blood Ball on February 12th. Any and all student art forms are encouraged to submit! Student films, visual and performing arts are particularly encouraged. Submissions should include name, phone number, and a digital copy of work or performance.

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## CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS FACT & FAITH

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

### My faith: shaken, not stirred

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

by **Stephanie Shonekan**  
Assistant Professor

AS AN associate professor of ethnomusicology and Black World Studies, my most important goal is not just to convey knowledge about my areas of expertise, but to encourage the basic human act of critical thinking. While it is important to convey and contextualize information about the history, the aesthetics, the art and culture of the black world, my ultimate mission is to nudge my students to develop the skill and the ability to really think analytically, reflexively and thoughtfully about what they read, watch or hear. In other words, I want them to acquire and domesticate the art of critical thinking as a part of their intellectual repertoire.

After they leave my class, I want them to be able to watch a blockbuster film, listen to that “hot” new track on the radio and read the breaking news headlines with a studious eye and a critical ear that interrogates all the layers of meaning that are embedded in all the subliminal messages that surround us every day.

For example, I want my students to know that we may be consumers of pop culture, but we do not have to be consumed by it. We can taste it, chew it and digest it carefully, and we can certainly learn to spit out the junk that will do our system no good. This, to me, is what scholarship and academia should embody. I have come to realize that learning to apply the skill to critically think about the world around us may be an uncomfortable experience for individuals who have lived life at face value. Why can't we just simply enjoy the music?

Some of my students insist that a rap song might be crude and misogynistic, but it sure has a good beat. So I encourage them to get behind the beat, to interrogate “the text.” Who is making the music? Who is profiting from it? What are the larger social consequences of the lyrics on a generation

of local and global listeners? I'm not asking my students to boycott the media; I'm just asking them to think carefully and independently about what they are presented, and I want them to apply that to all the kinds of texts they encounter in formal and informal settings. It can be a lonely exercise and one that is likely to test their comfortable assumptions and even rock their worlds.

If I expect that of my students, I should expect no less of myself.

So when I recently focused my critical thinking lens on my Christian faith, I was shaken. Up until about a year ago, I had wallowed in that age-old assumption that the Bible is one of those untouchable monuments that you stare at reverentially. I grew used to hearing those passages, not really thinking deeply about them because there is some unwritten law that if you question the Bible, your Christianity is compromised. So all these years, I'd been a critical thinker about everything except my reading of the Bible. I had never delved deeper than a gentle scratching of the surface.

I began to recognize that just as the hypnotic rhythms of pop culture can draw a lethargic reaction, the harsh immovable structures of religion can engender a spirit of complacency. Inspired by what I expected of my students—independent and critical thinking—and convinced that the wonderful intellect that makes us question and critique the world around us is indeed a gift from God, I picked up my text—a new version I had discovered called *The Message Bible*—and began to read again.

At first, the new questions tapped gently on my conscience and as I dug deeper, those questions tugged determinedly at the veil that had covered my critical gaze into the Bible for so many years: Why is there a cold edge to some of the stories? Where is the voice of the women? And my biggest question—why are some of the stories so antithetical to the compassionate nature of the God I have come to know and love? My musings have led me to the conclusion that the Bible was indeed inspired by God, but written by human beings—the same species that write the histories, the literature, the screenplays and the rap songs we question in all our critical readings of texts, art and media.

This experience of critically thinking about my own Christianity has shaken me, but miraculously, it has not stirred doubt into my faith. Critically thinking about the Bible has been refreshing and reassuring. I treasure the Bible as the document that serves as a chronicle of my faith, but I have moved to a better place that embraces Christianity not as a religion, but as a lived faith. Because if faith is the belief in the unseen, I have chosen to believe in the character of God. The God I know delights in watching me critically think about my world and my place in it.

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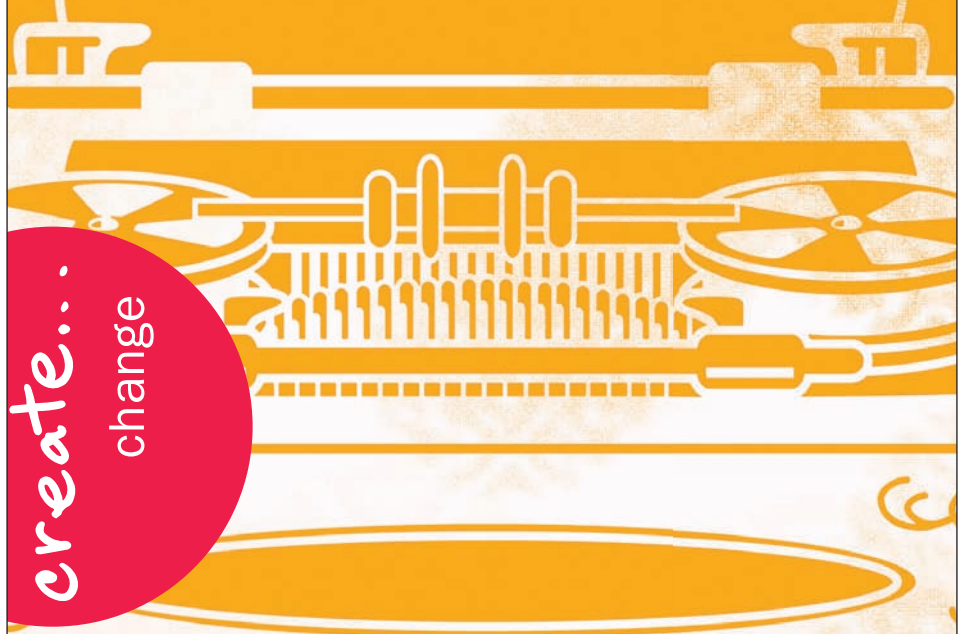
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Jazz'd Up

# Tiger's bedroom bogeey



by Jazzy Davenport  
Managing Editor

I THINK I speak for most when I say that I was shocked by the Tiger Woods saga that appears to be never-ending. What started as a minor car crash has turned into a series of events that could possibly cloud the flawless career that Woods has spent a lifetime perfecting. Since the car accident, there has been speculation that Woods was a victim of domestic violence by his wife. Additionally, more than three women have been accused of engaging in extramarital affairs with Woods. There have been both text messages released and audio from voicemail messages that undeniably matches Woods' voice. If you've ever heard Woods speak, you immediately know that it is him on the audio. He started the voicemail by saying "Hey, it's Tiger." Because of the tabloid frenzy, Woods released a statement in recent days admitting his "transgressions" and "personal failings."

However I, unlike many, was not upset about Woods' infidelity, though he never clarified what his transgressions were and has not blatantly admitted his unfaithfulness. I am more disappointed in the way he cheated. Though I do not condone infidelity, I realize that the vast majority of athletes

are unfaithful. As not just a high-profile athlete but a billion-dollar man, Woods should have been more intelligent than to leave a trail of evidence. There is no reason that the woman should have been able to release text and voicemail messages that could incriminate him. Woods should have known that given the right price, most women would admit the affair. Woods has not only jeopardized his family and career, but he has jeopardized his reputation and his legacy too. As the highest-paid athlete of all time and a black man who has based his career solely on perfection, he should've known that he was a target and that many people were waiting for him to slip up, and he did—big time. Truth is, he is human. I am disappointed, simply because I thought he was smarter, not because I expected him to be perfect. I'm sure Woods is embarrassed and would rather deal with these issues in private, hence the name of his yacht, Privacy. However, because of his irresponsible behavior, he is forced to deal with his personal issues publicly. I am just grateful that he will live to tell the story because infidelity and irresponsibility have often resulted in death, most recently in the case of Steve McNair. Woods' biggest obstacle will be finding a way to steer the media's attention away from his front lawn and back to the place where he has no flaws—the green.

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# Those who re-eat meat

Former vegetarians grapple with decision to eat meat again

by Taylor Norris  
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

IT'S SAID that the college-age years are the crux of a person's development as an individual and for some, that exploration may include diet changes. On Dec. 2, the activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wrote to Lincoln University president Dr. Ivory Nelson to say the Pennsylvania school should stop selling meat and dairy products on campus. Vegan and vegetarian diets have grown in popularity for a number of reasons; but not all college-age people maintain those lifestyles, even after years of avoiding meat and dairy.

"It was an authenticity thing," said Brett Marlow, a 2009 Columbia graduate, on why he started to eat meat again. Marlow said he began eating only vegetarian food in response to his family's high rate of obesity and heart disease. He also said that controlling his diet was part of how he rebelled as a teenager. Eventually Marlow found himself "cheating" and eating pudding-filled doughnuts. "I didn't feel like I was being real to the vegetarian community," Marlow said. "I felt like a fake."

Lauren Raley, a senior journalism student at Columbia, said she also became a vegetarian, in what she considers "a family of total carnivores," for health reasons. "I became a vegetarian mainly because I had a lot of health problems and I thought that was the problem," Raley said. "I tried a lot of different diets like no dairy, vegan, raw, low-carb, everything."

Dr. Reed Mangels, a nutritionist for the Vegetarian Research Group, said vegetarian diets have been found to reduce the risk of heart disease. "Vegetarians are potentially eating more fruits and vegetables but it still really depends on personal choices," Mangels said. Still, some people, such as Chicagoan Ira Cox, are influenced by things other than health when deciding to eat a vegan or vegetarian lifestyle. For Cox, it was the music scene. "Honestly, it's not a simple decision," Cox said of choosing his vegan lifestyle, which continued for nine years. "I was involved in the hardcore music scene when I was 15 or 16, and there is a very specific political and social component to that [scene]."

Cox explained that the ideas floating

## UPCOMING EVENTS

12/9/09

Chicago Blackhawks vs. New York Rangers

The Chicago Blackhawks will face off against the New York Rangers at the United Center in National Hockey League action. The Rangers and Hawks are both part of the "Original Six," which are teams that were part of the NHL during its introduction in 1942 through the NHL expansion in 1967. The puck drops at 7:30 p.m. and the game can be seen on Comcast SportsNet.

United Center  
1901 W. Madison St.

12/10/09

Chicago Bulls vs. Boston Celtics

The Chicago Bulls are at home against the perennial powerhouse Boston Celtics. The Celtics have averaged 99 points per game this season, while the Bulls have only managed 91 points per game. Tip-off is at 7 p.m. and the game can be seen on Comcast SportsNet or heard on ESPN AM 1000.

United Center  
1901 W. Madison St.

12/13/09

Chicago Bears vs. Green Bay Packers

The Green Bay Packers come to Soldier Field to take on the Chicago Bears in an NFC North game. The last time the Bears faced the Packers in week one of the NFL season, Jay Cutler threw four interceptions on the way to a 21-15 Bears loss. Kickoff is at noon on FOX and can also be heard on WBBM 780 AM.

Soldier Field  
1410 Museum Campus Drive

around the scene made the diet seem viable and unlike any other fad. A life adventure forced Cox to reconsider his choice to be a vegan and he stressed it wasn't a simple choice. Cox said that he believes as people age and mature, it's the gray areas of life that become more evident and decisions are no longer black and white. Cox said that in his experience, as everyone must choose what they stand for, it becomes harder to say certain things are right or wrong, and choosing to eat meat again was a "very organic" experience. During a 14-month bike trip with his wife, Cox said they accepted hospitality from different people they met along the way. He said he started the trip as a vegan, but psychologically and physically, his body needed more nutrition. Cox also said that in avoiding dairy products, he felt he was forcing his culture upon the people who hosted him. "It got to a point," Cox said, "where someone offered me a place to sleep and dinner, and when they made spaghetti and meatballs, I decided to eat it." Cox said he was able to experience more culture by eating the food he was offered in a stranger's home. Other people, one person specifically, also influenced Raley to begin eating meat, after three years as a vegetarian. "I started dating J.J., who ate meat all the time," Raley said. "Eventually he talked me into eating a hamburger and I was back on the wagon." Raley said it was easy to begin eating meat again because she only eliminated it

» SEE VEGGIES, PG . 14

REASONS

why some vegetarians and vegans begin to eat meat again:

- Cost of soy protein products
- Change in lifestyle
- Cravings
- Health Concerns
- Change in political or social thought



# Hitting the powder, Midwest ready for winter

Minus the mountains of the East and West, local snow spots ready for season

by Jeff Graveline  
Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

THE MIDWEST isn't known for its mountains, but that doesn't stop people across the central U.S. from enjoying the skiing and snowboarding possibilities the area has to offer.

Just a few hours away from Chicago are several ski and snowboard spots that offer a wide range of activities. From skiing to tubing, each resort in the Midwest has its own unique way to attract guests.

While the weather might not have dropped the perfect blanket of powder on the ground, resorts in the Midwest have found ways around the issue.

Almost all of the ski and snowboard resorts in the Midwest employ a man-made, snow-making procedure to maintain a solid snow base throughout the winter season.

"We're a 100 percent snow-making facility," said Jim Wiseman, spokesman for Swiss Valley Ski and Snowboard Area in Jones, Mich. "If we get cold weather, we can usually come from green grass to fully open in about 30 to 35 hours."

Most of the Midwestern ski and snowboard areas lack the height of the ski and snowboard resorts found in the eastern and western parts of the country, but that doesn't prevent them from offering much of the same opportunities that larger and higher resorts offer.

"Our hills are short, but so are our lifts," said Ed Meyer, general manager of Ski Snowstar Winter Sports Park in Andalusia, Ill. "We have four lifts that cover 28 acres. We have a lot of terrain and when you're going up on the lifts you go over our rails, fun-boxes, rainbows, all the extreme stuff the kids like."

Aside from the specific types of terrain that the resorts in the Midwest offer, each has its own ski and snowboard rental shops. All the equipment one would need to enjoy the hill and the snow can be had for a fee.

"We have over 12,000 skis and 400 snowboards to rent [at Ski Snowstar]," Meyer said.

Another aspect that each of the areas features is a ski and snowboard school for first timers. Classes generally last several hours and are offered both in the morning and afternoon.

One of the main draws for each of the Midwest ski and snowboard locations is their accessibility to groups. All of the resorts in the Midwest welcome groups and



Associated Press

Skiers and snowboarders across the Midwest have many options for snow getaways throughout the region.

offer discounted rates for large ones.

"We do a lot of groups; we do field trips in the mornings for schools," Wiseman said. "Then we turn around at night and we do the night school [for groups]. We also have a lot of group activities on the weekend."

What sets some of the resorts apart from the rest are the lodges and hotel accommodations on site.

While each resort has a lodge of some sort, with an offering of food, drinks and a place for visitors to rest when they're not on the hill, some resorts have attached hotel rooms, indoor pools and several restaurants on location.

"We have 120 rooms on site. We do have

rooms that range from regular, standard hotel rooms to suites to dorm accommodations," said Stewart Stoffregen, marketing director at Chestnut Mountain in Galena, Ill. "So we can cater to all levels."

As the temperatures continue to drop in the Midwest and snow begins to fall, skiers and snowboarders can expect a solid season on the slopes of the Midwest.

Each resort contacted is projected to be open by Dec. 10 at the latest.

For more information about ski and snowboard resorts in the Midwest visit [SkiCentral.com](http://SkiCentral.com) or [OnTheSnow.com](http://OnTheSnow.com).

[jgraveline@chroniclemail.com](mailto:jgraveline@chroniclemail.com)

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For more information about the program and upcoming meetings, please go to:  
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# Find your waistline, your iPhone can help

Diet, exercise apps help health-conscious stay on track

by Taylor Norris

Assistant Health & Fitness Editor

TELEPHONES HAVE evolved from party lines at home to individualized mobile centers that enable people to talk, text, e-mail, find their GPS location—and now log hours spent at the gym and calories consumed.

As the use of iPhone applications continues to rise, one genre of applications has recently moved up the rank in popularity. Research firm Gartner placed health-oriented applications No. 5 on its list of the top ten mobile applications that will define the mobile world in 2012.

“I think having the mobile devices enables people to keep all the information,” said Jean Louis Gareau, creator of VidaOne, a workout-tracking application that began as computer software.

“The industry itself has really evolved over the last 10 years,” said Aaron Morrison, an independent personal trainer who works at HiFi Fitness in Lincoln Park. “One of the successes is that tracking information [on applications] creates accountability.”

Morrison said he has seen many health-conscious people use applications in order to track their workouts. He said the benefit

of a tracking mechanism with objective information is the bigger picture, which helps people see where they have an opportunity to improve their training.

“I think there definitely has to be a report,” Morrison said. “A created report with goals, data and someone’s body composition. I learned ten years ago that you have to apply an objective report ... that is more important than teaching someone to bench press.”

VidaOne was released as a computer software program 10 years ago, Gareau said.

Today, he said, 100,000 people use it to track their workouts.

“It allows you to enter data when you work out,” Gareau said. “You can enter all the weights and exercises.”

Morrison’s mantra is that a log of workouts offers accountability to people who are training.

Other features that supplement the workout log on VidaOne, Gareau said, include a GPS program that allows runners to record their route.

Gareau added that his application is not only for athletes, but any person who is interested in fitness and keeping a tab on their general well-being.

It should be noted, however, that Gareau maintains that VidaOne, nor any other application, can replace the role of a true fitness instructor.

“One thing we really don’t do is we don’t tell people what to do,” Gareau said. “No software can take the place of a nutritionist and their advice.” A health log can, however, help an instructor fully understand and advise a client, Morrison said.

“I could look at somebody’s intake and output,” Morrison said, which would give him information on which to base the workout he prepares for his clients.

The intake—food and calories—is also an area of concentration for most people interested in their health. GoodGuide is an iPhone application that aids consumers in making healthful food choices.

“GoodGuide is like a database or encyclopedia,” said GoodGuide co-founder Dara O’Rourke. “We want to help personalize the information specifically for child and adult consumers.”

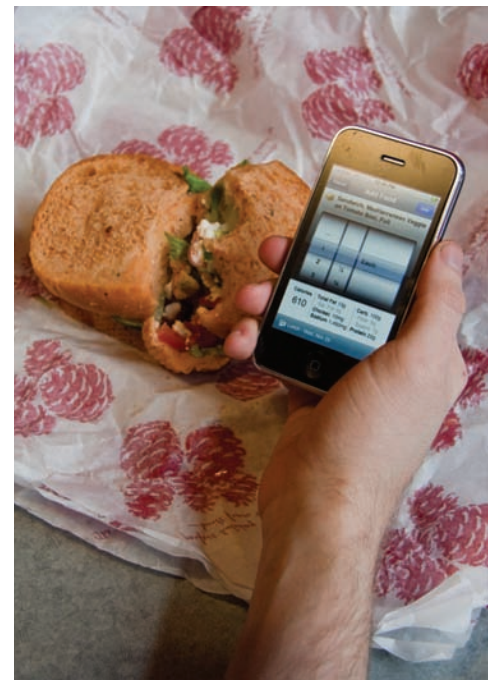
GoodGuide began with the idea to create an application that could scan barcodes for a person while they were grocery shopping.

O’Rourke said the phone carriers were not supportive of the endeavor at the time, and instead of a phone application, GoodGuide.com was created.

“We get millions of people coming to GoodGuide.com, but we see the vast majority of purchasing decisions are made right at the moment [away from the computer] in the grocery store or restaurant,” O’Rourke said. “We see the move toward everything going mobile.”

While O’Rourke recognizes the vast market there is for an application that focuses on weight loss, he said that is not the focus of GoodGuide. He said the program is based on a team of scientists who rate food choices based on nutrition, environmental and social impact.

“This is a push for greater transparency



Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE

with food labels,” O’Rourke said. He added that nutrition labels are often confusing and serving suggestions change so frequently that consumers need help with making nutrition choices.

Goals for GoodGuide in the next six months to a year, O’Rourke said, are to add consumer ratings on top of the scientific evaluations to add the level of validity for other consumers.

He said he also envisions incorporating recipes and shopping lists according to a person’s interests in the application.

Although these applications meet many needs, Morrison was clear to say that they will not guarantee a person’s success in health training.

He said oftentimes people are aware of

» SEE APPS, PG 14

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09JN101





# Simply sweet

Here’s to keeping your sweet tooth easily satisfied

by Ren Lahvic  
Advertising Account Executive

IT’S EARLY December, which means your holiday has already been in effect for the past two weeks.

With the holiday season in full force, being a college student, and most likely a broke one, you probably do not have the patience for fancy holiday recipes. So let’s bring third grade back, college-style.

Peppermint bark may arguably be the easiest treat of the season, so ditch the double boilers and the gourmet ingredients, and fool your friends and co-workers with a treat that’s sure to impress.

First, begin by crushing your candy canes into tiny pieces. The best way to do this is to place them in a plastic bag and use a hard object to crush the candy canes (I used a glass bowl).

After the candy canes are crushed, place them to the side.

Usually for this recipe a double boiler would be needed to melt the chocolate, but for convenience’ sake, we’ll be using the microwave. Pour the white chocolate chips into a microwave-safe bowl.



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Microwave the contents for 30 seconds and then take out and stir the chips. Continue this process in 15-second intervals (this varies depending on the power of your microwave) until the chocolate has a glue-like consistency.

Make sure you do not overheat the chocolate—this will turn your peppermint bark into peppermint mulch!

Now pour the chocolate onto a cookie sheet and spread it evenly with a spoon.

Before the chocolate gets a chance to set, sprinkle the candy cane pieces over it, then put it in the freezer for about an hour to freeze.

After the chocolate is frozen, take it out of the freezer and use a spatula to break it off of the cookie sheet. Don’t worry about breaking it unevenly, that’s the idea.

Put the dessert into goodie bags for friends or just eat it right off the sheet, it’s yours to enjoy!

llahvic@chroniclemail.com

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 22-ounce bag of white chocolate chips
- 5 standard size peppermint candy canes

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Crush candy canes, set aside.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave in 15-second intervals, stirring between.
3. Spread melted chocolate on cookie sheet to a 1/4 inch thick.
4. Sprinkle crushed candy canes over chocolate.
5. Freeze cookie sheet for 1 hour.
6. Break bark off the cookie sheet with a spatula, and eat!

## » VEGGIES

Continued from PG. 11

from her diet for health reasons.

“I was never a PETA person, I totally believe in the circle of life,” Raley said.

Marlow said his “coming home” to meat came after the realization that he wasn’t authentically concerned with the purposes of vegetarianism.

“I like to joke and say I ‘sold out,’” said Marlow, who was a self-proclaimed vegetarian policeman and made a habit of making sure other vegetarians stayed in their boundaries.

Marlow said he has not yet gained back the nearly 30 pounds he lost when initially becoming a vegetarian.

Raley and Cox, on the other hand, have both gained some weight since beginning to eat meat and dairy products, but they say it is for the better.

“I am pretty happy with my decision,” Raley said. “Now when I have a vegetarian dish, it just feels empty without meat.”

tgleason@chroniclemail.com

## » APPS

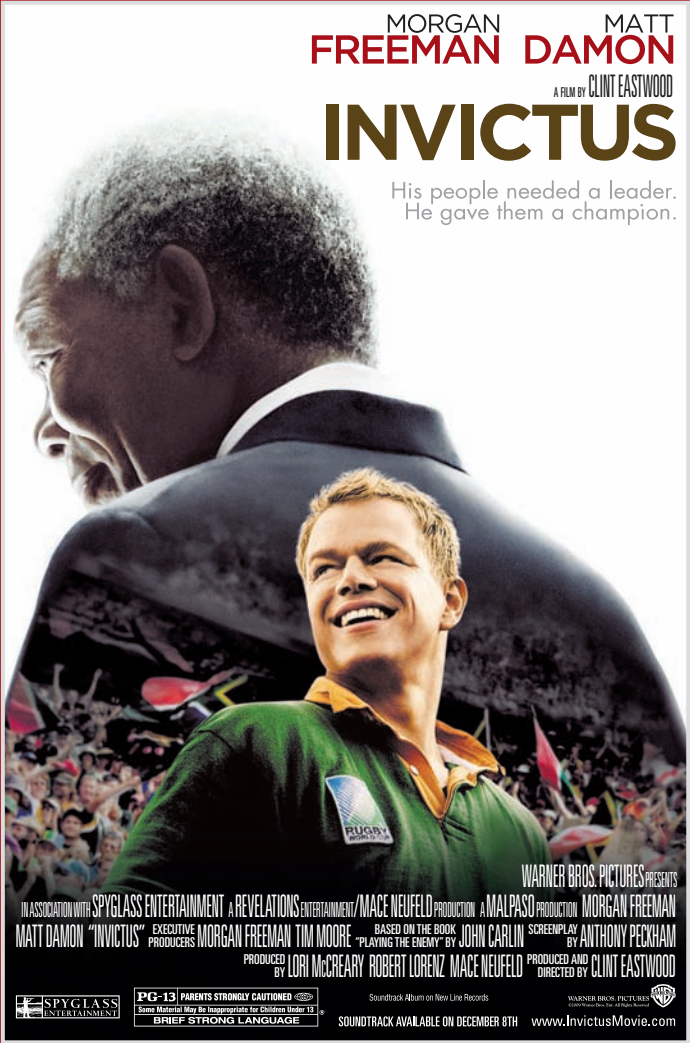
Continued from PG. 13

where they can improve, and it’s a matter of actually following through.

But the options are out there and according to O’Rourke, it is majorly due to Apple’s support to anyone and everyone who builds an application.

“Apple has really revolutionized the mobile phone world,” O’Rourke said.

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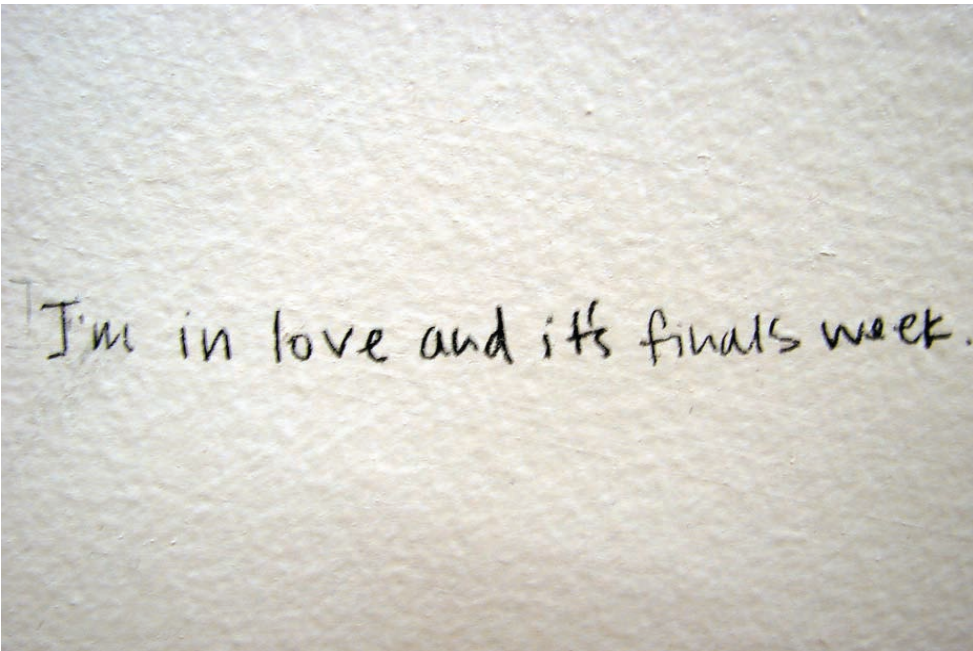
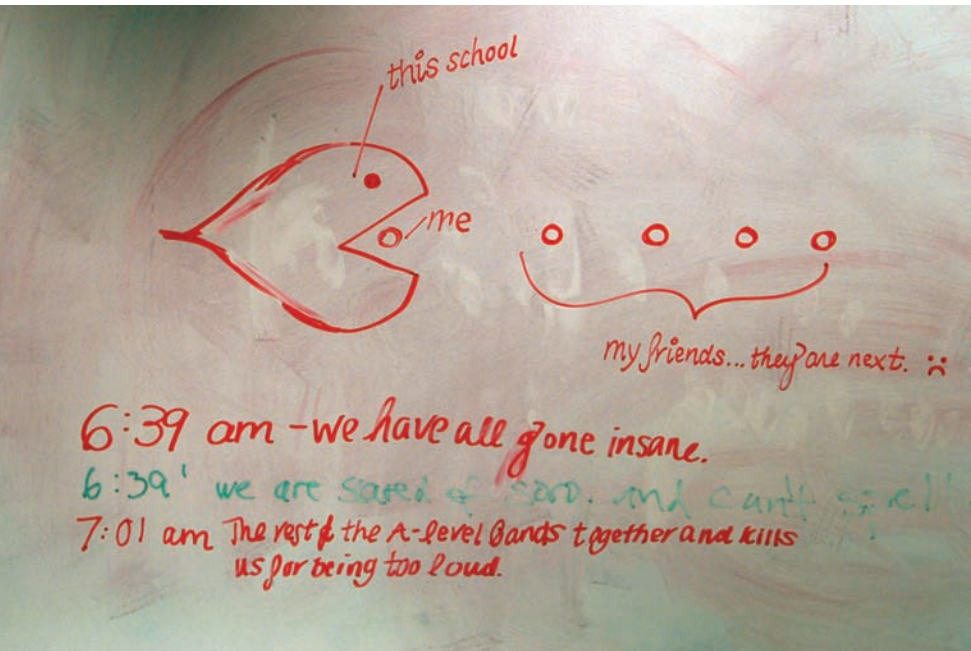
SEE PG. 20





arts & culture

AC



Courtesy QUINN DOMBROWSKI

(All pictures) A selection of the graffiti in University of Chicago alumna Quinn Dombrowski's book, which documents the messages on the walls, cubby holes and the white boards at the University of Chicago's Regenstein Library.

# Library confessions revealed

U of C alumna takes pictures of graffiti for book, hosts remix contest

by Mina Bloom  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

COMMENTS LIKE “fish eat brain” and “go to Italy, be a cobbler” were stealthily etched into the walls and hidden cubby holes of the University of Chicago’s Regenstein Library, also known as the focal point of student social life on campus.

Though the art is vandalism by definition, the graffiti that exists in this building has a cultural voice, which is why U of C alumna Quinn Dombrowski decided to take photographs of the messages and compile them into a book in the hopes that students and alumni everywhere can relate to the spectrum of human emotion presented in a quirky product of too much time spent in the library.

After a July 2008 L.A. Times article and subsequent September 2009 Chicagoist post about Dombrowski’s Flickr account, Dombrowski decided to independently publish a book titled *Crescat Graffiti, Vita Excolatur: Confessions of the University of Chicago*, which exclusively showcases the graffiti in the Regenstein Library.

“There’s definitely some inside jokes about University of Chicago and various dorms, and some really geeky stuff in there too,” Dombrowski said. “A lot of it speaks to a universal experience of any college

student who’s working hard on classwork or anyone in the business environment who has a lot of work to do.”

Dombrowski explained that the book includes messages about love, sex, despair, bachelor’s degree papers, doodles, intellectual commentary, long discussions and much more.

She received a joint bachelor’s degree/master’s degree in Slavic linguistics from the U of C in 2006. She now works for the central IT organization for the university and has continued to take at least one picture a day for the past two years, she said.

After publishing the book through the site called Lulu.com and buying a distribution package from Amazon, 125 books have been printed and a couple of Hyde Park book stores now sell Dombrowski’s niche book.

“It creates an interesting voice for this very specific community, but one which I think would resonate with any person who has devoted such a huge chunk of their time to study in the pursuit of ... something,” said U of C alumna Loranne Nasir. “When you’ve been in the library for hours on end, you tend to forget what exactly that ‘something’ is.”

Nasir, a 24-year-old collective maintenance assistant in the Book Stacks Department for the Regenstein Library, said she discovered Dombrowski’s Flickr site when it was mentioned in the L.A. Times. Since then, she habitually checks her site every Monday because that’s when she usually

updates her photographs.

Nasir admits that though the Regenstein Library has amazing resources, the architecture is depressing.

“It’s this brutalist-style that looks like a bunch of really depressing, colored children’s blocks stacked up together and it’s really hideous,” Nasir said.

Despite its design shortcomings, Dombrowski said that every U of C student ends up at the Regenstein Library at some point.

Nasir’s 22-year-old roommate said the atmosphere at U of C is very intellectual as well as very expressive, which results in the kinds of graffiti that discuss professors, terrible classes and authors. Ultimately, people want to talk about the things that they’re dealing with in class, she said.

However, the library doesn’t officially condone graffiti. Thankfully, Dombrowski explained that there hasn’t been any backlash in regards to students drawing new graffiti specifically to be included in the book, perhaps to the credit of the disclaimer on her Web site.

In order to promote the release of her new book, Dombrowski is now hosting a remix contest through Dec. 20, in which she is encouraging students to recreate the graffiti with a different medium such as video, song, poetry, essay, digital collage, mash-up or essentially something physical that can be photographed or mailed.

Nasir said the contest is a neat extension of the book where she’s putting the graffiti back into the world and asking others to come up with their own impressions.

“I think it’s similar to how the graffiti works in the first place,” Nasir said. “Few items of graffiti here stand alone—they are edited, commented upon and appropriated.”

Dombrowski has created merchandise with the phrases on them as well, which she’s been selling on her Web site to family and friends.

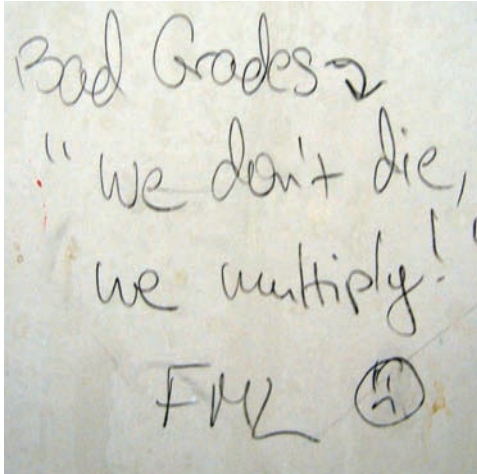
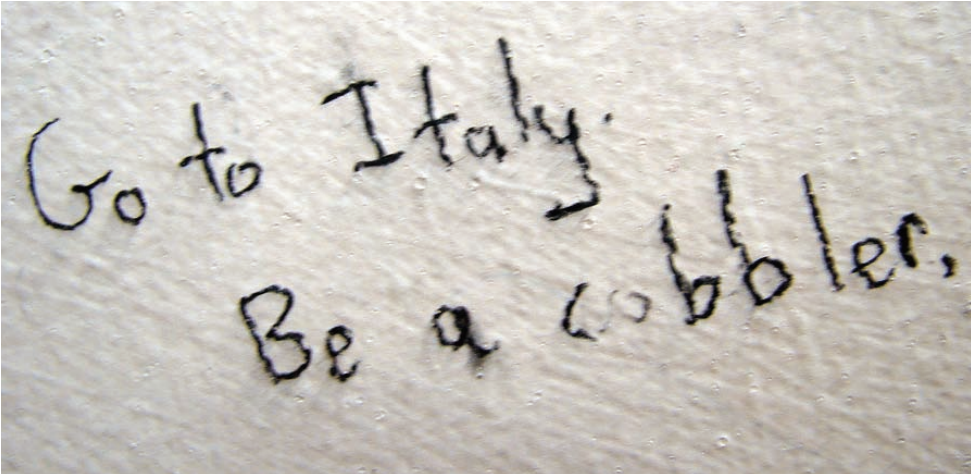
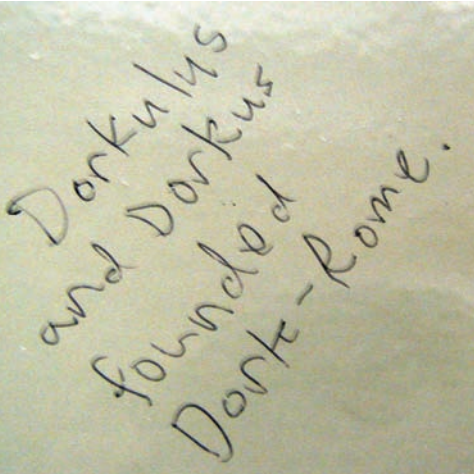
“I still haven’t broken even on the whole project,” Dombrowski said. “I would not suggest publishing a niche book as a way to get rich.”

Overall, current students and alumni can commiserate over Dombrowski’s project for the simple fact that they’ve all been there.

“One person’s 3 a.m. procrastinatory doodle can provide hope for another that—contrary to how they may feel at the moment—there is life after Sosc and O-chem,” Nasir said.

For additional information, visit [CrescatGraffiti.com](http://CrescatGraffiti.com). E-mail submissions to [Quinn@CrescatGraffiti.com](mailto:Quinn@CrescatGraffiti.com) for the RegRemix contest through Dec. 20. You can find the book at Seminary Co-op, 57th Street Books, 5757 S. University Ave., and the Hyde Park Powell’s, 1501 E. 57th St., for \$14.99.

hbloom@chroniclemail.com





# Williams' humor survives surgery

Well-known comedian continues stand-up career after surgery

by Gail Pennington  
MCT Newswire

AFTER HEART surgery comes rehab, walking, then maybe some laps in the pool, slowly regaining strength and stamina.

For Robin Williams, who had heart surgery in March, rehab meant more than time on the treadmill. The famously manic comic also needed to regain his strength on stage, to make sure he had the stamina for a full set, and maybe even to reassure himself that he was still funny.

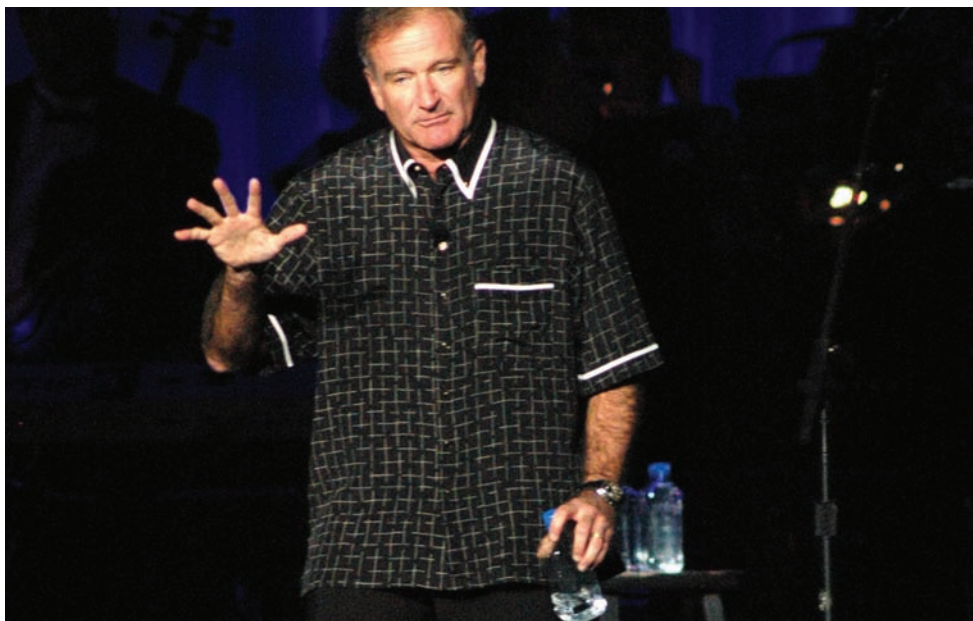
Williams, 58, was in the middle of the "Self Destruction" tour in Florida when he had trouble breathing and was hospitalized. He later underwent replacement of his aortic valve, an operation that felt less routine because his older brother Robert had died after heart surgery in 2007.

By July, when Williams met with TV critics in Los Angeles to talk about his new HBO special, the surgery had become a series of punch lines.

"I had the surgery at the Cleveland Clinic, and I woke up going, 'Where am I?' And they said, 'Cleveland.' And I kept going, 'Why?'"

"You go in, and they really tell you that you're going to get a cow valve." No problem: "The grazing is easy."

But Williams acknowledged that the experience changed him, and he seemed



MCT

Robin Williams returns to HBO on Dec. 6 for his comedy special "Weapons of Self Destruction."

thoughtful and unusually subdued during a half-hour Q-and-A session, joking a lot but going off on few wild tangents.

Recent years have been especially turbulent for Williams. In addition to his surgery and his brother's death, he entered treatment in 2006 for a relapse of alcohol abuse and his marriage of almost 20 years broke up last year.

Then there's the heart surgery.

During an appearance afterward with David Letterman, whose "quintuple bypass trumps me big time," Letterman leaned over during the break and asked, "Do you find yourself getting emotional?"

Williams' response: "Oh, yeah."

The recuperation, which meant taking three months off, wasn't all smooth sailing.

"Coming back out of it, you think, 'I'm going to be fine,'" he said. "And then the first few months, you're like, 'Not really.'"

Eventually, "You really do appreciate the simplest things like breath and friends," and you decide, "Yeah, I've got to keep going, just take it a little slower."

Williams has been back on the road, updating and polishing the act since summer. On a professional level, he's happy still to be working "and doing stand-up, I'm very proud of that."

But asked about his biggest personal accomplishments, he said, "My three children. All of them astonish me."

Contrary to the title of his recent movie, "I'm not the world's greatest dad. I'm a work in progress. But I'm so proud of them."

Son Zak, 26, "graduated from NYU with a degree in linguistics." Daughter Zelda, 20, "has been acting and doing mainly horror movies, which is always great. 'We loved it when you got slashed. It was so good.' And my other son (Cody, 18) is writing, studying poetry and literature and art history. All of these things, to me, that's the ultimate production deal."

Williams got his first national exposure in 1977 in an HBO "Young Comedians" special, then returned in 1978 with the groundbreaking "Off the Wall," in which he bounced around the stage in baggy pants and suspenders.

He came full circle on Dec. 6 with "Weapons of Self Destruction," taped last month in Washington during a sold-out tour.

If the Robin Williams of 2009 had a chance to meet the Robin Williams of 1978, what would he tell the kid with the suspenders and wild hair?

"Brace yourself," he'd say. "It's going to be a long run, and it's going to be an interesting one."

With 30 years perspective, "There's nothing I regret," Williams said. "I've learned a lot over the years. Not everything worked, but at least it was interesting to try."

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# High school teacher plays to his crowd

Poster and other local bands to perform for school’s benefit

by Cody Prentiss  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

PERSPECTIVES CHARTER Schools may have less money to spend on its after-school programs this year, but its faculty has come up with their own way to make up for the school’s budget constraints.

Matthew Kayser teaches at PCI’s Rodney D. Joslin Campus and is also the lead singer of the band Poster. They will take the stage at Double Door, 1572 N. Milwaukee Ave., on Dec. 8 for the benefit concert *Bang the Drum: A Benefit for the Arts at Perspectives Charter School*. Proceeds from the show will pay for instruments and art supplies at the Rodney D. Joslin campus. Soft Speaker, King Sparrow and Helicopter will also perform.

“Even if people don’t care about the cause and don’t want to help kids with the arts, I really think it will be worth people’s 10 bucks to see these bands,” Kayser said.

Kayser already has experience organizing benefit concerts. The first one he put together benefited New York’s homeless with jackets and coats gathered from the audience, and he organized a similar concert in Raleigh, N.C. while living there.

His current job and experience playing music made the *Bang the Drum* concert an easy leap.

“It just made a lot of sense,” Kayser said. “I’m all about trying to put together causes—to get bands to work toward something instead of just beer and getting people to hang out. It seems like a worthwhile cause, and it’s something we believe in.”

Other after-school programs include salsa dancing lessons—which has a dedicated student following—a newspaper, a step team and a drama club. Kate Cichon, Rodney D. Joslin Campus program director, said that the after-school budget was cut more than 40 percent, which has limited the school’s ability to buy art supplies and guitars for their Kid’s Rock program.

Cichon said these are often the type of things that get cut first when schools tighten their budgets. This has forced administrators to think more creatively and look for ways to generate funds from outside donors.

“That’s the way a lot of nonprofits are going now,” Cichon said. “They have to do a little bit more grass roots organizing with events like this.”

Cichon said that the arts are a vital facet of education in a student’s life, especially ones preparing themselves for college.



Andy Keil THE CHRONICLE

Perspectives Instructor David Doll (right) teaches students to play guitar in the Kids Rock after-school program. From left: Alanna Johnson, Brenden Jackson and Alex Aguilar.

“They learn the kind of dedication it takes to get good at something when you start from nothing,” Cichon said. “Music and art is all about that. There are some students that have some sort of core ability, but mostly everybody has to start with very little and practice. As a school that is college-oriented, that is an incredibly important lesson for our students to have.”

This will be the first event the school has facilitated, but Cichon said they would like to continue them in the future. The bands participating have been very enthusiastic to help out, she said.

Blaire Douglass, Soft Speaker’s bassist, played in her elementary school band and said she’s happy to perform for a good cause.

“It’s really great when kids can get introduced to music in school,” Douglass

said. “When people think they need to go in and they cut a budget, music and arts is the first thing to go ... It’s sad because people aren’t introduced to different artistic expressions to help them express themselves.”

This is the first benefit the band has performed. Douglass hadn’t heard of Kayser’s band before he got in touch with her band’s manager. Joe Daley, Soft Speaker’s drummer, has performed benefit concerts before, many of those to raise money for his brother’s illness.

“People come to those gigs for different reasons but for me—and I can only speak from my experience—playing the actual show is no different,” Daley said. “You still enjoy playing just as much.”

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# Neighborhood comes out of the closet

by **Tony Merevick**  
Contributing Writer

A **FACEBOOK** group for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender residents in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood has built a following so large that it has become an alternative option to the gay scene in Boystown located in Lakeview.

Created in the summer of 2008 by Columbia librarian Arlie Sims, the group was formed to address the North Side neighborhood's growing gay population, and bring together local members of the LGBT community.

Sims is the head of Reference and Instruction and Coordinator of Staff Development at the Columbia College Library.

Formally known as LGBTQ in Rogers Park, the group had its first birthday Oct. 17 at its usual location in The Glenwood, located at 6962 N. Glenwood Ave. The most recent meeting was on Nov. 14, the 13th meeting of the social group.

"I wanted to have more of a network in the neighborhood, a time where people could go out and know that they would meet lots of their gay friends in the neighborhood without having to get on the train or drive or take a cab to go to Lakeview or Edgewater," Sims said.

Since it was conceived, the group has seen a large increase in attendance, boasting a large crowd at each gathering, according to Sims, a Rogers Park resident.

"Very soon—almost immediately, people started joining," Sims said. "I don't remember how quickly we got 50 people. It was a couple of months and we had a couple dozen and then more and more."

The group now has 293 members on Facebook. Sims said people in their late 20s and 30s and older attend the socials.

"I saw it on Facebook and I clicked on it, found it very interesting and I joined it about a couple of months ago," said Michael Harrington, Rogers Park resident and chairman of the Board of Trustees at United Church of Rogers Park.

"It's friendly and festive," Sims said. "People are really happy to be hanging out with, well, their own kind in the neighborhood."

Sims said he tries to talk to everyone in the bar. He wants to make sure that everyone knows about the new group.

"It's always good to be amongst one's peers and fellows," Harrington said. "I enjoyed it. I saw many neighbors and people I knew from the LGBTQ community and felt good. It was a refreshing atmosphere."

Sims moved to the neighborhood in 2001 and began to notice its large gay population.

"So I got to thinking and I thought, 'You know, I'm going to start a Facebook page because I would like to meet more people in the neighborhood and not feel like you have to go to Andersonville or Lakeview to have social lives,'" he said.

Lakeview and Andersonville are North Side neighborhoods known for their large gay communities, such as Boystown.

Sims said Rogers Park has a differ

ent feel to it.

"It's a different vibe from going out to Lakeview. Even Big Chicks [5024 N. Sheridan Road] has its own vibe," he said.

After having drinks with some friends for the first time at The Glenwood, Sims quickly contacted the owner, Renee Labrana, about bringing the group to her bar.

"It was clearly a gay or gay-friendly bar," Sims said. "[Renee] is very friendly and very enthusiastic."

"We had just opened," Labrana said. "And I was thrilled that he would want to bring a group of people in the neighborhood together at my establishment."

Labrana said she has many fond memories of the socials.

"I love to hear the stories that people in the group have met here, and then are going to each other's houses or out to dinners together," she said. "It makes you realize a big city isn't always so insular, and The

Glenwood helped with that. That makes me very proud, for lack of a better word."

Sims tends to be modest when it comes to praise.

"I'm really not doing hard work, I'm just sending out an announcement every month on Facebook and getting people to join the Web site," he said.

"Arlie is fantastic as a host," Harrington said. "He is really warm and welcoming, and I was really impressed with how he manages it. He basically spends time introducing people to each other and he is really good at that."

When asked about the future of the group, Sims laughed. He is content with the group.

"I need a task force because I don't really have a vision," he said. "To me, it's doing just what I wanted it to do."

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Courtesy ARLIE SIMS

Members of LGBTQ in Rogers Park gather at The Glenwood bar to socialize.

## Third Annual GREEN MENORAH Event

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The Second City Theatre may have gotten its name from its hometown of Chicago, but that hasn't stopped it from spreading well beyond the stage throughout the past 50 years.

Since its founding, several stages, training centers and touring companies have emerged as part of the well-known troupe's family. It has even crossed into the television medium with its Emmy award-winning show SCTV.

It went too quickly, said Second City President Andrew Alexander. I've been doing this for almost 35 years. When you start to see all the different generations that are coming back, it starts to take you back to different kinds of memories.

On Dec. 11-13, Second City will celebrate its 50th birthday with current and former cast members such as Steven Colbert and SCTV alumni Joe Flaherty, Eugene Levy, Andrea Martin, Catherine O'Hara, Harold Ramis, Martin Short and Dave Thomas.

**There weren't all these little clubs ... Nobody cared about improvisers at the time. You'd have to go to nightclubs and beg the owners.**

**-Charna Halpern**

A variety of panels, performances and screenings are planned, including a documentary on founder Paul Sills and bits from classic revues performed by multiple generations of Second City alumni.

The improv troupe was founded in 1959 by a group of young, University of Chicago alumni and members of the just-folded Compass Players. Paul Sills founded Compass and went on to run Second City. Del Close, who would become a staple of the Chicago improv scene, joined Second City two years later.

Alexander started on the troupe's Toronto stage in 1974 when he bought the troubled theater.

He went on to create SCTV with much of Toronto's talent and produced more than 150 hours of SCTV, which won two Emmys and was nominated for 12 over the course of its run. He eventually purchased Chicago's Second City Theatre in 1985.

Alexander now works in both Los Angeles and Chicago. He said that Chicago's improv scene is special because of how supportive its different players and troupes are.

Chicago is a city that really takes care of its own, and it's one of the few places in North America where an actor can really study their craft and be nurtured, Alexander said. You're not in the glare of New York City or Los Angeles. You don't have to worry if there's an agent or management sitting in the audience. It's much more about the work.

That community spirit can be seen on the various stages across Chicago. Second City alumni and training center graduates sprinkle the improv scene. Both iO Chicago and the Annoyance Theater have roots from Second City's main stage. iO Chicago's co-founder Del Close was Second City's artistic director and co-founder Charna Halpern graduated from Second City's own Player's Workshop.

Halpern said she left Second City because she needed a place to perform.

We had all these troupes and we had nowhere to play, Halpern said. There wasn't an Improv Olympic. There weren't all these little clubs that had improv. Nobody cared about improvisers at the time. You'd have to go to nightclubs and beg the owners.

She said Second City's fame has helped her, especially because of the attention it's brought to the city.

People would come to Chicago for Second City not hearing of iO many, many years ago, Halpern said. They created a bandwagon I was able to jump on. I always felt like they were the big mother ship I could stand behind.

The attention Second City attracts from talent seekers is responsible for



# Second City to n

**CHICAGO'S SECOND CITY CELEBRATES ITS 50TH BIRTHDAY**



STORY BY CODY PRENTISS





All photos courtesy ROBIN HAMMOND



# one

ND CITY THEATRE  
TH ANNIVERSARY



LAYOUT BY DANA LACOCO



launching many comedians and performers careers.

Dan Castellaneta, the voice of Homer Simpson, started at Second City's training center with Halpern. Tina Fey, Jack McBrayer and Scott Adsit of *30 Rock* all took a turn there, too. That's not counting former

*Saturday Night Live* cast members who performed on the main stage at one point or another. Alexander said that this poaching of talent by shows like *Saturday Night Live* was actually a major motivator to start SCTV.

Most of the SNL people had come out of Second City, so that was what caused me to start my own show, Alexander said. It was more out of defense than offense.

Both have their own training programs and run shows by their students. Halpern said the fact that there are so many opportunities to perform makes Chicago unique. She remembers one instance when she was hired to teach two improv groups in Toronto. She offered to teach both groups of eight simultaneously to help save them money, but got a strong no from both.

They hate each other, Halpern said. They won't do it. They won't work together. I was like, Why, what are you fighting for? You've got nothing. You each got little crumbs. If you make a big scene and work together then people will go to your theater and the other theater.

Aaron Sjöholm, Second City's training center operations manager, started working at the theater six years ago and also went through the training program. He said that the training aspect of Second City was much more of an informal affair until more recently.

For the longest time it was nothing formal, Sjöholm said. An actor or director would just decide to do a workshop for people they knew or who were working here in some capacity. Then, sometime in the '80s, Second City teamed up with Players Workshop and offered classes through that organization.

Second City has also partnered

with Columbia and teaches classes as a part of Columbia's Comedy Studies curriculum. Sjöholm said the increase in students taking classes has made it harder for people to stand out, but many people are in the training center for fun or to apply it to their own established careers.

A lot of people come to us for the ability to work on the fly to create something that is fixed eventually, Sjöholm said. I think that's very applicable to a lot of things. There are a lot of people who take classes because they just want to be better at presenting themselves.

Columbia Student Fellow Tamale Sepp graduated from both Second City's Conservatory and iO Chicago's training program. She said the skills she learned informed her own one-woman show in 2004, and she is using those same techniques to write her performance thesis for her Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Arts and Media.

Sepp received her bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education and Agricultural Technology Management from the University of Arizona, but moved to Chicago to pursue a career in comedy. She said the people she met there ranged in age and career types.

"You had people who were older, who had completed many years of college and were actively pursuing another career," Sepp said. I know of lawyers and doctors who literally dropped their other careers and

chucked it all to pursue this. That drive has created the improv scene that stands today. Second City's role in it may be shifting though, Sepp said.

I feel like people have more choices available to them at this point," Sepp said. It's easier to get your name out, get recognition and get your work out than it used to be, but I think Second City's popularity is really based on what they've done. They established themselves as a feeder pool for big-name things like SCTV and *Saturday Night Live*.

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**You had people  
who were older who  
... chucked it all to  
pursue this.**

**-Tamale Sepp**



# TNT’s ‘Men of a Certain Age’ pushes envelope

Comedy-drama series chronicles life after 50 for older men

by Chuck Barney  
MCT Newswire

“MEN OF A Certain Age,” a new comedy-drama from TNT, is about three dudes pushing 50 and all the horrific gloom that entails. You have to wonder if it landed in prime time purely by accident.

Isn’t television, after all, supposed to be youth-obsessed? Doesn’t the most prized TV demographic start at age 18 and flat line at 49? What kind of companies would be caught dead advertising with such a show—other than Rogaine and Lipitor?

Yet, here we are being asked to hang out with guys in relaxed-fit jeans who strain to read menus and still listen to Neil Sedaka, for crying out loud. At least they’re played by familiar actors: Ray Romano, Scott Bakula and Andre Braugher. And at least they manage to be as endearing as they are pitiful.

If it doesn’t work, blame Romano. After spending nine seasons headlining one of the most popular sitcoms in recent memory, he returns—significantly less buffoonish—in a very different kind of series as a co-creator, writer and executive producer. Yes, we’re about to find out if everybody still loves Raymond.

He plays Joe, a slightly neurotic, recently separated father of two who once had dreams of being a professional golfer (cue

up Springsteen’s “Glory Days”). Now he struggles to curb a gambling problem and runs a party store where his teen employees openly deride his “old man music.”

Joe still finds time to chill out with a couple of pals from college. There’s Terry (Bakula), a past-his-prime actor and part-time temp who still manages to attract pretty young women with scant effort. Rounding out the trio is Owen (Braugher), a stressed-out husband and dad stuck in a dead-end job at a car dealership owned by his sadistic father.

Midlife, they have discovered, can be a bummer, man. They’re coping with health scares, memory lapses, self-doubt, declining relevance and expanding bellies. Occasionally, they get touchy-feely and whine about their miseries while dining out—a la Carrie Bradshaw and company. In fact, this show is a lot like “Sex and the City,” only without the sex and the really hot shoes.

It all sounds somewhat depressing, and it can be. Tonight’s pilot episode occasionally turns flat and aimless and is too light on laughs. At one point, I found myself poised to declare “Men of a Certain Age” only “slightly more fun than a prostate exam.”

But like some things in life, “Men” gets better with time. By the second and third episodes, I started to bond with these guys and empathize with their issues. And being of, um, a certain age myself, I chuckled right along with some of their observations,



MCT NEWSWIRE

(From left to right) Andre Braugher, Ray Romano and Scott Bakula star in a new TNT comedy-drama about the life of 50-year-old men and how they deal with the reality of growing older.

like when Terry announces he’s dating a 25-year-old and Joe warns, “Now you’re going to have to see all the *Twilight* movies!”

Still, while I applaud TNT for attempting to bring some maturity to prime time, it’s difficult to envision “Men” becoming a mass hit. The humor is more low-key than laugh-out-loud, the plot lines more tedious than tantalizing, the cast more grizzled.

Considering all that, Romano and his pals will never be close to generating *Twilight*-like buzz. The good news? At least they still have their hair.

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Brent Lewis THE CHRONICLE

The Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation has embarked on an initiative that will provide a financial solvent for artists and property owners alike, called Pop-Up Art Loop. The initiative partners with owners of storefronts to provide an art venue for local artists for a limited amount of time.

# Pop-Up Art invades Chicago

**New art initiative transforms vacant property into art galleries**

by Katherine Gamby  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

STOREFRONTS IN Chicago's Loop will be dressed up by a new initiative that is designed to help artists and property owners during the economic downturn.

Pop-Up Art Loop is a recent project of the Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation in which storefronts in the Loop are used, under contract, as galleries by artists to exhibit their artwork for a fixed amount of time. Some exhibit spaces include the Wabash Gallery, 220 S. Wabash Ave., and the Chicago Photography Collective, 29 E. Madison Ave., which are now on displaying work.

"The idea is to have a win/win situation both for property owners and for artists," said Laura Jones, associate director of the Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation.

The idea of the initiative, which is not for profit, grew from a luncheon between the chairman of the Board of the Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation and several individuals who are now members of the Chicago Photography Collective. Pop-Up Art Loop is meant to occupy vacant storefronts in order to bring potential renters and encourage them to stay well after the artists have come and gone.

"What we hope to do is give this artist a space for 30 days or so and then make him move on," Jones said.

After the artists leave a location, they move to another one that the Chicago Loop Alliance Foundation has partnered with. Jones said that though it is a solid concept, there is still room for improvement.

"Right now this is a pilot project; we've only started with a couple of locations to see how the whole thing would work," Jones said. "Later on, we'll be enlarging the project, but not before we get the kinks worked out."

One improvement that Paul Natkin, a

photographer and member of the Chicago Photography Collective, said can be made is giving students the same opportunities as professionals.

"There's another level to it because there might be people who are really great that are students and where do they show their work?" Natkin said.

The Chicago Photography Collective is a group of Chicago professional photographers who want to create a sense of unity within their community. They are currently occupying a storefront on the corner of Madison Street and Wabash Avenue, where Natkin said he hopes to hold events and possibly make connections with students.

"There is a lot that students can learn from hanging out with us ... I've got more than 40 years of experience and I'm more than happy to share it with anybody at any given time," Natkin said.

He said that all of the photographers in the organization have about 1,000 years of professional experience combined to share with students, which they are eager to do. Natkin said that although it is important to foster mentorship with students, forming a bond with all photographers is the goal of the Chicago Photography Collective.

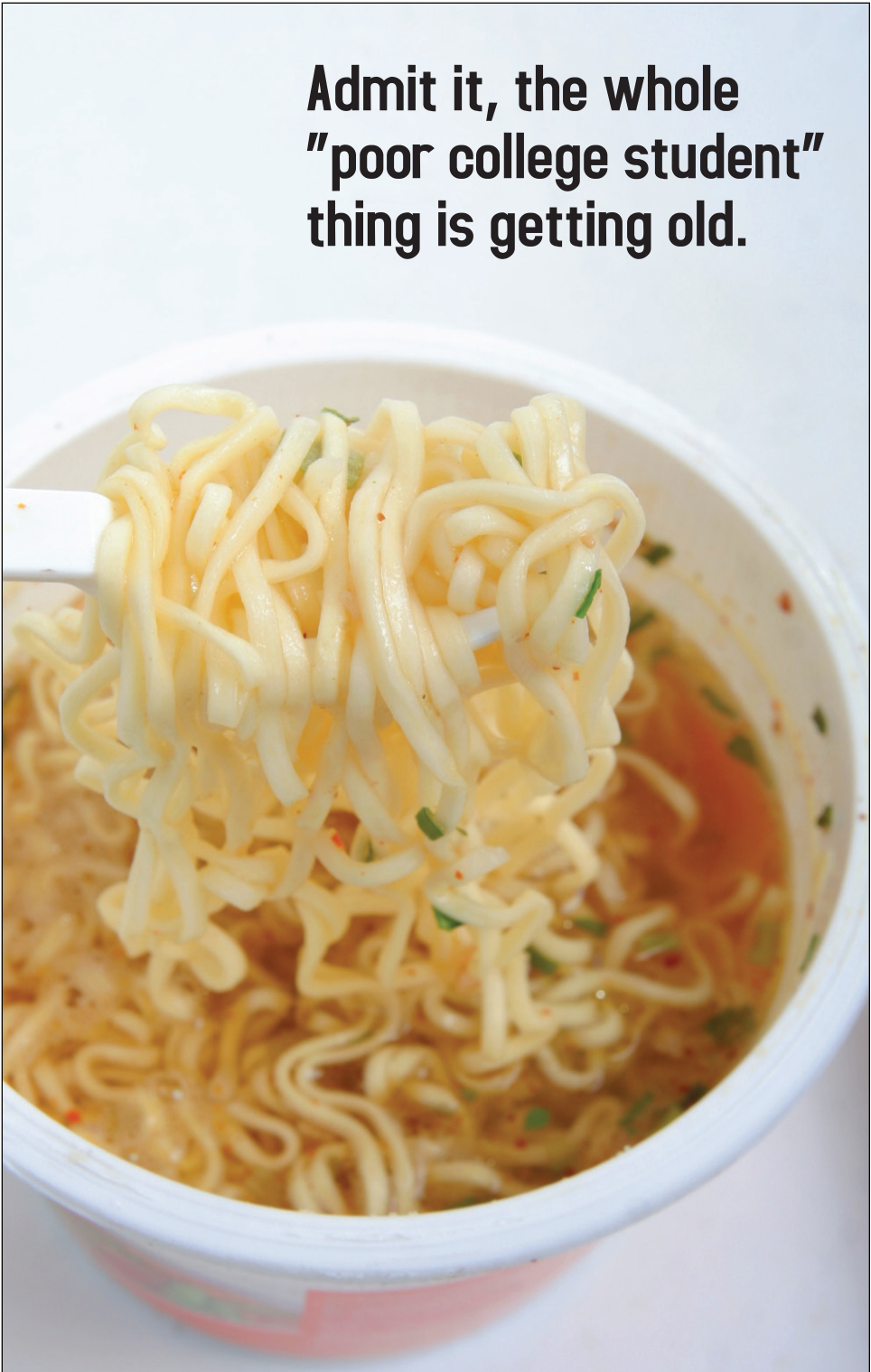
"We want to make this into a community and it's not just professional, it's students too," Natkin said.

Jon Randolph, a photographer and member of the Chicago Photography Collective, said student or not, everyone should witness good artwork and will when they visit these art galleries offered through the Pop-Up Art Loop.

"I think it always benefits someone to look at good work ... there's got to be somebody's cup of tea somewhere on these walls," Randolph said.

For more information on the initiative's mission, locations of some Pop-Up Art Loop galleries, upcoming exhibitions as well as hours of business for the galleries, visit [PopUpArtLoop.com](http://PopUpArtLoop.com).

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FILM REVIEW

# Audience gives salute to ‘Bad Lieutenant’

Hollywood actor Nicolas Cage stars in Werner Herzog’s new film

by David Orlikoff  
Film Critic

RENOWNED GERMAN director Werner Herzog’s latest film, *Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans*, is getting a lot of attention as a manic parody of the original. Some are even comparing it to the potentially glorious train wreck *Snakes on a Plane*. Given the odd circumstances of the production, that might not be too far off.

An independent and guerilla filmmaker, Herzog is widely celebrated for his influential films like *Aguirre: The Wrath of God* and *Stroszek*. He has built a career by telling the stories of characters with strong wills who often fall off the edge of madness. Lately he has been turning out documentaries on the subject, focusing more on the spiritual rather than literal truth of the matter. And now he has teamed up with Nicolas Cage, a big Hollywood star whose abilities some would call into question, to do a remake for a gritty violent opus he has never even seen. Understandably, some of his fans are fearing the worst while still others are hoping for it in a so-bad-it’s-good kind of way.

This mocking take on the 1992 *Bad Lieutenant* doesn’t begin to address what Herzog adds. He claims he was drawn to the dark story, but in usual fashion has no qualms

‘Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans’

**Starring:** Nicolas Cage  
**Director:** Werner Herzog  
**Run Time:** 122 minutes

Rating: R  
Now playing at local theaters.



about abandoning the script entirely. The film is littered with scenes that stand alone as powerful, hilarious and possibly even meaningful. One scene from the trailer is better in full form: Nicolas Cage as Terrence—the bad lieutenant—all coked up and cracked out, demands his lackeys “shoot him again, his soul is still dancing.”

The harmonica folk song “Old Lost John” by Sonny Terry plays over this exuberant, manic and mesmerizing scene just as it did for Herzog in the much-talked-about conclusion of *Stroszek*.

Despite the plethora of clichés, the story structure under Herzog remains unfettered by convention. It has what at times appear to be characteristic climbs and falls, but they are treated with little consideration. The major conflicts and plot lines are all familiar, but strange and unexpected things happen along the way to disrupt the continuity of effect on the audience.

On a smaller scale, Herzog still pays the price for derivative, uninspiring material. Terrence’s superhuman abilities—not the



IMDB

Nicolas Cage plays Terence McDonagh, a drug-addicted detective who investigates five murders. Eva Mendes stars as Frankie Donnenfeld.

least of which is getting away with any and everything—do raise a few questions, but just as often, they provoke a simple smile.

Herzog is comfortable with the subjective and supernatural. He uses them as more than mere metaphors for the literal struggles of power and morality taking place within Terrence. He uses them to peer behind the veil and show us the truth we’d never imagined was there. Behind the tired devices, plot holes and Cage’s dizzying performance, we find what Herzog must have seen when he signed on to the project. To define it might kill it, but it’s definitely

something. It’s fun, for one, and if there isn’t some meaning present, there’s something that resembles it very closely.

Between the cheesy writing, the showy casting and Herzog’s uncanny ability to inject a level of authenticity, *Bad Lieutenant* becomes more than a parody. It is a masterful deconstruction of the genre.

At least as much fun as *Snakes on a Plane*, it is so much more in every other respect. It deserves the same consideration as the classic films that made Herzog famous.


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BAND OF SKULLS // FRIENDS  
BLONDIE // HEART OF GLASS  
CAMERA OBSCURA // HOUSEBOAT

MELODY GORDON, COPY EDITOR



DONNY HATHAWAY // THIS CHRISTMAS  
THE TEMPTATIONS // RUDOLF THE RED-NOSED REINDEER  
'N SYNC // OH HOLY NIGHT  
'N SYNC // IN LOVE ON CHRISTMAS

LAUREN KELLY, COMMENTARY EDITOR



DO MAKE SAY THINK // ONTARIO PLATES  
SONGS: OHIA // FAREWELL TRANSMISSION  
EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY // INTO THE AIR  
PELICAN // CITY OF ECHOES

LAURA NALIN, ASSISTANT CAMPUS EDITOR



UMPHREY'S MCGEE // END OF THE ROAD  
DELTA SPIRIT // CHILDREN  
MIDLAKE // KINGFISH PIES  
HARPER SIMON // WISHES AND STARS

CHICAGO AUDIOFILE



Courtesy ERIC GEORGEVICH

(From left) King Sparrow consists of John McGeown on drums, Eric Georgevich on guitar and vocals and Sean Price on bass.

Band of buddies rock it hard and steady

by Cody Prentiss  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

KING SPARROW'S music belies its size. The group comprises only three members, but sounds like a marching band stomping through the listener's ear canal. The band accomplishes this minor feat with a heavy mesh of guitar, drums and bass injected with a shot of inertia and adrenaline.

Bassist Sean Price, guitarist Eric Georgevich and drummer John McGeown all attended Lane Technical High School where they played in a band together, but went their separate ways after graduation. Nearly nine years later, Georgevich ran into Price at The Globe Pub and struck up a conversation with him. The two soon decided it was time to start making music again and called McGeown to make the duo a trio.

The Chronicle recently interviewed Georgevich to see how the band has done since they reunited.

The Chronicle: Why do you call yourselves King Sparrow?

Eric Georgevich: Well, we needed a name for our first show. As I think most bands do, you kind of get pushed into coming up with a name. We liked the idea of big fish in a small pond, but I guess King Sparrow is another way of explaining that same idea. You can be a big sparrow, king of the sparrows and then some eagle or crow comes and just knocks you in your place. We were juggling a bunch of names, The Rakes were taken. Most of the names we liked were taken and apparently there's a Calypso King Sparrow—actually he goes by Mighty Sparrow, but people call him King Sparrow, too.

The Chronicle: There's like a million bands in Chicago, so what makes your band unique?

EG: Well, the main thing is our goal to not follow the trends and kind of stick to what Sean, Eric and John like. We're super tight, and I think one thing most people note is that we're only a three piece, but we sound a lot fuller. We don't sound like a three piece. I think when we play live, that's the one thing that's first brought to most people's attention. We just keep the

songs simple without excess fluff. We have a good formula there.

The Chronicle: When people come to your live shows, how do you want them to react?

EG: I like it best when people can't start talking to their buddy next to them. Everybody is transfixed on us on stage, and so far, that seems to be the reaction. We want you to look at us when we're playing on stage and we're not jumping around—it's nothing inauthentic like that. You can feel intensity, which is what we're going for.

The Chronicle: Have you had anything terrible but funny happen to you?

EG: When we recorded our EP, I was really sick. I had a super high fever—it was 102—but we had scheduled that weekend to do the EP. So I was gargling whiskey, drinking tea and whiskey, but I had to bear through it. It sounded OK though. A couple of days later I lost my voice completely.

The Chronicle: I didn't know gargling whiskey would do that?

EG: I didn't either. I was desperate, but it seemed to have worked—killed whatever was in my throat I guess. I came home and just sat in the tub for an hour or two exhausted, but at least it sounds like me and not someone else.

The Chronicle: Do you feel like the modern punk scene is healthy?

EG: I guess I feel like it's branched out into smaller niches. A few of my friends play in crust punk bands, and I've been to a bunch of grind core. I think that punk has, it's not like pop punk that's mainstream now. I think that it's just going back to the smaller DIY scene. These bands that are really not worried about getting big or anything. It's different. It's different than the punk shows I used to go to, but I'm sure there are still a bunch of shows like that. I think that it's a lot smaller or just more diversified into small niches.

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music downloads

Week ending Nov. 30, 2009

#1 Album



The Fame Monster  
Lady GaGa

Top tracks ( ) Last week's ranking in top five

United States

Bad Romance • Lady GaGa	(1)	1
TiK ToK • Ke\$ha	(2)	2
Fireflies • Owl City	(3)	3
Replay • Iyaz	(4)	4
Meet Me Halfway • Black Eyed Peas	(5)	5

United Kingdom

Russian Roulette • Rihanna	1
Meet Me Halfway • Black Eyed Peas	(2) 2
Whatcha Say • Jason Derulo	(1) 3
TiK ToK • Ke\$ha	(4) 4
Bad Romance • Lady GaGa	(5) 5

Spain

<b>Ayo Technology</b> • Millow	(1)	1
<b>I Gotta Feeling</b> • Black Eyed Peas	(2)	2
<b>Quiero Aprender de Ti</b> • El Canto del Loco		3
<b>Looking for Paradise</b> • Alejandro Sanz	(3)	4
<b>Happy</b> • Leona Lewis	(5)	5

Source: iTunes

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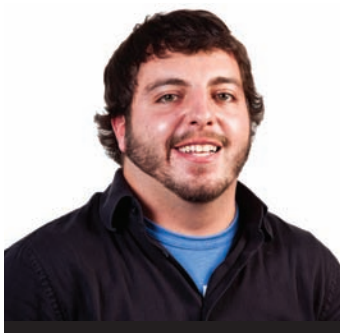
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TOP 5



Jeff Graveline, Assistant Health and Fitness Editor

Things I like about being a “bro”

**I stand out at Columbia:** At a school full of hipsters, tight jeans and a lack of interest in sports, I truly am one of the most unique people at this school. My baggy jeans and baseball hat with a curved brim make me stand out more than you.

**Basic personal hygiene:** I don’t have to worry about things like, if my hair looks OK or if my guy-liner is on right. I can roll out of bed, throw on a hat and head to class. No need to worry about “product,” make-up or any of that nonsense. My mornings involve brushing my teeth and taking a shower, something trendy kids seem to ignore several days a week.

**Irony is lost on me:** Being ironic isn’t something I have to care about. I drink beer because I like it, not because it’s funny or because it’s “working class.” I don’t have to worry about if my T-shirts are a reproduction from a specific decade or whatever it is that makes T-shirts trendy. Also, I don’t have to walk around looking like a skinny, poor lumberjack since I don’t wear flannel, which is a whole different story.

**Indie garage bands—not my thing:** People have actually heard of the music I listen to and I don’t have to act like I’m better than everyone because I discovered this awesome band in my neighbor’s garage.

**My pants fit:** Probably the best thing about being a “bro.” I don’t need somebody to help me into my jeans and zip them for me. The skin-tight look isn’t good on guys, no matter what the person who sold you your spandex jeans told you.



Lauren Kelly, Commentary Editor

Things to do over winter break

**Brew alcohol:** After coming across a 10-gallon brewing jug a few months ago, I’ve wanted to brew some good cider or beer. After a blind first attempt that failed miserably, I really want to get it right and have a bunch of alcohol ready for New Year’s Eve.

**Read:** Between writing dozens of articles for The Chronicle and doing endless work for my classes, I’ve had little time for free-reading. I still indulged in novels, much to the detriment of my schoolwork, but I haven’t completely sunk into a good read since summer. My list for winter break is fairly long and includes *Lord of the Rings* and *Dune* among other epic works of fiction. Although I don’t think I’ll complete everything I want to, I’m still excited about crossing some titles off my list.

**Unpack the rest of my apartment, clean:** I moved into a new place on Halloween and still have a few boxes to unpack and a lot of things to organize. The apartment could use some cleaning, too. I’m excited (gasp!) to clean and organize my place. It will be relaxing to put on a good vinyl record, scrub my floor and uncover the carpet in my room.

**Enjoy the winter season:** Winter in Chicago is brutal, but beautiful. I’m ready to cuddle indoors during a glorious snow storm and sip peppermint tea, then go out into the still streets for a snowy adventure.

**NOTHING!:** The main thing I’m excited for is to do nothing for days at a time. What better way is there to relax after a long semester than play *The Sims*, watch “Futurama” and exhaust Netflix’s instant viewing?



Taylor Norris, Assistant Health and Fitness Editor

Things that make my morning

**6:30 a.m.:** When I wake up to see this time on the clock, I am reminded that I have plenty of time to wake up slowly and relax before I have to be out of my house and starting my day. Anything later makes me feel a little anxious, and a rushed morning does not make the start to a good day.

**Coffee:** Enough said, right? The bold taste of black coffee, the heat in my palms, the smell—especially if the night prior I’ve set the coffee machine so it’s ready to go right at 6:30 a.m.—coffee is one of the most irreplaceable elements of my every morning. (Ok, and my afternoons, and sometimes early evenings.)

**Sunlight:** It is so much easier to wake up with the sun than without it. Winter mornings are a little miserable in their darkness. I love yellow morning light; I love being able to see where I am walking in the morning without needing to turn on a single light in the house. Sunlight makes me happy any time of day, but it is most important to me in the morning.

**Prayer:** All day long the world is loud and tells me things to do and tells me I need to meet to its standards. I start every morning in prayer so that I have a strong and peaceful mind, and that I may keep my priorities straight and respond well throughout the day to come.

**Jake:** Although he wakes up later than I, my husband is usually up in time for some prayer, breakfast and a little morning jig—which is extra funny when he’s still so tired. I sometimes feel like I’ve had an entire day before Jake wakes up, but it wouldn’t be as lovely without adding him to the picture.



Woods gets clubbed?

On Nov. 27, Tiger Woods was injured in a car crash after he lost control of his Cadillac Escalade outside of his estate in Isleworth, Fla. Woods’ wife used a golf club to smash the back of his car window because she claimed the doors were probably locked, according to police reports. There’s question as to whether his wife beat him up for being unfaithful or if he was simply in a car crash. Woods, who was released from the hospital in good condition, claims that his wife’s actions were heroic, according to the golf superstar’s Web site. However, Woods has allegedly been cheating on his wife since 2007, which could have potentially led to a golf club-related incident the night of his accident. Not only do voicemails and text messages exist on reputable news sites like The Huffington Post, but Woods himself released a statement about regretting his actions with “all of his heart.” Anyway, all of this sounds a bit ridiculous, don’t you think? First, it’s amazingly tacky if Tiger’s wife beat him up with a golf club. Second, I’m really bored by public figures cheating on their spouses and the media frenzy that erupts as a result. I’ve been disillusioned by the oh-so-scandalous tabloids for quite some time now. On a strictly personal level, you are a jack-ass, Tiger Woods. I say this as if you were a normal, non-celebrity because cheating tends to destroy families.

—M. Bloom



Alexandria Hall, a sophomore art and design major at Columbia, dresses in natural, earthy clothes with a design-for-a-dime twist.

Oriana Riley THE CHRONICLE



by Katherine Gamby  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

ALEXANDRIA HALL, a sophomore art and design major at Columbia, said her style is natural—even down to the roots of her hair. A warm, layered look is the normal outfit she wears, which is sometimes inspired by her job. “I do work at The Buckle, so I’m really into denim and layering,” Hall said. “I get inspired by different cultures ... I like really earthy and natural types of looks.” Aside from shopping at The Buckle, Hall gets some of her apparel from Forever 21 and Plato’s Closet. She said she likes to browse through vintage racks to find bargains and items that no one else will have. She said

she found good buys during Black Friday, such as her featured cardigan and under-top from TJ Maxx. She said that Indian and Asian cultures also shape her style along with classic looks from some famous faces of Old Hollywood. “[The flower is] kind of like a Billie Holiday-type thing and then people say I also look like Corinne Bailey Rae, so I kind of play off of that,” Hall said. “It’s just something to add when I don’t feel like wearing a lot of jewelry.” On the day The Chronicle talked with her, she said her outfit was still casual and not overdone. The weather was cold with snow flurries, but she wore a leather jacket in order to keep her look fashionable. “The inspiration was not too much going on, but still something natural, simple, something that I layer or unlayer,” Hall said. She said she still has fall on the brain and thinks little of winter trends. “Winter is more of that casual sweat-pants, hoody type of thing going on ... because we don’t really have the time or energy for clothing ... it’s all about a nice coat,” Hall said. Some winter trends this year include boots, both over-the-knee and ankle booties, fur and cashmere jackets, purple accessories, as well as accessories with tassels and lots of lace.

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REVIEWS



SHIIIIIIICK



SHOULDER SHRUG



NOT BAD, NOT BAD

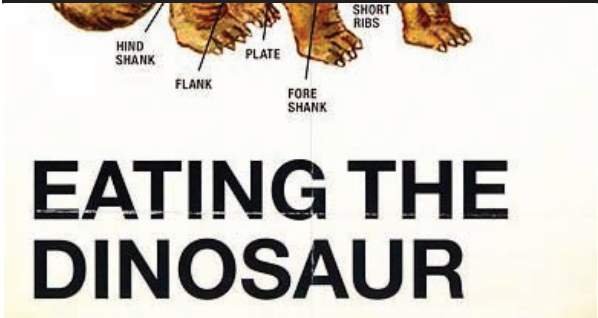


WORTH A GIGGLE



HAPPY DANCE!

PRINT



EATING THE DINOSAUR BY CHUCK KLOSTERMAN

At the zenith of Chuck Klosterman’s four consecutively prolific tomes of essays, and last year’s successful venture into novel writing, Klosterman fans may have been expecting too much from his latest, *Eating the Dinosaur*. While the crotchety commentator delivers a considerable amount of culture analyses and journalism fodder, *Eating the Dinosaur* pales in comparison to its five older brothers and sisters.—C.Shook



DC'S GOTHAM CITY SIRENS #6 BY GUILLEM MARCH

This ongoing comic book series features a lot of boobs. Some of the most popular female characters from Gotham City are back. Catwoman, Poison Ivy and Harley Quinn are dealing with the fallout of The Joker’s little secret, while Harley is trying to solve her own problems. It’s a classic issue with very impressive artwork by Guillem March.—C. Aguirre



TIGER AND THE SALAHIS: TWO KINDS OF CELEBRITY CRASH BY JAMES PONIEWOZIK

Isn’t everyone sick of hearing about Tiger Woods’ marital problems, and how the Salahis cannot get enough attention and resorted to crashing the White House? This article describes them as “attention seekers.” That’s exactly what Time is doing by writing yet another story about it. Stop already! It’s just feeding their pathetic, media-driven ego.—S. Roush



MOVIES / TV / DVD



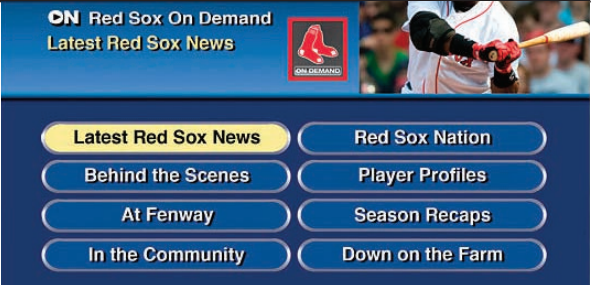
NINJA ASSASSIN

*Ninja Assassin* delivers exactly what the title promises—it’s about a ninja named Raizo who used to be an assassin. However, a betrayal by his ninja clan leads him on a blood-soaked path of action-packed vengeance. The plot is really more of a device to get from one ninja battle to the other, but I didn’t mind. The dismemberings and gallons of fake blood were top-notch.—D. LaCoco



THE BLACK DAHLIA

Aaron Eckhart as Lee Blanchard: awesome. Josh Hartnett as Bucky Bleichert: try watching Hartnett “cry” and not cringe. Eckhart did a great job sustaining Blanchard’s obsession of the Black Dahlia that progressed into his downfall in the James Ellroy book, while Bleichert’s obsession of her was lost. I suggest reading the book first.—A. Meade



ONDEMAND WITH TIME WARNER CABLE

I don’t know how I would have survived Thanksgiving break if On Demand did not exist. I spent many hours wrapped in blankets on my parents’ couch purchasing movie after movie just to pass the night hours while everyone was asleep. I caught up on movies I missed in theaters and then I felt bad for the \$3.99 that each movie cost. Oh well, sorry Mom and Dad, but I had to.—C. Shively



MUSIC



G-DRAGON: HEARTBREAKER

American Pop has come to a standstill and K-Pop (a.k.a Korean Pop) is still, well, poppin’! G-Dragon, member of the Korean boy band Big Bang, released his solo album *Heartbreaker* worldwide at the end of August 2009. This review is tardy, but if any track from this album is played at party, you won’t be. It’s so enjoyable that you get past not understanding Korean. (He artfully switches back and forth from Korean and English anyway, so you’ll get the gist of each song).—K. Obomanu



LIL WAYNE: “GO DJ”

I love this song more with each successive listen. It’s off *Tha Carter* and the lyrical flow is unmatched. It’s impossible to give an example of said lyrics because they’re amazingly vulgar. All I could think of over Thanksgiving was that I’m thankful for Weezy. You cheer me up day after day with your sheer ridiculousness!

—M. Bloom



THE DODOS: TIME TO DIE

Meh ... I’m not too impressed with the third album from The Dodos. It has catchy moments, but it lacks the spirit of adventure the band’s sophomore release, *Visiter*, was infused with. *Time to Die* is OK as background music, but won’t be a main album on my turntable this winter.—L. Kelly

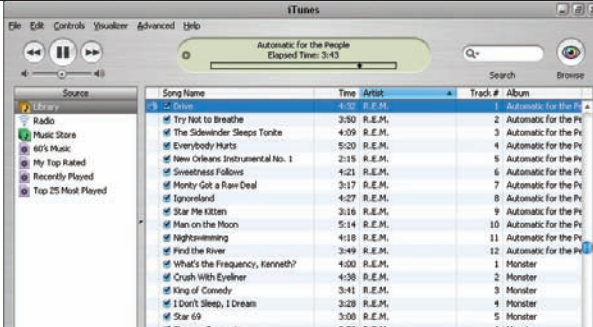


RANDOM



FIGHTING ILLINI BASEBALL CAP

This hat could have been cool, but after seeing it almost every day on someone’s head, it needs to go away. I have nothing against the Fighting Illini, it’s just this specific old, raggedy hat. It needs to go into retirement. So if you come by this hat, stand back and find other ways to hide your receding hairline. Try a wig or something.—C. Aguirre



OLD PLAYLISTS

I always make a playlist per month where I put all the new music I’ve found during that time, and it is nice to look back and listen to them. I love looking on the sidebar of my iTunes and seeing ones entitled “4th of J” or “April ‘09.” They not only contain memories, but also give me a chance to rediscover some music I may have accidentally put on the backburner over time. Thanks, iTunes!—L. Nalin



DAIRY QUEEN CHEESEBURGER

My laziness and natural sloth make DQ a necessary evil when I’m stuck at school all day, but I’d die before I ate another burger from the Blizzard king. The meat has a weird taste that’s decidedly not cow-like, which ruins the entire meal. Stick to blizzards for the sake of your taste buds. The worst thing you’ll get is a brain freeze.—C. Prentiss





# Editorials

## Columbia sometimes too liberal

COLUMBIA HAS historically been a liberal institution, from its founding in 1890 to its resurrection in the 1960s during a peak of political change. As an open-admissions college, Columbia attracted freethinking students and professors that cultivated an open mindset. Former Executive Vice President Albert Gall was even arrested during Chicago’s infamous 1968 Democratic National Convention.

This liberal attitude has stayed with Columbia through decades of development. Now it dictates the tone of classrooms and the direction of discussions. Conservative viewpoints are often missing, and a curriculum that only recognizes select parts of a social dialogue stifles every student’s education.

Of course, Columbia is a liberal arts school. Liberalism is often attached to the arts, and most students expect a certain campus environment—especially in a Democratic hub like Chicago. That said, there are still conservative students that choose Columbia and everyone should acknowledge, respect and learn from every part of the campus population.

In classrooms, some teachers have offered extra credit for participating in politically charged events, like protesting the opening

of an Army recruitment center or walking in an LGBT rights march. But would teachers offer incentives if a student were part of a pro-life demonstration?

However inadvertent as it may be, some teachers push agendas. It is inappropriate to have students participate in a union workers strike for a midterm grade, even voluntarily, without exploring management’s viewpoint. Furthermore, it is not necessary to know the political leanings of your Fundamentals of Speech Communication teacher.

Teachers need to be more conscious of what information they are presenting and how it is presented. Education should stress learning about all sides of issues. Politicizing students is ineffective.

There are classes, however, where political discussion is completely relevant. Then, it falls not only to the teacher to present all sides, but to students to think critically and work toward a balanced debate. While most students in the conversation may be liberal, it is everyone’s responsibility to listen to and respect any opposing viewpoint.

We cannot be the open-minded school we claim to be if we do not welcome conservative viewpoints, along with every other opinion out there.

## City shouldn’t privatize more services

JUST NINE months after Chicago leased its parking meters to a private company in a quick deal, Mayor Richard M. Daley made a statement that any city service is up for sale given the right price, according to the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board.

Chicago is still in financial trouble despite the \$1.15 billion meter deal with Chicago Parking Meters LLC in February, and the city is now reportedly open to selling off other services to keep its funding afloat. The latest option being discussed is to privatize the entire water system.

This is an even worse idea than leasing the parking meters and would not benefit the city in the long run. A company’s main goal is to make a profit, not serve people. Many other cities in Illinois who have private water systems, such as Bolingbrook and Homer Glen, have seen prices rise drastically.

The privatization of any public service invites the risk that the company buying it will take advantage of customers and drastically raise prices while providing less consistent service to make a higher profit margin.

Instead of leasing more public services to private companies, the city should try to find funds elsewhere and not sell such a vital city resource. The potential downsides of leasing the water supply to a private entity are too numerous for The Chronicle’s Editorial Board to support a sale.

But if city officials do decide to lease more public services to private firms, accountability is unquestionably needed—both from the company purchasing the service and city of Chicago officials.

There should be stipulations in the contract that limit how much a company can hike prices and specify details about the level of service it should be required to provide. Also, before finalizing the lease, city officials need to approve a budget detailing how the money received from the deal will be spent.

These precautions would help prevent the city from spending the money made from the deal irresponsibly, as well as hold the companies involved in the contract responsible for providing a low-cost, safe service to Chicagoans.



### Editorial Board Members

Cristina Aguirre *Multimedia Editor*  
Eleanor Blick *Contributing Writer*  
Melody Gordon *Copy Editor*  
Lauren Kelly *Commentary Editor*  
Amber Meade *Copy Editor*

Laura Nalin *Assistant Campus Editor*  
Emi Peters *Copy Chief*  
Cody Prentiss *Assistant A&C Editor*  
Ciara Shook *Assistant Campus Editor*

### 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.



# Winter season doesn't mean you should forfeit cuteness



by **Mina Bloom**  
*Assistant Arts & Culture Editor*

“When did people determine that it’s socially unacceptable to look cute and marshmallow-like during the wintertime?”

WITNESSING THE first pristine, white snowflakes dance atop my car windshield in early December can be a rather heart-warming experience. I must admit though, snow becomes considerably less romantic when I’m exposed to a bounty of hideous UGG Boots, scantily-clad women in less-than-appropriate attire for clubbing purposes and a plethora of disgusting, matching winter accessories, among other things.

While most people admittedly hate Chicago’s winter months (also known as half of the year), it’s safe to assume that some people hate it so much that they

lose all sense of reason when it comes to fashion. It’s almost as if they’re completely blinded by their disdain for slush and have completely forgotten how to dress themselves.

Instead of using winter as an excuse to find cute, unique accessories, women shell out almost \$200 for UGG Boots every season, which are quite possibly the “ugg”-liest “fashion footwear” to grace the planet. UGG feet look big, round and cartoonish—except not in the cute kind of way. Yes, I know, it’s like walking on a cloud all day long and, yes, they were made in Australia with genuine sheepskin. Call me crazy, I just think there are more original boots for sale that are more affordable and—get this—are actually weather resistant! I can handle below-freezing temperatures, but flared jeans tucked into UGG Boots literally make me cringe. A facemask can protect you from intense wind, but what can I buy to protect me from glancing in the direction of those shapeless, chestnut-colored monstrosities?

UGG Boots aside, I have a hard time wrapping my head around the mini-dress and stiletto look in January. You know the type. It’s the girl who wears a sequined

top as a dress with opaque leggings and pumps, falling over herself with a limp cigarette between her fingers, sobbing into her bedazzled cell phone while shivering and openly complaining about how cold it is outside of a bar at 3 a.m. You’re not wearing a jacket and it’s 32 degrees. That’s why you’re cold. You sacrificed your comfort and you run the risk of catching pneumonia for a chance to have a one-night stand.

I’m also extremely saddened by the amount of matching winter accessories I witness on a daily basis. A red, cable-knit scarf with red, cable-knit gloves topped off with a red, cable-knit hat just makes me sick to my stomach. When did people determine that it’s socially unacceptable to look cute and marshmallow-like during the wintertime? Wear a hat with ear flaps that you acquired in the 4th grade and a scarf your sister’s cousin knit you last summer at day camp. Eclectic winter accessories are endearing. Let us not forget the adorability of when our mothers made us wear hats with pom-poms and little puffy coats. I see no reason not to continue looking adorable as an adult. And nothing says adorable like a gaggle of friends wear-

ing mismatched winter accessories. A lot of the time, I feel like we Chicagoans are so disillusioned by cold weather that we neglect the wholesome ideas of sledding, hot chocolate, snowball fights and accessory shopping. More people should check out holiday do-it-yourself craft sales for mittens with buttons on them. Or, hey, here’s a novel idea—you could even knit yourself something that’s 100 percent unique. Falling prey to the clichéd trends—which aren’t actually trendy in the first place—is not your only option. I’m fully aware that I’ll inevitably run into my personal fashion faux pas all winter long, but I’m merely suggesting that you, Chronicle readers, break the mold a little bit. Replace your UGGs with some one-of-a-kind boots from a local boutique. Be bold and wear floral print gloves. Ask your mom if you can borrow her vintage-inspired scarf. I’m begging you. Just embrace the amount of layers you’ll be sporting for the next four months. I promise that the quirky items you choose will continually make you smile during the grayest months of the year.

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## ROAMIN’ NUMERALS

**51** Percent of NBC Universal that will be bought by Comcast in a deal valued at approximately \$30 billion, according to a Dec. 3 New York Times article. The deal, which was agreed upon after nine months of negotiations, creates a large power shift in the entertainment industry.

Thousands of copies the RedEye newspaper will distribute daily beginning Jan. 4, up from its current circulation of 200,000 copies, according to a Dec. 2 Chicago Tribune article. This increased circulation will make the RedEye the largest circulated free daily newspaper in Chicago.

Billions of dollars Chicago City Council approved for the 2010 Chicago budget in a vote of 38 - 12, according to a Dec. 3 Chicago Tribune article. The approved plan borrows heavily from funds the city gained through the sale of its parking meters earlier this year.

Height, in feet, of the largest Christmas tree in the White House, according to a Nov. 28 MSNBC article. The Douglas fir, located in the famous Blue Room, was delivered to the Obama family from a farm in Shepherdstown, W.Va. on Nov. 27, the day after Thanksgiving.

**18.5**

# Spirit of holiday season obscured by material obsession



by **Lauren Kelly**  
*Commentary Editor*

“It seems Americans are celebrating Christmas in a completely inauthentic way that is contrary to the traditional intention of the holiday.”

IN EVERY holiday movie that is shown on cable TV in December, there’s inevitably a character who has lost faith in the season and has no Christmas spirit. These famous characters, from the Grinch to Scrooge, always find the true meaning of Christmas by the end of the film and everyone is happy.

I am very much a Grinch during the holidays, but I don’t see myself having an epiphany and suddenly being overcome with Christmas joy at the end of this year’s festivities. I’ve become severely disenchanting by the winter holidays during the

past few years, and I am not looking forward to celebrating another soul sucking, routine Christmas with a family I don’t particularly care for.

When I was younger, I loved the holiday for the reason most kids do—you get a lot of free toys. Now it’s just an excuse to drink too much wine and eat an unhealthy amount of mashed potatoes and toffee squares.

But besides the drab routine of gift-giving and family dinner, I’m realizing there is a much darker side to the “season of giving” that many people glaze over.

The utter consumer frenzy known as Christmas costs much more than the price that appears on shoppers’ receipts. The environmental impact alone is abominable. Between the never-ending gift wrap, packaging, plastic toys that break after a week and never-worn sweaters being thrown in the garbage, we are clearly hurting the earth by consuming so much. The majority of Americans are content in celebrating Christmas by purchasing silly, cheap gifts from a big box store and caving in to their screaming child’s demands for a Hannah Montana

toy, Tickle-Me-Elmo or Furby, regardless of the unseen impacts.

The obsession with Christmas shopping has become so intense that it’s causing fatalities—literally. On Black Friday in 2008, a Wal-Mart employee in Long Island, N.Y. was trampled to death as a mob of shoppers stampeded the store when it opened. During the incident, a pregnant woman also suffered minor injuries and was taken to the hospital.

Besides being tragic, the fact that there are Christmas casualties is unsettling. Maybe I’m being overly negative, but it seems Americans are celebrating Christmas in a completely inauthentic way that is contrary to the traditional intention of the holiday. Many people in this country think celebrating the holidays means buying hundreds of dollars worth of products, in effect putting a monetary value on their loved ones.

But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is there one?

As a child, I was told by my Catholic relatives that we were celebrating Jesus’ birthday, but even at age 9 I knew it was a sham. It’s highly unlikely Jesus was really

born on Dec. 25, year zero. After asking a few dozen people what Christmas means to them, I’ve realized that the answer is different for everyone. For some it’s about spending time with family, for others it’s about the food and drink and for others still, it’s about worshipping the birth of baby Jesus. I like a nice dinner, red wine and the smell of gingerbread cookies, but that’s not enough to keep the magic of the season alive for me. There isn’t really a “true meaning of Christmas.” It’s completely subjective. The only positive thing I could see myself celebrating, besides seemingly infinite toffee squares, is the winter solstice. Dec. 21 is the shortest day of the year, so that means every day after that will be slightly longer, probably a much-welcomed thought for any Chicagoan living through a notorious Windy City winter. I’m not sure if my heart is two sizes too small, or if my brain thinks about things twice as hard. Either way, I’m going to try get through this holiday season without being trampled.

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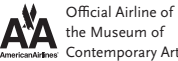
Giorgio Avigdor, #23 Sconosciuta Brandizzo 1, 1970. Silver salt print. 8 x 11¼ in. Artist's collection

# ITALICS

*Italian Art between Tradition and  
Revolution 1968–2008  
Through February 14, 2010*

Italy is full of contradictions. Past, present. Church, sex.  
High design and ancient ruins. Don't miss the  
US premiere of *Italics: Italian Art between Tradition and  
Revolution 1968–2008*. More than 100 works from  
75 artists will grapple with these concepts through painting,  
video, sculpture, sound, and photography. Organized  
by Francesco Bonami, curator of the upcoming  
2010 Whitney Biennial.

*Italics: Italian Art between Tradition and Revolution 1968–2008* is co-organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, and Palazzo Grassi, Venice, Italy—the François Pinault Foundation.

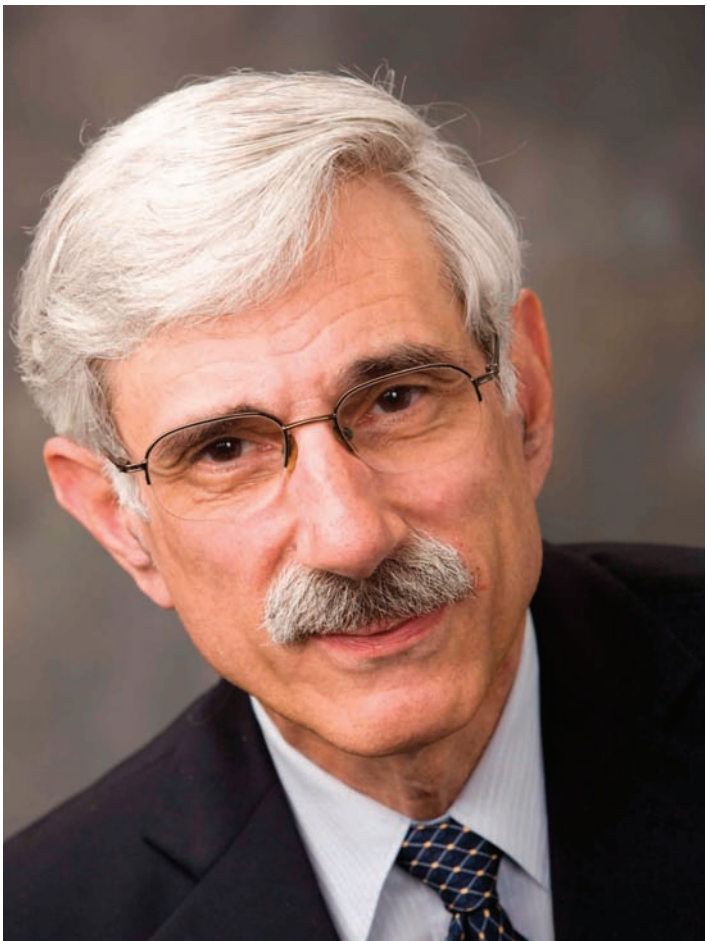


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Courtesy of DEB MELL and FRIENDS FOR JOE LAIACONA

State Rep. Deb Mell (left) recently succeeded in having candidate Joe Laiacona's (right) objection to her nomination papers dismissed. The Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago ruled unanimously that Mell's papers were valid and that she would appear on the ballot for the Feb. 2 Democratic primary. Laiacona's attorney, Richard Means, said that his client was still deciding if he would appeal the decision to the Cook County Circuit Court.

# Laiacona objection denied

## Columbia instructor faces challenge in Democratic primary

by Patrick Smith  
Assistant Metro Editor

COLUMBIA TEACHER Joe Laiacona probably won't be running unopposed in February's Democratic primary because his objections to opponent state Rep. Deb Mell's nomination papers for candidacy were overruled by the Board of Election Commissioners of the City of Chicago.

The decision was made by a unanimous vote of three election commissioners on Dec. 1 and announced a day later. The three commissioners made up an electoral board, chaired by Commissioner Langdon Neal, and organized to hear and rule upon Laiacona's objections.

Laiacona said he was not surprised by the decision because an election board hearing officer had already recommended his objection be dismissed. Laiacona also said that he was not disappointed in the decision, saying, it's just life.

"Although I felt we had an open and shut case, I didn't know there was such a growing loophole in election law," Laiacona added.

Laiacona's attorney, Richard Means, had previously expressed confidence the objection would succeed, but he too said he was not surprised by the board's decision. He did, however, add that he and Laiacona did not agree with it.

"There's a whole lot of things we disagree with," Means said.

As previously reported in The Chronicle on Nov. 16, Laiacona filed his objections to the incumbent Mell's nomination papers on Nov. 9. Those objections contended that Mell's papers were invalid, and she was ineligible to run for re-election in the Democratic primary because she was not registered to vote at the address listed on her form.

Ken Menzel, legal counsel for the Illinois State Board of Elections, said that objections like Laiacona's are rare because candidates do not usually make the sort of error Mell did.

Mell filed a motion to dismiss Laiacona's objection, and Hearing Officer Barbara Goodman heard arguments from Mell's attorney, Michael Kasper, and from Means on Nov. 24.

In her motion to dismiss, Mell confirmed that she was not registered to vote at the address she listed on her nomination papers. But Goodman found that "there is

no express requirement ... that a candidate be a registered or qualified voter."

The electoral board agreed with Goodman's assessment.

"It's a legal quibble and they're arguing that the law has an inference, but it doesn't directly say that they have to be registered voters," Means said. "But I read it differently."

Means and Laiacona have until Dec. 11 to decide if they want to appeal the decision to the circuit court.

"We may proceed to the circuit court and have the circuit court tell us what the rule is," Means said.

Even if he decides not to appeal the decision, Laiacona said that he is confident he will defeat Mell in the Democratic primary on Feb. 2.

"I think my take on the issues reflects the needs of our society, and that's why I put out a platform," Laiacona said. "Most candidates don't do platforms anymore ... they want to rely on personality and machines and I believe that's the downfall of democracy."

In his effort to make the campaign more issue-based, Laiacona said that he sent out

» SEE LAIACONA, PG. 34

# Consumers will pay down debt before shopping

New poll finds people are spending less; Feds offer tips on protecting credit

by Jennifer Waters  
MCT Newswire

ANY WINDFALLS consumers get this holiday season are far more likely to be used to pay down debt than to splurge on additional shopping, a new survey finds.

The latest poll from the National Foundation of Credit Counseling has consumers overwhelmingly opting to pay down existing debt if an extra \$500 should come their way.

The online poll, which attracted more than 8,500 respondents—the most ever for a poll by the organization—found that 77 percent said they would pay down debt, while an additional 14 percent said that a windfall would be put into savings. Only 7 percent said they would spend it to put more presents under the tree while a mere 2 percent said they would buy for themselves.

The results are in line with the Federal Reserve's reports of declining debt. Last month marked the eighth straight month of shrinking consumer credit as Americans slashed \$14.8 billion in debt in September, the latest numbers available, to bring the total down to \$2.46 trillion. That's the lowest level since June 2007.

"If there's a silver lining to the financial meltdown, it is that consumers are now becoming more engaged with their personal financial situation and are doing something about it," said NFCC spokeswoman Gail Cunningham.

That, coupled with mixed results from the heavily-promoted Black Friday weekend, doesn't bode well for the busiest shopping season of the year. The National Retail Federation's Black Friday shopping survey found that more people went out shopping, but spent less than they did a year ago.

According to the survey, conducted by BIGresearch, 195 million shoppers visited stores and Web sites over Black Friday weekend, 13.3 percent over last year. But they spent 8.5 percent less per person, or \$343.31, and were driven only by deep discounts, two-for-one deals and rebates.

While the Federal Reserve doesn't want to discourage consumers from shopping, it is offering advice through an unprecedented series of ads at movie houses on how to protect your credit when the sale signs are everywhere.

Here are the Fed's tips:

Pay on time. Paying your credit card account on time helps you avoid late fees as well as penalty interest rates applied to your account, and helps you maintain a good credit record. A good credit record leads to a higher credit score, which helps you qualify for lower interest rates. Know the date your payment is due. If your bill is due at an inconvenient time of the month—for example, if it's due on the 10th and you get paid on the 15th—contact your credit card company to see if they will change your billing cycle to fit your cash flow.

Stay below your credit limit. If you go

» SEE DEBT, PG. 34

## FORECAST

MONDAY	MON. NIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Snow or flurries possible	Mostly cloudy	Mainly cloudy and breezy	Snow or flurries possible	Mostly cloudy and colder	Partly sunny; not as cold	Sunny to partly cloudy	Clouds limiting sun
High 34	Low 23	High 37 Low 28	High 33 Low 17	High 22 Low 13	High 31 Low 16	High 27 Low 25	High 30 Low 17





William Boyd Jr. - Democrat

Boyd became a minister in the early '90s and has lectured/ministered in Africa, China and areas in the United Kingdom. He was also elected as the first African-American on the Greenville City Council in Bond County. Boyd has two children.



Corey Dabney - Democrat

Dabney is listed as the chief executive officer of Indiana Dabney University and his Web site, Corey2010.com, stated he has had 20 years of business experience. It also said he owned and operated a janitorial company.



Alexi Giannoulias - Democrat

In November 2006, Giannoulias was elected the state treasurer of Illinois. He also formerly served on the board of directors of the Community Bankers Association. He calls himself a "progressive" Democrat.



David Hoffman - Democrat

From 1998 to 2005, Hoffman worked as an assistant U.S. attorney general in Chicago. In 2005, he became inspector general of the city of Chicago. Early this year he was appointed by Gov. Pat Quinn to the Illinois Reform Commission.



Cheryle Robinson Jackson - Democrat

Jackson is the president of the Chicago Urban League and was born and raised on Chicago's South Side. Jackson believes one of the keys to rebuilding the economy is to stop spending "trillions [of dollars] overseas in wars of choice."



Robert Marshall - Democrat

Marshall is a war veteran and a physician. He practices at hospitals in Kankakee and Joliet. For two years Marshall worked with Obama's campaign in neighboring states. He has also been involved in many community activities, including being a former board of directors member of PAV YMCA in Berwyn.



Jacob Meister - Democrat

Meister has practiced law for nearly 20 years and in 2002, he opened his own law firm. Before beginning his law career, Meister worked under federal and state governments, including working as special-projects assistant under Congressman Jim Moody involving different tasks.



John Arrington - GOP

In 1995, Arrington was elected as Alderman for Harvey City Council and was involved in community projects in the south suburbs. He currently owns a management consulting business with his wife. Arrington was also a candidate in 2004 for U.S. Senate in the Republican special election.

### Meet the candidates competing for President Barack Obama's former Senate seat in 2010.

Some experts and party leaders have said next year will be the GOP's best chance in years to have a Republican senator from Illinois, but the fight over the identity of the party could prevent a victory. See the article on the next page for more information.



Patrick Hughes - GOP

Hughes is as a real estate developer and the chairman of Sensible Taxpayers Opposed to Increased Taxes. He lobbied against a major tax increase on Illinois. Prior to his real estate career, Hughes worked as a commercial litigator with multiple firms.



Mark Kirk - GOP

Kirk has represented the 10th Congressional District of Illinois and is a part of the House Appropriations Committee. He is a member of the Army Reserves and was named "Intelligence Officer of the Year" by the U.S. Navy in 1999. Kirk also served in the Afghanistan War.



Don Lowery - GOP

After serving 26 years as a Circuit Court Judge in the First Judicial Circuit in Illinois, Lowery retired in 2006. While retired, Lowery hosted a public affairs show called "Focus" on WGGH-AM 1150 in Marion, Ill. Lowery also served in the U.S. Army prior to attending college.



Andy Martin - GOP

As a perennial candidate, Martin has ran for political offices many times, including an unsuccessful run for president in 1999. He has also been involved in many political controversies and has filed numerous lawsuits over the past 40 years for a variety of reasons.



Kathleen Thomas - GOP

Thomas taught at several different colleges, including Florida A&M, Florida University and Lincoln Land Community College. She has had articles published in magazines and is currently employed by Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.



Robert Zadek - GOP

Zadek worked with government officials involving zoning, engineering, site planning and development. He retired as a mortgage broker, but currently works in real estate in Illinois. Zadeck also worked as a secretary and treasurer for a major automotive and aerospace company.



LeAlan Jones - Green

Jones, as a 13-year-old in 1993, recorded an audio documentary for National Public Radio called "Ghetto Life 101." In 1996, he created a second documentary on a public housing murder. He has won many prestigious awards for both of his pieces. Jones is a resident in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood.



Mike Labno - Libertarian

After a six-month layoff from his previous job, Labno now works for an electrical union contractor. He has been a volunteer for the World Security Bureau, an organization that attempts to help women affected by domestic violence. Labno went to college for mechanical engineering.



John Blyth - Independent

According to JohnBlyth.com, Blyth is not a politician, which he said makes him an appealing candidate. Blyth opened his own business selling health insurance in 1993, where he currently works. Prior to selling insurance, Blyth had a career as a journeyman bricklayer in Local 21.



Stan Jagla - Independent

A Roselle businessman, Jagla has lived in Illinois since 1987. He is a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University. He believes the U.S. needs to restore fair taxes by providing a permanent tax break for the middle class and small businesses. Jagla ran in the 2008 primaries as a Democrat.



# Best chance in years

Republicans poised to win Illinois Senate seat in 2010 if divisions don't derail their plans

by Patrick Smith  
Assistant Metro Editor

IT WAS almost 10 years ago that Peter Fitzgerald became a United States senator. January 1999 was the first time in more than 30 years that Illinois voters sent a Republican senator to Washington.

According to Kent Redfield, the interim director for the Institute of Legislative Studies, the coming election in 2010 could offer the GOP its best chance since Fitzgerald defeated incumbent Carol Mosley Braun to win an Illinois Senate seat, but divisions within the party could prevent a victory.

Because of former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's impeachment and removal from office, growing discontent with President Barack Obama's administration and the state's financial problems, experts and party leaders say Republicans are poised to seriously challenge the Democrats in a bid for Obama's former Senate seat.



Courtesy PATRICK HUGHES FOR SENATE

Patrick Hughes (upper left) is a Hinsdale real estate developer running for U.S. Senate in 2010. Hughes is running as a traditional Conservative, and said that his opponent, Rep. Mark Kirk, is not.

"If the Republicans are going to get a U.S. senator from Illinois, this is as good an opportunity as has existed since ... Fitzgerald won," said Redfield, a professor of Political Science at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Controversy has surrounded current Democratic Sen. Roland Burris, who was appointed by the scandal-plagued Blagojevich shortly before the former governor was impeached. Burris was recently admonished by the Senate Ethics Committee for not disclosing that he had several conversations with the governor and his brother about fund raising for Blagojevich before he was appointed. Burris will not be seeking election.

While he cautioned that the party would have to "work hard" in order to win the

seat, Curt Conrad, executive director of the Republican Party in Illinois, believes that "the Republican party is going to come out pretty strong" across Illinois.

"I think we have a great chance across the state of Illinois," Conrad said. "With the business climate, jobs are leaving Illinois, people have had enough. And with the corruption factor with Rod Blagojevich ... the people of Illinois are ready for a change."

Redfield agreed with Conrad, and added the fact that Democrats are in power nationally could have a negative impact on whomever is the Democratic nominee.

"There's no question that there's going to be some fallout from the Democrats being in charge," Redfield said. "This is about as good of a shot as you're going to get at electing a Republican senator from Illinois

because the Illinois Democratic brand has been damaged and at the national level, there is less energy."

But it's not just the faltering of Democrats that has Republicans feeling optimistic about 2010. According to the campaign manager for Republican candidate Patrick Hughes, in the past two years conservatives have become more active and involved in politics. And he said that is going to have a big impact in 2010.

"The conservative base is very motivated and very excited about the 2010 elections," said campaign manager Mike Sullivan. "We haven't seen, in a long time, a conservative base that is really wanting to be involved in a grass roots way."

Hughes, a real estate developer, got involved recently in politics at the grass roots level when he organized the conservative group Sensible Taxpayers Opposed to Increased Taxes. He formed the organization in January 2009 to fight against Gov. Pat Quinn's proposed income tax increase.

After the increase was defeated, Hughes began talking with other conservatives about a possible candidacy for Senate. Fueled by GOP front runner Rep. Mark Kirk's vote in favor of the cap-and-trade energy bill in the U.S. House of Representatives, Hughes decided that the party needed a "real conservative" candidate.

"As far as a lot of typical Republican values go, Mark Kirk just didn't stand with the conservative base of the Republican Party," Sullivan said.

Along with his cap-and-trade vote, Hughes' Web site criticizes Kirk for not supporting a strong national defense, not standing up for the second amendment, for being "pro-abortion" and for voting against

» SEE GOP, PG. 36

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» **DEBT**

Continued from PG. 31

over your credit limit on your card, your card issuer could charge a fee and increase your interest rate to a higher penalty rate. To avoid this, keep a record of your spending or check your balances online. Also, be aware that some merchants—for example, hotel and car rental companies—put a “hold” on your credit card based on their estimate of the amount you will charge. This can reduce your available credit until the final charge is processed.

Avoid unnecessary fees. Credit card companies not only charge late-payment and over-the-limit fees, but also fees for cash advances, transferring balances and having a payment returned. Some companies charge a fee when you pay your bill by phone. Pay attention to the transactions that trigger these fees. If you need a cash

advance, withdraw enough so that you don’t have to take a second cash advance and incur a second fee later in the month. Read your credit card agreement to learn more about the fees that your credit card company charges.

Pay more than the minimum payment. If you can’t pay your balance in full each month, try to pay as much of the total as you can. Over time, you’ll pay less in interest charges—money that you will be able to spend on other things—and you’ll pay off your balance sooner.

Watch for changes in the terms of your account. Credit card companies can change the terms and conditions of your account. They will send you advance notices about changes in fees, interest rates, billing and other features. By reading these “change in terms” notices, you can decide whether you want to change the way you use the card.

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» **LAIACONA**

Continued from PG. 31

an invitation to Mell asking her to meet him for three debates.

“If she and I sit down in front of the public and the press and talk about the issues, I think I am going to win hands down,” Laiacona said.

Mell’s office said they had not received any such invitation, and the representative declined recent requests for comment.

Laiacona has received attention recently because of this objection and because of a recent front-page profile in the Chicago Reader. The article, “A Kink in the Campaign,” focused on Laiacona’s past as a sex columnist in Gay Chicago Magazine and

the fact that he said he is a leather fetishist. The Reader questioned whether a “leather master” could win an election, but Laiacona said that he is not concerned and added that the people who have a problem with his sex life would not have voted for him in the first place.

“I’m a politician who can be honest about my sex life, and there are a lot of politicians who aren’t honest,” said Laiacona, who’s the author of several books on master and slave leather fetishism. “Honesty about my sex life means I will be honest as a politician.”

If elected, Laiacona said he is considering proposing an amendment to the state’s election law requiring that a candidate to the legislature be an active registered voter.

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☐ help change the world

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» POLL

Continued from FRONT PAGE

in August and another in October, to Scott Rasmussen, founder of the polling agency, questioning why he wasn't named as an option in the polling questions.

Mark Kirk was the only Republican candidate who was mentioned during those month's polls. But other Rasmussen Reports polling questions featured many more candidates as an option that aren't very well-known.

"Rasmussen came out with a poll, but he doesn't poll on any of the other Republicans [except for Kirk]," Martin said.

Kent Redfield, political science professor at the University of Illinois Springfield, said it's possible that more Republican candidates were included in the poll, but had such a low percentage that they were grouped together in the "other" category.

According to Martin, the lawsuit he claimed he is going to file against Rasmussen for performing "rigged" polls is "in process." He explained this issue was not a priority in the past weeks, but it is now.

Christopher Mooney, political science professor at the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois Springfield, said he doesn't think Martin has a legal leg to stand on, but continued to say he wasn't a lawyer.

"Anybody can sue anybody for anything in this country," Mooney said. "The question is, do they win?"

Rasmussen did not respond to repeated requests for comment.

Martin said the Rasmussen polls make it look as though Kirk is running unopposed or against someone who isn't well-known enough to include, which he said isn't true.

According to Mooney, Martin is concerned with the polling results because the data is being printed in the newspaper without the mention of his name, which he said makes it look like he doesn't exist.

"When you've got giant fields, they often times will only include the so-called serious candidates and that's usually defined as those who meet a certain threshold on the last poll," Mooney said.

"It's kind of a catch-22. You can't get visibility if you're not in the poll, but if you don't have any visibility, they don't put your name in the poll," Redfield said.

Mooney explained that it is not proven that polls affect how voters think about certain candidates, but "some of the lore is that there might be a bandwagon effect."

Kristinn Taylor, spokeswoman for FreeRepublic.com, an online grass roots

gathering place for Independents to analyze and expose political corruption, said not including some candidates in a poll has always been a problem. But pollers have to determine which candidate is worth the time and energy.

Taylor said there are a lot of "vanity candidates" who run for office that have no chance of winning and are doing it more for the image.

Taylor added that Rasmussen Reports is usually accurate and trustworthy.

As for his main opponents Kirk and Hughes, Martin said he was not included in their personal polling data either.

"How can you ignore the big gorilla in the room or the bear?" Martin said. "It's whatever you want to call me, or worse."

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» GOP

Continued from PG. 33

an amendment that would have defined marriage as being only between one man and one woman.

The battle over the "conservative base" that has been spreading across the nation could prevent a GOP celebration in 2010.

"There is a huge fight within the Republican Party in Illinois about its identity," Redfield said. "[Illinois] historically has not been dominated by the more conservative part of the Republican base."

But, Conrad contends the battle over the base is happening in other parts of the country, not in Illinois.

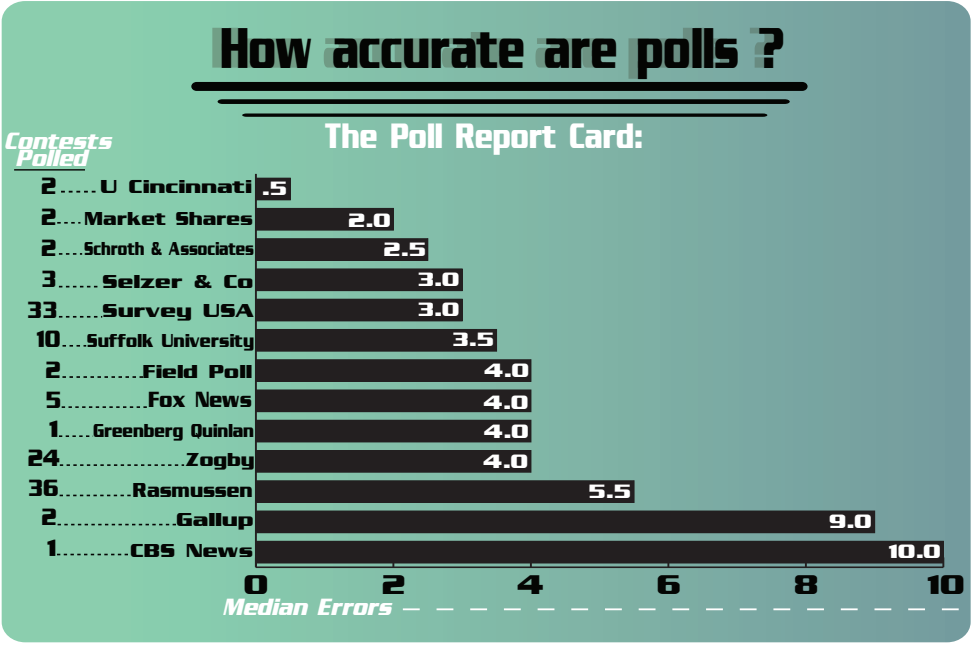
"In Illinois, I don't see the split," Conrad said of the split between moderates and conservatives.

But Sullivan said that he has seen a surge for a conservative candidate in Illinois and across the country, and Kirk doesn't fit the bill. He pointed to the New York District 23 special election in November as proof of the power of the more conservative sector of the GOP.

In that race, Republicans lost a special election to replace departing Republican Rep. John McHugh. In the election, a third-party candidate from the Conservative Party of New York drew support from some GOP leaders, causing the Republican candidate to withdraw from the race and endorse the Democratic candidate.

Redfield said he believes that in the end, Kirk will receive the Republican nomination, but that doesn't mean the conservative sector of the party will vote for Kirk in the general election.

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In a poll released by Survey USA in 2008, each polling agency had a margin of error listed. From those numbers a median margin of error was chosen after one or more polls was evaluated.

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# First lady Michelle Obama unveils White House decorations

The Obamas’ first Christmas tree features six ornaments representing Chicago landmarks

by Katherine Skiba  
MCT Newswire

IN STYLING the Obamas’ first Christmas at the White House, Michelle Obama went grand, glorious and green.

The largest tree in the mansion—an 18 1/2 foot Douglas fir adorning the Blue Room—is festooned with hundreds of ornaments, all recycled from previous administrations and spruced up by groups around the country to reflect cherished landmarks.

Chicagoans clearly had a vote, since the city is represented in orbs singling out the Lincoln Park Zoo, the Chicago Theatre, the Art Institute of Chicago and the DuSable Museum of African-American History.

“Sweet home, Chicago” is the rhapsody on another ornament.

That decoration takes its place with ornaments depicting a Georgia peach, a Maryland crab and others heralding spots from Maine (the Wiggly Bridge near York Harbor) to California (the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Library).

The tree’s wide-ribbon garland and its other accents are also recycled. And its glimmering lights are all low-voltage LED light bulbs.

At a press preview Dec. 2, First lady Obama revealed the year’s holiday theme, “Reflect, Rejoice, Renew,” and the reason for it.

For the Obama family, she said, Christmas and the New Year has “always been a time to reflect on our many blessings, to rejoice in the pleasure of spending time with our family and our friends and to renew our



First lady Michelle Obama presents the Christmas decorations and thanks volunteers “who helped ready the White House for Christmas,” in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 2. The first lady also revealed this year’s holiday theme, “Reflect, Rejoice, Renew.”

commitment to one another and to the causes that we believe in. And I wanted to continue that part of the tradition during our first holiday season here.”

Planning for the holidays began last summer, and the first of an expected 50,000-plus holiday visitors began streaming through Dec. 1, she said.

There were dozens of “elves” behind the decorating, which while elaborate, was more understated than in recent years. Ninety-two volunteers from 24 states put in more than 3,400 hours of their time, Obama said.

White House staffers and National Park Service workers were among those who rolled up their sleeves in the effort, White House aides said.

They helped erect a large, ornate nativ-

ity scene in the East Room, graced by four fireplaces adorned with fresh garlands on their mantels. There, as in the other rooms on the State Floor, Mother Nature is amply represented with adornments of dried hydrangea (leftovers from White House floral arrangements), honeysuckle vine, magnolia branches, cranberries, gigantic pine cones and painted magnolia leaves. Several ruby-red wreaths were created from the magnolia leaves. Two 8-foot topiary trees were crafted from dried pepper berries from California.

The flowers range from pink-tinged white amaryllis, fringed with pepper berry, to pale pink roses with boxwood.

In all, the White House has 27 trees inside and out, mostly Douglas and Fraser fir, aides said. Six are live trees with their roots balled

and wrapped in burlap, awaiting outdoor planting after the holidays.

In going green, the White House beehive even got in the act. The State Dining Room is host to a 390-pound gingerbread house, which features gingerbread baked with honey from White House bees. A “gingerbread masterpiece,” Obama said.

Highlights of the gingerbread house include a marzipan likeness of Bo, the Obamas’ black, shaggy-haired Portuguese water dog, a replica of Obama’s White House kitchen garden and a “shadow box” feature that lets visitors peek into the miniature State Dining Room.

Obama, in her remarks, thanked volunteers on Dec. 2 and touted two holiday charities. One is the Marine Corps Reserve’s Toys for Tots drive. The other is a new “Feed a Neighbor” initiative that is detailed on the Web site Serve.gov. The second program will help connect people with opportunities to deliver meals to homebound seniors, offer help at food pantries or plant community gardens and share produce with others, she said.

White House officials said decorating costs came out of the mansion’s operations budget, but would not disclose the costs.

Earlier this week, first daughters Malia and Sasha and their grandmother, Marian Robinson, got a sneak preview of the decorating. But the daughters were absent at the Dec. 1 reception, which was held to reward volunteer decorators and those who donate their time in the White House Office of Correspondence, one aide said.

On Dec. 3, the first lady joined President Barack Obama for the annual National Christmas Tree lighting ceremony.

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## IN OTHER NEWS

### Disproportionate punishment

Gov. Pat Quinn read a report by the Associated Press stating that black students account for half of all school suspensions in Illinois, ChicagoDefender.com reported on Nov. 30. But the state’s black student population only comprises approximately one-fifth of school enrollment. After reading the report, Quinn said he may appoint a commission to analyze how Illinois school children are disciplined based on racial disparity. Quinn said discipline should be “evenhanded.”

### Twilight taper

According to SunTimes.com, a movie theater decided to press charges against a 22-year-old Chicago woman who was caught videotaping two short segments of the *Twilight* sequel, *New Moon*. Samantha Tumpach sat in a jail cell for two nights after her arrest at Muvico Theater in Rosemont, Ill. She faces three years in prison for a felony that tries to deter moviegoers from recording movies. Tumpach told officials that she was actually videotaping her sister’s surprise birthday party.

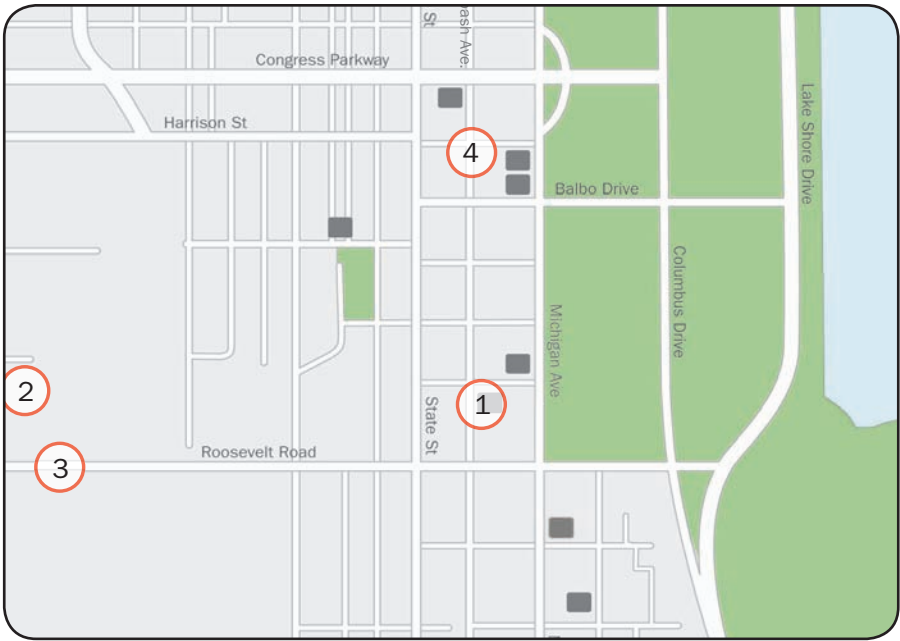
### Burr Oak Cemetery

According to ChicagoTribune.com, Burr Oak Cemetery workers recently discovered three more burial sites that were supposed to be empty. These plots contained either a casket or human remains. Each of the families was given a new plot. Howard Korenthal, chief operating officer of Burr Oaks, and Roman Szabelski, a consultant to the cemetery, said they decided to release the information to the public after the third incident. Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart called for burials to be halted at Burr Oaks.

### Chicago’s first lady

ChicagoTribune.com reported that Chicago first lady Maggie Daley will be seen around the city in a wheelchair due to radiation therapy for a bone tumor in her leg. Mayor Richard M. Daley’s office wanted to release the information before she was seen in a wheelchair to prevent assumptions. This has been the first official comment and update from Daley’s office about Maggie Daley’s condition in several months, since she was first diagnosed in 2002 with metastatic breast cancer.

## OFF THE BLOTTER



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

### 1 Fire!

On Dec. 1, a Columbia faculty member walked into room 426 of the 1104 S. Wabash Ave., building and discovered a flaming sheet of paper hanging on a bulletin board. He removed the paper, and stomped out the fire. After arriving, the reporting police officer notified the bomb and arson division. After an investigation it was determined the fire was started by an overheated computer, according to police

### 3 Bus fight

According to police reports, on Dec. 2 two men were having a verbal fight on a CTA bus at 540 W. Roosevelt Ave., at 4 p.m. When one of the men involved in the argument tried to exit the bus, the other man shoved him and punched him in the face. The bus driver reported the incident, but the victim did not want to press charges.

### 2 Tourist welcomed

After leaving Chicago, a visitor from Maumee, Ohio told police that she was robbed while she was in the city. According to police reports, while the victim was boarding a bus at 1159 S. Canal St. someone stole her wallet and other items from her backpack. The victim was wearing the backpack at the time. Inside the wallet was \$80 in cash, four credit cards and the woman’s Social Security card.

### 4 Man threatened

According to police reports, at 618 S. Wabash Ave., a man pulled out a 9-inch butcher knife and stuck it into a wooden table next to another man. The victim told police that the man then said, “I’m tired of you” and then fled the scene. Police searched for the knife-wielder but were unable to locate him. The victim did not want to press charges.



games

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12/6/09

ACROSS

- 1 \_\_\_ Barry of "Cold Case"  
5 "The \_\_\_ and I"; Fred MacMurray movie  
8 Julia Child or Emeril  
12 "The Love Boat: The Next \_\_\_"  
13 First question's dollar value on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire"  
14 Like a poor excuse  
15 Judd Hirsch's role on "Numb3rs"  
16 "America's \_\_\_ Talent"  
17 Dog's name in "Garfield"  
18 2009 sci-fi series for John Cho  
21 "\_\_\_ on a Hot Tin Roof"  
22 Light brown  
23 Capital of Oregon  
26 "\_\_\_ Pebbles"; film for McQueen  
30 "...MacDonald had a farm, \_\_\_"  
31 \_\_\_ West  
32 One of The Three Stooges  
33 Lou Grant's portrayer  
36 Sleepy, Sneazy or Grumpy  
38 Hawaii's Mauna \_\_\_  
39 Taro root food served at a luau  
40 Actor on "NCIS"  
46 Result of corrosion on iron

- 47 Baseball's Mel \_\_\_  
48 Brand of cosmetics  
50 Toward shelter, nautically  
51 Misfortune  
52 Actor Auberjonois of "Benson"  
53 "The \_\_\_ Hunter"; De Niro movie  
54 Yrbk. section  
55 "The Price Is Right" host

DOWN

- 1 Defunct U. S. airline  
2 "Two and a \_\_\_ Men"  
3 Ice skating rink's shape, often  
4 "Dennis the \_\_\_"  
5 "\_\_\_ Is Enough"  
6 Make a mistake  
7 "\_\_\_ Head of the Class"  
8 Chuckles and Bozo  
9 "Mary \_\_\_ little lamb..."  
10 Title for a Mideastern ruler  
11 Nourish  
19 Actor Waterston  
20 "Norma \_\_\_"; Sally Field movie  
23 "\_\_\_ You in September"; '60s hit  
24 Assistance  
25 Actress Thompson  
26 Street paver's goopy substance  
27 Doctors' org.  
28 Neither this \_\_\_ that  
29 Trio following ABC  
31 Steve Allen's widow Jayne \_\_\_  
34 Christian \_\_\_ of "The Forgotten"  
35 Prefix for fat or sense  
36 Part of every e-mail address  
37 "The \_\_\_ of Oz"  
39 Rose and Sampras  
40 Actor Garrett  
41 Regulation  
42 "...\_\_\_ by your outfit that you..."  
43 "Ripley's Believe \_\_\_ Not!"  
44 "Unhappily \_\_\_ After"  
45 "\_\_\_ But the Brave"; Sinatra film  
49 "The \_\_\_ Adventures of Old Christine"

Solution to Last Week's Puzzle

	M	A	C			C	S	I		C	A	R
B	A	I	L			O	O	H		O	N	O
R	A	D	A	R		L	O	A		L	A	B
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	D	A	D		
		E	L	I				A	B	C		
M	A	N	T	E	G	N	A		S	A	R	A
E	M	U			A	R	T		S	R	S	
D	I	M	E		R	A	T	T	L	E	R	S
		S	R	A				I	O	O		
		K	A	T	I	E	C	O	U	R	I	C
Y	O	U		T	R	A		T	I	O	G	A
E	L	L		H	A	D		S	N	O	B	
T	E	L		E	N	S			E	A	T	

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12/6/09

HOROSCOPES



**ARIES** (March 20 - April 18) Deep emotional changes are now taking place. Over the next eight days, expect the silent observations of a friend or lover to be easily expressed. Previous delays or vague promises will no longer create controversy. In the coming weeks, fast decisions and definitive action will require extra diplomacy. Stay focused. Friday through Sunday highlights powerful intuitions and sudden insights. Family expectations and long-term romantic promises are accented. Remain attentive.



**TAURUS** (April 19 - May 19) Early this week, loved ones may probe for detailed answers. If so, expect recent social changes or family gatherings to trigger unusual discussions. Group loyalties or yesterday's emotional patterns may be at issue: stay focused. Avoid being seduced into unnecessary arguments: no long-term solutions will be found. After Wednesday, pay attention to workplace gossip or minor comments from key officials. Revised budgets and new team assignments will soon be announced.



**GEMINI** (May 20 - June 20) Family and social acceptance are on the rise this week. Before Thursday, watch for unique messages or invitations from loved ones. Be flexible: your reaction is important. Later this week, business delays will be unavoidable. For many Geminis, a recent project may encounter a new or unusual debt. Refuse to be derailed: at present your creativity and dedication to group achievement will help move vital business partnerships forward. Don't hesitate to ask questions.



**CANCER** (June 21 - July 21) Over the next few days, loved ones may require assistance concerning financial security, business investments or long-term practical decisions. All is well, so not to worry. Do, however, watch for key home choices to be difficult or temporarily delayed. After Wednesday, Cancerians born after 1978 will encounter an unexpected or perhaps bizarre romantic invitation. Private attractions, yesterday's social triangles and unusual workplace disputes are highlighted. Stay balanced.



**LEO** (July 22 - Aug. 22) Health, vitality and sleep patterns will now improve. Over the next few days, watch for loved ones to become involved in unusual leisure activities or complex group relationships. For many Leos, enthusiasm and social optimism are now an ongoing theme. Join in; it's time to create an atmosphere of acceptance. Friday through Sunday accents bold discussions with older relatives, authority figures or managers. Be expressive: new roles and meaningful progress are needed.



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 21) Money restrictions, business schedules and home agreements may cause brief delays. If so, expect improved security to arrive within the next four weeks. Remain patient and watch for loved ones to discuss past mistakes or unproductive doubts. Offer quiet assurance: your inner strength will be appreciated. After midweek, romantic relationships begin a seven-week phase of renewed intimacy and bold discussion. Emotional progress will bring new commitments. Stay open.



**LIBRA** (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22) Early this week, loved ones may react quickly to new social facts. Relationships are complex at the moment but highly productive; wait for others to settle their own thoughts before taking emotional risks. Wednesday through Friday highlights minor workplace tensions and key discussions with authority figures. Misinformation or vague instructions may be a theme. Pace yourself and wait for change. After Saturday, rest and study new business options: expansion will bring success.



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Important family information may be revealed before midweek. Skepticism, doubt and feelings of isolation are all accented. Home relations may be more vulnerable than anticipated: remain open to unusual proposals. Tuesday through Friday, workplace relationships may be mildly strained. Key issues involve workplace competition, hidden agendas and fear of change. At present, business politics are best left unaddressed. Rest this weekend and gain perspective: energy is low.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 20) Workplace relations will be complex and poorly defined over the next few days. Key issues may involve money limitations and yesterday's promises. Stand your ground: your creativity and long-term intentions are valid. Later this week, a recently despondent family member may reveal unexpected social or financial information. Encourage group involvement: new ideas and shared plans are needed. After Saturday ask a friend for clarity: mistaken facts may be a concern.



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 21 - Jan. 19) Complex social or family promises may be briefly delayed this week. Go slow and expect unusual home reversals. Key concerns may involve emotional triangles or dependent relationships. After Wednesday, workplace negotiations and private career discussions work strongly in your favor. Bosses or managers may ask for extra dedication. Don't hesitate: your prompt attention is vital. Later this weekend, carefully study financial documents: missed payments may be bothersome.



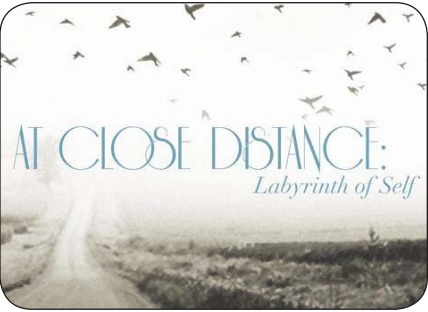
**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Before next week, business partners and key officials will rekindle interest in outdated projects. Promising ventures now need to be revisited: expect older colleagues and team leaders to opt for repeated programs, revised workplace roles or extra training. Use this time to introduce fresh concepts into an old plan: you won't be disappointed. After Thursday, romance is fascinating; expect sensual banter to be difficult to resist. Go slow, however, and wait for reliable promises.



**PISCES** (Feb. 19 - March 19) Welcome new mental and verbal attention this week, but take extra time to evaluate the potential of new relationships. Over the next six days, social and romantic flirtations will be passionate but brief: carefully consider all invitations and proposals. After midweek, Pisceans born after 1982 will experience an unusual emotional triangle. If so, let others resolve their own issues: your insights will not be well received. Late Saturday, family demands increase.



monday, 12//7



**At Close Distance:  
Storied Paths to Home**  
An exhibition of Columbia graduate student interdisciplinary work explores how the concept of home reinforces the sense of self. It is the path of separation, the coming and going that creates and shapes identity and memory. As landscapes change, it is the primary sense of home, the anchor to our origins that inform where we've been and where we're yet to go.

9 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
C33 Gallery  
33 E. Congress Parkway Building  
(312) 369-6856

**Opera in Cinema Screening  
of Carmen Live from La Scala**  
11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
1104 Center, Film Row Cinema  
1104 S. Wabash Ave., 8th floor  
(312) 369-6709  
**\$25**

**Blues Ensemble I in Concert**  
7 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.  
Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

**Jazz Guitar Ensemble 2 Recital**  
Noon - 12:50 p.m.  
Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

tuesday, 12//8

**Groove Band in Concert**  
Noon - 12:50 p.m.  
Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

**Pop Rock Ensemble:  
Showcase in Concert**  
7 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.  
Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

**Men's Chorus in Concert**  
7 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.  
Sherwood Conservatory of Music  
1312 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 427-6267  
**FREE**

**Dodgeball 2009**  
6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
South Loop Elementary School  
1212 S. Plymouth Court  
cccdodgeball2009@gmail.com  
**\$2 or a new toy donation per person**

**Acoustic Kitchen Open Stage**  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Quincy Wong Center for Artistic Expression  
623 S. Wabash Ave., 1st floor  
(312) 369-7920  
**FREE; Sign-up via Email at  
DDolak@Colum.edu or at  
6:30 on night of event**

wednesday, 12//9

**New Music Ensemble and CCC Woman's  
Chorus in Concert**  
7 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.  
Sherwood Conservatory of Music  
1312 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 427-6267  
**FREE**

**Recording and Performance  
Ensemble in Concert**  
7 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.  
Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

**Art/Activism/Inner Peace:  
A Yoga Workshop With Michael McColly**  
4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Dance Center  
1306 S. Michigan Ave., room 202  
(312) 369-8300  
**FREE; RSVP at  
Maydelyn.George@Loop.Colum.edu**

**Jazz Guitar Ensemble 1 Recital**  
Noon - 12:50 p.m.  
Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

thursday, 12//10

**The WCRX "Holly Jolly Trolley" Food Drive**  
WCRX Radio, 88.1FM and the Radio Department will host the 7th Annual "Holly Jolly Trolley" Food Drive to benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository. WCRX students will broadcast from the "Holly Jolly Trolley," parked in front of the 33 E. Congress Building and the lobby of the Congress Parkway Building. The 8-hour broadcast will feature musicians, local celebrities and dignitaries including Columbia President Warrick L. Carter, Secretary of State Jesse White, Alderman Bob Fioretti, Chicago Bears Play-by-Play Broadcaster Jeff Joniak and WCIU morning host Jeanne Sparrow.

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
33 E. Congress Parkway Building  
(312) 369-8155  
**FREE; Donate a non-perishable  
food item or canned good**

**Village Lunch Discussion Series**  
Noon  
Multicultural Affairs Conference Room  
618 S. Michigan Ave. Building, 4th floor  
(312) 369-7569  
**FREE; RSVP at least 24 hours  
before the event**

**Chicago Jazz Ensemble with Special  
Guests David Sanchez and Steve Wilson**  
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.  
Harris Theater for Music and Dance  
205 E. Randolph St.  
(312) 369-6269  
**\$15 - \$45; Tickets available at  
HarrisTheaterChicago.org**



**What TV Ratings Really Mean - SAA  
Alumni Guest Speaker: Justin Kulovsek**  
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.  
Alexandroff Campus Center  
600 S. Michigan Ave., room 401  
(312) 369-6987  
**FREE**

**Counterpoint Recital**  
7 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.  
Sherwood Conservatory of Music  
1312 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 427-6267  
**FREE**

friday, 12//11

**Columbia College Chicago Jazz Ensemble:  
Ellington's "Nutcracker Suite"**  
Noon - 12:50 p.m.  
Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

**Jazz Combo Fest**  
4 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Music Center, Music Center, Concert Hall  
1014 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 369-6300  
**FREE**

**Primary Piano Concert**  
7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Sherwood Conservatory of Music  
1312 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 427-6267  
**FREE**

**Dis/Believer: Intersections of Science  
and Religion in Contemporary Art**  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Glass Curtian Gallery, 1104 Center  
1104 S. Wabash Ave.  
(312) 369-6643  
**FREE**

saturday, 12//12

**Synesthetic Plan of Chicago**  
2009 celebrates the 100th year of the publication of Daniel Burnham's The Plan of Chicago. The Synesthetic Plan of Chicago: A Multi-Sensory Journey Through Chicago and Its Neighborhoods celebrates this event. The exhibit allows the visitor to "experience" Chicago through one or more of the five senses. The pieces are crafted to invite people to interact with the sensory "artifacts" of Chicago in creative and imaginative ways.

All day  
Columbia College Library, South Campus Building  
624 S. Michigan Ave., 3rd floor  
(312) 369-7157  
**FREE**





# monday, 12//7

- 


**Gwar**  
6:30 p.m.  
House of Blues  
329 N. Dearborn St.  
(312) 923-2000  
**\$23 - \$25**  
For tickets, call (800) 745-3000
- 


**The Sandbox Showcase Hustlers**  
Mondays, 8 p.m.  
The Playground Theater  
3209 N. Halsted St.  
(773) 871-3793  
**\$5; 21+ (Bring your own beer)**
- 


**The Cardboard Sangria Showcase**  
8 p.m.  
Schubas Tavern  
3159 N. Southport Ave.  
(773) 525-2508  
**\$5; 18+**
- 


**Open Gym Volleyball**  
Mondays and Thursdays 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Center on Halsted  
3656 N. Halsted St.  
(773) 472-6469 ext. 265  
**\$5 per session; \$20 for monthly pass**

# tuesday, 12//8

- 


**Kinky Comedy Tuesdays**  
Tuesdays, 9 p.m.  
Old Town Pub  
1339 N. Wells St.  
(312) 266-6789  
**FREE**
- 


**Robert Buscemi**  
8 p.m.  
Lincoln Restaurant  
4008 N. Lincoln Ave.  
(773) 251-1539  
**\$10 + a one-drink minimum; 18+**
- 


**Holidaze Gift Bizarre**  
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
Wishbone  
3300 N. Lincoln Ave.  
(773) 407-5186  
**FREE**
- 


**Chicago College of Performing Arts Combined Chorus**  
Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.  
Ganz Hall at Roosevelt University  
430 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 341-2352  
**FREE**

# wednesday, 12//9

- 


**Road to Fame: Grand Finale**  
8 p.m.  
Mahoney's Pub & Grille  
551 N. Ogden Ave.  
(312) 733-2121  
**FREE; RSVP at mahoneysroadtofame.com**
- 


**Fair Trade Groove**  
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Greenheart  
1911 W. Division St.  
(312) 264-1625  
**FREE**
- 


**4 Women Only**  
Through Dec. 31, Wednesdays, 9 p.m.  
Uncommon Ground  
1401 W. Devon Ave.  
(773) 465-9801  
**FREE; \$10 suggested donation**
- 

**The Merry Widow**  
Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
Civic Opera House  
20 N. Wacker Drive  
(312) 332-2244  
**\$33 - \$207**

# thursday, 12//10


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**The Lincoln Lodge**  
Thursdays and Fridays, 9 p.m.  
Lincoln Restaurant  
4008 N. Lincoln Ave.  
(773) 251-1539  
**\$10 + a one-drink minimum; 18+**
- 

**Independent Movie Night**  
Thursdays, 8 p.m.  
Doug's Rockhouse Grill  
333 E. Indian Trail  
Aurora, Ill.  
(312) 698-8995  
**\$7**
- 


**Big Yellow Bus**  
Thursdays, 8 p.m.  
The Playground Theater  
3209 N. Halsted St.  
(773) 871-3793  
**\$10; 21+ (Bring your own beer)**





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**Graceland**  
On Sept. 12, 2001, Ben Harcourt finds himself in the downtown apartment of his lover, Abby Prescott. Over the course of the night, Ben and Abby explore the choices now available to them in an existence different from the one they knew just the day before.  
  
Through Dec. 20; 7:30 p.m  
Profiles Theatre  
4147 N. Broadway St.  
(773) 549-1815  
**\$30 on Thursdays ; \$35 on Fridays through Saturdays**

# friday, 12//11

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**McCoy Tyner Trio**  
8 p.m.  
Symphony Center  
220 S. Michigan Ave.  
(312) 294-3000  
**\$24 - \$55**
- 


**Republican Coalition Holiday Party**  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.  
Ravenswood Billboard Factory  
4025 N. Ravenswood Ave.  
(773) 388-2170  
**\$75 - \$90**
- 

**“Baby Wants Candy: The Completely Improvised Rock Opera”**  
Fridays, 10:30 p.m.  
Apollo Theater  
2540 N. Lincoln Ave.  
(773) 935-6100  
**\$12 - \$15**
- 


**The Ha-Ha-Holiday Show**  
Through Dec. 26; Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.  
Laugh Out Loud Theater  
601 N. Martingale Road, Schaumburg, IL  
(847) 240-0386  
**\$18; \$12 for kids 18 and under; 7:30 show is family-friendly; 9:30 show is adult-friendly**


# saturday, 12//12

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**The Flaming Dames in “Naughtier and Nicer”**  
7 p.m.  
The Spot  
4437 N. Broadway Ave.  
(312) 458-9083  
**\$15**
- 


**Seventh Annual Kandy Kane Ball**  
9 p.m.  
Joe's Bar  
940 W. Weed St.  
(312) 337-3486  
**\$35 - \$40**


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**Santa Claus Conquers the Nazis!**  
Through Dec. 19; Saturdays, 11:59 p.m.  
Comedy SportzTheatre  
929 W. Belmont Ave.  
(773) 549-8080  
**\$10; For tickets, call Ticketmaster at (773) 559-1212**
- 


**Polar Adventure Days**  
12 p.m. - 4 p.m.  
Northerly Island  
1400 S. Linn White Drive  
(312) 742-7529  
**FREE**


# sunday, 12//13

- 



**Tim Meadows: Uncle's Brother**  
The “Saturday Night Live” alumnus performs an improv set with The Second City mainstage cast members Brad Morris and Joe Canale.  
  
11 p.m.  
iO  
3541 N. Clark St.  
(773) 880-0199  
**\$10**
- 

**Brewery Tour**  
3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
Goose Island Brewpub  
1800 N. Clybourn Ave.  
(312) 915-0071  
**\$5; Reservations recommended**
- 

**Make Chai Not War**  
6 p.m. and 9 p.m.  
Lakeshore Theater  
3175 N. Broadway St.  
(773) 472-3492  
**\$25**
- 

**“Family Tree House Boat Accident” and “Almost Atlanta”**  
Through Jan. 3; Sundays, 8 p.m.  
iO  
3541 N. Clark St.  
(773) 880-0199  
**\$5**